

# NEWS YOU CAN USE



## Mount Mansfield Villages

### DECEMBER 2021

December is replete with festivities and holidays—such as **Festivus** (thank you, Seinfeld!), **Christmas**, **Kwanzaa**, and **New Years Eve**. The full moon this month is called the **Cold Moon** and is at peak illumination on Saturday, December 19, at 11:37pm.

Dates of note:

**Dec 7—Pearl Harbor Day**

**Dec 10—Nobel Prize Day**

**Dec 17—Wright Brothers Day**

**Dec 21—Winter Solstice**

**Dec 31—Universal Hour of Peace**

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Listed events are a smattering of options—with a focus on free, relatively local, and in-person **unless noted otherwise**.

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## "A FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US"

Festivus, a private secular holiday created in TV writer Dan O'Keefe's family in the '60s, has become an alternative to the pressures and commercialism of the Christmas season. Portrayed for the public in a **humorous 1997 Seinfeld TV script**, Festivus was depicted as having a Festivus dinner, an unadorned aluminum Festivus pole, and practices such as the "Airing of Grievances"—and from there entered popular culture as a secular, noncommercial celebration.



## MEMBERS' MEMORANDUM



### LAMOILLE NEIGHBORS WINTER SPEAKER SERIES

◆ ONLINE ◆

*Our sister Village organization, Lamoille Neighbors, generously invites us to attend its winter Zoom speaker series.*

### ABENAKI HISTORY AND CULTURE

**Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 7:00pm**

Join this compelling online presentation by Miss Lucy Neel, education coordinator for the [Nulhegan band of the Abenaki tribe](#), who will tell Abenaki stories and talk about Abenaki culture.



Miss Neel has years of experience teaching about Abenaki history and culture and uses many formats for sharing her extensive knowledge, including storytelling, singing, dancing, instruments, and crafts. She is currently serving on the [Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs](#).

A Zoom link will be sent out to registrants.

Register [here](#).



## FESTIVITY DELIVERY

'Tis the season to hear a knock at the door and find a Mount Mansfield Villages's elf with a jolly greeting and a small gift for our treasured members. Expect to see a masked and bedecked MMV volunteer delivering holiday cheer on Friday, December 10 or Saturday, December 11.

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## SOCIAL STRIDES

Carol Truesdell and her husband Roy Towlen regularly walk 2–5 miles on Irish Settlement Road and surrounding wood trails. Both are MMV members and volunteers. They are wondering if other members/volunteers would like to join them on morning walks at a brisk pace, for social enrichment. Dogs are welcome. You may text the night before a walking morning to determine the time and place. 802-363-4147.



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## HEADS UP! FORKS DOWN



As of January 1, 2022, compostable foodware—plates, cups, and utensils—will no longer be accepted as compost by Chittenden Solid Waste District. They will need to be thrown in the trash when soiled. More information on this change can be viewed [here](#).

However, you can still use compostable bags if you are bringing your scraps to Green Mountain Compost or a CSWD Drop-Off Center—but they must be **BPI Certified** compostable bags from a box with the BPI logo on it. You can also use a paper bag or newspaper to line your compost container.

## MAKE A CONNECTION

*Make a Difference*



Are you an MMV member who would value an occasional call from an MMV volunteer? Are you an MMV member or volunteer who would enjoy checking in with your neighbors by phone or email?

With winter's greater travel challenges and the ongoing pandemic, more of our senior members will find themselves home-bound and with fewer social interactions.

You may appreciate an occasional "Hello, how are you today?" phone call. Perhaps you have low vision or enjoy being read to and would like to hear a couple of pages of your favorite novel, some spiritual text, or simply a newspaper. Or perhaps you'd welcome a periodic text message or email to check in on how you are doing.

Let us know if you'd value friendly phone calls or emails. If you're a volunteer or member and are interested in becoming a phone friend/reader or an email buddy, please let us know.

Call Nancy M. at 802-899-3972 to discuss your interest or send an email to [mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com](mailto:mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com) and put "Nancy-Friendly Chat" or similar in the Subject Line of the email.



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



- **CREATE A WINTER CENTERPIECE**

**Saturday, December 4, 2021,**

**9:00am–11:00am or 1:00pm–4:00pm**

Friends of the Horticultural Farm, South Burlington

Make a fresh holiday arrangement with greens and cuttings of wine-red dogwoods, fir, pine, cedar, and more. Held inside the Hort Farm Blasberg Building. Non-member \$35. Register [here](#).



