

The Times Ink!

OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
 Volume 34 **December 2017 Issue** Number 10

Trees Stampeded by Winds



Maplewood Cemetery in Huntington again escaped major damage when the limb of a large tree fell into the cemetery, landing neatly between the stones. This is the second time a tree falling into the cemetery has missed headstones and monuments. Right, the offices of Audubon Vermont on October 30, one of two Audubon buildings that had damage from fallen trees. The Audubon Center closed its buildings and trails while volunteers, including a VYCC crew, cut trees and cleared trails. Like many areas of Huntington and parts of Richmond and Jonesville, some residences on Sherman Hollow Road lost power for most of the week. Be prepared for the next wind storm.

Huntington Postpones Conservation Funds Decision

At its meeting on November 6, the Huntington Selectboard decided to postpone a decision on the request from the Friends of Gillett Pond (whose funds are managed by the Richmond Land Trust) to allocate \$100,000 of the Huntington Conservation Fund to go toward the \$800,000-plus costs to replace the Gillett Pond dam. Read more about this decision in Ruth Blodgett's HUNTINGTON SELECTBOARD REPORT, starting on page 6.

For additional background, read the October 2017 Times Ink, found at timeinkvt.org

Update on Richmond Police Chief Alan Buck

On October 20, Richmond Police Chief Alan Buck had a heart attack while in pursuit of two criminals. He managed to stop the cruiser safely and was assisted by the Vermont State Police, who were also in the pursuit. CPR was administered and the VSP used the defibrillator that was in the Chief's cruiser. He was transported to the hospital where he had excellent care.

The defibrillators in the police cruisers and those placed in the Town Clerk's Office and around town were purchased through a grant administered through Richmond Rescue.

Chief Buck is still out on medical leave. According to Town Clerk Linda Parent, the townspeople have been very supportive and he has received cards, flowers and gifts. Cards and other expressions of encouragement can be left at the Town Clerk's Office and will be delivered to the Chief at his house by members of the Police Department.

Grant for Parking at Willis Sledding Hill



Lou Borie of the Richmond Land Trust (left) receives a check for \$15,000 from the State of Vermont to help finance construction of a small parking lot for RLT's Willis Hill public sledding area, just off Route 2 west of Richmond Village. With Borie is Governor Phil Scott and Warren Kitzmiller, ranking member of the House Government Operations Committee, which manages the grant program. The grant will be combined with private donations, and construction is expected to start in the spring. The parking area will also be able to be used to evacuate students should an emergency close down the driveway for the elementary and middle schools at the top of the hill.

Round Church Carol Sing

On Sunday, December 3, the Richmond Historical Society will host two community caroling sessions at the Round Church, at 4 pm and 5 pm. For both sessions, Tom Walters and friends will lead a program of familiar holiday songs and traditional carols. Get in the holiday spirit with some family fun in Richmond's historic community meetinghouse; but please dress warmly—the Round Church has no heat. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Martha Turner at rhs@oldroundchurch.com or 434-6453.

Note: Seating at the Round Church is limited to 228 by order of the State Fire Marshal.

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Letters on local topics are encouraged. Please submit to news@timesinkvt.org. All submissions must have a signature and phone number for verification. Letters with an inflammatory tone, or prose likely to incite high blood pressure in some of the readers, will be reviewed and evaluated by THE TIMES INK! Board of Directors before printing.



PO Box 532 • Richmond, Vermont 05477
news@timesinkvt.org

The Times Ink! is published monthly by The Richmond Times, Inc., a non-profit educational corporation. It is wholly supported by paid advertising and subscriptions. It is mailed free to all 2995 post office boxes and households of Richmond & Huntington, and the Bolton Access Road.

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Next Issue/Deadline: December 7
Date of Issue: December 21

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Letters

Coin Drop Funds Used to Support Lives

Members of the Richmond Fire Department wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your contributions to our annual coin drop on October 7. This is the only fund drive we do each year to raise money.

We are very proud to report our firefighters have voted to use the money collected this year to purchase two AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator). We aim to equip all our fire trucks that respond to calls with these life savings devices. There are times when our fireman are the first responders to car accidents.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support for our fire department. We work hard to serve our community.

—Dennis Gile, Richmond Fire Department Chief

Operation to Protect Veterans

AARP Vermont recently announced that it is joining forces with the AARP Fraud Watch Network and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service for Operation Protect Veterans -- a campaign to warn those who have served in the military about scams and fraud schemes that target veterans. The major educational campaign will reach out to veterans in communities across Vermont and nationwide.

With a new AARP survey showing that veterans are frequently targeted by scam artists and victimized twice as often as the rest of the public, the goal of the Operation Protect Veterans education campaign is to leverage the extensive reach and communications capabilities of the two national organizations to help veterans avoid losing money to con artists.

"Unfortunately, the men and women who bravely served our country have become a prime target of telephone and online thieves," said AARP Chief Executive Officer Jo Ann Jenkins. "While veterans are bombarded by the same scam pitches we all receive, our research found that they're also under special attack by a number of additional scams tailored just for them."

According to the Fraud Watch Network's recent survey 16 percent of U.S. veterans have lost money to fraudsters, as compared to 8 percent of nonveterans. Veterans also report that they are targeted by a large number of scams directly related to their military service or the veterans' benefits they receive. Eighty percent of the veterans surveyed said they have encountered veteran-specific scams.

"The U.S. Postal Inspection Service is committed to protect our veterans from scammers who continuously prey upon them for their own illicit gains," said Guy Cottrell, Chief Postal Inspector. "We will continue in our fraud prevention efforts to inform veterans about scam artists who fraudulently utilize advances in technology and tailor their pitches towards them."

In addition to showing how deliberate targeting may be leading to higher victimization rates among veterans, the survey also explored how veteran scam victims differ from the general public. For instance, veteran scam victims say they are more likely to trust a person who has previously served in the military. And victims say they are more likely to donate to charities that support our service members and veterans.

"To a savvy con-artist, exploiting the honor, comradeship and valor of veterans can be an extremely effective tactic," said Greg Marchildon, state director of AARP Vermont. "We've heard from a number of former and current scam artists who tell us they specifically target vets with false claims of military service brotherhood, or that they know patriotism among vets can be a powerful window in to their hearts and wallets."

AARP and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are warning veterans and their families to be on

the lookout for some of the most common schemes and scams directed at veterans, including:

- **The benefits buyout offer:** This scheme takes advantage of veterans in need by offering a quick upfront buyout in exchange for future disability or pension payments.
- **The fake charitable giving request:** Fraudulent claims about benefitting veterans or wounded service members.
- **Fraudulent records offer:** In this scam, veterans receive a contact claiming that for a fee only the scammer can access your military records or government forms. But this information is available for free through local U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offices.
- **A VA phishing scam:** A scammer claiming to work for the VA calls veterans and asks for Social Security numbers and personal financial information.

- **The bogus employment scam:** Scammers collect personal information or charge a fee for obtaining a job that doesn't exist.

To raise scam awareness among veterans and their families, Operation Protect Veterans is utilizing advertising, social media, email messages, brochures, telephone calls, mass mailings and a new website, www.aarp.org/ProtectVeterans. The Fraud Watch Network has also produced a Veterans edition of its popular WATCHDOG ALERT HANDBOOK. In a major component of the outreach campaign, printed materials will be distributed in many of the nation's 37,000 Post Offices and AARP's state offices.

AARP's membership includes 6.5 million veterans and the U.S. Postal Service is the nation's largest employer of veterans, with 113,000 of its workers having served in the military.

Among other key findings of the Fraud Watch Network survey, UNDER FIRE: MILITARY VETERANS AND CONSUMER FRAUD IN THE UNITED STATES: Veterans who became scam victims were more likely to have had a "negative life event," such as having suffered a serious injury or illness, struggled with mental health or addiction issues, or accumulated a significant amount of debt or suffered a large financial loss.

The AARP Fraud Watch Network was launched in 2013 as a free resource for people of all ages. The website provides information about fraud and scams, prevention tips from experts, an interactive scam-tracking map, fun educational quizzes, and video presentations featuring renowned security expert Frank Abagnale. Users may sign up for "Watchdog Alert" emails that deliver breaking scam information, or call a free helpline at 877-908-3360 to speak with volunteers trained in fraud counseling.



Richmond Holiday Market



Presented by the Western Slopes Business Association

Courtesy photo

Saturday, December 2, 2017, 9 am to 3 pm

Four Richmond locations: Richmond Free Library, Richmond Congregational Church, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary and Richmond Town Center

Sixth Annual Richmond New Year's Eve Concert

The Richmond Historical Society has just announced the lineup for the Sixth Annual New Year's Eve Concert to benefit the Round Church. The 7 pm concert, to be held on December 31 in the sanctuary of the Richmond Congregational Church, will once again feature Patti Casey and Tom MacKenzie. Opening acts will include Cricket Blue, Hadley Stockwell on fiddle and Winslow Starks on banjo representing

Young Tradition Vermont, and blues guitarist Bill Ellis.

Vermont-based folk duo Cricket Blue is inspired by diverse aspects of the American folk tradition: old and current, popular and obscure. MMU graduate Laura Heaberlin and Taylor Smith write songs marked by close-knit harmonies and words about myth, confusion, love, and the ends of things.

Ellis is an accomplished blues performer. In 2007, his solo album, *GOD'S TATTOOS*, won the Australian Bluestar award for Best International CD Release.

With careers that collectively span decades and richly diverse musical influences that stretch from the British Isles to deep Appalachia, Tom MacKenzie and Patti Casey breathe new depth and present a refreshing take on traditional acoustic music.

The Richmond Historical Society's efforts are supported by Richmond Market and Beverage and Valley Stage Productions as concert sponsors. Admission to the concert is by a recommended donation of \$10 per person. Any profits realized will go towards maintenance of the Round Church. For more information, call 434-3654.

2017 Hunter's Breakfast

The Huntington's Annual Hunter's Breakfast. Breakfast will continue on Saturday, November 18 and 25, from 6 am -11 am.

Come and enjoy homemade bread from Three Hungry Boys Bakery, bacon and sausage, cornmeal or regular pancakes or French toast with Henry Moultroupe's syrup, eggs almost any style and tasty home fries, in the Daily Bread fashion. Breakfast is prepared to order - timing is everything, so thanks for your patience.

Hunters, friends and families are welcome to enjoy a relaxing local breakfast at the Community Church of Huntington.

Local Gifts Festival

Gifts Galore: A festival of locally made treasures will be held on Sunday, December 17, from 10 am - 3 pm at the Richmond Free Library.

This new festival will be a local holiday gift-buying opportunity, in a small and friendly setting with 14 local vendors. The events will be held on the second floor of the Richmond Free Library, where shoppers can enjoy a wide variety of gift ideas and price ranges that include; table top decor, art, jewelry, wood products, clothing and notecards and more.

Event Chair Alyson Chase has organized this new event with perfect timing for the holidays and she notes that "buying local and supporting our local artists is a gift to everyone."

Refreshments and gift wrapping by the Friends of the Richmond Free Library will be provided.

