The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

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Project to Conserve Willis Hill Reaches Fundraising Goal

Submitted by Brad Elliott

Fast and strong community support has put the Richmond Land Trust's Willis Hill conservation project over the top in reaching its fundraising target of $186,500.

"We are extremely grateful to the nearly 100 people who quickly pitched in to secure an amazing new asset for our community," said Fritz Martin, chair of the non-profit group. "We also thank the Town of Richmond for directing $64,000 of the Town's Conservation Reserve Fund to the effort, and to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for recognizing that show of community support and matching it with a contribution of $67,500."

The 20-acre parcel is located on Route 2 at the western edge of Richmond village, backing up to the playing fields of Camels Hump Middle School and Richmond Elementary School. It includes a wetland, agricultural soils and a 1060-foot section of Donahue Brook. The plan is to conserve the parcel and make it available to the schools and the public as an outdoor education and recreation center.

School officials were enthusiastic about the opportunity. According to Sandra Fary, a science teacher at the middle school, "Gaining access to that land will enhance our curriculum by enabling students to study forest succession, tree and fungi identification, and wildlife tracking just a short walk from our building."

The Land Trust will convey part of the land to the schools to use in expanding the athletic fields, while cross-country running and ski teams can use the whole parcel for their activities. Rebecca Sullivan, a cross-country coach at CHMS, said, "Having additional land available to us would allow us to create a network of trails within a stone's throw of our school building."

Martin was quick to thank the Willis family for giving the Land Trust the first shot at acquiring the property. "For years we'd been waiting for the chance to acquire and conserve that land. When the Willis family brought that opportunity to us we jumped at the chance. Then they went even farther and set the price well below market value. Their generosity and community spirit helped made this happen in far less time than we thought would be possible."

The Richmond Land Trust will own and manage the new property, keeping it on the tax rolls. The organization has already cleared part of the hill and expects to open it to public sledding this winter. Users are asked to avoid parking in the Riverview Cemetery driveway, and to access the hill by parking in the schools' lot during off hours and walking to the hill across the athletic field. The Land Trust hopes to add a small parking lot to the lower part of the site in the near future.

Filkorn Sings at Statehouse Opening

Richmond resident Erik Filkorn, pictured above with Governor Peter Shumlin, sang The Star Spangled Banner at the Governor's Inaugural Address on January 8, 2015 at the Vermont Statehouse in Montpelier. Photo: Anne O'Brien

MMMUSD Installed by Education Secretary

Reported by Diane Wester

On December 18, 2014 the newly formed Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District Board (MMMUSD) was installed by Rebecca Holcombe, Vermont Secretary of Education. The ceremony was part of the eight-item technical agenda necessitated by statute. The 50-member audience was comprised principally of current and former elementary and MMU school board members. The new MMMUSD is formed from all the former CESU elementary school districts with the exception of Huntington, and also includes the MMU district. Specifically these elementary schools are: Bolton, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill Town and Underhill Incorporated school districts (grades pre-k-4). Huntington retains its own elementary school separate from the new district, and continues to send its grades 5-12 students to Camels Hump Middle and Mount Mansfield High Schools.

The new 15-member Board will represent the interests of all students pre-K-12 from all the member districts. The Richmond representatives elected in November are Jon Milazzo, Michael Marks, Chip Noonan and Lucinda Preston. The Huntington representatives are Dave Clark and Breck Knauft.

Using Roberts Rules of Order, the new Board made and carried motions to establish a bank account, pay bills, borrow money, etc. Elected were William Wilson as Moderator, Laura Kimball as Clerk, and Tom Levesque as Treasurer for the term of one year. The annual meeting was set for the fourth Thursday of February each year. A board retreat was scheduled for December 20.

The only extensive discussion of the evening concerned establishing a stipend or reimbursement for the members of the Board. It was explained by a former MMU board member that historically $400/year was offered to board members, and that the board members then generally contributed this stipend back into the district, usually to their favorite needy cause: music, art, a sports team, etc. However, the MMU Board voted to do away with any stipend several years ago as budgets got tighter. This evening's discussion included (sometimes heated) opinions about a mileage reimbursement, and/or a babysitting reimbursement or draw fund (like an expense account). Some persons proposed board members

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2014: A Year of Bookend Weather

by Robert Low

Many will recall 2014 as ho-hum weather-wise compared with recent years, with many stretches of first-class days. That was bookended by memorable events in January and especially December. Indeed, the year was average in many ways for precipitation and temperature, averages as usual, however, masking certain unusual events. Overall, the year was just a bit warmer than normal with average precipitation but significantly above average snow.

January 2014 (High, 55; Low, -20; Ave, 14) started off very cold, temperature not getting above zero on the 5th. Not like the minus 30s and 40s of the 1970s but below what we have experienced recently. As explained through several media, this was due to a hemorrhage in normally circumpolar wind pattern. The Jet Stream dipped way further south mid-continent than usual delivering record cold into the Deep South, the same occurring in Europe. A leading theory as to cause was the unusual warming that continues to take place in the artic as previously discussed in TimesINK. After a massive thaw with copious rain, the same hemorrhage event occurred again toward the end of the month. The recurring thaw / cold cycles kept resurfacing Gillett Pond for excellent skating and walking. Average temperature for January was near normal; snow almost double due to a series of coastal storms which brushed by us.

February (48; -13; 18) was characterized by still more jet stream anomalies delivering snow and deep freeze again to the south, though not as intensively as in January. Still more coastal storms delivered moderately more snow than normal for us, much more east of the Green Mountains. Then came March (45; -12; 20) with persistent cold (top 5), several degrees below normal and putting off sugaring to April up here. A cold spell at the beginning– think minus teens at night with below zero temperatures as late as the 25th, record cold recorded in Montpelier and elsewhere around us. Last snowfall for the season occurred on the 30th, totaling some 65 inches since January.

April (80; 15; 42) offered a quick turnaround. Syruping started right away for the latest start ever for us, accompanied by short-lived but very difficult muddy roads. It was a difficult season maple-syrup-wise, though the pros did fine. Ice fishing on Gillett Pond on the 5th gave way to canoeing on the 20th. This advertised a quick beginning to spring, reinforced by a May (82; 30; 55) some two degrees warmer than usual despite a cold and wet start. June (90; 41; 66) again offered above average temperatures with splendid, dry early days suited to the usual spring outdoor activities. Heavy rains toward the end, however, led to above average precipitation that drowned some local gardens.

Ninety degree weather at the end of June led to a splendid beginning of July (92; 46; 69). That and rain pattern meant continued good fortune. Five 90 degree days resulted in above average temperatures once again, though the high temperatures were not as oppressive as they can be, dry heat with nights cooling off nicely.

August (88; 43; 65) continued the good fortune with still more sunny, warm days and evenings and below normal precipitation. Garden crops began coming in later than usual due to earlier cool temperatures, a down-

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Letters

Camels Hump Middle School Hosts a Celebration of Winter

Camels Hump Middle School hosted hundreds of middle-school students and their families over two nights in celebration of winter and their progress midway through the school year. At the gatherings on January 14 and 21, attendees were entertained by the talented chorus and band. Fortunately, the weather cooperated and families were also able to ice skate under the lights. Art work from all grades lined the halls of the school. Student projects were in abundance throughout classrooms and in display cases. Open house gave our students the opportunity to share their accomplishments with family and friends.

No child should have to go without meals--we know nutritious meals play a crucial role in a child's health, development and learning. Furthermore, family mealtimes and the time spent together preparing and cooking healthy foods fosters and maintains family stability--provides nourishment well beyond protein, vitamins and minerals. For the fifth year, CHMS students and teachers collected food donations for those in need. This year ,the efforts support two important efforts: break boxes and weekly food backpacks. So far, three-four backpacks are given out weekly. For the winter break, 15 break boxes were distributed with each containing: 20 bananas, 15 apples, four lbs of cheese, two gallons of milk, two loaves of bread, cereal, granola bars, canned vegetables (corn, beans), peanut butter and jelly, fruit snacks, canned soup, applesauce/fruit cups, boxed mac and cheese, raisins, oatmeal, pancake mix and syrup, and canned tuna. We anticipate that this program will continue to grow as students learn that food is needed throughout the year for families in their community.

Mark your calendars for the annual CHMS theatrical performances, March 19, 20 and 21. We are excited to announce that this year's production is Peter Pan. With the talents of about twenty percent of our student body involved, the show will be a huge success!

The next Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District Board meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm at Camels Hump Middle School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

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

Holiday Boxes Show Great Community Effort

The weekend before Christmas, a group of Huntington volunteers assembled, filled and delivered boxes of food to 30 families and gift bags of fruit and homemade treats to 36 people in the community.

It was a great effort that started about six weeks before the delivery date. Wrapping paper and tape were purchased, the list of recipients was reviewed, the checkbook was ready to go. Colorful collection boxes were placed in hot spots around the town for people to place nonperishable food.

Clean, flat boxes, donated by Rhino Foods in Burlington were picked up by Dan Stoddard and were then taken to Brewster-Pierce School for covering and set up.

A food list was given to Linda Pecor at Beaudry's Store, Mark O'Brien for in-town shopping and Brian Busier at Lantman's Market in Hinesburg. Calls were made to local vegetable growers and orders were placed.

On the Friday afternoon before the big push, George and Barbara Mincar drove to Shelburne Farms to pick up the cheese donation. Gary and Jonathan Riggs bought cases and cases of food from Lantman's, Justin Rich of Burnt Rock Farm in Huntington brought four big bags of beauitful potatoes and boxes of squash - all donated.

On Friday, a small group (Lucinda Hill, Ralph and Eileen O'Mara-Garcia, Maria Duryea and Helen Hill, Becky Giroux, Andrea and Eli Ogilvie, Sarah Jane Williamson) met at the school after supper. They covered the boxes with colorful wrapping paper and set up the tables with the boxes and then took the food out of the cases. Everything was ready for Saturday morning.

On Saturday, Enid Wonnacott and Eli Frank drove to Starksboro and picked up vegetables from Lewis Creek Farm and Harry Frank picked up the Beaudry's Store order.

It was a wonderful year all around – lots of donated food, plenty of donated money to purchase fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and other items, a great crew of volunteers made the deliveries, (and a perfect day – clear and not too cold.

A generous donation by a resident enabled us to buy extra turkeys and put roasting chickens in some boxes. And, this also helped to fund gift certificates for food at two stores, so seven recipients received a certificate in their box.

Key to the success of the entire operation are Lucinda Hill, who handles the cash donations and balances the checkbook (among many other things), and Sandy Heyman, who works closely on developing the list of recipients and is a key organizer on the day of the box delivery. Paula Kelley has capably taken on filling the gift bags, which have fresh homemade bread from Amy Seidl and the Goodyear girls and Anne Dannenberg, plus holiday cookies from Alison Forrest and chocolate from Sarah Jane Williamson. What a great treat!

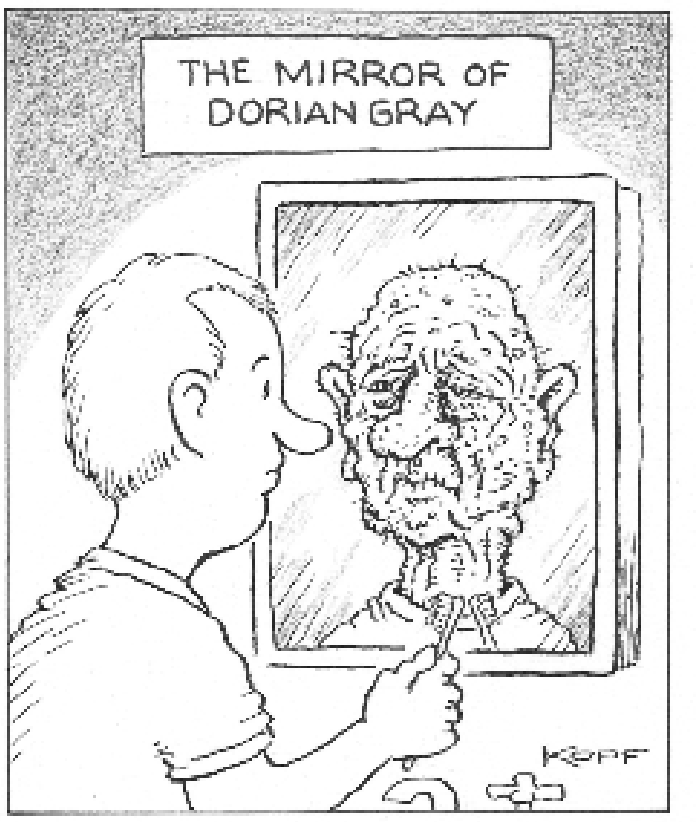
Ready for volunteers to arrive to fill and deliver food boxes and gift bags in Huntington: Heidi Racht, Sandy Heyman and Lucinda Hill.

Thanks to the workers at the school and for deliveries around town, including Amy Seidl and Helen Goodyear, Mike and Grace Ramsey, Sara Paradis and her extended family, Tom and Christine Brown family, the Riguttos (Lorraine, Rob, Allyson and Gabby), David Martini and Jane Rice, the Franks (Harry, Eli and Lila) David and Debbie Worthley and granddaughter Meadow, Paula Kelley, Jeanine Carr, Dave and Kathleen Clark and grandson Cahiel, Bob and Kathy Kort, Nina Ribhibhinyo and Micah Mutrax, Monica Buzzell and kids, Henry R. Carse, Phil Bolen, and others who helped along the way.

Donations were many. Thanks to Lantman's for turkeys, Mark O'Brien for hams, Justin Rich for vegetables, Shelburne Farms for cheese, Beaudry's Store for being the collection hub, and to all the others who donated money or a known quantity of food: the Community Church of Huntington, George and Barbara Mincar, Arnold and Jan Gratton, Gary and Tess Starecheski, Dan and Nancy Stoddard, Liz Greenberg and Eric Hall, Ralph and Eileen O'Mara-Garcia, Bob and Kathy Kort, Kelly and Cathy Greene, Tracie Knight and family, Pam and Dick Kellogg, Sarah Jane Williamson, Carolyn and Mickey Stone, Allan and Carol Cherin, Amy Stark and Jeff Maynes, John and Robin Hadden, Jeanne and Rob Zimmerman, Harvey and Marjan Schugar, Terry Boyle and Robin Worn, Terry and Holly Stadtler, Terry and Rebecca Ryan, the Racht/Campbells, and many people who donated cash or put food into the boxes.

