The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
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A Celebration on Ice for Gillett Pond

Submitted by Brad Elliott

A year ago, the future of Gillett Pond, on the Richmond/Huntington border, was in doubt.

The State of Vermont had asked the owner of the dam needed to maintain the pond's water level to repair or remove the structure, deeming it unsafe.

Today the pond – a local landmark and widely used recreation site – has a new owner and a new lease on life. And on Sunday, February 22, from 1pm to 3 pm, people from both towns and beyond are invited to meet at the pond to celebrate.

In many ways, it will look like a typical winter Sunday at the pond. There will be a bonfire, skiing, snowshoeing, and with luck from the weather, skating and hockey – all framed by tree-lined shores and overlooked by a steep ridge topped with old-growth hemlocks.

But at 2 pm, people will gather around the fire to mark the pond's salvation, and how it began with the Friends of Gillett Pond, a group formed as soon as the threat to the pond's survival surfaced. A freak cloudburst, blockage of a culvert near the dam and road damage had brought attention to the dam. The pond's and dam's owner, the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains saw removal of the dam as the least expensive course of action.

That's when the Friends set about finding an alternative. The group began working with the Richmond Land Trust to raise money to purchase the dam and pond from the Scouts. The partners also consulted with state engineers and commissioners from the Agency of Natural Resources to assess what would be needed to restore or repair the dam.

The answer, of course, was money – lots of it.

Rough estimates put the figure in the neighborhood of $350,000, which included the cost of acquiring the pond and dam. But the Friends saw that as a reasonable cost to protect such a widely loved, heavily used resource serving the towns around it.

A five-figure pledge quickly rolled in, and others followed. Scores of smaller contributions came as well, and on February 4, the coffers held enough to enable the Richmond Land Trust to purchase the 88-acre property from the Girl Scouts for $75,000 and cover the closing and other associated costs as well.

"People in both towns couldn't be happier," says Nancy Stoddard, spokesperson for the Friends group. "In terms of fundraising, we still have a very long way to go. But now the pond's fate is in the hands of our two communities and citizens committed to saving a natural treasure and recreational resource for future generations."

Jonesville resident Art Hamlin captured this serene view of Gillett Pond in late autumn.

Big Tickets on Richmond Ballot

by Greg Elias

A $2.5 million water and sewer extension that town officials say could pay for itself and attract new development tops Richmond's Town Meeting Day ballot.

The ballot also includes elected offices, school budgets and funding for land conservation. The municipal budget will be debated and decided at the annual town meeting, as will a property tax exemption aimed at spurring redevelopment of the Old Richmond Creamery.

The water and sewer extension would run through the Gateway zoning district, a long strip of land straddling Route 2 from outside the central village to beyond Interstate 89. Voters will be asked to approve bonds to pay for the proposal, which faces uncertain support from the mobile home park that will be the largest new user.

"The project depends on a commitment to connect by a significant number of users, or by the (Riverview Commons) mobile home park," stated a question-and-answer summary of the project compiled by Water and Sewer Commission Chairman Bard Hill. "Without commitments from property owners to connect and use the extensions, the extensions are unlikely to be built."

The extension's first phase begins at Camels Hump Middle School and cuts through land behind the school before exiting at the Reap property on Route 2. The second phase runs from there to the Crate Escape, a dog daycare and kennel. The final segment terminates at Riverview Commons, near the Route 117 intersection.

The total cost is an estimated $2.5 million. Town officials say the town will attempt to cut the local expense by nearly half by securing federal grants.

Officials emphasize that no property taxes will be used to fund the project. Instead, connection fees and usage charges paid by new customers will cover the bond payments.

Still, state statute requires bond financing to be decided by townwide vote. And to pursue the grants, the town first must receive bond approval.

A scoping study completed in January by Williston-based Green Mountain Engineering found that hookup fees and ongoing usage charges would generate enough revenue to make the bond payments and thus prevent rate hikes and perhaps even reduce monthly bills for existing users if the extension attracts new development.

Hill said in an email that additional connections would allow the system to broaden its user base. Richmond, population about 4,000 residents, has around 320 homes and businesses connected to municipal water and sewer. Only a tenth of the water system's capacity is being used, the study said.

Two big problems confront the system: one, it lost its biggest customers more than 15 years ago when the Creamery closed; two, aging infrastructure recently required expensive work that caused rates to skyrocket.

If the water and sewer system can add users, Hill said, it would defray fixed costs for the entire system and perhaps produce more reasonable bills for existing customers.

Longstanding town policy requires that only ratepayers fund the water and sewer system, said Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik. And the Water and Sewer Commission has agreed that expansion costs should be covered exclusively by new users.

The scoping study found universal support among property owners who would be served by the first two phases of the planned extension. Eight surveys were submitted, and all said they would be willing to connect to the system.

Costly Connections But it's unclear if all the property owners understood exactly how expensive those connections could be. Hill said he feels that new users understood the costs of connecting, an issue covered during a series of public hearings on the project.

The scoping study estimated that the cost of running water and sewer lines, from the main extension to each home or business would be between $11,000 and $18,000. Those numbers include expenses related

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Town Meeting Day is March 3

Richmond

CAMELS HUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 7 am to 7 pm

School Meeting: 9 am

Town Meeting: following school meeting

Doughnuts & Coffee: Coffee and homemade doughnuts available in the morning, beginning at 7 am

Lunch: Pastries, sandwiches, soups, provided by Beacon Light Grange, after meetings, nominal fee

Childcare available.

Huntington

BREWSTER-PIERCE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 6:30 am to 7 pm

School Meeting: 9 am

Town Meeting: following school meeting

Bake Sale: Sweet rolls and coffee in the morning. Bake sale beginning mid-morning to benefit Boy Scout Troop 645. Also, lunch desserts.

Lunch: Traditional covered dish lunch with fresh bread to benefit the Hot Lunch Program and Community Church of Huntington. $6 adults; $4 under 12 years.

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Letters

Conserved and on the Grand List

On March 3, Richmond voters have the opportunity to continue making our town a key player in conserving its important natural, historic and agricultural resources.

In 2005 voters created a Conservation Reserve Fund for just that purpose, and in 2010 they overwhelmingly renewed it. Now it's up for renewal again, and I believe that its very successful track record on a wide variety of projects proves that is well worth renewing.

So far, the Fund has been used to protect historic windows in the Congregational Church, rebuild part of our equally historic Town Center, and give people access to one of the town's oldest cemeteries. In addition, it has protected habitat and a working hayfield along the Winooski River at the east entrance to our town, studied townwide wildlife movement corridors as an aid to better planning, and kept 187 acres of fertile farmland in productive use.

The Fund also played a critical role in the conservation of the 20-acre Willis Hill parcel. Due to its location adjacent to the elementary and middle schools, the site can now be used not only by the public for sledding but by the schools for studying wetland ecology, and expanding and improving student athletic activities.

The Fund is supported by a penny on the tax rate – a little under one-half of one percent. The beauty of that is by showing the depth of our community's support for conservation, it attracts other and even larger funding sources to projects important to our town. In fact, for every dollar taxpayers put into the fund more than three dollars in outside support was generated.

For example, the Fund contributed $64,000 to the Willis Hill project, which drew in $67,500 in support from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

The $10,000 contribution from the Fund to conserve those 187 acres of farmland triggered $197,500 in additional project funding.

All told, the Fund has spent $175,424 on projects and brought our town $562,983 in additional funding. And every property conserved with Fund support has remained on the Grand List, where it continues to generate property tax revenue for Richmond for very little demand in Town services.

Richmond needs the ability to continue acting quickly and decisively on conservation needs and opportunities as they appear. On March 3, Town Meeting Day, please vote "YES" on Article 9 during all-day voting at Camels Hump Middle School. Absentee ballots are available from the Town Clerk. More information on the fund is available at tinyurl.com/ConservationReserveFund.

—*Brad Elliott*, Richmond

Preserving and Sharing Richmond's Heritage

In addition to the managing and maintaining of the Round Church, the Richmond Historical Society Executive Board continues to be involved in a number of activities, Members of the Executive Board work diligently to preserve and promote the history of Richmond. In order to continue our efforts we are in need of more involvement by members of the Historical Society and the Richmond community as at large members of the Executive Board. Any organization can become stagnant without new members and new ideas. We also have an urgent need for someone to take over the position of wedding coordinator, as Emily Johnson, current wedding coordinator, will be moving out of state in the near future. The wedding coordinator is responsible for scheduling weddings and the volunteer host/hostess for each wedding. Without this person or persons it may be difficult for the Historical Society to accommodate weddings, thus impacting our fund balance for maintenance of the church.

Please contact one of our members if you wish to be involved in preserving and sharing Richmond's history, guiding or helping with weddings at the Round Church, or in any aspect of the Historical Society. For more information, visit our website at www.oldroundchurch.com or write to us at rhs@oldroundchurch.com.

—*Fran Thomas*, President

Camels Hump Middle School Winter Activities

What a winter we're having! The cold temperatures continue to afford students and families the opportunity to skate on the school's rink while the snow accumulation has been fantastic for sliding, skiing and riding. Recreational activities and academic exploration abound for students at Camels Hump Middle School.

