

# MESSENGER

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## Blaze ruled suspicious by VSP investigators

Messenger Staff

ENOSBURGH — A Thursday morning trailer fire in Enosburgh has been ruled arson by Vermont State Police investigators.

The Enosburgh Fire

Department was called to 790 Bogue Rd. just after midnight on Thursday. The call came from the owner. When the fire department arrived the trailer was already engulfed in flames and almost completely con-

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## NCSS offers youth safety course

By JESSIE FORAND  
Messenger Staff Writer

ST ALBANS — Today's young people are forced to deal with a lot. Peer pressure, drugs, even the Internet put them in potentially vulnerable positions.

To combat this, NCSS' Youth In Transition will provide a training

### First Youth Safety Community Awareness Day

next Tuesday, helping those who help kids.

Ebony Nyoni, the Youth In Transition Grant Coordinator, believed this event, called Youth Safety Community Awareness Day, will be the first of its kind in the area.

It will take place March 20 at NCSS' 130 and 107 Fisher Pond Road locations. Nyoni developed the idea after a talk given last year by Lt. Ron Hoague of the St. Albans Police Department, during which he discussed drugs in the

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## Safety

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community. Nyoni decided to incorporate Alyssa Berthiaume, a technology safety program trainer/coordinator for Technicool, a faction of Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, after Nyoni attended one of her presentations about online dangers.

Berthiaume offered a refreshing perspective, Nyoni said, and it made sense to combine the two aspects as part of an overall safety awareness day.

Berthiaume and her manager Rachel Gartner discussed the two Technicool sections to be presented Tuesday. The first is a broad look at youth technology trends, cyberbullying being one example. Dynamics, facts, and statistics will be made available as well as a discussion on how to prevent such things.

Gartner added an important aspect to focus on is positive online behaviors. The Internet can be exciting and engaging. It can strengthen creativity and broaden world scope as well as provide valuable resources.

"We want to highlight these positive uses," Berthiaume said, while at the same time working to prevent dangers.

The second session is called "Parenting and Promoting Safety in the Digital World." Presented for parents and caretakers, it looks at what can be done to keep kids safe. This includes open lines of communication, supervision, parents/guardians staying informed, safety-checking computers (reviewing browsing history, for example), keeping computers and cell phones in a safe

common space, and creating technology-use rules.

Gartner referred to youth as digital natives, adults as digital immigrants who must work harder to understand. This concept is present in Vermont, she said and adults have a strong learning curve to keep up.

The day will consist of five sessions geared towards those who work most often with kids: parents and guardians, caretakers, educators, and youth service providers.

Essentially the day will educate adults on what is new in the worlds of substance abuse and technology. Nyoni hopes in doing this the community will start to identify the connection it has with area youth culture and find areas in which to play a role. One possible place for growth is filling a need for

an area teen center. This is something YIT has been working on. Nyoni said the youth desire a space that they can call their own and thrive.

Also involved is the New Generation Youth Coalition, a group of young people Nyoni works with for Youth In Transition. They created the name and are working towards becoming their own entity and form community connections. From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. they will participate in "Things You Should Know About Us," a youth panel discussion, talking about what they want to express to the community.

Nyoni said the YIT kids are looked to as innovators. On March 23 they will travel to Bradford to educate a teen center wishing to start an advisory board of its own.