Participating vendors include: Alyson Chase, Mary Claire Carroll, Jen Kenney, Peregrino Art, Snipe Ireland Soaps, David Gonyon, Sara DeVico, Pennie Rand, Sugar Tree Maple Farm, Cherie Marshall, Westcoast East Leather.

Also, Quadri, the notecards of Eleanor B. Daniels, with the help of Bridge Street Hair, will donate proceeds from their sales on this day to the Eleanor B. Daniels Fund at the University of Vermont Cancer Center. Their mission is to provide education on gynecologic malignancies and other women's health cancer topics.

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Upcoming Lifelong Learning Programs

Early Scenes of Richmond

Thursday, December 7, 1:30 p.m.
Richmond Library

Karen Yaggy from the Richmond Historical Society will present a slide show of historic glass plate negatives depicting early life in Richmond.



Community Senior Center

For more activities check our website or join our email list at:
www.cscvt.org

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Annual Meeting
Tuesday, November 28
Business Meeting at 5 pm
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Alfred Hitchcock and the Art of Suspense. Hitchcock famously said "Some films are slices of life; mine are slices of cake." His career spanned forty years and many film eras. Film expert Rick Winston will discuss the evolution of Hitchcock's craft, exploring his favorite themes, his relationship with his collaborators, and his wry sense of humor no matter how grisly the subject matter. A Vermont Humanities Council program. Wednesday, December 13, 7 pm.

identity of one of the dead, a reclusive spinster unmasked as O. A. Manning, whose war poetry helped Rutledge retain his grasp on sanity in the trenches of France.

Raffle Baskets We will be holding a book basket raffle during the holiday season. Baskets are full of new and gently used books for readers of all ages as well as other assorted goodies... Tickets cost \$1 or six for \$5. This year's proceeds will support a babysitting first aid training course to be offered at the RFL this winter.

November Art We will be showing the work of Richmond resident Anita Cotrone for the month of November. Come view these wonderful paintings on our gallery walls in the adult area of the library. Anita has been painting since the mid-seventies and finds inspiration through natural landscapes, still life, buildings and water scenes. She credits her mother for bestowing the painting gene.

Weekly Children's Programs No one ever regrets taking their child to storytime. We offer three weekly programs for young children. Choose the one that's right for your child and schedule. While the programs are planned with the ages listed in mind, older and younger children are always welcome. No registration is required.

November Display Each year Richmond resident Dolores Carter creates festive cross stitch holiday cards for her friends and family. Come see this year's cards featuring European Santas before they are mailed off to their destinations in December.

Baby Laptime This short storytime is for babies ages birth to 24 months and their grownups. We will share the magic of stories, songs, rhymes, bounces and fingerplays designed to introduce these youngest children to color, sounds, fine motor skills, and body movement. Join the fun on Mondays at 10:30 am.

December Display Marilyn Cochran Brown will share seven special woodcuts made by Japanese school children in the 1970s. The woodcuts depict winter athletes including Barbara Cochran, 1972 Olympic gold medalist. They were given to the Cochran family by the Japanese Olympic organizing committee. Several of the pieces were on display at the American Embassy in Japan for six months in 2016.

Playgroup and Storytime For children ages Infant to 5 years. Introduce your child to many new friends and to the wonderful world of books on Wednesdays. Playgroup begins at 8:45 am. Storytime begins at 10 am.

Early Bird Math Storytime This storytime is for children ages 2 to 5 years. We will explore numbers, shapes, patterns and sets through books, songs, rhymes and games. This fun, interactive storytime happens in the community room on the first three Fridays of the month at 11 am, beginning after Labor Day.

Yoga Storytime Children ages 2 to 5 years can join us for yoga storytime. We'll enjoy thoughtful books and engage our bodies with active movement. Join us on the fourth Friday of the month at 11 am.

Read to Tippy the Dog Children ages 4 to 12 years can sign up for a private session with Tippy, a Certified Therapy Dog. Tippy is friendly and cute and she will love anyone who reads her a story. Readers will gain confidence while they enjoy some private story time with Tippy, who will gain praise and adoration. Sign up for a slot in advance or drop by on the second Tuesday of every month from 3 pm-4 pm in the Community Room.

Pen Art for Kids Mold some oven-bake Sculpey clay onto a pen, bake it and you have a colorful, whimsical, functional work of art suitable for personal use or holiday gift giving. Kids ages 8 - 13 can register for this fun, free event at the library on Wednesday, November 29 from 4 - 5:30 pm. Please register by November 17 to ensure enough materials for everyone to make a few pens.

Looking for a book or an audio? Visit our website at richmondfreelibraryvt.org and click on Finding Books and More. There are links to our catalogue, ebook and audio downloads, guides to help you decide, and more. Don't forget you can also login to your patron account and make purchase suggestions for us. To access your patron account, go to rfl.kohavt.org. The login is your library barcode and the password is your last name.

Save the Dates Friends of the RFL Book Sale, February 16 and 17.



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Please note that the Library will be closed in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24, 2017.

Live Music with Artist Tristan Leggett Friday, December 15, at 7 pm. Bring all your friends to experience an "ethereal, folk-earth rock," as Billy Claxton describes Tristan's music and lyrics. All are welcome to this free event.

Planet Huntington Tour Mozambique on Sunday, December 3, at 7 p.m. Mozambique, one of the poorest countries in the world, is seldom visited by Americans. Independence came to this African country as late as the mid-1970s and was followed by civil war and natural disaster. Elections in the 1990s brought peace and an increase in economic prosperity (in 1994, the capital city Maputo had only two hotels and three restaurants!) Come learn about the changes underway in this beautiful, Portuguese-speaking country of abundant wildlife and coastlines, and a low population density. Carmen Tedesco will present a bit about the country and how the US Agency for International Development (USAID) is working with local partners to increase food security and better connect farmers to markets.

Hatha Yoga with Tania Dornic, Thursdays, 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm Invigorate your week with a slow yet empowering yoga class suitable for all levels of experience. We will focus on alignment in the postures, while being mindful of body, breath, and mind. Classes are \$10 each, with \$1 of that fee for the Huntington Public Library. While classes are drop-in, it would be helpful to know ahead of time how many plan to attend. You can contact Tania with any questions, or to let her know you are coming to any of the classes, at 802-355-4013 (call or text).

Consumer Reports Online We now have a digital subscription to CONSUMER REPORTS. Please call or visit the Library for the username and password.

Book Group Sunday, December 3, 10 am - noon. This month's choice is the intense Young Adult Fiction book *THE HATE U GIVE* by Angie Thomas. There will be a lively discussion around this important and timely book. Light refreshments will be served. All our welcome.

Adult Fiction *AMY SNOW - A NOVEL* by Tracy Rees; *THE ZIG ZAG GIRL, SMOKE AND MIRRORS* by Elly Griffiths; *BEFORE WE WERE YOURS* by Lisa Wingate; *THE LATE SHOW* by Michael Connelly; *MY ABSOLUTE DARLING* by Gabriel Tallent; *THE LAST MIDWIFE* by Sandra Dallas; *MY COUSIN RACHEL* by Daphne du Maurier; *THE EVENING OF THE HOLIDAY* by Shirley Hazzard; *FEVER AT DAWN* by Peter Gardos; *THE NIX* by Nathan Hill.

Adult Non-Fiction *VOICES FROM THE ATTIC - THE WILLIAMSTOWN BOYS IN THE CIVIL WAR* by Carleton Young; *50 STATES 5000 IDEAS - WHERE TO GO, WHEN TO GO, WHAT TO SEE, WHAT TO DO* by National Geographic; *KOREA REBORN - A GRATEFUL NATION HONORS WAR VETERANS FOR 60 YEARS OF GROWTH*; *INHERITORS OF THE EARTH - HOW NATURE IS THRIVING IN THE AGE OF EXTINCTION* by Chris D. Thomas.

Large Print *THE MISTLETOE PROMISE* by Richard Paul Evans; *AN ISLAND CHRISTMAS* by Nancy Thayer; *THE REBELLION OF MISS LUCY ANN LOBDELL* by W.M. Klabern; *THE CLASP* by Sloane Crosley; *SKYLIGHT* by Jose Saramago; *WHAT I LOVE ABOUT YOU* by Rachel Gibson.

DVD HOCUS POCUS; IN DEFENSE OF FOOD; PLANTS BEHAVING BADLY; MY MOTHER AND OTHER STRANGERS; RARE - CREATURES OF THE PHOTO ARK.

Junior Fiction *MAGNUS CHASE AND THE GODS OF ASGARD* by Rick Riordan; *PATINA* by Jason Reynolds.

Junior Non-Fiction *THE VEGETABLES WE EAT, TRANSPORTATION, SEA TURTLES* by Gail Gibbons *ANIMALS by the Numbers* by Steve Jenkins; *ANIMAL EYES AND ANIMAL TAILS* by Mary Holland; *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS - ULTIMATE BUG-OPEDIA, LITTLE KIDS FIRST BOOK OF BUGS, BOOK OF BIRDS, BOOK OF THE OCEAN, OF THINGS THAT GO; THE BIG BOOK OF BUGS* by Yuval Zommer; *THE BABYSITTER'S CLUB - DAWN AND THE IMPOSSIBLE THREE* by Mary Ann M. Martin; *SWING IT, SUNNY* by Jennifer Holm and Matt Holm.

Huntington Library Playgroup and Story Time Fridays, 10 am - noon Everyone needs books! The playgroup aims to provide a welcoming, fun, and social environment for babies and toddlers with their caregivers. Join us for books, singing, rhyming, counting, and crafts!

First Friday Movie Night Bring your best friends and wear your coziest pajamies on Friday, December 1, at 7 pm for our Movie Night.

Christmas Concert and Singalong Robinson and Rohe's *THE LONGEST WINTER: A CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND SINGALONG*, 7 pm, on Friday, December 8. Annually hosted in venues and house concerts throughout the Northeast, this event has become an audience favorite, a staple of the season. This year, they bring their midwinter music to the town of Huntington, resplendent with a gorgeous backdrop, a triptych of paper cut light boxes designed by illustrator Andrew Benincasa.

Expect songs you may not know: haunting melodies of old Europe, joyful singalongs of the Southern US, and modern takes on the strange and ancient Christmas tale.


Please join us for this special evening. A \$10 admission is requested. Co-sponsored with Valley Stage Productions.

Next Blood Drive December 13

Richmond Congregational Church will host an American Red Cross blood drive on Wednesday, December 13, noon to 6 pm. Please note the later times which may help accommodate your work schedule. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to redcrossblood.org for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Those with appointments are able to help minimize the time it takes to donate. To further reduce your wait time, consider using RAPIDPASS (<http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass>), a pre-donation and health history questionnaire. Complete it on line on December 13 before you arrive to donate.

As the giving season approaches, please put being a donor at the top of your shopping list. Donating blood can be both a rewarding experience and an opportunity to make a difference in a patient's life.