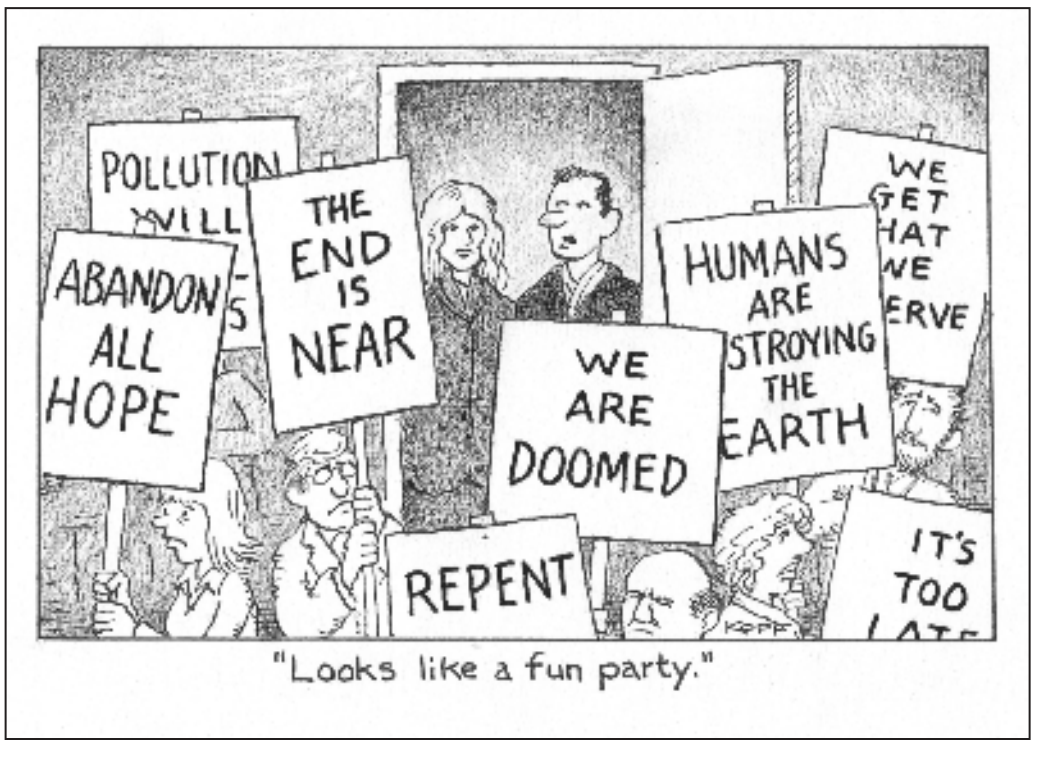
A group of our students recently participated in the First Lego League robotics competition at Norwich University. Teams from area schools had three areas of focus: robotics, project design and "gracious professionalism." Each student group designed and built a robot that could perform a specific task such as opening a door or placing a ball in a goal. It is a pleasure to congratulate the Camels Hump team for their first place in gracious professionalism and advancement to the New England regional championships in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Camels Hump Middle School has been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know in math, reading and science. Administered by the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP differs from state assessments as it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as "The Nation's Report Card," which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policy makers, and the public. To view sample subject area and contextual questions, please visit http://nationsreportcard.gov/parents.asp.

This month, students at CHMS will participate in the Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), sponsored by the Vermont Department of Education and the Vermont Department of Health. The anonymous survey gathers information about health risk behaviors of students in grades 6-8. The survey is voluntary and parents may choose to exclude their child. . The survey, developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with state and local school officials, has the support of many national organizations including the National PTA. The survey includes questions about nutrition, alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use, physical exercise, injuries, and sexual behavior. Schools, communities and state agencies will use the results of the survey to evaluate programs, plan new programs and to secure future funding.

The annual meeting and budget informational meeting of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School district is February 26 at 6:30 pm at MMU. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

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



"Looks like a fun party."

Meet the Candidates

Helen Keith

Huntington Selectboard, 3 years

Greetings to voters in Huntington,

I am excited to run for the three year position on the Huntington Selectboard and hope to be elected on Town Meeting Day, March 3rd. So, I am asking for your vote.

While I am only an eight-year resident, I have been actively involved in the community during all of these years. I think my experiences here, in the area and in a number of other places add up to giving me a good boost on some of the issues facing the town. I have spent many years (and still am involved) operating and contributing to the early childhood, family support and disabilities services fields. In addition, I have worked with a number of different people on local issues such as education finance and education planning, local governance and planning, senior independent housing development and volunteering with the Town Hall Committee as they seek and get grants to renovate and soon use the building for events and activities.

When I first moved to Huntington I wanted to get to know my community. Since the Brewster -Pierce Elementary School was right down the road, I offered to write for the Times Ink and became a reporter covering School Board meetings for several years. From there I became involved in the CESU merger issues (twice) hoping for more community based planning; and, now, I am happy to celebrate and help support the recent local decision and the CESU decision to create a modified district - and watch/support each as they unfold.

The skills I bring to the Selectboard include: grant writing, outcomes and strategic planning, consensus building, financial management and planning, program and policy development. I have an interest in roads, signs, bridges, housing, traffic calming, open spaces, conservation, coordination-communication among the School Board, the Select Board and the Planning Commission and other local resources, municipal and education tax rates/property taxes and social policy. I look forward to joining a great group of people who already sit on the Selectboard, using my skills and listening/learning from others. Thanks in advance for your consideration — and your vote.

Ellen Kane

Richmond Selectboard, 2 years

I have lived in Richmond for almost ten years with my husband and two boys. I have been a member of the Richmond Economic Development Committee for three years and was appointed to fill a Selectboard vacancy in October 2014. I am running to complete the final two years of the vacancy term because I love our town. We have great schools, a thriving downtown and an engaged community that cares about each other. I am excited about the upcoming town planning process that will engage the community to envision a new future that preserves what we value most while allowing for growth. I have extensive fundraising experience working for nonprofit organizations that support access to quality education, health care and social services for the most vulnerable populations. I know my experience securing federal, state and private grants will be an asset and I look forward to working for people of Richmond.

Andrew Hendrickson

Huntington Selectboard, 2 Years

As a 20-year resident of Huntington, I've had "serve in town government" on my to do list for a while now. Last August, in what I've jokingly referred to as a "weak moment," I agreed to serve out the remainder of Doug Graver's term. By happenstance, I've been present during most of this year's budget review and planning process. This board is deeply concerned with providing the highest quality services to the town, while spending the least amount of your tax dollars possible. They are not only concerned with this year's budget, and the next, but the longer-term effect of their decisions on future Select Boards. I am deeply impressed and eager for the opportunity to continue working with these Board members.

As for myself, I am a 24-year UVM employee, managing the information technology needs of the College of Arts and Sciences. To date those skills have primarily served the board as "AV guy", but I do have experience managing large, recurring projects as well as hefty budgets. My wife and I have raised two daughters here in town, and put in a full decade of parental participation at Brewster Pierce.

I consider myself a levelheaded listener and feel that I can contribute positively to the operation of our wonderful town. Every resident should feel that they have a voice in how their tax dollars are spent, especially those who may not attend town meeting and may feel disenfranchised. Give me the opportunity to be your advocate. I welcome your support in continuing the positive work of this Selectboard and, thus, your vote on Town Meeting Day.

Dana Cummings

Huntington Town & School Moderator, 1 year

Today, I attended a training to prepare to moderate my first Town Meeting. The tricky questions posed by moderators with many years experience humbled this neophyte. At the same time, I was inspired by the importance of the moderator's role to facilitate what Town Meeting scholar Frank Bryan calls, "Real Democracy."

It is the moderator's job to ensure that the business of Town Meeting is accomplished and to clearly explain procedure so that votes reflect the wish of the voter.

I have the necessary skills to work effectively for all of Huntington's residents. As your Town and school Moderator I will be informed about the roles, responsibilities, and processes of the job to conduct effective town and school meetings on Town Meeting Day and at any special meetings called. I will work with the Selectboard; School Board; representatives of the town's other boards, commissions, and committees to present articles for discussion and action on the floor so that any can be heard and all can cast their vote in confidence and clarity. I will work for transparent process and clear communication among town residents.

I would appreciate your votes for Town Moderator and School Moderator on Town Meeting Day.

Lincoln Bressor

Richmond Selectboard, 3 years

I have lived in Richmond my entire life and have a strong personal interest in its continued growth and prosperity. I bring a fresh perspective and an eye toward the future of what Richmond needs in order to become more attractive to young people and continue to survive. An essential part of that process is getting the next generation involved in town politics and engaged in the town's future.

I realize that the Selectboard is a group of five citizens working together to analyze information and do what they feel is best for the town. I will be a positive addition to the Selectboard because I am good at working in a team, listening to all sides of an issue and using common sense to come to an appropriate decision. I will always balance my own opinions with the will of the people and go out of my way to meet with concerned citizens.

