The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

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Brewster-Pierce is 50

Brody Norris, Jen Botzojorns and Florence Miles (93 years old and always ready for a party) enjoy lunch at Brewster-Pierce School's 50th birthday party. Photo: Heidi Racht

Brewster-Pierce School in Huntington, which opened in 1965, had its 50th birthday this fall. On November 9, a celebratory lunch was held at the school. Students, townspeople of all ages, and former and current teachers and administrators enjoyed this milestone of the town's local school.

In addition to the great lunch and a chance to socialize in the middle of the day, attendees sang Happy Birthday, enjoyed cake (with frosting!), wore paper crowns and took a walk down Memory Lane perusing the scrapbooks of class photos on a table in the school gym.

Fun Facts:

- Built on land donated to the Town of Huntington for a school
- Opened in 1965, grades 1-8, four classrooms
- Teaching Principal (2.5 hours per week administrative time) until the early 1990s
- One renovation and two additions since 1986
- Two school lunch cooks since opening; three assistant cooks since 1986
- Original kitchen commercial equipment and all playground equipment purchased with money raised through fundraising

Round Church Holiday Carol Sing

On Sunday, December 6, the Richmond Historical Society will host two community caroling sessions at the Round Church, at 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm respectively. For both sessions, Tom Walters and friends will once again lead a program of familiar holiday songs and traditional carols. Get in the holiday spirit with some family fun in Richmond's historic community meetinghouse; but please dress warmly—the Round Church has no heat.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating at the Round Church is now limited to 228 by order of the State Fire Marshal.

For more information, contact Martha Turner at rhs@oldroundchurch.com or 434-6453.

Above photo: Dave Sobel

Richmond Teacher East Coast Superstar

Richmond Elementary School recently announced that the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) America Eastern District has chosen Brian Godfrey as the Elementary School Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2016. The Eastern District includes the New England states as well as Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. As the Teacher of the Year, representing the Eastern District, he will be among other Elementary School Physical Educators vying for the recognition of SHAPE America National Teacher of the Year.

A Celebration of Tom Hark

VYCC's Thomas Hark is feted on November 7 for his 30 years of service. Courtesy photo

On November 7, it was a celebration of Tom Hark's 30 years of service to Vermont Yoouth Conservation Corps (VYCC) and Vermont.

Over 200 community members, alumni, past staff, past board members attended.

There were remarks from seven individuals and gifts and presentations galore, including:

· Proclamation from Governor Shumlin that November 9, 2015 is Thomas L. Hark Day in Vermont

· A flag flown over the US Capitol from Senator Patrick Leahy

· A letter of thanks and congratulations from Senator Bernie Sanders

· A letter of thanks and congratulations from Mary Sprenkle, CEO of The Corps Network in Washington D.C.

· Announcement from VYCC Board President that the VYCC Campus will heretofore be called the Thomas L. Hark Leadership Campus. A plaque is on its way and will be installed in the courtyard of the West Monitor Barn

Hark was recognized for his leadership, mentorship of youth and young staff, incredible vision, and ability to carry out that vision.

After a great spread of delicious food from the VYCC Farm, Red Hot Juba entertained and Jerry Greenfield scooped Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream for everyone.

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OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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Letters

New Rep Introduction

Let me introduce myself to residents of Huntington and Buel's Gore (and Bolton and Waterbury too), as your new State Representative to the Vermont Legislature. Governor Shumlin appointed me to replace Rebecca Ellis, who resigned her post to take a position with the Governor's administration. I'm sure you join me in thanking Rebecca for her tireless service to the Washington-Chittenden District.

The selection process to replace a vacant legislative seat in very thorough. A district committee consisting of members from Bolton, Huntington and Waterbury interviewed 6 individuals and ultimately recommended 3 qualified candidates to the Governor. The Governor and several key members of his staff met with each candidate. Additionally, leaders from the House of Representatives also met with each candidate. The decision rested with the Governor, and I was humbled and honored to be chosen to represent this district.

As of this date, I don't know which committee I will be assigned to. The Speaker of the House, Shap Smith, has the responsibility of making that assignment. Regardless of committee assignment, I will do my best to represent your interests.

I plan to host a "meet and greet" event in the next few weeks to chat with people personally and to share more about my background and to listen to your ideas, concerns, and questions. Please look for that announcement on Front Porch Forum. Until then, I'll be getting my feet wet at various upcoming meetings in Montpelier!

—*Rep. Theresa Wood*, Waterbury

Thank You, Round Church Volunteers!

As Thanksgiving approaches, we would like to express our appreciation for the many volunteers who have made this Round Church visitor and wedding season a success. From the spring-cleaning Work Day in early May to the last October wedding, 45 volunteers put in time at the Round Church this year. Together, they welcomed visitors from all 50 states and 27 other countries. They also hosted eight weddings, two concerts and a history program. We would like to thank as well the musicians and other volunteers who will participate in the Richmond Historical Society's last two events of the year – the annual Round Church Carol Sing on December 6, and the New Year's Eve Round Church Benefit Concert in the Richmond Congregational Church.

The Richmond Historical Society is privileged to care for such a beautiful National Historic Monument. Volunteers play a crucial role in this task, as weddings and visitor donations provide much-needed income for church maintenance. Thanks to our volunteers, the Round Church remains safe, attractive and open to the public.

To learn more about Round Church volunteer opportunities, please contact us at rhs@oldroundchurch.com.

—*Fran Thomas*, RHS President
Martha Turner, Round Church Guide Coordinator
Mary Ann Barnes and Maria Brown, Wedding Coordinators

New Trails and More

Camels Hump Nordic Skiers Association (CHNSA, a 501(c)3 non-profit) is pleased to announce new trails, new web and Facebook pages, and revised rules for dogs on our trails.

The Town of Huntington has allowed us to clear an (ungroomed) connector trail from the top of Crow's Foot Trail, across to the Catamount's Honey Hollow trail and another new trail, a connector to Woodchuck Ramble and Lions Ridge. These are higher in elevation and will likely have good snow all season. A snowy winter is coming, so conditions across the 35-plus kilometers of our Nordic trails in Huntington should be absolutely wonderful for skate, classic, and backcountry skiers alike. Our suggested donations for using the trails are $10/day, $75/season, or $125/Family season. Please pay this if you can, but our mission is to get people out and into winter fitness, so get up here regardless!

Our Web presence has improved, with the website updated www.camelshumpskiers.org, and our new Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/camelshumpnordicskiarea

CHNSA's dog-friendly ski loop will continue, but Dogs and their Humans must now be season-pass holders (no day passes for the Dog Trail). This is marked with square green markers with a yellow dog paw painted on. Only this marked loop is open to dogs. Dog pass holders will receive a CHNSA Velcro band to be displayed on their collar. Dog season passes are $30/season/member, plus $15 per additional dog. Please keep Dogs under control and their emissions off of the trails. Please exercise your four footed friends and return them to your car when you go on to explore the remainder of CHNSA.

Users of CHNSA trails are welcome to attend our Annual Meeting, which will be December 5, 4-6pm at Windekind Farm in Huntington, Vermont.

CHNSA will again be the start and finish of the annual Camels Hump Challenge, a fundraiser for the Vermont Alzheimers Association. This is a serious backcountry ski around the entire massif of Camels Hump, about 25 kilometers, and includes some technically difficult areas as well. But, it is a great cause and a great event. Normally this event is in late February, but the date for 2016 has not been announced. The 2015 conditions were superb, so let's hope for another great snow season in 2016!

For more information, maps, conditions, and directions see www.camelshumpskiers.org

—*Terry Ryan,* Huntington

Not Yet….

In large letters, "Not yet…." was the focus of the first bulletin board of the school year—illustrating for students that having a growth mindset means that you know you can train your brain to get smarter. With a growth mindset, intelligence and character can be developed and a person's true potential is unknown. With a growth mindset, challenges are embraced and setbacks are stepping stones.

Congressman Peter Welch recently visited and held a press conference at Camels Hump Middle School to discuss concerns around dropped calls in Vermont and the impact on our rural communities. Joined by industry members and school representatives, students at Camels Hump were able to observe and hear government in action. For more information on this topic please visit the following link: http://www.ntca.org/advocacy/call-termination.html .To see a video of Congressman Welch's presentation, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMWmoStbu-0&feature=youtu.be

CHMS Girls cross-country team front and center at the Willison meet

During the last week in October, Camels Hump Middle School was featured as a Cool School on television stations Local 22 and Local 44. A big shout out to the students who nominated CHMS: Emily, Kane, Audrey and William as well as all the individual students who participated in the events of the morning. The news reporter was treated to a cheer by the girls' field hockey team, a performance by the select

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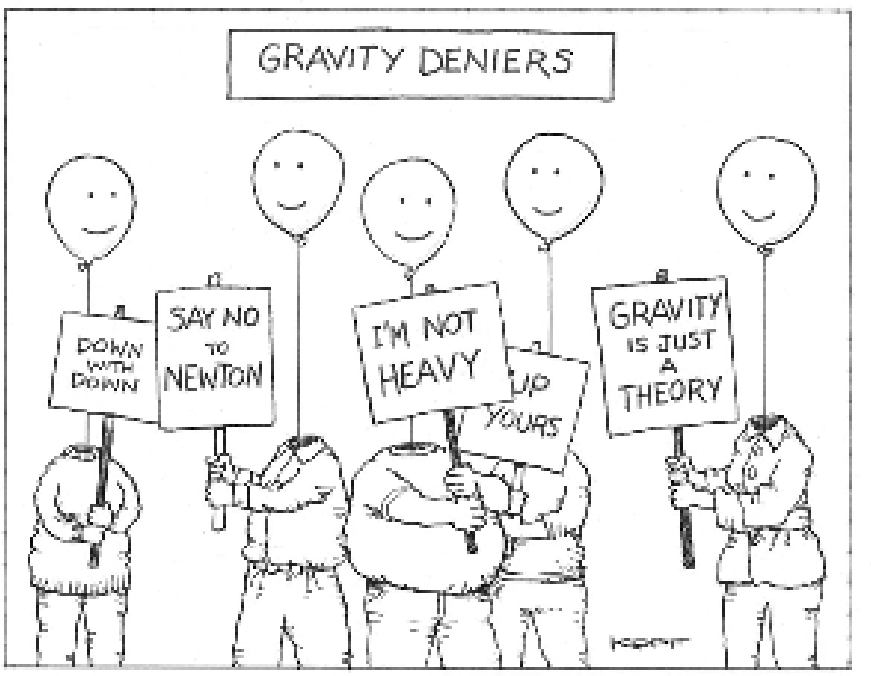

Rake Dancing at MMU

Akash Kushwaha of Huntington onstage as Rake Carbuncle in MMU's fall theatre production of The Lamentable Life, Breathtaking Beauty and Ruthless Rise of Destiny Mink. The performances were held November 13-15. Photo: Mira Coffey

Huntington Holiday Boxes

Huntingon's annual holiday food box efforts are underway. Food collection boxes will be placed in the community after Thanksgiving for the collection of nonperishable canned and boxed food. Donations of money will be used to purchase fresh fruit, local vegetables, and fill in the "extras" where needed.

The boxes will be delivered on Saturday, December 19.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks before and on the delivery day. Contact Heidi Racht by phone or email (heidiracht@gmavt.net / 434-2690) for details.

Checks can be dropped off at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office. Brewster-Pierce School Office or Beaudry's Store.