- **HOLIDAY CONCERT: REJOICE AND SING!**

**Saturday, December 4, 2021, 7:30pm &**

**Sunday, December 5, 2021, 3:00pm**

McCarthy Arts Center, Saint Michael's College

A long-awaited return of their traditional holiday choral concert! Bella Voce Women's Chorus with guest artists The Northern Bronze Handbell Ensemble will bring joyous sounds of the season. Bella Voce Women's Chorus of Vermont consists of auditioned singers drawn from five northwestern Vermont counties and includes women of all ages who simply enjoy singing. \$17 for seniors & students. Order tickets [here](#).

- **TREE LIGHTING WITH SANTA**

**Sunday, December 5, 2021, 5:00pm**

Jericho Center Green

The Jericho Town Library is excited to host a tree lighting celebration again this year. Join the gathering on the Town Green Sunday as the tree is lit for the first time this winter season. There will be book giveaways, sweet treats, and a visit from the big man himself. Santa Claus is coming to town!



- **14TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES:  
ST. ALBANS HISTORIC DOWNTOWN**

**Today thru December 5, 2021:**

Traditional Weeklong Events

**Friday, December 10, 2021, 6:00pm:**

Holiday Tractor Parade

**Today thru December 31, 2021:**

Downtown Tree Walk

The St. Albans Festival of Trees is a traditional week-long series of events ushering in the holiday season with activities, entertainment, dancing, and more—all in the historic Downtown. Over the years, the festival has expanded to include

a tree walk throughout December and other festive events, providing one place to see what's happening throughout the holidays. Find the timeline and further information on [this website](#).





- **LIVE NATIVITY**

**Saturday, December 11, 2021**

Catalyst Church, Raceway Road, Jericho

Catalyst Church presents an outdoor "Live Nativity," complete with real farm animals. Enjoy Christmas caroling and hot chocolate by the bonfire. Free to the public! See the [Catalyst Church Event webpage](#) for updated info.



- **VIRTUAL MID-WINTER'S EVE ♦ ONLINE ♦**  
**Tuesday, December 21, 2021 thru Monday, December 27, 2021**

Ethan Allen Homestead Museum

Colonial New Englanders did not widely celebrate Christmas but held private celebrations at home. These [four fascinating web pages](#) tell more.

- **CELEBRATIONS AND BELIEFS OF WINTER SOLSTICE ♦ ONLINE ♦**

**Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 9:00am–10:00am**

Varnum Memorial Library, Jeffersonville

The Winter Solstice is the return of the light to the Earth. Listen to solstice tales and tunes of long-ago traditions—some still carried on today. Email [Inasemoonspinner@gmail.com](mailto:Inasemoonspinner@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.



- **WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021, 4:00pm–5:30pm**

Smugglers' Notch Resort—Village Green

Festivities include Goodtime Charlie, a bonfire with glow sticks, Jeh Kulu Drum Theatre with the Cirque de Fuego fire performers, and fireworks. Light up the night and start winter with a bang! Info at this [event calendar](#).



### **WINTER LIGHTS IN THE PARK**

**Today thru Saturday, January 1, 2022, 5:00pm–9:00pm**

Maple Street Park, Essex Junction

Winter Lights in the Park is officially open! Stop by Maple Street Park any night from 5pm-9pm to enjoy the lights, listen to holiday music, and explore the lighted tunnel. It'll be hard to miss the latest and greatest feature—a 30-foot tall lighted tree welcoming you to the park!

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### **WINTER LIGHTS AT SHELburne MUSEUM**

**Thursday, December 2, 2021 thru Saturday, January 1, 2022**

Enjoy a breathtaking walk around the Shelburne Museum grounds, aglow for a spectacular holiday event—Winter Lights! Twelve buildings and gardens, including the Ticonderoga, will shimmer, twinkle, sparkle, and shine! Advance tickets are recommended. \$15 per adult. Tickets [here](#).





# AGING WELL



- **FREE BALANCE SCREENING** ♦ **ONLINE** ♦  
**Monday, December 6, 2021, 1:30pm–3:30pm**  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, Aging Resource Center  
Free Balance Screenings by appointment. For more information about scheduling an appointment, visit [this webpage](#). Additional dates are available.