After college, I grappled for a long time with where to live and eventually settled on Richmond; however, it was not an easy decision. I love Richmond and it was a special place to grow up but I am worried about its future. Because of this, I support smart, sustainable growth that makes Richmond an attractive place to start a career while maintaining the reasons why so many move here. Our strong community and natural beauty, coupled with our sense of business independence and a desire to keep Richmond a nice place to visit and live will hopefully be a strong pull for decades to come. I hope I have your support in the coming election. Feel free to contact me with any questions: lincolnbressor@gmail.com or (802) 363-3381

Lorrie Richland

Huntington Libary Trustee, 3 years

I am currently a library trustee in Huntington and hope to continue to serve the town in this way for another three years.

I moved to Vermont in 1970, to teach and moved to Huntington in 2001. After my retirement from teaching in 2006, I searched for a way to volunteer my time. The library seemed the perfect way to support the town. It is my belief that a library is essential to a vibrant community. Our own Library houses resources for all community members, no matter their age. It provides programs that help us understand our world and the many issues that confront us locally, nationally, and globally.

I have had the privilege of working on several projects for the Library during my terms as trustee. I have worked on and organized several fund raising projects and I was very much involved in the organization of the Huntington Endowment for Library Development (HELD). This fund will help ensure the future of the library and its programs. For several years I have been the secretary to the Library's Board of Trustees, recording the minutes and writing the drafts of the Annual Reports.

The role of libraries is changing as technology continues to improve our ways of communicating. I am excited to be able to help the Huntington Public Library prepare for the future.

We are privileged to live in a community that supports a place to keep good books. I would like to be able to continue to be a part of this great Library. I thank you for your support.

Heidi Racht

Huntington Town Clerk, 3 years

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community as Town Clerk for the past nine years. I enjoy working for the people of the town and feel that everything in the office is as it should be. We have a great staff providing intelligent, affirmative community service to everyone in our small town.

Thanks for reading this and for your support on Town Meeting Day.

Cochran's Nordic Challenge

Photos, courtesy of Brian Mohr / EmberPhoto

The second Annual Cochran's Nordic Ski Cross Challenge, will be held on Saturday, March 15. Start time is 11 am kids; 12:30 pm adults.

A festive and competitive citizens Nordic Ski Cross Race for all ages, the event features uphill, downhill, slalom gates, jumps, and obstacles, all on one pair of skis. Interval start with seeding based on ability, age and sex. Shorter course is available for kids, 12 years and under.

Spectator friendly! Don't want to race? Come watch and bring the whole family.

Free pancake feast with hot Slopeside Syrup for all competitors. Prizes for top three in all age categories.

Kids $20 (12 & under), Adults $40, Family $60. Registration: www.cochranskiarea.com

Racers must register by Wednesday, March 11. Registration is limited to 250 adults and 50 kids.

For more information contact: Laura Farrell (laura@cochranskiarea.com or 802-291-1348) or Pennie Rand (mrand@gmavt.net or 802-373-7204).

Richmond Foot Clinics Scheduled

Richmond Foot Clinics schedule continues for 2014-2015:

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).

Richmond Blood Drawings

With snowstorms forcing the cancellation of dozens of area blood drives, the need for your support couldn't be greater. If you are eligible, please walk-in, or make an appointment to let us know that you are coming. Your gift of blood may be the truest gift from the heart a patient in need receives.

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.

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

On March 3, please vote "YES" for conservation

Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund comes up for voter renewal on March 3 — and it needs a "YES" from you.

So far the Fund has helped:

- Protect local forests, wetlands and farmland, like the Andrews farmland,
- Restore key historic landmarks, like the Town Center,
- Open up new public recreation sites, like the new Willis Hill sledding area.

Every $1 spent from the Fund has attracted over $3 in matching funds - $562,983 in total. And all for just 1¢ a year on the tax rate.

Please help keep the Fund conserving Richmond's outstanding natural, agricultural and historic resources. If you value what makes and keeps Richmond so special, please vote "YES" on Article 9 on March 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Camels Hump Middle School.

Anne and Rob Peterson
Paul Garrett
Amy and Andrew Powers
Doug Racine
Dave and Fran Thomas
Andy Solomon and Rebecca Starks
Kathy and Lou Borie
Bill and Sue Minard
Elizabeth Wright
Steve Bower
Bob and Liz Low
Alison Anand
John Hamerslough
Joe McHugh
Erik Filkorn
Cathy Aikman
Tyler Merritt
Ernie Buford
Cathleen Gent and Fran Huntoon
Marcy Harding and Dan Martin
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Lauren Esserman
Cindy and Wright Preston
Peter Swaine
Jon Kart
Meg Howard
Brad and Eileen Elliott
Cori Giroux
Patty Brushett and Jeff Forward
Jim Shallow
John Hiltebeitel
Nancy Zimny

Help conserve what makes Richmond special.
Vote "YES" to renew the Conservation Reserve Fund.
Download the Fact Sheet: http://tinyurl.com/ConservationFund

Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org

Mon & Wed 10 - 8
Tues & Thurs 1 - 6
Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 2
434-3036
rfl@gmavt.net

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

March Wall Exhibit On our walls will be the end result of a printmaking project on leaves by Richmond Elementary School students under the direction of art teacher, Joanna Elliott. The students looked at positive and negative shapes.

March Display Case Terri Erdelyi has been collecting pop up books for 10 years, but her inspiration was a Cinderella pop up she had as a child, featuring a beautiful 3D coach and team which was published in the '60s. Come see her collection which contains pop up books for both children and adults.

February's Wall Exhibit February's wall exhibit features 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 features Cammi Richelli's collection of traditional and modern textiles from the Southeast Asian nation of Laos. The collection includes 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.

Senior Film Join others from the Community Senior Center for a screening of the film Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid staring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. This event is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be serrved. The film starts at 12:30 on Wednesday, March 18

Travels to Cambodia Join travel expert and leader Jim Hagan on a journey to Cambodia. Enjoy the people, culture and geography of Cambodia through Jim's stunning photography and descriptions. Join members of the Community Senior Center on Monday, March 9 at 1 pm.

Dance Party, Friday, March 6, at 7 pm Join DJ Toni Basanta for a free dance party made up of Latin & modern inspired rhythms from around the world. Come on amigos! Time to turn up the heat!

Stayed Tuned Open Mike will be held on March 7 or 14 (TBD). (As of press time, we don't have a firm date.) So, starting tuning up and watch for the announcements on the Library facebook and Front Porch Forum. Come to listen, come to play!

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

School Vacation Movies and Popcorn Bring a blanket or pillow and join us in the community room where we'll be making the popcorn. We will be showing the G-rated film The Boxcar Children on Tuesday, February 24, at 2 pm. Based on the popular books by Gertrude Chandler Warner, the movie tells the story of four orphaned siblings trying to make a home in an abandoned boxcar. We will be showing the PG-rated film The Lego Movie on Friday, February 27, at 2 pm.

Children's Open Play Morning Let your children start school vacation week off right by joining some of their friends for a good romp in the big room. We'll provide the balls, hoops, blocks, beanbags, obstacle course items and other fun and colorful toys as well as coffee for parents. We'll open up the big room for two hours of active and creative play appropriate for infants through elementary school-aged kids. Gather in the Community Room on Saturday, February 21, from 10 am - noon.

Baby Social We will be welcoming our town's youngest book-lovers into the fold with a baby social for families with babies born in the year 2014. This annual event, co-sponsored by the Library and Building Bright Futures, brings young families together for an afternoon of play and treats and puts on display some of our newest picture books which have been placed in the collection in honor of these special little people. If you welcomed a new baby in 2014 watch for your invitation to the event on Saturday, March 21, beginning at 2 pm.

New Children's Books The Vermont Department of Libraries just gave us a very nice gift box of children's books: board books, picture books, intermediate chapter books, graphic novels, and young adult novels. We also have our monthly supply of new purchases. Come in and see what's new. Do you have a recommendation? Let us know what you think we should get for the Library.

New Adult Fiction Amnesia by Peter Carey, Assassination of Margaret Thatcher: Stories by Hilary Mantel, Brewer of Preston by Andrea Camilleri, Cold Cold Heart by Tami Hoag, Concealed in Death by J.D., Die Again: A Rizzoli and Isles Novel by Tess Gerritsen, Fine Summer's Day: An Inspector Ian Rutledge Mystery by Charles Todd, First Frost by Sarah Addison Allen, Sarah, Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins, Hollow Land (Revised) by Jane Gardam, Honeydew by Edith Pearlman, Jaguar's Children by John Vaillant, Narrow Road to the Deep North by Richard Flanagan, Officer and a Spy by Robert Harris, Only Enchanting by Mary Balogh, Tell by Frances Itani, Treat Us Like Dogs and We Will Become Wolves by Carolyn Chute, Winter Street by Elin Hilderbrand, World of Trouble (audio cd) by Ben Winters.

NonFiction Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant by Roz Chat, Gateway to Freedom: The Hidden History of the Underground Railroad by Eric Foner, Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America by Jill Leovy, Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America by Linda Tirado.

Storytimes Toddlertime (for ages 18 months to 3 years) is on Wednesdays at 10:30 (after the playgroup storytime). 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.