Richmond Foot Clinics Scheduled

The Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors are back Mark your calendar for:

November 24	January 5, 2016
February 16	March 29
May 10	June 21

Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building. Appointments can be made for 9 am, 9:30 am, or 10 am. Call for an appointment: Sally Singer (434-3480 or Catherine Coggio 434-3572.

Bring a towel and enter through the back door of the building. The clinic is sponsored by Fletcher Allen Health Care. More information can be obtained at singersallydan@yahoo com.

Blood Drive December 16

The next local area American Red Cross blood drive will be held at the Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall on December 16, 2015 from 11:30 am to 5 pm.

In the spirit of the holiday season, consider the perfect gift of a pint of blood. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS(1-800-733-2767) or go online to redcrossblood.org for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Those with appointments are able to help minimize the time it takes to donate.

12th Annual WSBA Richmond Holiday Market On Its Way

Western Slopes Business Association and the Town of Richmond will be hosting the 12th Annual Richmond Holiday Market on Saturday, December 5, 9 am to 3 pm. This annual event is offered in four locations, including Richmond Free Library, the Richmond Congregational Church, Richmond Town Center and Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. More than 1,000 people are expected to attend.

The Holiday Market offers everyone a chance to shop locally, It is the perfect gift-buying opportunity, with over 60 vendors offering hand-crafted and original items, produce, locally-prepared food and more. Young entrepreneurs will also sell their wares at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Bolton Valley will be at the Richmond Free Library's mezzanine level selling season passes.

Happy shoppers at the 2014 Richmond Holiday Market. Photo: WSBA Facebook

Kids of all ages can celebrate a tradition when Santa arrives by horse and wagon at 10 am and visits with families until noon. This year, for the first time, Santa will be at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church. During that time, wagon rides are offered, departing from outside the Richmond Free Library. At an ornament-making table, visitors can get a free craft ornament with a donation of a canned good to benefit the Richmond Food Shelf.

Homemade food will be served at the Congregational and Catholic churches all day. A food truck will be located outside of Richmond Free Library.

Festive music will be provided at all the venues by the Camels Hump Middle School Select Choir and the Richmond Community Band, with DJ Tony Basanta spinning tunes in the Town Hall Teen Center.

The Western Slopes Business Association Silent Auction (9 am-2 pm) will be held for this first time this year in the Town Center basement Teen Center. Each year the auction benefits the Association's Scholarship Fund for MMU graduates. For auction donations, contact auction co-chair Angelike Contis: mmc-tv@comcast.net.

Park at the Catholic Church and ride the shuttle to the other locations. Visitors are encouraged to park at the Catholic Church for their convenience, with regular, free shuttle service from Catholic Church to Town Center.

Contact Nick deTarnowsky, WSBA President and Richmond Holiday Market Committee Chair: 434-4483 or blueskyvtweddings@gmail.com.

Holiday Market at a Glance

Booths at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church under croft on West Main Street

Farmer's Market will include local produce and locally prepared foods

New – Young entrepreneurs at Catholic Church selling their goods

Santa at the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church from 10 – 12

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides from 10 – 12 starting at the Richmond Free Library

Bolton Valley booth in the Library (you can pick up your season passes and have your photos taken).

New – more vendor booths in the Richmond Town Center Meeting room (second floor)

WSBA Silent Auction Benefit for Scholarship Fund in the Richmond Teen Center

Parking/ shuttle service from the Catholic Church to the Town Center will be available during the day.

Our Community Cares Camp

Building a Caring Community Where Every Child Can Find Success

Here is my (our) end-of-year donation so local children can attend an enriching summer camp with good local food in 2016

Name(s)_____

Address_____ Town_____

$10_____ $25_____ $50_____ $100_____Other_____

Mail to OCCC POB 503 Richmond, VT 05477
Donate at www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org
www.facebook.com/OCCCVT

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We have a pair of tickets to give away to see the Nebraska Theatre Caravan's production of A Christmas Carol on the Flynn Mainstage in Burlington, Friday, December 11 at 7 pm. For a chance to win these tickets, put your name in the box on the second floor circulation desk. The winner will be drawn from the box on December 2. For more about this show, go to www.flynncenter.org.

Win a Holiday Basket! Starting in December, buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win one of the eight themed baskets for adults and children with a variety of goodies, including books, audiobooks, and DVDs (contents vary). The themes include Whodunnit?, In the Kitchen, For the Reading Man, True Stories (Non-Fiction), Relaxation for Women, and others. There will be many currently popular titles in the baskets. Proceeds from the raffle sale will help us grow our DVD collection. Drawing will be the week of Christmas.

1927 Flood and Recovery Join us to hear Professor Nicholas Clifford speak on the 1927 Flood in Vermont on Sunday, December 13, at 2 pm. He will discuss the story of the flood, the formation and work of emergency relief committees, the efforts to rebuild in a harsh climate, and the ways in which the disaster fundamentally affected the state's political and social development. Clifford is a Middlebury College Professor Emeritus of History and co-author of The Troubled Roar of the Waters: Vermont in Flood and Recovery, 1927-1931.

Improve Your Handwriting On December 7 and 9, at 6:30 pm, Chris Carfaro will lead Flourish and Blots a class on penmanship and calligraphy. These sessions will help improve one's penmanship and provide a foundation to calligraphy. Handwriting is a skill that deserves a new breath of air in our society. There will be a fee to cover cost of supplies.

Winter Solstice Concert On Sunday, December 20 at 3 pm, great local talent will present a Winter Solstice Spectacular featuring an all ages cast of actors, singers and dancers to celebrate the delights of the season. Gather to sip some cider and listen to holiday favorites. Come join us, and take a step back into the musical past, while celebrating the here and now. Suggested Donation of $10.

Art at the Library The Birds of Vermont will fill our foyer display case for the month of November with a display entitled Cold Winter, Warm Feet. Engaging props and images of winter's cold challenges faced by Vermont's year round avian residents, and the physical and behavioral adaptations they employ to stay warm present a story of perseverance and adaptation.

English Country Dance On Friday, November 20, 7 pm-9:30 pm, join Val Medve for an evening of English Country Dance. No experience necessary, but bring soft soled shoes and comfortable clothing. Small donation requested.

Knitting Drop-in Knitting (or other crafts) is on every Wednesday, 6:30 pm to 8 pm, in the mezzanine lounge.

Open Mike Play an instrument, sing, read poetry and feel like a star with your friends and neighbors. Listen to local talent. Come to the Library on Saturday, November 28, at 7 pm, for an Open Mike evening.

Book Discussion Groups November 19, 7 pm: Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberly McCreight, and December 8, 6 pm: Norwegian by Night by Derek Miller. (John Creasey Dagger Award winner.) Copies of book discussion titles are available at the first floor circulation desk. Everyone is welcome.

New Adult Books The Survivor by Vince Flynn (and Kyle Mills), Sword of Honor by David Kirk, Miss Ruffles Inherits Everything by Nancy Martin, Iron Wolf by Dale Brown, The Last Midwife by Sandra Dallas, $2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing by Katheryn Edin, Billion-Dollar Ball: A Journey Through the Big-Money Culture of College Football by Gilbert Gaul, The Tsar of Love and Techno by Anthony Marra, Make Me by Lee Child, The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende, Oh, Crap! Potty Training by Peter Thorne, The Shepherd's Crown by Terry Pratchett, and Privacy in the Modern Age by Marc Rotenberg.

Magazines Also good to remember – the Library subscribes to 80 different magazines you can check out, from Adventure Cycling, Atlantic Monthly, Consumer Reports, Cooks Illustrated, Discover, Family Fun, Family Handyman, Fine Gardening, Kiplinger, Mother Jones, The New Yorker, Practical Homeschooling, Utne Reader, The Week, Wired, Yes! and others titles.

New Children's Books We have lots of outstanding new books in the children's and Young Adults' sections, but we need to mention one particular new book: Brian Selznick's The Marvels. Selznick created an innovative way of structuring a narrative in book format with The Invention of Hugo Cabret. His use of groups of wordless, black-and-white drawings with interspersed text to advance the story perfectly matched the silent-film aspect of the book. In fact, The Invention of Hugo Cabret was such a consummate blend of form and content that it came as a surprise when four years later (2011) Selznick released another book with a storyline appropriate to his special technique. The two independent stories of Ben and Rose (who are both deaf) in Wonderstruck are fifty years apart, but they reflect one another in visionary connection. Both books have been critically acclaimed as masterpieces. The Marvels, once again, is divided between storytelling with separate sections of drawings and text, but this time the drawings comprise the first half of this 664 page novel and the text (with a short reprise of the drawings) makes up the second half. The mystery at the core of the book concerns a shipwreck, generations of a theatrical family, a strange house in London, and a runaway boy. The impeccably fitting reason behind the existence of the drawings is eventually revealed. In a starred review of The Marvels, Kirkus Reviews wrote, "Time, grief, forgiveness, and love intersect in epic theater celebrating mysteries of heart and spirit." All three books transcend the brilliance of Selznick's technique and are deeply satisfying triumphs of storytelling.

Storytimes Wednesday morning playgroup includes some stories and songs and is followed by another storytime. We also have a storytime on Mondays at 10:30. No registration is necessary.

Early Bird Math If you spend time with a little person on Friday mornings, consider bringing them to Early Bird Math. We read books, sing songs and play simple action games that introduce and reinforce early math concepts such as more/less, big/small, shapes, spatial comprehension and more! No registration is required, just come ready to count, sort and measure. Fridays at 11 am

Huntington Public Library

HOURS:
Mon 10–6
Tues & Thurs 12–5
Fri 10-5 • Sun 12–5
434-4583
hpl@gmavt net

Huntington Library Notes is a new music series made possible in part by a generous grant from the Ben and Jerry's Foundation. The first performance of this exciting new series is Sunday, November 22, at 7 pm, by Burlington Taiko Drummer Stuart Paton. All ages are welcome, donations gratefully accepted at the door.

Stuart Paton, co-founder of Burlington Taiko (1986), grew up in Tokyo and has been performing and studying Taiko since 1984. He is also the artistic director and lead teacher for Burlington Taiko. His solo performance at theLibrary will include traditional Taiko repertoire from Japan and newer compositions from the United States, as well as ShishiMai – Japanese Lion Dance. Stuart is a gifted performer and teacher, and fondly remembers teaching students during a residency at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School 10 years ago.

Thanksgiving Week Hours Sunday 12-5, Monday 10-6, Tuesday 10-3. Closed Thursday and Friday.

Planet Huntington Planet Huntington kicks off its eight season at the library on Sunday, December 6, at 5 pm. Join Rebecca Ryan and her running friends, all of whom, in the Highlands of Iceland, ran, speed hiked, scrambled, and soaked in hot springs, rain and water crossings. As described in the Lonely Planet Guide, "the solitude is exhilarating, the views are vast, the access is limited, and it's immediately rewarding to hike, bike, (or run!) these cross-country routes (of the Highlands)." Stay tuned for cycling in Italy and hiking in Norway in the New Year!

Seeking Volunteers Please consider joining our team of dedicated and generous volunteers who keep the Library open on Sundays! The Library depends on volunteer staffing on Sundays from noon to 5 pm. Shifts and dates are flexible, ranging from two-and-a-half hours to five hours at a time. No experience necessary, training is provided. Please visit the Library or email hpl@gmavt.net for more information.

We are also in need of someone willing to keep the ramp to our entrance open and accessible throughout the snow season.