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November 18 & 25, 6 am to 11 am**

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Nutcracker Tea 2017



**Nutcracker
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December 9 • 2 pm
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Richmond Free Library

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Richmond Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



Sunday Worship 10 am
Sunday School

**A Quiet Advent:
A Winter Solstice Service**
Thursday, December 21, 7 pm

Heifer Sunday
December 10

Sunday School Youth will be selling shares to Pass on the Gift to support Heifer International's work

Pastor Katelyn B. Macrae
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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard meeting October 16, 2017 began with the Public Hearing for community comments on the application from Friends of Gillett Pond (FoGP) and Richmond Land Trust (RLT) for a grant from Huntington's Conservation Fund (HCF) to replace the dam at Gillett Pond.

Roughly two and a half dozen members of the community, in addition to the Selectboard and FoGP members, were present.

"We are not deciding tonight," began Board Chair Dori Barton, "We vote with the full board next meeting, and will continue to take written comment until October 25."

Town Administrator Barbara Elliott answered a question regarding conflict of interest potential, "VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) has no concerns, [Selectboard member] Nancy Stoddard had been a member of FoGP two years ago, and Barton's husband is a member of FoGP."

The FoGP made a presentation. Robert Zimmerman, volunteer project manager and FoGP member Aaron Worthley explained that the FoGP was not really a committee, just a group of folks interested in saving the pond. The application to the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) requests \$100,000 from the HCF, the recommendation from the HCC is to allocate \$50,000. The application was reviewed by the HCC, which concluded it met all the general criteria for the use of HCC funds, Worthley explained, except agricultural. Some concerns from the HCC included: not wanting to use nearly half the HCF and the dam is not in Huntington, leading to its recommendation to approve half of what FoGP asked for the project. The money would be used to replace the dam, funneling funding through the RLT.

The FoGP presentation showed a timeline of Gillett Pond from the mid 1800s, until the Girls Scouts, recent owners of the property, wanted to take the dam down after high waters compromised its integrity. In 2013, after inspecting the dam, the State of Vermont said the dam needs to either come down or be replaced; there is no option to leave it as it is. The FoGP was formed to preserve the pond.

The presentation included a rendering of the new dam design. The estimate for the dam's construction is in excess of \$700,000 – 35% of which could come from Richmond and Huntington's conservation funds. "There is not a lot of money out there for projects of this type," said Zimmerman, "It's important to have support from both towns to leverage more money. The HCF grows at about \$16,000 a year; this is the first major project in a long time. We are looking for a commitment in 2019, the HCF should be back up for a Town forest purchase."

The FoGP pointed out that Gillett Pond is the only open body of water in Huntington, and a new dam will raise the water level by two feet, resulting in less plant life. Concerns that the dam is not in Huntington were raised at Town Meeting 2015, when a warned article passed on a voice vote that using HCF money for this project could be considered. Worthley explained that holding this water back adds benefits to wetlands in Huntington, "Biodiversity is added by having the open water as well as the wetland. No dam, no pond. [The area] would be a wetland with a stream." The presentation addressed other dams being removed in Vermont. Around the State some "deadbeat dams" in rivers are being removed, Zimmerman explained, but the Gillett Pond dam is not a "deadbeat dam."

The current amount in the HCF is \$212,97.72, and Elliott read correspondence concerning the application from nine community members. Most of the letters recommended full funding, yet two letters expressed concern about the precedence of using the HCF for a project outside of Huntington, as well as dismay over the huge cost of the dam.

During public comment, Duncan Keir asked why

the HCC recommended the amount they did. HCC co-chair Sheri Lynn said the HCC considered resources in Huntington vs. Richmond, the amount in the HCF, knowing there are other projects coming down the pike like the purchase of an accessible Town forest. "[We were] trying to be realistic and compromise. Some members thought it should go back to its natural state," Lynn continued, "What does conservation mean, recreational opportunities, or going back to natural habitat?"

Terry Boyle asked, "Who will own the dam?" Zimmerman responded, "The Richmond Land Trust (RLT)." Wright Preston of the RLT clarified, "The Land Trust now owns a good portion of shoreline as well as the dam, which it purchased from the Girl Scouts."

Mark Smith commented, "It's not a pond, but a reservoir; it was once an integral part of an electrical system in the gorge. I even wonder if we should consider its potential for micro hydro. I'd like to see more exploration for energy use."

Joe Segale asked, "What is Huntington's fair share? We have half the tax base and half the population of Richmond. Is it fair to ask Huntingtonians to pay more than half of what Richmond is paying?" The Richmond Conservation Fund is contributing \$150,000 to the project. Alison Forrest said, "I would like to see it fully funded. Recreation for kids in this town is hard to find... I know at one time there was swimming in Gillett Pond." Barb Winters offered, "The idea of inter-community cooperation is so important."

Judy Rosovsky, Chair of Richmond Conservation Commission proposed, "Returning it to its natural state is more of an insult to the environment." Board member Roman Livak asked how the dam could be called a natural resource in the application. Zimmerman responded, "The dam has been there so long." Livak retorted, "If you take the dam away, what are we protecting? Johns Brook, that's the natural resource." Kathie Kretzer suggested, "This has a time constraint on it, if the pond is gone it's gone." Wally Jenkins called Gillett Pond a "valuable scenic resource."

At the November 6 meeting, copies of comments from the Public Hearing, as well as summaries of written comments about the application received by the Selectboard were available to the public. Fifteen letters spoke against allocating \$100,000 while 20 were in favor of full funding. Of these thirty-five letters, six were in complete opposition to using HCF money for the project.

When the Selectboard was scheduled on the agenda to discuss and vote on the conservation fund application, Elliott provided new information regarding the Open Meeting law. Elliott explained, "Four members of the Board were at the hearing October 16 and the process for hearing public comment was explained at the hearing, with written comment until October 25 to give time to review comments. I found out that it is not a legal process, and reviewed this with the Town Attorney. The Board will take public comment on any item on the agenda in accordance with the State open meeting law." The Board had informed the public that no new comments would be entertained at the November 6 meeting.

It was suggested to postpone the discussion and not vote until the next Selectboard meeting to give people more opportunity to participate. Worthley commented, "We have been at this a long time, this is the fourth or fifth time this has been on the agenda. The last properly publicly warned hearing was well advertised and written comment time was well publicized. I'm afraid that keeping delaying [the vote] is not fair to the applicants. We have worked on the application since May." Smith countered, "The more the community vets a project like this, the better." Zimmerman asked, "At what point do you stop taking public comment?" Barton answered, "My understanding is we will schedule the same agenda item, review discussion and vote. We owe the applicant and

continue to page 14

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Richmond has reset plans for a new police station. Now the town seeks a place to put it.

The Selectboard, at November 6 meeting, discussed and then approved a request for proposals that asks property owners to name a price and explain why their site would work for a police station. The submission deadline is December 1.

The town is already considering three municipally owned parcels: a small park on Browns Court now being used for youth softball; property next to the old water tank on Jericho Road; and land adjacent to the Richmond Fire Station on Route 2.

But the Selectboard discussion revealed that each location has a downside. Building on Browns Court would eliminate a softball field and might block plans to add tennis courts. A new building and a parking lot might not fit next to the fire station. Both the fire station and water tank parcels would need site work before construction could commence.

Board member Bard Hill said he has a "personal connection" through years of involvement in the girls softball program, so he was opposed to using Browns Court. Board Chair Lincoln Bressor agreed, saying he was "not big on taking away that recreational space."

Harland Stockwell, chairman of the Richmond Recreation Committee, said the Browns Court land was donated to the town on the condition it be used for recreation. But the town has been unable to locate the deed stating that requirement.

The site does have the virtue of being flat. The other locations will require expensive grading work, though Hill noted that using the fire station location would keep public safety functions centralized.

In any case, Selectboard member Steve Ackerman noted that using municipal land would be much cheaper than acquiring private property.

Board members also debated ways to adjust the request for proposals. The original request asked for properties to be centrally located, with access to utilities and large enough to fit 10,000-square feet of developable space.

But just how large the building would actually be has not been determined. It could actually be only about half that size, depending on whether a community room is included.

Rick Barrett, a member of the committee studying public safety facilities, said the community room would add about 1,800 square feet. He suggested the request for proposals state a range of size requirements to produce the most responses.

Bressor said the range should be 8,000-12,000 square feet, with room for a 10-space parking lot. Barrett said 12 spaces would be large enough for police parking while as many as 50 more spots would be needed to serve a community room that could double as an emergency shelter.

The site selection process is the latest milestone on a years-long saga of trying to upgrade Richmond's public safety buildings.

Initially the town considering a building that put firefighters, police offices and paramedics under one roof. But Richmond Rescue dropped out, and when a \$6 million facility was proposed to combine police and fire stations, firefighters complained that a too-expensive project was being forced on them when they simply wanted to update their existing station.

During the Selectboard's previous meeting on October 16, a revised plan was presented that would cost \$3.6 million for just the police sta-

tion. The Board, however, was unable to agree on the proposal, leaving plans in limbo.

Requests for proposals can be sent to Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik at P.O. Box 285, Richmond, VT 05477. Proposals can also be emailed to townmgr@gmavt.net.

Facilities, Part Two Talk of aging municipal buildings continued with approval of a contract with a Middlebury-based architectural firm that will study and recommend repairs to the Town Center building, Richmond Free Library and the fire station.

Bread Loaf Corp. will look at each structure from top to bottom, assessing obvious problem areas, such as the windows at the century-old Town Hall, as well as the buildings' inner workings, such as heating and ventilation systems. The idea is to get an overview of what each building needs and prioritize repairs.

Urbanik said he could hire a contractor who could identify obvious fixes such as painting. Using Bread Loaf is a "step above," he said, allowing the town to understand everything about the buildings, including structural issues.

Jeff Forward, who serves as the town's energy coordinator and operates an energy consulting company, said he was impressed by Bread Loaf's proposal, noting that the firm has a team of architects and engineers qualified to completely assess the structures.

"They did not seem too expensive for the services," he said. "You probably won't get everything you want, but it's a good start."

Bread Loaf's contract calls for spending \$19,878 on the Town Center and Library assessments. The fire station study is an additional \$9,755.

But that's only the beginning of what seems likely to be a multi-million dollar endeavor. Forward noted that an estimate 10 years ago pegged the cost of replacing stairwell windows at Town Hall at \$4,000 apiece. He noted there are 60 windows in the building.

Forward and Urbanik outlined other obvious problems at Town Hall. The ventilation system only recirculates indoor air, though it was noted that is not much of an issue since the leaky windows let in so much fresh air. Drop ceilings block parts of windows. The air conditioning system is outdated.

Forward said the buildings are worth fixing despite the multitude of problems. "I think they are wonderful buildings," he said. "But they need some love."

More alarming than leaky windows and slapdash past renovations are the safety issues. An emergency exit in the basement of Town Center where the Radiate Art Space is located is stuck closed, a potential hazard for the youth artists who participate in the nonprofit's programming. And the carbon monoxide detector in the basement needs to be replaced.

The fire station, meanwhile, "is a whole other animal," Bressor said. The biggest problems relates to its hillside location off Route 2. The driveway is so steep as to limit the size of fire trucks the department can use and the station is too small to park the largest trucks anyway.

Selectboard member Steve May said he hoped the study would produce a plan to make repairs over time, allowing the town to prioritize individual projects in the long-range capital budget. Board members said the town should immediately address the emergency exit and carbon monoxide detector.