Thank you. It was a wonderful community effort, showing great spirit of generosity.

Heidi Racht, Coordinator



A Potpourri of Richmond History

The Richmond Historical Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Winter Program on Sunday, February 8, at 3 pm in the Holy Rosary Parish Hall. RHS archivist Karen Yaggy will give a slide show presentation of quirky and little-known bits of Richmond history. If you would like to learn more about the U.S. Cavalry in Richmond, or the story of Richmond's dueling smokestacks, or the town's potash industry ... If you are interested in one-room schoolhouses or early maps and roads, then you'll enjoy this program of images and anecdotes culled from the Richmond Historical Society archives.

A brief business meeting and election of officers will precede the program; refreshments provided by the RHS Board of Directors will follow. For more information please contact Martha Turner at rhs@oldroundchurch.com

Community Supper to Support Our Community Cares Camp

Join the Hinesburgh Public House on the first Tuesday of February for a special Community Supper. We will be serving a locally sourced, four-course meal for an inclusive price of $20. Half of the proceeds raised from the Supper will be donated to Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC).

Reservations are accepted but not required. 482-5500 Vegetarian options available.

OCCC provides summer food to more than 230 children from the Chittenden East towns of Richmond, Bolton, Huntington Jericho, and Underhill, each July. OCCC also provides a summer enrichment camp for about 100 children who would not otherwise have access to stimulating activities over the summer. OCCC teaches children to make good choices in food and behavior and provides training in areas like cooking, music and art. OCCC also provides job training to teens through internships and summer employment to 30+ local teens and adults.

OCCC was incorporated as a private, non-profit corporation in 2009. The camp is located at Camels Hump Middle School in Richmond, Vermont. To learn more, visit: www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org. P.O. Box 503, Richmond VT 05477. 434 -6006.

All donations are tax-deductible.

Please come and enjoy a meal and support your community.

Our Community Cares Camp – Creating a Caring Community Where Every Child Can Find Success!

Enjoy a Kid-Free Night Out

The Community Church of Huntington is holding a special event for children on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, February 14 from 4 pm to 10 pm in the CCH Annex. Parents who want to go out (or stay in and enjoy some quiet and privacy) can bring their children to the church during these hours. Childcare will be provided by church members, most of them parents and grandparents, including Rev. Larry Detweiler, Sue Detweiler (who is CPR/first aid certified), Holly Stadtler, and Becky Cozzens. The children will enjoy music, art projects, puzzles, board games, pizza, and popcorn. Cost is $20 for one child and $10 for each additional child. Large families may inquire about special pricing.

To participate, please email cch.valentines@gmail.com or call 434-2235 or 434-3935. Include each child's name, age, gender, toilet training status, allergies/health issues, and any special needs.

Registration will close on February 10, and space is limited, so register early to hold your child's place!

Climate Change and Its Effect on the Animals of the North

Caribou as well as many local species are already beginning to feel the impact of climate change. Photo copyright: Susan C. Morse

The prospect of climate change is already raising major concerns for its impact on human societies. But according to noted naturalist Sue Morse, the effects on wildlife will be even greater.

Morse will cover this topic in a free slide show being presented at the Richmond Free Library on February 3 from 6:30 to 8 pm. Titled Animals of the North: What Will Global Change Will Mean to Them?,"she will illustrate her talk with her award-winning photography, including slides of caribou, polar bears, arctic fox, beluga whales, Canada lynx, marten and wolf, as well as many local species.

Besides describing the harsh realities of climate change – for example, how individual moose are now succumbing to assault by tens of thousands of ticks – Morse will also explain how human species might still be able to help the many species feeling the brunt of a changing climate

Along with her national renown as an entertaining, enlightening storyteller, Morse is also the founder and Science Director of Keeping Track, a non-profit organization, which for 20 years has helped people discover, document and conserve wildlife habitat. She is a noted tracker and forester, author of an upcoming encyclopedic guide to mammals, and a monthly columnist for Northern Woodlands magazine.

The climate change talk is sponsored by the Richmond Conservation Commission, Bolton Conservation Commission, Richmond Climate Action Committee, the Richmond Land Trust and Alison's Aquatics. Morse's recent talk on cougars drew an overflow audience to the Library so the sponsors advise coming early to ensure a seat.

Huntington Winterfest

Sledding (if there is snow), a bounce house, crafts and games, facepainting, lots of food and more. Don't miss a fun-filled day of winter activities at Brewster-Pierce School on February 14, 11:30 to 3.

A Silent Auction will be held to raise money for Brewster-Pierce P.I.E., the group that works to fund extra fun events, like the Boston trip and Flynn Theatre field trips.

Plan to come for the day with your kids or even help out. High school students looking for community service can call Kristen Bair-Cummings (434-2438) or Margaret Taft (434-3269).

PM Sundays continue in March

Valley Stage Productions will present Anna and Elizabeth on Sunday, March 22, 2015 as part of the P.M. Sundays music series taking place at the Richmond Congregational Church beginning at 4 pm.

Anna and Elizabeth are a music and art duo based in southwest Virginia and Baltimore. They have shared their deep harmonies, stories and captivating visuals across the country, from the museum of modern art in Atlanta to the Richmond Folk Festival to the Lexington (Kentucky) Opera House, stopping at local schools and venues along the way. They are also the writers & hosts of the old time variety show The Floyd Radio Show, starting its fourth season this fall. Together, they present a captivating multi-faceted show - one part song, one part story, and one part sight - intricate shadow puppets and scrolling illustrations called crankies and shadow puppets. Anna herself is a native of Richmond.

For tickets and more information: www.valleystage.net or contact Don Sheldon at don@valleystage.net or by calling 434-4563.

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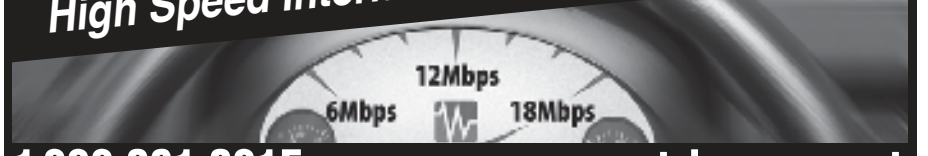

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Thank you!

The Richmond Land Trust thanks all who made our $186,500 fundraising campaign to conserve Willis Hill as an outdoor education, athletic and recreation center such a success. We will forever be grateful to the many individual donors as well as to Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and the wonderful people whose generosity created this opportunity — the Willis family.

Huntington Public Library

HOURS:
Mon 10–6
Tues & Thurs 12–5
Fri 10-5 • Sun 12–5
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Free Babysitter's Training Author Ron Krupp visits January 25, 7 pm.

Local author of the new book "The Woodchuck Returns to Gardening" has rescheduled his speaking date at the Huntington Library. Ron's new book celebrates the monthly wonders of food growing, preparing and tasting. We will gather at 6:30 pm for refreshments.

Books will be available to purchase directly from the author. For more information on Ron Krupp, visit his website : woodchuckgardening

Planet Huntington Join Julie Lerman at the library, Sunday, February 15 at 7 for "Lima and Peru's Sacred Valley." Julie ate her way through Lima and then worked it off by climbing up and down many of the amazing ruins in the Sacred Valley including the unbelievable Machu Picchu. She even ran into some Middlebury students preparing to hike the Inca Trail. Julie will share some of her photographs and some of the history of the Inca empire.

Baby Brunch January 25 will be our Annual Baby Brunch celebration for the newest residents of Huntington. All babies born or adopted in 2014 will be welcomed with a special new library book with a Baby Book Dedication bookplate which honors the baby's birth and a delicious brunch for the families. Invitations should arrive early in January.

Gratitude to Our Community We thank all of you who have supported the Huntington Library with your generous donations during our Annual Appeal. All contributions directly support the Library.

New Adult Fiction The Bone Clocks – A Novel by David Mitchell; Terrapin and Other Poems by Wendell Berry; Mrs. Lincoln's Rival by Jennifer Chiaverini; The Chimney Sweeps Come to Dust – A Flavia de Luce Novel by Alan Bradley; The Christmas Shoes and The Christmas Secret by Donna VanLiere; McSweeney's No. 48 Quarterly Concern; Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng; The Hundred-Foot Journey by Richard C. Morais.

Adult Non-Fiction Letter Perfect – The Marvelous History of Our Alphabet From A to Z by David Sacks; The Sixth Extinction – An Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert; Improving Your Soil- A Practical Guide to Soil Management for the Serious Home Gardener by Keith Reid.

Audiobooks Yes Please by Amy Poehler; The Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust–A Flavia de Luce Novel by Alan Bradley; Peter and The Sword of Mercy and Peter and The Shadow Thieves by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson.

DVD Call The Midwife–Season 1 and 2; Seabiscuit – An American Legend; The Wedding Date; Meet Joe Black; Revolutionary Road.

Juvenile Fiction Amulet Series: Book One–The Stone Keeper, Book Two–The Stonekeeper's Curse. Book Three-The Cloudsearchers, Book Six-Escape From Lucien by Kazu Kibishi; Lara's Gift by Annemarie O'Brien; Channing O'Banning and the Rainforest Rescue by Angela Spady; The Magic Half and Magic in the Mix by Annie Barrows; Okay For Now by Gary D. Schmidt; The 5th Wave and The Infinite Sea by Rick Yancey.

Children's Books The First Pup – The Real Story of How Bo Got to be The White House Dog by Bob Staake; Peanut Butter and Cupcake by Terry Border; Busy Doggies by John Schindel;The Tiny Wish by Lori Evert; Curious George Goes to a Chocolate Factory by H.A. and Margaret Rey; Rocket's 100th Day of School by Tad Hills; Fred and Ted Go Camping, Fred and Ted's Road Trip and Fred and Ted Like to Fly by Peter Eastman.

First Friday Movie Night on Friday, February 6, at 7pm.

Story Time Children learn early literacy skills by listening to stories, rhyming, and singing songs. Join us for fun, stories and crafts Fridays at 10:45 am.

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

ListenUpVermont and OneClick Digital Our library currently subscribes to two online lending services that enable patrons to download ebooks and audiobooks with a valid Huntington Library card. Visit our homepage huntingtonpubliclibrary.org to directly access these sites.

Recycle at the Library Bring in your CLEAN Colgate, Garnier, Tom's of Maine, Method brand products, diaper packaging, Brita brand pitchers and filters, baby food pouches and other products to help the Library earn money toward new books! Come in to the Library to see the entire list of products TerraCycle recycles.

Richmond Receives Vermont Municipal Planning Grant

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

"Richmond is a great small town full of people who care deeply about its future. The process of creating the new plan will heavily rely on their input to ensure Richmond will maintain its small town charm while addressing the challenges of the future," said Clare Rock, Richmond Town Planner. Richmond will have a year and a half to complete this project.

Said Noelle MacKay, Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development, "The MPG program helps communities develop the necessary planning and implementation tools that make it easier for families, communities and entire regions to thrive."

Awarded annually and administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Municipal Planning Grant program supports local community revitalization and planning initiatives. Since 1998, the program has provided over $10 million to 230 cities and towns across Vermont to help breathe new life into communities, plan for future growth and development and improve our quality of life.

To learn more: http://accd.vermont.gov/strong_communities/opportunities/funding/overview/municipal_planning_grants

Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org

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rfl@gmavt.net

Love Your Library Book Sale on Friday, February 13, 6-8 pm, and Saturday, February 14, 9 am to 3 pm, where you'll find the best selection of new and used books, audio and DVD at great prices with musical accompaniment and baked goods! Bag sale from 2 to 3 pm. It's one of the best events in town! It's also the main fundraiser of the Friends of the Richmond Free Library, providing the means of underwriting our special summer programs and other events, acquisitions, and special projects. Please consider donating items in good condition. Donations may be brought to the circulation desk during Library hours of operation. If you're interested in helping with the sale, or making baked goods, contact the Library.

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

Midnight Goat Farm, February 9, 1-3 pm. Artisan Farmstead Cheesemaker Yves Gonnet will describe how Midnight Goat Farm got started and how it uses old world methods with modern thinking to produce its dairy delicacies. Samples! A program of the Richmond Senior Center.

Book Discussion Where'd You Go Bernadette? by Maria Semple is the title to be discussed on February 10 at 6 pm (in the mezzanine). Copies are available at the first floor circulation desk.

Senior Movie Sweet Smell of Success, February 18, 12:30-3:00 pm. J.J. Hunsecker, (Burt Lancaster) the most powerful newspaper columnist in New York, is determined to prevent his sister from marrying Steve Dallas, a jazz musician. He covertly employs Sidney Falco, (Tony Curtis) a sleazy and unscrupulous press agent, to break up the affair.

Mystery Book Discussion Blind Descent by Nevada Barr is the mystery title for discussion on Thursday, February 19 at 7 pm. Copies available at the first floor circulation desk.

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

February Display Case will feature Cammy Richelli's collection of traditional and modern textiles from the Southeast Asian nation of Laos: handwoven long prayer shawls or scarves and coverings, in intricate designs from Buddhist and animist traditions, dyed with natural colors. Also a few examples from Lao Cotton, a weaving cooperative integrating traditional designs into modern uses such as handbags.

Australia Photo Tour Douglas Barnes will present a photo tour of Australia featuring birds and other fauna. Join us on Wednesday, January 28, at 7 pm.

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

New Mezzanine Space We are pleased to be able to offer the community a newly renovated space on the third floor. The space is excellent for individual work or study, meetings for groups up to 15 and for after-school gatherings.