New Adult Fiction The Girl in the Spider's Web by David Lagercrantz; See Me by Nicholas Sparks; Dreaming Spies by Laurie King; Infinite Home – A Novel by Kathleen Alcott; Devoted in Death by J.D. Robb; The Lake House by Kate Morton; Rogue Lawyer by John Grisham; The Girls at the Kingfisher Club by Genevieve Valentine; Winter Stroll by Elin Hilderbran; The Woman Who Walked in the Sunshine by Alexander McCall Smith; A Manual For Cleaning Women – Short Stories by Lucia Berlin; Christmas Bells by Jennifer Chiaverini; Dry Bones by Craig Johnson; The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks; Avenue of Mysteries by John Irving.

Adult Non-Fiction The Soul of an Octopus – A Surprising Exploration into the Wonders of Consciousness by Sy Montgomery; Altered Genes, Twisted Truth by Steven M. Druker; Flower Confidential – The Good, The Bad m and the Beautiful by Amy Stewart; The Seed Garden – The Art and Practice of Seed Saving by Seed Savers Exchange; Thunderstruck by Erik Larson.

Adult Biography Call the Midwife by Jennifer Worth; M Train by Patti Smith.

Children's Books Andy That's My Name and Michael Bird-Boy by Tomie DePaola; Thanks for Thanksgiving by Julie Marks; Llama Llama Gran and Grandpa by Anna Dwedney; Winter is Coming by Tony Johnston; I'm My Own Dog by David Ezra Stein; My Grandfather's Coat by Jim Aylesworth; Shh! We Have a Plan by Chris Haughton; Lindbergh – The Tale of a Flying Mouse by Torben Kuhlmann; Miss Brooks' Story Nook by Barbara Bottner; Star Stuff – Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos by Stephanie Roth Sisson; Blizzard by John Rocco; Dinotrux, Meet the Dinotrux and Dinotrux Go To School by Chris Gall; Five Little Monkeys Trick or Treat by Eileen Christelow; Room on the Broom Let's Go For a Drive! and Can I Play Too? by Mo Willems.

There are also many of our seasonal children's collection available for checkout.

Junior Poetry Firefly July– A Year of Very Short Poems; Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold by Joyce Sidman.

Junior Novels Library of Souls – The Third Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs; The Fate of Ten by Pittacus Lore.

Junior Non-Fiction Bedtime Math – A Fun Excuse to Stay Up Late, This Time It's Personal, and The Truth Comes Out by Laura Overdeck

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am – noon. Sponsored by Building Brighter Futures and facilitated by Jen O'Hora. The playgroup is a supportive, social, and creative place for children and their caregivers.

The Playgroup's schedule is the same as the school calendar, so there will be no playgroup Friday, November 27.

Story Time Babies and toddlers need books! Listening to stories, holding books, fingerplays, and rhyming, and singing are all great ways to practice pre-literacy skills. Fridays at 10:45 am. No Story Time on Friday, November 27.

First Friday Movie Night Join us on Friday, December 4, at 7 pm. Bring a friend or two, a cozy blanket, and we'll pop the popcorn!

Vermont Reads

On the hundredth anniversary of Ernest Shackleton's Endurance expedition to the Antarctic, the Vermont Humanities Council has chosen two books recounting that epic survival story for its Vermont Reads 2016 program: Jennifer Armstrong's Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World and Caroline Alexander's The Endurance, Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition.

Vermont Reads is VHC's statewide, one-book community reading program (two books in 2016). With Vermont Reads, VHC provides books for free to communities through an application process as well as resources for developing community book-related activities.

Vermont Reads brings people together in communities around the state to read, discuss, and build activities around a book—promoting community-building, intergenerational exchange, a focus on the humanities, and literacy.

A brief application, submitted by a school, library, service organization, church, business, environmental group, or other community-based organization, is all it takes to get started. Deadlines for applying are December 4, 2015 and June 3, 2016 for priority consideration. To apply, visit www.vtreads.org or contact Mike Dougherty, mdougherty@vermonthumanities.org or 802.262.1355.

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December 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Afterschool Course 1 Cake Decorating for Middle Schoolers - bake, ice & decorate cakes. 3 pm to 5:30 pm, $125.

December 7 & 15: Intermediate Gingerbread House - build & decorate a GB House with icing, chocolates and fondant. , 3 pm to 5:30 pm, $125.

December 12: Cookie Tree - build and decorate a gingerbread cookie tree centerpiece. 9 am to noon or 1 pm to 4 pm, $25.

December 14: Chocolate Class - make chocolates for stockings and the tree. 9 am to noon or 1 pm to 4 pm, $25.

December 19: Cookie Wreath - make a gingerbread cookie wreath for hanging or gift giving. , 10 am -noon or 1 - 3pm, $25.

December 20: Poinsettia Class - learn how to make a poinsettia from fondant and gumpaste. 1 pm - 3pm, $30

December 21: Cookie Ornaments - decorate gingerbread cookies for hanging on the tree. 1 pm- 3 pm or 4 pm - 6 pm, $25.

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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Notice of Final Review Minor Subdivision

Pursuant to the Huntington Subdivision Regulations, the Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Final Subdivision Hearing on the application by Barbara Brace to divide a five-acre lot (with residence) from 61 acres. Subject property is located at 958 Texas Hill Road. The hearing will be at the Huntington Town Office on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 7:15 pm.

Notice of Preliminary Review Major Subdivision

The Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Preliminary Subdivision Review on the application by William White to divide 124.18 acres into four lots (Lot 1 – 27.36 acres, Lot 2 – 6.89 acres, Lot 3 9.22 acres; Lot 4- 80.34 acres). Access to subject property is located on Bert White Road, east of Handy Road, in Huntington. The hearing will be at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office on Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at 7:50 pm.

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

—Heidi Racht, Clerk
November 19, 2015

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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Are some town employees underpaid?

That was the question considered by the Richmond Selectboard at its November 2 meeting during debate over the new municipal budget.

The proposed budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year was introduced by Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik in mid-October. It would bump spending by 4.2 percent and require roughly a three-cent rise in the property tax rate, costing the owner of a $300,00 home about an extra $90 a year.

Among the items that could drive up the budget are capital costs, such as replacement of municipal vehicles and library building repairs. Another budget bump would be needed to give raises to police officers and Highway Department workers.

Police Chief Alan Buck has requested the town consider a $2 an hour jump in starting pay, "which would push everyone else up also," Urbanik said in an Oct. 16 memo. It would cost about $20,000 to raise pay for Richmond's four full-time officers, not including overtime and benefit costs.

At the Highway Department, Road Foreman Pete Gosselin proposed a 4 percent across-the-board pay raise for all workers. Urbanik said he preferred to instead give varying raises to individual employees, with the lowest-paid worker receiving an extra $2 an hour, and the other three remaining department employees another $1 an hour. Gosselin himself would receive a cost-of-living raise to his salary of roughly two percent.

In all, the Highway Department pay increases would add roughly $15,000 to the town budget.

A recent survey found that Richmond's police officers and highway workers are underpaid compared to their counterparts in other Chittenden County towns. Pay hikes "would put us more in line with neighboring towns, although due to the experience of our employees, still somewhat low," Urbanik wrote in a memo to the Selectboard. "I believe it's a significant step to take."

The proposed raises generated a lengthy debate about equity and fairness among Selectboard members and the handful of residents attending the meeting.

At the Highway Department, some workers are underpaid compared to their peers elsewhere, Urbanik said. "In some cases, employees have been here six years and they are making less than starting workers in other towns."

Selectboard member Taylor Yeates agreed that at least some employees are underpaid. But he wanted to phase in raises over a three- or four-year period to minimize the budget impact.

Board member Bard Hill said he would be willing to raise police officers' wages by $1 an hour, but wanted wages determined by using a grid that accounts for both cost of living increases and raises based on experience, not on an ad-hoc basis.

Bruce LaBounty, who chairs Richmond's Planning Commission, questioned whether the wage comparison with other towns was relevant. Williston, for example, is a "different animal," presumably a reference to that town's larger population and tax base.

Alluding to the high turnover among officers, LaBounty said the problem was the Richmond Police Department's lack of advancement opportunities, not low pay.

As for the Highway Department, he said the town should take a business-like approach that mainly considers supply and demand. He said if 50 people apply for a position there, it indicates that the town is already paying enough.

Yeates said it was important to treat town employees right. "As a resident, I want to pay fair share to the Highway Department," he said. "What we pay over there to a couple of employees is just not what they are worth."

Resident Mary Houle said the town should carefully consider qualifications for higher-paid employees, and not just pay based on education. She said that employees with a degree not related to the job shouldn't enjoy salaries determined solely by their level of formal education.

Other Spending Talk The Selectboard came to no definitive conclusion on the pay proposals before moving on to other budget matters.

One issue involved funding requests from nonprofit agencies and charitable groups.

Each year, the town receives numerous requests from groups with widely varying missions. This year's requests came from groups as different as the Greater Burlington Industrial Corp. (GBIC), an economic development trade organization, and the Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS), a nonprofit that provides housing for homeless people.

Yeates said some requests are easy to approve, such as those from COTS and Visiting Nurse Association. COTS, which requested $1,000 from Richmond, explained in its application that it served 26 town residents.

But other requests are harder to justify, Yeates noted.

He said he was unwilling to fund GBIC and Front Porch Forum, an Internet bulletin board used by Richmond to post meeting notices and where residents sometimes debate current issues.

The Burlington-based website requested $100 from the town. Yeates said FPF is business supported by ads, not a charity that needs a municipal handout.

Board Chair David Sander disagreed, noting that the town uses FPF enough to justify the small funding request. "My thoughts are we are certainly getting $100" worth of service.

Board member Ellen Kane noted that some organizations such as the American Red Cross request funding without explaining how they serve Richmond. The ARC, she said, only mentioned in its request the combined number of people it helped in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Yeates questioned if the Red Cross should receive the requested $1,500 just for coming to town a couple of times a year to serve coffee when residents need help.

Kane proposed cutting down the number of boilerplate requests by insisting that applications for funding be made with the town's form. Organizations that don't, she said, should be notified that the town doesn't honor such requests.

Lease or Buy? Another budget-related issue debated was how the town should replace worn-out police cruisers.

Urbanik said the answer to whether it is better to lease or buy turns, in part, on how long the town plans to keep vehicles. His budget memo noted that the new vehicles the town is considering – four-wheel-drive SUVs – are more expensive than the full-size sedans it used in the past but are no longer manufactured.

Leasing is appealing because then the town keeps vehicles for fixed times, making the replacement process predicable, Urbanik noted.

Yeates requested a cost comparison between leases and buying and copies of leasing terms solicited from local dealerships. He said the aim should be to "reduce ongoing maintenance costs without putting people in unsafe vehicles.

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

On October 19,2015, the Huntington Selectboard began its business with the approval of a driveway permit application for 15 and 17 Hinesburg Hollow Road. The Board discussed formalizing the driveway permit process, noting current zoning restrictions on multiple curb cuts only apply to accessory dwellings.

Selectboard member Roman Livak shared the Highway Department report, stating, "We are still on track for Moody Road [realignment]." Livak and Board member Nancy Stoddard discussed when Board members could go look at culverts to see which are closed, critical or open. Stoddard suggested having a three-year plan for culverts. The security system at the Town Garage is up and running, Stoddard confirmed.

Selectboard member Andrew Hendrickson presented a quote from Green Mountain Earth Works of Richmond for Town Office and Fire station snow plowing. The Board agreed to have Town Administrator Barbara Elliott sign off on the contract. Board Chair Dori Barton suggested the Building and Grounds Committee check into Town Hall snow plowing needs.

