

The Times Ink!

OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

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Mid-December 2014 Issue

Number 11

Great Joy to You & Happy New Year!

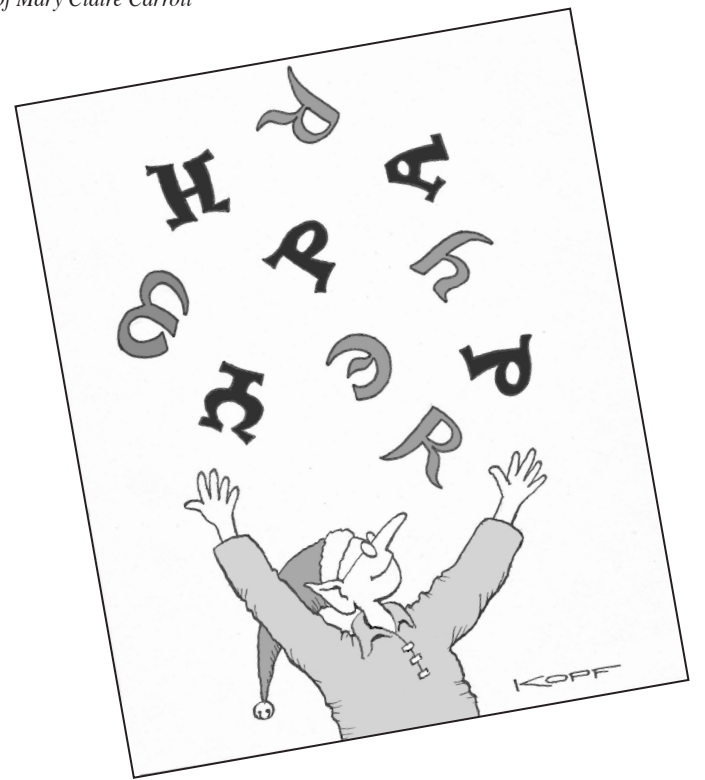


A quiet moment at Richmond's Round Church. Photo, courtesy of Mary Claire Carroll

Future Brightening for Gillett Pond



Above, skaters enjoy a sunny winter day on the pond. Gillett Pond, a popular recreation and natural resource area on the borders of Richmond and Huntington could continue serving its many functions thanks to an agreement signed on December 1 between the Richmond Land Trust, on behalf of the Friends of Gillett Pond and the pond's owner. Courtesy photo. Read more about this on page 12.



New Year's Eve Benefit Concert

The Richmond Historical Society is pleased to announce that Mike Comeau and the Richmond Market and Beverage store will once again be sponsoring a New Year's Eve concert in Richmond. This year's concert, to be presented at the Richmond Congregational Church at 7:30 pm, will feature the following four acts: Han-

nah Beth Crary, Hillary Stewart, the Fiddleheads and the Highland Weavers. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person for this great lineup. The proceeds from the concert will be donated to the Gillett Pond Save the Dam fund. For more information, contact Tim Whiteford at 434-4565 or whiteford@gmavt.net.

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Write to Us!

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

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Letters

Camels Hump Middle School Open House January 14 and 21

The October Pumpkin Chuckin' brought over 100 participant "chuckers" to Camels Hump Middle School for a day of fun hurling a variety of squashes via hand-made contraptions. Teams of CHMS students and local Boy Scouts brought great energy to the first of many such events. We hope to expand participant groups to parents and the local engineering community. The winning "chuck" was 140' in length by a team of scouts. This year's event raised awareness and support for the continuation of the PROSPER Program--a seven-week program for sixth grade students and their families to assist both through the challenges of adolescence.

Camels Hump Middle School will host hundreds of middle-schoolers and their families over two nights in celebration of winter and the youth's progress since September. The gatherings are planned for January 14th and 21st. Attendees will be treated to choral and band concerts as well as ice skating under the lights. Art work from all grades will line the halls of the school. Student projects will be in abundance throughout classrooms and in display cases. Open house gives students an excellent opportunity to share their accomplishments with family and friends. We welcome any and all community members to our open house.

We are excited that 70% of the funds needed to acquire Willis Hill have been raised—in part by the town's Conservation Reserve Fund and the Richmond Land Trust—thank you to all who have worked so hard on this effort! The Land Trust plans to open the 20-acre parcel on Route 2 to public and adjacent schools for recreational, educational, athletic and other uses.

The next CHMS/MMU school board meeting will be held on January 8, 7 pm, at MMUHS. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

—*Mark Carbone*, Principal, Camels Hump Middle School

Thanks for Your Support

Children are the most important and precious resource we have as a community. They need food and love and nurturing from parents, siblings, extended family, neighbors and community in order to thrive.

We live in a rich and wonderful community full of caring people. But we also live in a community where 25 - 30% of our children live in homes that are so economically stressed that food insecurity may be an issue. Even if food is not the most urgent need, often there is not enough left over after providing the basics of living to provide for enriching activities like vacations, trips to museums or summer camps. Children from these families may do less well in school because they lack adequate nutrition and stimulation to develop and keep up with their peers. They may have fewer opportunities to be successful.

Our Community Cares Camp was incorporated as a non-profit corporation in 2009, when it inherited the mission of feeding children from Bolton, Huntington and Richmond in the summer and providing a free summer camp with enriching activities. That first year we served 1900 meals and had 33 children a day at camp with 11 employees. In 2014, our sixth year, we served 5500 meals to more than 240 children at camp, at summer school and at the Richmond and Huntington libraries. We had 32 employees and nine interns and around 80 kids a day at camp from grades k-9.

Many of our employees are teens from Richmond, Huntington and Jericho, guided by talented adults. They are what makes OCCC a magical place each summer. At OCCC, we feed the whole child - their bodies and their spirits. It's a place where kids learn to make good choices in food and in behavior. A place where children feel loved and nurtured.

Richmond Foot Clinics

The Hale and Hearty Senior Club of Richmond continues with its schedule for its 2014-2015 Foot Clinics:

January 6	February 17	March 31
May 12	June 23	

Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building, beginning at 9 am. Participants may arrive between 8:45 am and 10 am. Bring a towel and enter through the back door of the building. The clinic is sponsored by Fletcher Allen Health Care. More information at singersallydan@yahoo.com or call 434-3480 (Singer) or 434-3572 (Coggio).

We know we are doing good when we hear the camper's stories. One girl said "I used to dread summer – now I love summer because I have something to do, a place to go and good friends and activities." Another boy talks about how he was able to meet someone who was to become his best friend, years before they went to Camels Hump together. Some children can't imagine their summers without OCCC. The message we send to kids is – we are here for you, this is your camp, we like you. And they hear this message loud and clear. One day a child looked into our Program Director's eyes and said very seriously "Who will take over when you retire? Because this camp always needs to be here."



We offer children the chance to explore, to be creative, and to learn to play the ukulele, or to cook a meal, or to try something new like painting or clay. Our campers are developing skills and confidence and faith in their own abilities

Supporting the camp is an investment in our community – in our children. We are making our towns a better place for everyone to live. Our Community does care.

We cannot survive without the talents and contributions of many people throughout the community. Donate online at www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org or P.O. Box 503 Richmond 05477

Contact us at occc@gmavt.net

net or 434-6006 for more information.

We hope you will support Our Community Cares Camp. And we hope you share the belief that OCCC improves the lives of our children and enriches our community. Thank you.

—*Marie Thomas*, Executive Director

Thanks for Your Vote

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who supported me in the election on November 4. It is always a long shot when running as an Independent against an incumbent of a major party, even one who has co-sponsored legislation that violates the Constitution. But considering that we were running on a tight budget, with only three part-time helpers, we did reasonably well. Nine hundred and seven of you gave me your vote, and for that I thank you.

It will be interesting to see what our representatives do in the next two years. I based my campaign around several issues that our legislature has ignored for decades, and which I feel are causing citizens of Vermont much grief. Three of these are:

1. Property taxes: I first became aware of the trouble these were causing while teaching the Environmental Studies course at Burlington High School. They are not based on people's ability to pay. In the 1970s and '80s they were driving family owned farms out of business, and today they are driving older folks out of their homes. Some legislators who are out of touch with reality have been quoted as saying they were "fair" and one person even told me that they were not only fair but "weighted in favor of poor people." I fear there is little chance of changing this antiquated system of funding local services.

2. Legalizing and taxing Marijuana: The analogy between the present drug policy and Prohibition, some 80 years ago, is striking. Alcohol, as well as drugs, causes problems. But when governments start banning things that people want or need, they accomplish three things. 1. They lose control of the banned items. 2. They turn the supply over to criminals who become very wealthy, and 3. They turn many otherwise law abiding citizens into criminals. Instead of enriching criminals, I say legalize the stuff, control it and use the tax revenue for public purposes.

3. Constitutional concerns: A lot of big out-of-state money is being spent this year to get Vermont Legislators to violate the Constitution of Vermont. Constitutions can be amended. In Vermont, that action has to start in the Vermont Senate. But Constitutions are adopted to "secure domestic tranquility." If you watch the news, you will see that in states where Constitutions have been violated, they often have little tranquility. In Vermont we do. Constitutions are hard to change, deliberately, so that we don't change them for transitory emotional reasons, or even for trumped up reasons. We should watch our representatives and hold them to account if they violate the Constitution.

Again, I would like to thank those of you who supported me, and to all of you, whether you supported me or not, I wish a good Deer Season, a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

—*Jerry Mullen*, Bolton

Animal Power: Working Animals in Agriculture



Richmond Underwear Company parade float, a photo on display at the gallery at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts.

Burlington's Flynn Center's Executive Director John Killacky has been an animal admirer for years. Recently he has put an artistic spin on this passion by putting together *ANIMAL POWER*, an exhibition on Vermont's animal-powered transportation and agriculture.

Killacky contacted curators and archivists around the state who thoughtfully culled from their collections, selecting artwork pertinent to the contributions of draft animals to agricultural and transportation efforts. *Animal Power* includes historical and contemporary photographs, prints, paintings, drawings, and ephemera drawn from Bryan Memorial Gallery, City of Burlington, Dog Mountain,

Fleming Museum, Frog Hollow, Grass Roots Arts and Community (GRACE) Gallery, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Merchants Bank, Rocky Dale Gardens, Shelburne Farms, Shelburne Museum and Richmond's Historical Society.

Residents of the area might recognize two of the photos from Richmond's historical displays and the town history book, a 30-plus year project of town hisyorian Harriet Riggs. Karen Yaggy of the Richmond Historical Society helped the Flynn to present two of Richmond's treasured images in this exhibit, *DOG SITTING ON HAY RAKE* and *RICHMOND UNDERWEAR COMPANY PARADE FLOAT*. At the opening reception, one of the guests, Elliot Douglas, told the Flynn that his grandfather Lester Elliot Douglas had been a supervisor at the Richmond Underwear Company.

The exhibit runs through February 28, 2015 at the Amy E. Tarrant Gallery at the Flynn Center. The Gallery is open for viewing from 11 am to 4 pm on Saturdays and prior to most MainStage shows and during intermission.



Dog Sitting on Hay Rake, a photo on display at the gallery at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts.

Audubon 115th Annual Bird Count

The National Audubon Society invites bird-watchers to participate in the longest-running citizen science survey in the world, the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Between December 14 and January 5, birders and nature enthusiasts throughout Vermont and far beyond will take part in this tradition, many rising before dawn to participate.

This fall, Audubon scientists released a groundbreaking study based in part on 30 years of Audubon Christmas Bird Count data. The study revealed that 314 of 588 bird species studied could lose more than 50 percent of their current ranges by 2080 if climate change continues on its current trajectory, and many could face extinction. Audubon scientists have also shown that more than 60 percent of widespread North American winter birds are already spending the winter farther north than they did in the 1960s. Traditional counting of birds together with high-tech modeling and mapping data enabled researchers to make surprising discoveries that would not have been possible in earlier decades. Audubon Christmas Bird Count data is helping pinpoint priority areas for conservation; the "strongholds" where birds now live that are forecast to remain stable for multiple species in the future.

Each year, the Audubon Christmas Bird Count mobilizes over 70,000 volunteer bird counters in more than 2,400 locations across the Western Hemisphere, from above the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego. The Audubon Christmas Bird Count utilizes the power of volunteers to track the health of bird populations at a scale that professional scientists could never accomplish alone. Data compiled in each Audubon Christmas Bird Count circle will record every individual bird and bird species seen in a specified area, contributing to a vast citizen science network that continues a tradition stretching back more than 100 years.

Birders of all ages are welcome to contribute to this fun winter tradition and nationwide citizen science project, which provides ornithologists with a crucial snapshot of our native bird populations during the winter months. Each individual count is performed in a count circle with a diameter of 15 miles. At least ten volunteers, including a compiler to coordinate the process, count in each circle. The volunteers break up into small parties and follow assigned routes, which change little from year to year, counting every bird they see. In most count circles, some people also watch feeders instead of following routes.