The Selectboard unanimously approved the Bread Loaf contract.



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Sunday
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CSWD HINESBURG DROP-OFF CENTER TO CLOSE DECEMBER 2

In order to support the Town of Hinesburg as they construct the new Town Garage, we will be closing the CSWD Drop-Off Center at 908 Beecher Hill Rd.

The last day of operation will be Saturday, December 2nd.

We understand the impact that this may have on many of you, and we want to make everyone aware of your options.

While we're closed, we encourage you to visit our Williston Drop-Off Center at 1492 Redmond Rd., just 1.5 mi. from Mountain View Rd.

Our most spacious facility, Williston accepts more materials than any other Drop-Off Center. In addition, we have made a number of recent improvements to make the facility easier to use.

While there, ask our staff about the gift card raffle. It's free!

All 6 of our other Drop-Off Centers are open to the public, and our staff stand ready to serve you with a smile.

We have created a special page on our website to keep you up to date. To learn more about our decision, the next steps, and your options for recycling and waste management:

Visit www.cswd.net/hinesburg or call us at (802) 872-8111.

MMU Produces Comedy HARVEY



The Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department presented the hilarious Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *HARVEY* on November 10-12. Above, Myrtle Mae (played by Olivia Monachino) listens in as her mother Veta Louise Simmons (played by Madeline Nickerson) talks to the society editor about the party she's throwing. Courtesy photo

Area Residents Honored

Kathryn Devlin, Bolton was inducted into the Colby-Sawyer College chapter of Alpha Chi on October 22. Devlin is a member of the class of 2019 majoring in studio art. She is an MMU graduate. Alpha Chi National Honor Society promotes academic excellence and exemplary character among college and university students. The New Hampshire Alpha Chapter was established on the Colby-Sawyer College campus in the spring of 1980. To be eligible, a student must rank in the top ten percent of the junior or senior class and demonstrate the Alpha Chi values of truth and character.

The State University of New York at Potsdam has awarded scholarships, grants and awards for the 2017-2018 academic year. These local accomplished SUNY Potsdam undergraduate and graduate students were recognized for their achievements with support for their educational experience:

Samantha Day, Jericho, majoring in Music Performance, was awarded the SUNY Potsdam Freshman Scholarship

Mikayla Kelemen, Jonesville, majoring in Music Education, was awarded the SUNY Potsdam Freshman Scholarship

Victoria Rosales, Jericho, majoring in Music Education, was awarded the SUNY Potsdam Freshman Scholarship

Hinesburg CSWD Closed During Town Construction

The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) has decided to close the Hinesburg Drop-Off Center at 907 Beecher Hill Rd. until construction of the Town of Hinesburg's new highway garage is complete.

The final day of operation at the Hinesburg Drop-Off Center will be December 2.

Updates on the Hinesburg Drop-Off Center closure and next steps are available on the CSWD website at www.cswd.net/hinesburg.



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What is “High-Grading”?

Submitted by Ethan Tapper

If you are even tangentially involved with the world of forest management, you have probably heard the term “high-grading” or “high-grade logging.” These terms refer to the ugly underbelly of the world of logging, where loggers or landowners have engaged in timber harvesting purely targeted at the pursuit of the almighty dollar. I thought that in this article it would be helpful to discuss high-grading, what it is, and how it affects us.

High-grading is the process of cutting the highest-value trees in a forest while leaving behind all or most poor-quality, low-value trees.

High-grading is not done as a part of a comprehensive management strategy, but rather as an economic means for extracting dollars from a forest in the most efficient way possible. High-grading is a purely extractive practice without consideration for any ecological variables, more like drilling or mining than anything one could call sustainable forest management.

There was a time when the prevailing wisdom was to “cut the big trees to let the little trees grow.” Loggers or farmers would cut the biggest and most valuable timber out of their woodlots and return years later to forests well-stocked with more valuable trees to be cut. The resilience of forests in New England, which seem to be able to respond to any disturbance with abundant growth and regeneration, made this idea possible. It wasn’t until the later part of the 20th century that the forest management community began to recognize the effects of high-grading on forests, and change its tune. It became clear that high-grade logging leads to stands which are less healthy, less valuable and less productive in the future.

So, what impact does high-grading have over the long term? Research shows us that while high-grading provides a large initial payoff, stands which were more responsibly managed produce the same amount of income over time, but are exponentially higher in quality and health than high-graded stands. High-graded stands have less species and structural diversity, which means they are less resilient to disease, natural disturbance events and invasive species, and feature poorer wildlife habitat in general. Additionally, because of the low value of high-graded stands, they often must be managed using more disruptive logging equipment and techniques in order to make them healthy again.

My land in Bolton is a good example of this, as it was high-graded by a previous owner. The

extent to which this practice fundamentally altered the character of the forest is stunning. Loggers aggressively targeted certain high-value species (in my case, mostly red oak) for removal, leaving behind a monocrop of diseased beech and red maple. Structural diversity is low, with virtually all large trees removed, and the understory is dominated by non-commercial regeneration. As a result, my only recourse as a landowner has been to regenerate large areas by removing as much unhealthy stocking as I can, which requires intensive logging. Even with this aggressive intervention it will be decades until the effects of high-grading are diminished in my forest.

High-grading is a purely extractive practice without consideration for any ecological variables, more like drilling or mining than anything one could call sustainable forest management.

There is nothing wrong with harvesting large, valuable trees. Cutting mature timber is part of how new forests are regenerated and how landowners realize economic benefits from forest ownership, which helps them pay their taxes and fund additional stewardship activities on their land, de-incentivizing subdivision and development. Most responsible timber harvests involve the removal of mostly low-grade material (pulp, firewood and chips) in addition to some high-value logs and veneer from trees that are mature or declining. The removal of these mature stems should be done as part of a well-thought-out management strategy to encourage regeneration or release healthy, immature stems. Harvests like this elevate the quality and health of trees in our forest while compensating landowners and loggers, and providing loggers with an economic incentive to cut the job.

This fall there are a lot of acorns on the ground. I see them being eaten by deer, bear, turkeys, squirrels and chipmunks. I’ll bet those acorns taste awful good, but I also think of how many acorns an oak tree would cast if all those animals would just let them sprout and grow. Those animals remind me of loggers and landowners who engage in high-grading, trading a short-term payout for the long-term goal, and valuing their bank accounts over the well-being of future generations.

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

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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

4930 Main Road Huntington, Vermont 05462

The Huntington Development Review Board (DRB) will meet on December 12, 2017, at the Huntington Town Clerk’s Office in Huntington Center to review the following applications:

**Request for Conditional Use Review
Boundary Line Adjustment**

Peter and Carla Purinton, 190 Pond Road, to transfer 1.52 acres to adjoining property owners Jedediah and Jennifer Randall. Subject property is located on tax map 02-061.000. Access to subject property is located on Maple Ridge Lane in Huntington; the property to be transferred has no frontage on a town road. The hearing will be at 7:15 pm.

The application and detailed map are available for viewing at the Town Clerk’s Office during business hours.

**Request for Conditional Use Review
Addition to Commercial Building**

Jedediah Randall, 111 Maple Ridge Lane, to construct a 20 x 25 addition to an existing 50x70 building. The applicant appeared before the DRB and received approval on July 12, 2016 for an equipment repair garage and retail small equipment business.

The DRB will conduct a Site Visit to the property at 6:30 pm for both requests.

—Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk, November 16, 2017



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Town Garage Stormwater Project Completed


Submitted by Darlene Palola

Yogi and crew have completed the project to prevent stormwater and accumulated pollutants from entering the Huntington River. In 2015 the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) and the Friends of the Winooski River (FWR) worked with the Town to propose an engineering design (at no cost to the town) to filter the rains and flooding from extreme events that discharge phosphorus and sediment into the river. In 2016 the FWR obtained a grant for the town to implement the design. \$20,000 was granted to pay for materials and engineering support. HCC

is proud of the Selectboard and the Road crew for their support of this project.

Students from BPS followed the project from viewing the map of the engineer's design to helping lay out the straw that prevents the newly planted grasses from washing away. They learned how swales, grasses and soil for soaking up the pollutants help to clean the water of phosphorus and sediment before it enters the Winooski watershed and Lake Champlain.

The town's partnership with FWR is a great benefit to clean water and the Huntington River.



Christian Arthur Photography

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Above, picnic area next to horseshoe pits at Huntington Rec field. Below, drainage next to the road separating the Town Garage yard and the soccer fields. Photos: Darlene Palola



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More on Trees: Safety After the Storm

Broken trunks, downed branches and uprooted trees tell the tale of the major storm that passed through the region recently. Although the damage seems devastating, trees have an ability to recover from even the most severe injuries.

Kate Forrer from the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program, a joint initiative of University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, offers these simple steps to address trees damaged by the storm:

- Look up and look down. Clearing access roads and evaluating forest stands containing hanging limbs and bent trees is dangerous. Use safety precautions at all times.
- Be alert and stay away from downed utility lines and hanging branches that appear ready to fall. If you see a downed line, call 9-1-1 or your local utility company.
- Assess the damages. Evaluate your trees carefully by asking the following questions. Other than the storm damage, is the tree basically healthy and vigorous? Are major limbs broken? Is at least 50 percent of the tree's canopy still intact? Are there remaining branches that can form a new branch structure? If you answered "yes" to the majority of these questions, there is a good chance for complete recovery of the tree.
- Get professional advice. Leave dangerous work such as overhead pruning or removing



Downed trees hang across wires on Taft Road in Huntington on October 30, 2017. Photo: John Hadden

trees, especially large ones, to professionals who are trained in tree care. Certified arborists

are equipped to do the job safely and are insured. hiring a professional, proper care of storm-damaged trees and storm clean-up safety.

are equipped to do the job safely and are insured.

- Woodlot owners concerned about stand damage should seek advice from a licensed forester. Trees with up to 10 percent canopy loss can be managed normally. However, each stand is different. Site quality and other factors must be considered in management decisions. Contact an International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist, a licensed forester or your county forester for more information.

- Prune storm-damaged limbs. If there are no power lines nearby and no other safety concerns, remove the jagged remains of broken limbs. This will minimize the risk of decay entering the wound. Resist the urge to over-prune and don't worry if the tree's appearance is not perfect. Your trees may look unbalanced or naked, but you will be surprised at how fast they will recover, grow new foliage and return to their natural beauty.

- Learn more about tree recovery and find tree care professionals in your area. Visit <https://vtcommunityforestry.org/resources/tree-care> for information on

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Gypsy Jazz at Richmond

Rhythm Future Quartet will make an appearance as a part of the P.M. SUNDAYS concert series on Sunday, December 10, at 4 pm.

They have a straightforward agenda: to keep the spirit of Gypsy jazz alive and expanding in today's musical universe. The virtuosic foursome, named for a Django Reinhardt tune, offers up a newly minted sound, influenced by the classic Hot Club of France, yet wholly contemporary.

The concert will take place at the Richmond Congregational Church. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 day of show.