The Board's Quarterly Subcommittee Check-In continued. The Human Resources (HR) Committee has revised job descriptions for the Accounts Payable Clerk, Payroll Clerk, Road Foreman, and Road Crew. The motion to accept these job descriptions passed. Barton added, "We'll approve pay ranges as a group and add them to the job descriptions."

Buildings and Grounds Hendrickson, Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair, has requested quotes for lighting installation along the outdoor steps from the Town Office basement. This project had been approved previously and Board members agreed it should be "fast tracked." Hendrickson shared a proposal for an updated phone system, claiming, "The Champlain Valley Telecom price seemed reasonable." Users of the current phone system are in favor of the improvements, which would include multiple lines for the Town Office and incorporating the Firehouse and Town Garage, Hendrickson elaborated.

Town Hall Committee members Barbara Fellitti and Aaron Worthley sent correspondence regarding bids for storm windows. The Committee has requested a waiver of the Town purchasing policy since it only received two quotes. "It is not town money, it's coming from grants," responded Livak, "Shouldn't they follow conditions of the grant? " A motion to approve a waiver unless it conflicts with grant requirements passed.

The Selectboard met for a special Budget Planning Session on October 26, 2015. The Board reviewed the budget timeline and process, considering recommendations from VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns). The Board revisited debt service and fund balance guidelines and agreed to establish guidelines for social service appropriations. The Board proposed holding a public informational session on the Capital Plan before Town Meeting. November meetings with Town Department heads were scheduled.

The Selectboard meeting on November 2, 2015 began with Public Comment by Gordon Miller. Miller is seeking an answer from the Zoning Administrative Officer regarding minimum lot size in the Town's rural areas, along with subdivision rules. Miller has not received a response from calls and emails to the Zoning Administrator. Barton told Miller she would request this information from Zoning Administrative Officer Edmund Hanson, and Elliott agreed to research the issues with the Development Review Board (DRB).

New Grader Proposed Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger shared numbers for a new grader, which will be included in the Capital Plan. The Highway Department has been preparing for winter road maintenance, Alger reported.

Regional Planning Charlie Baker, CCRPC Executive Director, came for a "customer service visit." Barton asked about attendance at CCRPC educational forums. Baker replied, "About a third of town DRB members showed up to the last forum." Baker said topic oriented webinars have been offered and asked the Board to ponder workshop ideas. Clean water issues will be taking up a lot of time, with a focus on phosphorus runoff, Baker shared. Baker talked about where phosphorus can come from, including the erosion of dirt roads. "There is a split between farm techniques and impervious surface techniques. There will be some people helping farmers and others helping the towns. It will be a big challenge for ANR (Agency of Natural Resources) to walk the walk after talking the talk," Baker explained.

Barton asked Baker about regionalized shared services, such as police and fire. Baker said many suburban towns in Chittenden County are talking about sharing services, and creating a public services authority. "The thing we keep struggling against is the governance question," added Baker. Livak commented, "Bigger towns have bigger grand lists." Elliott concurred, "Our resources are different."

Elliott presented an ongoing list of open action items for the Fiscal Year (FY) 16-17 budget. The Board continued its review of budget items ranging from Animal control to Zoning Administrator mileage.

The Board scheduled a Special Budget Meeting to finalize the Capital Plan for November 9.

Appointment The Board moved to appoint Everett Marshall as an alternate to CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission) Clean Water Advisory Committee.

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BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value

MMMUSD Board Meetings

Reported by Diane Wester

The primary purpose espoused by the proponents of the recent school consolidation was to provide better educational opportunities for the greatest number of students throughout the CESU. The elimination of redundant systems in the eight separate schools would streamline operations. Eliminating district lines would allow personnel to flow to where they are most needed. The purchasing power of a larger system would provide opportunities for economies of scale. Some measurable successes have been achieved for the last three of these goals since the new district's inception on July 1.

The Board is now ready to investigate a different way of governing the newly consolidated district called the Policy Governance Model®. It "defines and guides appropriate relationships between and organization's owners (the community) its board of directors (the school board) and its chief executive (the superintendent). "* The purpose of this investigation may be that the Policy Governance model provides "(a) an emphasis on outward vision rather than an internal preoccupation, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of board and superintendent roles, (e) collective rather than individual decisions, (f) the future rather than the past or present, and (g) proactivity rather than reactivity"** thereby leading the board to a greater opportunity to explore providing better educational opportunities for MMMUSD students.

"The Board's primary relationship is with the organization's 'ownership' "(the public..)* Val Gardner, VSBA said in the October 19 School Board Meeting that it is the Board's responsibility to "go out and talk to the owners, not just sit." Bringing the ideas, concerns, and thoughts of the owners is the responsibility of the Board. It is from these ideas, etc. that the "ENDS" (Policies) are developed. "The board will direct, control, and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the board's values and perspectives. Board values will be drawn from the diverse values of the community informed by expert sources both internal and external to the organization."** When asked, Gardner explained that diversity could mean to draw opinions not only from the Senior Center, but also the PTOs and that expert sources could be, for instance, the local entrepreneurs if appropriate to the question at hand. At the present time, the Ends/Policies of MMMUSD have not been developed. The district continues to operate under the Interim Strategic Plan available at www.cesu.k12.vt.us and under the "traditional" committee system.

The Policies are meant to be broad – giving the Superintendent (CEO) the autonomy to execute the "MEANS" to achieve these "ENDS". The limits of power to achieve these ends are specifically spelled out. "The board will develop policies instructing the Superintendent to achieve specified results for specified recipients at a specified cost. These policies will be developed systematically from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels and will be called Ends policies."** The Superintendent will give a monitoring report on a regular basis, sometimes in a quantifiable manner, explaining whether or not means are being effectively executed to achieve the ends (compliant, or non-compliant performance). If the Superintendent reports a non-compliant occurrence, it will be accompanied by an action plan to reign in the occurrence back into compliance. (Example: A burst pipe in a boiler that puts a hole in the capital budget. The Superintendent would propose ways to adjust the budget, or make up the deficit in the following year.) The School Board would be removed from the day to day operations of running a school district. A committee structure could still be used – at least the Negotiations Committee, and probably the Finance Committee. Committee parameters would be defined.

The Board itself will be self-monitoring, evaluating itself for compliance with Policy on a regular basis.

The Board painstaking evaluated 4.5 of the 10 (Draft) Policy Governance Principles during the two hour and 45minute VSBA Presentation given by Jim FitzPatrick and Val Gardner October 19. Another session to examine the draft of the Principles covering the Board Members' Code of Conflict, Conflict of Interest, Board of Committee Principles, and Governance Investment (cost) is hoped to be scheduled in November. FitzPatrick commented at the beginning of the meeting, "You are beginning Phase II (of the Policy Governance Education Process). We're not there yet. You have the ability to say yes or no."

Continuing with its plan to visit/inspect each of the elementary schools in the consolidated MMMU School District, the Board convened at Underhill ID Elementary School on November 2 to be guided on a tour of the facility by Principal David Wells. Following the tour, Wells reported successes in the Math Program, the food service program, and maintenance work all due to the merger.

The administration has instituted a new routine: background information on an agenda item, i.e. videos, the meeting so that the board has time to digest the information and prepare questions. Underhill ID representative Kevin Campbell was first to question presenter Steve Jarrett, District Technology Supervisor about the presentation they had seen. He wondered if there was 100% connectivity at home for those students who were able/allowed to bring home their computers from school. Jarrett replied that most students in the district had some sort of device at home, and that there were alternatives for students with connectivity problems. Campbell praised the "outward facing" technology improvements made in the past six months regarding blogs and websites noting that new families looking for a place to relocate and raise their children will be impressed by the quality of the websites. Bolton representative Andrew Pond asked if there was parity throughout the schools when it came to tech resources. Jarrett replied "we hope to get there by next year, we're almost there now." Jericho representative Diane Kirson-Glitman asked about the status of internet safety. Jarrett said although protections are in place, no technology will protect totally. He reiterated the teachers have always, and continue to teach safety on the internet, and monitor the students while they are using computers. He hopes close monitoring is continued at home by parents. K-G also asked how MMMUSD technology stacked up against the rest of Vermont. Jarrett replied, "We're by far the leader not only in the quality and quantity of hardware but in integrating technology into the curriculum. Superintendent John Alberghini added that tech standards are embedded in the lessons "we've built it right into the units. Integration specialists go to the classrooms to coach how to integrate technology" cross curriculum.

Alberghini took questions from the board concerning the previously submitted Co-Curricular Activity Report. He stated that when developing the MMU Strategic Plan, the committee discovered students who were in a co-curricular activity improved their grades. "We're committed to the whole child." he said. The students were overwhelmingly supportive of co-curricular activities. 93% of high school students participate in at least one. "This is one reason we don't have fights at the high school – with 900 students – that's remarkable," Alberghini added. "As we move through our Policy Governance study, it is an important ENDS Policy vital to the school community." Huntington representative Dave Clark remarked "Having the ability to work well with others is a skill students can carry forward into adult life."

The Pre-K-12 Strategic Priorities Draft has been warned, and will be voted on at the next meeting.

Campbell, Finance Chair reported they have gathered information from all interested parties, all schools, Special Services, etc., except the public. Three public forums have been scheduled and a post card has been mailed with the dates, times, and locations. "We really looking forward to having people participate in the process so we can incorporate their (thoughts) into the process.

The next school board meeting will be devoted solely to Phase II Governance Policy – 6pm CHMS November 18.

*Wikipedia: Policy Governance

** Model Policies presentation to MMMUSD School Board by Val Gardner & Jim FitzPatrick of VBSA on 10/19/15. This information is available embedded in the on-line version of the Superintendent's report of November 2, 2015.

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Give thanks with the congregations of Richmond Congregational Church & Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

MMU News

MMU High School News Reporter Needed

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 chose 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.

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3. Provide a well-rounded column that covers a variety of school activities highlighting the activities and accomplishments of our students.

Information: news@timesinkvt.org or 434-2690.

Pumpkins in Flight

Submitted by Ken Nussbaum

On October 24, local middle-schoolers gathered at CHMS for the 2nd Annual CHMS PROSPER Pumpkin Chunkin' event. After designing and building a trebuchet, the groups finally had a chance to show off their work in front of hundreds of spectators. This truly was a community effort, with many local businesses and families providing sponsoring. Organizers extend a special thank you to Ralph and Rachel Towers of Huntington for growing the pumpkins.

Pumpkin Chunkin' was billed as an exhibition, although there was plenty of competitive fire as the groups from CHMS and BRMS battled it out for bragging rights. The longest throw of the day was just shy of 200 feet. After each toss, the students refined their technique and got to see right away how the adjustments helped, or, in some cases, didn't. Talk about hands-on experience. Learning was the order of the day, and you could practically see the young minds expanding as they worked to figure out ways to improve their creations.

It is telling that the crowd was just as enthusiastic in its support of the group that – in the spirit of learning and experimenting – went from an initial throw that didn't go so well to a final throw that bested the initial one by 25 times. After the last of the official throws, the crowd was treated to a grand finale in which pumpkins were tossed simultaneously from every trebuchet.

So, what exactly is a trebuchet? It is defined as "a machine used in medieval surge warfare for hurling large stones or other missiles" and, as was shared during the trivia peppered throughout the event, it is derived from a French word. A medieval machine might seem like a strange way to learn in the 21st Century or, as one observer punned, "They're completely out of their gourds." Perhaps. There is also a lot to be said for encouraging young students to find positive ways to learn.