To sign up for a count, visit: <http://vt.audubon.org/audubon-christmas-bird-count-0>

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count began in 1900 when Dr. Frank Chapman, founder of *Bird-Lore* – which evolved into Audubon magazine – suggested an alternative to the holiday "side hunt," in which teams competed



to see who could shoot the most birds. While the ultimate goal of participating in a count is tallying a representative sample of the birds on a count day, the natural competitive spirit of birders is what drives them to do the most thorough job possible. The CBC has become a treasured holiday tradition, a reunion with birding friends and a way for anyone to play a small part in a big conservation picture. The growing combined pool of contributed sightings helps researchers understand birds in a way that Chapman could never have conceived back in 1900.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is a citizen science project organized by the National Audubon Society. There is no fee to participate and the quarterly report, *American Birds*, will be available online. Audubon Christmas Bird Count information is also available online in Spanish. For more information and to find a count near you visit <http://vt.audubon.org/audubon-christmas-bird-count-0>

Master Gardener Course Sign-Up

Experienced as well as novice gardeners are invited to sign up for the 2015 University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Gardener course. The deadline to register is January 23.

The home horticulture course will be offered from February 3 through April 28 on consecutive Tuesday evenings, 6:15 pm to 9 pm. Classes will be held at Vermont Interactive Technology sites. Participants will learn from UVM faculty and industry experts about a broad range of horticultural topics. The fee is \$395, which includes the online textbook. A printed copy of all course materials may be purchased for an additional \$55. Registrations will be accepted by credit card online at www.uvm.edu/mastergardener or by phone through the UVM Extension Master Gardener Program office at 656-9562.

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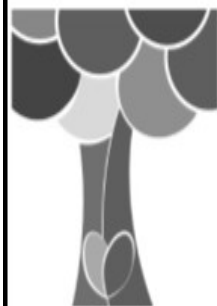
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Free Babysitter's Training Here is a chance for any youth ages 11 to 15 to become a Red Cross certified babysitter. American Red Cross Babysitter Training is fun and fast-paced with hands-on activities, exciting videos, role-plays and lively discussions. Participants will learn to be the best babysitter on the block. Plus, they'll gain the confidence to make smart decisions and stay safe in any babysitting situation. Participants will be given take-home materials and a first aid kit. Lunch is provided. The course is free but registration is a must. Space is limited. Saturday, January 24, from 9 am to 3 pm. Register by contacting Wendy de Forest at the Library.

Watch Your Numbers The Vermont Department of Health is working with a network of 15 libraries statewide to make blood pressure monitors available to borrow for up to a month, beginning in January 2015. Library staff will also offer borrowers the ability to record and track readings. Making the monitors available is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Million Hearts® initiative to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

Remember the Library has WiFi connections, computer workstations, Fax (\$1/page to send, .20 to receive), Copy or print, .20/page.

Author Book Talk and Discussion Join local author, Davorka Gosto and Joanne Ranney for a discussion about Gosto's memoir, A Mother's Journey through War which recounts her very personal wartime experiences in Bosnia. Join us on Monday, January 12, at 7 pm.

Other Discussions (copies available at the front desk)

• January 13, Tuesday, 6 pm The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion

• January 15, Thursday, 7 pm. The Fine Art of Murder by David Morrill.

December Walls and Case Everyone is a winner in our holiday coloring contest. Come see the colorful entries displayed on the walls and in the foyer display case.

January Display Case During the month of January our foyer display case will hold Mary Peet's pez candy dispenser collection. Come take a peek, and rekindle your fond childhood memories of candy at the ready from your own little candy machine. Yummy!

February's Wall Exhibit February's wall exhibit will feature husband and wife artists Gary and Tess Starecheski. Gary's local nature photography shines a spotlight on the beauty all around us. Tess has been studying watercolor with Jericho artist Kathleen Berry Bergeron for the last several years, and finds particular delight in playing with vivid color. Some pieces will be available for purchase.

New Mezzanine Space Construction is underway! Hopefully, the project will be completed by the end of December and a great new meeting/study space will be available.

Open Mike Wow! We had a super turn-out in November. Over 60 folks came to perform or just enjoy the show. Next date is scheduled for Saturday, December 27, at 7 pm.

Opportunity for Local Artists We are currently looking for local artists who would like to share their work with the community by displaying it on our walls for a month in 2015. If you have several framed pieces and you are interested in this opportunity to have them seen, inquire at the Library. Artists and

photographers of all ages and experience are invited to inquire.

Early Bird Math is an interactive math literacy storytime for young children and their caregivers. Through books, songs and games children are exposed to many early math skills and will enjoy a chance to play with their peers. Join Wendy on Fridays at 11 am.

Digital Downloads The Library gives patrons access to thousands of audiobooks and eBooks. Check out the webpage for ListenUpVermont and OneClick links. Got questions, ask staff.

New Children's Books Picture book biographies aren't nearly as popular as books about (or starring) trucks, tractors, dogs, or dinosaurs, but learning about real people can be exciting for some young children. A few picture book biographies have achieved relative fame in the children's book world. MARTIN'S BIG WORDS: THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. by Doreen Rappaport and illustrated by Bryan Collier was a Caldecott Award honor book, a Coretta Scott King Award honor book, and one of THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW'S BEST ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S BOOKS for 2001. The beautifully produced SNOWFLAKE BENTLEY, written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and illustrated by Mary Azarian is well known around here, of course. (We have a copy signed by Mary Azarian). As you would expect, there are fine books on historically famous figures such as Abraham Lincoln (ABRAHAM LINCOLN by Amy L. Cohn and Suzy Schmidt with illustrations by David A. Johnson), Eleanor Roosevelt (ELEANOR by Barbara Cooney), Benjamin Franklin (THE AMAZING LIFE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN by James Cross Giblin and illustrated by Michael Dooling), and Thomas Jefferson (the inimitable Maira Kalman's recent THOMAS JEFFERSON: LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF EVERYTHING).

However, we also have many fascinating and inspiring picture book biographies that feature lesser known people: THE FANTASTIC UNDERSEA LIFE OF JACQUES COUSTEAU by Dan Yaccarino, UNCOMMON TRAVELER: MARY KINGSLEY IN AFRICA by Don Brown, SATCHEL PAIGE by Lesa Cline-Ransome with paintings by James E. Ransome, AMERICA'S CHAMPION SWIMMER: GERTRUDE EDERLE by David A. Adler and illustrated by Terry Widener, WOODY GUTHRIE: POET OF THE PEOPLE by Bonnie Christensen, THE DALAI LAMA: A BIOGRAPHY OF THE TIBETAN SPIRITUAL AND POLITICAL LEADER by Demi, ROSA (Rosa Parks) by Nikki Giovanni and illustrated by Bryan Collier, MONSIEUR MARCEAU by Leda Schubert with illustrations by Gerad Dubois, GRANDMA MOSES by Alexandra Wallner, WILL ROGERS by Frank Keating and illustrated by Mike Wimmer, ME...JANE (Jane Goodall) by Patrick McDonnell, THE PILOT AND THE LITTLE PRINCE: THE LIFE OF ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY by Peter Sis, and lots more.

Our picture book biography section is at the end of the non-fiction picture book section. If any of these books spark an interest in biography, ones with more information can be found in the j biography section across the hall.

Storytimes Toddlertime (for ages 18 months to 3 years) is on Wednesdays at 10:30. Storytime (ages 3-5) is on Mondays at 10:30. Pajametime (ages 2-6) with Douglas is on Mondays at 6:30. We're very flexible about ages, siblings, and so on, so don't feel restricted by the age suggestions. No registration is necessary.

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Planet Huntington Please join Sunday, January 18, at 7 pm as the Seidl-Goodyear Family relays their trip to Iceland and the Westfjord Region. Trip highlights include geothermal hotspots, glaciers, waterfalls, volcanos, birding sites, Viking ruins, and the metropolis of Reykjavik. Iceland is a stunning country and is well-suited for family travel.

Baby Brunch Save the date! January 25 will be our Annual Baby Brunch for the newest residents of Huntington in 2014. We will welcome new babies with a special new library book BABY BOOK DEDICATION bookplate which honors the baby's birth and a delicious brunch. Invitations will be sent to all those born in the year 2014 and should arrive in mailboxes early in January.

Magazines Thank you to Darlene Palola for donating THE NATION, THE NEW YORKER, and OPERA NEWS; Joni Bair for donating WOMEN'S HEALTH, VOGUE, BAZAAR, and ELLE; Wally Jenkins for NORTHERN WOODLANDS; and Anne Dannenberg for ORION. Our Library is grateful for gift subscriptions.

New Adult Fiction VISITORS by Orson Scott Card; DREAMER'S POOL by Juliet Marlier; REVIVAL by Stephen King; THE HANDSOME MAN'S DE LUXE CAFE by Alexander McCall Smith; SMALL VICTORIES by Anne Lamott.

Adult Non-Fiction WHEAT BELLY TOTAL HEALTH by William Davis, MD; THE WOODCHUCK RETURNS TO GARDENING by Ron Krupp; THE WILDLIFE-FRIENDLY VEGETABLE GARDENER: HOW TO GROW FOOD IN HARMONY WITH NATURE by Tammi Hartung; KNITTED COMFORT FOR THE SOLE - 22 INNOVATIVE DESIGNS FOR SOCKS, SLIPPERS AND MORE by Lena Maikon.

Audiobooks SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE - A NOVEL OF THE GREAT WAR by Jennifer Robson; THE VACATIONERS by Emma Straub; SMALL VICTORIES by Anne Lamott.

DVDs MR. PEABODY AND SHERMAN; YOGA BURN WITH RODNEY YEE; FINDING OUR VOICES: STORIES

OF AMERICAN DISSENT.

Junior Audiobooks ANGUS AND SADIE by Cynthia Voigt; THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING LION - A PRECIOUS RAMOTSWE MYSTERY FOR YOUNG READERS.

Children's Books SAM! - A LITTLE TREASURY by Marie-Louise Gay; THE GOLDEN PLATE by Bernadette Watts; FROODLE by Antoinette Portis; BOOKS ALWAYS EVERYWHERE by Jane Blatt; THREE BEARS IN A BOAT by David Soman; DIARY OF A WIMPY KID - THE LONG HAUL BOOK #9 by Jeff Kinney; THE DOGS OF WINTER by Robbie Pyron; DAWN OF THE CLANS - WARRIORS - THE BLAZING STAR by Erin Hunter; MR. PUTTER AND TABBIE TURN THE PAGE by Cynthia Rylant.

Vermont Reads HAROUN AND THE SEA OF STORIES by Salman Rushdie is the current Vermont Humanities VERMONT READS book choice. Although The Huntington Library is not participating in the VERMONT READS program at this time, but the book is available for circulation. Patrons may want to hear Rushdie speaking at UVM on January, 14, at 5 pm, at Ira Allen Chapel.

Movie Night No First Friday Movie Night in January. We will resume Movie Night February 6.

Story Time Children learn early literacy skills by listening to stories, rhyming, and singing songs. Join us for fun, stories and crafts Fridays at 10:45 am. There will be Story Time on December 26 and January 2.

Huntington Playgroup Fridays 10 am - noon. Join Jane Davis for creative crafts and play time at the Huntington Library For more information about the playgroup, contact Jane at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Substitutes Huntington Public Library is looking for occasional substitute Librarians during open hours and Sundays. Please contact the Library.

Christmas Worship Services

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

December 24

- 4 pm Christmas Mass
- 6 pm Christmas Mass, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston (IHM)
- Midnight Mass IHM

December 25

- 8:30 am Christmas Mass
- 10:30 am Christmas Mass, IHM

New Year's Eve 7 pm Mass, IHM

January 1

- 8 am Mass, IHM • 8:30 am Mass
- 7 pm Mass



Richmond Congregational United Church of Christ

Bridge Street

December 24

- 5 pm Family Worship / Children's Pageant
 - 8 pm Lessons & Carols
- Both services will include traditional carols, special music & lighting of candles

December 28

10 am Worship with hymn sing & meditation by guest preacher

January 4

10 am Celebration of Epiphany with service of Holy Communion.



"A smile is happiness
you'll find right under
your nose."

—Tom Wilson, actor/writer/comedian



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2015 Schedule

January 6 deadline January 21 issue

Town Meeting Preview

February 6 deadline February 20 issue

March 10 deadline March 25 issue

April 14 deadline April 29 issue

May 8 deadline May 22 issue

June 12 deadline June 26 issue

July 28 deadline* August 14 issue

September 4 deadline September 18 issue

October 9 deadline October 23 issue

Holiday Issues

November 3 deadline November 18 issue

December 3 deadline December 18 issue



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New Baby!

Ryder Miles Fetterman was born on August 27, 2014 at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. His parents are Rebecca and Dylan Fetterman of Richmond.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

The town has tried and tried to jump-start redevelopment of the defunct Richmond Creamery.

There's been interim zoning, a hazardous waste cleanup order and efforts to attract a buyer for the privately owned property. So far nothing has worked.

Now, might the town be ready for what one Selectboard member called the "nuclear option?"

At its December 1 meeting, the Selectboard talked about other steps the town might take to encourage development of the six-acre site, which is located on Jolina Court, next to the railroad crossing in the heart of Richmond's downtown.

Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik said he recently discussed with the town's attorney using the state's urban renewal statute to claim eminent domain over the property.

