

# the HINESBURG Record

APRIL 2024

## Gymnastics State Championship

BY KATE DODGE

On February 17, the CVU gymnastics team wrapped up the season by competing at the Vermont State Gymnastics Championship, held at St. Johnsbury Academy. CVU (7-1) took second place out of ten teams, facing stiff competition from Essex. Hinesburg residents Ruby Opton and Jasmine Dye both earned spots on the podium. Opton, a senior, came in second on balance beam, third on floor, and sixth in the All-Around. Dye, a sophomore, took fifth on balance beam and sixth place on uneven bars. Congratulations to the team on a great season.



The CVU Gymnastics Team came in second place at the Vermont State Gymnastics Championship.

## United Church of Hinesburg Plant Sale

BY YVONNE WHITAKER

A 50-plus year tradition at the United Church of Hinesburg continues with our 2024 Plant Sale. The sale will be in two phases again this year.

The first phase will be an online sale of perennials in April that will be ready for pick up in early May. We will have beautiful, generously sized, healthy, and hardy perennials dug from our gardens to tempt you. The online perennials store



will be accessed from the church website [ucofh.org](http://ucofh.org). Shop early to ensure the best selection.

The second phase will be an in-person sale of annuals and other selections in early-mid May.

The dates that the store will be open, as well as the pick-up and in-person sale days, will be determined in early April. Watch for the announcement of dates on Front Porch Forum and Facebook and in *The Hinesburg Record* calendar.

For more information call (802) 482-3352 or email [unitedchurch@gmavt.net](mailto:unitedchurch@gmavt.net).

## Partnerships to Create and Maintain Affordable Housing

BY XANDER PATTERSON AND CARL BOHLEN, HINESBURG AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Welcome to the third installment of the Hinesburg Affordable Housing Committee's (HAHC) exploration into causes of and solutions for our town's crisis in housing, especially affordable housing. It is a crisis inflicting not just our town, but also

our county, our state, much of the country, and very possibly you or someone you know. What can we do about it here in Hinesburg?

### The State of Housing in Hinesburg

Housing is scarce. In Chittenden

County the rental vacancy rate is just 1 percent. (A 4-6 percent vacancy rate balances the needs of both renters and property owners.) Homes for sale are similarly hard to find. Hence, rents and sales prices are high. Housing is considered

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Hinesburg's independent, nonprofit, community newspaper

## INSIDE...

### "Seams Like Spring"

Page 20: Champlain Valley Quilters will be hosting its 2024 Quilt Show.



### Poetry & Puppetry

Page 14: World-renowned puppeteer conducted a residency for HCS.

### Service Directory & Calendar

Page 16-17: At-a-glance view of community services and events.

## BACK STORIES

of Hinesburg

### Moments Captured

Page 24: See what photographers in our area are up to.

PRESORT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
HINESBURG, VT  
PERMIT NO 3



## ► Town News

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[gen@hinesburg.org](mailto:gen@hinesburg.org), 802-482-4209) with questions and comments. He will forward your comments to the commission. For details see the Town website, [hinesburg.org/planning-zoning/pages/regulation-revisions](https://hinesburg.org/planning-zoning/pages/regulation-revisions)

## Planning Commission & DRB Vacancies

We have several vacancies on both the Planning Commission and the Development Review Board. Do you have the time, interest, and inclination to step up and help out? Want to help sculpt Hinesburg's future vision and the land use regulations that help us achieve it? Wondering how that new subdivision got approved? Is that business going to put in a sidewalk when it expands? Why did that development proposal get denied? Do more than just satisfy your curiosity – learn about and participate in the decision-making process itself by joining the PC or the DRB. Curious to learn more? Contact the Planning and Zoning Office for details. If you'd like to be considered, fill out the brief application available on the Town website at [hinesburg.org/home/town-manager/pages/vacancies-town-boards-commissions](https://hinesburg.org/home/town-manager/pages/vacancies-town-boards-commissions).

## Hinesburg Awarded \$30,275 Grant for Town Common Tree Planting

The Town of Hinesburg was recently awarded a \$30,275 grant from the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program. The grant funds will be used to plant trees on the Hinesburg Town Common – one of many improvements planned over the next five to six years to create a vibrant community gathering space in Hinesburg's state-designated village center area. Tree planting is scheduled to commence in the fall of 2024. The grant will facilitate the following specific project elements:

- Community engagement on Green Up Day.
- Purchase of up to 50 nursery-stock trees.
- Training community volunteers who will plant and maintain the trees.
- Development of a tree maintenance plan for the newly planted trees and those in the adjacent neighborhood.
- Professional pruning of adjacent neighborhood trees with a demonstration of proper tree care for community members.
- Protection of an existing, large ash tree with fencing to minimize soil compaction during Town Common regrading site work.

- Purchase and application of topsoil in tree planting areas.
- Purchase and installation of staking materials, mulch, and irrigation for newly planted trees.

The funding for this project comes from the U.S. Forest Service and, specifically, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The intent of this funding is to increase and maintain a healthy urban tree canopy and access to nature in underserved, under-resourced communities.

Community members interested in volunteering (with training and oversight by the Town Tree Warden) are encouraged to contact Alex Weinhausen, Director of Planning & Zoning, [aweinhausen@hinesburg.org](mailto:aweinhausen@hinesburg.org), 802-482-4209. More information about the Hinesburg Town Common Project is available online: [hinesburg.org/planning-zoning/pages/town-common-design](https://hinesburg.org/planning-zoning/pages/town-common-design).

## Selectboard Highlights

BY MERRILY LOVELL,  
SELECTBOARD CHAIRPERSON

### February 21

The selectboard had a packed meeting with several important presentations.

The Fire Impact Fee presentation by Jon Slason, PE, from VSD Consulting LLC, described, with many details, the three choices the selectboard have for the new fire impact fee. The selectboard will examine the report and have a fuller discussion at a future meeting.

Fire Department Software purchase: Nick Baker, Fire Chief, explained that, due to changes in companies it has used in the past, the fire department needs to change to a company called First Due, operated by Locality Media. The high cost of this new company will be partly offset by other services the fire department will no longer need due to the inclusive services First Due offers.

CVSD School Budget presentation: Keith Roberts, one of Hinesburg's representatives on the Champlain Valley School District Board, gave the selectboard a brief overview and explanation of the complicated processes involved in the school budget.

RR1 zoning district regulation amendments: Alex Weinhausen gave us a preliminary overview of the changes the Planning Commission is suggesting for the RRI zoning district. Major changes are being suggested. There was public comment after this brief presentation and this topic will come back to the selectboard at a later date for a fuller discussion

and more time for public input. Then we will have a public hearing where there will again be time for public comments.

Land for Affordable Housing Project: The possibility of using ARPA funds to support a Habitat for Humanity project to build six owner-occupied homes was discussed. All selectboard members were in favor of supporting affordable housing in Hinesburg, but there was some disagreement on how to fund the project. Therefore, this item will come back at a future meeting.

The selectboard approved the Town Common Committee application for an AARP Community Challenge program grant of \$30,000 for benches and picnic tables as another step in building our Town Common.

FY 23 Audit Report: The detailed yearly audit report was given to the selectboard. As in previous years, the auditors found no issues with the financial statements of the Town government.

### March 6

The selectboard met for a reorganization meeting and to establish some procedures and posts for the coming year. With the same members taking up selectboard work for the new year, the following officers were re-elected: Merrily Lovell, Chair; Maggie Gordon, Vice-chair.

Other routine, annual measures were approved, such as appointing *The Citizen* as our newspaper of record, re-adopting our Code of Ethics and our Operating Guidelines, and adopting the Road and Bridge Standards.

In discussing the Town Meeting, selectboard members felt it went smoothly and there were good discussions and helpful suggestions. The zoom disruption has been resolved and hopefully will not happen again during future meetings. The selectboard apologizes to anyone who was offended by anything heard during this disruption. In the future, access to zoom meetings will be more restricted, making our meetings safer.

## Blinded By the Light?

BY JIM JARVIS, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

It's a Springsteen song from the '70s, but recent contractor calls to the zoning office show that it's still a topic for discussion today. We get periodic email and phone calls concerning neighbors' lights, and asking for guidance. For those of you curious about the song, you'll find a few tidbits at the end of this

article.

**First**, why is zoning involved with this? For decades, our regulations required that new development ensure that outdoor lights were installed or shielded to reduce glare and night sky illumination. On July 12, 2018, the regulations were updated with greater specificity and certain exemptions. Section 5.29 of the zoning regulations speak to this. Hinesburg zoning regulations specifically try to minimize lighting impact on nearby properties and roads, reduce energy use, and protect the visibility of the night sky.

**Be a good neighbor:** New lighting installed after 2018 is subject to the regulations, even on existing homes and businesses. We're plenty busy dealing with town development and would rather not become the lighting police; so please think about your neighbors when installing new outdoor lights or changing out existing lights with new fixtures.

If you increase the number of exterior lights, or increase their brightness, you DO have to meet current standards. Similarly, if you change the aiming of the lights so they impact neighbors, or blind drivers on your road, you may be subject to the lighting regulations.

**The general residential use exemption** permits up to four lights per building, each with light output no greater than 1200 lumens. Such lights need not be shielded, nor meet any of the other provisions in section 5.29, so long as they're not more than 1200 lumens, as marked on the product. Low level decorative lighting, like holiday lights, is exempt, as is lighting of the U.S. flag. The regulations suggest this be done from the top of the flagpole, looking down, rather than up, contributing to sky glow.

**LED lamps can appear brighter than an equivalent incandescent bulb.** LEDs tend to be bluer than incandescents, which makes them seem brighter and increases scattered light. For reference, a 100W lightbulb yields 1600 lumens. 75W is equivalent to 1100 lumens.

**Color temperature matters for non-exempt lighting.** The regulations discuss color temperature and Color Rendering Index (CRI), requiring a CRI of 60 or above. This means white LEDs or metal halide lamps are preferred over Mercury Vapor (blue-green) or Sodium Vapor (yellow). If you're buying LEDs, 5500 Kelvin is equivalent to bright sunlight, while 2700 is a warm room light.

**For non-exempt lighting, the rules require full-cutoff light fixtures.** That is, shielded such that no light is emitted upward or horizontally, and only the desired area to be illuminated gets the light. The intent is to protect neighboring properties or roadways from in-

trusive lighting.