For more information about this concert and all Valley Stage events please visit www.valleystage.net or contact Don Sheldon at 434-4563 or don@valleystage.net

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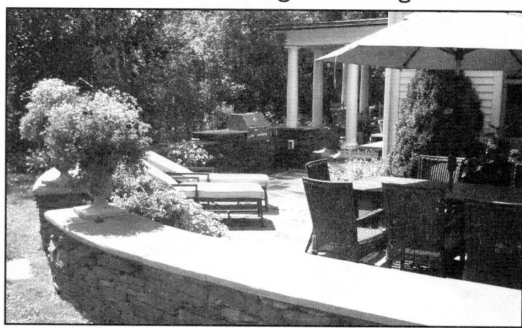
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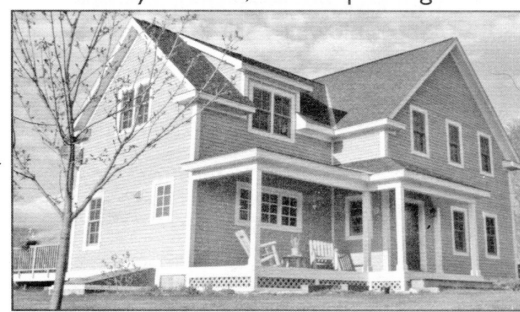
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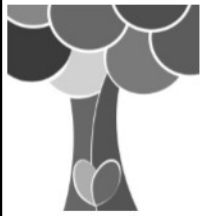


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 Hosted 121 campers in grades k-8 at a
 Free Enrichment Camp
 Provided job training for 24 teens

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www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org
www.facebook.com/OCCCVT

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OCCC: Summer Food Fun & Learning for 145 Local Children

Submitted by OCCC

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) is excited to report that in July and August of 2017, OCCC hosted 145 local children and teens as campers or interns at its free summer enrichment camp in Richmond. OCCC also provided meals to an

This summer camp experience, and the summer food that reaches nearly 50% of the children who qualify for free and reduced lunches during the school year, is only possible by the support of people in the community. Donate online at www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org or on the OCCC Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/OCCCVT/>



Buddy Dubay and his music students play ukuleles at the beach. Courtesy photos

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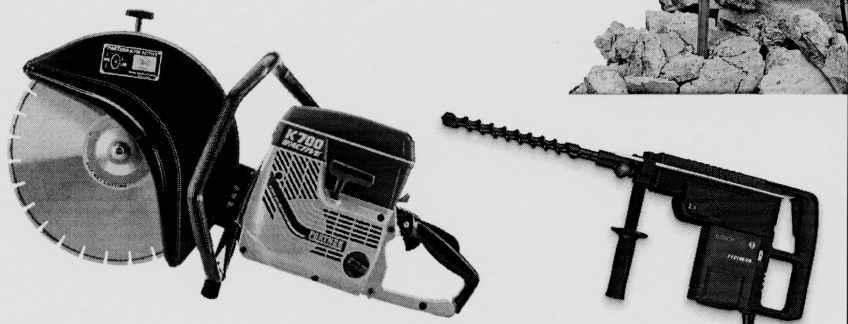
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additional 233 children through partnerships with CESU, the Huntington Public Library and the Jericho Summer recreation program. OCCC served 6,800 meals over a four-week period.

This summer success was made possible by the generous donations from local individuals, families, business and private foundations along with a grant from the USDA summer food service program.

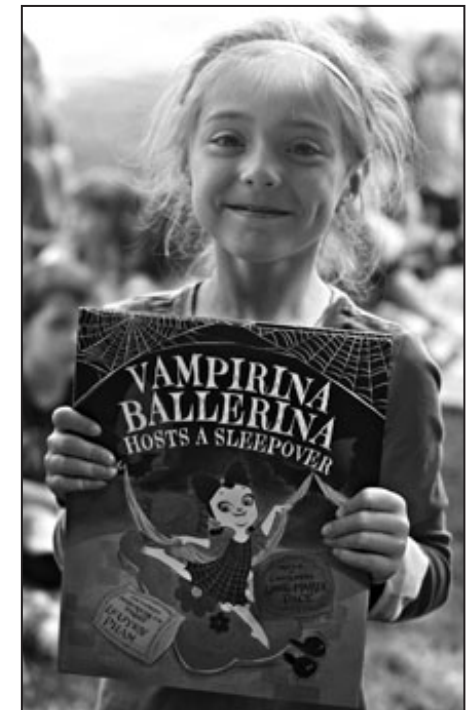
“The community has really stepped up to the plate to address summer hunger and the opportunity gap for children from economically stressed families” said Marie Thomas, Executive Director.

Superintendent John Alberghini recently told the OCCC Board of Directors that the OCCC program is an essential part of the effort to close the achievement gap for children who might not otherwise have enriching activities in the summer. “The partnership of OCCC and CESU is very important and has a huge impact for these children and their families,” said Alberghini.

Campers enjoyed trying out different musical instruments with Buddy Dubay, and explored different art media with art educator Suzi Blain and the Radiate Art Space instructors Heather Drury and Rebecca Garavan. Campers cooked with Melissa Skinner and Pat Straughan and made puzzles with Catherine Laurita. And everyone enjoyed the field trips to North Beach and Alison Anand’s Pool. And the Children’s Literacy Foundation made its ninth visit to give all children two free books.

Campers made friends, learned about being part of a caring community, encouraging others, trying new things, and finding something that they really love to do. Whether it be building towers with beverage cups, or castles out of boxes, or fairy houses out of forest materials, there was something for everyone. And there was lots of great food from local farms like the Farm at VYCC and Jericho Settler’s Farm.

Interns learned to identify their strengths, and developed leadership skills under the coaching of Elise Wyatt, former OCCC counselor. The 24 interns learned to reach beyond their comfort zone and become role models for campers.



CLiF provides 2 books to each camper

com/OCCCVT/. Or mail your check to PO Box 503, Richmond, VT 05477. OCCC fund raising goal for 2018 is \$90,000.

OCCC 2017 At A Glance

- 121 Campers
- 24 Interns
- 233 enrolled in food only sites
- 6800 meals served



Songs (and Dances of the Season)



Arabesque Dance students prepare to perform at the Richmond Free Library in the studio's Nutcracker Tea on December 8, 9, and 10. The performances feature excerpts from the ballet and are paired with either dessert or a formal tea. For more information, call 383-8468.

Tchaikovsky's THE NUTCRACKER has long been a holiday highlight as the ballet is performed extensively between Thanksgiving and Christmas and the role of Clara is traditionally danced by a young ballet student.

THE NUTCRACKER is a two-act ballet, with a score by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (op. 71). The libretto is adapted from E. T. A. Hoffmann's story THE NUTCRACKER AND THE MOUSE KING.

It is now hard to believe, but the ballet, which premiered at the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg, Russia on Sunday, December 18, 1892, on a double-bill with Tchaikovsky's opera IOLANTA, was not a success. Many of the aspects of the ballet, which are now so appealing to modern audiences – children in feature roles, and the abrupt transition from realism to fantasy – were panned by audiences and critics. However, Tchaikovsky's music (THE NUTCRACKER SUITE), was well-received, and the

roles in the ballet were reworked in the early 20th century to be more like the ballet that is seen onstage today.

Since the late 1960s, THE NUTCRACKER has enjoyed "enormous popularity," and it is performed by countless ballet companies, especially in North America.

It is reported that major American ballet companies generate around 40% of their annual ticket revenues from performances of THE NUTCRACKER and the touring productions are often seen in smaller cities. These tours often incorporate local talent in the roles of Clara and children, the Mice and other small dance roles.

THE NUTCRACKER also offers an opportunity for choreographers to create new interpretations and for dance studios to offer stagings that can be seen in holiday programs.

—Heidi Racht

Vermont Unclaimed Property

The Vermont State Treasurer's Office paid Vermonters a record number of unclaimed financial property last year and Treasurer Beth Pearce wants you to check today to see if any of the remaining \$80 million waiting to be claimed belongs to you. Vermonters can easily search the State unclaimed property database by visiting MissingMoney.Vermont.gov or by calling 1-800-642-3191.

Said Treasurer Beth Pearce, "In recent years, we initiated new efforts to locate property and connect rightful heirs with their assets. We want to make sure every Vermonter is aware that they may be missing money and that the Treasurer's Office offers a free service to help claim your cash."

Each year, the Treasurer's Office receives property that is remitted to the State for safekeeping while staff works to return property to its rightful owner. \$10.4 million of new property was received last year, increasing the total amount on hand to \$80 million.

Unclaimed property" describes assets like uncashed checks, lost valuables, forgotten security

deposits, misplaced insurance policies, investments or estates. The contents of abandoned safe deposit boxes are also collected and held in the Treasurer's Office unclaimed property vault. There are 420,000 individual properties waiting to be claimed. Asset values range from less than a dollar to \$684,098.

With over \$80 million waiting to be claimed, Treasurer Pearce urges Vermonters to be aware of for-profit enterprises that claim they will locate and recover lost property for a fee. There are heir-finder services that sometimes contact possible owners and offer to locate property, from Vermont and other states, for a fee. Pearce encourages all Vermonters to check the State's unclaimed property database, which is free, before accepting services from other entities.

The Treasurer's Office's unclaimed property program is a consumer protection initiative to benefit all citizens. No commissions or fees are charged through this free service. Vermonters can easily search the State unclaimed property database by visiting MissingMoney.Vermont.gov or by calling 1-800-642-3191.

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Huntington Selectboard
continued from page 6

townspeople an apology for not understanding the open meeting law."

The motion to postpone this agenda item until the November 20 Selectboard meeting passed unanimously.

After the Huntington Conservation Fund application hearing ended October 16, Nils Behn, CEO and President of Aegis Renewable Energy, which specializes in community solar projects, came to talk to the Board. Behn told the Board that municipalities within Vermont Electric Coop (VEC) territory investing in solar projects could save 10% on electricity costs. Huntington's Municipal resources are using Green Mountain Power. Board member Andrew Hendrickson asked, "Is there a residential opportunity? Behn replied, "Not at this time." Elliott suggested Ross Olgilve, Chair of the Energy Committee, continue to discuss possibilities with Behn.

Water Quality Barton, Elliot and Stoddard reported on their attendance at a water quality public meeting, sponsored by the HCC. CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission) and DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) representatives were available to gather public comments. "I was hoping there would be more information on what people could do individually to improve water quality," said Stoddard, "Could the HCC sponsor workshops for farmers?" CCRPC has prepared comments to submit to the DEC about the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP), which were shared with the Board. Board members had questions about how data is being used or not used to determine sources of phosphorus before requiring towns to do projects. Elliott added, "The permit fee is a significant burden, so many roads with steep slopes that must be addressed, how do you prioritize?"

A motion to approve and sign the letter regarding public comment on the draft MRGP passed.