- **MORNING SING** ♦ **ONLINE** ♦  
**Monday, December 13, 2021, 9:00am–10:00am**  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, Aging Resource Center

Vermont Singer/Songwriter Dave Richardson will lead a virtual morning sing that will wake up your voice and your mind. No singing experience is required. Registration [here](#).



- **THE PARKINSON'S WORKSHOP** ♦ **ONLINE** ♦  
**Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 1:00pm–2:30pm**  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health, Aging Resource Center

Building on the work of the Proactive Parkinson's Discussion Group, this gathering is to offer support, share practical ideas, empower each other, and enhance quality of life through discussion with one another and with experts. Information and registration [here](#).

- **ESSEX JERICHO UNDERHILL FOOD SHELF DISTRIBUTION**  
**Saturday, December 18, 2021, 9:00am–10:30am**  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Route 15, Jericho



- **GRAB 'N GO LUNCH—FOR AGES 60 & OVER**  
**Wednesday, December 29, 11:00am–12:00pm**  
**(Register by Thursday, Dec 23)**  
**Location:** St. Thomas's Church, Underhill Center

Email Donna: [bellyacr@gmavt.net](mailto:bellyacr@gmavt.net) or call (802) 434-3155. Menu [here](#).

## CHANNEL YOUR CREATIVITY

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### REBECCA PADULA AND "UKULELE" CLARE

♦ ONLINE & IN-PERSON ♦

**Sunday, December 5, 2021, 2:00pm–4:00pm**

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Jericho

This entertaining duo draws deeply from the American Songbook, bringing the best of jazz, country, folk, and blues! Register [here](#).

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### • HOLIDAY PIE BAKING WITH "THE PIE GUY"

♦ ONLINE ♦

**Thursday, December 9, 2021, 5:30pm–7:00pm**

City Market with Gary Stuard

Tired of the same old baked goods at holiday celebrations? Watch Gary demo his macadamia nut and date pie, a perfect recipe to try out this holiday season! Registration [here](#).

### • FOOD FOR YOUR SOUL: READING POETRY TOGETHER ♦ ONLINE ♦

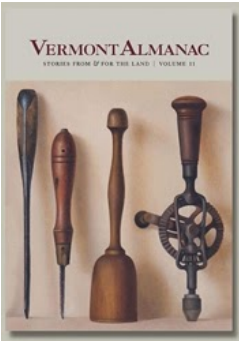
**Friday, December 10, 2021, 3:00pm–4:15pm**

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health

Poems offer new ways to look at our world and give rise to deep thoughts and feelings. Read poems together and share responses to the poems that feed our souls. Information and registration [here](#).



## ENHANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE



- **BOOK DISCUSSION: VERMONT ALMANAC, VOLUME II**  
**Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 7:00pm** ♦ **ONLINE** ♦

Phoenix Books

The Editorial team will discuss this recently released invaluable resource. Registration and information [here](#).

- **TEENS TEACHING TECHNOLOGY** ♦ **ONLINE** ♦

**Friday, December 10, 2021, 7:00pm**

Cambridge Area Rotary

In this tech talk, teens will answer your questions, introduce you to the basics of your device, and make a short presentation of interest. Contact Annie at 802-309-8158 to register—at least 1 hour prior.



- **THE FAR TRAVELER: VOYAGES OF A VIKING WOMAN** ♦ **ONLINE** ♦

**Sunday, December 12, 2021, 2:00pm–4:00pm**

Deborah Rawson Memorial Library and Vermont Humanities

According to Icelandic sagas, a Viking woman, Gudrid the Far-Traveler, came to the New World 500 years before Columbus. Author Nancy Marie Brown discusses how Gudrid's story is being proved true by recent archaeological digs. Registration and info [here](#).



- **THE WINTER FINCH FORECAST** ♦ **ONLINE** ♦

**Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021, 6:00pm–7:00pm**

North Branch Nature Center with Tyler Hoar

Tyler will provide an overview of each winter finch species, their current movements, and where we'll expect them to show up in the Northeast this season. More info and Zoom link [here](#).