Lights on poles can't be more than 20' in the air, while lights on buildings may be no more than 15' up. Lighting of public buildings and architectural features like church steeples and bell towers doesn't require a permit, but is required to position and shield the lighting so that direct light is confined to the building to be illuminated. Similarly, temporary lighting for special events and emergencies are exempt from the regulations.

**For non-exempt lighting, levels should be the minimum necessary** to accomplish nighttime use of a property. Fixtures, light intensity, and placement have to ensure that only areas needing light are illuminated. Lights must be downcast, and shielded to protect the night sky from sky glow.

**Did you know we have an observatory?** Yes, we do. The Vermont Astronomical Society has a really neat installation on Observatory Road. Not only that, but our town library has a telescope that can be checked out by star-inspired youngsters and oldsters alike.

**So, there are two good reasons** to keep the sky glow to a minimum, not to mention not blinding your neighbors or drivers on nearby roads with unshielded or mis-aimed lighting.

**Now for the fun part:** If you've heard Manfred Mann's slurred hit rendition of Springsteen's song ... the words are "...blinded by the light...revved up like a Deuce... another runner in the night."

A classic 'Deuce' was a '32 Ford, equipped with a double barrel carburetor (deuce). Picture a cherry red convertible coupe, with chromed headers, valve cover and air intake, hood removed for easy viewing. They used to race 'em along the main drag in Asbury Park, N.J., back in the day, when Springsteen and the E Street Band were performing at The Stone Pony.

**The zoning regulations are detailed**, so if you have questions, we'd be glad to help you find the answers. There's a really handy graphic showing acceptable lighting fixtures in the lighting regulations. It's found on page 106 of the lighting regulations. You can get to it from the town website, or contact me at town offices: 802-482-4213, [jjarvis@hinesburg.org](mailto:jjarvis@hinesburg.org).

## CSWD

## Reminders from our Drop-Off Centers

Spring and warmer weather are right around the corner, so here are some reminders from CSWD as you head into the season of gardening and yard cleanup.

**Reminder #1:** We take yard waste year-round at these facilities only:

Organics Recycling Facility in Williston (Home of Green Mountain Compost)

Drop-Off Center in Essex

Drop-Off Center in South Burlington

Drop-Off Center in Milton

Drop-Off Center in Hinesburg (leaves and yard trimmings only)

**Reminder #2:** Pellet and soil bags are trash. Even though many of them say they are recyclable, CSWD does not accept these as blue-bin recycling.

**Reminder #3:** Black plastic is not recyclable in the blue bin. If you are looking to dispose of your black plastic pots, please dispose of these in the trash and not your recycling bin. Other great options include reusing or giving to a garden center or plant store.

## Solar Eclipse Glasses

On April 8, Vermont will be a prime location for viewing this year's solar eclipse. Our state is expecting a lot of solar eclipse viewers, which also means a lot of solar eclipse glasses to divert from the landfill.

CSWD has partnered with Astronomers Without Borders to establish collection sites for solar eclipse glasses to be reused. These glasses will then be redistributed to communities who might not otherwise have a safe way to view the solar eclipse.

We are working with six different towns and businesses in Chittenden County to establish roughly 25 collection bins for these glasses. We will also have bins at each of our Drop-Off Centers for you to bring your solar glasses.



**Electrical Services, LLC**  
HELPING YOU SEE THE LIGHT

**Rick Gomez**  
Master Electrician

802-453-3245 (w)  
802-233-9462 (c)

[rvgelectric@gmail.com](mailto:rvgelectric@gmail.com)  
[www.rvgelectric.com](http://www.rvgelectric.com)

## HINESBURGH PUBLIC HOUSE

Serving Brunch from 9am-1pm  
March 31<sup>st</sup> • May 12<sup>th</sup> • June 16<sup>th</sup>

[Reserve Online](#)

# Save the Date

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## HCRC'S FREE CHILDREN'S CLOTHING AND BOOK SWAP

**APRIL 13, 2024  
9-11am**

### United Church of Hinesburg

Donations will be accepted starting Friday, April 12th at 1pm. Shopping will begin at 9am on Saturday, April 13th.

## Limoge & Sons

**GARAGE DOORS, INC**  
**SALES AND SERVICE**

Showroom / 136 James Brown Dr., Williston  
[Limogegaragedoors.com](http://Limogegaragedoors.com)

**FULL LINE OF COMMERCIAL  
AND RESIDENTIAL DOORS  
AND ACCESSORIES**

**Rick Limoge**  
**802-878-4338**



## RECREATION

To register for HRD programs go to [hinesburgrec.com](https://www.hinesburgrec.com).

### Co Ed K-1-2 Lacrosse

Sundays, May 5-June 9. Millie's Field, Bissonette Rec. Area. 11 a.m.-noon. Cost: \$50. Registration deadline May 1.

### Horseback Riding April Vacation

Looking for something during April vacation? Enjoy a horseback riding lesson, learn basic

horse care and grooming. Braid a mane, feed, brush, water, and groom along with learning the full routine of a horse barn. Wear boots with a heel, clothes you don't mind getting dirty and bring your lunch and water bottle. Masks are required.

Grades K-8. Monday-Friday, April 22-26. Livery Stables, 601 Lavigne Hill Road, Hinesburg.

Half day, 8 a.m.-noon; or full day, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. option. Cost: weekly: half day \$365 or full day \$495.

types of vegetative propagation: crown division, root cuttings, scaling, tip layering, softwood and hardwood cuttings. Participants of this hands-on workshop will practice some of these techniques and take home some fun new plants.

**12:30-2 p.m. Favorite Tools for the Veggie Garden with Julie Rubaud and Kat Consler**

We all have our favorite tools to use in the garden. From trellising supports and row cover to weeding tools and gloves. Julie and Kat will talk about their successes and failures with various materials and how to get the most use out of their favorite garden tools without having to purchase too many things.

**3-4:30 p.m. Growing Cut Flowers with Lily Belisle**

Are you dreaming of endless summer bouquets? Lily will help you make that dream come true. In this class, she'll talk about her favorite cutting flower varieties and which flowers and foliage plants to grow and harvest to keep bouquets on your table throughout the seasons. You'll get tips for successful growing and learn which tools to use to increase abundance and ease.

## Financial Focus: When Should You Take Social Security?

FROM PRESS RELEASE

One of your important sources of retirement income will likely be Social Security – but when should you start taking it?

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but your checks will be considerably bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. You could even wait until you're 70, at which point the payments will max out, except for yearly cost-of-living adjustments. But if

More information can be found at [liveryhorsefarm.com](https://www.liveryhorsefarm.com).

### After-School Horseback Riding

Enjoy horseback riding lessons and so much more with Kim Johansen at Livery Stables. Lessons are for beginning to early intermediate riders. In addition, Kim and staff will instruct children on basic horse care, tacking, feeding, watering, and all that happens in the horse barn. Take the bus from HCS to Livery Stables, located at 601 Lavigne Hill Road right after school. Please be sure to send a permission note with your child to ride the bus, pack a snack for your

hungry rider, and send boots and barn clothes.

Grades K-8. Tuesdays, April 30-June 4 and/or Fridays, May 3-June 7. Livery Stables, located at 601 Lavigne Hill Road, Hinesburg. 3-5 p.m. Cost: \$285. More information can be found at [liveryhorsefarm.com](https://www.liveryhorsefarm.com).

### AARP Safe Driver Course

Wednesday, April 3. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. First floor conference room at Town Hall. AARP members \$20, non-members \$25. Please bring a lunch and water bottle.

you need the money, you need the money, even if you're just 62 or any age before full retirement age.

However, if you have adequate financial resources to meet your monthly needs, whether through earned income, your investment portfolio or a combination of the two, you could have some flexibility in choosing when to take Social Security. In this case, you may want to weigh these considerations:

- Life expectancy – For all of us, it's one of life's great mysteries: How long will we live? Of course, we can't see into the future, so the question can't be answered with total confidence. But to make an informed decision on when to take Social Security, you don't need to know your exact lifespan – you just need to make a reasonably good estimate. So, for example, if you're approaching 62, you're enjoying excellent health and you have a family history of longevity, you might conclude it's worth waiting a few years to collect Social Security, so you can receive the bigger payments. Conversely, if your health is questionable and your family has not been fortunate in terms of longevity, you might want to start taking your benefits earlier.
- Employment – You can certainly continue working and still receive Social Security benefits. However, if you're under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit of \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above \$59,520. So, you may want to keep these reductions

in mind when deciding when to begin accepting benefits. Once you reach your full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing benefits. (Also, at your full retirement age, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to credit you for the months you received reduced benefits because of your excess earnings.)

- Spouse – Spouses can receive two types of Social Security benefits: spousal and survivor. With a spousal benefit, your spouse can receive up to 50 percent of your full retirement benefits, regardless of when you start taking them. (Your spouse's benefit can be reduced by the amount of their own retirement benefit and whether they took Social Security before their full retirement age.) But with a survivor benefit, your decision about when to take Social Security can make a big difference. A surviving spouse can receive the larger of their own benefit or 100 percent of a deceased spouse's benefit, so if you take benefits early and receive a permanent reduction, your spouse's survivor benefit may also be reduced for their lifetime.

When to take Social Security is an important – and irrevocable – decision. So, consider all the factors before making your choice.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

### Dog Obedience with Jim Warden

Join experienced dog trainer Jim Warden for this informative and beneficial dog training experience. This class is designed to provide enjoyment and interaction for both you and your pet. Jim makes it look easy, even with the most challenging dogs. Watch and see someone who truly "talks to the animals." Please note – leave your dog at home for the first class.

Dog and owner(s). Town Hall field. Thursdays, May 9-June 13. 6-7 p.m. Cost: \$75 resident and \$85 non-residents.

### Boater Safety

Boating safety education is required for any motorboat operator, 12 years of age or older, born after Jan. 1, 1974. The Boat Vermont classroom course will enable you to get the certification that you need. The course is eight hours and is offered over four days. Participants must be present at all classes to be eligible for certification.

Instructor– Jon Fick

Note: Title 23 VSA 3305a. Privilege to operate a vessel; suspension of privilege; minimum age for operation of a motorboat. (c) An individual under 12 years of age shall not operate a motorboat powered by more than six horsepower on the public waters of this State. Note: "The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) operates its programs, services, and activities without discriminating on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, place of birth, disability, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or breastfeeding (mother and child). Reasonable accommodations are available on request at no cost to the student. Please include a description of the accommodation you will need. Individuals making such requests must include their contact information. Requests should be made as early as possible, for example an interpreter must be requested at least

two weeks in advance. Please send an e-mail to: [Jenna.Reed@vermont.gov](mailto:Jenna.Reed@vermont.gov) or call 802-279-9058.