Town Plan Map Amendment A Public Hearing for an amendment to the municipal plan preceded the November 6 Selectboard meeting. The Huntington Planning Commission (HPC) has proposed an update of the Town Plan, specifically changes to the Village Districts maps. The update proposes expanding the Lower Village and Huntington Center Districts, reducing the size of the Neighborhood Districts. Outside boundaries of the Neighborhood Districts remain the same. HPC Chair Everett Marshall explained that the Town Plan map used to have four districts, including a large Lower Village district, the Upper Village and Hanksville. Then it was changed to have two "Village Core" districts in the Lower Village and Huntington Center with the balance of the Village Districts in the three villages, retitled Neighbor-

hood Districts. The Village Core Districts had followed the state's designation. The HPC has decided to expand the two Village Districts in order to open potential for grants and concentrated development. The distinct boundaries have to be amended to be included in the Town Plan. Marshall invited everyone to take a look at the maps prepared by CCRPC. Community members raised questions about the need for wastewater capacity in densely populated areas and if dense development should be encouraged in currently open land. Questions about land use regulations will be considered at a public hearing on December 16.

Later, during the regular Selectboard meeting, Livak brought up the need for water/wastewater guidelines. Barton suggested the next Town Plan should show potential water/wastewater sites. Planning Commission Clerk Heidi Racht pointed out that the new Town Plan (in progress) would establish recommendations for the future. The Board approved the Town Plan map amendment.

Discussion of Conflict of Interest Terry Ryan, during public comment for items not on the agenda asked, "What is the procedure to recuse oneself from issues where there is a conflict of interest?" VLCT recommends disclosure of what might be an actual or perceived conflict of interest, then the individual can decide whether to recuse himself or herself. Joe Segale clarified, "Having an opinion does not constitute a conflict of interest, what would be of concern is a vested financial interest." Jim Christiansen asked, "Was anyone given access to the conflict of interest policy [at the October 16 meeting]?" Elliott said it was available, yet no one asked to see it. Christiansen continued, "[What about] someone having a spouse very involved in the [Gillett Pond dam] project? Arrowwood Environmental has products on the FoGP website. Will Arrowwood benefit at all from this project in anyway? No one in this room knows the policy." Elliott clarified the policy states a public official can be requested to recuse him or herself, yet the official does not have to abide by the request.

Christiansen elaborated, "The Chair has work product on the FoGP and a spouse of the Chair is very involved." Aaron Worthley, a partner in Arrowwood Environmental responded, "As a Huntington community member I feel privileged to have skills and tools to offer the community, taking time away from my workday. Arrowwood will not be bidding on any part of this project. My involvement is strictly as a volunteer." Stoddard commented, "I did project management and the website for FoGP strictly as a volunteer." Christiansen said, "Products that are seen on line are a benefit to a company." Elliott enquired, "Is the Board being asked if this a conflict of interest?" Marshall told the Selectboard, "I feel very comfortable moving forward without considering conflict of interest."

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Community Trust Annual Meeting and Lasagna Dinner

Many organizations contribute to the wonderful community that is Huntington. If you'd like to hear from a few of them, come to the Huntington Historical and Community Trust (HHCT) program on Wednesday, November 16, at the Huntington Town Hall.

Representatives from the following groups will present overviews of works in progress and future projects:

- Huntington Conservation Commission - Jenna Koloski
- Senior Meals Program - Donna Lewis
- Huntington Valley Arts - Alison Forrest
- Horseshoe Club - Bruce Rublee
- Cemetery Board of Trustees - Heidi Racht / Spencer Hill
- Town Hall Committee - Linda Fickbohm
- BPMS Outdoor Classroom - Sally Hayes

Before the program, attendees will be treated to a vegetarian lasagna dinner, followed by a brief meeting of the HHCT where you can learn more about its oral history project and other work.

Here are the details:

6 pm - dinner - free for members and recent past members; \$15 suggested donation for non-members (includes membership to HHCT for 2018)

6:30 - annual meeting and brief description of our oral history project

6:45 - dessert and program - FREE open to all.

RSVP to HHCTVT@gmail.com if you would like to come for dinner.

HHCT is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the historical and rural aspects of Huntington as well as developing a sense of community. Toward this end, HHCT supports or promotes conservation efforts of natural resources, and supports the preservation of Huntington's heritage.

Mentors Needed

Richmond Mentors for New Americans is an up and coming volunteer program, initiated by Mary Ann DeBay who is a psychologist in the Winooski School District, and her daughter Abby, who is a senior at MMU.

"We want to be catalysts for positive change, and support, empowerment, and progress. We want to share the supports that we have found in our local community with the global community in the Winooski schools," said Mary Ann DeBay.

The New Americans in Winooski are in need of mentors, and the school has a number of families interested. The liasons at the school can work as interpreters.

The website address is <https://mdebay.wixsite.com/richmondmentors>.

For more information, contact: Mary Ann DeBay (233-5769) or mdebay@wdschools.org.



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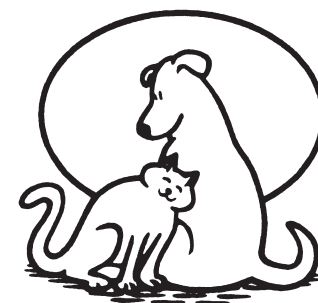


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Town of Huntington

Notice of Public Hearing Revisions of Regulations December 18, 2017 • 6:30 pm Community Church of Huntington

The Selectboard will hold a Public Hearing to accept comments on proposed revisions by the Huntington Planning Commission to the town's Zoning, Subdivision and Flood Hazard Regulations. All interested persons may appear and be heard. Written comments will be accepted until noon (12 pm) on Thursday, January 4, 2018.

The new Huntington Land Use Regulation will combine three documents into a single comprehensive document, which is entitled **Town of Huntington Land Use Regulations**. The geographic areas affected include all of Huntington.

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Copies of the entire text are available for review at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office at 4930 Main Road, and at the Huntington Public Library. It is also available on the Town of Huntington website (www.huntingtonvt.org).

News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and the Advent season (oh my, is it really here already?) my heart is full of gratitude for the many wonderful people and places that make up Richmond, Vermont. This time of year, I am mindful of a quote by 13th century German theologian Meister Eckhart - "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." In this season of gratitude and gathering, what are you grateful for? What can you pray and say "thank you" to God for?

On Thursday, November 9, we had a wonderful Senior Harvest Lunch in conjunction with Community Senior Center. More than 65 people gathered for a meal of soup, salad and bread. The Mansfield Cooperative School provided musical entertainment, and helped serve the food. It was fabulous to see so many people "breaking bread" together. I am thankful for the many hands that made this community event possible.

Looking ahead to late November and December we have several events at Richmond Congregational Church, UCC.

Richmond and Williston Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Richmond, on Sunday, November 19:

4 pm Worship Service with Combined Choir
5 pm Soup Dinner

We invite the community to join four congregations as we gather for this annual prayer service. Rev. Paul Eyer, the new pastor at Williston Federated Church will preach. An offering will

be received to support the Richmond and Williston Food Pantries. Following worship we will have a light supper prepared by Holy Rosary's Confirmation Class.

Advent Events at RCC We invite the wider community to participate in our Holiday Giving Tree for needed items for local children. This program is coordinated together with Holy Rosary and the local schools. Please stop by RCC during the Holiday Market to pick up a gift tag, and then shop for the item. New, unwrapped gifts must be returned by December 17, 2017.

Throughout Advent our Deacons are also collecting new warm socks for COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter) in Burlington, and gas and grocery cards for our Deacon's Fund. Our Deacon's Fund provides emergency assistance to local residents. Donations can be dropped off at the Church Office.

THE MANY FACES OF MARY Advent Bible Study will meet on Tuesdays 7 pm to 8 pm - November 28, December 5, 12, 19. Please bring \$5 for a copy of the study book.

A Quiet Advent - Winter Solstice Service

Thursday, December 21 - 7 pm

Heifer Sunday - December 10, 2017

Our Sunday School youth will be selling "shares" of animals to support Heifer International's work in alleviating hunger and poverty by providing education, training, and livestock. Our Youth visited the Heifer Farm in June 2017 and are excited to help Pass on the Gift.

We hope you will join us for these worship, study and service opportunities in November and December.

Master Gardener Course Registration Open

Love to garden? Cultivate that interest by enrolling in the 2018 University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener Course.

Gardeners of all skills will have an opportunity to learn from green industry and university experts about home horticulture in this 14-week non-credit online course. Live Q&A sessions are planned for 13 consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning January 17. Participants also will be invited to attend an in-person Master Gardener class next summer.

Participants may choose to become a certified Extension Master Gardener, which involves completion of the course and 40 volunteer hours, or take the course only to earn a

Certificate of Home Horticulture. Registration and scholarship information may be found at www.uvm.edu/mastergardener.

The deadline to register is January 16. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact the UVM Extension Master Gardener Office by December 18.

If pursuing Master Gardener certification, the cost is \$425. For the course only, the fee is \$475. The fee covers 14 online modules, course lectures, weekly Q&A sessions with instructors and all course materials including a comprehensive online training manual. All lectures will be recorded and archived so participants may watch at their convenience.

The course is designed to help gardeners become more informed. Sessions will focus on a wide range of topics including vegetable and flower gardening, sustainable landscaping, composting, botany basics, plant pathology, entomology and fruit trees and berries. They also will learn about healthy lawn care, native and invasive plants, rain gardens and weed biology and management, among other topics.

For more information: 656-9562 or mastergardener@uvm.edu.

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Calendar of Events

FIRST & THIRD TUESDAY: Free car seat inspections, Richmond Rescue, 216 Railroad St., 9 am to noon. Call Mike Chiarella for an appointment: 434-2394.

FRIDAYS: Volleyball during school year, CHMS, 7 pm to 9 pm. Looking for new players, \$10 per year. Just show up. Richmond McCauley, 434-3798.

3RD THURSDAY: Shelburne Vineyard UNFILTERED Wine and Poetry Series, begins at 6 pm. Opportunity for poets and poetry lovers to gather to read and listen. All poets, genres and topics welcome. Wine available in the Tasting Room. Free, no reservations necessary. Information: shelburnevineyard.com or Shelburne Vineyard on Facebook, 985-8222.

1ST THURSDAY: Essex Art League meeting, 9 to 11, Essex Junction Congregational Church, Rt. 15. Business and social time, and features a guest artist presentation. Calendar: www.essexartleague.com

FIRST FRIDAY: Free yoga class. 7 pm to 8 pm www.balanceyogavt.com

SUNDAYS: Karma Yoga Class, 9 am to 10 am, Balance Yoga, \$5 plus a non-perishable, non-expired item or two for Richmond Food Shelf (or \$10 without food item). www.balanceyoga.com

SATURDAYS: Story Time at Phoenix Books, Burlington, 11 am, 191 Bank Street, downtown Burlington. Free. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

2ND TUESDAY: Champlain Valley Prostate Cancer Support Group, 6 pm to 8 pm, Hope Lodge, 237 East Ave, Burlington. Mary L. Guyette RN, MS, ACNS-BC, 802-274-4990

NOVEMBER 16: Community Education Series - HABITS: Understanding habits to change ourselves and change the world, 6 pm to 7:30 pm

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:

Huntington: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

Richmond: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm, Town Center

SCHOOL BOARD:

Huntington: 2nd Tues, 6:30 pm, Brewster-Pierce School.

MMMUSD: 1st & 3rd Monday of the Month, 6:30 pm. Meetings will rotate among the MMMUSD schools. Check the website for specifics: www.cesu.k12.vt.us.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Huntington: 2nd & 4th Mon., 7 pm, Town Office.