The law allows towns to condemn and pay fair market value for land deemed a "slum" or "blighted" if it is impractical to renovate through private enterprise. The town first must complete a redevelopment plan and obtain voter approval. After acquiring the property, the town would sell it to a developer willing to follow that plan.

"Obviously, it's a very powerful tool that should not be taken lightly," Urbanik said. "It's not something you do casually as any kind of quick, easy solution. It's more of a there is no other alternative solution."

Board member Bard Hill wondered if using the urban renewal law's eminent domain clause could be considered the "nuclear option." Urbanik replied, "You could say that."

The potential fallout could include tying up the town in litigation for years in a battle over the property's fair market value, Urbanik said. And there is the issue of cleaning up contaminated soil at the site and removing dilapidated buildings.

Hill said declaring eminent domain should be considered just one of a range of options. Board member Ellen Kane agreed, noting that the town still had other alternatives, such as finding a nonprofit to collaborate with the owner, making the property eligible for a government brownfield cleanup grants. She said she would further discuss the matter with the Economic Development Committee, where she serves as the Selectboard liaison.

Richmond last year declared a health emergency to force removal of ammonia stored in a rusting tank that was part of the creamery's refrigeration system. The town should be in regular contact with the property owner, Hill said, but meanwhile the site continues to pose an ongoing hazard. "I'm just conscious that as years go by buildings continue to degrade and fall in."

Craig Caswell owns the property. He is a University of Vermont graduate who now lives in the Orlando, Florida area, where he operates an office furniture business. He and partners bought the property after the creamery shut down about 15 years ago. Urbanik said Caswell recently told him that he has paid to remove any remaining combustible chemicals and boarded up the buildings.

On the Ballot The Selectboard discussed what will be on Australian ballot and which items will be decided by a floor vote on Town Meeting Day in March. The Selectboard considered three ballot questions.

The first is the Conservation Reserve Fund. Voters previously authorized setting aside proceeds from one cent of the property tax rate, equal to \$44,000, to fund projects and land purchases that provide recreational opportunities and preserve environmental resources. The

prior approval ran for five years and the ballot item would ask voters to renew the measure until 2020.

The second ballot item asks voters to continue to exempt Richmond Rescue from property taxes. The exemption also runs five years.

The third measure is yet another effort to encourage redevelopment of the Richmond Creamery site. The proposal would allow the Selectboard to negotiate a tax stabilization agreement with the property owner for a period no longer than 10 years.

Board members, guided by comments from residents at the meeting, tweaked the wording of the ballot measures for clarity. They quickly decided to settle the Richmond Rescue tax exemption with floor vote, meaning that only those who attend town meeting will get to vote. The town had previously decided to always use Australian balloting for the Conservation Reserve Fund.

On the tax stabilization Urbanik noted the measure would only allow the Selectboard to reduce or eliminate municipal property taxes. He said altering education property taxes on the property would require the town to satisfy stringent state rules.

Selectboard Chair Taylor Yeates said he considered the measure yet another tool to encourage redevelopment, giving a potential developer assurance that taxes won't rise. He said the wording should be altered to make it clear that the Selectboard has authority to reduce or eliminate property taxes on the parcel.

The Selectboard agreed to also settle the tax stabilization measure with a floor vote. Yeates said that would allow town officials to more completely explain the reasoning and law behind the proposal rather than force voters to interpret a confusing Australian ballot item.

Community Garden in Richmond? Board members discussed potential uses for a one-acre parcel the town owns on Cochran Road.

"It's a beautiful piece of land with a number of potential uses," said Chris Granda, noting that he and other Board members have toured the property.

He invited Meghan Giroux to speak about the issue. The Bristol resident plans to open a nursery in Richmond. Giroux said she is a land planner who specializes in developing agricultural ecosystems. She proposed using the land for community gardens and a public orchard. Numerous Vermont towns have community gardens, she noted, which allow residents to tend individuals plots within a larger piece of land. Richmond is one of the few Chittenden County towns with no community garden.

Giroux said there are many ways to fund such an operation's ongoing costs, such as charging modest fees to gardeners or for workshops.

"There are plenty of examples nationally to support the idea and this can work," she said. Giroux said her business would assist the operation, possibly by helping design the garden.

Hill said there are a couple of problems that would have to be surmounted: the soil may have some contamination and there is no water service to the site. And Yeates said the town has a very small parks budget.

"The raising money part shouldn't be the challenge here," Giroux said, adding that fee-for-service is a well-established template for funding community gardens.

Yeates said the town previously solicited ideas for use of the land. The other proposed uses to date are a municipal parking lot and tennis courts. Selectboard members agreed to collect other ideas and further discuss uses of the land at the annual town meeting in March.

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Development Review Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, January 13, 2015
Huntington Town Clerk's Office, Huntington Center

Pursuant to the Huntington Subdivision Regulations, the Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Final Subdivision Review on the application by Barbara Mayo to subdivide one 5.75-acre parcel from a parcel of 74.1 acres. Property is located on Ross Hill.

Materials are available for viewing at the Town Office during business hours.

Heidi Racht, Clerk
December 19, 2014



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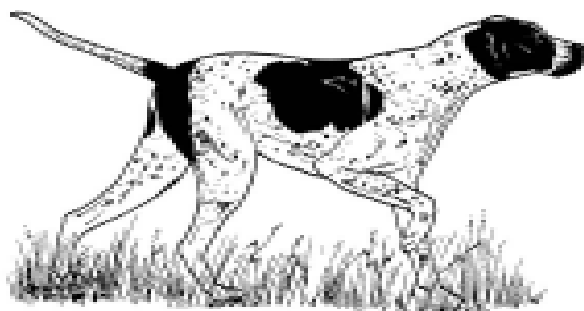
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Town of Richmond

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July 1, 2014 - September 30, 2014
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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard dove right into work on the fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016 operational budget at its November 17, 2014 meeting. The Board reviewed each department's budget requests to formulate questions. No final budget decisions were made at this meeting, nor were salaries determined.

Town Administrator Barbara Elliott shared a letter from Marie Thomas on behalf of Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC), requesting \$100. Other new appeals from organizations include \$250 from the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS) and \$250 from the Winooski Natural Resource Council.

Elliott mentioned pending changes to the Animal Control budget. Animal Control Officer Pam Alexander has agreed to reduce the communications, training and travel expenses, while increasing her hourly rate to match what the Town of Richmond pays.

Board member Nancy Stoddard stated she would like to know the rationale behind a Cemeteries budget increase. Additional questions the Board would like to ask the Cemetery Trustees include whether the income from Maplewood cemetery could support maintaining the other two inactive cemeteries.

The Board nixed the Conservation Commission's proposed increase to its purchased services line. Board Chair Jim Christiansen suggested level funding purchased services, and if additional funds are needed for Town Forest projects, the Conservation Commission could come to the Board then.

The Board recommended level funding for the Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations (CUSI).

Concerning traffic enforcement, the Board would like to have Vermont State Police Lieutenant Jim Whitcomb visit regarding the Town's expectations for service.

The Board planned to have Chief Tate Jeffrey come in on December 1 to discuss the Fire Department budget requests.

Library Trustees should also come to the Board to explain the Library budget, and work out the exact roll the Selectboard plays in its budget planning, said Christiansen.

The Board gave initial approval to the Energy Committee's request for \$1500.

The Board concurred that before delving into the Highway Department budget, Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger should come in.

The Board agreed to change the Town Employee Merit Pool to an Appreciation and Merit Pool and increase its funding. This will allow acknowledgment of Town volunteers as well as paid employees.

Human Resources (HR) Subcommittee member Nancy Stoddard addressed questions about the Town's insurance opt-out policy. "There is no definition as to how to do the opt-out, we need clarity," asserted Selectboard member Roman Livak. Elliott added, "There is nothing in the personnel policy that specifies the percentage or a dollar amount." Christiansen continued, "I think the HR committee will have to get together and decide on this." "HR should think about the whole compensation package," said Stoddard.

During Public Comment, Kathleen Clark announced she is "planning on putting my hat in the ring for Town Treasurer."

The Board moved to waive the Zoning Permit application fee for the Town's sand shed addition.

The Motion to have the Chair give permission for the Green Mountain Getaway MS Bike Ride August 1 and 2, 2015, passed.

The December 1 Selectboard meeting began by conducting a Highway Budget Review with the Road Foreman. The Board examined the Department's requests and asked Alger clarifying questions. Significant upcoming projects include Huntington Woods ditching, and adjustment of the Moody and Carse Road intersection. Elliott explained that the Huntington Woods project involves moving the road from where it has "migrated" over years of travel and grading, and repairing damage from the July 3, 2013 storm. Christiansen stated Moody and Carse Road improvements need to be completed before using this route for a detour. Alger is applying for a Better Back Roads Grant to fund Taft Road work. The Board and Alger agreed projects that could be put off for FY 2015-16 include Bert White and Moody Road ditching. The cost of replacing a culvert on Moody Road remained in the budget. Stoddard asked about salt usage and the salt budget line item. A large increase to the price of salt has resulted in salt reduction. Alger plans to place signage in areas where salt application is reduced, and plans to continue with present salt usage in key areas. Christiansen questioned Alger about the FY 2014-15 budget overage for "casual labor" costs. Alger explained that additional help had to be hired for winter preparation.

The motion to sign the Finance, Right-of-Way and Maintenance agreement presented by Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) for bridge 30 on Camel's Hump Road passed.

Library Trustees Lorrie Richland and Paula Kelley met with the Board next. Christiansen explained that the Board was trying to look at all departments in Town, encouraging each department to think of how its budget wishes affect the whole Town budget, "I want this Board as it exists now and will exist in the future to look forward instead of looking back at what has happened in the past. What are the choices we have to make?" Kelley explained various line items, including online catalog, Listen Up Vermont, dues to Vermont Library Association, activities, and payment for substitute librarians. The Union Meeting House roof may need to be replaced in about 10 years, Kelley added. Selectboard Vice Chair Dori Barton advised the Trustees talk to the Town Hall Committee about possible grants to cover the cost of a new roof. Stoddard, as chair of the finance committee, said there are numerous special funds attached to the library, and that future plans should consider using these funds. "It would help [the Selectboard] better plan if we knew what these special funds could be used for." Stoddard suggested she meet with trustees in January to look at the funds, assist with financial planning, and discuss having a common personnel policy with the Town even though statutorily the Library is a separate entity. Barton said, "There have been some conversations about having the Library present only their bottom line instead of line items, since it looks like each line was decided by the Selectboard, not reflecting the Library being a separate entity." Kelley expressed the Trustees' apprehension about this change.

Listers Carol Wildman, Don Dresser and Joan Sargeant agreed with the Selectboard to postpone the cyclical reappraisal, based on the current Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) and the Coefficient of Dispersion (COD). This reduces the budget request for the Appraiser's contract.

The budget review for the Fire and First Response Department was rescheduled for the December 15 meeting.

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Reduce



**The best things in life
aren't always things:
Give an experience!**

- **Rechargeable batteries**— Cut waste: Go for the rechargeables!
- **Make a gift out of your wrapping**— Use tea towels, cloth napkins, bandanas, baskets, and reusable shopping bags instead of single-use paper.



Reuse



**Goodwill • Salvation Army •
Habitat for Humanity ReUse
Store • ReSource Households
Goods Store • and more!**

- **Give unique found items: old art, utensils, appliances & clothing**
Find unique gifts at local reuse shops & charities.



Recycle



**Make it easy on the Big Day:
When it's time to open presents,
have a bin ready for recycling
and a bag for trash.**

- **NON-metallic paper, boxes, and cards**
NOT recyclable: bows, ribbons & metallic & plastic wrappings. Reuse them!
- **Electronics**—Bring to CSWD Drop-Off Centers.
- **Old Christmas trees**—Get a real tree so it can light up the night one last time as **Yule Fuel** to generate heat and electricity!

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Collecting Coins for SOS Richmond School Board Report



Third grade mathematicians from Brewster-Pierce Memorial School raised money for Save Our Strays. They collected coins over a period of a month. Connecting to their unit on collections, the students kept track on a 1000 chart. They needed more than (5) 1000 charts as the final tally was \$51.06. Lisa and Roy Haynes, with two other volunteers, came to visit the mathematicians to share about their good work for strays. Sally, the friendly Great Pyrenees, also came to visit the children. She entered the classroom and plopped herself down on the rug. Sally

welcomed the hugs of the children. Good math for a good cause.

—Submitted by Aimee Motta



Top photo: Dawn Edwards. Photo of Sally by Edward Merchant

Reported by Diane Wester

At the Richmond Elementary School Board meeting on November 19, 2014, Wendy Touchette, RES Student Life Coordinator explained the PBIS program (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) to the board.

PBIS is a data driven, results based national program that has significantly diminished student behavior problems wherever it has been implemented.

Based on school wide consistent expectations of respect for self, community and school, it is enhanced by proactive supports. There is whole class instruction based on group needs, visual supports for the classroom and teacher training. Data Collection drives informed decision making

School Wide Information System (SWIS) keeps track of the how, what, where, and when problems occur. This tracking system generates data, removes opinion. Problem areas can be identified, anticipated and dealt with pro-actively. When problems cannot be avoided, individual students can go to the Student Support Center (SSC). The SSC can be a break space – complete with self-regulating tools (lap pillows, etc.), a learning space, and a classroom resource.