Monday, April 29; Wednesday, May 1; Monday, May 6; and Wednesday, May 8; 6-8:30 p.m. VT State Police Building, 3294 St. George Road, Williston, Vt. Cost: \$10.

### Recreational Track and Field

Participants will learn the basics of running, jumping, throwing, and relays. There will be meets with other area recreation departments. Athletes ages 7-14 are eligible to participate unless they were a high school freshman in 2022-23 school year. Aging date is Dec. 31, 2023. VRPA State Meet is Saturday, July 22. Instructors are program director and CVU athletes.

Ages 6-14 years. Mondays and Wednesdays, June 17-July 20; 6-7:30 p.m. CVU track. Cost: \$50 resident /\$60 non-resident.

### Kevin Browne's Summer Driver Ed

Virtual classes and in-person driving. June 18-20, 24-26; July 1-3, 8-10, and 15-17. Class time: 7-8:30 p.m. Driving time: June 15-July 19, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in two-hour increments. Cost: residents \$850 and non-residents \$900.

Other information: Students must have a learner's permit before signing up. Students should enroll in the course where they are available to do the driving time. Students are expected to have cameras on during class. Students should have reasonable availability to drive during dates of class. Driving is done on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. in two-hour time slots (8-10 a.m., 10 a.m.-noon, noon-2 p.m., and 2-4 p.m.) Two students will be in the car during driving – one to drive and the other to observe. Payment is due upon registration. Register online at [hinesburgrec.com](https://www.hinesburgrec.com) but checks are payable to Kevin Browne and due to HRD, 10632 Rte. 116, Hinesburg.

## LIBRARY

### Library Hours Year Round

Monday and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Phone: 482-2878

Address: 69 Ballards Corner Road, Hinesburg 05461

Web Site: [carpentercarse.org](https://www.carpentercarse.org)

Email: [library@carpentercarse.org](mailto:library@carpentercarse.org)

### Library News

April is both Poetry Month and Earth Month and we have books arriving which will help us celebrate: *Good Grief* by Brianna Pastor, *Things You May Find Hidden in My Ear* by Mosab Abu Toha, *I Cheerfully Refuse* by Leif Enger, *A Wounded Deer Leaps Highest* by Charlie J. Stephens, *The Backyard Bird Chronicles* by Amy Tan, *Birding to Change the World* by Trish O'Kane, and *Lessons for Survival: Mothering Against "The Apocalypse"* by Emily Raboteau. Contact the library to reserve one of these titles.

### April Youth Happenings at Carpenter-Carse Library

For more information about any of these programs contact [jen@carpentercarse.org](mailto:jen@carpentercarse.org)

**Weekly Storytime: Tuesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 9:30 a.m.**

Join the fun and learning with picture books, songs, movement, and rhymes that are designed to promote early language, fine motor, and pre-literacy skills in a friendly environment. Each week we will finish up Storytime with snacks,

coffee for the adults, a simple craft or sensory activity, and book browsing. Storytime is designed for babies, toddlers, and preschool/kindergarten aged children and their caregivers, and no registration is required.

**Monthly Fiber Arts Club: Friday, April 5, 3:15-4:30 p.m.**

Each month we will focus on a different handwork skill and complete a simple project. This club is for you if you have ever wanted to learn how to knit, crochet, needle felt, embroider, and sew, or you want to share your skills with others. This club is for youth in grades 3-7. Please register.

**Family Solar Eclipse Prep Party: Saturday, April 6, 1-2:30 p.m.**

Families with children of all ages are invited to join us at the library two days before the solar eclipse to learn more about what a solar eclipse is through stories, activities, crafts, and games. Families can find out how and where to safely view the eclipse on April 8 and pick up solar eclipse viewing glasses or make their own indirect solar viewing devices. Please register your family for this event.

**Saturday Storytime: Saturday, April 13, 10 a.m.**

Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to join youth librarian Jen for stories, songs, and rhymes in the library community room. Stick around for snacks, a simple craft activity, and book browsing.

**LEGO Club: Wednesdays, April 17 through May 29, 2:15-3:30 p.m.**

After-school LEGO Club is back. Students in grades K-4 are invited to sign up for this fun and educational program that will happen every Wednesday, 2:15-3:15

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# COMMENTARY

## Boiler Room Operations

BY ROGER DONEGAN

In a world where genuine understanding is sometimes blunted by a hackneyed phrase or cliché, the old saying that a suspicious activity or a dubious phone solicitation was a “boiler room operation” used to make me laugh as I spent the better part of my work life in boiler rooms, fire rooms, and powerhouses. I’m much more at home in a boiler room than I am in a milk room or milking parlor.

On occasion an image crossed my path which held some essence of steam generation which I’d squirrel away to preserve whatever meaning it held. Early on I retained a black and white reproduction of a woodcut engraving published by Harper’s Weekly in 1876. It has that Currier and Ives-like quality but lacks that classic lightheartedness. I believe the art world today would categorize it as “social realism.”

The image depicts a homeless mother with young children under a blanket huddled over a sidewalk grate as steam wafts up from un-

derground. The background shows “Steam Printing” on an urban storefront giving a clue to the source of waste heat. In reality the chilly winter image conveys a false remedy as wet steam would thoroughly soak blanket and clothes and cancel out the chance to stay warm. While the scene may not stand up to objective analysis the contradictory implications are not comforting either. There are seasons and circumstances we all need heat.

You know you’re in an urban neighborhood heated by an older-designed district heating system when those curious plumes of steam escape through holes in manholes along the streets in cold weather. Chances are the steam pinpoints the location of an Armstrong steam trap or a purposeful bleed on an underground steam line between buildings. Older designed district heating systems are no strangers to Vermont. Modern systems use pressurized hot water and an insulated two pipe system with a return instead of piped steam. Most amenable to joint undertakings by government or institutional facilities, another district heating system could be on the way in Burlington. That has readily been blasted by

activists for its use of home-grown biomass fuel.

In the meantime, a Sunday drive down Route 89 to Montpelier passes by former and newer designed district heating systems. New stacks and even old chimneys lead you to them. Less we forget, CVU’s set of two stacks disappearing in the rearview mirror represented a significant investment in wood-chip boiler heat in 2005.

Passing Waterbury, the curious sight of a smoke-free 1890s-style chimney pokes up from the valley, brandishing dark “VSH” letters in the brick work of a mostly buff colored stack and stands for the former “Vermont State Hospital.” As if there’s an attempt to disavow its existence an on-line search turned up nothing. Doubling back through town I found this huge chimney physically disconnected from all fixed surroundings except flat lawn. It is the closest structure to the river that had infamously flooded town and complex, most recently in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. A drive onto the site yielded a clue about the chimney while the book Empty Beds / A History of Vermont State Hospital (Kincheloe and Hunt, 1988) only mentions it in an appendix.

The chimney belonged to VSH’s coal burning electrical generator



VSH Stack 2



Harper’s Weekly 1876  
Woodcut Engraving

plant which operated off grid until 1953, no mention of district heating. The chimney’s cast iron base inspection door embossed with “Alphons Custodis Chimney Construction Co.” tells us the chimney was once state of the art because of its composition of large radial shaped brick with high refractory and crush-proof properties. Eighteen feet over the cleanout gapes the breach where ductwork connected. Using a lift or ladder to the breach someone could demonstrate the natural draft created by the chimney’s internal funnel shape and soaring 150-foot height by releasing a feather which would be drawn up and away inside.

From the sidewalk of the refurbished Waterbury State Office

### Library

*continued from page 9*

p.m., for six weeks (no LEGO Club during April break). Students have the choice every week to work on their own or with others on weekly challenges or their own creations. To reserve a spot for your child in LEGO Club, please register. We hope you can join us for LEGOs, friends, and fun.

**After-School Story and Craft Time: Friday, April 19, 3:15-4:30 p.m.**

Children in Grades K-2 can sign up to join us for read-aloud stories, snacks, and picture book-inspired crafts at this monthly after school program. Please register.

**Spring Break Concert and Sing-Along: Monday, April 22, 1-2 p.m.**

Children of all ages and their parents are invited to join us for this fun and interactive event with long-time performer and musician, Ed Morgan, also known simply as “The Music Man.” For over ten years Ed has delighted audiences of kids and grownups with his interactive blend of traditional and family songs. No registration is required.

**Mid-Grade Book Club: Thursday, April 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

This is a book club for students who would like an opportunity to read

and discuss books that are past or current Golden Dome Book Award nominees or winners. This group meets at the library once a month and will vote on which Golden Dome book to read next. Book Club is for anyone who is reading mid-grade books, which is generally students who are in the 9-12 year old age range. Please register.

**CCL Adult Programs March 2024**

For more information about any of these programs contact [library@carpentercarse.org](mailto:library@carpentercarse.org)

**Hands and Needles: Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon.**

Bring whatever project you’re working on (quilting, knitting, embroidery, etc.) to this weekly program for a morning of creativity and conversation. No registration required.

**Poems in Performance: A Cure for Poemphobia: Wednesday, April 3, at 6:30 p.m.**

April is National Poetry Month and slam poet Geof Hewitt will share Poems in Performance: A Cure for Poemphobia, an informal talk which offers poems that defy stereotypes. In the past fifty years, a magical loosening of “poetry” has opened doors for reluctant readers, and the performance of poems in “poetry slams” has attracted new

audiences. The assumption of sing-song or anticipation of hidden metaphors no longer applies.

**SongFarmers of Hinesburg: Thursday, April 4, 6-8 p.m.**

Do you play an acoustic instrument or just love to sing along to old time, blues, country, and folk music? Come join the SongFarmers during their monthly gathering and participate in this wonderful live music offering. Open to the public.

**Senior Meetup: Friday, April 5, 10-11:30 a.m.**

Do you remember rotary phones? Cigarette smoke in diners? Bike riding without helmets? The Ed Sullivan Show? 8-Track Tapes? Then this meetup is for you. Come gather and talk, schmooze and kvetch, share and laugh with other seniors. This group meets on the first Friday of every month. Coffee, tea, and games will be provided.

**Mystery Book Club: Wednesday, April 10; 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

Meet with other readers at the library to discuss a mystery book—ranging from cozy to gritty. Please register to receive a copy of the book and to let us know you will attend.

**Beaverland Book Discussion: Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m.**

Allaire Diamond, Vermont Land

Trust ecologist, and Liz Doran (UVM Professor of Environmental Engineering) from the Hinesburg Conservation Commission lead a discussion of Beaverland: How One Weird Rodent Made America. Copies of the book will be available at the circulation desk.