Richmond: 1st & 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Town Center

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Huntington: 2nd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office

Richmond: 2nd & 4th Wed., 7 pm, Town Center.

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

SCOUTS

Richmond: Cub Scout Pack 646 meets 7-8 pm, last Wednesday of the month, CHMS music room pit.

Huntington: Boy Scout Troop 645, Sun, 7 pm, Community Church of Huntington, John Christiana (johnpchristiana@gmail.com) or Tamara Kushwaha (tamara.kushwaha@gmail.com).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr
Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Richmond: 1st Tues, 7-9 pm, Town Center Mtg Room

Huntington: 1st Tues, even months, 7 pm, Town Clerk's Office.

RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE

Richmond: 3rd Tues, 7 pm, Town Center Meeting Room

@ Dealer.com (1 Howard St., Burlington). Free and open to the public. HABITS is presented by Sandra Steingard, M.D., followed by a Q & A session.

NOVEMBER 18: Exploring Energy at the Montshire Museum, 11 am to 4 pm, Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich. Take part in hands-on activities demonstrating how electricity can be generated from wind and solar, speak with local energy experts, and tour the Montshire's new wood pellet boiler system. More details: <https://www.montshire.org/programs/detail/exploring-energy>

NOVEMBER 25 & 26: 28th Annual Women's Festival of Crafts, Burlington City Hall, 149 Church Street. Over 50 craftswomen's booths: handmade jewelry, artwork, pottery, greeting cards, clothing, recycled art, housewares, aromatherapy, herbal products, and more. Saturday, 10 to 5, and Sunday, 10 to 4. Information: www.womensfestivalofcrafts.com. Free and open to the public.

NOVEMBER 27: Cider Monday, all day, Phoenix Books Burlington, Essex, Rutland. Enjoy a free cup of delicious, hot apple cider! Cider Monday is a new tradition being started by lots of small businesses in New England. Free. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz

NOVEMBER 30: Farm-Scale Decision Making Workshop, VYCC Monitor Barn, Richmond, 10 am to 3 pm. Evaluate a major change to your business model such as scaling up or dropping an agricultural enterprise. Join NOFA-VT for an interactive workshop for the tools necessary to make informed farm scale decisions based on both financial viability

CSWD Richmond Drop-Off Center

Open all year Tuesday, 8-3:30; Thursday, 9:30-5; Saturday, 8-3:30. Located on Route 117 (80 Roger's Lane). 872-8111.

RICHMOND LAND TRUST First Thursday. Monitor Barn Annex. All are welcome. Dan Martin, (4231).

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE Huntington: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Town Hall.

LIBRARY

Richmond: Trustees, 1st Thursday in January, March, April, June, September & November, 6 pm. 434-3036.

Huntington: Library Board, 4th Tues, 6:30 pm, Union Meeting House, 434-4583

HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE 3rd Tues, 5:30 pm, Town Office (downstairs)

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Beacon Light Grange: For information, call Master Darceline Lewis-Wedge at 482-2532.

Hale and Hearty Seniors Club: 2nd Wed. Holy Rosary Parish Hall, 6 pm., Sept.-May.

HHCT (Huntington Historic and Community Trust): 1st Thurs, Huntington Public Library, 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Howl Women's Land Monthly Business Meeting: 2nd Sunday of each month, 10 am. All women welcome 434-3953.

Prostate Cancer Support Group: Meeting Location: Hope Lodge, 237 East Ave, Burlington, second Tues each month, 6 pm to 8 pm. General discussion and sharing among survivors and those beginning or rejoining the battle. Mary L. Guyette RN, MS, ACNS-BC. 802-274-4990.

Richmond Community Band (RCB) Richmond Community Band rehearsals 7 pm to 9 pm. Mondays at Camels Hump Middle School. All band instruments are sought. Info: 434 2972.

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am, newborn through preschool (with older siblings welcome) Residents

and quality of life goals. Topics will include cost-benefit analysis, cash flow analysis, and holistic decision-making. \$40 NOFA-VT members, \$45 non-members. Lunch included. Register: <https://sevendays.boldtypicket.com>

NOVEMBER 30: Author Appearance: Bill McKibben, book talk on RADIO FREE VERMONT, 7 pm, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank Street, Burlington. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Vermont Foodbank. \$3 ticket comes with a coupon for \$5 off a copy of the featured book. Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

DECEMBER 4-8: Intro to Solar PV Trainings, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center. 40-hour training where participants will learn about the fundamentals of solar photovoltaic systems and installation. Training will cover the NABCEP Associate Certification learning objectives. Upon completion, participants will be eligible to sit for the NABCEP Associate Certification Exam. Vermont Technical College is an approved NABCEP testing facility. Training is free of cost. Information: [molly.willard@vtc.edu](mailto:willard@vtc.edu) or (802) 535-5315.

DECEMBER 17: Gifts Galore: Locally Made Holiday Treasures, 10 am to 3 pm, Richmond Free Library. A gift show with 10 local vendors selling holiday treasures in a small and friendly setting. Festive atmosphere. Great timing for the holidays. Information: alysenchaseart@gmail.com

Worship

Community Church of Huntington: (See article, above, for specific activities.) Sunday morning Worship 9 am. Communion: 1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155). Small Groups: Monday at 7 pm and Wednesday at 10 am at host homes in Huntington (Larry Detweiler).

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: 20 Church Street., 434-2053. Sunday Worship with Sunday School, 9 am (July & Aug).

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church: Religious Education Classes: Sat. 9-10:15 am, CHMS, Richmond. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat. 3:15 pm. Masses: Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 8:30 am.

Community Alliance Church: 190 Pond Road (overlooking CVU), Hinesburg. Sunday, 9 am, Sunday school for all ages, with adults and teen electives; Scott Mansfield, 482-2132, www.hinesburgma.org

Jericho United Methodist Church: Rte. 15 in Jericho Corners. Sunday Worship and Church School 9 am winter and summer; Bible/Prayer Study Tues 7:30 pm. Rev. Kirk Thompson, 899-4288.

Jericho Congregational Church: on the green in Jericho Center. Pastor David Coons. Youth Pastor Glenn Carter. Sunday services: 8 am & 11 am. Nursery care provided; Sunday school for all ages, 9:30 am. Fellowship, 10:30 am. Sunday Youth Group: 6:15 pm. 899-4911; www.jcvt.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 VT Rte 15 (near Browns Trace Rd) Jericho, 899-3932. Rev. Arnold Thomas, pastor. Worship Service: 9 am (nursery care provided), Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.goodshepherdjericho.org

Mount Mansfield Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship: 195 Vermont Route 15, Jericho, (the red barn across from Packard Road) 9:30 am services second and fourth Sunday (September to June). All are welcome.

Episcopal Gathering in the Jerusalem Schoolhouse (behind the Jerusalem Country Store, South Starksboro, Rte 17). Holy Communion Service 9:30 am first and third Sundays. Rev. Molly Bidwell, 453-5537.

Calvary Episcopal Church 370 Vermont Route 15, Underhill Flats. Worship service 9:30 am. Sunday morning Eucharist with supply priests or Morning Prayer at Calvary, followed by a coffee hour. Handicapped accessible. information: www.calvarychurchvt.weebly.com or 899-2326.

Vermont Farm Kids Film

As part of this year's Agricultural Literacy Week, Carpenter Carse Library in Hinesburg is offering a screening of NOFA-VT's new film, VERMONT FARM KIDS, produced by Maria Reade and filmed by James Chandler. This short documentary depicts the unique and poignant stories of farm kids (ages 10-28) from across the state of Vermont. The film expresses the importance of what it means to each child to grow up on his or her own farm, and how their experiences have shaped their lives.

The film is free and open to the public and the showing will be Friday, November 17, at 5 pm.

The film will also be shown less locally:

November 16: Charlotte Library, 115 Ferry Road, 7 pm.

November 16: Joslin Public Library, 4391 Main Street, Waitsfield, 6:30 pm.

November 16: Westford Public Library, 1717 Vermont Route 128, 7 pm.

November 18: Bixby Memorial Free Library, 258 Main Street, Vergennes, 12:30 pm.

This project has been made possible by sponsors from Farm Credit East: the Johnson Family Foundation, and Forrest and Frances Lattner Foundation.



The CSC Memoir Class started a year ago and has just resumed after a summer and fall break. I teach the class and currently have eight students. Anyone is welcome to join.

They come with their pens and notebooks ready to write, ready to dig deep into their past for stories to tell. They have different goals and plans. One member of the group is writing vignettes about her childhood. Last Christmas she made two of these short pieces into handmade books for her daughters. Others in the group also want to create stories for their children or grandchildren to treasure.

Mary Peet says, "Being part of this class has given me the motivation and encouragement I needed to get started on a life-long dream of writing stories from my childhood memories. I'm on my fifth chapter of my memoir entitled STEEPLEBUSH HILL, where I grew up in Jericho as one of 11 children!"

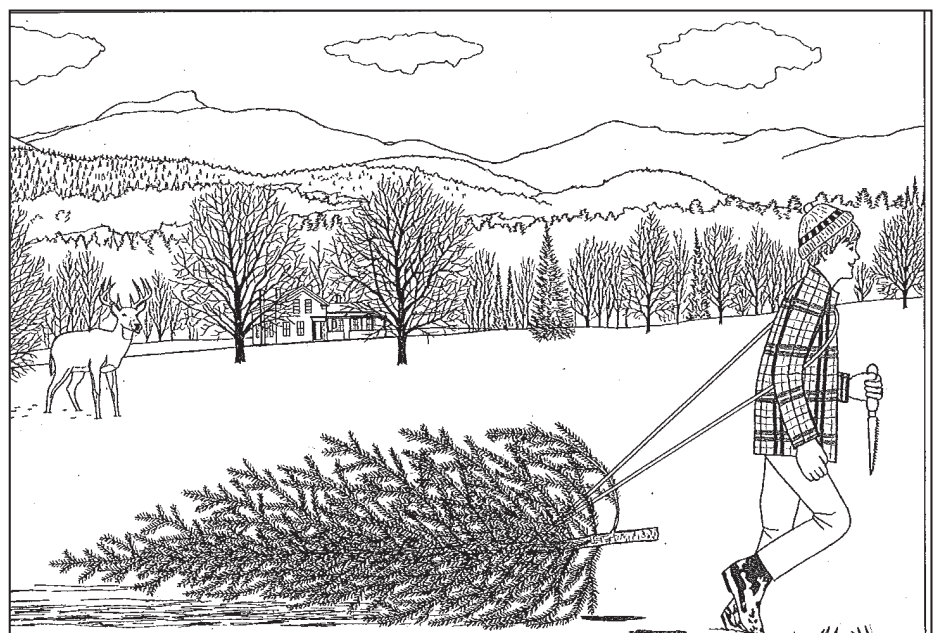
Another writer has come to the class because she finds writing about her past to be cathartic. She's writing for herself and that, too, is a good reason to write.

I love teaching this class. I taught middle school students for 24 years and one of my favorite things to teach was the memoir. Last year, I decided to continue my love of teaching and writing by offering this memoir class.