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

New Children's Books As our winter cold and dark continues, it's great to have some wonderful books to take us to other places (after you've enjoyed outdoor Vermont fun).

Picture Books Maple by Lori Nichols, How Do Dinosaurs Say I'm Mad? by Jane Yolen, Big Bad Bubble by Adam Rubin, The Farmer and the Clown by Marla Frazee, Hunters of the Great Forest by Dennis Nolan, Froodle by Antoinette Portis, The Jacket by Kirsten Hall, Flashlight by Lizi Boyd, My New Baby by Rachel Fuller, Firefighters A to Z by Chris L. Demarest, Blue on Blue by Dianne White, Little Elliot Big City by Mike Curato, Waiting Is Not Easy! by Mo Willems, Tuesday Tucks Me in: The Loyal Bond between a Soldier and His Service Dog by Luis Carlos Montalvan, Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold by Joyce Sidman, Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos by Staephanie Roth Sisson, Red Truck by Kersten Hamilton, and The Eye of the Whale: A Rescue Story by Jennifer O'Connell.

Intermediate readers House of Robots by James Patterson, Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson, Aces Wild (a companion to When Life Gives You O.J.) by Erica S. Perl, The Long Haul by Jeff Kinney, Treasure Hunters: Danger Down the Nile by James Patterson, Timmy Failure: We Meet Again by Stephan Pastis, Nuts to You by Lynne Rae Perkins, Kate the Great Except When She's Not by Suzy Becker, My Heart Is Laughing by Rose Lagercrantz, Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor by Jon Scieszka, Big Nate: The Crowd Goes Wild (comics) by Lincoln Peirce, The Red Pyramid (graphic novel) by Rick Riordan, Cleopatra in Space: Target Practice (graphic novel) by Mike Maihack, and Artemis Fowel: The Opal Deception (graphic novel) by Eoin Colfer.

YA Novels Anomaly by Tonya Kuper, The Iron Trial by Holly Black, The Peculiar and The Whatnot by Stefan Bachmann, Scorpion Mountain (book five of The Brotherband Chronicles) by John A. Flanagan, The Rule of Thoughts (book two of The Mortality Doctrine) by James Dashner, The Infinite Sea (sequel to The 5th Wave) by Rick Yancey, Unsouled, Undivided, and Unwholly by Neal Shusterman, The Call of the Wild, White Fang, and Other Stories by Jack London, The Young Elites by Marie Lu and three Mickey Bolitar novels by Harlan Coben: Shelter, Seconds Away, and Found.

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

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Help support library programs such as summer art classes, performers, and special acquisitions.

Friday, February 13
6 pm to 8 pm
(Best Selection)

Saturday, February 14
9 am – 3 pm
(Reduced Prices)

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Live music* *Bake sale* *Raffle
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Love Your Library! Happy Valentine's Day!

Looking for volunteers. Call the Library at 434-3036 or email Mary at unnamedmtn@hotmail.com

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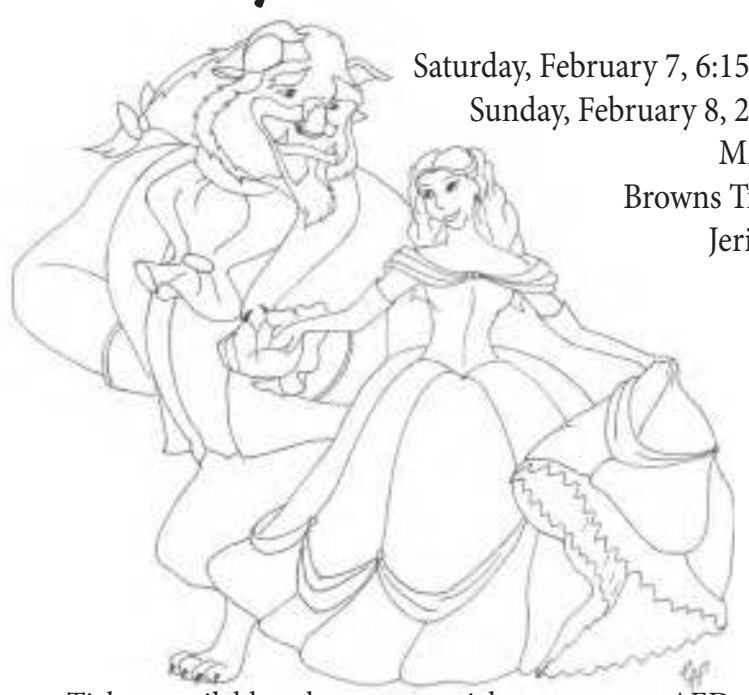

Saturday, February 7, 6:15 pm
Sunday, February 8, 2 pm
MMU
Browns Trace
Jericho

Tickets available at brownpapertickets.com or at AED

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

On December 15, 2014, The Huntington Selectboard began its meeting with a Fire Department budget review with Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey. Jeffrey explained changes from Fiscal year 2014-2015. The requested amount for building repair and maintenance, mowing, plowing and general repairs, decreased. The budget request for purchasing protective clothing went up, since cost of gear has "gone through the roof," said Jeffrey, explaining that gear is custom measured. The line for vehicle repair and maintenance also went down but the Department could use a new truck. "Every year we postpone buying a new truck, the cost of a new one goes up, and the value of the old one goes down," he said. Selectboard member Nancy Stoddard explained, "If [the purchase is] pushed out another year, it could help stabilize the tax rate." Jeffrey questioned the logic of putting $20,000 into a reserve fund when "that could pay two-thirds of the first year's payment for a new truck." Board Vice-Chair Dori Barton continued, "We are trying to pay for things differently and not bond so much." Jeffrey mentioned other towns are leasing their equipment, such as fire trucks. The Board agreed to investigate leasing. Jeffrey stated, "Putting money away in this reserve fund looks like you're forcing the voters to pay for a truck we aren't getting for five years." Stoddard, countered, "We are trying to smooth out the tax rate by putting money into reserves to keep under the 10% debt service, at a level so we can borrow money at a good rate if we need to. Reserve funds have to be specific." Board Chair Jim Christiansen concluded, "You have given us a lot to chew on. Thanks for coming in and advocating your position."

Professional Audit Fothergill Segale and Valley Senior Accountant Melanie Rodjenski reviewed the Professional Audit with the Board. Rodjenski advised including "useful life" when defining Town capital assets. Rodjenski told the Board the Town did not need a formal investment policy. Ten copies of the Auditors report are available at the Town Office.

The Board conducted the Town Auditors budget review. Their requests included the costs for mailing the Town report, and charges for bound copies. Selectboard member Roman Livak asked if $1000 for layout costs was "a good deal."

Snowstorm Clean-Up The Highway Department report focused on the difficult situation on roads due to fallen trees, with Board members expressing appreciation for the Road Crew's response to the snowstorm. An estimate of over $126,000 for storm clean up costs, including town salaries, overtime, casual labor and contracted services for taking care of trees will be forwarded to Vermont Emergency Management, reported Town Administrator Barbara Elliott. Elliott added, "Last week was a massive effort and it's going to be a couple months more. People really pitched in in Town, as always." Regarding the Emergency Shelter at the church annex, Elliott presented the possibility of staffing the shelter so people feel more comfortable going there.

Stoddard relayed the Human Resources (HR) subcommittee's overtime discussion. The way the policy was written, said Stoddard, is different than how overtime is being calculated in paychecks. Additionally, the current time card set up involves a lot of manual labor, so the Treasurer will work on an automated system for paycheck calculation. The Board considered whether to recommend implementing the policy or changing the policy. Barton commented, "The immediate question is, how do we do the overtime...longer term question, is the Road Crew being fairly compensated?" Selectboard member Andrew Hendrickson suggested, "Is the new fiscal year a good time to implement [the policy]?" "The HR committee members will continue with a holistic review of compensation," replied Stoddard, "A new time card will give us data."

The Board met on Tuesday, December 30, and further discussed the Library budget with Library Trustees Paula Kelley, Lorrie Richland and Liz Greenberg. Compensation for substitute librarians was a topic of concern. The Board suggested the Trustees clarify the purpose of special revenue funds, informing the public how funds are used to supplement Town contributions toward the Library's operating budget.

The Selectboard continued its work on the General Operations budget. The Board agreed to present a budget reflecting no more than a 3.5% year over year increase. Toward this end, some departments are at or below level funding and stipends remain unchanged, with pay raises limited to the 1.7% federal cost of living rate. The final proposed budget would be adopted at the January 12, 2015 meeting.

The HR Subcommittee plans to research how other towns handle overtime on holidays. Also under consideration are transition stipends for the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer in the event a new Clerk or Treasurer needs training. Elliott planned to get an estimate of these costs from the Clerk and Treasurer.

During Public Comment at the First Selectboard meeting of 2015 on January 5, Ryan Koloski and Jenna Whitson, with realtor Linda St. Amour, came to resolve an issue with property on Happy Hollow Road. Koloski and Whitson, who are purchasing the land, were asking the town for a deed easement for a small parcel listed on the deed as owned by the Town of Huntington "because it's a cloud on the title," said St. Amour. The Board assured that this portion of the property is not an identified ancient road, and has not been maintained by the Town. The motion that after Town Attorney Jim Carroll's approval, at the expense of Linda St. Amour, the Town will sign a quit claim, removing this land from Town ownership, passed unanimously. Christiansen added that he did not wish this item to set a precedent.

Conservation Fund Several members of the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) were present for a discussion of the Conservation fund. A request has been made by the Friends of Gillett Pond to apply for conservation funds to help pay for an envisioned dam project. This dam is located in Richmond. HCC Co-Chair Margaret Fowle read the words "land within Huntington" included in the criteria for HCC fund use, adding that Huntington wetlands would be affected by the removal of the dam. Friends of Gillett Pond Committee member Aaron Worthley stated, "There is no proposal on the table, but we are raising money now to repair or replace the dam. It will be one project that has property within two towns." Worthley confirmed the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife would allow the pond to be dammed. Wright Preston, Richmond Land Trust Treasurer, elaborated, "This is truly a two town project. Checks are coming in from [residents of] both towns, along with from out of state. The Selectboard in Richmond likes this project and we need support from Huntington as well." Fowle responded, "We were stuck on the wording, do we allow an exception, or do we need to change the language?" Christiansen referred to the history of the Town Meeting vote setting up the Conservation Fund, highlighting that the voters wanted the money to be used to conserve Huntington property. Hendrickson inserted, "I think this is an unforeseen situation." Christiansen continued, "I would support an article [at Town Meeting] that says the Conservation Commission wants this change. The right thing to do is bring it to the voters in an article. "A straw pole of Board members indicated support of an article on the Town Meeting agenda requesting an exception to Conservation Fund wording.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Richmond Police Chief Alan Buck pulled a combat rifle from a long, black case during the Selectboard's January 5 meeting

The firearm, a Vietnam-era M14 with its firing mechanism removed, was acquired by the town's police force years ago and rarely used. Buck used it to make a point about the use of military surplus gear in civilian law enforcement.

The debate about police militarization arrived in Richmond in comments posted on the Internet bulletin board Front Porch Forum. They were spurred by concerns raised in the wake of the Ferguson, Mo. shooting of an unarmed suspect and the sometimes-violent protests that followed, during which police deployed military weapons and vehicles.

Buck said the town's total surplus military inventory is limited to the M14 and a Humvee used for rescues in rugged or flooded terrain. He explained that the items technically remain federal property and are in practice impossible to return or transfer to another law enforcement agency. The aging M14, which he said was acquired years ago before Buck became chief, will likely continue to be stored.

"We're probably going to set it in a closet until it rusts away," he said.

Buck outlined the weapons Richmond cops do carry: Remington shotguns and Ruger semi-automatic rifles, both of which are kept in cruisers; and Smith & Wesson .40-caliber pistols used as sidearms.

Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik said in a memo to the Selectboard that "sometimes the officers can be outgunned with just a pistol," hence the need for a semi-automatic rifle carried in the trunks of cruisers. He pointed to an incident two years ago on Wes White Hill where someone was threatening people with a .30-06 rifle.

In fact, Buck told the Selectboard that the push to outfit police with higher-powered weapons was spurred by an incident near the Vermont-New Hampshire border where a "madman" with a high-powered gun killed two troopers armed with only pistols.

A handful of Front Porch Forum posts in December expressed varying views ranging from opposition to support for local police using military weapons. Some worried about a request to purchase high-powered, fully automatic M16 military rifles.

Urbanik's memo said Richmond police sought a M16 years ago but never received it. He added that the department is not actively seeking that gun or any other military weapons.

Under State law, police chiefs are given broad discretion to pick their equipment, so the Selectboard could not "legislate very much on weapon decisions," the memo said. The Selectboard could, however, exercise control through its budgeting authority. Buck did not rule out future acquisitions of surplus military equipment, which is provided to law enforcement agencies at no cost. "We'd prefer not to go to the military," he said. "But with budget constraints, I'm not saying we wouldn't look that way."

Information, Please Along with the weapons issue, another law enforcement concern voiced by residents is information — or the lack thereof — released by police about criminal activity.

Complaints have in the past included a dearth of information about clusters of break-ins and vandalism. And a December 26 stabbing on Cochran Road alarmed some residents.

Buck outlined the department's efforts to disseminate information about crimes. Press releases are sent to local media regarding all serious crimes. "But the problem with press releases is we have no control," he said. "Two out of 10 might get media attention."

Police also offer information during monthly broadcasts aired on Mt. Mansfield Community Television and compile a summary every two weeks for the Selectboard and town staff.

That summary details when and where incidents occur but omits suspects' names and the addresses where crimes occur. The latest release included an unusually detailed account of the stabbing but omitted the names and the exact location. Buck said the department tries to balance the need for the public to know with victims' privacy rights.

Buck said it would make sense to post those summaries on the town's website. Selectboard member Bard Hill agreed and asked about the possibility of also using Facebook to distribute information.