This is one in a series of book talks in advance of author Leila Philip’s presentation next month at Shelburne Town Hall.

**Not-Your-Traditional Book Group: Thursdays, April 11 and 25, 11 a.m.-noon**

Enjoy our library, bring a book, read aloud for three minutes or not, talk about your reading life, share a reading topic you pursue, or just stop in. All are welcome. Meeting the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. (This group was previously advertised as the No-Commitment Book Club.)

**Personal Technology Help Group: Fridays, April 12 and 26, 10:30 a.m.-noon**

Kenneth Russell, personal technology coach and helper, will lead you in a group exploration of facing the common frustration points in using our personal technology: smartphones, computers, tablets, etc.

Contact [library@carpentercarse.org](mailto:library@carpentercarse.org) to RSVP.



Cast Iron Boiler Front Embedded in Montpelier Central Plant Wall

Complex, you can see both the old VSH chimney and the pseudo-looking stack of the new central heating plant. The website of Freeman French Freeman advertises as having been the Architect of Record for the dramatic makeover of the flood-ravaged complex which includes a biomass-fueled central heating plant providing heat and hot water while preserving much of the former VSH complex rich architectural character.

Resuming the drive south, before committing to the Capitol exit, but stealing a quick glance uphill on the left, you see the National Life Insurance Company building. What looks like the eraser end of a shiny new pencil stuck into the flat top of the main building, possibly trailing a signature white plume, is the 50-foot-tall stack for two wood-burning boilers installed in 2011. The campus has three prin-

cipal office buildings. The Davis Building, the daytime habitat of Montpelier’s Agency of Natural Resources office workers, receives heat and hot water from the on-site distribution system.

On Route 2 (Memorial Drive), the new National Life Insurance Co. building seems to disappear. The Capitol Golden Dome glows in sunlight upstaging the 120-foot-tall historic red radial brick chimney of the Montpelier district heating plant that heats the Capitol complex and 21 other buildings downtown. The first plant burned coal supplying the central heating system low-pressure steam for 50 years. Over time the plant’s three boilers have combusted No. 6 and No. 2 fuel oil and wood chips. Two boilers and the circulating hot water distribution system were replaced by the Montpelier Community Renewable Energy Project in 2014, retaining a dual fuel capability of biomass and No. 2 fuel oil.

The everyday hazards inside a district heating facility reasonably make it “employees only.” The design firm gbArchitecture gave the Montpelier District Heat Plant the moniker “Pompidou Centre” of Montpelier after the famous “inside-out” museum built in Paris, France, in the ‘70s. The plant’s inside floor plan, busy with colorfully painted structural steel, pipes, and equipment, can be seen from

Route 2 through the exterior glass wall when interior light overtakes daylight. On the State Street side, up an alley in a patchwork of parking lots, a person gets to see the décor’s nod to the past – an ornate perfect condition stove black cast iron boiler front five feet in diameter set into a brick wall by an entrance. The style of embossing the 1900s manufacturer’s name and fancy initials on this boiler front is reminiscent of fire doors on wood stoves at home or even the fire doors on an old Leader Evaporator for boiling sap.

The ornate boiler front looks to be the model in a hand-painted floor tile of a 1995 ground floor “Arts in State Buildings Program” exhibit across the street. Titled “The Old Powerhouse,” this exhibit commemorates the building’s previous function as the 1921 power plant for the adjacent and former fifth National Life Insurance Company headquarters. Other tiles portray workers in the steam, laundry and trade shops that were housed there from the 1920s through the 1950s.

## Let’s Stay Out of Prison

BY BILL SCHUBART

I think a lot about the criminal justice system. At 79, I’ve mostly evaded its embrace except for

a few driving offenses, a surprise visit from the FBI and a college incident in Ohio that I was too drunk to remember, but one that landed me in a drunk tank for an evening.

I have friends who’ve been on both sides of the system, both transgressors and enforcers: police, lawyers, judges, jailors, and, like many, I understand the system is antiquated, unjust, and needs to be reimagined.

The good news is there are many working today to build a better, more just system, one that maintains the goal of safeguarding the public from chronic violence and theft but abandons the punitive Old Testament ethos.

There are domestic and international models from which we can learn, like the much-touted Norway model, Portugal’s decision to decriminalize drug addiction and replace jail with addiction treatment, and pioneering work being done nearby in the State of Maine, as well as work being done in our own state that has reduced our incarcerated population by almost half.

The broader question we must ask ourselves is, “Are we a punitive society or a supportive community that invests in our citizens and shares prosperity? Do we invest in people and communities... or jails, homeless shelters, and emergency rooms?”

The United States has one of the highest per capita incarceration rates in the de-

*continued on page 12*

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**Commentary**

*continued from page 11*

veloped world. In the U.S., only Maine, Rhode Island and Massachusetts have a lower per capita incarceration rate than Vermont. As of March 11, Vermont’s total incarcerated population was 1,363, of which 112 are female and 124 men are housed out-of-state at CoreCivic in Mississippi, a for-profit prison company. Vermont’s total population under some form of community supervision is 3,141 on probation, 660 on parole, and 246 on furlough.

A rapidly growing rate of geriatric prisoners, reflecting long sentencing, has put a severe burden on all prison systems, especially as it relates to the correctional system’s obligation to provide healthcare. Given very low recidivism rates for male prisoners over the age of 40 (7.5 percent), why not enable prisoners to earn early release and better prepare them for reentry?

Senator Tanya Vyhovsky has sponsored bill S.155 that would allow an incarcerated person to petition a court for early release after serving a fixed portion of their sentence based on earned criteria such as good behavior or completing educational or training programs. However, it is not expected to pass this session.

Senate bill S.58, an omnibus crime bill reflecting earlier “tough-on-crime” attitudes, makes prosecuting drug crimes easier, adds new crimes, and delays implementation of the “raise-the-age” initiative to reduce the number of juveniles in corrections.

To this point, in a later column, I’ll write about an innovative program under way between Community College of Vermont (CCV) and the Vermont Department of Corrections (DOC).

A former Commissioner of Corrections once reminded me that Corrections doesn’t put people in jail; police, prosecutors, legislators, juries (us), and judges do. Corrections is their keeper, charged with maintaining a secure facility and ensuring the health and well-being of those in their care.

Many correctional systems, including Vermont’s, understand that they must also prepare those in their care for a life outside. This may include access to language, literacy and other basic education skills, job training, addiction treatment, healthcare, and/or trauma-informed counseling. So given the certainty of reentry into our communities, how do we best use an incarcerated person’s time inside?

First, we must understand the criminogenic environment outside and how it can lead to criminal behavior. Studies have shown that between 62-78 percent of incarcerated adult males experienced trauma during their lifetime prior to incarceration.

We also know that the prefrontal cortex matures more slowly in boys than in girls. Put simply, young boys and men do more risky and stupid things when

they’re young. Do you want to be measured solely by the worst mistake you made in your lifetime? I don’t. Did nothing else matter? Are we only the sum of our worst behaviors?

After an offender’s proven guilty in a court of law but prior to the sentencing hearing, what if the judiciary required a professional evaluation to determine whether a defendant’s alleged crime resulted from poverty, physical or mental illness, substance abuse, disability, gambling, or the intergenerational transfer of trauma?

If any of these latter causes were determined to be the genesis of the alleged crime, treatment would replace judicial process and sentencing.

Such a system would significantly reduce the court backlog that denies so many alleged perpetrators the constitutionally guaranteed right to a “speedy trial.”

The consequences of such a process change would put immense pressure on us as a society to invest in our community and family-support systems: addiction treatment, mental-health counseling, healthcare access, education and job training, and anti-poverty efforts (housing, hunger etc.) initiatives which would, however, reduce entries into our correctional system and their consequent costs. Currently, preventative supportive services are woefully inadequate and underfunded.

Meanwhile, Governor Scott’s administration has introduced plans to build a new prison estimated to cost \$70 million, although his office estimates it may well cost twice that. What community support services could be funded for that amount?

Vermont’s hunger, homelessness, and poverty rates are rising. So too has the reported incidence of young people suffering from mental health issues. Between 2018 and 2021 Vermont experienced a 60 percent increase in children ages 3-8 years old with a mental, emotional or a behavioral health condition presenting as anxiety, depression or behavioral and conduct problems.

We know through many studies that moving our social and economic investments upstream to education, intervention, prevention, and access to support services will radically reduce our costs of remediation, repair, and restoration. We can measure our societal failures by the number of people waiting in emergency rooms, committing self-harm or suicide, shooting up on our streets, or wasting away behind bars.

Most Vermonters want a more effective criminal justice system, one that reduces reliance on prisons but focuses instead on causation, prevention, and community support systems. And thanks to the Vermont Prisoner’s Rights Office within the Office of the Defender General, Jayna Ahsaf of the Vermont – FreeHer Campaign, the Vermont ACLU’s Smart Justice Campaign, and visionary leadership in the DOC, we are seeing significant progress. But the shift to a more just and cost-efficient system is up to us.

**Affordable Housing**

*continued from page 1*

“affordable” if it costs 30 percent or less of a household’s income, including rent or mortgage, utilities, insurance and taxes. Chittenden County’s median rent of \$1,386 is “affordable” only to households earning more than \$40,000 annually. That’s only half of renters in Hinesburg. The Chittenden County’s median home sale price of \$435,000 is “affordable” only to households earning \$140,000 or more.

Ultimately, housing costs will only come down when the housing stock goes up. But building new homes is even more expensive. Only a few years ago, new dwellings typically cost about \$350,000 to build. Now they cost close to \$500,000. At these costs, the market alone cannot build new housing that’s affordable without some sort of help from the public, through the government and/or nonprofits.

**Partnerships Can Create and Maintain Affordable Housing**

Hinesburg’s Housing Needs Assessment, newly updated and released just last June, translates what state and county new housing goals mean for Hinesburg. To meet the goals of the Building Homes Together campaign, Hinesburg would have to build about 140 new homes (35 affordable) by 2025, and about 275 by 2029. Hinesburg has several projects in the works right now that, should they reach fruition, together would meet or exceed the 2029 goal. Each relies on its own unique arrangement of partnerships between the town, nonprofit housing organizations, and private developers.

**Kelley’s Field**, a 55-plus community in the heart of the village, is adding 24 units, all perpetually affordable. It is managed by the nonprofits Cathedral Square and Evernorth and supported by the town with a \$50,000 grant and with help securing \$600,000 in

state-federal funds.