Huntington Public Library

HOURS:
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Fri 10-5 • Sun 12–5
434-4583
hpl@gmavt.net

Join Pete Furtado on Sunday, March 15, at 7 pm as he shares and photos of his open water swimming adventures in Greece, Montenegro and Turkey. See the Aegean, Adriatic, and Mediterranean seas from a swimmer's perspective. Great timing on a cold March night for an armchair get-a-way to warm and sunny places! The evening is part of the Plant Huntington travel slide series.

It's Magic! Magician Tom Joyce A magic show for all ages Tom will entertain us with tricks, laughs and fun on Sunday, March 1, at 1 pm.

Going to the Bees Landscape Design for Pollinators by Jane Sorenson, River Berry Farm farmer, landscape architect and UVM adjunct. Sunday, March 22, 6:30 desserts and 7 pm presentation. As we domesticate the landscape, it is up to us domesticators to create habitat for pollinators in our own landscapes. Learn about what makes a good pollinator habitat and the various forms they can take, from meadows to formal gardens. Jane will share her extensive list of habitat plants and suggest where you can find seeds, plants and more information to empower you to enhance your pollinator landscape.

Jane Sorenson is passionate about pollinator landscape habitat enhancement and loves any opportunity to spread the word. She is a full-time farm and co-owner of River Berry Farm, an organic fruit and vegetable farm in Fairfax, Vermont, where she grows and sells native plants and pollinators. Jane teaches one course at UVM, Landscape Design for Pollinators, and is a retired landscape architect with 14 years experience.

First Friday Movie Night The next movie will be Big Hero 6 on March 6 at 7 pm. Come watch this new release with your friends!

Display Your Art at the Library The Library has beautiful gallery space for hanging all types of media, from unframed photographs to shadow boxes. Artists are welcome to sell their work and no percentage is taken by the library. Space is currently available. Please contact us with any questions!

Successful Baby Brunch Thank you to all those who generously donated delicious food to the Annual Baby Brunch. The brunch was well attended by families. If your baby was child was born or adopted in 2014 and you were unable to be at the event, come visit or contact the Library at any time to choose a book to be dedicated to your child.

New Adult Fiction The Big Seven by Jim Harrison; The Boston Girl by Anita Diamant; Bold Sons of Erin by Owen Parry; The Orphan Master's Son by Adam Johnson; Bad Little Falls and Massacre Pond by Paul Doiron.

Adult Non Fiction Keep This Forever – Poems by Mark Halliday; Vegetable Literacy by Deborah Madison; Energywise Landscape Design – A New Approach For Your Home and Garden by Sue Reed; Top-Bar Beekeeping – Organic Practices for Honeybee Health by Les Crowder and Heather Harrell. Stories of My Life by Katherine Paterson.

Audiobooks Gray Mountain by John Grisham.

Picture Books Always Twins by Teri Weidner; Cat and Bunny by Mary Lundquist; Snowman's Story by Will Hillenbrand; Maple and Willow Together by Lori Nichols; The Misadventures of Sweetie Pie by Chris Van Allsburg; Whose Egg? and Whose Nest by Guy Troughton; Frog and Toad Together Storybook Treasury by Arnold Lobel; Row, Row, Row Your Boat by Jane Cabrera; The Eye of the Whale – A Rescue Story by Jennifer O'Connell; Brownie Hedgehog and the Wintry Surprise and Brownie Hedgehog and February Fox by Susan Blackaby; Before We Eat by Pat Brissom; Yoko Learns to Read by Rosemary Well; Bear Hug by Katharine McEwen; Warning: Do Not Open This Book! by Asam Lehrehaupt; Mouse House Tales by Susan Peasrson; The Farmer's Away! BAA! NEIGH! by Anne Vittur Kennedy; Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas by Lynne Cox; National Geographic Kids – Little Kids First BIG BOOK Collector's Set – Animals, Dinosaurs, Why?; The Dollhouse Fairy by Jane Ray; The Tiny Wish by Lori Evert; Once Tashi Met a Dragon by Anna Fienberg and Barbara Fienberg; Peanut Butter and Cupcake by Terri Border; National Geographic Kids Ultimate Weird But True 1,000 Wild & Wacky Facts & Photos; Charlotte's Web – Special Read-Aloud Edition by E.B. White; Duck and Goose Colors! by Tad Hills; My New Friend is So Fun! by Mo Willems.

Junior Books Terra Tempo – The Academy of Planetary Evolution by David R. Shapiro; Smile by Raina Telgemeier; I Totally Funniest – A Middle School Story by James Patterson; Magic Tree House Super Edition #1 Danger in the Darkest Hour by Mary Pope Osborne.

Junior Audiobook Magic Tree House Super Edition #1 Danger in the Darkest Hour by Mary Pope Osborne; The Fourteenth Goldfish by Jennifer L. Holm.

Huntington Playgroup The playgroup aims to provide an inviting place for children, caregivers and families to come together, play and be creative. For more information contact Jane Davis, Huntington Playgroup Coordinator: huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com Fridays 10 am – noon.

Story Time We currently address the six early literacy skills, as adopted by the Vermont Department of Libraries, every week at Story Time. These six pre-reading skills are ones a child can start learning from birth. All young children are invited to join us for books, music and fun at 10:45 am every Friday.

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Richmond

continued from previous page

to abandoned wells and septic systems and installation of pumps, Urbanik said.

Landowners would pay for installing lines on their property as well as a one-time town connection fee. The fee for homes is based on the number of bedrooms, Urbanik said, but typically is about $2,900 for a three-bedroom house.

The connection fee for businesses also varies, he said. So an office building might pay less but a heavy user such as food processing business could be charged more than $5,000.

In any case, the extension, which would only serve 10 properties in the first two phases, heavily depends on Riverview Commons agreeing to connect. Hill called it the "key" to the project to be financially viable.

The mobile home park contains 148 lots. Still to be determined is how much the town will charge to make water and sewer connections and for ongoing usage.

Urbanik said the town is negotiating with the park because the existing rate structure is "too burdensome for a typically low income housing situation like a mobile home park."

He declined to give details about the talks, which were ongoing as of press time. Hill said it is possible an agreement will be reached before voters go the polls.

Spur for Development? In theory, extending water and sewer service westward will promote development of the area between the central village and Interstate 89, called the Gateway District. Lack of dependable water and sewer service can prevent new businesses from locating in town and stymie expansion for existing businesses.

The town is working on zoning revisions for the area, and additional development would not only defray costs for existing water and sewer users, but also ease the tax burden for all property owners.

"Responsible development of this area could generate additional property tax revenues and additional employment opportunities within the town," noted the Q&A.

The scoping study outlines a years-long timeline to complete the extension. If voters approve funding, an engineering firm would be hired almost immediately to work on design.

By July, the town hopes to obtain commitments from landowners to connect to the extension. The remainder of the summer and fall of 2015 will be used to obtain state permits. Construction is slated to begin in April 2016 and be completed by October 2017.

Other Issues At the annual town meeting, the agenda includes a $3.3 million municipal operating budget. The budget represents a 3.3 increase over the current year's spending.

Also likely to generate debate at the meeting is a measure authorizing the Selectboard to strike a tax stabilization agreement intended to jumpstart redevelopment of the Creamery site, which has sat vacant for about 15 years. The measure would allow the town to reduce or cap property taxes for no more than 10 years.

In addition to candidates running for various offices, the ballot includes a measure that would provide $44,000 in funding each year for the next five years for the Richmond Conservation Fund. The fund is used for preserving land that benefits the environment or provides recreational opportunities.

(An informational meeting on the water and sewer extension will be held Monday, March 2, at 7 pm at Camels Hump Middle School. Municipal and school budgets, as well as other Town Meeting Day issues will also be discussed during the session.

The annual town meeting begins at 9 am at CHMS. Voting takes place between 7 am and 7 pm at the school. Early voting ballots are available at the town clerk's office. Voters can also request ballots be mailed to them by calling 434-2221.

Copies of the scoping study and other documents related to the water and sewer extension are available at the town's website, richmondvt.gov/documents/water-commission-reports. Additional information about other town meeting issues can be found on the website's homepage.

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Richmond Candidates Are Generations Apart

by Greg Elias

Age and experience versus youth and enthusiasm is a cliche, but nonetheless aptly describes the only contest on Richmond's Town Meeting Day ballot.

Lincoln Bressor and Mary Houle are vying for a three-year seat on the Selectboard. Board member Ellen Kane, who was appointed in October after Ashley Lucht stepped down before finishing her term, is running uncontested for a two-year seat. None of the other candidates for school boards and other elected offices face opposition.

Bressor, a recent college graduate, has never held elected office. Houle has served multiple terms on the Selectboard and held other elected and appointed positions.

Both candidates attended Mt. Mansfield Union High School but graduated 40 years apart: Houle in 1968, Bressor in 2008.

In emailed responses to questions, each candidate outlined their biographies and addressed issues currently facing Richmond.

Houle, a longtime resident who owns a 75-acre homestead on Cochran Road, graduating from Trinity College in Burlington. She has worked jobs ranging from waitress and to real estate agent. She now is an orchardist and a master gardener. Houle said she will begin collecting Social Security in November, but plans to continue working in her greenhouse and garden.

Bressor graduated from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina in 2013. He majored in mathematics and global studies.