Buck shot down that idea. He said Facebook pages can become too time-consuming to maintain because they facilitate dialogue that can devolve into a "B.S. session." He said a Facebook page could require a full-time effort by an employee. Some Selectboard members agreed that using Facebook would simply take too much effort. But Chairman Taylor Yeates said the social media site is an excellent way to communicate with the public, noting that it is used by tens of millions of people around the country.

Board members and other residents wondered if police could post information on Front Porch Forum. Buck said the site does not permit posting crime information.

Resident Cara LaBounty said she wanted not police statistics or detailed reports of individual crimes but timely information about "suspicious activity in my neighborhood" such as break-ins.

"That's what I'm looking for is to protect my property, protect my own family," she said.

Budgets OK'd The Selectboard wrapped up months of talks about town finances with approval of the capital and operating budgets. The spending plans had largely been settled at previous meetings, with only a few loose ends left to discuss.

The Selectboard quickly dispensed with the six-year capital budget, unanimously approving a six-year plan with expenditures totaling $9,261,765. Of that total, 66 percent goes toward town projects, 20 percent for school projects and 14 percent toward the water and sewer system. Among major projects slated for future years are replacing Town Center window, new carpets and paint for the library and vehicle purchases for various departments.

The $3,298,202 operating budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 represents a 2.3 increase over the current year's spending. Or is it a 3.3 percent increase? The question stirred a bit of debate amount Selectboard members.

Chris Granda wondered if the smaller percentage shown on Urbanik's budget summary accurately represented reality. He noted that the budget for the current fiscal year reflects a deposit into the conservation fund. But the new budget does not show that contribution, which Granda said made the spending hike appear smaller than it really is Yeates said the new budget could not include that expense because voters first have to approve the conservation fund contribution as a separate ballot item.

But others members agreed with Granda that the larger increase should be reflected in budget information as a footnote in the annual town report given to residents. The footnote will clarify that the budget total and projected increase does not include money for the conservation fund.

Richmond voters will have the final say on the municipal and school budgets during balloting on Town Meeting Day in March.

TAX NOTICE

Town of Huntington

The 3rd installment of taxes is due February 17, 2015.

Taxes can be mailed, but must be postmarked February 17, 2015 or earlier.

The Huntington Town Office will be open:

Monday, February 16, 8 am – 7 pm

Tuesday, February 17, 8 am – 6 pm

You can also drop your payment through the door slot at the Town Office before midnight on February 17.

1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 18.

SAVE A TRIP AND REGISTER YOUR DOG WHILE PAYING TAXES.

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Area Residents Honored

Blues Foundation Honors Mr. Charlie

"Mr. Charlie" Frazier started his radio career 37 years ago at the University of Vermont's WRUV. Thirty years ago, he was invited onboard for the formation of WIZN, a new 50,000-watt commercial FM station being started by his WRUV acquaintances, and has been there ever since. Twenty-three years ago, he inquired

about the possibility of a Sunday morning blues show called Blues for Breakfast, and the rest is history. Frazier is still at it, bringing his box of 50 CDs each week to freestyle through the morning. Local and regional acts and concert dates are emphasized, as well as interviews with artists from the nearby pubs, including Derek Trucks, Warren Haynes, Matt Schofield, Johnny Winter, Johnny Rawls, and John Mayall, who were passing through town. Live in-studio performances are also featured. His CD and concert reviews and interviews have appeared on americanbluesscene.com and in Blues Music Magazine. He also plays harmonica and sings the blues in his band, appropriately named Blues for Breakfast.

The Blues Foundation will honor 15 individuals and organizations with its 2015 Keeping the Blues Alive Awards during a recognition luncheon Friday, January 23, 2015, in Memphis, Tennessee. Each year, The Blues Foundation presents the KBA Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to blues music. The KBA ceremony will be held in conjunction with the 31st International Blues Challenge, which begins January 20 and features the final rounds of the world's largest and most prestigious blues music competition, as well as seminars, showcases, and receptions for blues societies, fans, and professionals.

The KBAs are awarded by a select panel of blues professionals to those working actively to promote and document the music. KBA Committee Chairman Art Tipaldi notes, "The KBA Committee always looks to honor longevity. This year's slate of 15 recipients comes with over 400 years of dedicated service to spreading blues music. With so many dedicated organizations here and abroad, the committee decided to honor two blues society affiliates, one American and one international. The Blues Foundation is pleased to honor these people and organizations as a tribute to the years

Whitson Named to VCRD Community Visit Post

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) has announced that Jenna Whitson is its new Community and Policy Senior Associate. She will be supporting VCRD's Community Visit program as well as its Climate Change Economy initiative.

The Huntington resident brings experience in outdoor education, environmental law and policy, community development, and food security. For three years at the Green Mountain Club she coordinated education programs and led the design of Long Trail Bound, a website and curriculum dedicated to bringing Vermont's young children outdoors. She joined Hunger Free Vermont in 2012 as a Child Nutrition Advocate. Whitson holds a BSc. in Conservation and Biodiversity from McGill University, and a Master's Degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.

"I am excited to work with Vermont communities to build capacity to create a sustainable future through collaboration and building common goals and initiatives," Whitson said. "I look forward to supporting collaboration between local citizens and leaders in the state, federal, nonprofit, and private sectors to help ensure a prosperous future for rural Vermont."

The Vermont Council on Rural Development is a non-profit organization charged by the federal farm bill to act as a neutral convener at both the local and policy level supporting the progress of Vermont communities.

The Community Visit Program offers a way for towns to engage and bring together their residents, set common goals and directions, and access resources that will help them take action on those goals. The Climate Change Economy initiative will frame a platform of practical action designed to rally business, policy and community leadership to advance policies and investments to grow jobs and nurture innovative business development in sectors ranging from clean energy to recycling, transportation systems, and thermal efficiency.

Jenna Whitson

President's List: Fall 2014

The following students were named to the Champlain College President's List for the fall 2014 semester. Students on the President's List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average.

Taylor Downs, Richmond, majoring in Marketing.

Anna Charland, Richmond, majoring in Psychology.

Isaiah Back, Richmond, majoring in Management of Creative Media.

Trustees List

Taylor Downs of Richmond has been named to the Champlain College Trustee's List for the fall 2014 semester. Students on the Trustee's List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semester. Downs is majoring in Marketing.

SUNY Potsdam

Named to the President's List at the State University of New York at Potsdam are in recognition of their academic excellence:

Mikayla Kelemen, Jonesville, majoring in Music Education

Anthony Perri, Jericho, VT, majoring in Childhood/Early Childhood Education

Dean's List: Fall 2014

Kate Lashway, Richmond, a SUNY Canton Physical Therapist Assistant major, Lashway graduated from Mount Mansfield Union High School in 2014.

Meghan K. Bartlett, Jericho, Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire, majoring in English

Lyndon State College

Rachel Loggins, Jericho, Junior, majoring in Music Business and Industry - Concentration in Production.

David Hodge, Huntington, Freshman majoring in Elementary Education - Special Education.

Champlain College

Melanie Rodjenski, Richmond, majoring in Accounting.

Karly Terrio, Jericho, majoring in Communication.

Emilie Moreau, Jericho, majoring in Psychology.

Joseph Freitas, Jericho, majoring in Accounting.

Chelsea Rublee, Starksboro, majoring in Communication.

Dakotah Patnode, Jericho, majoring in Early Childhood/Elementary Education.

Miranda Haskell, Jericho, majoring in Psychology.

August Stevens, Bolton, majoring in Computer Science and Innovation.

Kayla Mazza, Bolton, majoring in Professional Writing.

Elizabeth Lane, Richmond, majoring in Early Childhood/Elementary Education.

Madison Noyes, Bolton, majoring in Graphic Design & Digital Media.

Darcy Patnode, Jericho, Early Childhood/Elementary Education.

Keene State College

Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire:

Joshua Fuller, Huntington

Matthew Sem, Jericho

University of Rhode Island

University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island:

Celia M Dunn, Erik J Hurley, Jillian E Reynolds, all of Jericho

Studying Abroad

The following Champlain College students are studying in Ireland for the spring 2015 semester.

Elizabeth Lane of Richmond

Dakotah Patnode of Jericho

NOFA-Vt Receives $90,000 Grant

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA Vermont) has been awarded a two-year $90,000 grant from Newman's Own Foundation, the independent foundation created by the late actor and philanthropist, Paul Newman. The award to NOFA Vermont was made by Newman's Own Foundation as part of its $10 million commitment over three years to improve fresh food access and nutrition education for underserved communities.

The grant to NOFA Vermont will be used to support its statewide food security programs that increase access to local, fresh and nutritious foods for limited-income Vermonters while supporting viable farms.

For more information about Newman's Own Foundation nutrition grants, visit: www.newmansownfoundation.org.

Richmond Elementary School Receives Intervention Grant

RES scholars traveled to Berlin City Auto Group today to receive a $1,300 grant to support PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) initiatives throughout the school year. Funds are used for both school wide initiatives, individualized student supports and staff resources. Said school staff member, Jennifer West, "RES is very appreciative of the folks at Berlin City Auto Group for supporting the school."

RES student Eric Bissel proudly shows his Geo Bee championship certificate and medal. Eric was the RES school champ. Courtesy photo.

Richmond Elementary School held the annual National Geographic Bee school level competition on December 16 and 17, 2014. Scholars did an great job throughout the competition supporting each other and celebrating the study of geography. The competition even came down to a tiebreaker in the final round... the suspense was electrifying.

The Richmond Elementary School champion is Eric Bissel. He completed a qualifying test to National Geographic to see if he will move on to the state level competition in March of 2015.

MMU News

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

A stipend is available or the student may 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 doing something that benefits the entire community. Residents like to know what is going on at the high school, especially those who do not have students in the school. Additionally, writers get to know more facets of the MMU program, as well as interact with staff and students.

Applicants must be able to:

1. Make a deadline.

2. Write in complete sentences.

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

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

Huntington School Board

Reported by Helen Keith

The Board of the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School (BPMS), the Huntington pre-K through grade four elementary School District, met for several hours on Tuesday, January 13. New members Andrea Olgivie and Paul Susen took the oath of office, followed by the election of Megs Keir (Chair), Edmund Booth, (Vice Chair); and Stacey Symanowicz; (Clerk).

The Board followed the published agenda for the meeting. (Official agendas, minutes and other documents are available at the Chittenden East Supervisory Union's web site: http://cesu.k12.vt.us.)

School cook Alison Forrest and Principal Sally Hayes submitted a grant to the Vermont Department of Agriculture for $2500, with Forrest announcing they just received it. Funded by the DOA's Farm to Food program it builds on the BPMS garden program, adds equipment such as a "super duper" immersion blender, and involves the preschool in hydroponic lettuce production! Car-pooling to an award ceremony at the State House on January 29 will be leaving the school parking lot at 3 pm that day, if anyone wants to join them for the celebration. A student will be going to accept the award.

Ross Ogilvie from the Town Energy Committee offered the Committee's assistance on facility/building energy assessments and other resources that can be helpful to the School Board and staff. This was later encouraged when the Board created a Facilities Committee, with Principal as organizer in pulling a small group together representing staff, board and town resources. It also falls in line with the budget that was approved later in the meeting, which includes $48,000 in a line item for facilities assessment and improvement.

Concerns were raised by Tara Fowler reiterating the importance of making sure the school addresses the basics throughout the day of providing services where children are healthy, safe, happy and learning. She mentioned issues having to do with what she considers not to be not helpful school schedules for children and looked at things through a child's eyes and what she sees them experiencing.

Helen Keith suggested there be closer coordination/liaison work and support among key boards in the town and town resources to provide closer links among the work of the key boards including: the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, the Energy Committee and the School Board. To purposely build more coordination of resources, show interest in and offer support to the School Board in its continued independent school district status while the other school districts in the Chittenden East Supervisory Union have merged into the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District.

Four issues created the most discussion: the 2016 school budget, a possible revision of the current family notification procedure, the status of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District Budget and establishing a facilities committee.

Version 5 A of the BPMS 2016 budget, (prepared by Joann Russell, CESU Assistant to the Business Manager), resulted in the unanimous approval of the (program year 2015-2016) budget to be presented to the Huntington School District on March 3, 2015 at the Annual Meeting. The proposed budget totals $2,211,800. This is a decrease of $192 from the current budget of $2,211,993, a minus .01 percent decrease from this current year to next year. According to Russell's calculations (updated since the meeting), the Huntington Town School District tax rate for education will be $1.5005 which translates to a 5.8 cent increase or estimated $57.86 increase on an assessed value of a $100,000 residential homestead.

The tax projection includes the Huntington school district preK- 4 and the Huntington portion of the former MMU district for grades 5 through 12. The slight decrease in figures from those presented at the Board meeting are based on the recalculation that now includes grades 5-12.

The effort to keep the budget to this level included cuts in the time of teachers (but not exposure for children/students) of "specials" – art, foreign language and music as they will be reorganized; the reduction of one full time equivalent teacher; and keeping the expansion of the voluntary pre K program this coming year to 12 pre-K partnerships in eligible community -based programs. The 28 school-based preschool slots will continue and are expected to be filled. Expanding by 12 rather than 24 pre-K children saved $36,000 from a prior estimate. Some of the total savings ($48,000) were reallocated to increase the buildings line item, projecting a need for energy efficiency assessments and planning, with future costs associated. The motion to approve a budget for 2016 of $2,211,800 was unanimously approved.

CESU Superintendent John Alberghini reported the proposed budget for the 2015-2016 year for the newly formed MMMUSD school district (which takes effect July 2015) will be presented as one budget for vote by the new school district that encompasses Bolton, Jericho, Richmond, Underhill ID, Underhill and the former Mount Mansfield Union (MMU) district serving grades 5-12. This is the same budget that Huntington voters will also be voting on by Australian ballot (votes for this action are not tallied by town) on March 3. The work on tax rates has already been done (and is estimated above in this article, assuming the MMMUSD budget is approved and the State projections do not change). Calculations are based on the local Board-approved Huntington school budget for preK-4 and the costs associated with students from Huntington in grades 5-12 of the MMMUSD.