CESU Superintendent John Alberghini noted, “Mike (Berry, RES Principal) and Wendy are proud of their work and want to share their successes. Hopefully this work will grow with the merger.”

RES Board Chair Jon Milazzo asked, “Do we have the resources we need for this program?” Berry replied, “We’ve been lucky to get that grant from Berlin City every year. Each year

we have a different set of kids with different needs we need to react to;” thereby making a definite answer difficult.

Second Budget Review Alberghini stated, “The recently mandated universal pre-school is good, but there is no revenue source attached to it.” Some efficiencies in a unified elementary district have been identified and these numbers will be shared at the first joint finance meeting of the five elementary schools in the new MMUSD and MMU on December 9.

Kath Burns asked “Will our food service program here be affected? Karyl’s (Kent) kitchen is so good.”

“I don’t know what that will look like,” replied Alberghini. “We have two full kitchens on the campus. I’m sure we’ll be utilizing them to their best potential. Things were going change anyway (due to budget constraints) and these changes could be “not good.”

The budget increase without the mandated pre-K class would have been 2.36%. However, costs for pre-K classes increases the budget to 6.67% - therefore two-thirds of the budget increase is directly attributable to unfunded pre-K classes.

Because so many revenue numbers would not be available from the state until early December, Milazzo suggested the Board vote only on the expenditures. The expenditure budget was passed unanimously.

When asked about what a lame duck board should be Alberghini replied “Advocate for the things that are important to the school and community. We’re going to react to what the needs are. Berry noted that in addition to pre-school, “The community wants day care.”

The Board officially acknowledged and congratulated Physical Education Teacher Brian Godfrey as Vermont State PE Teacher of the year and thanked him for all his excellent work.

Towns of Richmond & Huntington

Positions Open for March 3, 2015 Town Meeting Vote by Australian Ballot

RICHMOND

Position	Length of Term
Moderator	1 year
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Cemetery Trustee	5 years
Library Trustee	5 years
Richmond School Director	2 years*
Richmond School Director	3 years*
Union School Director	3 years

*Positions in effect until July 1, 2015.

Petitions must contain 1% of the eligible voters from the Town of Richmond (30 names) and must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 26, 2015. A consent of candidate form is due at the same time. Petitions consent forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

17 V.S.A. §2681(b), 2681(a)(3). The nominating petition, accompanied by a consent of candidate form, must be filed with the municipal clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day of the election.

HUNTINGTON

Position	Length of Term
Auditor	3 years
Brewster-Pierce School Director	3 years
Brewster-Pierce School Director	2 years
Cemetery Trustee	5 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	3 years
Library Trustee (2 positions)	3 years
Lister	3 years
Moderator, Town / School	1 year
Planning Commission (2 positions)	3 years
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Town Agent	1 year
Town Clerk	3 years
Town Grand Juror	1 year
Town Treasurer	3 years

In order to run for any office, you must pick up a petition at the Town Clerk's Office and obtain signatures from 1% of the registered voters in Huntington (14 people) and fill out a consent of candidate form. These forms are also available at www.huntingtonvt.org

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MMU News

The Times Ink is looking for a Richmond or Huntington student to write an informative and engaging column for this newspaper. The columnist must commit for the school year.

A stipend is available or the student may choose to use this opportunity to gain community service credit. This opportunity may also be used toward an independent study. This is a great opportunity to do something that benefits the entire community. Residents like to know what is going on at the high school, especially those who do not have students in the school. Additionally, writers get to know more facets

of the MMU program, as well as interact with staff and students.

Applicants must be able to:

1. Make a deadline.
2. Write in complete sentences.
3. Provide a well-rounded column that covers a variety of school activities highlighting the activities and accomplishments of our students.

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Governor's Institutes Upcoming Winter Weekends

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont is inviting high school student applications for its two upcoming Winter Weekends, February 6-8 at Goddard College and February 13-15 at Marlboro College. Like GIV's acclaimed summer programs, these accelerated mini-Institutes give talented high school students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the topics they care about, gain in-depth knowledge, and make new friends who share their interests. Students in grades 9 through 12 are encouraged to apply.

The Governor's Institutes, a 501(c)3 non-profit, is a unique Vermont organization giving high-potential students access to intellectual depth beyond what is available in most schools. Since 1983, more than 10,000 students have embraced the unique opportunity to deepen their educations through GIV, and many describe their GIV experience as "life-changing."

2015 Winter Weekend topic choices will include Comedy Theatre, Song/Writing, Entrepreneurship, Current Issues and Leadership, Advanced Math for Girls, or Astrophotography. Each topic

is led by professionals or faculty experts in that field. For a full description of each subject area, please visit <http://www.giv.org/winter>.

Applications are being accepted through January 13, 2015, with priority given to early applications. Any Vermont student can attend a Governor's Institute regardless of family finances or where in the state he or she lives, thanks to GIV's mission of accessibility. Tuition is based on sliding scale and financial assistance is available. For more information, see www.giv.org.

Learning to Snowboard at RES



Jeff Boliba from Burton Snowboards assists students learning to snowboard indoors. Courtesy photos: RES

One foundational literacy goal for preschoolers is to introduce numerous new words throughout their year, followed by meaningful, hands-on activities to support future reading success. New vocabulary words recently introduced to students include evaporate, habitat, blossom, pattern, transparent, symmetrical, sphere, and disk.

First, second and third graders visited Echo in Burlington to learn how to snowboard. This winter, RES has teamed up with Burton Snowboards to pilot snowboarding in PE classes. Scholars begin learning how to snowboard inside during PE classes, then, thanks to a fabulous donation from Burton, will apply their learning from class to the slopes at Stowe Mountain Resort and Cochran's Ski Area.



NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Whether you are at home, at work, or in a public place, it's likely you are in an area served by natural gas pipelines. Like all forms of energy, natural gas must be handled properly. Despite an excellent safety record, a gas leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite. Natural gas pipelines are sometimes identified by signs that indicate their approximate location — but these signs should not be relied upon to indicate the exact position. As such, and because not all lines have signs, it is critical that you call **Dig Safe™ at 811** prior to any excavation.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG — IT'S THE LAW!

- The greatest risk to underground natural gas pipelines is accidental damage during excavation. Even minor damage such as a gouge, scrape or dent to a pipeline or its coating could cause a leak or failure. **Digging into a pipeline is the largest single cause of pipeline failures.**
- To protect pipelines and other underground facilities, the law requires that before starting to dig for any excavation, landscaping,

construction or demolition project, on public or private property, the excavator must call **Dig Safe™ at 811 at least 48 hours in advance** (excluding weekends and holidays) to notify them of the work.

- Dig Safe™ will contact member utilities so they can mark the location of their underground facilities prior to any excavation. This service is provided at no cost to you.

USE YOUR SENSES TO DETECT A GAS LEAK

- **SMELL:** Natural gas is colorless and odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you will recognize it quickly.
- **SIGHT:** You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
- **SOUND:** You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing or whistling.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK

- **MOVE** immediately to a safe location.
- **CALL** Vermont Gas at 1-800-639-8081 immediately, with the exact location.
- **DO NOT** smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might ignite the gas or cause an explosion.
- **DO NOT** assume someone else will report the condition.



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Favorite Books of 2014

by Jane M. Vossler

Open the book covers or click on the Kindle. A story begins to unfold, and before we quite realize it, we're sucked into another world, another life. The best stories touch our hearts or invigorate our minds in ways we could never have imagined. They help us to see the world in a slightly different way or to think about life anew. In this article, members of the community share with you their favorite books of 2014.

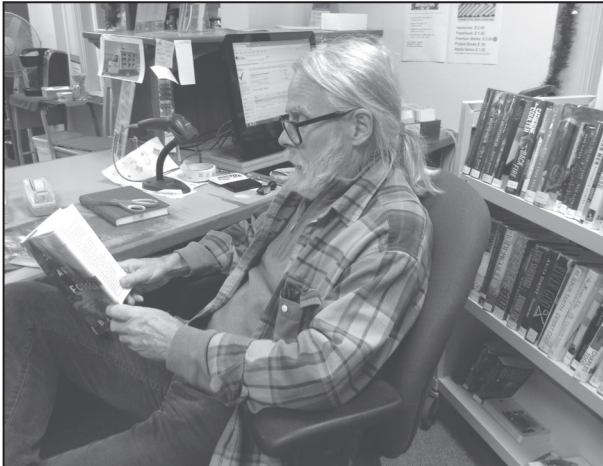
Ellen Kane, member of Richmond Selectboard: **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak. Liesel is a ten-year-old German girl during WWII who steals books and shares them with her neighbors. Death is the narrator and, Kane said, "provides a unique, detached and objective perspective about the absurdity of war and senseless killing in Germany during WWII." She said she especially enjoyed "the beautiful relationship that blossomed between Liesel and the young Jewish man hiding in the basement of her adoptive family's home in Munich Germany. Liesel's quest for knowledge and truth which leads her to steal forbidden books is an underlying theme that ties many of the characters together. It is a book about hope, trust and truth during a very dark period of history."

Michael Chiarella, Director of Richmond Rescue: **Cutting For Stone** by Abraham Verghese. Chiarella said, "I read CUTTING FOR STONE at the recommendation of another member of Richmond Rescue. I began reading it because it seemed like an interesting, medically-based fiction book, but it turned out to be the story that is what held my attention." The story is about twin brothers born in Ethiopia in the late '50s, who both grow up to be surgeons. Chiarella liked "the rich details of both time and place that take you back to another era in medicine. By the end I wanted it to go on for another 500 pages."

Wendy de Forest, Richmond Free Library, assistant director: **The Signature of All Things** by Elizabeth Gilbert. This book, which is equal parts science and history, spans the 18th and 19th centuries, an era when many scientific assumptions were being challenged. Alma Whittaker is a botanist who specializes in studying mosses. De Forest described her as a young woman of "fierce intelligence and sharp wit" who tries to make her way in the male-dominated field of science. A subplot is about Alma's love for a man "of the spirit," an artist whose spirituality challenges Alma's scientific view of the world. "It was fun," said de Forest, "to live for a while as Alma." De Forest's delight in the book, made me race to the shelves at the end of our interview to find the book and sign it out.

Alison Anand, Richmond resident: **Reign of Error** by Diane Ravitch. The book is subtitled **THE HOAX OF THE PRIVATIZATION MOVEMENT AND THE DANGER TO AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS**. Ravitch, a research professor who has worked in the administrations of George Bush Sr. and Bill Clinton, provides extensive research "to support her vast understanding of the damage and

threat to our public education system which has been done by corporate and government institutions." Anand said that Ravitch discusses how "for profit" charter schools "leave public schools with deficient resources" and lead to "widening of the opportunity gap and thus the gap between the rich and poor in our society." Anand said she is grateful to this book for validating her own beliefs about education.



Douglas Barnes enjoys a quiet moment in the best place to find a book to read — the town library!

Douglas Barnes, Richmond Free Library assistant: **The Art Forger** by B.A. Shapiro. Claire, the main character, is asked by a gallery owner to make a forgery of a Degas painting that was stolen in 1990 from the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, a theft of 500 million dollars worth of art that has never been solved. Barnes, who went to art school himself, enjoyed how the plot developed and especially the extensive information on how to forge a work of art. Barnes said he's recommended this book to many other people who've reported back to him that they really liked it.

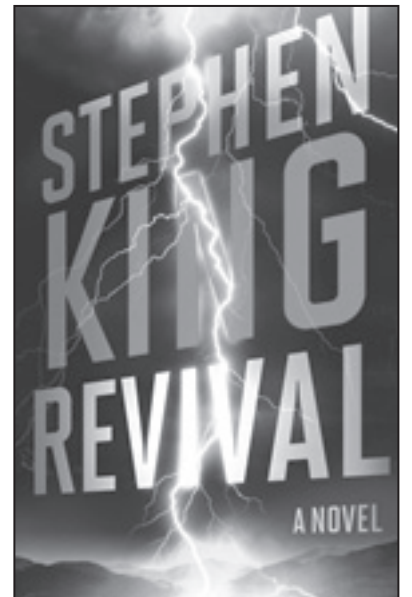
Jo Ellen Swaine, Richmond resident: **All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr. Swaine said that this was "a well-written novel set in France & Germany during WWII; the gripping story of a young blind girl in occupied France and a young German boy in the Hitler Youth who becomes an expert in radio intelligence tracking resistance fighters. The novel alternates chapters between Marie-Laure's story and Werner's until they finally converge into a well-crafted interweaving of their lives. Quoting the San Francisco Chronicle review: Doerr's stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors are dazzling and they masterfully illuminate the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another."

Eric O'Hara, Huntington resident: **Revival** by Stephen King. O'Hara described his choice for the top of his list this year as follows: "This is a departure for Stephen King as there are no ghosts, vampires, aliens, werewolves etc. It revolves around religion, faith, drug use, and both physical and mental healing. It's an excellent novel spanning the life of a man and a preacher who both have their faith tested by personal losses and demons. It also makes you consider what a miracle truly is. It's very well written and an excellent novel for someone

who doesn't necessarily like all of Stephen King's spookier work."