Bressor works building houses with his father, Gary, and his brother, Jackson. He lives with his girlfriend, Katie Byrnes, in a hillside house he built on Cochran Road.

Houle emphasized her experience, which includes not just the terms on the Selectboard but also on local and regional planning commissions and as a commissioner for the Chittenden County Solid Waste District. Most recently, she served as a Richmond lister, determining tax values for homes and businesses.

Bressor acknowledged his lack of civic experience but said his relative youth is a virtue.

"Being a young person, I know as well as anyone how few people my age live in Richmond," he said. "Only a small percentage of this age group (Taylor Yeates being an exception) is involved in town politics, which can be damaging for the town's future. If the next generation wants Richmond to grow and prosper, we need to become a part of the process of making it a desirable place for us to live."

Yeates, by far the youngest among the five-member board, was elected in 2013.

Houle proudly noted that she never missed a Selectboard meeting during her six years as a member from 2005 to 2011. She continues to attend nearly every Selectboard meeting, frequently voicing dissent or asking pointed questions from the back of the room.

Her time on the Selectboard was marked by controversy. Known for her blunt-spoken manner, Houle's critics say she sowed discontent among both town staff and fellow board members.

In 2009, some blamed her actions for the resignation of Town Administrator Ron Rodjenski and Police Chief Joe Miller. Houle has in the past and continues to dispute those criticisms.

She has said Rodjenski resigned on his own after it was alleged that he had a personal relationship with the town's finance director.

As for Miller, Houle had been assigned to evaluate his performance. She said she gave him an "average" evaluation, similar to previous performance reviews.

In any case, she has found little public support during subsequent runs for the Selectboard. In both 2011 and 2012, she lost to her opponents by 3-1 margins.

Current Issues, Similar Positions Despite differences in age and life experience, Bressor and Houle's views on issues currently facing Richmond are not far apart.

They agree that expanding municipal water and sewer service westward toward Interstate 89 is a good idea. The Town Meeting Day ballot asks voters to approve up to $2.5 million in bonds for the project.

"Water and sewer expansion serves perhaps an underserved portion of our community and will provide measured delivery of potable water and contain and disposal of waste through the Water and Sewer Department," Houle said, labeling the expansion an "environmentally sound process."

"I believe the Water/Sewer expansion is potentially a good idea, if it is executed properly," Bressor said. "It is economically desirable because adding new users will ostensibly lower the rates of the rest of the users."

As for the long-defunct Richmond Creamery, which the town has tried without success to redevelop, both candidates had doubts about a ballot measure asking voters to approve property tax exemptions to encourage development.

"If the Creamery property is developed, and there is an offer of a tax exemption, then there must be a pay back involved in the process," Houle said.

She warned of other instances in Chittenden County where where tax breaks were doled out only to have the company later shutter a facility. "No use, no exemption," she said.

Bressor was even more skeptical of the proposal. He noted the town has already offered a temporary respite from zoning rules to Creamery developers.

"I feel as though we offered quite a bit to potential developers and I do not believe we need to offer more," he said. "I do not endorse tax incentives, as there is no need for Richmond to lose out on tax money. It is a desirable property and it will develop as is."

Community Ties Each candidate has deep roots in Richmond. Bressor said except for his college years he has lived in Richmond his entire life. His father has served on numerous town boards and his mother, Jean, currently is a member of the Richmond Trails Commission. Bressor and his brothers run a soccer camp each summer on his parents' property.

"I am running, first and foremost, because I really care about Richmond and want the best for my hometown," he said.

Houle has lived in town for more than 50 years. She and her husband, Richard, have one grown son.

She expressed her commitment to the community in terms of her service on various boards and continuing involvement in civic affairs. She questioned whether the current Selectboard addresses all residents' needs rather than just the vocal minority.

"If the Selectboard hears from 10 residents who feel strongly on an issue, do the remaining 3,990 residents not count?" Houle said.

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

At its January 12, 2015 meeting, the Huntington Selectboard came to an agreement with Huntington Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tate Jeffrey on the Fire Department's proposed operations budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016, which has an overall 7.11% increase.

The Board approved awarding the 2014 Municipal Planning Grant contract, for an amount not to exceed $8,500, to Tom Bailey for completing revisions to Huntington Land Use regulations.

The Board unanimously moved to authorize the Selectboard Chair to endorse the Town Clerk's New England Municipal Clerk Institute (NEMCI) scholarship request.

Another unanimous vote approved the contract between the Vermont Appraisal Company and the Town of Huntington, for appraisal services. The Listers had requested Board approval of this contract, for an amount not to exceed $12,000.

Representatives from Friends of Gillett Pond worked with the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) to compose an Article for Town meeting regarding Conservation Fund Criteria. The Board reviewed the wording of the proposed article, leading to a version for Town Administrator Barbara Elliott to share with the HCC.

A motion to authorize the Town Treasurer to modify the General Fund Ledger by combining the Class 2 and Class 3 Highway Bridge accounts, along with making the separate Class 2 and Class 3 Highway accounts one Highway Roads account passed.

State Senator Claire Ayer and State Representative Tom Stevens joined the Selectboard on January 19, along with Chris Campbell from the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA). The lawmakers shared summaries of their current Committee work. Ayer Chairs the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, which is examining data regarding universal health coverage. Stevens, Vice-Chair of the House General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee, noted that 50,000 veterans reside in Vermont.

Campbell updated the Board on small cell coverage plans for Huntington, aiming for implementation before 2016.

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger has received two quotes for a dump body for the proposed one-ton truck. Alger has not received quotes for the truck, but the estimate of $85,000 reflected in the FY 15-16 proposed budget seems accurate. The truck purchase is dependant on voter approval at Town Meeting.

Alger will be hiring former Huntington Road Foreman Leon Stokes as a back-up plow driver.

The Recreation Committee's request to appoint Tim Tinker and Jon Meacham to the Recreation Committee for two-year terms expiring March 2017 was approved.

The Selectboard finalized the Town Budget, the official warning for Town meeting, and its message for the Town Report. The General Fund Budget is $1,559,604. The HCC has approved the Selectboard's language for Article 9, proposing an exemption affecting use of the Conservation Fund, to be voted on at Town Meeting. A total of 10 Articles will be presented in the official Town Meeting Warning.

The Selectboard meeting of February 2, 2012 was postponed to the following Monday, due to unfavorable weather conditions.

Five nominations were received for the Olga Hallock Award for Community Service, which is presented at Town Meeting.

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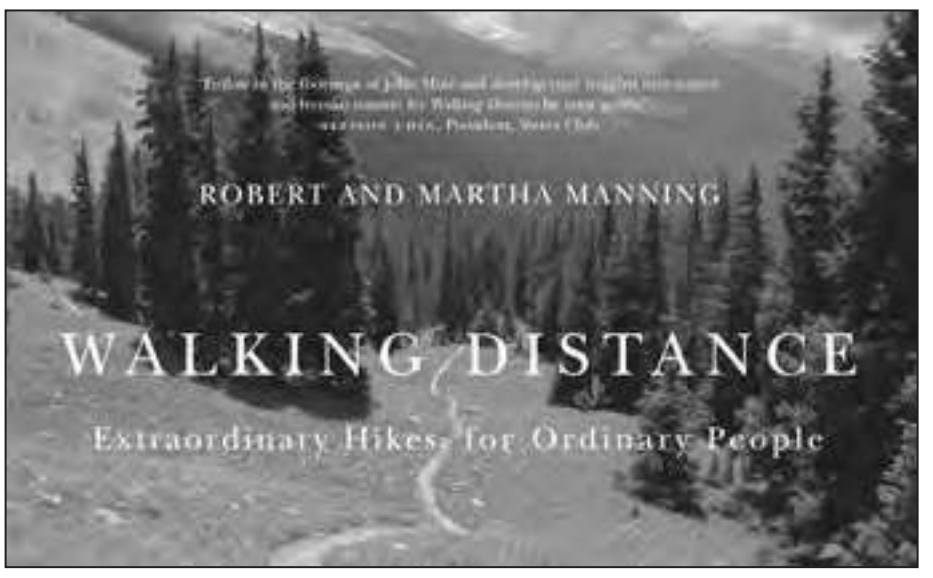

Martha and Bob Manning, who will present a slideshow at this year's Richmond Land Trust annual meeting and potluck based on their book. Walking Distance: Extraordinary Walks for Ordinary People.

If there'll be one theme at this year's Richmond Land Trust annual meeting and pot-luck supper, it'll be "challenges conquered." The non-profit conservation group is inviting the public to the event to be held on March 14. This year it will celebrate the Land Trust's recent purchases of Willis Hill and Gillett Pond. The meeting and supper will be held from 6 pm to 9 pm at Richmond Elementary School.

Both Willis Hill and Gillett Pond brought major financial challenges to the group in the form of total project fundraising needs of $186,500 and $350,000 respectively. But in each case, enough supporters stepped up to enable the Land Trust to purchase the property, clearing the way for each project's next steps, including additional fundraising.