Alberghini also informed the Board that the tuition rate for someone wanting to attend BPMS from another district is $13,124 not including any special education or transportation.

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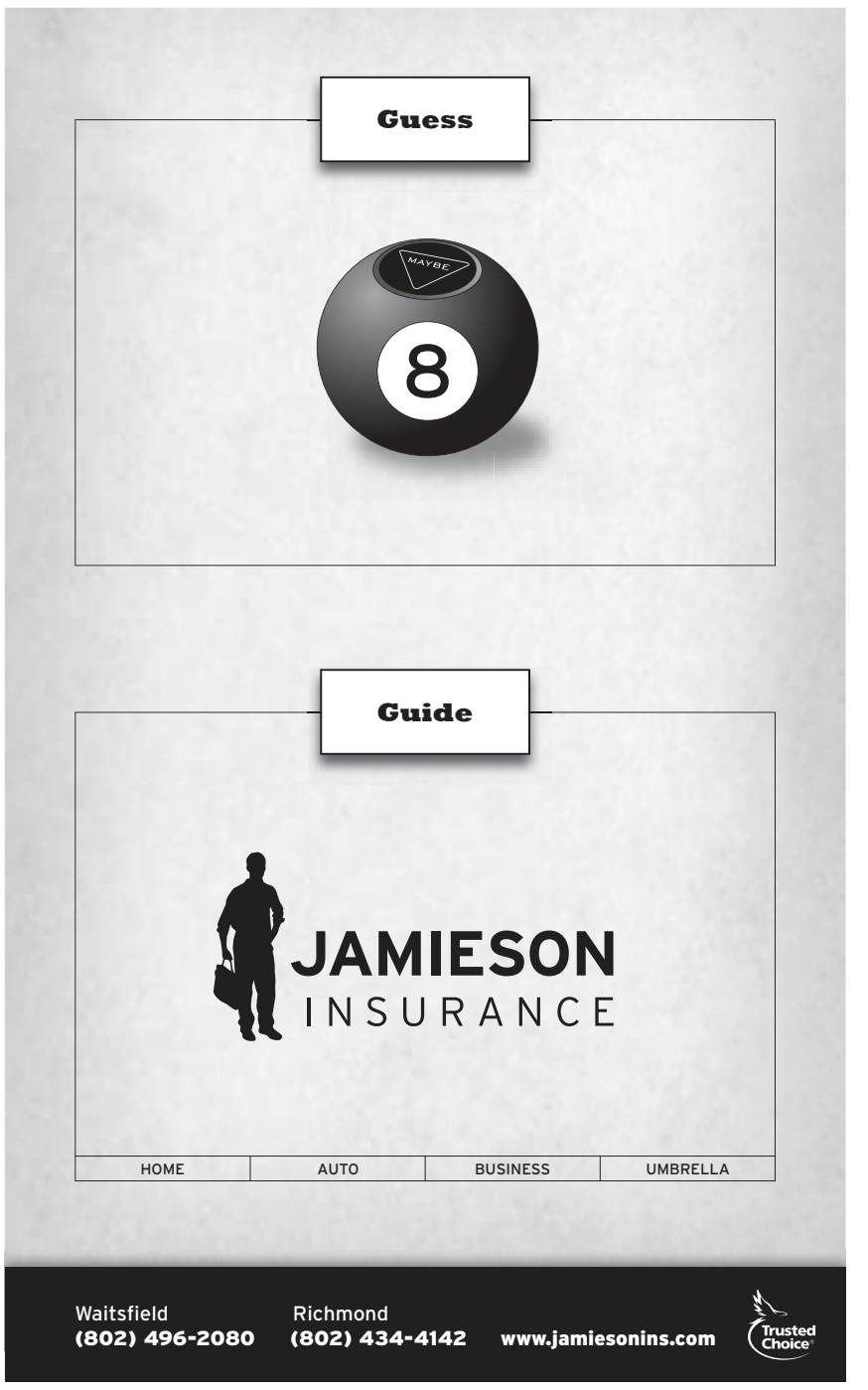

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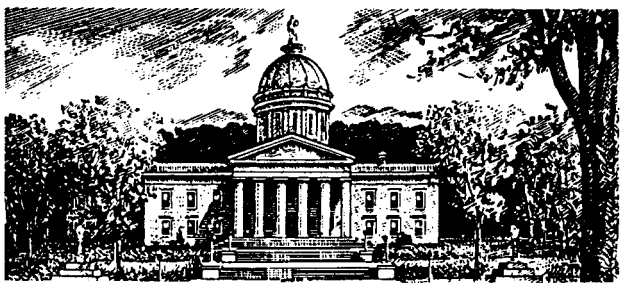

State House News

Rep. Tom Stevens

With a lot of anticipation, pomp and some interesting circumstances, the Legislature convened on Wednesday, January 7. With 35 new members, there was a lot of change anticipated, and with the need to have a legislative election for the governor, there was a grand opportunity for chaos.

The change happened, and the chaos was limited to the protesters who came to the State House to urge Governor Shumlin to rededicate himself to finding a way to develop a universal health care system, a cause he dropped in mid-December.

With the vast number of new legislators, and with a strong desire to tackle the incredibly difficult task of education governance and finance reform (among other difficult issues), the Speaker of the House, Shap Smith, changed many of the committee assignments, leading to several new chairs and many members finding themselves on new committees. This had the practical effect of sending a blunt message to the legislators and to the public: we will tackle the tough issues, and we will put our shoulders to the stone.

I was named vice chair of the committee I have spent my previous three terms on: General, Housing and Military Affairs. We consider considers matters relating to alcoholic beverages; housing; labor relations and employment issues; military matters, including those relating to civil defense and discharged veterans, their dependents, and survivors; and all matters relating to subjects for which there is no other appropriate committee. Last biennium, our committee passed the minimum wage bill, a number of veteran friendly bills, and worked on developing legislation concerning earned sick days. I'm looking forward to working on bills that are workplace and family friendly, as well as those that honor veterans, teachers, and the development of affordable housing.

Thursday found us voting for a new governor. I received many phone calls and emails, asking or telling me for whom to vote. This election was held by paper ballot -- not so much a secret one, as a normal Australian ballot. The requirement to hold the election by ballot is embedded in our constitution and the interpretation of this requirement has held since the Vermont Constitution was adopted.

That said, I don't mind sharing my vote and my reasons why.

I voted for Peter Shumlin for the simple reason that he received the most votes of the individual candidates for governor. Our much loved and respected method of government, as messy as it can be on occasion, demanded that I respect this simple premise. In my oath of office, I swore to uphold our constitution, and to refrain from voting upon anything "which shall appear to [me] to be injurious to the people… according to the best of [my] judgement and ability."

Many of the messages I received emphasized that Governor did not receive the majority of the votes. This is true, but neither did his opponents. Governor Shumlin will have to navigate the political realities his close victory created, and his agenda may have been slowed down by this humbling. I am disappointed more by the lack of turnout in this election (42%, the lowest since World War II) than the outcome. If Governor Shumlin had lost the election in November, even with the low turnout, I would have been disappointed, but prepared to work with a different administration for the betterment of Vermonters. Tradition has shown that an ongoing respect for the results of an election, and in the recent past, the candidates who have polled less than 50% (Governor Douglas, Lieutenant Governor Dubie, and Governor Shumlin, for instance), have also won their legislative elections or, usually, didn't have elections because their opponent conceded.

This biennium will be difficult -- revenues are down and there is less help from the federal government. The issues we will contemplate are of an importance we've experienced since the recession -- how to make do with less. It is getting harder, but we will do our best, to the best of our ability.

I am honored and privileged to serve the towns of Waterbury, Huntington, Bolton and Buels Gore in the State House. I will act with respect toward that responsibility and will always be available for your comments, concerns, thoughts, questions and opinions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Rep. Anne O'Brien

I have been reappointed to the House Appropriations Committee and am very honored to serve there. This is my fifth year on that committee so I experience with a deep understanding of the budget. The House appropriations committee (HAC) has a new chair person , Rep. Mitzi Johnson from Grand Isle. Rep. Johnson has served for several years on the committee and was Vice Chair of Appropriations the last 4 years. I am looking forward to working with her. We also have four new Appropriations members since two of our former colleagues retired and two have moved to the newly formed education committee. The House Education committee is now structured to include both the policy and money perspectives which will strengthen their analysis and hopefully their recommendations. The first week began with an orientation to new members and all of us getting organized for the busy session ahead.

The House Appropriations committee begins the year with the review of the Budget Adjustment Act (BAA). This year the BAA will be about $12M. This trues up the budget to the actual expenditures. For the week of January 12 we will be listening to the testimony on BAA.

On January 15th we will hear the Governor's budget proposal which, as you likely have heard, has a $100M gap between the expected revenues and expenditures The gap is forecasted by economists and is a consensus forecast from both the Governor's office and the legislature's experts. The plan is to create a budget which, like every year will be balanced. It is not correct in our budgeting process to refer to this gap as a deficit. We do not operate the state budget with deficits in Vermont. We always balance the budget and that is a very good thing. The expected revenue have been forecasted and the expenditures are based on previous years as well as any new proposals. We evaluate the Governors proposal for a budget that balances and take testimony on what these proposals mean for people. The House appropriations committee then considers whether to agree or disagree with the budget and makes changes as needed.

A very exciting area that we are continuing to develop in our committee is the focus on results based budgeting using a framework call resulted based accountability (RBA). They have expanded the number focusing on outcomes for Vermonters and I am looking forward to hearing them presented. The Appropriations chairs from both the Senate and the House have asked government agencies to bring data on program outcomes so we might truly see what we are getting for our investments with their budget testimony. This may seem logical, it just has not been historically done. This RBA work includes educating and training for both the legislative body and the government agencies. The House will have RBA training with the committee chairs, as well as during the new Vermont Caucus of the Whole. The Government Accountability committee has created a structure so that joint committees of the House and Senate can work together using an RBA process to focus on particular programs within their jurisdiction. Many nonprofit agencies in Vermont are now using this as a framework for doing business and I am confident that this will help us to get to the goal of real government accountability for Vermonters.

The Governor's inaugural address was well attended by Richmond residents including some very special guests. Erik Filkorn performed a spectacular solo singing the Star Spangled Banner and it was truly fabulous! All these years I have known Erik and did not know he was such a talented singer! Another proud Richmond moment was when the Governor recognized the President and CEO of Greensea Systems, Ben and Joanna Kinnaman (located in the heart of Richmond) as the owners of a world class Vermont business. The Kinnamans have a high tech business which employs Vermonters and is great for them and great for Vermont economic development. It was a great pleasure and I felt very proud to have the Erik Filkorn and his family and the Kinnaman's at the statehouse participating in opening events.

In the next issue I will give you the details on the state budget and its challenges as when this is headed to press we have not yet learned what the Governor will propose!

Rep. Rebecca Ellis

With a contested vote for Governor and demonstrations over health care, the first week of the 2015-2016 legislative session was emotionally charged. The first issue facing legislators was the election of the Governor. Vermont's Constitution requires that when no candidate has received a plurality (50%) of the vote, the House of Representatives and the Senate meeting jointly shall vote by ballot to choose the Governor. The Constitution gives no further guidance to individual legislators as to how to make this choice. Peter Shumlin received 89,509 votes (46.4%) in November and Scott Milne received 87,075 (45.1%), thus triggering a joint vote by the House and Senate.

Various arguments have been put forth as to how legislators should vote in this situation: some say legislators should vote the will of their district, or that they should vote for the winner of the statewide popular vote, or that they should exercise their independent judgment and knowledge in choosing among candidates. Unless clearly unqualified for office, I believe the winner of the statewide popular vote should serve. While I may disagree with the Governor on some issues, I do not believe he is unqualified to serve. I therefore cast my vote for Peter Shumlin. Had Scott Milne won the popular vote, I would have cast my vote for him.

When the Legislature has had to make this choice in the past (20 times since the 1850s and three times in the last 12 years), it has always chosen the candidate who received the most votes statewide. Prior to the election, Scott Milne had stated that he would concede if he did not win the popular vote. After the election both Lt. Governor Scott and former Governor Douglas both stated publicly that they believed the popular vote winner should prevail. While we are not bound by the past, historical precedent suggests that this outcome produces fairer results.

Most importantly to me, Vermonters are guaranteed that their vote in the November election for Governor will be given its full weight: one person, one vote. Unlike the Presidential Election, the gubernatorial race is not decided by an Electoral College. Voters have a direct connection with their Governor; the Governor is the people's choice, and the Governor is directly responsible to the people. By respecting this tradition, Vermont also avoids a protracted second round of campaigning that, by its nature, diminishes the first round of voting.

The contested gubernatorial election on Thursday, January 8 was followed, in the afternoon, by an inauguration ceremony and speech. This year's inauguration was interrupted several times by protestors unhappy over the Governor's decision not to move forward with a single-payer health system in Vermont. As most people know, the House and Senate follow strict rules of decorum, which serves to encourage civility and open discourse. While I am proud to live in a place where civil disobedience is tolerated, the demonstrations did not, in my opinion, further an atmosphere where diverse opinions can be expressed and heard.

The backdrop to the day's events was the terrorist attack in Paris on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo that killed 12 people, including the editor in chief and several cartoonists. Around the world, people have taken to the streets to defend the freedom of speech from the threat of terrorism. We are fortunate to live in a country that protects freedom of speech, and in a state that is known for its civility, both in politics and in general discourse. Let us not take for granted our freedom of speech, or the civility that sustains it.

During the upcoming session, the Legislature will be addressing many challenging issues, including the budget, the economy, health care, education, and the environment. I have been appointed to serve again as Vice Chair of the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee and I look forward to a productive session. Please feel free to contact me at any time with your questions and concerns.

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MMMUSD

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should "send a clear message" to the community and participate without reimbursement as "pure service.," Other persons worried lack of any reimbursement whatsoever would create a two-tiered candidate pool, with only those who could afford or not need babysitting or mileage reimbursement running for open positions in the future. All reimbursement was voted down for the present, although the issue can be revisited at another time.