I begin each class with a mini lesson designed to develop a skill such as adding dialogue to your memoir. I often follow this with a 10 or 15 minute prompt to practice the skill taught. Then there is a long stretch of personal writing time. I love the silence as we all write, the concentration around the table. We end with time for those who want to share.

Mary Peet sums it all up when she says, "We learn so much from each other - making connections to our own history and values."

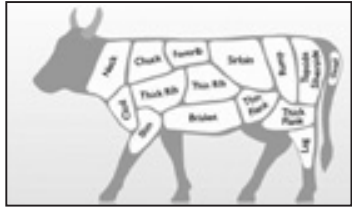
—Jane Vossler



2017 DECEMBER							DEER
TURQUOISE							NARCISSUS WHITE-TAILED
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUE	DAY	WED	THUR	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
I LIKE TO CUT DOWN OUR OWN CHRISTMAS TREE	The colors of December are Red and Green The colors of Winter are Blue and White	3	4	5 MARTIN VAN BUREN 1782	6	7 PEARL HARBOR 1941	8
10 FULL MOON	11 HUMAN RIGHTS DAY/ LAST QUAR.	12	13 FIRST DAY OF HANUKKAH	14 SOUTH POLE DISCOVERED 1911	15	16	2 MONROE DOCTRINE ANNOUNCED 1823
17 WRIGHT BROTHERS AEROPLANE FLIGHT 1903	18 NEW MOON	19	20 LAST DAY OF HANUKKAH	21 FIRST DAY OF WINTER	22	23	
24	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 KWANZAA	27	28 WOODROW WILSON 1856	29	30	
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE							

Service Directory

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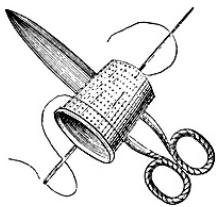


Catering

Cleaning



Sewing



Dental

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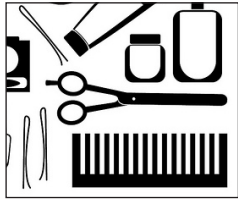
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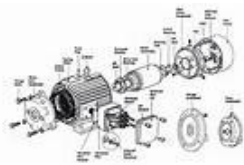
Sewing

SEWING Aprons for family, bibs, baby clothes, kids blankets, tablecloths, runners, napkins, placemats, dog and cat neck cloths, mending and hemming. Raelene Emerson, 434-6159 [12/17]

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Business Beat

by Gina Haddock

Richmond Victorian Inn: Dream Becomes Reality

For Rob and Kathy Landry taking a leisurely drive turned out to be a life changing experience. “Kathy and I were enjoying a drive through Richmond when we passed the “for sale” sign for the Richmond Victorian Inn,” Rob told the Beat.

lage and walk to area restaurants. Our neighbors and the community have been wonderful.”

Rob and Kathy are both native Vermonters. They met as students at Johnson State College and lived most of their married lives in Fairfax.



Kathy and Rob Landry, new innkeepers of the Richmond Victorian Inn. Photos: Bill Haddock

After several conversations, visits to the inn, creating a business plan, and figuring out all the details involved in the purchase, the Landrys took over ownership in August. The inn’s previous owners, Frank and Joyce Stewart, who owned the inn since 2002, have since moved to the DC area.

When their son, Benjamin, graduated from UVM, they decided to move into Burlington and found a wonderful home that they renovated into their dream home.

Purchasing an inn is obviously a big commitment and there were a number of factors that made up this life changing decision. In addition to the right price range, the Stewarts were also willing to sell the inventory from the inn, making the purchase more of a turn-key operation. Plus Rob’s brother Norm, who lives nearby in Hinesburg, is described by Rob as the ultimate handyman. Rob joked, “for Bob Newhart fans, who remember the series based on a Vermont inn, my brother Norm is our very own “George Utley. And it sure does help to have a handyman in the family when you own an inn.” Kathy added, “It’s also great to be back in the country again and we love being able to stroll into the vil-



Then they decided to take that ride through Richmond and their dream is now a new vision filled with people from all around the world coming into their lives every day. In the few months that they have been open, the Landrys have hosted guests from England, Switzerland, Holland, California, Texas and Florida. It’s clear from their smiles and enthusiasm, that the Landrys are natural innkeepers and are enjoying their new lifestyle. “People are so interesting. One of our favorite experiences so far was our 85 and 87 year old “bride” and “groom” from England doing an anniversary tour down the east coast,” Rob told the Beat. The Landrys have made it a point to stay in Bed and Breakfasts when they have travelled so they have developed a good sense of what it takes to be good innkeepers.



Stepping into the Richmond Victorian Inn is like transporting yourself into a romantic bygone era. Charming teapots and teacups grace the cabinets, lanterns provide a warm glow and the floral décor of the furniture makes you feel like you are relaxing in an English Manor. There are five guestrooms and each room is equipped with a private bath and shower. A gourmet country breakfast is included in the rates with Harrington’s (their across the street neighbor) bacon and sausage, Vermont maple syrup and Green Mountain Roaster coffee on the menu. For an extra fee and advance notice, guests can have local family and friends join them for breakfast. “We’re committed to using as much local food as possible in our cooking,” Kathy said.

Since Kathy is still working full time, Rob who was able to cut his work schedule at Champlain Oil, makes those wonderful Vermont breakfasts. Both Rob and Kathy were raised in big families so taking on all the chores of cooking for a group and the upkeep of the inn, seem par for the course.

Along with all the usual tasks of innkeeping, Rob and Kathy are also working on other plans for the inn. The Landrys would like to develop a market for small weddings so that couples can have their ceremony and reception at the inn. Rob is ordained as a minister so he can officiate. A lovely gazebo has been installed in front of the inn which should be covered by roses come spring, providing a magical spot to take vows. The inn can also be booked for small group gatherings for groups of 15 to 20 people. In addition, Rob and Kathy are working on plans to offer high teas and they hope to host some hot chocolate and cookie open house events. Another idea they are exploring is the popular Murder Mystery weekend events at the inn.

The Landrys have already gotten into the fun of downtown Richmond on Halloween night with their Charlie Brown pumpkin display and movies running continuously on the inn’s lawn during trick or treat hours. Kathy says she is now looking forward to decorating the inn for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

The Richmond Victorian Inn provides Richmond, Bolton and Huntington residents a great option to give guests their privacy and create a special Vermont experience for anyone who will be welcoming family and friends to the area.

You can follow the latest on the Richmond Victoria Inn on facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/RichmondVictorianInn>.

The Richmond Victoria Inn is located at 191 East Main Street in Richmond. The inn phone is 434-4410. Website: www.richmondvictorianinn.com.

We welcome Kathy and Rob Landry to the Richmond community.

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Why a Free Press Matters

In January, 1787, Thomas Jefferson wrote in a letter to Colonel Edward Carrington, "...were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

In 1791, Congress created the BILL OF RIGHTS in which they determined that the First Amendment would establish freedom of the press.

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

—First Amendment [1791]

It has been my great privilege to write for this paper, THE TIMES INK! OF RICHMOND AND HUNTINGTON, since February, 1985. The founder and first editor Betsy Bott had a vision that these relatively small communities could support and benefit from their own paper. She believed that the need for information and communication was strong enough to support the tiny paper. She was right.

Although we have been plagued by financial struggles, enough people believe in the value of this paper to provide advertising support and occasional donations. As the digital revolution rips through essentially all our institutions, replacing stores and causing the closure of major newspapers across the country, THE TIMES INK!

carries on. Countless numbers of daily papers have gone bankrupt. No matter. Heidi and a small staff of dedicated reporters and some regular contributors put out a professional paper 11 times a year.

I wonder if we appreciate just how much this matters. At times people are rude and insulting on Front Porch Forum, but with rare exception THE TIMES INK! "Letters" are thoughtful and informative. Sometimes people write about community service, sometimes they make pleas for volunteers for a local project, and sometimes a letter informs us of a need to pay attention to an issue confronting the towns. In any case, the letters enable us to speak to each other respectfully.

For those of us who work outside the towns, the paper provides us with an important connection. We live, shop, and eat locally and I, for one, speaking for myself, I place great value on knowing the people I buy from and the local farmers who grow my food. I feel a loyalty to my town, and as a longtime resident I feel I have a relationship with something that is real and lasting.

If democracy is to endure in any kind of healthy condition, the Fourth Estate is vital to its survival. And so are the sense of community and belonging that the paper provides.

Author Elizabeth Kolbert has written, "People who worry about the fate of democracy will write (and read) books. Those who are determining it prefer to tweet."

(Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W., is a licensed psychotherapist. She can be reached at 434-3941.)

Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Going Vegetarian, Part 2

After finishing off all the meat in the house and every possible meat dish at favorite restaurants (and some I just happened to go to for the first time), I actually began to eat what others might consider a vegetarian diet. I prefer calling it vegetable-centered, but whatever. I've lost the weight initially gained going veg and another 10 lbs. There has been no loss of energy or other discernable negatives — no craving for meat, no blurred vision, no lack of strength or stamina. I haven't gone bald or caught a cold.

It helps that my lovely wife, Kelly, gave up meat many years ago and is well-versed in finding delicious, healthy alternatives. So, I'm eating well and enjoying what I eat. Things taste better in that I am more open to new flavors and different types of vegetables, grains, and legumes. Let's face it, almost everything I eat is new because I used to eat only a few vegetables, white bread and no beans or legumes, except in chili.

Don't get me wrong, I didn't just wake up and want to eat all this new stuff. It was more like, no meat on the plate, huh? Well then, who cares what you put in front of me. I'm hungry and have to eat something. Quick chews, big swallows, and done.

Then, as I learned to eat more slowly, flavors started to emerge. Kelly gradually introduces more spice and variety. Things like Swiss chard even became palatable. My appetite became more complex until now, several months into this, I'm a much more adventurous eater.

Does that mean I've stopped missing meat? No, I have my moments of crisis. We recently went to a Caribbean restaurant that features a beautiful, spicy vegetable medley and Cuban sandwiches. Cubans are (oops, were) my favorite sandwich, ham and roasted pork with cheese and spice... sorry, I digress. So, I dutifully ordered the veggie medley, but when the smell of a Cuban from two tables over wafted into range, I nearly lost it. Happily, the medley really was delicious.

I never wanted to stop eating meat and I still want to eat meat. For me, it was a matter of healthier choices and I am feeling healthier. No heavy tummy after dinner, no lethargy after a meal. I'm down two pants sizes and get less tired when exercising. Giving up meat will be a journey, not a destination. Maybe not eating meat will become normal, but I doubt it. There were always be an empty place that only good barbeque or a Cuban sandwich could fill. Fortunately, there are many new foods I will enjoy in the time to come that I might never have tried if my plate stayed full of meat.

If making healthy diet choices were easy, I wouldn't have had to make the choice. I'd have been making healthy choices all along.

Aging in Place, it doesn't happen by accident and you don't always get to do what you want. But you may get what you need and it may be pretty good after all.

(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk is Vermont's leading Aging in Place advocate, writing and speaking around the state on issues of concern to retirees and their families. You can access previous AGING IN PLACE columns and blogs at scottfunk.org.)



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