It's fitting then, that this year's speakers will be a couple whose worldwide travels have required them to overcome many kinds of challenges – Bob and Martha Manning, authors of Walking Distance: Extraordinary Hikes for Ordinary People, a book documenting those travels and the many rewards they found. When they're not out on a trail, Bob is a professor at the University of Vermont and Martha is an artist.

At the meeting, the Mannings will present a slideshow outlining the history of walking, providing tips on long distance walking, and offering first-hand descriptions and outstanding photographs of 30 of the world's great long-distance trails. They will also offer a sneak preview of several long-distance trails they will feature in their next book.

No reservations are needed, but those attending are asked to bring a dish to share plus plates and utensils. The Land Trust will supply soft drinks and coffee.

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Area Residents Honored

Vargo Named to Who's Who

Colby-Sawyer College in New Lond, New Hampshire, has selected **Morgan Vargo** of Richmond for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges in recognition of Vargo's achievements during the 2014 fall semester. Vargo is majoring in Nursing. One of the most prestigious awards conferred by the academic community, Who's Who Among Students recognizes students who make praiseworthy contributions to the community and school. Selections to Who's Who Among Students are made each fall by representatives from Colby-Sawyer faculty, administration and student body.

Audette NAC All-Academics

Following a successful fall season at Castelton State College, **Shelly Audette** from Richmond was named to the North Atlantic Conference Fall All-Academic Team. In total, 98 student-athletes were honored from 15 different teams which were a NAC member in a fall sport. To be honored, a student-athlete must have reached junior academic standing and have competed a minimum two years of varsity competition at their institution with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.50.

Studying Abroad

Danielle E. Scanlon of Richmond a member of the Class of 2016, is participating in St. Lawrence University's Study Abroad Program for the Spring 2015 semester. She is majoring in mathematics and economics. Scanlon attended Mount Mansfield Union High School. She is participating in the Spring off-campus Denmark - DIS Program.

President's List: Fall 2014

Shelly Audette, Richmond, Castleton College. To qualify for this highest academic honor, the student must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 4.0.

Presidential Scholars

Clarkson University, Potsdam, N.Y.

Ashley Brisbin, Richmond, a junior majoring in biology.

Thomas Couture, Huntington, a freshman majoring in mechanical engineering.

Dean's List: Fall 2014

Benjamin George, Richmond, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York, a business administration major in the School of Business.

Elizabeth Morris, Richmond, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York, a journalism major in the Roy H. Park School of Communications.

Devon Preston, Richmond, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York.

Olivia Spence, Richmond, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, majoring in Architecture.

Emma Sturm, Huntington, Nazareth College, Rochester, New York, a Freshman with a major in Health Sciences.

Morgan Vargo, Richmond, Colby-Sawyer College, New Lond, New Hampshire. to Fall 2014 Dean's List. Vargo is majoring in Nursing and is a member of the class of 2015.

Rochester Institute of Technology

Connor Maynes, Huntington, a second-year student in the electrical engineering program in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Jeremy Van Horn, Richmond, a fifth-year student in the chemical engineering program in RIT's Kate Gleason College of Engineering.

Stephen Singer, Richmond, a fifth-year student in the computer science program in RIT's B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences.

University of Vermont

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

Samantha Bursell, Richmond, a sophomore Exercise and Movement Sciences major.

Addison Campbell, Starksboro, a first-year student Undeclared major.

Gabriel Cohn Richmond, a first-year student Biochemistry major.

Mia Faesy, Starksboro, a sophomore Public Communication major.

Benjamin Hegman, Huntington, a first-year student Economics major;

Alaina Hendrickson, Huntington, a first-year student Public Communication major.

Michael Lawler, Richmond, a junior Neuroscience major.

Dillan Leach, Richmond, a junior Secondary Education English major.

Addison Marcus, Jericho, a sophomore Biological Science major.

Emily Marshall, Jericho, a senior Neuroscience major.

Ariana Matthews-Salzman, Jericho, a first-year student Environmental Studies major.

Anna Ogilvie, Huntington, a senior Dietetics Nutrition & Food Sciences major.

Jacob September Huntington, a sophomore Electrical Engineering major.

Rachel Zajchowski, Richmond, a junior Athletic Training Education major.

Rachael Zeno, Starksboro, a senior Exercise and Movement Sciences major.

Castleton State College

Lindsay Kilday, Richmond

Casey Briggs, Henry Koenig, Devyn Potter of Starksboro

University of New Hampshire, Durham

Annavitte Rand, Richmond, Highest Honors

Caroline Quintal, Richmond, High Honors

Kristina Cyr, Richmond, Highest Honors

Abigail Hahr, Starksboro, Honors

Meghan Hahr, Starksboro, High Honors

UNH highest honors: semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

MMM Board

Reported by Diane Wester

The new MMMUSD (Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District) Board plans to meet on the first and third Mondays of the month 6:30 pm at Camels Hump Middle School. The meeting planned for February 2 was canceled due to weather.

The Vermont School Boards Association offers a set of guiding principles for school boards. CESU Superintendent John Alberghini passed this document around with a signature page. Some members objected to signing it for a variety of reasons, the chief being the part which asked Board members to support majority decisions made by the Board – a "blind allegiance," Representative Peter Geiss (Underhill Town) called it. Richmond Representative Chip Noonan asked "What purpose are we trying to achieve? I've never been asked to sign one before." Jericho Representative Diane Kirson-Glitman responded that, "It's not a contract, but a compact with the community to let them know what we can or and not do as a Board. It think it's cool that (it's a job description)." The bulk of the document asked the signers be courteous, honest, discreet, respectful, etc. The document was passed around and most of theBoard members signed it. It is not a binding, legal document.

Public Comment at Meetings At the last meeting, a member of the public asked to make comment during the course of a meeting when the subject came up, instead of at the beginning of the meeting when, according to the agenda the public is invited to comment. At the time, Board Chair Jon Milazzo asked the Board if there were any objections to the resident's comments being taken out of turn, and the Board returned no objection. Milazzo asked the Board if they wished him to continue such practice- reminding them that at the Board Retreat on December 20, 2014 one of the things Val Gardner, (consultant and expert on policy governance) told them was that "board meetings are meeting in public – not meetings of the public." Geiss said ,"We want to encourage members of the public to participate." Milazzo proposed, and the Board agreed, that if/when a member of the public in attendance wishes to address an issue during the body of the meeting, he or she should address such request to comment to the Chair of the meeting. The Board agreed this is the best practice.

Communications Between the Board and the High School Milazzo offered the Student Representatives the opportunity to attend only one meeting per month (versus two) in deference to the amount of time it takes out of their school night responsibilities. Senior Representative Julia Dunn thanked Milazzo for his offer, but said she considered responsibilities of the student representatives to include (1) reporting back to their fellow students what business occurred during the meeting, and (2) being available to the board at the MMMUSD meetings if the board needs their comments or opinions on some subject as it occurs.

Compensation for School Board Members After another impassioned discussion with heartfelt arguments on both sides, a compromise was reached. By a show of hands, 8 members voted for (and 7 against) compensating any board member who requested it travel expenses at the $/mile rate allowed by the IRS, and child care (babysitting) expenses at minimum wage. All Richmond and Huntington representatives (save Michael Marks) voted for the motion. Breck Knauft (H) prepared the motion "I think very few people will use this, and we will gain more than we lose from it."

Finances Committee Chair Kevin Campbell reported the committee has established it will meet the fourth Thursday of each month, 6 pm, CESU Central Office in Richmond.

The next MMU Board (middle and high schools board) meeting on February 12, 7 pm at BRMS included the initial public presentation of the budget. An additional BRMS meeting will be held February 19 at 6:30 pm. Remember, this budget has already been passed by the Board. The presentation is meant to inform the public so it may make an informed decision on Town Meeting Day – Tuesday, March 3, when it will be voted on by Australian ballot

The MMMUSD (new preK-12 district) Annual Meeting will be held at MMU Thursday, February 26 @ 6:30 pm. The budget will also be presented at this meeting.

"We cannot over-communicate this budget," said Campbell.

There is an excellent, full color, power point presentation of the budget available online at www.cesu.k12.vt.gov.

Rumblings from Montpelier Several members of the Board are following closely the machinations of the State legislature as it attempts to reform the education system. Proposals recently heard include: dividing the state into 16 "super districts," and one which particularly worries the board; creating block grant distribution centers around the tech centers, causing the districts to fight for tax revenue "like the Hunger Games." Board member Diane Kirson-Glitman holds that "our position is that as being in the forefront of this change (the state-wide redistricting changes proposed) we should be protected." (As CESU towns have become the first district in the State to follow the new law and become a larger, merged district.)

Camp Outright

Camp Outright 5.0, a week-long residential summer camp experience for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and allied youth is scheduled for August 16-22. Campers participate in a wide variety of daily activities based upon their interests, including swimming, sports and games, visual and performing arts, wilderness skills, social justice, identity caucuses, and much more.

Camp Outright will be open to youth, ages 13-18. Youth ages 19-22 will have the option to apply for the Counselor in Training (CIT) program. Tuition is $550, which covers a week of lodging, food, supplies, and materials. Limited financial aid is available to Vermont youth. Registration opens April 1.

For more information, to register, or to inquire about financial aid or the CIT program, visit http://www.campoutright.org/.