Angus Ferguson, fifth grader at CHMS and a resident of Huntington: **The Heroes of Olympus** by Rick Riordan, a five book series. Ferguson has read all five books in the series and spoke about them with great enthusiasm. He likes that these adventures involve

kids. They're not exactly ordinary kids, but rather descendants of the Greek Gods, each with special powers related to their god. The main character is Percy Jackson, a descendent of Poseidon, lord of the sea. These half human, half immortal kids use their powers on missions to try to stop monsters from taking over the world. The monsters, too, are from the Greek myths with special powers of their own. The clash of kids and monsters makes for exciting reading said Ferguson.



Angus Ferguson loves the clash of kids and monsters in the "exciting reading" of THE HEROES OF OLYMPUS

Heather Ferguson, school nurse at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School: **Edge of Eternity: Book Three of the Century Trilogy** by Ken Follett. Follett continues to follow the lives of five families, American, English, Welsh, Russian and German through the '60s to the '80s. Ferguson likes Follett's style and "how he incorporates a story into history." The characters are involved in the Civil Rights movement, the life and death of President John F. Kennedy, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Berlin Wall, rock and roll, and other people and events she remembers her



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parents talking about. She likes how this book helps her to understand the “inner workings” of history.

Anne Dannenberg, Director of Huntington Public Library: **A Sting in the Tail—My Adventure with Bumblebees** by Dave Goulson. Dannenberg said, “One of the UK’s most respected conservationists and founder of The Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Goulson writes a fascinating and well-written story, both entertaining and educational, informing us of many things including the current plight of pollinators, especially native bees.”



Reilly Butler, Richmond resident and MMU senior: **The Fault in Our Stars** by John Green. Two terminally ill teens meet at the Cancer Kid Support Group and fall in love. Butler says, “I like that it’s about kids who are easy to relate to. I like the way the author writes. It’s a very emotional story.” A lot of other people feel the same way, and this book has been a favorite of many teens and adults.



Reilly Butler and Spooky relaxing at home with a good book

Lily Feinson, Richmond resident, senior at MMU: **Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children** by Ransom Riggs. This is the story of sixteen year old Jacob whose life, explained Feinson, is not very satisfying. He has always loved his grandfather’s strange stories and photos of children with magical powers. When his grandfather dies, Jacob finds himself on an adventure to a remote island off the coast of Wales where his grandfather grew up. Here he meets the children from the photos, the peculiar children.

The people on the island, however, insist that the children were killed decades ago. Feinson said she especially liked how the book is filled with photos of the children. “The descriptions are detailed, and it’s interesting how Jacob, who at first is resistant to the children, grows to care about them.”

Shireen McNabb, Huntington resident: **Wave** by Sonali Deraniyagala. McNabb grew up in Sri Lanka and went to school with the author of **WAVE**. They lost touch for twenty years, and then McNabb saw the book with her classmate’s name. It’s a memoir about surviving the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Sri Lanka. Deraniyagala, her husband and two young sons were

visiting her parents on the coast of Sri Lanka when the disaster struck. She was the only member of her family to survive. She writes with searing honesty about her struggle to come to grips with her loss—through alcoholism, attempted suicide, depression and guilt. She also captures joyous memories of her family. McNabb said, “It’s an amazing story.”

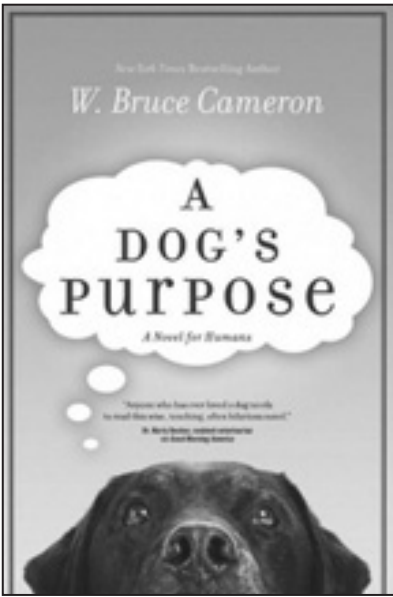
LJ Kopf, Richmond Free Library Youth Services Librarian: **Tibetan Peach Pie: A True Account of an Imaginative Life** by Tom Robbins. Kopf loved this memoir by one of his favorite authors. He’s read all of Tom Robbins’s books and finds him to be wise and philosophical and funny at the same time. While the book covers many aspects of Robbins’ life from adventures around the world to the New York world of publishing, Kopf especially enjoyed the part about his “wild childhood” growing up in Appalachia.

Aaron Levison, Richmond resident: **The Paris Wife** by Paula McLain. This is the fictionalized story of Ernest Hemingway and his wife Hadley. They live in Paris during the ‘20s, a “very interesting time,” said Levison who read and enjoyed all of Hemingway’s books. After reading **THE SUN**

ALSO RISES, which is the book Hemingway wrote while living in Paris, he wanted to learn more about his life at that time. He really liked “the different perspectives” he gained on this famous writer by reading both his own works and **THE PARIS WIFE**, a story of love and the eventual unraveling of that love.

Rebecca Mueller, Director of Richmond Free Library: **Billy Lynn’s Long Half-time Walk** by Ben Fountain. Mueller described the book as follows: “Billy Lynn is a member of Bravo Company and new owner of a silver star, a result of a bloody firefight in Iraq caught on a news camera. He and his fellow soldiers are on a ‘hero tour’ and the book revolves around their presence at a Dallas Cowboy Thanksgiving game - at which they will be ‘honored’ at the half-time celebrations. This is a satirical novel and much of the writing is edgy and wry and quite funny. Nobody wants to really hear from the heroes, or what they feel, or what they’ve experienced. Ben Fountain does a good job of pointing out the disconnect between our soldiers and civilian society. The book has its flaws, but it’s a remarkable lens on our military, our government, our society and its ingrained myths.”

Velma Plouffe, Richmond resident: **A Dog’s Purpose** by W. Bruce Cameron. Plouffe said, “This is a must read for dog lovers. You will never look at your dog the same way again. It’s told from a dog’s point of view and from his heart, his everyday experiences and relationships with humans, cats, and other animals. A dog learns his purpose in life after being reborn four times. Hilarious, heart-warming, a tear-jerker. It clearly demonstrates how much a dog loves his master and how much he wants to please him.”



Fran Thomas, Richmond resident: **A Town Like Alice** by Nevil Shute. The book is set in Malaya during WWII and in Australia after the war. Thomas said, “I read this book because I was going to Australia and thought it might help me learn a little bit about the country before I went there. The book gave me more than a good idea what it was like to live on a ranch out in the Bush after WWII. Shute gave me a strong women character to admire, a character who survived many trials as a prisoner in Malaya and went on to energize a small town in Australia. Her many trials only seemed to make her stronger and more determined and thus, a great role model.”

Larry Thomson, Richmond resident: **Life Animated** by Ron Suskind. Thomson explained the book as follows: “It is the story of his son Owen’s reemergence from severe autism (into which Owen disappeared at age three). Owen loved Disney movies, and when the family discovered that he had memorized most of the dialogue from most of these movies, they found a way to connect with him. They realized that Owen was ‘still in there’ and helped him re-emerge into the real world. The Suskind family sought other interventions, as well, but this real-life story has so many ideas for how any family might discover ‘bridges’ to help their loved one on the autism spectrum re-connect in meaningful ways. The book is very well written, as well, and is just a great read for anyone.”

Deborah Worthley, Huntington resident: **The Master Butchers Singing Club** by Louise Erdrich. A German soldier who fought in WWI returns from the war, marries his best friend’s widow and together they immigrate to North Dakota where he opens a butcher shop. Later, a complicated relationship develops between the butcher and a vaudeville star. Worthley said, “The characters are vivid and it’s a touching story.” She also liked how Erdrich described life at that time. “It’s one of the best books I’ve read in recent years.”

Colleen Dychton, Huntington resident: **Painted Horses** by Malcolm Brooks. This novel is about Catherine, an archaeologist in the mid-1950s who goes to Montana to do survey work before a dam is built that will submerge thousands of years of Native American Crow history. She’s looking for evidence to prevent the building of the dam and meets a number of people with different views on what should happen to the land. Dychton said she “loved the descriptions of the Montana landscape and the Native American tales of the area.”

Me, **Jane Vossler**: **Elephant Company: The Inspiring Story of an Unlikely Hero and the Animals Who Helped Him Save Lives in World War II** by Vicki Constantine Croke. This is the true story of Billy Williams who goes to work for a teak company in Burma in the 1920s. He grows to understand the elephants he works with and has great respect for their intelligence and character. When the Japanese invade in 1942, Williams smuggles his elephants out of Burma, and they join the Allies to build bridges and carry supplies. This book has two elements I really like – a World War II setting and adventure in a foreign culture. Add to that the touching relationship between Williams and the elephants, as well as a lot of information about elephant behavior, and this became my favorite book of 2014.

Happy reading!

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Gillett Pond Receives Reprieve

Submitted by Brad Elliott

Gillett Pond, a popular recreation and natural resource area on the borders of Richmond and Huntington, Vermont, could continue serving its many functions thanks to an agreement signed on December 1 between a local land trust and the pond's owner.

The Richmond Land Trust, on behalf of the Friends of Gillett Pond, has entered into an agreement with the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, the pond's current owner, to acquire the pond, adjacent land and the rights to the dam which created the current pond. The land trust and the Friends have until the end of January to raise \$90,000 to cover the purchase price and associated costs for acquiring the 88-acre property along Wes White Hill Road.

"We're delighted with the Girl Scouts for this commitment to protecting a place treasured throughout our communities," said Fritz Martin, Richmond Land Trust Chair. "Recreation, wildlife habitat, scenic beauty, water quality, flood control – you name it, Gillett Pond provides it. This is a win-win for the Scouts and the organizations and communities involved."

Martin cited a survey of Richmond and Huntington residents conducted by the Friends of Gillett Pond, a group formed by local citizens focused on the pond's long-term health and survival. More than 200 people responded. Many commented passionately about the year-round recreational opportunities the pond provides, including canoeing, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, ice-fishing and skating.

The pond is also well-known by local pond hockey enthusiasts, who

keep several small rinks cleared during the winter months, using large shovels kept by the shoreline.

"The immediate goal is to complete an initial public fundraising campaign in time to complete the purchase by the deadline," said Nancy Stoddard, spokesperson for the Friends. "We can then start working to protect the pond for the long term by raising another \$250,000 to renovate the dam."

The pond was created by a dam built in the mid-1800s – possibly as early as the 1850s. In 1902 the Richmond Light and Power Company improved the dam to supplement the water supply to a hydroelectric plant on the nearby Huntington River. The plant ceased operation several years later but the dam and pond remain.

"Generations of people in Richmond, Huntington and beyond have enjoyed Gillett Pond," according to Bob Low, another member of the Friends group and who lives near the pond. "Now we've gained the chance to guarantee that this beautiful resource will be there for future generations to enjoy as well."

The Richmond Land Trust is a private, all-volunteer, non-profit organization formed in 1987 to conserve important natural, historic, agricultural and recreational resources in Richmond. It has established and manages six nature preserves across the town, and it has assisted local landowners in conserving some 675 acres.

More information on the project to protect the dam is available from Nancy Stoddard at 434-2048 or gillettpond@gmail.com.

Work Begins on Huntington Town Hall

Accessibility Construction at the Huntington Town Hall Has Begun



Work began on the accessibility for the Huntington Town Hall.

After years of fact finding, gathering of public comments, fundraising, grant writing, plan drawing, bid taking, and meetings too numerous to count, construction has begun on the Huntington Town Hall. The work currently underway will bring the entire building up to ADA standards and make it accessible to everyone. When completed, this construction phase will give the building handicap parking (including van accessibility), a compliant entry ramp, an accessible restroom, a lift to the second floor, and an approved fire escape. The water will be reconnected and a pump-out waste water system set-up.

The funding for this phase of construction has come from a mix of private donations and grants. Awarded grants are from Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP),

Vermont Arts Council (VAC), Huntington Historic and Community Trust (HHCT), and the Town of Huntington Conservation Fund (HCF). Some of these grant funds will also be used in the next construction phase and a grant from Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) is pending. HHCT will continue to accept personal, tax deductible donations toward future restoration.

The accessibility work is slated to be completed in February or March of 2015. After this the next phase includes roof replacement, restarting the heating system, building insulation and storm windows. This work is expected to begin later in 2015. Future projects depending on funding availability include window replacement, electrical upgrades, structural work, and more.

Richmond Receives Grant

The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awarded \$12,600 to Richmond in state Municipal Planning Grant funds to develop a new Town Plan. Richmond successfully competed against 58 communities and was one of 44 funded.

"Richmond is a great small town full of people who care deeply about its future. The process of creating the new plan will heavily rely on their input to ensure Richmond will maintain its small town charm while addressing the challenges of

the future," said Clare Rock, Richmond Town Planner. Richmond will have a year and a half to complete this project.

"Jobs, businesses, and affordable places to live all depend on proactive, community-driven local plans and land use policies," said Noelle MacKay, Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, "that make it easier for families, communities and entire regions to thrive."