The middle-schoolers became role models, as their efforts inspired younger students. A group of fourth graders was so interested that they hung around after the event, asking questions and – to their delight – getting an opportunity to load up one of the machines and send a few pumpkins hurtling through the beautiful Richmond sky.

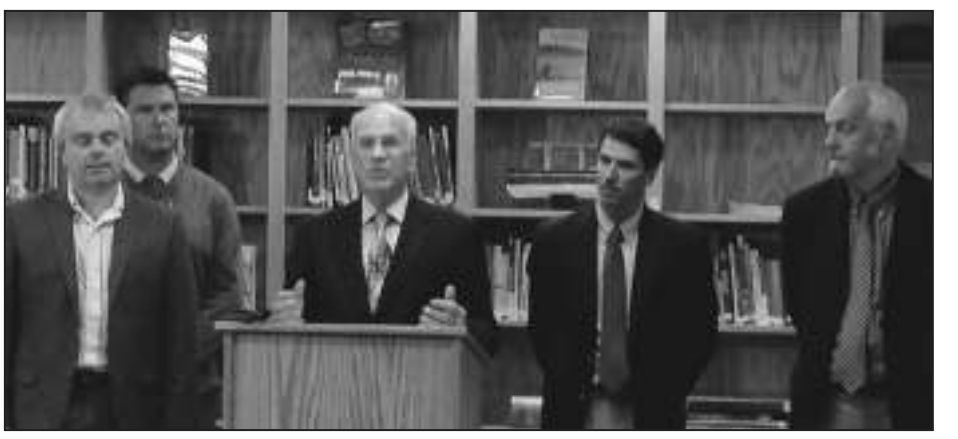
Readying the trebuchet for a throw. Courtesy photo

Having fun while learning is very much in sync with the goals of PROSPER, which stands for PROmoting School-community-university Partnerships to Enhance Resilience. PROSPER, a collaboration between CHMS, the community and UVM Extension, is designed to build a connected community by developing compassionate and confident youth and families. It is done through both youth and family programming, as well as community events. Pumpkin Chunkin' certainly met those objectives, and soared beyond.

To learn more about PROSPER and to see how you can get involved by donating time, expertise, monetary support or in other ways, please visit the CHMS website, call the school or see the CHMS PROSPER page on Facebook.

Celebrating the Saints

Students at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary took time out from their Halloween preparations to celebrate All Saints Day. The students made shields representing various saints and paraded from CHMS to the church where they were greeted by family and friends. Courtesy photo.



Senator Peter Welch, flanked by various dignitaries, delivers a press conference at Camels Hump Middle School to discuss concerns around dropped calls in Vermont and the impact on our rural communities. To see a video of Congressman Welch's presentation, visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMWmoStbu-0&feature=youtu.be

CHMS Principal Mark Carbone at the farm with pumpkin growers Rachel and Ralph Towers. Courtesy photos

Letters

continued from page 2

chorus, and even heard a rap about the school by Team Summit! Students nominated CHMS as "cool" because of technical education, the art program, and the hands-on science curriculum as well as the soft-service ice cream machine and the weekly omelets served in the cafeteria.

We had a great Fall sports season! The boys' soccer team was undefeated. The girls' soccer team gave a stellar performance. The girls' field hockey team won the spirit award at the district tournament—their cheer was even featured in the "Cool School" broadcast. Camels Hump runners participated in the first ever Vermont Middle School State Cross Country Championship. The course at Trapp Family Lodge was muddy and hilly, but our runners delivered fantastic results against strong competition.

Pumpkin Chuckin' Gold Sponsors Ralph and Rachel Towers made the day possible--as they provided the pumpkins. Rachel was concerned about the health and welfare of the pumpkins and was assured by Mr. Carbone that "all was well with the squash." As the event's motto states, "No Guts, No Glory!" A HUGE thank you to all the participants and families for making the event a success. The best throw of the day, 168 feet, was hurled by Team Moultroup, making a new event record.

Many thanks to the MMU Leo Club, Will Wright, and the entire high school community for their substantial support collecting donations for the CHMS food backpack program. Three trucks loaded with granola bars, canned tuna, boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter and canned soup, among other items, were delivered recently to help out families in need.

This month, students on the Phoenix and Navigators teams will attend the Flynn Theatre performance, Andes Manta: Traditional Music from South America. For this show, the performers who are natives of the Ecuadorian Andes mountains call the sounds of ancient life out of more than 35 traditional instruments, interweaving vibrant music, folklore, birdcalls, and the cycles of planting and harvesting into a joyous celebration of cultural life. In December, Team Summit will experience the Improvised Shakespeare Company performance, Shake It Up, a fully improvised play in Elizabethan-style, based on a title suggested by students.

The next CHMS/MMU school board meeting will be held on December 7, 6 pm, at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School. Budget preparation for the Mount Mansfield Union School District fiscal year 2016-17 has commenced. For a schedule of the finance committee meetings, please visit the CESU Website: http://cesu.k12.vt.us. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

—*Mark Carbone*, Principal

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Farms in the Classroom Grant in Action in Richmond

Learning about farming at Richmond Elementary School with a visit from a Dairy in the Classroom Educator from the New England Dairy Council.

Miss Virginia, a Dairy in the Classroom Educator from the New England Dairy Council, visited Richmond Elementary School in October. In coordination with Farm to School and Play 60 Healthy Kids, Richmond Elementary School first graders are getting an opportunity to learn about Vermont farm food. Once a week for five weeks, Virginia Holiman visits the classrooms to teach about local farms. Scholars will learn about dairy farms, as well as other types of farms throughout the state of Vermont. Each workshop consists of a story, an activity and a taste test.

The topic for the first week was cow and goat farming, specifically how the cows and goats turn grass into milk. Students were surprised to learn that Holstein cows make the most milk. Miss Virginia taught students about how cows, goats, deer, and giraffes are cud chewers (ruminants). Each class used heavy cream to make its own butter.

Then Miss Virginia taught students about fruit and vegetable farms. She explained how vegetables begin as seeds and how farmers help them grow. The first graders learned about fruits and vegetables from around the world. They were able to taste samples from local farms.

The next visit focused on farms that produce wool and other natural fibers - sheep, alpaca, and rabbit farms. Students learned about the process that fiber goes through starting from the animal and ending in a sweater or final product. They experienced pulling raw wool, and touched carded wool, saw three different types of yarns, as well as three different examples of finished products. After learning about the process, the items and steps were mixed up and first graders worked to put them back into the correct order.

First graders look forward to learning about cows as a food source and how farmers make money to earn a living in the coming weeks. This has been an invaluable experience and the staff looks forward to doing it again next year.

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OCCC: Experiences from Kindergarten to College

Submitted by Elizabeth Morris

At Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC), campers see themselves on a trajectory towards continued success, even after they've graduated as a camper.

OCCC provides the Chittenden East Supervisory Union with a free camp for children who may not otherwise have the opportunity to go to summer camp. The camp runs during the month of July and focuses on providing the children of our community with nourishing, healthy, free meals and a stimulating, welcoming and supportive environment.

The camp was incorporated seven years ago by Marie Thomas, Executive Director of OCCC, and Linda Parent, Richmond Town Clerk and OCCC treasurer. During its first year of operation, the OCCC had 11 employees, and now it has 29 employees and 20 interns – young teens gaining their first job experience while they volunteer within the community.

The Internship program was added during OCCC's second year of operation, and now is one of the main features of the camp. This program is intended for early high school students who are interested in helping the community by volunteering their time to help the camp.

During this past summer, there were a total of 20 interns, eight of whom were former campers. The Internship Program's goal is to grow students into leaders, and help provide them with experience that they can use to find paying jobs in the future.

"It is wonderful to see the campers grow each year, gaining confidence and then take on a leadership role with younger campers," said Thomas, "They learn that they can make a difference in someone's life and contribute to their communities."

Many interns become counselors after dedicating a few years to the camp. In fact, out of the 13 counselors for Our Community Cares Camp during the summer of 2015, 12 were junior counselors at least a year beforehand. All interns gain work experience and develop valuable leadership skills through either working as a junior counselor or as a kitchen intern. Each junior counselor is assigned to an age group, just like counselors.

Sanborn started at the camp when she was just a Middler, the second youngest group at OCCC, which is typically comprised of second, third or fourth graders. After spending so many summers with OCCC, she decided to come back as an Intern.

Amelia Sanborn happily serving as an intern at OCCC after years as a camper, Courtesy photo

Sanborn said, "I applied for an internship because ever since I was a camper at camp, I had always looked up to the counselors and junior counselors and thought that would be so cool to do someday."

Now Sanborn, along with other interns, gets to help campers have the same wonderful experience that they had.

Kaitlin Scherber, a sophomore at MMU and another longtime camper, said "What made me apply for an internship is knowing I was giving back to the community – and to the camp that gave me so many memories that I will treasure for a lifetime – along with knowing that I was giving the kids a chance to have an awesome summer."

The camp creates a tight-knit community, where counselors, interns and campers alike are dedicated to fostering a supportive, warm environment for everyone who steps through the doors.

"My favorite part about camp was the smiles on the kids faces when we played games, gave piggy back rides and had fun all together. It made me realize that I was doing something good for the community," said Amelia Sanborn, a freshman at Mount Mansfield Union High School.

"Becoming an intern gave me the opportunity to see the magic behind what everyone does for the camp. The best part really is connecting with the kids and getting to hang-out with counselors who were my counselors," said Scherber.

OCCC is a non-profit based on the philosophy of creating an environment where every child can succeed, and that means encouraging campers to apply to the Internship Program.

Since 2010, OCCC has hosted 96 interns, some for multiple years. Learn more about OCCC at www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org.

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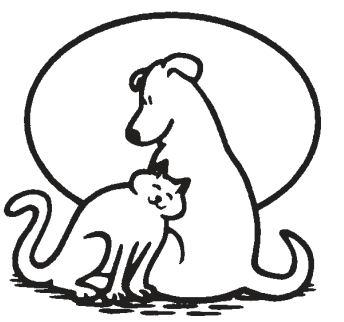
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News from Area Churches

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

Father Lance Harlow, 434-2521

At Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, we are getting ready for the great feast of Christmas. It is preceded by four weeks of Advent which is a season of quasi-penitential preparation in anticipation for the feast. It is one of the busiest times of the year for priests. I will have five Christmas Masses in less than twenty-four hours. This year, it is particularly challenging because it is so close to the weekend, which means I will have the four weekend Masses right after the Christmas rush.

But the schedule is not the greatest challenge. The greatest challenge is to maintain the sense of joy and enthusiasm that should accompany the birth of a newborn baby. The newborn baby is, of course, Baby Jesus. His birth, which occurred two thousand years ago, should elicit the same joyful response and celebration that any birthday should.

But every year, people come to my office suffering from marital distress. They have the same kind of problem that Charlie Brown famously revealed to Linus in the 1960s Christmas special A Charlie Brown Christmas. Charlie Brown says, "Christmas is coming but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel...I always end up feeling depressed." Since Charlie Brown isn't married, his distress is different from these spouses who are fighting. They're fighting over spending. And, it has absolutely nothing to do with Baby Jesus or his birthday. It has to do with "Christmas guilt." The guilt derives from one spouse's perception that a "good" Christmas is determined by how much money is spent on gifts--in other words, the more gifts, the better the Christmas. The other spouse counters with the reality that the family is in debt-- credit cards, car loans, college loans, mortgage debt; and, that the kids have too many toys already!