**Haystack Crossing**, to be located west of 116 and south of Shelburne Falls Road, envisions in phase one 176 homes of various forms and sizes, 20 of them perpetually affordable. The town is working with the developer to build and maintain the water and sewer services the project will require.

**Hinesburg Center II** is adding 73 units, eight of them perpetually affordable, to its project behind Kinney’s. The town is giving the effort a gentle assist by allowing it to meet its open space requirements with a donation to the development of the planned Town Commons nearby.

**Windy Ridge** seeks to build 77 units, 60 of them perpetually affordable, east of 116 and south of CVU Road, around the NRG complex. The current plan is for 40 owner-occupied single and multi-family homes and 37 rentals. The land is being donated by a founder of NRG and managed by Champlain Housing Trust (CHT). CHT will partner with Evernorth on rentals, and Sterling Construction and Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity on the ownership units.

Public assistance comes in various forms, including letters of support to help developers secure financing, direct grants, help with infrastructure, or special dispensation in zoning requirements to cut costs and streamline permitting. HAHC also does its best to influence and support our town’s efforts to meet its housing needs, and to make sure we do so in a way that benefits the town and all of the people in it.

*Stay tuned for next month’s installment of HAHC’s exploration into Hinesburg’s housing crisis. For more details, refer to the Hinesburg Housing Needs Assessment, which is available on the HAHC page on the town website.*

## EDUCATION

### Access CVU Spring Offerings

**BY JENNIFER MORTON, ACCESS CVU PROGRAM MANAGER**

The winter/spring semester of Access CVU, your destination for community education based out of CVU high school, is well under way. With over 50 classes that have yet to start, and more being added regularly, there’s something for everyone.

Some things of note:

- Do you want to up your cooking game? How about learning to make empanadas or Vietnamese beef pho?
- Are you a maker looking for a new project? Our craft options this month are plentiful with everything from oil painting and wood carving to felted soaps and sewing your own fanny pack.
- If you prefer online classes, we have options that include birding, managing heartburn, and canine communication.

Below is a list of classes offered during April, organized by category. All classes meet in-person at CVU, with the exception of a handful of online classes (identified with an “\*”) which will meet over Zoom or Google Meet.

**Cooking & Cuisine**

Tuesday, Apr. 9: Mexican Cooking: Empanadas

Tuesday, Apr. 16: Vietnamese – Traditional Beef Pho

**Fine Arts, Crafts, Fiber, Wood, & Photography**

Tuesday, Apr. 2: Learn How to Turn

a Wooden Bowl!

Tuesday, Apr. 2: Carving in Wood: The Wizard Hiking Stick

Tuesday, Apr. 9: Oil Painting for Intermediate to Advanced Painters



*Oil Painting with Emily Moore: Apr. 9*

Tuesday, Apr. 9: Sew Your Own Fanny Pack



*Sew Your Own Fanny Pack: Apr. 9*

Monday, Apr. 15: Wool Felted Soaps

Monday, Apr. 15: Fused Glass Wind Chime

Tuesday, Apr. 16: Learn How to Turn a Wooden Bowl!

Wednesday, Apr. 17: Gemstone and Essential Oil Diffusing Bracelet Workshop

Thursday, Apr. 18: Traditional Intermediate Rug Hooking

Tuesday, Apr. 30: Digital Photography Bootcamp

**Fitness, Dance, Yoga & Mindful Movement**

Tuesday, Apr. 9: Intro to Yang Tai Chi

Tuesday, Apr. 9: Kriya Yoga with Lish

Wednesday, Apr. 17: Zumba with Dillon!

Monday, Apr. 29: Vinyasa Flow Yoga with Heather

**Health & Nutrition, New Age & Holistic Wellbeing**

Thursday, Apr. 4: Invasive Plant Medicine: Healing our Bodies, Healing the Land

Thursday, Apr. 4: Intro to Meditations with Laura Neal

Wednesday, Apr. 10: Supporting GERD + Heartburn with Functional Nutrition\*

Thursday, Apr. 18: Early Spring Medicinal Plant Walk

**Home (DIY) & Gardening, Nature & Animals**

Thursday, Apr. 11: Vermont’s Raptors, Big and Not-So-Big, All Fascinating\*

Tuesday, Apr. 16: Canine Communication\*

Wednesday, Apr. 17: Apple Tree Grafting

**Music & Languages**

Tuesday, Apr. 16: Guitar for Beginners – Part 2

**Tech, Computers, & Automotive, Welding**

Monday, Apr. 1: Introduction to Welding Fabrication

Check out our website, [cvsvdtv.ce.eleyo.com](http://cvsvdtv.ce.eleyo.com) (or Google “Access CVU”), for more information, and to register for a class. As a reminder, early signups help us plan for popular classes. It ensures you a spot in the class, and it avoids classes being canceled due to low enrollment. And if there’s a waitlist for a class you’re interested in, we encourage you to add your name since we will open up an extra section of a class if we get enough interest.

Need help getting registered, or have a question about a class? Want to teach with us? We want to hear from you! Call 802-482-7194 or email [access@cvsvdtv.org](mailto:access@cvsvdtv.org). We offer senior discounts for our community over 65.

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► Education

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We provide enrichment and learning opportunities for anyone, anywhere, and anytime. Come explore new passions, ignite your imagination, learn a new skill and connect with lifelong learners.

CVSD News

Superintendent's Message

BY RENE SANCHEZ

Dear Champlain Valley School District Community,

On Town Meeting Day, our CVSD budget was one of 30 school budgets not approved across the state of Vermont. During the lead-up to the vote, community members informed us that the tax rate caused by the implementation of Vermont's new school finance law, Act 127, was a bridge too far for many to support our proposed budget. That being said, we were made aware that their historical support for the schools, students, and staff did not and had not wavered.

Since the Wednesday after Town Meeting Day, district and school leaders have been meeting to find efficiencies or reductions. There have been regular conversations with the board leadership to prepare for the special meeting to discuss options for selecting a new budget proposal. Before and after the town meeting vote, the district received many communications through email and Let's Talk with suggestions and ideas about what might be changed or reduced in our budget. Those ideas have been heard, seen, and considered.

At the March 12 Champlain Valley School District's Board of Directors special meeting, the board discussed several options for a revised budget. These options present reductions in staffing and programming across our schools. The board held a long, emotional meeting with much discussion. Moreover, we would like to thank the many staff and community members who attended either in person or via Zoom. Given the importance of the meeting, we are grateful for the community's attention to it.

At the end of the meeting, the board approved a new budget and the new warnings to present to voters. Our main goal was to trim the budget to a level that our community could fully get behind, all while continuing to provide the best possible service to students with the reductions required to achieve the revised budget. With that in mind, the new CVSD proposed budget requests a 5.9 percent budgetary increase compared to this year, which results in a \$1.32 tax

rate before the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is factored in from each town. This pre-CLA tax rate is only two percent higher than last year. We will have estimates for the increases to taxpayers shortly, but firm numbers will not be known until after the legislature approves the yield later in their session. We will explain these numbers in more detail in upcoming communications.

The revote will take place on April 16. It will be possible to vote earlier at town offices.

We acknowledge the interest in understanding the specifics of the reductions presented in the recently proposed budget. At this time, we are unable to share detailed information. It is crucial to acknowledge that these choices have a direct impact on the lives and personal situations of individuals we deeply care about. Allowing adequate time to sensitively inform those affected and enable them to make the needed adaptations while also affording school leaders the opportunity to plan appropriately is essential to ensure that the process is informative, compassionate, and supportive.

We are developing additional materials and will hold several informational meetings to assist taxpayers in understanding the revised budget's impact. We will share these as soon as possible so that you are informed before the April 16 vote.

Solar Eclipse – No School

INFORMATION SHARED ON BEHALF OF SUPERINTENDENT SANCHEZ AND OTHER LOCAL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

As northern Vermont prepares for a rare total solar eclipse on April 8, school districts in the Champlain Valley are taking proactive measures. Initially planning for an early dismissal on that day, superintendents have continued monitoring regional developments. Considering the unique circumstances and in collaboration with local public safety officials, district officials have collectively decided to close schools for the full day.

As the day of the eclipse approaches, more businesses in the area have announced special viewing events, and state agencies are preparing for an anticipated influx of 150,000 visitors. Recognizing the potential challenges associated with the sudden surge in travelers, Vermont Emergency Management advised municipalities in their recent newsletter to prepare for possible stress on their emergency services and, in some cases, extreme traffic issues.

Given the unpredictable nature of

the eclipse's impact on our region, Champlain Valley superintendents have chosen to prioritize the safety and well-being of students and staff and mutually agreed to close schools on April 8.

Earlier this year, CVSD purchased solar eclipse glasses for each student. They will be distributed the week before the eclipse.

For more information on Vermont's planning for the total solar eclipse, please visit [vermont.gov/eclipse](http://vermont.gov/eclipse).

Updated COVID Guidance

Effective immediately, the Champlain Valley School District will adjust our isolation guidance post-COVID infection for staff and students to align with both the CDC and Vermont Department of Health recommendations.

When people get sick with any respiratory virus (including COVID, RSV or influenza), the updated guidance from the CDC recommends that they stay home and away from others. For people with COVID-19 and influenza, treatment is available and can lessen symptoms and lower the risk of severe illness (please contact your primary care for guidance on treatment options). The recommendations suggest returning to normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, symptoms are improving overall, and if a fever was present, it has been gone without use of a fever-reducing medication.

Given this information, CVSD is no longer asking students and staff who have tested positive for COVID to isolate at home through day five. Put simply, if you are sick, please stay home and return when you are feeling better.

As part of the guidance, CDC provides active recommendations on core prevention steps and strategies:

- Staying up to date with vaccination to protect people against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. This includes flu, COVID-19, and RSV if eligible.
- Practicing good hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes, washing or sanitizing hands often, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.
- Taking steps for cleaner air, such as bringing in more fresh outside air, purifying indoor air, or gathering outdoors.

As always, if you are sick, please stay at home. When you feel better, you can return to school. Refer to the Health Services page of our website at [tinyurl.com/CVSDhealth](http://tinyurl.com/CVSDhealth) for the answers to frequently asked questions.