## PUMPKIN-CRANBERRY BUNDT CAKE WITH CREAM CHEESE FILLING

*from Eating Well magazine*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 and 1/4 cups granulated sugar, divided
- 4 large eggs, divided
- 2 teaspoons ground cardamom, divided
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 and 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 and 1/2 cups whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 (15 ounce) can unseasoned pumpkin puree
- 3/4 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 cup cranberries, thawed if frozen, halved, plus more for garnish



## INSTRUCTIONS:

### STEP 1

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Coat a 12-cup nonstick Bundt pan with cooking spray.

### STEP 2

Beat cream cheese, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 1 egg, 1/2 teaspoon cardamom, lemon juice, and vanilla in a small bowl until smooth.

### STEP 3

Whisk flours, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and the remaining 1 1/2 teaspoons cardamom in a large bowl. Whisk pumpkin, applesauce, brown sugar, and the remaining 1 cup granulated sugar and 3 eggs in a medium bowl. Add to the flour mixture and mix until just combined. Fold in cranberries.

### STEP 4

Pour half the batter into the prepared pan and smooth the top. Spread the cream cheese mixture evenly over the batter. Spoon the remaining batter on top and spread into an even layer.



### STEP 5

Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 40 to 50 minutes. Let cool in the pan for 20 minutes. Unmold onto a wire rack and let cool for 20 minutes more before slicing.

Garnish with cranberries, if desired.

*"You don't have to love cooking to cook, but you have to do more than love baking to bake. You have to bake out of love." ~ T. Junod*

# MEET A FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR

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~ **WILLIAM "LIAM" McKONE** ~  
(aka "**BILL**")

## FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER TO THE CANADIAN

Born and raised on the Mexican border in Texas, I am perhaps the embodiment of a "flatlander blow-in" who has chosen to live in Vermont. Although I never experienced snow until age 18 (saw it rain in Texas though, twice), in all seasons the beauty of our state continues to impress me, along with our community spirit here. Recently I learned of Mount Mansfield Villages (MMV) through the *Cambridge Connections* column that Kathy Johnson has written for many years, and I promptly joined up to add this valuable resource to my life.

Unlike the biographical sketches recently included in the fine MMV newsletter, I live alone, and that creates a different social dynamic and needs. I am pleased to share some basic background and interests in this newsletter in hopes of developing even more contacts in the community.

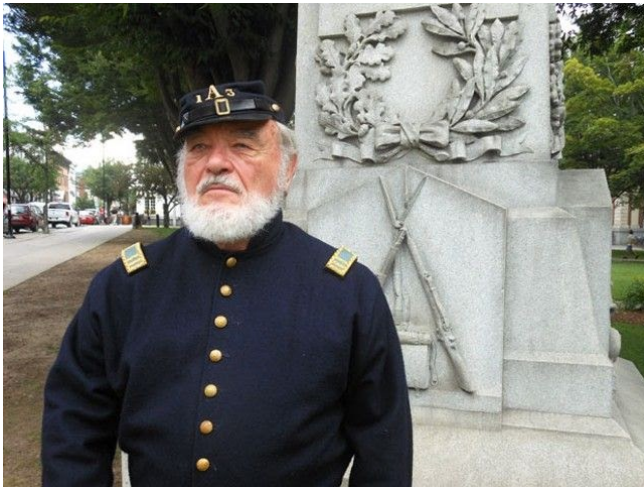


The US Army provided me the chance to shake the dust of south Texas off my feet when I enlisted at 18 y.o. back in 1955 (you can do the math for my current age...). Following my service in the Army Security Agency where I was trained as a Czechoslovak linguist, I embarked on a career at the National Security Agency after acquiring a degree in Government (before it became "Political Science") at the University

of Texas in Austin. I also acquired a wife and the first of my three children in the process, though only one son, Tim, joined me for the joys of living in Vermont. The family did four years with the Army in Germany, where Tim, my youngest, was born, and he accompanied me for most of my five years at the US Embassy in Ottawa.



For over 60 years, I have done professional translations from Russian, German, Czech, and Slovak into English (please, no patents, poetry, or humor as they are too difficult to translate). Growing up in a bi-lingual environment with Spanish and English helped me to absorb other cultures, and I am currently working on the Irish, one of the five Gaelic languages still existing.