Explore Your Future Summer Camp for Hearing Impaired

Career exploration summer camp offered for deaf and hard-of-hearing high school students. The Explore Your Future (EYF) program at Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf in Rochester, New York, offers deaf and hard-of-hearing college-bound high school students who will begin their junior or senior year in fall of 2015 a unique opportunity to experience life on a college campus, explore their interests and sample various careers. This six-day, summer career-exploration program provides students with hands-on activities related to careers in art, business, computer science, engineering, health sciences, information technology, science and more.

Explore Your Future sessions for summer 2015 run July 11-16 and July 18-23. On the final day of each session, parents attend a workshop that helps them prepare their student for life after high school.

Students can apply online at http://www.rit.edu/NTID/EYF. For more information, call 585-475-6700, 585-743-1366 (videophone) or email EYFInfo@rit.edu. The application deadline is May 31.

RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf offers educational programs and access and support services to 1,200 hard-of-hearing and deaf students who live, study and work with more than 15,000 hearing students on RIT's campus. Go to www.rit.edu/NTID for more information

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

At the BPMS Board meeting on February 10, the Board moved through the published agenda.

Modified Mount Mansfield Union School District's (MMMUSD) Board member Breck Knauft gave a brief initial description of the newly formed school district's process of budget development that integrated the budget work of the five pre-K–4 elementary schools and the MMU district into one budget that goes to the public, by Australian ballot, for a vote on March 3. He outlined the calculations that produced the dollar amounts owed by Huntington for its ongoing/usual use of the middle and high school services for Huntington students in grades 5-12. This figure was then used to produce the tax rates for Huntington for that portion of the pre-K to 12 education services. The full MMMUSD budget, its details for the newly formed district, the basis for determining Huntington's portion and other related data can be picked up in hard copy format from the Huntington Town Office, Brewster-Pierce School, Beaudry's Store and the Huntington Public Library as well as at the CESU office in Richmond, each school and on line at: http://cesu.k12.vt.us/.

Later in the meeting, CESU Superintendent John Alberghini responded to questions, walking the Board through some details in the now-published report regarding why particular line items increased or decreased. Pre-K Partnerships were brought up again related to the Huntington School District (and MMMUSD) increases in this particular budget category with comments from Board chair Megs Keir, and Board members Paul Susen and Andrea Ogilvie that people at the annual meeting might be asking about the Pre-K category, even though the Pre-K slots were estimated to be an addition of only 12 slots in the upcoming fiscal year (these slots can be in the school based program if spaces are available and/or some in approved pre- qualified Pre-K programs in the communities near-by, if that is what families want). It was noted that the influence of additional children increases the budget but decreases taxes due to an increased proportional Average Daily Attendance figure (more overall children counted in the "system"). Pre-K law is detailed and complex: nothing is mandatory for families and their children. By next year, it will be mandatory for school districts to offer Pre-K to 3- and 4-year-olds through a variety of parent-chosen pre-qualified programs (their children may already be attending these programs) that may or may not be physically located in or directly operated by the school.

The third of three presentations of the newly-formed MMMUSD budget will be held on Thursday, February 26, at 6:30 at MMU.

Keir pointed out that the Huntington School Board approved the local budget with essentially a level-funded budget (actual decrease by a small amount from the current year to next year). She noted that there is an increase in the MMMUSD budget of 2.94%. Alberghini mentioned that some of the increase is due to budgets from the merged districts that had already, for the most part, been developed, and that next year there would be a different structure to manage budgeting. He mentioned other cost drivers: wages and benefits, and the addition of Pre-K spaces (which also has the function of increasing the number of students which helps hold down tax rates) among other items.

The Annual Huntington School Board Meeting begins at 9 am this year, preceding the Town Meeting on March 3. Keir plans to meet with Moderator Dana Cummings to go over the schedule and issues. She requested the final copy of the Huntington School Board's approved draft from CESU of the budget that includes CESU assessment details. Board member Edmund Booth recalled that a resident at last year's annual meeting moved to put funding into playground safety and that the Board was responsive to that request. Keeping the budget to less than level funding was quite an achievement. Knauft stated he would not be present at the Annual Meeting, and Alberghini also stated he could not be present. Either the Assistant Superintendent and/or the Finance Office representative will be there. It was suggested that Dave Clark, Huntington representative to the MMMUSD Board, be contacted to make sure he could be in attendance.

The discussion continued regarding a family request to revise or add a policy so that families have the option to be notified in each instance when their child has a health issue at school as indicated by a visit to the school nurse. Principal Sally Hayes reported on tracking the number of health office/visits to the nurse by children and the number of calls in the last month: 256 visits that resulted in 32 calls to families (12%). The calls were based on clinical-professional judgment. Alberghini circulated a letter from the CESU Nursing Coordinator recommending no change in practice. Knauft, during community comments, stated the existing policy worked well except in one case and recommended the Board follow the advice of the professional staff. Board members expressed they want to be responsive to family suggestions related to policy and continued discussion on the issue. Alberghini recommended that instead of changing policy or procedure, the Student Handbook be updated to include the following: "If your child has health issues that necessitate communication from the school when s/he visits the health office, please contact the Brewster-Pierce administrative office." The Board approved this action to change the Student Handbook.

The Board's Building and Energy Committee is now established and includes representatives from the Board, BPMS and CESU staff, and the Huntington Energy Committee. Discussion focused on the materials provided by Ross Olgivie, a member of the Huntington Energy Committee, on estimated energy savings for the school building. The Committee will be working together to make the building more efficient and more comfortable for children and teachers.

Governor's Institutes Weekends

One hundred and two Vermont high school students attended the Governor's Institutes of Vermont's two Winter Weekends, February 6-8 at Goddard College, and February 13-15 at Marlboro College. The students spent the weekends immersed in a positive learning community, exploring the discipline of their choice, and making friends from all over the state. At the conclusion of the programs, students presented what they learned and created to parents and members of the community.

Local students attending the Institute Weekend at Goddard College include Mira Coffey of Huntington, concentrating on Current Issues; Daniel Cox of Huntington, concentrating on Astrophotography; and Cory Raymond of Richmond, concentrating on Astrophotography.

These miniature versions of the eight summer Governor's Institutes are offered so that students sample GIV's accelerated programs and learn more about academic and artistic topics they care about. GIV fulfills its mission to empower young people with intensive, hands-on learning experiences in college settings which inspire their academic and creative passions, build confidence and leadership, and expand their senses of possibility, by serving more than 500 Vermont students every year. Applications are now being accepted for all summer Institutes. Tuition is based on a sliding scale. As a 501c3 nonprofit, the Governor's Institutes welcomes scholarship donations to help provide access for all Vermont students. Visit www.giv.org for more information.

MMU Honor Roll

SECOND QUARTER 2014-2015

Richmond

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4.00-4.33

Grade 9: Benjamin Austin, Alexandra Devaux, Ella Goetze, Elise Killian, Caroline Noonan

Grade 10: Amanda Grzywna, Sarah Knakal, Loughlin Neuert, Jessica Peura, Cory Raymond, Benjamin Slattery, Margaret Thompson, Oliver Waite

Grade 11: Kieran Bhave, Jonathan Fisher, Marta Grillo, Maeve Poleman, Joshua Shepard, Nicholas Trumper

Grade 12: Ryan Berliner, Alec Eschholz, Lilian Feinson

HIGH HONORS GPA 3.50-3.99

Grade 9: Samuel Bender, Abigail Carter, Anna Coffin, Max Eriksson, Trent LaBounty, Georgia Malone-Wolfsun, Kira Mincar, Alaynna Northrop, Lindsey Parent, Jack Parker, Ashley Rosen, Bram Rostad, Maygan Thompson, Sawyer Thompson, Christine Trumper, Bridgett Youngman

Grade 10: Sofia Carfaro, Bella Firman, Emily Halporn, Katherine Johnson, Ellyn Lapointe, Benjamin Nussbaum

Grade 11: Johanna Arnott, Virginia Churchill, Ananda Corr, Samuel Empie, Kay Isabel, John Landis, Erin Lashway, Heather Lefebvre, Elliot Lowe, Kyra Muttilainen, Ian Orlando, Maia Parker, Isabelle Rabideaux, Karin Rand, Haddie Webster

Grade 12: Garrett Carter, Matthew Champney, Ross Cooper, Christopher Danilich, Christopher Erkson, Nicole Grzywna, Patrick Kelley, Jesse Naumann, Nathaniel Peura, Gabrielle Richards, Hannah Sylvester

HONORS GPA 3.00-3.49

Grade 9: Abigail DeBay, Jacob Fausel, Timothy Kane, Sean Mesa, David Morris, Kira Nolan, Elizabeth Werner,

Grade 10: Allie Bianchi, Taylor Blair, Autumn Burbo, Sierra Fabiana, Hagen Harris, Jacob Pratt, Kyle Youngberg

Grade 11: Nicole Berteau, Alison Boy, Jordan Bursell, Riley Colompos, Jake Eriksson, Amelia Frederick, Jessica Kelley, Seamus Maxwell, Emma Parent, Brian Rosmus, Oliver Sloan, Devon Walter,