Poetry & Puppetry Residency at HCS

BY SARAH FRECHETTE, POETRY & PUPPETRY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Over the course of Monday, March 11, through Thursday, March 14, Sarah Frechette, teaching artist, world-renowned puppeteer and founder of the Vermont-based touring puppet company PuppetKabob, conducted a residency for the Hinesburg Community School's fifth grade. The program, titled "Puppetry & Poetry," gave students an engaging, accessible, confidence building, and hands-on activity to elevate this year's writing unit: Poetry – with Fine Arts. Chosen for both its creative word play and theatrical focus, Toy Theaters first appeared in the 19th century as home entertainment, outlets for imagination crafted for young people prior to the invention of television and/or video games. For this program we gave these little paper theaters a contemporary twist.

Prior to this residency the students worked with the writing teacher, Ms. Galyean, to develop poems that were used as the inspiration and text for the puppet show. The students then took their poems/scripts and, together with Puppetkabob, learned to design visually symbolic stages and performable paper puppets. In the end, each finished Toy Theater and Poem combo showcased the fifth graders' writing techniques, creative impulse and unique artistic styles.

During this residency, the fifth graders imparted their new puppet-making skills by helping the kindergarten classes create "cool kid" finger puppets. These kindergarteners were then able to bring their puppets with them to the fifth-grade showcase as they supported and celebrated their fifth-grade buddies. Between the two grades, 88 students participated and were impacted by this residency.

The fifth-grade reading teacher, Alyssa Wieland, hosted the program and brought an additional level of excitement, engagement and support to this unique creative process. This four-day residency was supported in part by PiE and the Hinesburg Community School. Ms. Wieland was instrumental in receiving this funding to secure the success of this one-of-a-kind program.

Have news? email [news@hinesburgrecord.org](mailto:news@hinesburgrecord.org).

ORGANIZATIONS

Lewis Creek Association to Combat Japanese Knotweed in Watershed

BY KATE KELLY

Non-native invasive plant species have long threatened the health of ecosystems, wildlife habitat, and populations of native plants in the Lewis Creek watershed. Management can be difficult because they are easily spread via seeds, roots, fragments, animals, and humans.

Japanese knotweed is a particularly tough plant to remove. It was introduced from East Asia in the late 1800s, and was planted as an ornamental and for erosion control (but ironically, can actually increase streambank erosion). It spreads primarily by its roots/rhizomes, which can break off during a flood then resprout and form a new colony downstream. LCA hopes to engage community members and undertake a long-term project controlling knotweed (without herbicides) in our watershed, and we need your help.

A prior grant to LCA documented the presence of knotweed populations in the Lewis Creek watershed, but distribution is patchy and it has not yet spread prevalently across streambanks (unlike in many other Vermont watersheds, where it covers nearly every square



Japanese knotweed on the bank of Lewis Creek in Starksboro. Photo credit: Kate Kelly

foot available). LCA is excited to demonstrate a non-chemical removal method to the public at a site in North Ferrisburgh, where our technicians will be present weekly to lead removal efforts, and to display these methods to the public. Everyone is invited to help if they wish. LCA is partnering with Mike Bald (*Got Weeds?*) to guide this work and demonstrate effective methods for knotweed removal without herbicides – it can be done. You can also get involved in a project that uses community science to help us understand the distribution of knotweed in the watershed using iNaturalist. LCA would love to have your involvement in one or both portions of the project. If you're interested in learning more, sign up at [bit.ly/lea-knotweed](http://bit.ly/lea-knotweed) or reach out to Kate Kelly, Program Manager for Lewis Creek Association, at [lewisecreekorg@gmail.com](mailto:lewisecreekorg@gmail.com) or 488-5203. This work is funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program/NEIWPCC/US EPA.

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Senior Meals

BY PEGGY COUTU

Shelburne Age Well April 9 Grab and Go Meal

Age Well and St. Catherine's of Siena Parish in Shelburne are teaming up to provide a meal to go for anyone age 60 and older on Tuesday, April 9. The meal will be available for pick up in the parking lot at 72 Church St. from 11 a.m. until noon. These meals are available for all 60 or older. These meals are nutritious and delicious. A \$5 donation is suggested, but not required.

The menu is: chicken in gravy with mashed cauliflower, diced carrots, southern biscuit with butter, carrot cake with icing, and milk.

To order a meal: please contact Kathleen by Wednesday, April 3, by email: (preferred) [agewell-steath@gmail.com](mailto:agewell-steath@gmail.com) or phone: 802-503-1107.

If this is a first-time order, please provide: name, address, phone number, and date of birth. If you haven't yet filled out a 2024 Congregate Meal Registration, please bring a completed registration form with you or send one to: Age Well; 875 Roosevelt Highway, Ste. 210; Colchester, VT. 05446.

We will have forms on hand for you to fill out at meal pick up.

continued on page 16

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## WHAT THE HECK?

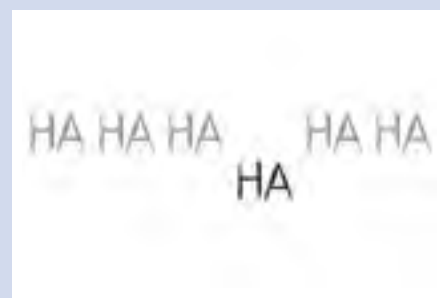
Devine



Toyota Corona



Aloha



Mood swings



Vowel movement



Royal wave

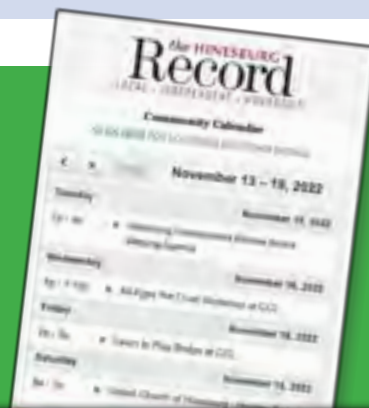


What the heck is this (below)?

Take a guess at [hinesburgrecord.org/what-the-heck/](https://hinesburgrecord.org/what-the-heck/) and have a chance to **WIN MERCHANDISE OR A \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE!**



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[hinesburgrecord.org/subscribe](https://hinesburgrecord.org/subscribe)

### ► Outdoors

*continued from page 17*

storm may topple virtually all of them at once. Having a diversity of tree species, sizes and ages buffers a forest from these larger-scale, more harmful disturbances.

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

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

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

As we learn what it means to care for ecosystems at this moment in time, it is critical that we move from a mentality that values stability: a forest's ability to stay the same; to one that values resilience: a forest's ability to respond to



A red oak (*Quercus rubra*) seedling. Forests' ability to regenerate new trees and plants after a disturbance is key to their resilience.

change and adversity when it invariably comes. In a changed and changing world, resilience is, and will likely always be, our forests' greatest asset.

*Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he's been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he's written at [linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester](https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester)*

## Bird-Friendly Habitat Management at Geprags Park

BY TOBIAH SCHULMAN, CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBER

The Hinesburg Conservation Commission (HCC) has partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to continue habitat management at Geprags Park in 2024. Work took place the weekend of February 23-25, 2024, and involved cutting and grinding woody vegetation to both remove invasive species and promote the dense new shrub growth that is important to priority shrubland bird species in Geprags Park.

Since 2012 the HCC has been working with Audubon Vermont to manage Geprags Park for priority shrubland bird species. These include golden-winged and blue-winged warblers, American woodcock, Eastern towhee and brown thrasher. Geprags was, in the past, home to one of the only hooded warblers in the state. Past work has focused on removal of invasive plant species (primarily honeysuckle and buckthorn) and maintenance of native shrub communities. These shrub communities, dominated by dogwoods and viburnums, provide important nesting habitat and a reliable food source for fall migratory birds. They also produce an abundance of flowers that are great for pollinators.

This work will create the disturbance necessary to promote the dense shrub regeneration these birds need. While small areas will look a bit shorn at first, the regrowth that happens will be incredibly beneficial for the birds and keep them coming back to Geprags Park and thriving. Mark LaBarr of Audubon Vermont will be offering a bird surveying walk and workshop at Geprags Park on June 1. Stay tuned for more information.

For more information, contact Audubon's Mark LaBarr ([mark.labarr@audubon.org](mailto:mark.labarr@audubon.org)) or the Hinesburg Conservation Commission ([hinesburgcc@gmail.com](mailto:hinesburgcc@gmail.com)).

## Some Cliff Tops and Overlooks Closed to Protect Nesting Peregrines

FROM VT FISH & WILDLIFE PRESS RELEASE

Hiking Vermont's hillsides is a great way to enjoy a spring day, but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Audubon Vermont recommend people check to see if the area they are planning to hike or climb is open. In addition to trail closures to reduce impacts during mud season, several cliff areas are also closed to protect nesting peregrine falcons.

"Peregrine falcons are very sensitive to human presence during their breeding season, so we ask climbers and hikers to please maintain a respectful distance from their nests," said Nongame Bird Biologist Jillian Kilborn with Fish and Wildlife. "The areas closed include the portions of the cliffs where the birds are nesting

and the trails leading to cliff tops or overlooks."

Over the next couple months, biologists and community scientists will be identifying cliffs occupied by peregrines this year. Sites listed will remain closed until August 1 or until Fish and Wildlife determines the risk to nesting falcons has passed. The majority of the sites are visited in April, and nesting falcons can choose new sites, so additional sites may be added or removed from the closed list which will be updated and provided on Fish and Wildlife's website at [vtfishandwildlife.com](https://vtfishandwildlife.com).