My Irish heritage has always been a significant aspect of my life, reflected in the names of my children and an interest in the history of Ireland. While working for several years at Norwich University, I received a Master of Arts degree in Military History. The combination of the War of the Rebellion (1861-65, commonly called the American Civil War) and the fascinating story of the Vermont leader of the Fenian Brotherhood led me

to write *Vermont's Irish Rebel* in 2014. Captain John Lonergan received a Medal of Honor for gallantry at the battle of Gettysburg and was instrumental in the attacks by the Fenians on Canada in 1866 and 1870. I portray Lonergan, as well as his commanding officer, General Stannard, at reenactments (in proper uniform for the rank and not at the same time). As president of the [\*\*Fenian Historical Society\*\*](#), I welcome anyone with an interest to join us.

Upon retirement from the Department of Defense in 1987, I opened [\*\*Brewster River Campground\*\*](#), a 20-site campground at my property near Smugglers' Notch which was operated for several years by Tim until I returned due to the Covid pandemic. I will be pleased to offer the scenic campground as a venue for outdoor MMV meetings—to include free camping—in season, which runs mid-May until mid-October. The campground is ideally suited for a variety of outdoor activities, so let's gather safely to enjoy our MMV community come spring.



# REMEMBER WHEN JERICO...

## THE PECULIAR HISTORY OF THE "FLATS" AND RIVERSIDE:

**An Afternoon with Gary Irish Celebrating  
the Publication of Volume 3 of the Jericho Town History**

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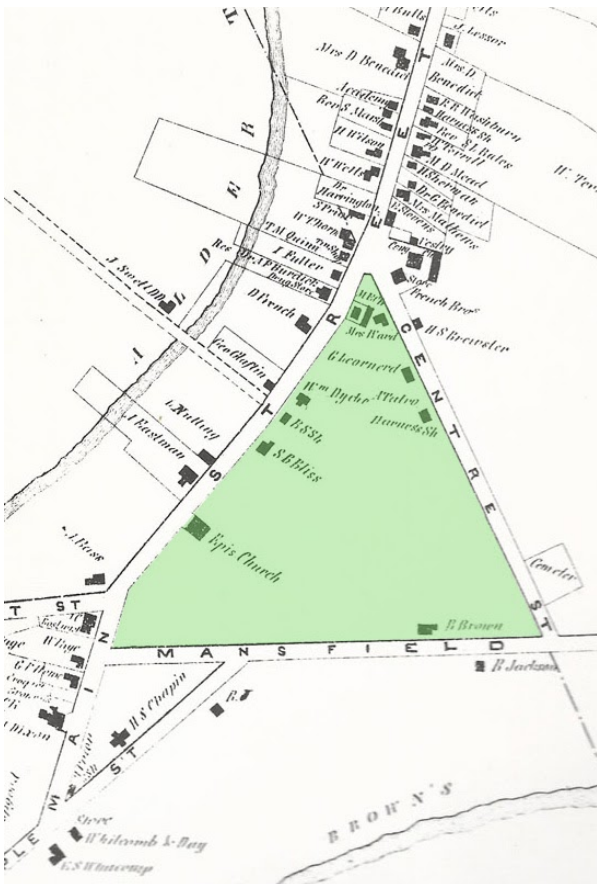
**Sunday, December 5, 2021, 3:00pm–5:00pm**

The Jericho Community Center, 329 Browns Trace Road

**MASKS REQUIRED**

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Sponsored by the Chittenden County Historical Society,  
The Underhill Historical Society,  
and the Jericho Underhill Park District



At the intersection of the Creek and Browns River, there is a large flat area that, as the region was settled, became a prime locale for a village to develop. But what made this interesting and unusual was that, when the towns of Underhill and Jericho were laid out by Benning Wentworth in 1763, the dividing line between the two towns ran through this plain, and thus through the new village. The Underhill side of the line became Underhill Flats, or just "the Flats", while the Jericho side became Riverside. This led to some interesting situations as the area developed, and how, despite there being no water power available, the village had a robust retail and manufacturing sector.

Join the December 5th presentation at the [Jericho Community Center](#) to learn the rest of the story about the development of the Riverside-Flats area—and enjoy an extended Q & A: "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Jericho Over the Past 50 Years!"

What happened to Grace Reapp and her daughter? Was the crime ever solved?

Did you hear about the man who had a scheme to adulterate maple syrup?

And more. . .

The afternoon event ends with a book signing of the new Volume 3 of [\*The History of Jericho, Vermont \(1963-2013\)\*](#) [416 pages, hardcover] which will be available for purchase [\$25 cash/check].