The Town Hall should have some availability for use in 2015. The work schedule for the next phase is unknown at this time so the Town Hall Committee will keep people updated. A new Facebook page will be up and running soon, watch for postings on Front Porch Forum.

Said Town Hall Committee member Linda Fickbohm, "The work being done today will make this historic town building an asset to the community now and for future generations."

Death Notice:

Wendell G. Reed

Wendell G. Reed, 89, of Essex, died on November 18, 2014, at his home. He was born on February 6, 1925, in Bakersfield, graduated from Brigham Academy in June 1943, and enlisted into the 101st Airborne Division immediately after graduation. Wendell saw action in the Normandy Invasion on D-Day, the Holland Campaign, and at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Belgium Croix de Guerre. Upon his discharge, he was married to Alberta Read and they had four children. He graduated from Greeley State College, Colorado, in 1949. Wendell returned to Vermont and began his teaching career in 1949 at Brigham Academy for four years. He then taught at the North Bennington High School for one year in 1953. He returned to Bakersfield in 1954 and bought the General Store. He sold the store in 1958, and moved to Essex Junction in 1959 where he started teaching at Richmond High School and Mt. Mansfield Union High School when formed. He was the last principal at Richmond High School. While teaching he earned his master's degree from St. Michael's College. Throughout his entire teaching career, he was always active in coaching. He coached the Mt. Mansfield soccer team to the State Championships in 1968 and 1972. Wendell enjoyed traveling, reading, following the Detroit Tigers, going to the camp on the lake, but most important to him were the times spent with his family. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Alberta Reed, two children and grandchildren. Donations in Wendell Reed's memory may be made to the Visiting Nurse Association, 1110 Prim Rd., Colchester, VT 05446.



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What's Your Word: Creating Canvas Signs
Soldering 101: Pendants

*All classes are contingent upon sufficient enrollment. [Register today.](#)

For more information contact David Alofsin at MMUHS: 802.858.1661 or david.alofsin@cesuvt.org

True Beauty Revealed

The Stained Glass Windows of the Richmond Congregational Church

by Jane M. Vossler

The Richmond Congregational Church has seven lovely stained glass windows. However, during the past decade and a half, it's become increasingly difficult to see the true beauty of the windows because of the aging of the rigid plastic covering. In August of this year, a transformation occurred. The next time you drive by, if you haven't already noticed, be sure to take a look at the windows. The richness of the stained glass is once again completely visible. It's especially beautiful at night when LED flood lights within the church illuminate the front windows.

There are two large windows, one on the front facing Bridge Street and one on the back. Both large windows have two smaller ones on each side of them. There's a seventh small window on the front. The windows on the back are visible from the church's memorial garden which is open to the public.

In the 1980s, the windows were covered with rigid plastic to protect them. This worked well until early in 2000 when the plastic began to look more and more cloudy, yellowed and scratchy. The colors and designs in the glass became harder to see.

In 2012, the church trustees decided to replace the plastic with glass. Trustee Peter Swaine of Richmond volunteered to take on the job of managing the project. Before retirement, his job had involved project management and procurement. Taking on a new challenge and being able to use his skills to help the church and the community was an exciting prospect for Swaine.

He began by searching online for companies that specialize in covering stained glass and discovered Associated Crafts of Arizona. They send out crews to work throughout the country.

In addition to having extensive experience, Associated Crafts has patented a type of framing that can be formed to follow the shape of the window and hold the new glass covering in place.

The framing's ability to bend and follow the curvature of the stained glass avoids straight line framing that interferes with the overall appearance of the stained glass. Another plus, was that this framing had breathable holes to prevent condensation from forming between the covering and the original stained glass. The plastic covering had allowed condensation, which had made paint peel from the wooden frames.

Of course, Associated Crafts' expertise in the field of covering stained glass carried a hefty price tag. Did the church really want to pay almost \$20,000? How would they raise that much money? Swaine continued his research and solicited quotes from Chittenden County glass companies which were considerably lower than Associated Crafts' bid. He visited other churches to see how their stained glass was covered and discovered there were several different methods used. From his observations, Swaine drew his own conclusion that the best procedure seemed to be to fit the new glass covering as closely as possible to the window. This would have the advantages of minimizing reflection, making the covering nearly invisible, and allowing access to the wooden framework around the windows in the future when it needed to be painted.



Cloudy and Yellow, Richmond Congregational Church windows before their transformation in



Richmond Congregational Church windows before their transformation in August.

He learned that the Methodist Church in Shelburne was one of Associated Crafts' clients and went to check out their stained glass covering. When he talked with them, he found that they were very satisfied with the work done by Associated Crafts.

Swaine's research had led him back to Associated Crafts. Although they could get the job done elsewhere for less money, Associated Crafts could provide the quality the Richmond Congregational Church wanted. The trustees agreed with him that it was well worth spending more money to get the job done right. They didn't want to find out twenty years from now that it all needed to be redone.

The next step was to raise the \$18,600 needed for the project. Since they'd first decided to do the project, the question of how to raise the money had been on their minds. Swaine wrote a grant to the Richmond Conservation Committee which in addition to conserving land also deals with historic conservation. The Committee approved a grant for \$6,500 and the Selectboard voted in favor of the grant. This seed money provided a boost to the church's fundraising efforts.

The trustees began spreading the word. The Richmond Historical Society and the Knights of Columbus contributed.

Church members Ken and Nancy Remsen, the

Riggs family and Mabel and Harold Schroeder's family gave \$1,000 or more. Other church members and local residents made contributions both large and small. Slowly the money added up, and they were ready to begin the project.

On August 21 of this year, two men from Associated Crafts arrived with special long-lasting paint for the original mahogany frame, the patented framework to hold the new glass in place and special caulking. They took down the old plastic covering. They covered the windows with a thick, proprietary black liquid that seeped into the lead framing and tightened the seal between glass and lead. As the excess was wiped away, it also cleaned the glass. They purchased the glass locally. They worked for eight days from early morning until dusk. And then it was finished, a job done well, a beautiful addition to the community, and a project that Swaine said was "invigorating to the life of the church."

The result is there for you to see and appreciate each time you drive or walk through town. You might want to stop and walk along the sidewalk in front or into the memorial garden in the back of the church for a closer view. The research and project-management skills of Peter Swaine, the work of the church trustees, the generous donations of many, and the expertise of Associated Crafts contributed to the community a thing of beauty for all to enjoy.



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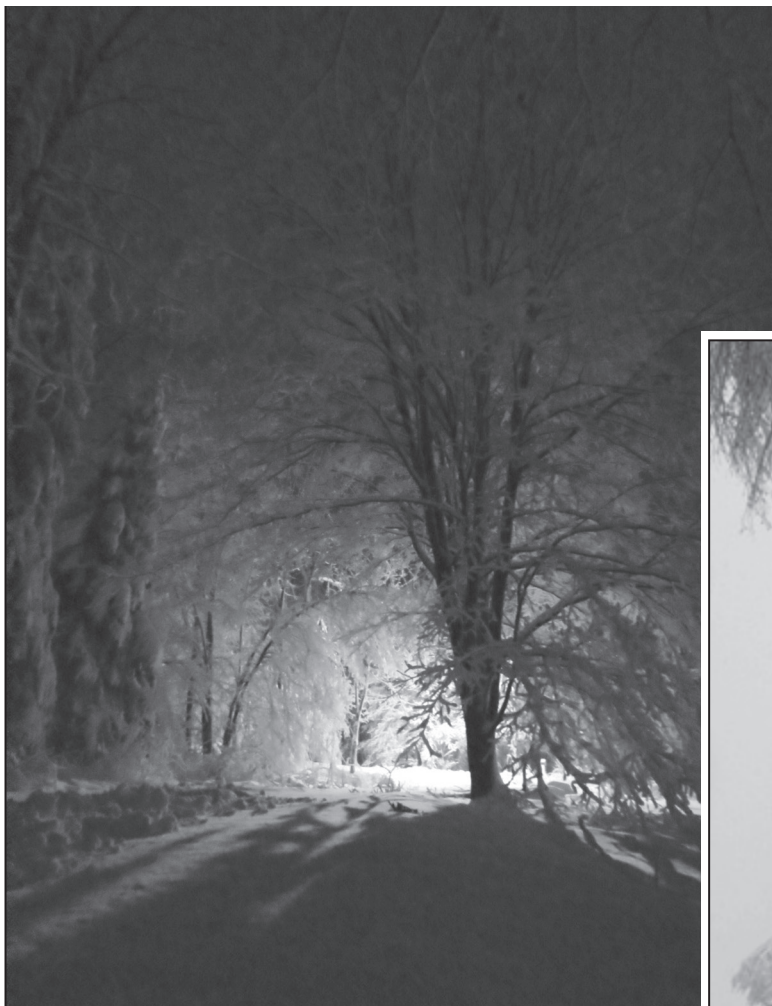
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First Big Snow of the Season Causes Havoc



Top six photos, clockwise from above: trees overhanging wire on Texas Hill Circle, Bob LoCicero; Brave plow truck on Camels Hump Road, Bill Menning; Vermont, Gordon Miller; Grayson Tinkel helps dig out, Emma Frappier; Impressionistic meadow's edge on Sherman Hollow, Janet Labelle; Trees on horse fence, Polly Allen

Lower four photos: garden sun in Richmond, Jeanne Agner; Chairs on deck, Keir Road, Barb Heath; Trees at night in Richmond, Lisa McGuire; linemen on Sherman Hollow Road, Charlie Frazier



Falling Trees Knock Out Power Some Rural Houses without Electricity for Six Days Very Quiet & Very Inconvenient

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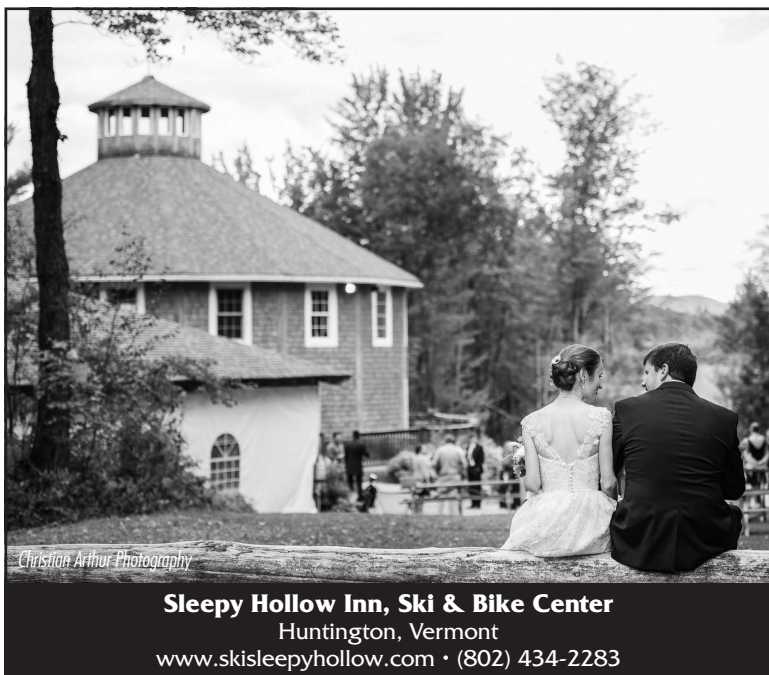


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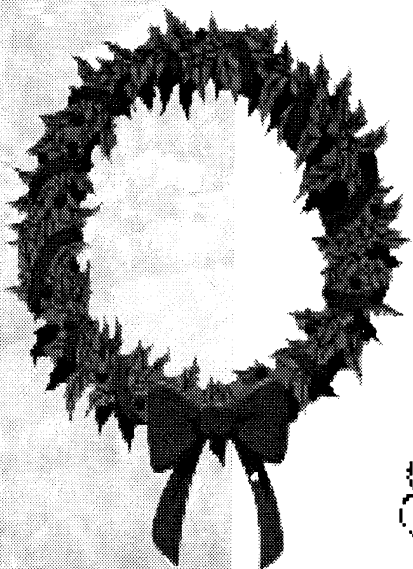
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News from Area Churches

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

Father Lance Harlow, 434-2521

We have been busy at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church with a variety of charitable projects during this time between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanksgiving is not technically part of the Christmas season which actually begins Christmas Eve and runs through the Baptism of the Lord in January. (Sorry to all you radio stations that started playing Christmas music right after Halloween!) But the Thanksgiving holiday does appeal to our charitable instincts and sets us into full swing for Christmas and the charities associated with it. Working in collaboration with Camel's Hump Middle School and Richmond Elementary School, we were involved in the distribution of Thanksgiving meals. We are currently engaged with the traditional "giving tree", a project that we share with the Richmond Congregational Church. In addition, we provide gifts to prisoners in Vermont under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, as well as provide baskets for some of our own homebound parishioners. And, as we know from the daily mail, we can be overwhelmed by solicitations from various charitable organizations all looking for end-of-the-year tax-deductible donations.