**Bolton Notch** (Bolton) – UUW cliff – cliff access and climbing closed

**Bone Mountain** (Bolton) – portions closed to climbing

**Deer Leap** (Bristol) – cliff-top and climbing closed

**Eagle Ledge** (Vershire) – closed to hiking and climbing

**Dummerston Quarry** (Dummerston) – upper quarry closed

**Fairlee Palisades** (Fairlee) – cliff-top closed

**Marshfield Mt.** (Marshfield) – portions closed to climbing

**Mt. Horrid** (Rochester) – Great Cliff overlook closed

**Nichols Ledge** (Woodbury) – cliff-top and climbing closed

**Prospect Rock** (Johnson) – cliff-top overlook and climbing closed

**Red Rocks Park** (S. Burlington) – southern cliff access closed

**Rattlesnake Point** (Salisbury) – southern overlook closed

**Snake Mountain** (Addison) – entire western trail closed

Audubon Vermont conservation biologist Margaret Fowle works with volunteers and other conservation professionals to monitor the sites throughout the nesting season. "Peregrine falcons were removed from Vermont's endangered species list in 2005, and the population continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers and partners," said Fowle. "In many cases the lower portions of the trails remain open, and we encourage people to enjoy watching



Hikers and climbers can help nesting peregrine falcons by avoiding several Vermont cliff areas this spring and early summer. VTF&W photo

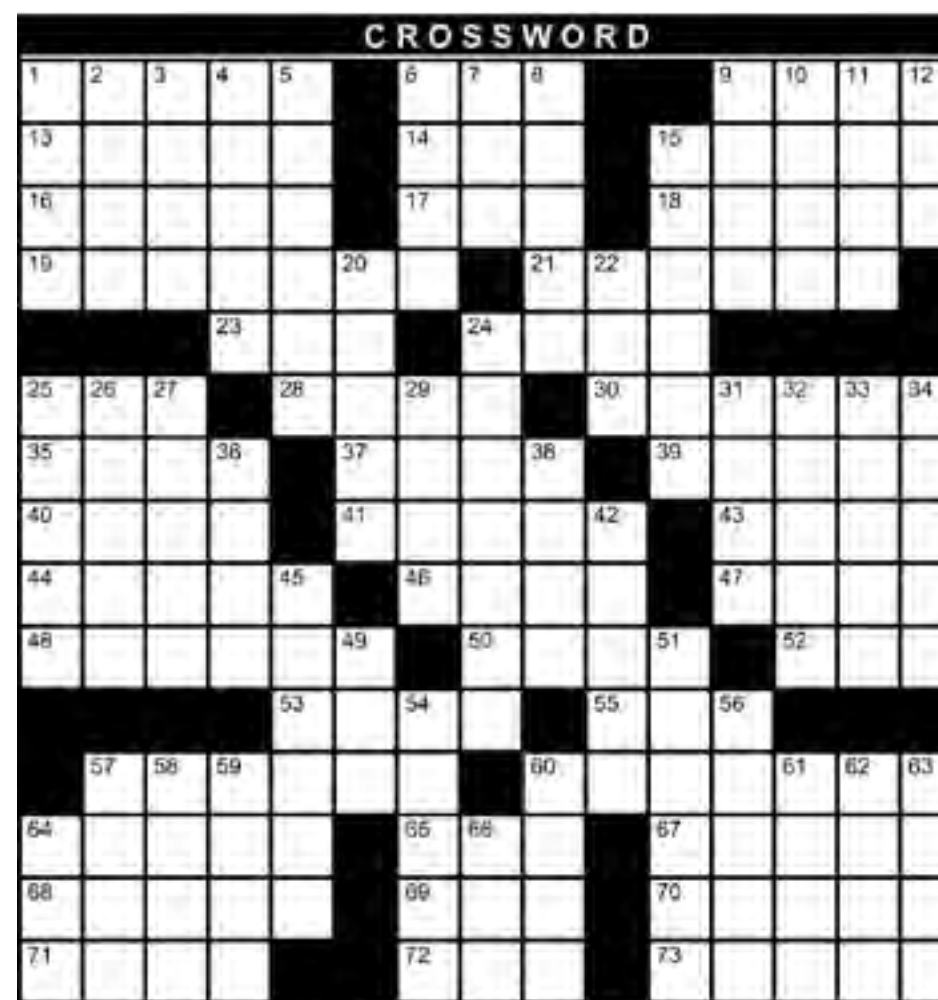
peregrine falcons from a distance that requires using binoculars or a spotting scope."

What you can do to help Vermont peregrines:

Respect cliff closures, and retreat from any cliff where you see peregrines.

Report any disturbance of nesting peregrines to your local state game warden.

Report any sightings to Margaret Fowle at [margaret.fowle@audubon.org](mailto:margaret.fowle@audubon.org)



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SHAKESPEARE

ACROSS

- Type of help center
- Fake tooth
- What geysers do
- Lagoon wall
- Acronym, in brief
- Syrup producer
- Papal court
- It often comes with Aloha!
- External
- \*Richard III: "A horse! A horse! My \_\_\_ for a horse!"
- \*Romeo and Juliet: "Parting is such sweet \_\_\_"
- Animal's nose
- Fail to mention
- Capone's family
- \*Hamlet: "O, this is the poison of \_\_\_ grief"
- Soap froth
- Iris holder
- "He \_\_\_\_, She Said"
- \_\_\_ Apso
- Cheap form of payment?
- Bert's roommate
- Not in favor
- Hipbone-related
- The Destroyer, in Hinduism
- Thomas the Engine's warning
- "Heart of Darkness" author
- Brewer's kiln
- Beer choice
- Not a verb
- Comic cry
- \*The Tempest: "We are such stuff as \_\_\_ are made on"
- \*As You Like It: "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely \_\_\_"
- Primatologist's concern, for short
- "This land is your land"?
- \*Macbeth: "Our \_\_\_ master's murder'd!"
- Scoundrel
- Hi \_\_\_ monitor
- Wombs
- "A Visit from St. Nicholas" beginning
- Teacher's favorite
- Got ready for a close up

DOWN

- Nordstrom's outlet
- Purse for the red carpet
- Cape on Tierra del Fuego
- Set straight
- Like a knife
- Comes before a storm?
- The "place with the helpful hardware folks"
- Spectrum maker
- Wild ox of India
- Plotting (2 words)
- Multitude
- Having Everything Revealed, singer and songwriter
- \*Hamlet: "When we have shuffled off this \_\_\_ coil"
- Corpulent
- Tin Woodman's "medicine"
- "Two cents"?
- \*Twelfth Night: "If \_\_\_ be the food of love, play on"
- Convex molding
- Nigeria's western neighbor
- Listening devices
- \*Hamlet: "To be, or not to be: \_\_\_ is the question"
- Capital of Vietnam
- Bar by estoppel
- Indian restaurant condiment
- Petri dish filler
- Prima donna
- "Heart of Darkness" author
- High tea sandwich
- P rignon's honorific
- Destroy a document (2 words)
- Seize a throne
- City in Japan
- Type of sailing vessel
- Capital of Latvia
- Outback birds
- "Blast from the \_\_\_"
- "The \_\_\_ of Tammy Faye," movie
- Uncommon
- Went down slippery slope
- Cathode-ray tube
- \*Merchant of Venice: "But love is blind, and lovers cannot \_\_\_"

ANSWERS are on inside of back page

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# ARTS & LEISURE

## Quilt Show

BY SUE MCGUIRE

The Champlain Valley Quilters will be hosting its 2024 Quilt Show on April 26-28 at the Holy Family Parish Hall, 30 Lincoln St., Essex Jct. The hours are Friday and



Quilter Sue McGuire, with a quilt she's entering in the show.



The CVQG Raffle Quilt. Tickets will be sold at the show.

Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m.

This year's theme is "Seams Like Spring." Admission is \$8 (under 12 free). For more info, or to enter a quilt, go to [cvqgvf.org](http://cvqgvf.org).

The show includes a judged exhibi-

tion of about 100 quilts, totes filled with goodies to be raffled, vendors, and the Guild raffle quilt. Karen Abrahamovich is the featured artist with her quilts depicting U.S. states.

## Shelburne Museum Presents New England Now: Strange States

FROM PRESS RELEASE

This season, Shelburne Museum will present *New England Now: Strange States*, an exhibition showcasing the mysterious and ethereal dimensions of New England's identity. The exhibition features 12 multidisciplinary artists whose works delve deep into the inner realms of the psyche, inviting visitors to critically analyze the complexities of our reality. *New England Now: Strange States* will be on view May 11 through October 20.

Ghostly folklore, supernatural phenomena, and eerie legends have long shaped New England's cultural landscape, fostering an atmosphere where intellectual and creative liberation thrives. *Strange States* explores the region's haunted landscapes, historical settings, and the ongoing influence of luminaries like Shirley Jackson and Stephen King. New England's spectral charm continues to be a well-spring for artists seeking boundless realms of creativity beyond the ordinary.

"*New England Now: Strange States* invites visitors to embark on a journey into the unknown, exploring the intricate tapestry of our collective imagination," said curator Carolyn Bauer. "The artists weave together a dreamscape that challenges preconceptions and invites us to reconsider the essence of our region and the broader world."

The exhibition features recent and new artwork by prominent New England artists including Bianca Beck, Sarah Meyers Brent, Nicole Duennebier, Lauren Fensterstock, Arghavan Khosravi, Laura Kramer, Jennifer McCandless, Allison



Emilie Stark-Menneg, *Iris Spring*, 2022. Acrylic and oil on canvas, 80 x 100 in. Courtesy of the artist.

Maria Rodriguez, Farzaneh Safarani and Bahareh Safarani, Emilie Stark-Menneg, and Tara Sellios. Additionally, the exhibition experience expands outside the exhibition's walls with sculptures by Bianca Beck on the museum's campus.

*New England Now: Strange States* is the third installment in the New England Now series, launched by the museum in 2018. The series aims to highlight artists' challenging preconceptions and themes about the region. Previous exhibitions focused on the evolving landscape and diverse identities shaping New England communities.

## PEOPLE

### Higher Education Honors

**Max Barron** of Hinesburg was named to the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology (NY) for the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic year. Barron is in the mechanical engineering program. Full-time degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.4.

**Samuel Decker, Caleb Nye, and Alexander Provost**, all of Hinesburg, have been named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List at Endicott College (MA). In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5. Decker is majoring in exercise science, and is the son of Alysa Decker and Eric Decker. Nye is majoring in criminal justice, and is the son of Amber Nye and William Nye. Provost is majoring in exercise science, and is the son of Kelly Provost and Christopher Provost.