[Image #1 right]

1869 Beers atlas-Underhill Flats

MAPLE STREET-MAIN STREET: Route 15

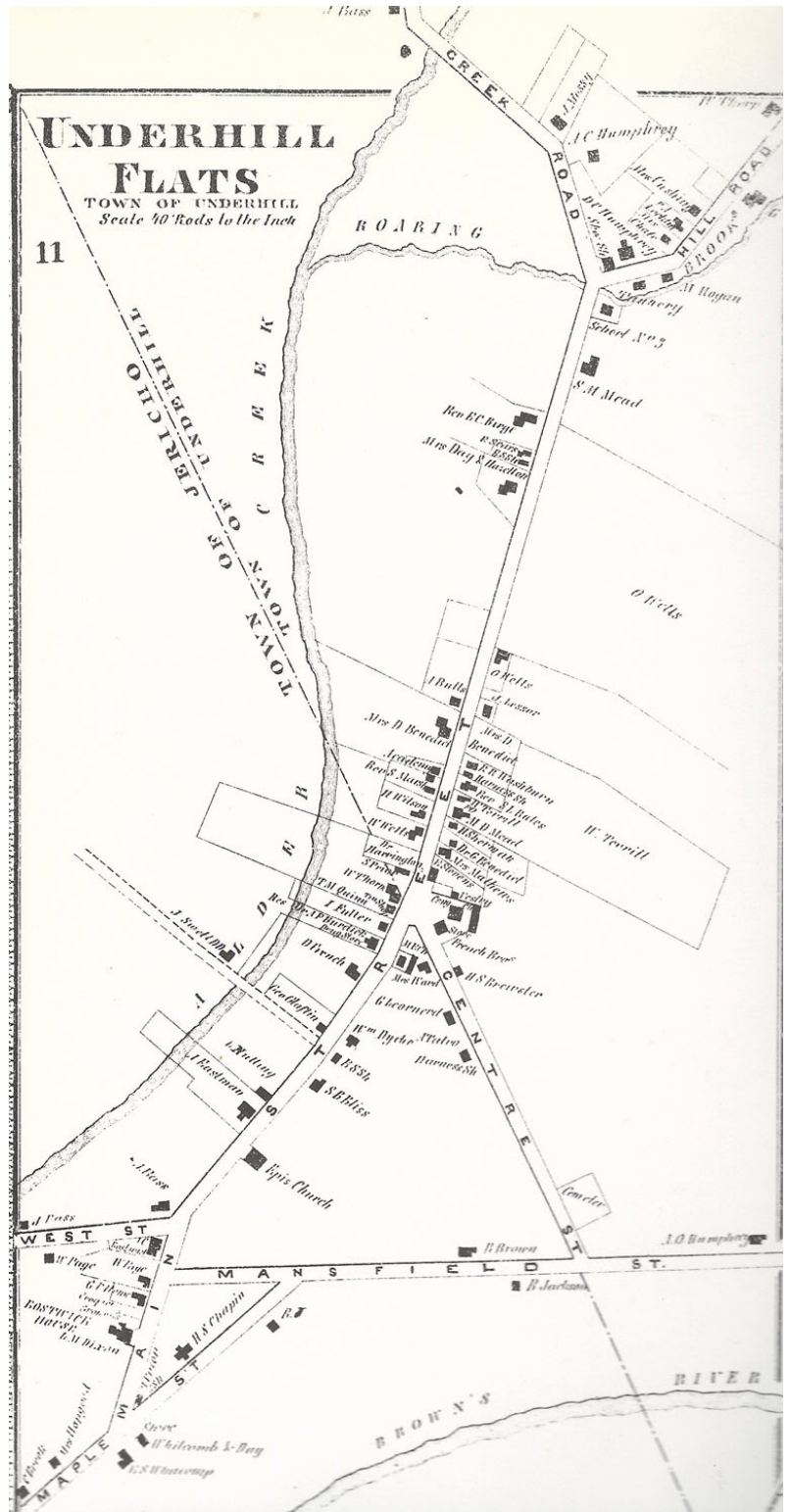
WEST STREET: Raceway Road

MAPLE-MANSFIELD STREET: River Road

CENTRE STREET: Park Street

HILL ROAD: Poker Hill Road

CREEK ROAD: Route 15







[Image #2 above] Heading East toward Riverside-Flats

Early 1900's when telephone came to rural Vermont. Recent history: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (left); Brown's Trace (ahead on right, out of sight).