This is a time of transition for various school boards. The CESU Executive Board will be responsible for the 2015 portion of the Budget. On July 1, 2016 the new MMMUSD School Board will take complete control of the newly formed district's budget. In the meantime, all existing elementary school boards, the MMU board, and the CESU Executive Boards will all be operating in tandem. (However, the December and January Richmond Elementary School Board meetings were canceled.)

On December 5, consecutive meetings of the CESU Executive Committee and first MMMUSD School Board Meeting were held.

Bob Fahey, CESU Central Office Business Manager and Beverly White, Special Services (Education) Supervisor were present to help with the details of the budget.

The budget has only modest increases above last year. The budgets were approved unanimously. CESU Superintendent John Alberghini asked the board consider continuing the current Assessment Formulas for Transportation, Professional Development and Technology while the new MMMUSD Board assesses their effectiveness and plans for change. "Let's talk about potential revisions throughout the coming year." he said.

Jericho representative Diane Kirson-Glitman asked about what kind of data the new board should be looking for. Alberghini answered, "look at the usage of technology for grades K-1 and the number of computers. Look at integration specialist usage data." A Finance subcommittee, Dave Clark, Andrew Pont, Edye Graning and Kevin Campbell of the CESU Finance committee will look at reassessment data next year.

The tuition rate of $36,629 for Mansfield Academy for FY 2016 was set.

It should be noted that at the first MMMUSD retreat December 20 (according to the published minutes) the following officers were elected: Jon Milazzo, Chair; Andrew Pond, Vice Chair; and Diane Kirson Glitman, Clerk. Members for two committees were appointed: Finance –Kevin Campbell, Peter Geiss, Edye Graning, Beth Racine, Michael Marks, and Dave Clark; and Negotiations – Jon Milazzo, Peter Geiss, Michael Marks and Andrew Davis.

All elementary schools in the new district have been working on their budgets for several months. On December 15, representatives from all elementary and boards met to combine them. Thirty-seven people (from all the various boards) looked at and talked about generating this new overall budget. The common theme was to support students to reach their full potential

The total net increase in budget is $1,227,358. This number includes the new Preschool Partnerships. The total amount change is an increase of 2.94%. The budget was approved.

Using the tax rate number set by the state, the new state mandated universal preschool expenses, the Common Level of Appraisal, the budget, and the eight-cent "incentive" offered those elementary districts willing to create a new unified district, Richmond residents will see a savings of $38/$100,000 of assessed evaluation this year. Huntington will see an increase of $ 59/$100,000.

The district will apply for an (up to) $150,000 grant from the state to cover transition costs for the new district. CESU was the Fiscal Agent approved. They also approved the CESU Finance Committee to sign warrants through June 30th.

The annual tuition rate for K-6 was set at $12,894/year. The rate for grades 7-12 was set at $13,372/year.

The Annual Meeting Warning was approved for Thursday, February 26, 6:30 pm, at MMU. This will be a public discussion only, and a budget presentation. The budget cannot be changed as it is approved.

In other business Alberghini told the board the Saxon's Hill Preschool Program has visited the Underhill ID School to view the space as a potential relocation site for their facilities.

MMU Meeting January 8, 2015 The MMU portion of the overall budget has a 2.44% increase for next year. Most of the changes come from increased in salaries and benefits (health insurance). There have been some reductions in staff due to the merger. Unexpected costs to the physical plant caused the board to approve an expenditure of $102,756 from the Capital Reserve fund.

MMU Principal Mike Weston asked the board to set the School Choice limit to 6 students transferred in and four transferred out. These numbers are similar to last year. School Choice limits do not apply to tuition students, and do apply to grades 9-12 only. The Board approved unanimously.

The Board voted to dedicate its (last) Town Report to all those Board Members, past and present, who have served their respective towns and the townspeople who have supported said boards for many years.

Alberghini asked approval to offer a retirement 457 plan as an option to its employees at no cost to the District. This request was approved.

Relay for Life

On March 21, cancer survivors, caregivers and those who care about having cancer eradicated in their lifetime will come from all over Vermont and points beyond for the "twelfth" annual Relay for Life NordicStyle a the Trapp Family Lodge.

Celebrating twelve years in a row through frigid conditions, snow and rain, these valiant and dedicated people have come to the mountaintop for many reasons.

The survivors have come to celebrate their lives with others who have also been diagnosed with cancer.

Their caregivers come and are celebrated for being there during the darkest hours of the survivors, and take a lap on the snow, continuing to stand by and be there for their family, extend-end families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, students, children and even those they don't know, all in support of them and their fight to be with us.

Those who "care" have come to raise money that will help people stay well, get well, find cures and fight back. Those who care in come cases don't even know the survivors who are there, but somewhere along the way, they have been touched by cancer and want it gone. They don't want their children or their children's children to ever hear the words, "You have cancer.". Rather, they want them to live in a world with less cancer and more birthdays.

Take to the trails at the Trapp Family Lodge Ski Touring Center on March 21 and take up the fight for cancer.

For more information on how to form a team or join an existing one: www.relalyforlife.org/nordicstylevt, amy.deavitt@cancer.org or 872-6316.

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Weather

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side being the arrival of tomato / potato blight once again, the same beast as stuck Ireland in the 1800s. Continuing the trend, September (82; 28; 59) will be remembered for splendid warm days and cool nights, though light frost hit us during the first week. Precipitation was half normal despite a major rain storm at the beginning. October (79; 28; 50) continued the same including record-setting mid-month warmth, and featuring an extended period of magnificent colors.

Several months of weather tranquility began to unravel in November (67; 7; 34). The beginning was perfectly pleasant, all ending mid-month with a major cold outbreak. Temperatures down to the teens for us. After record high temperature before Thanksgiving week came snow in preparation for turkey day, leaving us with 16 plus inches for the month. Briefly good cross-country-skiing but also canoeing on Gillett Pond surrounded by snow-draped trees. Lots of beaver activity included a new lodge near the dam together with continuing dam work. Record high temperature put an end to the snow as the month ended.

Challenging weather, however, was just beginning. A roller-coaster start to December (56; 2; 26) had temperatures bouncing between single digits and the 50s, yet allowing Pond walking and skiing during the cold spells. This the prelude for the snow storm few will forget from the 9th through the 13th. By the 11th 13 inches of heavy wet snow created woodland havoc; lots of firewood for next year. Power was out virtually everywhere, for many for the longest period in long memory – 5 days for some of us up on Wes White Hill. Then rain and a big melt leaving Christmas white but removing all snow shortly thereafter. Despite single-digit temperatures at the end of the month, December ended up warmer than usual, however three feet of snow had fallen since the fall. The annual bird count up here on Wes White Hill came in over 100 for the first time. Final total was 102, rounded out with tree sparrows passing by. The year ended with the promise of excellent skating ahead.

There was no shortage in 2014 of the extreme global-warming events now familiar to all. Stories abounded, including, continuing drought and wild-fires in California; catastrophic floods in England; 7 feet of snow in the Buffalo area in just a few days; below freezing temperatures in virtually every state in November; unprecedented loss of glaciers on the Antarctic Peninsula; warm temperatures and lack of snow for the Sochi Olympics; most airline winter cancellations in decades and the like.

Three important 2014 summaries warrant reader attention. In the first, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) final and Synthesis Report has now been released (www.ipcc.ch). As reported before in TimesINK, hundreds of scientists from dozens of countries, came together in this international effort, concluding "definitively" that human interference is a key cause. Effects have been on all continents and oceans, from tropics to poles. Conclusions regarding consequences continue to be reinforced in terms of extreme weather events, persistent droughts, species distribution and the like, with a reminder that more "surprises" undoubtedly remain before us. The need for immediate actions on prevention, remediation and adaptation are described and options put on the table.

A National Climate Assessment also has been released reporting a similar assessment (http://www.globalchange.gov/ncadac). Impact on wide-ranging topics including human health, land use, biogeochemical cycles and the like are discussed at the national and regional levels.

Perhaps more important locally is the comprehensive report on climate change in Vermont which was issued by the Rubenstein School at the University of Vermont (vtclimate.org). This first state-wide climate assessment in the country describes historical patterns of now unavoidable change in climate-related variables from temperature, to frost-free growing season, to night-time temperatures to wildlife habitat change to effects on plant and wildlife distribution. Economic and infrastructure challenges that have come about are discussed as they are impacting industries such as dairy, fruit and maple syrup production. The prediction is made that most winter precipitation will fall as rain rather than snow within 30-40 years, with disastrous effects on the ski industry, yet positive impact on summer tourism and recreation can be expected. The Rubenstein Report is a must read for the concerned and unconcerned alike.

Finally, are the studies of Primack and associates who have initiated a detailed follow-up comparing dates in Thoreau's detailed journals regarding first-flowering and other climate-sensitive measures to the present (BioScience, 2012, 62:170ff). Striking changes have occurred.

Climate education will be essential. Here we are lucky to be able to turn locally to the Rubenstein School, as well as University of Vermont Professor Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux whose Satellites, Weather and Climate (SWAC) Teachers Summer Institutes are providing the tools to our educators, as are companion articles on climate education in the K-12 classroom (e.g. Dupigny-Giroux, 2010, Geography Compass, 4/9, pp. 1203-1217). There is so much in society that must change.

The year ended in the cold and the new began in the cold and many enjoying a New Year's Day skate on Gillett Pond. Efforts by so many in our community and beyond to assure the future of the Pond, as described in The Times Ink continue to be important to preserving this natural, recreational, educational and historic resource.

Garden Show Essay Contest

Vermont students will have a chance to share their thoughts of spring through an essay contest held in conjunction with the 2015 Vermont Flower Show. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three entries in each age group.

The topic for this year's competition is Spring Reflections, the theme of the flower show, which will be held February 27 and 28 and March 1 at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction. The winning essays will be on display throughout the show.

The contest, co-sponsored by Green Works--the Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association and University of Vermont (UVM) Extension, is open to anyone age 6 to 18 who attends school in Vermont. Prizes of $50, $30 and $20 will be awarded to the best essays per age group (6 to 9, 10 to13 and 14 to18 years old).

Entries may be hand-written or typed but must not exceed 250 words. They will be judged on uniqueness and creativity, use of descriptive language, enthusiasm for the topic and spelling and grammar, among other criteria.

Submissions may be mailed to Essay Contest, attn. Dr. Perry, UVM Department of Plant and Soil Science, Jeffords Hall, 63 Carrigan Dr., Burlington VT 05405 or sent as an email attachment to leonard.perry@uvm.edu with the subject line: essay contest. All submissions must be postmarked or e-mailed by February 6 and include name, address, phone, email address, age, school and teacher's name.

Winning essays will become the property of Green Works. For complete rules and a registration form go to http://pss.uvm.edu/vfs/vfs15essays.pdf.

News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn B. Macrae, 434-2053

January is upon us, and with it comes a new year full of new possibilities, fresh starts and new resolutions. For some of us, the start of 2015 might be that time to finally get to the gym, try that new recipe we've been meaning to try, or resolve to engage in a new practice. But in addition to the diets and exercise regimens, what might it mean for us to approach the spiritual side of the new year with an equal sense of freshness and resolve?

While walking along the Stowe Recreation Path this week, I noticed there were patches of ice on the river, but the water beside it ran freely. It was the late afternoon, and the sun shone brightly, but the moon was also already out. This reminded me that our lives are full of constants like the sunset, and things that appear static like the ice. But running alongside the static there is a dynamic flow of fresh water as things continuously change.

Are there also places where you feel frozen or stuck? How might your relationship with God help you to get "unstuck" in 2015? And alongside the new possibilities and aspirations for change, what are the constants in your life? Just as the sun sets and moon rises, what do you count on as part of your day? What do you hold fast to in the midst of change?

One of the constants I depend on, day in and day out is my relationship with God. God and I talk pretty frequently, especially when I get outside and take a walk or strap on a pair of skis (which I resolve to do more of in 2015!). The fresh winter air, the scenery, the sunshine on my face not only refreshes me, but helps me to see the world differently – to appreciate the things that seem constant and solid, and those which are changing. My brain chatter quiets down, and my heart opens up a bit more when I get outside with God. So while I might view my relationship with God as a constant, even in its constancy there is a dynamic element! I guess I better consult a physicist about how something can be both constant and dynamic at the same time.

In the meantime, I wish you a Happy New Year abundantly full of dependability and dynamism. I encourage you to get outside with God this winter! Whatever you encounter, I pray that you may grow in your relationship with God and that this relationship will be a source of strength and inspiration in the year to come.

Community Church of Huntington

Larry Detweiler, 434-6715

I have a very thoughtful and generous friend that finds opportunities to give me a gift card to Barnes & Noble. This Christmas was no exception. I resolved to read a novel this year to complement my natural inclination toward nonfiction works. So when I came across NPR's top novels for the year, I settled upon All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, a National Book Award Finalist. Perhaps it was NPR's endorsement or, possibly, the subliminal advertisement of December's weather and power outages that led me to my selection.

Reflecting upon my choice of novel, I remembered reading this past fall Barbara Brown Taylor's, "Learning to Walk in the Dark". How's that for foreshadowing the darkness of our winter months? December is that way for many of us. The heavy, wet snowstorm that froze us in time for the better part of a week did not help. December was a dark month. Even my solar arrays were sad.

I am a native Floridian.I've engaged now in a decades long battle with the dark as I've made my way further north into longer nights and cloudier days, unlike my days of youth in the Sunshine State. Another friend who knows me well forwarded me a link last month to Richard Rohr's devotional, the entry entitled The Luminous Darkness. I tartly replied that I find no romanticism in the oft-quoted line, "dark night of the soul." Of course, I was feeling a bit dark at the time. Good thing she knows me.