Although I am not a psychiatrist, I could quote the renowned Lucy van Pelt who says cynically to her client: "Look, Charlie, let's face it. We all know that Christmas is a big commercial racket." However, as a priest, I would say, "Look, Charlie, let's face it. We all know that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. And, it's free!"

Christmas is more than the Charlie Brown stress-inducing commercialization of Jesus' birthday. Christmas is about a birthday that forever changed the world. Merry Christmas!

Community Church of Huntington

Larry Detweiler, 434-6715

Linus in the Peanuts script captures the profundity and simplicity of the season as he recites, with blanket in hand, the gospel narrative that culminates with the angelic "Glory to God in the highest, and peace upon earth among those in his favor." Soon the Church will begin its new year with Advent on the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

It is hard for me to imagine "angels" and what "the highest" could possibly be like, but I have begun to appreciate Scripture's story and its focus on bringing heaven's reality here upon earth. This radical re-orientation of my own faith has captured my imagination these past years, particularly here in Vermont. It is hard to escape the beauty of God's earth nestled here in the Green Mountains … and the potential of people to live generously and graciously. God cares about bringing his heavenly reality to bear upon his green earth and I believe Vermonters are among the best, making this happen.

As I write, I am celebrating the role that our state and its citizens played in persuading so many, including our President, to reject the Keystone XL pipeline. I remember bumping in to Bill McKibben in Lafayette Square across from the White House the next to last day of the demonstration staged back in 2011. Here was a man radically inspired by his faith to make a difference here upon this earth. And so he has along with thousands of others.

There is the old adage that religious people are so heavenly-minded that they are of no earthly good. If there is truth to this old saying, then to that extent, we are not living out the truth of the story so ably told by our friend Linus. The Christmas story is about the baby Jesus and peace on earth … all of it. This Advent, we will sing often the carol Joy to the World. The entire trajectory of the hymn is directed toward making "heaven and nature sing." So may you join in, repeating "the sounding joy" with "fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains."

May you have a blessed holiday season. Join us Christmas Eve for our candlelight service filled with music and story and the opportunity to bring peace to our neighbors through the Neighbor Helping Neighbor offering.

Heather Chadwick
CMT and craniosacral therapist
Balance Yoga • 940 West Main St., Richmond
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Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn B. Macrae, 434-6715

Thankfulness comes to mind this time of year. It may be easy to cultivate an attitude of gratitude in anticipation of a Thanksgiving table laden with turkey and all of the fixings, but what else are we grateful for this time of year? The apostle Paul suggests that we should "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Certainly we know this is easier said than done. Why not use the month of November as a place to amp up our gratitude?

We start our month at RCC by giving thanks for all of the saints during worship on November 1 - All Saints Day. Lesbia Scott's hymn I Sing a Song of the Saints of God, originally published in England in 1929, reminds us that we can all be saints -

> "The world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.
>
> You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
>
> In church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea,
>
> For the saints of God are folks just like me, and I mean to be one too."

Saints are ordinary people who impact our lives in extraordinary ways. In church, we will honor the saints who now dwell at home with God by bringing in pictures and lighting candles in their honor.

On November 22 we will celebrate Thanksgiving twice. First at our family friendly Thanksgiving Service at 10 am at RCC and then at 4 pm at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service hosted by Immaculate Heart of Mary in Williston. You are invited to join with IHM, RCC, Holy Rosary Catholic Parish, and Williston Federated Church to celebrate our ecumenical relationships and give thanks together for God's abundant blessings. Following the service we will share a soup and bread supper.

We are hosting a Quiet Advent Candlelight Service on Wednesday, December 16, at 7 pm.

As the month of November rolls in, I pray we may each discover new ways to practice gratitude.

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.

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

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

TUESDAYS: DeStress Yoga class, 5:45-7 pm www.balanceyogavt.com

SATURDAYS: Flow Yoga, 9 am to 10:15 am. www.balanceyogavt.com.

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

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

NOVEMBER 20: Candlelight Yoga, 7 pm to 8:30 pm. $14 or class card, Balance Yoga,840 West Main St. Suite 1 Richmond. Information: 434-8401 or www. balanceyogavt.com

NOVEMBER 27: Wonder of the World, 5:30 pm to 11:30 pm, Main Street Landing Black Box, Main Street Landing Atrium, Burlington.An evening of Stories, Poetry, and Music to celebrate the planet and benefit 350VT. Information: Maeve McBride, 802-999-2820 or mcmaeve@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 3: Surveillance Drones Presentation, 6 pm, Peace & Justice Center, 60 Lake Street, Burlington. Free event as part of Cost of War: Focus on Drones Program. A basic overview of the history of surveillance in the U.S., how it is currently used, privacy laws, surveillance drone technology, and what to expect from the growing access to and use of this technology. Followed by a Q&A and discussion of local actions and next steps.

Local Blood Donation Opportunities

Bristol
November 25: 9-2, St. Ambrose Church, 11 School Street
Essex
November 27: 9-2 , Essex Cinema, 21 Essex Way
November 28: 11-4 , Essex Cinema, 21 Essex Way
November 29: 11-4 , Essex Cinema, 21 Essex Way
South Burlington
November 27: 10-3 , Burlington Moose Lodge 1618, 1636 Williston Road
Waterbury
November 21: 10- 3:30, Thatcher Brook School, 47 Stowe Street

26th Annual Women's Festival of Crafts

Shop locally for the holiday season at the 26th Annual Women's Festival of Crafts. Browse through over 80 craftswomen's booths to find just the right handmade jewelry, artwork, pottery, food products, greeting cards, clothing, recycled and upcycled items, housewares, aromatherapy, herbal products, and more. Memorial Auditorium, Burlington on Saturday, November 28, 10 to 5, and Sunday, November 29, 10 to 4. Free and open to the public. For more information: www.womensfestivalofcrafts.com.

Ray Vega Talks Jazz

Renowned recording artist, composer, and educator Ray Vega will examine the contributions of Latino American musicians who helped create Latin Jazz in a talk at Brownell Library in Essex Junction on December 2 at 7 pm. His talk, Roots of Latin Jazz, is part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays lecture series and is free and open to the public.

From the ensembles of James Reese Europe, Fletcher Henderson, Duke Ellington, and others whose bands included Latino Americans and who were heavily influenced by Latino music, to the orchestras of Machito, Tito Puente, Tito Rodriguez, and others, Vega will bring to light the contributions of many overlooked or forgotten Latino American musicians. His presentation will include sound samples, photos, and videos of these early innovators.

A native of the South Bronx, Ray Vega is a veteran of the bands of Tito Puente, Ray Barretto, Mongo Santamaria, Mario Bauza, and Luis "Perico" Ortiz, to name a few. He has performed and/or recorded with many artists; a short list includes Nicholas Payton, Joe Henderson, Lionel Hampton, Chico O'Farrill Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Jazz at Lincoln Center Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Paul Simon, and The Mingus Big Band. Vega has now established himself as one of the innovators of the international Jazz and Latin music scenes. A multi-talented trumpeter, percussionist, composer, arranger and educator, he presents Jazz from a refreshingly original and contemporary perspective.

About First Wednesdays The Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays series is held on the first Wednesday of every month from October through May in nine communities statewide, featuring speakers of national and regional renown. Talks in Essex Junction are held at Brownell Library unless otherwise noted. The program is free, accessible to people with disabilities and open to the public.

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On December 7, from 1 pm to 3 pm, the Birds of Vermont Museum will present Winter Birds. Vermont in winter can be cold, muddy, slushy, icy and snowy, but there are still birds. Which ones? How come? What do they eat? How do they shelter from the weather? And how can you attract birds to your feeder? Come to the Richmond Free Library and discover the answers.

On December 10, we'll hold another program from our health series — Memory Loss, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. From 1 pm to 3 pm, at the Richmond Free Library, a representative of the Vermont chapter of the Alzheimer's Association will discuss symptoms of memory loss, how it affects individuals and family members, and what kinds of help are available.

You might want to check out our new website at cscvt.org. It includes a page to send us your thoughts. We'd love to hear from you!

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Regular Meetings

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

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

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

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, Sun, 10 am or 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.hines burgcma.org

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

Jericho Congregational Church: on the green in Jericho Center. Interim Pastor, Doug Walker. Youth Pastor, Glenn Carter. Sunday services in the summer: 8 am & 10 am. Nursery care provided; Fellowship, 9:30 am. Sunday Youth Group: 6:15 pm. 899-4911; www.jccvt.org

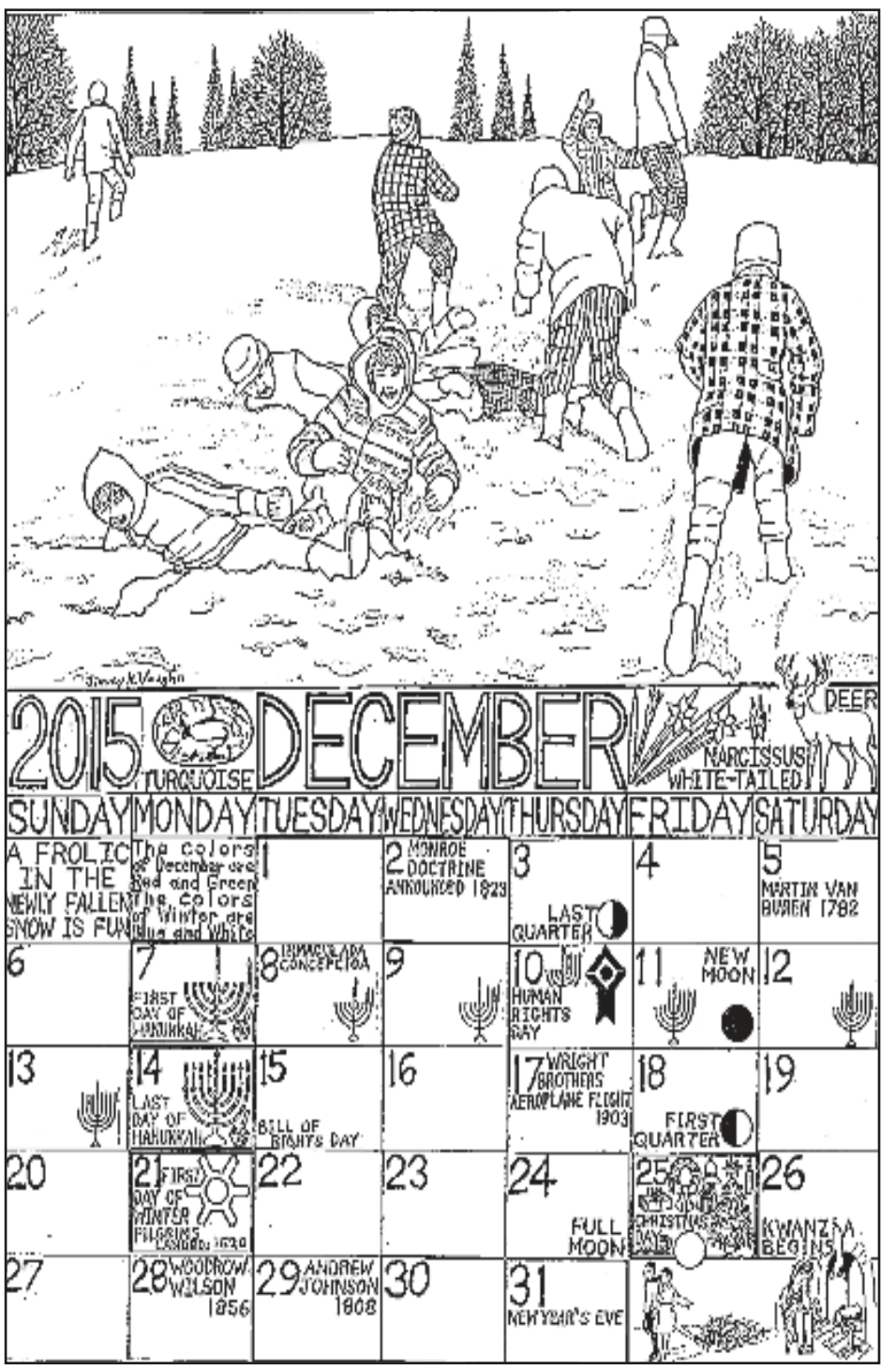
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 Vt Rte 15 (near Brown Trace Rd) Jericho, 899-3932, Rev. Philip Raushey, Pastor, Worship Service: 9 am (Nursery Care provided) Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.GoodShepherd-Jericho.org

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 I5, 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.