[Image #3 above] Heading East toward Riverside-Flats

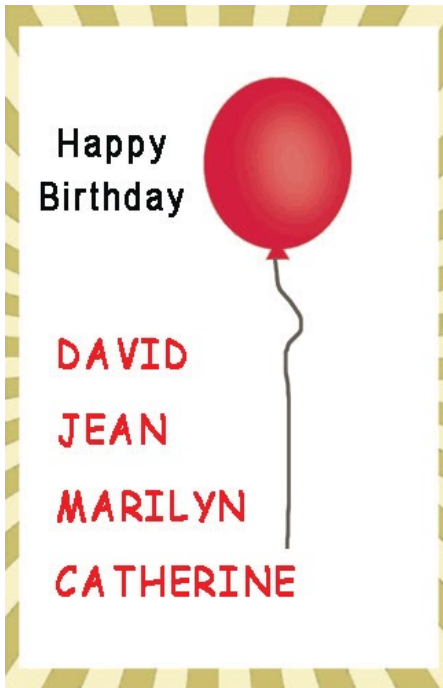
Approx. 1900. Recent history: Brown's Trace (on right); childhood home of Gary Irish (on left); Mills Riverside Park wooded hiking trails (center-left in photo—closest hill).



[Image #4 above] Heading East toward Riverside-Flats from Brown's Trace  
Approx. 1870. Recent history: Route 15 (merges from the left); highway bridge over  
the Brown's River has replaced the covered bridge (highlighted in color in inset  
photo below).



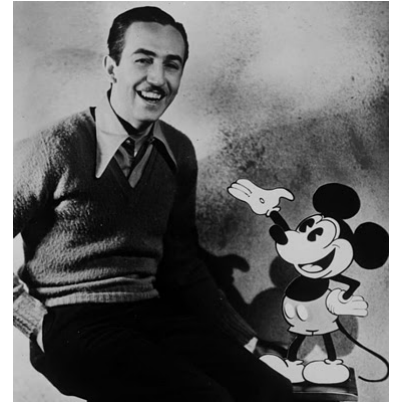
## SPECIAL SALUTE



### BIRTHDAY IN HISTORY

#### Walter "Walt" Elias Disney

was born on December 5, 1901, in Chicago, Illinois and showed an aptitude for art from an early age. When Walt entered McKinley High School, he did photography, made drawings for the school paper, and studied cartooning on the side, for he was hopeful of eventually achieving a job as a newspaper cartoonist. His cartoons from the 1920s were so successful that he eventually opened his own



studio, where Mickey Mouse was born. Always looking for bigger and better things, Disney produced the first full-length animated feature in 1937 (**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs**), was an early adopter of television, and opened **Disneyland in 1955**.

*"Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, dreams are forever."*

*"Never get bored or cynical. Yesterday is a thing of the past."*

~ Walt Disney



### WE THANK OUR GENEROUS COMMERCIAL DONORS

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The Harnisch Foundation

Hickok and Boardman, Inc.  
Jericho United Methodist Church  
SecurShred, South Burlington  
Union Bank, Jericho  
United Church of Underhill





It takes a village to help older adults stay in their homes, live independently, and remain connected. Mount Mansfield Villages (MMV) is a nonprofit 501(c)3, membership organization formed to provide a supportive village for residents of Cambridge, Underhill, & Jericho.

## Want more information about MMV?

Visit our website [www.mountmansfieldvillages.org](http://www.mountmansfieldvillages.org)

Email us at [mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com](mailto:mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com)

Call us at (802) 858-5381

Please get in touch if you'd like to explore becoming a member, volunteer, sponsor, donor, or commercial service provider.



***MMV News You Can Use*** is a resource to share information that might be of interest to its members, volunteers, sponsors, and friends. The events listed are a collection of activities—some digital and others in the local area—that may appeal to our readers. Mount Mansfield Villages does not endorse event providers or listings other than the events it specifically sponsors or co-sponsors.

If you have suggestions for postings, problems with “links” in the newsletter, or if you wish to unsubscribe, please let us know at [mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com](mailto:mountmansfieldvillages@gmail.com).