Perhaps you're reading this and hoping to learn that I've made peace with the dark and I will share some profound truth to enlighten your way.Well, I still prefer the shadows of a full moonlit night. I am exceedingly wasteful when it comes to brightening up the house in December with an abundance of lights. And I do like the sun's clarity in March. I'll always like the light. And I'll grope to find my way in the dark.

The other night, the power flickered on and off a couple of times leaving us with a stretch of minutes, pitch black, as our eyes adjusted. The darkness pulled me away from my own devices. I called out to my wife in hope of finding the oil lamp. I moved slowly, deliberately and attentively. And I remembered, I'm not alone. Neither are you. You are always welcome with us.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

Father Lance Harlow, 434-2521

We have just completed the Christmas season at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church and I still marvel at how beautiful the church looked. The poinsettias remained brilliant red, the Christmas tree had a perfect shape this year and the colored lights were truly eye-catching. The Nativity scene was first adorned with shepherds and animals, and then later was switched to the Magi as we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany. Our outdoor Nativity scene attracted the attention of children and adults throughout the season and I am grateful to the people who set it up every year. The incense used at the Masses lingered for hours giving it a "churchy" smell. And I especially loved singing the Christmas carols, which for some reason we dare not sing outside of Christmas, despite the theological truths contained therein.

In about a month, we will begin the holy season of Lent with its focus on preparation for the greatest feast of all: Easter. The Easter season will introduce another beauty to the church: the pure white Easter lilies, various multi-colored tulips, hydrangeas, daffodils and other spring flowers which will adorn the sanctuary. Appropriately, the evergreens remind us of winter, the flowering bulbs remind us of spring. But what about the time in between these two major seasons: that is, January? What reminds us of January? The thrill of the new-fallen snow has passed (especially for those who were without power for a week this December!); the smells of mud season and visions of early crocuses have not yet arrived. So what is left? Perhaps one of the most challenging seasons, and it is not at all liturgical. It is the "season of hope."

It is in this "season" that we grow perhaps the most in virtue. We hope for longer days of sunlight. We hope to avoid contracting whichever flu our flu shot didn't cover. We hope the kids will pick up their boots from the middle of the floor without being told for the millionth time.

While it may be possible to decorate the church with frozen grass, icicles, road salt and drop the temperature down to -10 degrees, I doubt that this decorating concept would produce the same beauty as the Christmas and Easter seasons. Instead, during this "season of hope," it will be the parishioners, embellished by the exercise of January virtue, who will be our most beautiful ornamentation.

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 availlable 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 to 10:30, See: www.balanceyogavt.com.

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

DECEMBER 3-FEBRUARY 28: Capturing the Essence of Vermont, Winter Exhibit, Shelburne Vineyard features local artist Michelle Ennis Jackson, Tasting Room Gallery, 6308 Shelburne Road, Shelburne, www.shelburnevineyard.com or visit Shelburne Vineyard on Facebook.

FEBRUARY 1: Catamount Trail Association Backcountry Day, Bolton. Introductory course for skiers try point-to-point backcountry touring on the Catamount Trail www.boltonvalley.com

FEBRUARY 4: Delicious to the Ear: The Inspiring Voice of Maya Angelou,UVM professor Emily Bernard will look at the transformation of poet and activist Maya Angelou, Brownell Library, Essex Junction, 7 pm. Part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays lecture series. Free and open to the public.

FEBRUARY 5: International artist Christo will speak as part of the Vermont Town Hall speaker series. Christo is best known for producing large scale environmental artworks. www.sprucepeakarts.org

FEBRUARY 7: Stories of My Life, a discussion of her memoir with children's author Katherine Paterson, 11 am, Phoenix Books, 191 Bank Street, Burlington. $2 per person. Tickets available for sale at either Phoenix Books location. Limited seating. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

FEBRUARY 7: Grafton Winter Carnival. A day of winter fun for the entire family. www.graftonponds.com

FEBRUARY 8: Northern Vermont Showshoe Race. An exciting day of treks, walks, and races on snowshoes. Includes a half K kids' fun run, a 4K fun run/walk, and an 8K race. Rentals available. www.smuggs.com

FEBRUARY 13-APRIL 19: Outside In: Art of the Street, Middlebury. Exhibition presents the graphic art of 19 street artists whose prestige has carried them from urban legend into high-profile international art museums and galleries. Free.Information: www.middlebury.edu/events

FEBRUARY 14: Lake Elmore Polar Splash. Jump into Lake Elmore for two great causes: Morrisville Rotary and Lamoille Restorative Justice. www.polarsplash.dojiggy.com

FEBRUARY 21: Burke Wine and Art Snowcase, Lyndonville. Enjoy a night out to sample fine wines and chocolate while meeting local artists and viewing their work. Photography, paintings, wood carvings and sculptures will be on display. www.burkevermont.com

FEBRUARY 28: Magic Hat 20th Annual Mardi Gras Parade, Burlington. Music and merriment! Grand parade starts down Main Street at 3 pm. Celebration continues through the night. www.magichat.net/mardigras

FEBRUARY 28: Winterbike: Fat Bike Festival, East Burke. Kingdom Trails celebrates the fat bike culture by hosting group rides, demos, vendors, and a bonfire. Discover yet another way to enjoy the outdoors in winter time. www.kingdomtrails.com

FEBRUARY 28: Frigid Infliction, Bolton. Ten-hour adventure race for teams of two or three: navigation, snowshoeing, x-c skiing, and posthol-ing. www.boltonvalley.com

FEBRUARY 28: Heartbeat, Plainfield. Concert of the Israeli-Palestinian youth music community; a dynamic blend of Eastern and Arabic music, Western rock, hip hop, jazz and reggae; personal stories of growing up amid the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.www.goddard.edu/news-events/events/concert-heartbeat

MARCH 7 & 8: Burlington Yoga Conference, UVM Davis Center. See: www.burlingtonyogaconference.com

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

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:

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

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

SCHOOL BOARD:

Mt. Mansfield HS: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:30 pm, Meetings rotate among MMU, BRMS, CHMS.

Richmond: 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Richmond Elem. School

Huntington: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Brewster-Pierce School.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Huntington: 1st & 3rd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office.

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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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

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

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

SCOUTS

Richmond: Cub Scout Pack 646 meets 7-8 pm, last Wednesday of the month, Camel's Hump Middle School music room pit.

Huntington: Boy Scout Troop 645, Wed, 6:30 pm, Community Church of Huntington, John Christiana (johnpchristiana@gmail.com) or Mike Flock (mflock23@gmavt.net).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr

Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 6-8 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

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

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

RICHMOND LAND TRUST:

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

CSWD **Richmond Drop-Off Center**

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

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Huntington: 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm, Town Office

LIBRARY

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

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

RICHMOND RESCUE

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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

HHCT (Huntington Historic and Community Trust): 3rd Tues, Huntington Public Library, 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am, newborn through preschool (with older siblings welcome) Residents from any town are welcome. Huntington Public Library. Information, contact facilitator Jane Davis at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Worship

Community Church of Huntington: (See article, above, for specific activities.) Sunday morning Worship 9 am. Communion:1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155). Small Groups: Tuesday at 10 am and Wednesday at 7 pm at host homes in Huntington (Larry Detweiler 434-6715).

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

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

Community Alliance Church: 190 Pond Road (overlooking CVU), Hinesburg. Sunday, 9 am, Sunday school for all ages, with adults and teen electives; Scott Mansfield, 482-2132, www.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: Worship at 8 am & 11am-Winter; 9 am-Summer; Nursery care 9:30 am; Fellowship, 10:30 am; Youth Group 6:15 pm; 899-4911; www.jccv t.org; On the Green in Jericho Center. Pastor Glenn Carter.

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

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

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

Calvary Episcopal Church Route 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

Cold Weather Dangers for Pets

by M. Kathleen Shaw, DVM
Vermont Veterinary Medicine Assn.

With the colder weather, it's time to think about the dangers this presents for pets, both indoors and outdoors-only ones. By taking a few common sense precautions, you can help reduce the cold weather dangers to your pets.

Veterinary experts agree that you should bring outdoor pets indoors if the temperature drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Puppies, kittens, and short haired pets should not be left outside for extended periods anytime the temperature goes below 40 degrees. For pets with long hair, proper grooming is essential to help them maintain a layer of warming air within their coat. Pets who are heavily matted cannot keep themselves warm.

If your pet must stay outdoors, be sure to provide shelter for your pet: they can suffer from frostbite and hypothermia just like we do. A pet's outdoor house must have at least three enclosed sides, be elevated off the ground, and contain generous amounts of bedding such as straw or hay. In cold weather, bigger is not always better. A house just big enough for your pet will warm up faster and retain heat better than something that is too big. Your outdoor pet will need access to fresh water that isn't frozen. Use heated water bowls and replenish them frequently.

Cats love to warm up underneath car hoods. If cats have access to your car outdoors or in your garage, be sure to pound on the hood of the car prior to starting it. Many cats are killed or griev-

continue to page 15

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

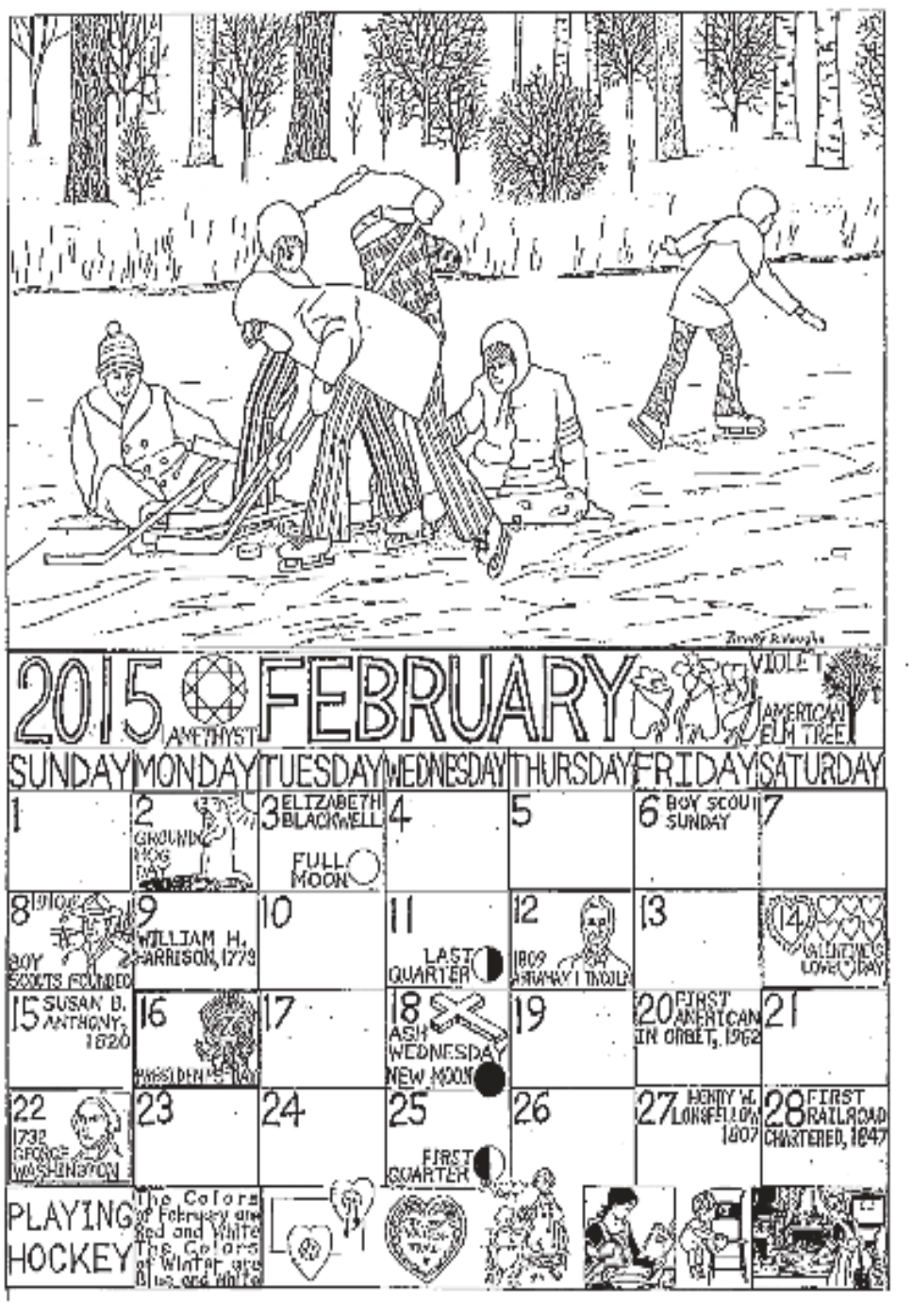
On these cold winter days it may be tempting to snuggle up at home and avoid going out. The Community Senior Center is offering two events in February to lure you out of your nest by providing an opportunity to learn something new, see a classic movie, and meet new people.

On Monday, February 9, at 1 pm, Yves Gonnet of Midnight Goat Farm in Huntington will describe how he left a twenty-five year career with computers to become an artisan farmstead cheese maker. He not only learned how to make cheese, but how to care for six female goats and one male stud, and how to create and run a business. He'll explain how he uses old world methods with modern thinking to produce "dairy delicacies." Come prepared to taste some delicious samples.

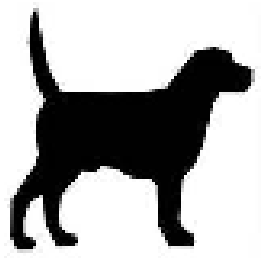
On Wednesday, February 18, the Community Senior Center continues its Must See Movies series with the '50s classic, Sweet Smell of Success. A powerful gossip columnist (Burt Lancaster) hires a sleazy press agent (Tony Curtis) to break up a romance between his sister and a jazz musician. This has been called "the best movie ever made about New York City." Closed captions and popcorn will be provided.

Save this date! On May15 at 7 pm, there will be a fund raising event with Captain Richard Phillips of Underhill. He'll tell his story of being hijacked on the high seas. You may have seen the movie, but there's nothing like hearing this dramatic story of survival from the man himself. This event will be open to all ages.