One can easily say "Bah, Humbug!", as did the famous Ebenezer Scrooge when confronted with similar appeals to charity. But, I have been very proud of my parishioners. They have responded so generously to these many appeals to local charities because their hearts have been touched, not by some generic Christmas "spirit," but by Jesus Himself, in whom Christmas has its origin and its fullest meaning. We like to keep our charity rooted in Jesus for without Him there would be no meaning to Christmas or to the Christmas season. The very word "Christmas" is derived from the Old English "Christesmaesse"—the Christ-Mass; that is, the Mass which celebrates the birth of Christ. Christmas and charity are inseparable just as Christ and love are inseparable.

Ebenezer Scrooge learned one Christmas Eve that a life without charity is devoid of meaning. On the dawn of his conversion what does he do? He goes to church. There he experiences Christmas. Later, at Bob Cratchit's home he experiences charity. The two are united as a Christmas story.

While charity is not limited to Christmas, for us at Holy Rosary Church, it is in Christmas that it finds its most complete expression. So from all of us, I wish you a very Merry Christmas or at least a Happy End-of-the-Year Tax-Deductible Season!

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn B. Macrae, 434-2053

As we approach Christmas, it can be the most wonderful time of the year—a time of family gathering in and celebrating traditions. There are the presents, parties, cookies, and carols. But it can also be overwhelming with so many events and so much that calls for

our attention.

In the Christian tradition, we take the four Sundays before Christmas to celebrate Advent. Advent is a season of preparation where we celebrate hope, peace, love and joy. We take time to intentionally prepare our hearts and minds for the joy of Christmas.

This December, I invite you to come and join us for this season of preparation. Take some time out of the hustle and bustle, and give some time for quiet before the Christmas celebration on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, we have a family service at 5 pm and a service of Lessons and Carols on 8 pm. I hope that you will be our guests!

Community Church of Huntington

Larry Detweiler, 434-6715

We appreciate your continued support of Hunters' Breakfast this past season. On Sundays, I wear the aroma of pancakes, eggs and sausage into the Huntington church and all the way to Starksboro as we worship there each Sunday during our breakfast run. I mentioned in this column last month that this was the last year that George and Martha Severance and Doug and Anne Castle would spearhead this huge undertaking. For the better part of 15 years, they have led this volunteer effort, from the many hours of prep work prior to the weekend mornings to enduring the heat in the kitchen as they flip eggs. We are so grateful for their faithfulness and generosity these past years—and for the exceptionally tasty commmeal pancakes.

The Breakfast helps to make possible a number of important ministry opportunities in the life of our church. We often hear about Neighbor Helping Neighbor (this years Christmas Eve offering is designated toward NHN). Another powerful ministry is the hundreds of prayer shawls that have been wrapped around people like you and me, from time to time, that need a tangible reminder of God's warm embrace. Two of our major knitters are Martha and Anne. Often, they sit in the pews during our morning service and prayerfully knit as we worship. Many a time I have visited someone in the hospital, or at their home, to find the prayer shawl at the foot of the bed or draped over the couch. We give these shawls freely. Both of these ministries, Hunters' Breakfast and our prayer shawls, are a way for us to practice gracious hospitality.

Each Sunday, we close our worship by holding hands in a circle, giving the benediction and receiving these words, "Go and give them Jesus." For you who have received a prayer shawl or have been served a meal at our breakfast, I hope that in the serving you have seen Jesus. On Christmas Eve, we invite this community into our circle again as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. The service begins at 7 pm. Come and enjoy the acting out of the Nativity by the kids and the festive music (sung by a children's chorus, the adult choir, the Huntington HMS, and Buddy Dubay) and join us in singing Handel's, AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD, as well as favorite Christmas Carols. We hope you'll join us!

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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.

DECEMBER 27: Bird Monitoring Walk, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington, 8 am to 9:45 am. Monthly bird monitoring walk on the Museum's property. Most fun for adults, older children, and more experienced birders. Bring your own binoculars and dress for the weather. End with cocoa, coffee and tea at the Bird Viewing Window inside. Free. Pre-register: 434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org.

DECEMBER 3-FEBRUARY 28: CAPTURING THE ESSENCE OF VERMONT, Winter Exhibit at Shelburne Vineyard features local artist Michelle Ennis Jackson, Tasting Room Gallery, 6308 Shelburne Road, Shelburne, Artist's reception on Sunday, December, 7, 2 pm to 4 pm; wine will be for sale by the glass accompanied by complimentary tastes of local cheese and meats. www.shelburnevineyard.com or visit Shelburne Vineyard on Facebook.

JANUARY 17:Essex Junction Knights of Columbus Annual Game Supper, serving 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm, St. Pius X Catholic Church, Route 15, Essex Junction. Adults \$18 and under 12 years \$6. Tickets/reservations: Barry Corbin (878-8314).

MARCH 15: Cochran's Nordic Cross Ski Race for all ages, with Pancake Feast by Slopeside Syrup. Kids race, 11 am; adults race, 12:30 pm. Information and online registration: cochranskiarea.com or laura@cochranskiarea.com or 802-291-1348.

2015 Red Cross Blood Drives

Mark your calendar for 2015 Red Cross blood drives in Richmond, 11:30 am to 5 pm.

February 25, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish Hall

April 22, Richmond Congregational Church

June 17, OLHR Parish Hall

Application Deadline for Youth Exchange Scholarship

The application deadline for U.S. Department of State's scholarships to study in Germany for American high school students living in the Northeast is January 8, 2015. These scholarships fully fund high school students to study for the 2015-2016 academic year. By living with a host family and attending a local high school, participants learn the German language, immerse themselves in the culture and serve as youth ambassadors from the United States.

August 19, RCC

For a shorter wait time, schedule an appointment by calling: 1-800-733-2767.

The need is always constant; the gratification is instant; please consider giving blood.

Since 1983, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) program has provided scholarships to over 23,000 American and German students. To learn more about the scholarship, visit www.usagermanyexchange.org. AFS-USA administers the program in the Northeast region for the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, a division of DOS. Residents of the NE region can call (800) AFS-INFO x2216 or email Sara Dubois at sdubois@afsusa.org for details.

Santa Sunday at Bolton Valley

On Sunday, December 21, skiers and riders who arrive at Bolton Valley dressed head-to-toe as Santa Claus will receive a free lift ticket for the day as part of the annual Santa Sunday event. While seemingly easy to accomplish, a simple crimson hat won't suffice. In order to qualify for the free special, guests must don a full Kris Kringle suit and bring their most jolly of spirits to Guest Services to claim their prize.

Anyone participating in the event is asked to arrive at Guest Services before 10 am to pick up their lift ticket. Then, promptly at 10 am, all Santas will gather in the main base area next to the Vista Quad for a group photo. Once everyone is loaded on the lift, Bolton officials will lead the group down the mountain for some action photos.

After two feet of snow last week and 61 total inches so far this season, Bolton Valley is enjoying some of its best early season conditions in recent memory. Skiers and riders were enjoying 42 open trails earlier this week including popular mainstays like Cobrass, Preacher and Spillway, which typically don't open until later in the season. With cold air back in the Champlain Valley this weekend, Bolton plans on expanding its open terrain as quickly as possible.

Bolton Valley is Vermont's most convenient and affordable big mountain skiing Less than 10 minutes from I-89 and less than 20 minutes from Richmond and 30 minutes from Huntington, the family-friendly mountain offers skiers and riders of all abilities three mountain peaks with 71 trails and six lifts, plus three terrain parks. For more information visit www.boltonvalley.com or call 877-9BOLTON.



Don't let cabin fever make a victim of you. Come out to the two January Community Senior Center events and engage your mind, socialize with friends and neighbors, and meet new people. Both events will take place in the Community Room of the Richmond Free Library.

On Monday, January 12, at 1 pm, the Birds of Vermont Museum will present a program called PERILOUS PASSAGES. Imagine the sights and sounds of two billion passenger pigeons flocking overhead...or the relentless onslaught of hunters gunning down pigeons for food and sport. The journey of the passenger pigeon from abundance to destruction will be presented with an opportunity for reflection and debate on the notions of progress and de-extinction (cloning to revive an extinct species.)

On Wednesday, January 21, at 12:30 pm, we begin our monthly **MUST SEE MOVIES** series with THE LADY EVE, a classic romantic comedy from 1941. Eve (Barbara Stanwyck) and her father (Charles Coburn) are con artists on a transatlantic ocean liner. Eve makes a play for Charles, (Henry Fonda) a shy millionaire and snake expert. As the plot twists and turns, Eve finds herself falling in love with the man she had meant to deceive. Movie will be shown with Closed Captions, and popcorn will be provided.

If you need a ride, call John and Pam in Richmond at 434-3658 or Debbie in Huntington at 434-3169.

Be sure to check out the flyer in this issue for a schedule of all winter and spring events.

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:
Huntington: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm, Town Office.
Richmond: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm, Town Center

SCHOOL BOARD:
Mt. Mansfield HS: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:30 pm, Meetings rotate among MMU, BRMS, CHMS.
Richmond: 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Richmond Elem. School
Huntington: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Brewster-Pierce School.

PLANNING COMMISSION
Huntington: 1st & 3rd Tues., 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, Camel's Hump Middle School music room pit.
Huntington: Boy Scout Troop 645, Wed, 6:30 pm, Community Church of Huntington, John Christiana (johnpchristiana@gmail.com) or Mike Flock (mflock23@gmavt.net).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr
Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 6-8 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

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

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

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

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.

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE
Huntington: 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm, Town Office

LIBRARY
Richmond: Library Board, 1st Thursday, 6 pm, Richmond Free Library, 434-3036.

Huntington: Library Board, 4th Tues, 7 pm, Union Meeting House, 434-4583

RICHMOND RESCUE
Friends of Richmond Rescue: meet as needed, Rescue Bldg., Richmond. 434-2394. New members welcome!

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): 3rd Tues, 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 from any town are welcome. Huntington Public Library. Information, contact facilitator Jane Davis at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.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: Tuesday at 10 am and Wednesday at 7 pm at host homes in Huntington (Larry Detweiler 434-6715).

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: 20 Church Street., 434-2053. Sunday Worship with Sunday School, 10 am.

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.hinesburgcma.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: Worship at 8 am & 11am-Winter; 9 am-Summer; Nursery care 9:30 am; Fellowship, 10:30 am; Youth Group 6:15 pm; 899-4911; www.jcvc.org; On the Green in Jericho Center. Pastor Glenn Carter.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 Vt Rte 15 (near Brown Trace Rd) Jericho, 899-3932, Rev. Philip Raushey, Pastor, Worship Service: 9 am (Nursery Care provided) Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.GoodShepherd-Jericho.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 thirds Sundays. Rev. Molly Bidwell, 453-5537.

Calvary Episcopal Church Route 15, Underhill, (899-2326) Sunday Eucharist/ Sunday school 9:30 am. Nursery available, handicapped accessible, coffee hour following service. Rev. Regina Christianson. www.calvarychurchvt.org

Church News now on previous page.

2015 JANUARY

SNOW-BOARDING IS EXCITING AND FUN

THE WINTER CARNATION MONTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 ALEXANDER HAMILTON 1757	2 NEW YEAR'S DAY BETSY ROSS 1752	3 ALASKA BECOMES 49TH STATE	4 FULL MOON	5	6	7 FIRST NATIONAL ELECTION 1789
8	9 RICHARD M. NIXON, 1913	10	11 LAST QUARTER	12	13	14
15 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 1929	16	17 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN 1706 ST. ANTHONY'S DAY	18	19 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY OBSERVED	20 NEW MOON	21 STONEWALL JACKSON 1824
22	23	24	25	26 DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, 1880 FIRST QUAR.	27 EDISON PATENTS ELECTRIC LAMP 1880	28
29 WILLIAM MCKINLEY 1843	30 FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT, 1882	31				

Service Directory

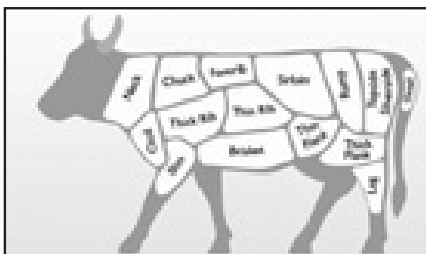


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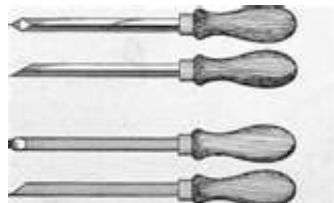
RICHMOND ANIMAL HOSPITAL Drs. Virginia Clarke, Cori Weiner and Daniel Hament, Veterinarians. Main Street, Richmond across from Harringtons. Full-service pet hospital. Call 434-4935 for day or evening appointments or emergencies. [04/14]

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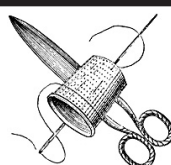


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For Sale

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GROVER ENGINEERING, PC Design and permitting services for water supply, wastewater, stormwater, Act 250, site designs, ponds, site surveys. 434-2989 [02/15]

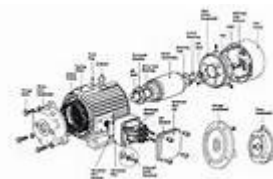
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Wellness

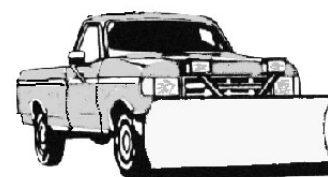
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Business Beat

by Bill & Gina Haddock

We've all heard the old expression "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade," but in Lisa Curtis's world, when life gave her lemons, she made coffeecake. The new kid on Richmond's food scene is Sweet Simone's which was formerly part of the Sweet Spot in Waitsfield.