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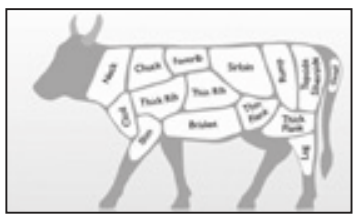

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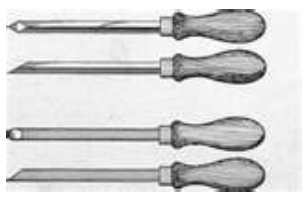

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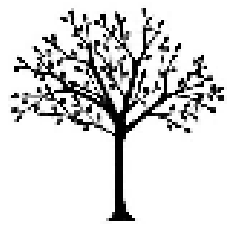
Hair Salon

BRIDGE STREET HAIR: Full service hair salon, tanning salon, Axxium Nails, manicures, pedicures. Hair products, jewelry, scarves and gifts. Gift certificates available. Appointments or drop-ins for all ages. Denise Begins Barnard, owner/operator. 46 Bridge Street, 434-2220. [1/16]



Landscaping / Arborist

GINKGO TREE EXPERTS LLC: Tree pruning and removal. Fully insured, Certified Arborist. Call 338-0729 for a free estimate. Ginkgotreeexperts@gmail.com [09/15]

INTERESTED IN A SERVICE DIRECTORY LISTING?

If you would like to purchase space in the Service Directory or if your current listing expires soon (check the date at the end of your listing), write to the address for Classified Ads. Cost is $25 for 3 months, $40 for 6 months, $60 per year, .20/word for listings over 20 words. We reserve the right to edit for content, spelling and grammar.

Lawn Care / Plowing

Laundry Service

Legal Services

Photography

MARY CLAIRE CARROLL PHOTOGRAPHY I love taking photographic portraits that transform the way you see yourself. Call me for individual,family, business,or high school senior portraits. www.carrollphotos.com 434-2312

PENNIE RAND PHOTOGRAPHY Outdoor portraits (family, individual, children), Weddings, Special Events, Sporting Events, Art Projects. 434-6047

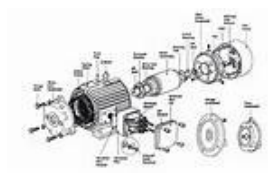
Professional Services

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

Repair

FARR FAMILY REPAIR SERVICE Farm tractors, compacts, snowblowers, all small engines,lawn and garden, chainsaw, chain and Hydraulic Hoses. 434-2151. [05/14]

YOUNG'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR Repair and service of all small engines. Chainsaws sharpened. Jim Young, 3147 Dugway Road, 434-3993. [11/14]



Sewing

THE GOLDEN STITCH Custom sewing, tailoring, alterations, mending, pillows, slipcovers, prom and wedding gowns and dresser, crocheting, knitting, hand embroidery, etc. Joan Lajoie, proprietor, 999-8448. thegoldenstitch@yahoo.com [02/16]

SEWING & MENDING Shorten pants. Selling: holders, baby bibs, blankets, hot mats, vests, doll blankets, bag holders, clothespin bags, aprons. Raelene Emerson, 434-6159.

Weddings

HAVE YOUR DREAM WEDDING at the Sleepy Hollow Round Barn in Huntington. A beautiful 17-sided barn that can seat up to 165. Let your family and friends enjoy over 800 acres of true Vermont. Two nights in our Eight bedroom Inn is included. Dates still available for next summer and fall. Please visit www.skisleepyhollow.com for more information or call 434-2283. [12/14]

FLOWERS FOR YOUR WEDDING Natural-looking, graceful wedding flowers: bouquets, table arrangements; planted arrangements in urns and pots. Colorful Vermont-grown flowers also used in season. Pleasant Mount Farm, Huntington. 434-2690 [10/16]

Wellness

INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION with a certified spiritual director. Enjoy the benefits of a deepened connection between faith and everyday life. Sliding scale. Call Tess Starecheski, 434-7005, or e-mail at tessstar@gmavt.net to arrange free introductory session.

LIFETYPES TIME LIMITED WORK WITH COUPLES Who want to learn to better understand and celebrate their different styles and improve communication. Counseling for individuals exploring life or career changes and collegebound students seeking career directions or choosing majors. Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), Strong Interest Inventory, etc. Bill Haddock, MA. 434-2210, lifetypes@gmavt.net.

MASSAGE THERAPY Swedish Massage, Deep Tissue and Reiki Healing for rest, relaxation, and pain relief. Over 20 years experience. Theresa Luca Gilbert, 434-2835, treeluca@gmavt.net [02/16]

PSYCHOTHERAPIST Are you confused and out of balance? Are you looking for meaning instead of stuff? Over 30 years experience. Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W. H: 434-3941 O: 229-2770

Employment

CLASSIFIED ADS*

All ads must be Prepaid! No phone call, please.

Rates: $4 for first 20 words. 25¢ each additional word

Deadline: See dates on bottom of page 1

***Personal, NOT BUSINESS ADS. Business ads must appear a minimum of 3 mos in the Service Directory**

Number of appearances: _____

Price/month _____ Total _____

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Business Beat
by Gina Haddock & Your Name Here

by Gina Haddock

From Nano to Micro

Over a year ago we first covered the **Stone Corral Brewery** as a nano brewery in Huntington. Now it's made the jump to microbrewery and a new Richmond location. Owner **Bret Hamilton** explained some of the issues around taking the big step to expand the business. "We originally considered staying and creating a much larger brewery in Huntington and looked at some options, but none worked quite right," Hamilton told the Beat. "At one point my wife, Melissa, was chatting with Heidi Bormann, of Mann and Machine, and she suggested that we look at space she had available in her Richmond building at the Round Church Corner Complex (once known as the Huntington Road Mini-Mall). In addition to the building location, capacity of the municipal water plant had to be considered. And an added bonus is that Richmond has repeatedly won the award for best water in the state—an important issue for a beer brewery." Hamilton reported that the town has been welcoming and supportive. On a recent visit to the tasting room, it was clear that the Stone Corral has already attracted many fans.

The Brewery itself produces an impressive array of beers-many coming from German, Belgian and British brewing traditions. In addition, customers can check out the chalk board for the Stone Corral specialty brews featured in their tasting room which are made in limited quantities, quite often showcasing fresh local ingredients of the season. The tasting room offers a chance to test out the variety of samples at an affordable price –for $5 you can taste four offerings.

Given the competition and popularity of the craft beer industry, we asked Hamilton how a new small brewery competes in this market. "I don't try to swim with the sharks," Hamilton said. "Today, lots of people gravitate to India Pale Ales (IPAs). I don't focus on that area. My preference is to provide world class beer styles, not represented in the markets and bring these beers to the market. Some of these beers would become extinct without attention. I like to find an underrepresented beer and put my own touch on it." Stone Corral's Latigo is a great example of the type of brew that most people can't find and the craft beer community must agree. Hamilton informs us that Latigo won the 2014 Silver Medal at the Great International Beer and Cider Festival. Another old world classic is Black Beer, which is a German inspired black lager/porter cross. A recent seasonal release at the Corral featured Black Beer infused with raspberries and French Oak. Having an excellent brewer on the Stone Corral team is critical to success and Hamilton told the Beat that he was delighted to hire JD Bowley, who originally trained with Greg Noonan of the Pub and Brewery, one of the leaders in the craft beer movement in Vermont.

If you stop by to make a purchase at the brewery, it's helpful to know that you can buy both cans and bottles along with growlers, which contain 64 ounces, and squealers (a smaller growler). But it's not just great beer that makes this a special place. It's the welcoming vibe you get when you enter the tasting room and that sense of connection to our community. A mom dancing with her toddler, friends chatting on the comfortable couch, fun friendly bartenders, kids, parents and couples young and old were all part of the friendly pub atmosphere.

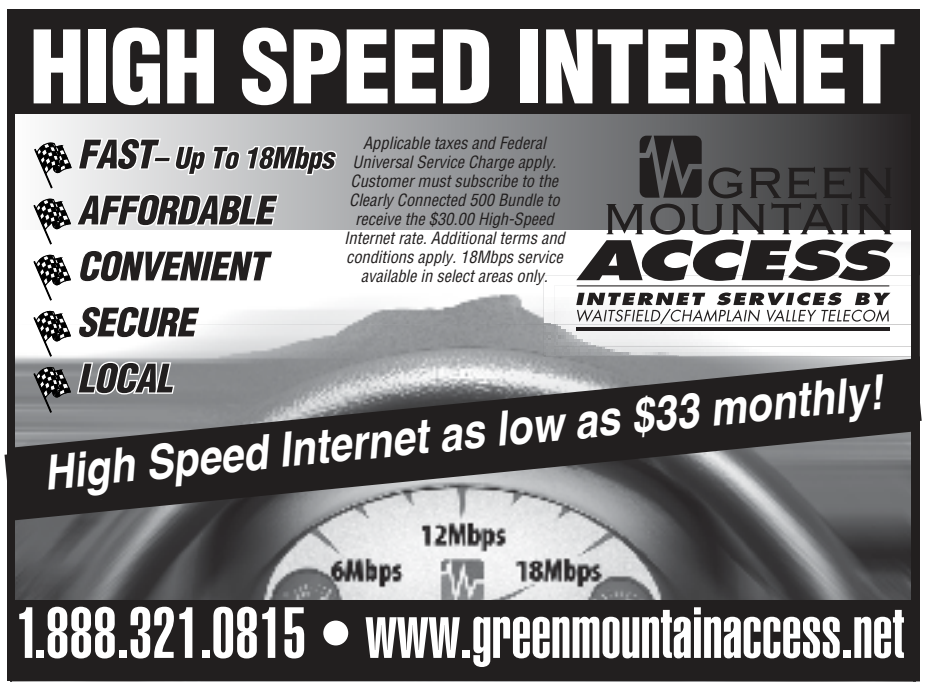
The impressive tasting room came together through the beautiful work of local artists under the coordination Bret's wife and business partner, **Melissa**. When you walk up to the tasting bar, you literally come face to face with a stunning larger-than-life mural of horses painted by Huntington artist Chris Billis. At the far right end of the painting is a scene of the original stone corral along with its barn, and to the right of that another painting of the charming little shed that was the original brewery. The creatively-built wooden tables were crafted by local artisan JB Bryan and the major carpentry was done by Huntington's Tristan Leggett and Shaun Dedrickson. Even the delicious hot pretzels come from local Richmond Bakery Sweet Simone's. And some of the main ingredients in various beers feature local food producers such as Taft Farm maple syrup which graces the popular Chocolate Maple Porter brew.