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# OBITUARIES

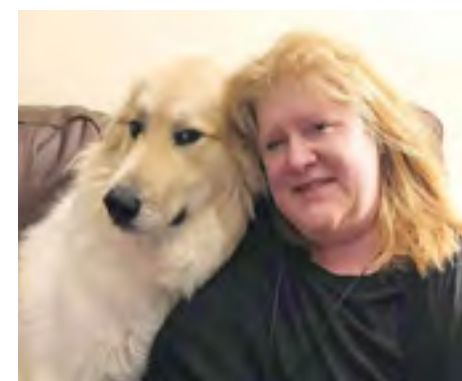
## Irena Holubowsky Case



Irena Holubowsky Case swooped away from this world hand-in-hand with the Angel Gabriel on Feb. 22, 2024. She was born Dec. 23, 1935, in Montreal, Canada, to Ukrainian immigrants Michael and Matrona (Margaret) Holubowsky. For 88 years she loved us all, steadfast in her Ukrainian identity, joyous in her faith in God, endlessly finding pathways to nourish body, earth and soul. Big sister to siblings Paul, Peter, Maria and Joseph, she took on responsibility for them seriously and with humor. Her parents moved the family to Ontario's Niagara region when she was a young girl and Irena grew up surrounded by fruit orchards and encouragement to work hard to make her dreams come true. She graduated high school as valedictorian and went on to graduate from Loretto College in Toronto. In 1960 she married James G. Case of Marcellus, N.Y. They purchased an 1800s farmhouse and property in Hinesburg, Vermont, where Irena continued to put down roots for the next 60-plus years. Asked to describe her occupation she would say, "I'm a lifelong learner." Her endless passions included raising a healthy family, hiking (Green Mountain Club, Adirondack peaks), gardening (Burlington Farmers Market, embracing the no dig/lasagna method), vitamins, healthy

foods (say no to UPF's!), essential oils, stewardship of the land, traveling (South America, Ukraine and Europe), singing, reading everything: gardening books, self-healing instruction, her beloved Lord of the Rings, even the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, learning languages (five of them), adventures with grand-kids (overnight car camping in the desert, Grand Manan Island, conservation camp, goats), writing poetry, making friends with people and animals wherever she went – all predicated on spreading kindness and acceptance. On Feb. 25, family and friends gathered for a beautiful Ukrainian *Panachyda* and "green" burial near her garden. Her wish was for her body to go back to the earth as simply as possible, and to "make it an education" for others. Predeceased by husband James Case and son Jaroslav Case, Irena leaves daughters Ocsanna Delgadillo (Jose Delgadillo) of League City, Texas, and Catherine Case (James Metz) of Hinesburg, Vt.; ten grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. A Memorial Mass and celebration will be planned for late spring. Donations in her memory may be made to the Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation (Chicago, Ill.) and the Vermont Forest Cemetery (Roxbury, Vt.).

## Brigitte Audy Thompson



The world lost a bright light on February 18 – Brigitte Audy Thompson left this earth to start her new journey. Born in Burlington, Vermont, on Dec.

7, 1968, to Byron and Judith Audy, she attended St. Joseph's Elementary School, Burlington High School, Rice High School and Champlain College.

Her entrepreneurial spirit started at a young age when she started working to earn money to purchase her first car. This passion continued as she went on to start her own bookkeeping business in 1991. Over the years she also worked as a freelance writer, website designer, medical transcriptionist and became a published author of several business books. Brigitte also founded a nonprofit dog rescue in 2015, VT Dog Rescue, and saved thousands of homeless dogs from the south.

She enjoyed being self-employed because it gave her the flexibility to be fully present for the best part of her life – being a mom.

Brigitte and Keith were married in 1989. They welcomed their daughter, Sarah, in 1993, son Jacob in 1997 and daughter Katherine in 2001. Together they made many wonderful memories especially during the 17 years they lived in Williston, Vt. Having the house filled with her children and their friends filled Brigitte's heart with happiness. There were epic sleepovers, birthday parties, movie nights, camp outs, kickball games, bonfires, and Halloween parties. She looked back at these times as the most joyful in her life.

Brigitte is survived by her husband, Keith; her children, Sarah, Jacob (Jenna), and Katherine; and her beloved dogs and horses. Brigitte also leaves behind her sister Kristen (Bill) and her nephews, her father Byron Audy, and she was predeceased by her beloved mother Judith Audy.

She also leaves behind many friends who she hopes will take

time today to share a compliment with a stranger to make someone's day a whole lot brighter.

## Susan E. Roberts



Susan E. Roberts, 72, beloved wife and mother, passed away Monday, March 11, 2024, at her home in Hinesburg. She was cherished by her family; her husband of 50 years, John, who survives her; along with her son, Jack and his wife, Carin, of North Ferrisburg; daughter, Charlotte, and her companion, Avi Halperin, of Olympia, Washington. She is also grieved by her sister, Nancy Horton, of Chili, N.Y. Susan retired from Vermont Teddy Bear after 18 years in the personalization department. She was an active member of the Hinesburg Historical Society, and enjoyed researching history and genealogy. A celebration of her life will be conducted this summer at a site and time to be determined. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her name to the Hinesburg Fire Department, or Richmond Rescue.

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**CASAN**  
Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network (CASAN)  
[casanvermont.org](http://casanvermont.org)

**CASAN seeks sponsors for our virtual arts fundraiser Arts for Asylum Seekers - April 2024**

Would you like to receive a poem in your in-box every day in April? Or a sketch or photo weekly? Enliven your April and help new neighbors as they navigate the legal process of seeking asylum by being an Arts for Asylum Seekers sponsor.

**How Arts for Asylum Seekers Works**

CASAN has recruited a talented group of Creatives who will be producing original digital artwork, writing and more throughout the month of April. To sponsor:

- Check out the list of Creatives on CASAN's website
- Make a donation to CASAN
- In April the Creatives you sponsor will share their work with you by email or online.

Chittenden Asylum Seekers Assistance Network (CASAN) is a registered non-profit organization. Our mission is to provide welcome and support to people in Northern Vermont who are pursuing the legal path of asylum. We offer assistance with housing, basic living expenses, transportation, legal fees, and other necessary support.

Email questions to: [artsforasylumseekers@gmail.com](mailto:artsforasylumseekers@gmail.com)



# BACK STORIES of Hinesburg

## Capturing a Moment

Four photographers who make time stand still

BY JOHN CLIFFORD

**Editors note: due to space considerations, we are able to show only a limited number of photos in print. For more photos please visit the sites listed within this article.**

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and noted photographer Eudora Welty once wrote, “A good snapshot keeps a moment that’s gone, from running away.” Photographs document our history, and serve as a record of our personal journey. These photos become among our most cherished possessions and we place them in positions of honor and reflection in our homes or offices.

My mother spent most of her later life visiting historic sites, old battlefields and gravestones, talking to older Vermonters. Investigation of old documents and family connections, because she understood our present lives are connected to our past lives and much of that through photos.

Without question, the art of photography has changed considerably, and now images can be captured with speed and accuracy with digital cameras, and a digital photo can be seen around the world in an instant. Incredible images of distant stars and galaxies, taken from light particles traveling millions of light-years to be captured by the Hubble space telescope, allowing astronomers to re-write theories.

In and near Hinesburg, we are fortunate to have well-known professional photographers who call this area home.

### Jamie Proctor-Brassard Lindsay Gardner

Jamie Proctor-Brassard developed an early interest in photography. Her high school didn’t offer classes in photography, so she helped to start a photo club and darkroom. Jamie attended Keene State College and earned a BA in graphic design and photography in 2003, and a Master of Photography Degree from Professional Photographers of America in 2022. She just completed her term as President of Vermont Professional Photographers. Jamie owns Letter10 Creative, a design and photography studio specializing in Vermont brands since 2008. Jamie states: “The most rewarding part is giving back to Vermonters, through teaching and helping clients with a customized experience. My goal is to tell a story and to create an image that will leave someone with emotion and curiosity.” Jamie’s love for photography and giving back has led her to volunteer for “Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep,” a national organization offering professional images to grieving families. She provides a photographic gift of remembrance for parents grieving deep loss.



Visit [letter10creative.com/](http://letter10creative.com/) for more.

Lindsay got started in photography after coming to terms with the cost – in her words “shocked” – of taking portraits of her newborn children, and deciding there must be a better way. She got together enough funds and purchased an expensive digital camera and started learning. Lindsay completed several online photography courses and became a member of the Vermont Professional Photographers, and started an online photography business. Most of her business involves taking graduation photos, newborn and Christmas card photos. “My goal is to help people make connections in their lives and make them feel beautiful,” she said.



Visit [portraitsvt.com](http://portraitsvt.com) for more.

### Jan Cannon

Jan Cannon has been taking pictures for over 30 years. The majority of his pictures have been taken in the town of Charlotte, Vermont – either at Lake Champlain or in the woods nearby. Low hills slope down to a broad valley on the shores of beautiful Lake Champlain. In the distance to the west are the Adirondack Mountains of New York and to the east are the Green Mountains of

*continued on page 23*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Make a Difference

Do you need volunteers for a Hinesburg event or non-profit organization? Send the information to [news@hinesburgrecord.org](mailto:news@hinesburgrecord.org) and we'll publish it here. Use "volunteer need" as a subject line.

### Mentoring

Hinesburg Community School is looking for Mentors! Mentors are distinct members of a team of caring adults who show up to spend an hour a week with a 5-8th grader during the school year.

Mentors bring with them a sense of shared fun, new experiences and great listening skills. Mentors bring encouragement and options for expanding a young person's regard for themselves and their world. By sharing yourself with your mentee you can inspire them to create a richer future for themselves. Contact Program Coordinator Livy Bulger at [lbulger@cvsdvt.org](mailto:lbulger@cvsdvt.org) or 802-482-6248 for more information.

### Hinesburg Community Resource Center

Volunteer to help run our benefit thrift shop, Twice is Nice, in daily shifts. Or help stock shelves and offer assistance to families visiting the Food Shelf. Volunteers are needed to help with clothing and book swaps in April and October. Contact Anna Main at 802-482-4946 or at [main@hinesburgresource.org](mailto:main@hinesburgresource.org) for more information.

### Hinesburg Trails

Help maintain public trails. All skill levels from none (just enthusiasm) to experienced chainsaw operators, and trail designers are needed. For more information contact Ray Mainer at [rmainer@gmavt.net](mailto:rmainer@gmavt.net).

### Meals on Wheels

Help out local area residents who cannot easily get out of their homes. Become a Meals on Wheels driver. Routes take anywhere from an hour to an hour-and-a-half depending on the day. You need not commit to a weekly schedule. Call Jane Gage at 802-482-6096 for more information.

### Town Committees

Frequently there are openings on town committees. Here are some of the recent ones.

- Agency Request Review Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Economic Development Committee
- Planning Commission
- Recreation Commission
- Village Steering Committee

Check town web site [hinesburg.org](http://hinesburg.org) for the most current committee openings, descriptions and instructions on how to apply. For more information contact Katharina Frazier (Assistant Town Manager) at 802-482-2281 ext. 1 or [kfrazier@hinesburg.org](mailto:kfrazier@hinesburg.org).

### The Hinesburg Record

Help publish your community newspaper which is produced by volunteers who write, edit, and lay it out each month. The Record needs people to write and edit copy, take photos, and help with distribution and mailing. One-time or occasional submission of articles is more than welcome.

If you are interested contact us at [news@hinesburgrecord.org](mailto:news@hinesburgrecord.org).

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