While most of us remember the horrible devastation that Hurricane Irene caused just a few years ago, particularly to the Waitsfield area, we might not realize that Irene helped to give birth to new businesses. Lisa Curtis's family owned 40 Bridge Street in Waitsfield that had been home to other businesses prior to Irene. After the hurricane wiped out these businesses, Lisa, her sister and her sister's husband began a Kickstarter campaign to open up two businesses: a bakery, named Sweet Simone's and ice cream shop named Scout's Honor. The plan went well for a couple of years but sometimes it just seems right to move on.



For Lisa, that day came when she was reading an article in THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS about the On the Rise Bakery closing in Richmond. Lisa, a Huntington resident, had been traveling 45 minutes each way every day to manage her bakery. It had always been a dream to move her bakery closer to home. And when it turned out that her old address of 40 Bridge Street, Waitsfield would be the same address of 40 Bridge Street in Richmond, it seemed like it was meant to be.

In Waitsfield Lisa's bakery was one of two businesses in the same location. In the original plan they decided it would be less confusing for customers if they had one name to cover both businesses at that location. So they came up with The Sweet Spot. "Now that I'm moving and being a sole proprietor I'm carrying forward the name Sweet Simone's. In Richmond the name on the sign outside will probably be Sweet Simone's Bakery and Café. We will call it a café because we'll be offering coffee along with baked goods," Lisa told us.

Sweet Simone's Bakery and Cafe will be a full scale bakery from morning pastries to afternoon sweets to special order wedding cakes and wholesale accounts. Lisa said "the only thing I don't do is donuts because I don't want to get into frying. The wedding cakes will be partially a continuation of the business in Waitsfield where I have good relationships with several "hot" destination spots for weddings there. Also in this part of Vermont there are multitudes of

weddings happening year round that should keep all the cake makers in the area busy. I feel really good about moving into Richmond now because it offers a great access to the Shelburne-Burlington and terrific sites locally like the Monitor Barn and the Round Church. "

Lisa told the Beat, "I will no longer be involved in running the shop in Waitsfield, and I will be here full time. I will still be in business with my sister and brother-in-law because we will be

wholesaling to each other. I will provide them with pastries and in the spring and summer they will provide my bakery with their ice cream. So I will be serving scoops of Scout's Honor ice cream here in warmer weather. Other than the wholesaling I will no longer have a business relationship with them, though the family ties are strong and I will support them in any way I can. We will not be selling creamies here, only ice cream. I understand the restaurant replacing the Bridge Street Café will continue the tradition of the window service open to the sidewalk for creamies, but I expect any competition with our ice cream would be minimal if at all."

Although the name is not officially the Sweet Spot anymore the layout Lisa envisions seems to lend itself to being a truly sweet spot for Richmond residents. "We have permission to have twenty seats in the bakery and I'm going to have two comfy couches and I'll have two four top tables that can be pushed together for larger groups. I'll also have three high top tables with three seats each. My dad, who lives in Vermont, works in advertising and is truly a creative genius. Our customers will see the results of his creativity when they come in to the new bakery – he's going to do the interior for us. It's going to look really amazing."

"My goal is to have people come in and feel comfortable just talking to others. I know some customers will be looking for a space to sit down and do some work but I'm more interested in someone coming in with friends and sitting and chatting. Coming in and working on a lap

top is ok, but I want, say a mom and her child to feel ok about being here without worrying about making too much noise because someone is trying to work quietly," Lisa said.

As Sweet Simone's adjusts to its new home, the menu may change in the morning and Lisa plans to have muffins and scones, and she'll have bagels that will look like a Montreal bagel but will taste like a New York bagel. Does this leave you wondering just what it could taste like? Well, Lisa reports that people in Waitsfield just loved them. The new bakery will also have laminated doughs, croissants, Danishes (very light and fluffy), pop-overs, coffee cakes and crumb cakes (NY style). In the afternoon, they plan to make cookies and cupcakes and specialized little tarts, brownies and raspberry bars, and macaroons and custom cakes, for birthdays and

anniversaries. They may also have frittatas, for protein, at mid-day.

Lisa told the Beat that she expects her first few weeks to be trial and error as she adjusts to what the community wants. The Bakery plans to serve Awake coffee, an organic coffee roasted in Vermont. They will have a full espresso machine, a Rancilio, which is an Italian machine.

It looks like the breakfast scene in Richmond just got even better. We look forward to welcoming Sweet Simone's into the community. For more an interesting short video about the startup of this unique bakery when it was in Waitsfield, we invite you to go to: <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/315525878/the-sweet-spot>.

Plans for opening are probably the first half of January, but not before January 7.

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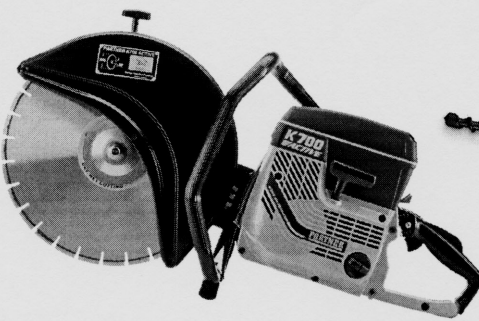
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 - Hemmett Family Chiropractic
 - Haven Design & Building
 - Hickok & Boardman Realtors
 - Hillview Designs
 - Holy Rosary Church
 - Huntington Planning Commission
 - Huntington Public Library
 - Huntington Selectboard
 - Huntington Town Clerk
 - Huntington Volunteer Fire Department
 - Interrobang Design Collabprative
 - Isaac's Antiques
 - Jamieson Insurance
 - Jeff Palin Excavating
 - Jubilee Farm
 - Krin's Bakery
 - Lantman's Market
 - Lifetypes Consulting & Counseling- Bill Haddock
 - Lyric Theatre
 - Mann & Machine
 - Maple Wind Farm
 - Mel Mackay Photography
 - Metlife Premier Premier Client Group
 - MMCTV (Mt. Mansfield Community Television)
 - MMU After Dark
 - Molinari Dentistry
 - Moovin' Mane
 - Moultroup Family Farm Beef
 - Moultroup Family Farm Vegetables
 - Moultroup Maple Syrup
 - On the Rise Bakery
 - Open Studio
- Our Community Cares Camp
 - Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church
 - Pleasant Mount Farm
 - Pleasant Valley Landscaping, Inc.
 - Purinton Family Tree Farm
 - Remax North - Linda St. Amour
 - Rep. Anne O'Brien
 - Rep. Rebecca Ellis
 - Rep. Tom Stevens
 - Resting Lion Studio
 - Richmond Animal Hospital
 - Richmond Congregational Church
 - Richmond Dental
 - Richmond Family Medicine
 - Richmond Farmers Market
 - Richmond Home Supply
 - Richmond Interior Design
 - Richmond Planning Commission
 - Richmond Rescue
 - Richmond Senior Center
 - Richmond Terrace
 - Richmond Town Clerk
 - Richmond Victorian Inn
 - Samba Soccer Camp
 - Senator Diane Snelling, candidate
 - Senator Tim Asche, candidate
 - Shattuck Welding and Repair
 - Sleepy Hollow Inn Ski & Bike Center
 - Solar Bus - Gary Beckwith
 - Spruce Mortgage - Laurie Hill
 - Stadtler, Holly
 - Still at It Farm -Ted Sargeant
 - Stone Corral Brewery
 - Storrs, Daryl - artist
 - Sunshine, David, Attorney
 - Sweet Grass Studio
 - Sweethearts of Vermont - Anne O'Brien
 - Ten Talents - Randy Richland
 - Tess Starecheski - Interfaith Spiritual Direction
 - Texas Hill Lawn Care - Corry Tatro
 - The Crate Escape
 - Tim Conver Painting
 - Timberlane Dental
 - Town of Huntington
 - Town of Richmond
 - Upon This Rock
 - Valley Stage - Don Sheldon
 - Vermont Gas Systems
 - Vermont Land Maintenance
 - Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom
 - Western Slopes Business Assn.
 - Washburn's Servicerter
 - Windekind Farm
 - Winooski Press
 - Winter, Susan - Chittenden County Fish and Game Club
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Family Focus

by Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W.

Meaning and Mortality

“While I thought that I was learning how to live, I have been learning how to die.”
—Leonardo da Vinci, Notebooks, 1508-18

All through my formal education my goal was to work with children, a goal realized early in my career. But then things changed and I spent almost 25 years affiliated with a home health agency, providing services to the elderly, the sick, and the dying. How did this come to be?

I recall a childhood friend, Louisa Pavlovich, who lived next door. Our community was an old one where the houses were close together and many families had resided there for generations. Louisa’s grandparents lived nearby and were frequently present in her home sharing meals, special events, or just to socialize.

When Louisa’s grandfather Albert was diagnosed with a terminal illness (I don’t remember what), he and her grandmother continued to regularly join her family. They would all eat together, then play pinochle around the kitchen table, except for Albert, who lay on the couch in the darkened living room, alone. It struck me at the time that no one ever talked about him dying.

I remember thinking that someone should be present with Albert, comfort him, and acknowledge what was happening. I’m sure his family was sympathetic, but no one seemed to know what to say or do. My own grandparents, those still living, were hundreds of miles away, and this close-knit family had a profound effect on me. They all seemed so close to each other, and yet so distant.

As a society, have we made strides in the area of dying and death? My friend, Marilyn Hart, MD, describes how 30 years ago she and a few others met in a church basement in Montpelier

to start a hospice and palliative care team. Over the years, their efforts grew into a nationally known and respected department of the home health agency. But she questions the way people are now dying and the care they receive during their declining years.

“Palliative care has struggled to get a foothold in hospitals and nursing homes,” she observes. “There are many hospice programs, but few people use them. Funding is a big part of the problem.” Marilyn agrees that we have medicalized aging, frailty, and death, treating them as illnesses, not as naturally occurring events in the lifespan.

People are not only living longer, but they are living longer independently. Traditional multigenerational families have been replaced by smaller, nuclear families who have moved far away from parents and grandparents. They sought jobs doing work they wanted to do, in a location of their choosing, and with choice of their own friends. Pursuing paths of self-reliance, they separated from their families, both parents and children desiring a kind of freedom from constraints of family rules and responsibilities.

This is not a bad thing. As folks have found themselves living longer they have embraced their opportunities to live autonomous lives, a worldwide phenomenon. People want to find their own purpose in life.

This applies, as well, to dying. In our final months and weeks, we want to be comforted and cared for, not tortured by endless treatments provided only to extend life but which deprive us of meaning and dignity. Our goal is to live, not just be kept alive.

Wishing each of you a meaningful holiday season.

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

Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Ambushes

How is it you can go to bed feeling great and wake up in the morning with a pain in your leg that turns out to be osteoarthritis? (For the younger readers of the column, osteoarthritis is a degeneration of joint cartilage the and underlying bone, causing pain and stiffness, usually in the hip, knee, spine or thumb.)

It makes no sense. The right hip joint wore out last night and now there is bone on bone where cartilage used to be? What happened after I fell asleep? Was it a dream of THE LONG MARCH and I walked across China?

These are ambushes: injuries haunting us from our past, or the general wear & tear of life finally catching up to us, and Wham! Out of nowhere you’re limping around, looking for a cane. (Here is a sign you are over sixty: when you suddenly need a cane, it turns out you already own one.)

Naturally, I’m griping about this because it happened to me. One day I’m walking up and down the hills of Barre with my wife and our dog. Next day, I am hobbling about the house trying to figure out what happened.

Of course, whenever you have a health problem, you learn a lot of neat stuff. Like hip replacement surgery is one of the most common operations in America. The average age of the patients is 62. Slightly more women than men are affected. At least those are the statistics at Dartmouth Hitchcock.

You also suddenly encounter everyone in the Green Mountains who has a new hip or is avoiding getting one. They all have the same story, too, “Got up one morning and Wham!”

So, what am I going to do? I am going to get the surgery as fast as it can be arranged. Yes, it scares me, but if I am going to have a problem today then I want to solve that problem as quickly as I can. Better to be struggling with recovery than just struggling. All of my life, my problems have been good news. At 65, my recovery should be much easier than if this became an issue at 85.

As much as I resent being ambushed, as I look back there were warning signs. For the past five years, I’ve been getting a shooting pain in my right hip if I moved laterally just right. When I had my shoe heels replaced in the spring, the left heel was warn down more than the right, which suggested I had been favoring the right leg. Something was already wrong before I had to reach for the cane. It just took that much pain to get me to pay attention. This will be one year I am sure to keep my resolution: “Get a new hip in January.”

We don’t get to choose what goes wrong or when, but we do get to choose what we do about it. Aging in Place, it doesn’t happen by accident.

(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. He works as a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage and HECM for Purchase specialist. You can access previous Aging in Place columns and Scott’s blogs at scottfunk.org.)