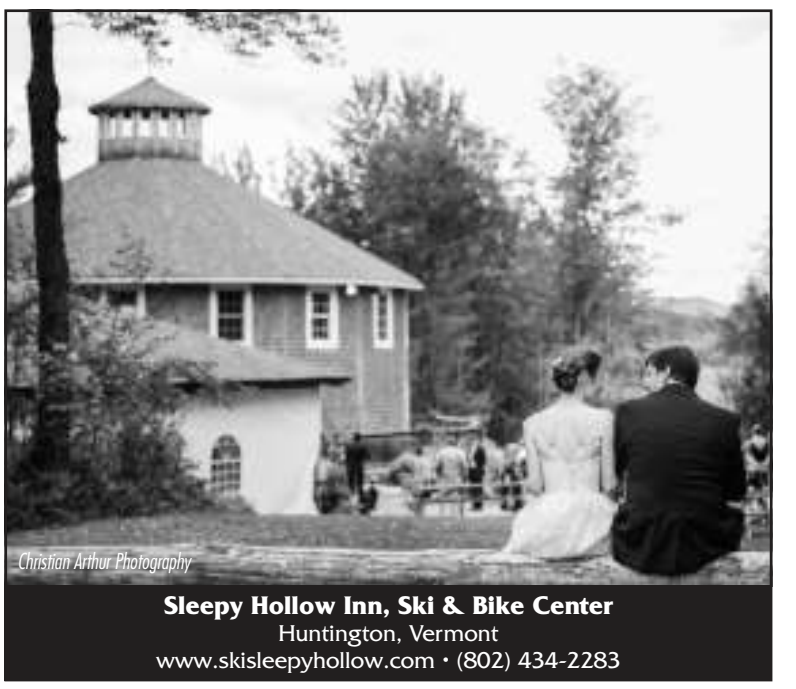
Hamilton's mantra of local beer, local people and local talent has come to life at the Stone Corral. The small raised stage provided space for guitarist Stewart Cohen of Williston to perform some relaxing blue grass music the night we visited. Hamilton told the Beat that he hoped to fill in the gap left in the local music scene when On the Rise Bakery closed. Stone Corral has been working with Don Sheldon of Valley Stage. The local idea extends to his staff, many of whom live in Richmond and Huntington.

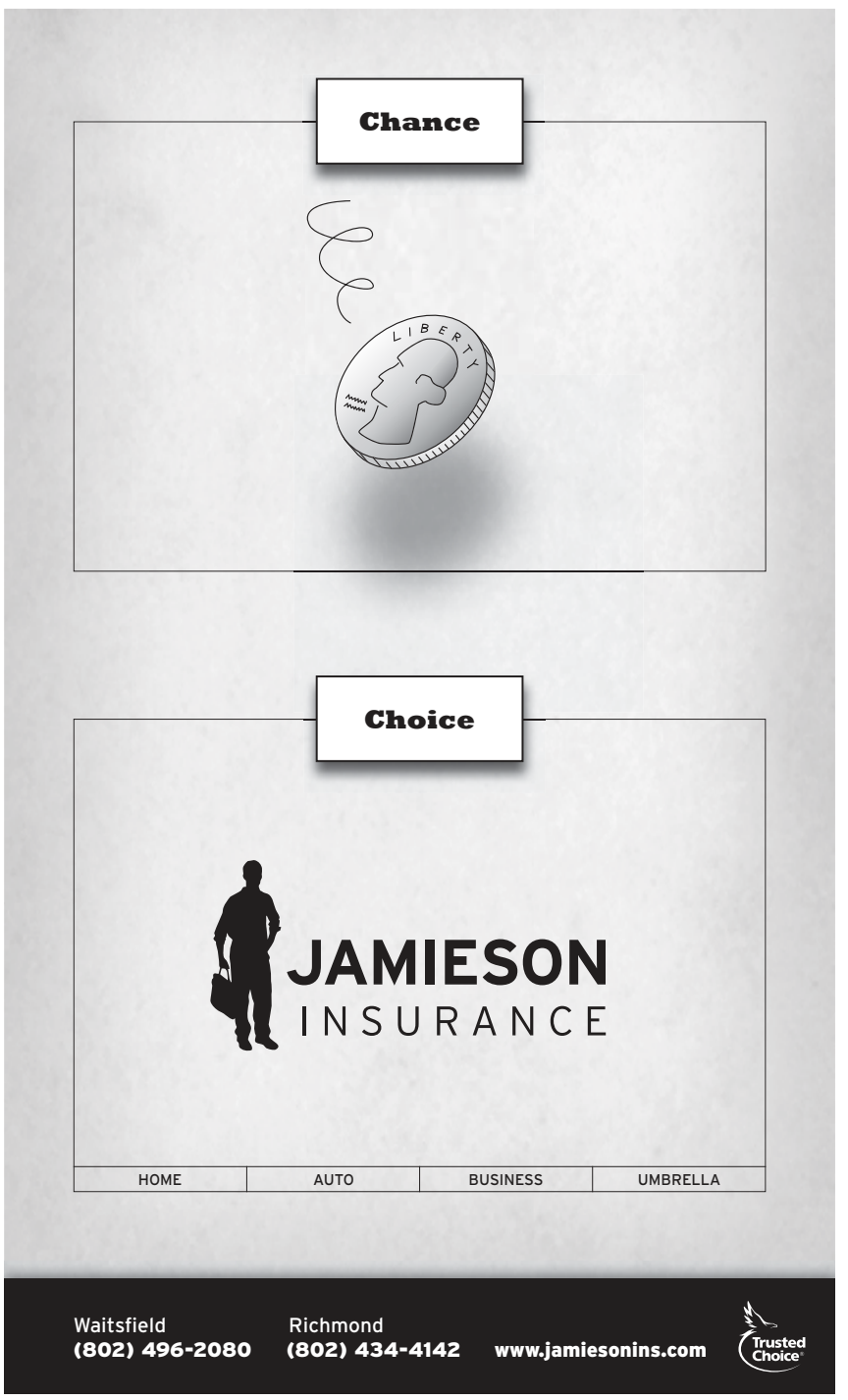
When asked about future plans for the Stone Corral, Hamilton told the Beat that he hopes to increase the food service. Right now there is a limited selection of light fare but people are also welcome to bring their own food if they like. Hamilton also hopes to develop the music programming, plus he'll continually work with his staff so they can provide the best sensory evaluation for tastings to customers.

Stone Corral seems to have made a great transition to its new home providing employment opportunities, a unique gathering spot for locals, a tourist attraction to out of town visitors from other parts of Vermont, other states and Canada as they travel the Vermont Craft Beer route and, of course, great brews. Cheers!

Stone Corral hours are:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Sunday – One to Seven







All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Friends

"A faithful friend is a strong defense: and he that hath found such an one hath found a treasure."

—The Holy Bible

"Oh, no," she said, scanning her calendar. "I can't believe how fast the holidays are approaching." How often this time of year do we hear this complaint?

As the holiday season gets closer, we fill our calendars with dinner dates, parties, and celebrations, often groaning with each new addition to our already busy lives. We recognize that we have obligations, especially to family, and we may truly enjoy family gatherings and traditions. We also want and need friends.

Research suggests that friendship is "an endangered species." A study by sociologists at Duke University and the University of Arizona, the results of which are published in the book Social Isolation in America, says that one in four of us has absolutely no one to confide in. There's a rising tide of loneliness in America with the number of people who are friendless having doubled in a twenty-year period.

So what is friendship? Who is a friend? Our word friend is from an old Gothic verb *fri-jon*. Theodore Thass-Thienemann, in The Interpretation of Language, explains, "Thus the *friend* means properly the loving one…. The kinship in blood was once the only criterion of friendship." The belief was that the only ones who could be trusted were one's own kin. Those united by a blood covenant became "brothers" or "friends." To contract a marriage was to "make one kinsman by marriage."

In today's world we mostly think of friendship as occurring outside the realm of blood relations. In her last book before she died in 1817, Persuasion, Jane Austen explored this theme. The main character, Anne, succumbs to the pressure to break her engagement to be married. She's then stuck with her spiteful and shallow father and her cold and mean sister. She feels utterly alone. Although Austen's family was not cold or shallow, some of the author's personal circumstances greatly influenced her portrayal of her main character. The story shows how Anne moves beyond her family, separating more and more as the story goes on. She finds her own attachments and people she wants to be with. She learned, two hundred years ago, that friends are the family you choose.

So what would Austen think of our current illusion of the instantaneous "intimacy" through technology?

Rather than socializing in person, many people communicate through one or more of their multiple devices. Would Austen conclude that the devices enable people to avoid developing true friendships outside the family?

Bill is an example. Fifteen years after he retired at 62, his wife continues to work full time. Bill laments, "I don't have any friends," and says he devotes much of his time to chatting with his three adult children and their families on Facebook and email. His fear of loneliness prevents him from separating from his family, and this leaves him feeling lonely and empty.

Establishing genuine friendships provides positive interactions, satisfying experiences, feelings of warmth and affection, things which can only be accomplished by investing time to get to know someone. We can set up distractions and displacements, but they don't meet our true needs. No wonder many people feel so lonely.

This world is the only one we have, and this life is the only one we get. Feeling the depth and richness of a true friendship greatly enhances that life.

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

Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Discovering a New Holiday Spirit

Between the ads pressuring us to shop, shop, shop and the Christmas carols demanding joy and yet more joy still, I sometimes want to . . . well, do something decidedly unjolly. Sure, I love the holidays, but I probably loved them more when they started later and weren't so aggressive. Let's face it; I also miss a lot of people who aren't around to celebrate with.

At first, missing friends was my fault because I'm the one who went on the road. Travels took me farther than expected and the distance grew between us. People settle down, have families and careers, and suddenly, a few decades have slipped by and getting back together would be awkward.

Beyond that are those who are simply gone. If a bulb on the tree burned out each time a friend or loved one passed, the tree would be dark indeed. What began as surprising has become a trend with gathering momentum.

In between these two are the kids and grandkids who have aged out of visiting or have themselves moved away to distant lives of their own. Holidays are for children and when you don't have children around it can make trimming the Christmas tree feel a little pointless.

What my lovely wife, Kelly, and I are discovering is that there are still children around, just not our own. Many have problems far greater than our memories of past abundance. They are near and they are in need.

So, we shop for the homeless and battered women's shelters and look for those community wish lists from kids who aren't really expecting very much for Christmas. For most of them, the greatest gift of all would be normalcy. Not just a tree with decorations, but a place to put the tree and a room to come down from on December 25th.

The first year Kelly suggested it, I felt kind of weird going out shopping for people I didn't know. Where was the fun in giving if I couldn't be there to witness the receiving? Well, it turns out that giving is a joy in itself! (Who was it said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive,"anyway?)

Not just kids, either. There are plenty of grown ups with lists. Most local senior centers are looking for things for their elder communities. That turns out to be fun shopping, too.

This new century is a new place for me. There is much where I don't seem to fit and what is dear to me is missing. But I'm discovering a great way to keep the joy in my holidays. Not surprisingly, it is what brought the joy to my holidays in the first place.

Aging in Place. It's no accident and its better shared.

(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 blogs at scottfunk.org.)