Church News now on previous page.



Service Directory

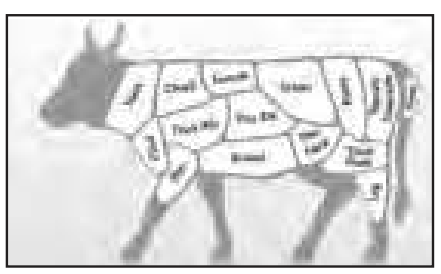


Animal Care

THE CRATE ESCAPE Do you worry about your animals when you are away from home? Worry no more! We offer quality daycare and overnight boarding for dogs. Our dogs get lots of exercise and attention. We also do catsitting and mid-day dog walks at your home. Baths for dogs are offered Conveniently located on Rt 2 next to Interstate exits. 434-6411. [07/14]

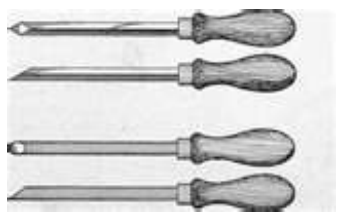
RICHMOND ANIMAL HOSPITAL Drs.Virginia Clarke, Cori Weiner and Daniel Hament, Veterinarians. Main Street, Richmond across from Harringtons. Full-service pet hospital. Call 434-4935 for day or evening appointments or emergencies. [04/14]

Beef



Builders & Suppliers

TEN TALENTS - RANDY RICHLAND, GENERAL CONTRACTOR Over 25 years of experience, creativity and excellence in the building trades. Call me for custom carpentry • repairs or remodeling • licensed electrical work • major appliance service and mechanical repairs/ installation • building evaluation /consultations • historic preservation. 434-5221. Fully insured. [12/14]



Cleaning

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.

Catering

Ceramics

Dental

Excavating / Mowing

Floor Covering

Fuel Sales & Service

Gardening / Tilling

Gifts & Antiques

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]

Sewing

Lawn Care / Plowing

Legal Services

BRIAN K. VALENTINE, ESQ., practicing in the areas of estate planning, probate, family law, and appeals. Meets with clients locally. A partner with the Burlington general practice law firm of Mickenberg, Dunn, Lachs & Smith, PLC (which also handles worker's compensation, real estate, and personal injury matters). Phone: (Daytime) 658-6951; (Evenings) 434-2162. Email: brian@mickdunn.com. [04/14]

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

BUTTON PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS, PC, specializing in boundary, subdivision, topographic, GPS surveys and FEMA applications. Locally owned and operated. 863-1812 or www.bapls.com. [10/13]

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

HILLVIEW DESIGN COLLABORATIVE Full range of architectural services for large and small projects. Creating places that suit the needs of people: budget and expectations. Energy efficient and cost effective design solutions for new construction, renovations, additions. www.hillviewdesign.com, 434-2225, info@hillviewdesign.com [12/14]

Repair

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

SHATTUCK WELDING & REPAIR Fabrication and repair on stainless steel, steel and aluminium. Shop and mobile truck available. 434-3047 or cell 324-5660. [03/14]

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

Towing & Crane Service

CRANE SERVICE 23-ton National Crane with 80' reach, mounted on flatbed Freightliner truck; optional two-man rotating work basket. Available with operator for your lifting and hauling needs. Call Duncan at Liberty Head Post and Beam: 434-2120.

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 [10/15]

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.

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 _____

The Times • PO Box 532 • Richmond, VT 05477
timesink@gmavt.net

Business Beat
by Bill & Gina Haddock

Peeking out from the top floor of a small commercial building in Huntington Lower Village is a sign that reads **Keeping Track**. "Keeping track of what?" you might wonder.

In 1994, Sue Morse, a nationally known naturalist, decided to act on her concern that development often unwittingly harms, isolates and even eliminates habitat critical to local biodiversity and broad-scale ecological health. Morse was also concerned that many of those people responsible for protecting habitat lacked the resources needed to "keep track" of the status of wildlife and habitat in their assigned areas. Thus Keeping Track was born.

Keeping Track is a local nonprofit business that offers a wide variety of conservation programs that serve all levels of expertise and all ages. Its signature wildlife Monitoring Program is founded on the belief that more "boots on the ground" field research is essential for communities to find and record the evidence needed to protect important wildlife habitats. Keeping Track staff offer programs to train citizen volunteers to detect, identify, interpret and record the tracks and other signs of animals that are critical to local ecological health. Keeping Track also provides training and expertise to highway planners and engineers through their Habitats and Highways program. The goal of this program is to significantly reduce the number of wildlife collisions and improve the safety of our highways and roads. Planners can then more effectively make decisions about things like wildlife crossing signs or protective berms in their planning. In addition, Keeping Track offers other customized workshops and technical training to biologists, ecologists, foresters and other professionals working for wildlife agencies and various environmental groups and consulting firms. They've worked on a vast array of issues from monitoring cougar and Canada lynx to pinpointing the source of E.coli in water sources. Past clients include the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Science Foundation, Nature Conservancy and selected universities, to name just a few.

What is particularly impressive about Keeping Track is its belief and commitment to the broader community. Its community educational efforts have reached thousands, including many young people, by providing hands-on experiences and information about conserving natural resources. The programs bring together people from all backgrounds through a shared interest in wildlife and environmental health.

Keeping Track also offers an inspiring selection of programs developed for students and teachers in grades 5-12. These scientifically based classroom and field lessons meet state and national standards. There are options for schools, camps, church, scout groups and other youth organizations.

The driving force and visionary behind Keeping Track is its founder Sue Morse and clearly her childhood experiences laid the groundwork for her passion for the outdoors and wildlife. Morse told the Business Beat, "I grew up in Pennsylvania farm country. My family had a 2490 acre farm that has been in the family for several generations, and I learned a lot about living off the land as a girl. We were surrounded by the Amish and were influenced by their ways. My grandfather especially connected with that culture, working with his hands to build his life. So I worked the farm as a child and I could always be found camping and hiking in the woods."

With her parent's support, Morse became a member of the Sierra Club at age eleven and started travelling out west when she was twelve. She met a number of naturalists during her western trips, including David Brower, a prominent environmentalist who served as executive director for the Sierra Club and who began many organizations, such as the John Muir Institute for Environmental Studies, and Friends of the Earth. Brower, who was a strong influence on Morse as she developed her knowledge and skills as a naturalist, is credited as having changed the tenor of the Sierra Club from an outing organization to the influential politically active group it is seen as today.

Morse's migration to Vermont came via UVM when she arrived here in 1967 after having attended Penn State for a couple of years.

"As founder of Keeping Track, I'll say that what I wanted to see happen was that the organization would provide citizens with the training that would give them the skills that would allow them to actually participate in conservation. And I think that over the twenty years we've been working we have achieved a lot of that. I believe that the best businesses in the future will be community based, healthy and caring. And I hope that's what we'll be known for."

To date, more than 40,000 acres of land in 12 states and Quebec have been conserved on the basis of evidence gathered by Keeping Track teams.

As Bill Staines, one of our favorite musical troubadours would sing in his most popular song, "All God's critters got a place in the choir." And Keeping Track is doing the best they can to be sure of that.

For more information about events or specific programs and services Google Keeping Track. This is a not-for-profit entity and depends upon financial support to fulfil its mission. Please consider making a donation and becoming a member to support their continuing good works.

Richmond Blood Drawings

On February 25, from 11:30 am to 5 pm, the American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish Hall. For a shorter wait time, please schedule an appointment by calling: 1-800-733-2767.

Mark your calendar for the these other dates:

April 22: Richmond Congregational Church

June 17: OLHR

August 19: RCC

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

Richmond Foot Clinics Scheduled

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

February 17	March 31
May 12	June 23

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

Winter Pet Care

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engine parts. Another danger that cars present to pets in cold weather is antifreeze poisoning. If you suspect your pet has consumed any antifreeze at all, call your veterinarian immediately.

Consider keeping dogs on a leash when they go outside. Dogs have gone off exploring "frozen" lakes or streams and fall through the ice into the frigid water.

Inside the house, monitor all pets around wood-burning stoves, fireplaces, and space heaters. These can cause severe burns. Younger pets romping through the house can knock objects into these heat sources and cause a fire, so make sure to "pet-proof" the areas around them. With the colder darker months, many people like to use candles in the home. Make sure to place them where pets (especially cats) do not have access. They can not only tip over the candle, they can set their fur on fire leading to serious burns.

Our pets can suffer from arthritis in cold weather, just like humans do and it is just as painful for them. If you are unsure if your pet has arthritis, want to know ways to keep your older pets comfortable during the cold weather, or if you have questions about cold weather issues with your pets, talk to your veterinarian.

[The Vermont Veterinary Medical Association (VVMA), founded in 1898, is a professional organization of 330 veterinarians dedicated to compassionate animal care and quality medicine.]

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cch.valentines@gmail.com or call 434-2235 or 434-3935

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Family Focus

by Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W.

Tough Decisions

"Cured yesterday of my disease, I died last night of my physician."

—Matthew Prior (1664-1721)
The Remedy Worse than the Disease (1714)

Arriving at my office, I played the message left at 6:30. It was my friend Kelly from Rhode Island and she sounded upset, so I called her immediately.

"My grandfather died last night. What's the best way to notify your family?" Ignoring her question, I quickly offered sincere sympathy and asked, "How are you?" Kelly broke down, sobbing. I knew that Kelly had grown up feeling that the only person who really cared about and supported her was her grandfather. She was devastated.

Kelly's grandfather Leo had lived with my mother's first cousin Alice for many years as he became increasingly demented. As they both declined, they hired in-home help for several years, but then the money ran out and they moved into a nursing home. Sharing a room, Alice comforted Leo, and as they ate their meals together, they continued their endearing habit of "clinking their glasses of wine" before each sip.

It was an unlikely match. When Alice and Leo met, she was 83 years old and had never been married. An only child, she had always lived with her parents in the same house she was born in. She was a graduate of Brown University and had taught high school math for over 40 years. Her grammar was impeccable and her rigid personality legendary. But Leo, a blue collar worker whose grammar was not perfect, somehow won this woman's heart, and she married for the first time. It was lovely. They had a good life together.

But the aging processes took over and the inevitable changes in their bodies dictated their lives. Increasingly frail, they lost their physical independence, slowly succumbing to what Bill Thomas, MD, called the "Three Plagues of nursing home existence: boredom, loneliness, and helplessness."

For both the elderly patients and their families, it's a story predicated on prolonging life. We see medicine perform miracles in keeping people alive and have come to expect that there is always another intervention that will fix the patient.

This is what Kelly faced the night Leo was taken to the hospital. The doctors told her, "We could do this….And we could try that…." And Kelly said, "To what end?" She told them to let him go.

We should all be so brave and clear-thinking when faced with a similar situation. But it's really hard to quell the fear and tame the anxiety. So we allow an out-of-control medical system to extend our lives, thus enduring protracted and unnecessary suffering.

Louise has not been so lucky as Leo and Alice. Typical of an older woman who lives alone and can no longer drive, she has outlived two husbands and her son. Her daughter lives in Idaho with her husband and family. Wanting her mother to be safe, the daughter has arranged for Louise to move into an assisted living facility in Idaho. The video of Golden Woods shows lovely accommodations and never-ending activities. But Louise has never lived anywhere else. She has to sell all her furniture and leave her sister and friends and church.

Louise is content living alone. She feels she's in charge of her own time and space. She dreads giving up her possessions and living in a large group setting where she doesn't know anybody. How has it come to this?

So many of our decisions are based on fear. We fear pain and suffering, we fear dying, and we fear loneliness. So we trade living for survival, exchanging our independence for security. We give up our autonomy and with it our sense of life's meaning.

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

Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Handicapped Parking Spaces

Political correctness aside, I have always complained about parking spaces for the handicapped. Yes, it's rude to admit, but who hasn't pulled into a crowded parking lot and steamed at the sight of three perfectly good spaces right in front, except that they have that wheelchair logo sprayed onto the asphalt?

If you count up all the handicapped reserve spaces you see in a day, it almost seems impossible to imagine there are that many physically challenged people in the state, let alone out shopping on that exact day.

However, now I'm having trouble getting around because of osteoarthritis in my right hip. Recently, I picked up my own handicapped parking tag. Well let me tell you, it has changed my attitude about handicapped parking spaces.

At first, I didn't use my privilege. I can get around OK with a cane, but when the snow got deeper, negotiating the piles and puddles became more uncertain. Then came the ice and I started looking for that welcoming wheelchair symbol.

The other day I was on my way to Costco and my heart skipped a beat when I realized I could pull into one of those special spaces right in front. My heart lifted in anticipation of the ease of parking I was about to enjoy.

There must be at least 20 handicapped spaces, and every one of them was filled. There were even people with handicapped plates waiting for a turn to get one. I ended up having to search the lot for a place to park way in the back. I put my handicapped tag in the window anyway, just to make a point.

It now seems Vermont is packed with physically challenged people. Almost everywhere I go, there aren't enough special spaces. So, I am still complaining about handicapped parking: there aren't enough of spaces, at least not enough where I go.

Many columns ago, I wrote about the best way of describing people who are handicapped. I heard it on the BBC. A lady in a wheel chair was asked how she preferred to be described. She replied, "Presently handicapped, because most people, if they live long enough, will eventually be handicapped, too."

When I wrote about her I didn't really think it applied to me. "People" really describes others, right? Not you and me. If I had gotten my way earlier there would be even fewer handicapped parking spaces than there are. But now I need one. I'm glad no one listened to my complaints before.

Aging in Place, it doesn't happen to by accident. Still if we are lucky, it does happen to all of us, complete with a world of complications we may know about, but can't imagine will ever happen to us.(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk is Vermont's leading Aging in Place advocate, writing and speaking around the state on issues of concern to retirees and their families. He works as a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage and HECM for Purchase specialist. You can access previous Aging in Place columns and Scott's blogs at scottfunk.org.)