GRADE 12: Reilly Butler, Emilie Coffin, Shelby Cross, Troy Czyzewski, Michael Elkins, Peter Foley, Julia Preston, Ryan VanHorn

Huntington

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4.00-4.33

Grade 9: Grace Butler, Willoughby Carlo,

Grade 10: Mason Bouffard, Maia Hendrickson, Akash Kushwaha, Rebecca Sprano, Katherine Van Der Vliet

Grade 11: Eloise Bisbee

Grade 12: Suraj Kushwaha, Nina Lam

HIGH HONORS GPA 3.50-3.99

Grade 9: Peter Christiana, Natalie Mohn, Yvette Provencher, Charles Roberts, Zane Russom, , Perry Willett

Grade 10: Eliza Bryan, Jay Chandler, Daniel Cox, Celia Goodyear, Trevor Haskins, Allyson Rigutto, Ian Sturm

Grade 11: Breanna Dooling, Monica Marin, Kenzie Provencher, Bailey Willett, Georgia Yindra

Grade 12: Jared Blodgett, Sophie Homans, Colby Knight, Amanda Nielsen, Kayla underwood

HONORS GPA 3.00-3.49

Grade 9: Gregory Burt, Jacob Coffey, Eli Ogilvie, Jade Sleeper-McQuilkin

Grade 10: Grace Brown, Thomas Buzzell, Taylor Christiana, Brice Dube, Abigail Knight, Anna Valentine

Grade 11: Alexander Brent, Mira Coffey, Hanna Johnson, Riley Towers

Grade 12: Eli Frank, Connor Hamilton, Elisabeth Hammond

P.M. Sundays

Valley Stage Productions will present Anna and Elizabeth as a part of the P.M. Sundays music series taking place on Sunday, March 22, 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. Their mission is to "bring light to old ballads, tunes, hymns, and the stories of everyday people…honor the lives and creativity of those who have gone before….and pass the tradition on to a younger generation while encouraging friendship across generations."

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

Maple Sugar Dance Festival

Lake Champlain Squares' 46th Annual Maple Sugar Festival will be held March 20 and 21 at the Frederick H. Tuttle Middle School in South Burlington. Dancing for all experience levels is conveniently located all in this one building. Dancing will begin Friday at 7 pm with a one-hour Trail-in of Mainstream, Plus, Advanced, Challenge and a Rounds Party followed by the regular dance program. Saturday will include Round Dance teaches, workshops, intros to the next level during the day, and a Round Dance Party at 7 pm. A traditional sugar on snow party will be held Friday night after dancing. A Chinese Auction and an apparel shop will be open Friday night through Saturday. At noon on Saturday, a homemade lunch will be served.

A 50% discount on the fee is offered in return for work on the Festival for a minimum of three hours.

For more information: 985-2012 or www.lakechamplainsquares.orgf

State House News

Rep. Anne O'Brien

The House Appropriations Committee finished our work on budget adjustment act (BAA) which passed in our committee with bipartisan support and a vote of 11-0. The BAA was supported by the full House and sent to the Senate. Just like balancing the home budget, there were some items that came in over budget and some under projections, and the overall result was a decrease of $12M in the general fund spending. There were two key budget increases issues in the BAA that raised questions about sustainability and accountability. The first was the Vermont Veterans home which is located in Bennington. It is a wonderful facility which provides longterm care to Vermont Veterans. The challenge is that the census of the Vets home is lower than budgeted for and in budget adjustment that meant an increase in general funds of and additional $2M. Veterans, like many older Vermonters are choosing to stay home or live closer to their homes rather than in a nursing home like the Veterans Home. With choices for care the options for long term care an staying at home have greatly been enhanced. The current budget is not sustainable. There are structural changes with the number of licensed beds so that should help. I believe the focus should be on access and quality of long term care for our Veterans that is affordable.

The second major budget challenge is Vermont Health Connect or what is referred to as the Exchange. In the budget adjustment act there was an increase of $9M. Most of that is federal money, not general fund, however it is a significant increase over budget. We learned that the main reason for the increase was maintenance and operations. The fact that the original vendor failed and a new vendor was procured resulted in costs more than budgeted. This raised many questions and resulted in a joint hearing with House Appropriations and House Healthcare committees taking testimony on the exchange budget changes. We heard from the chief of healthcare , the commissioner of DVHA (who recently resignedly) , and the chief of DII. Many of you have contacted me about your concerns, complaints and personal problems with the exchange. One by one we have worked with the administration to get them solved and I am hopeful that we can now move forward. The good news is that the system has provided for many more Vermonters to have health coverage.

Now we are deep into the FY 2016 budget review. The Governor submits to the legislature a proposed budget and we go through it line by line to determine whether we agree or not with the proposal. I am working with the House healthcare committee and we have scheduled a joint committee hearing on the DVHA budget. This is the medicaid budget and also includes the Exchange. There was an amendment on the BAA bill which requires that the Chief of Healthcare reform report to the legislature by March 11 on the progress. All of our meetings are open and you 're welcome to come to the statehouse any day to listen to the proceedings. You can find all of the state budget documents at http://www.leg.state.vt.us/jfo/default.aspx.

Rep. Rebecca Ellis

The House Natural Resources and Energy Committee began consideration in January of a renewable portfolio standard as part of H.40, An Act Establishing a Renewable Energy Standard and Energy Transformation (RESET) Program. Twenty-nine (29) states, including every other New England state, have renewable portfolio standards. The need for a Vermont renewable portfolio standard became urgent last summer when the Connecticut public utility commission opened a docket to determine if Vermont "renewable energy credits" (RECs) are double-counted. Connecticut is expected to issue a ruling in the docket by April 2015. If the decision is adverse, Vermont utilities may suddenly find themselves unable to sell $50 million in RECs, resulting in a 6% rate increase statewide. Thus the need for a bill this session.

H.40 addresses the risk of a potential loss in REC values by establishing a renewable energy standard for Vermont utilities. The RESET program would set standards for three categories of energy resources: (1) total renewable energy, (2) new renewable distributed generation, and (3) energy transformation projects. In the first category, RESET would require that total renewable energy comprise 55% of each utility's sales by 2017, increasing to 75% by 2032. This category could be met through the purchase of energy with RECs attached, or RECs alone.

In the second category, RESET would require that new distributed generation comprises 1% of each utility's sales by 2017, increasing to 10% by 2032. New renewable distributed generation (DG) is defined as projects that have capacity of 5 MW or less and come into service after July 1, 2015. If the DG tier were met by solar only, it would require 400 MW of solar capacity, or roughly 25 MW of new solar capacity every year starting in 2017.

In aggressively promoting distributed renewable generation, Vermont is following both national and global trends. On the electric grid, distributed generation looks a lot like efficiency. Because demand is met locally, utilities do not need to reach out to the grid for supply. Like efficiency, distributed power minimizes the need for expensive transmission lines, promotes reliability, and reduces line losses. This lowers the cost of electricity for all Vermont consumers. And through distributed renewable generation, Vermonters can become their own power suppliers, keeping some of the $830 million spent annually by Vermonters on electricity here at home.

The third category of resources in the RESET program is energy transformation projects. The bill defines energy transformation projects as energy-related goods and services, other than the generation of electricity, that result in a reduction in fossil fuel consumption and a reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases. Examples include home weatherization, air source and geothermal heat pumps, electric vehicle charging stations, and energy storage. Energy transformation projects will provide more sales for utilities but, coupled with demand management to avoid peak consumption periods, can lower electricity rates by increasing revenues over the same fixed costs.

While the distributed generation category will likely have a slight upward pressure on electricity rates (less than 4% over 15 years), the energy transformation projects would likely have a slight downward pressure on lower electricity rates. The net impact is a modest net benefit for ratepayers. From a total energy perspective, one that includes electricity, transportation and heat, consumers are expected to save $275 million in total energy spending over the 15 years as a result of RESET.

If H.40 passes, Vermont will be the first state to include an energy transformation tier in its renewable portfolio standard. Vermont's electricity sector is relatively carbon-clean, and will get cleaner as we move to 75% renewable by 2032. In contrast, Vermont's transportation and heating sectors continue to emit large amounts of greenhouse gases. The RESET program will encourage the strategic electrification of the transportation and heating sectors, helping us cut 15 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and keeping us on track to achieve a quarter of our statutory goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 75% by 2050.

Rep. Tom Stevens

And just like that, one month of the legislative session has passed. As has been the case in each biennium I have represented this district, we hit the ground running because the issues we are addressing are of such importance to the wellbeing and sustainability of the state. From a budget gap to the health of Lake Champlain to education finance and governance reforms to health care and renewable energy, our plate is resembles a third trip to the all-you-can-eat-buffet — topped off and precariously balanced.

Because it is a new biennium, and because many of our committees have been rejiggered, we have spent a lot of time being educated about the issues each committee deals with in detail. And with a large influx of new legislators — 35 this year — this education is necessary and welcome. In the case of my committee, we have already received background on veteran's issues, affordable housing, mobile homes, emergency housing, cemeteries, alcohol and lottery law and labor issues, including addressing a teacher's right to strike. Each of these issues, to an outsider, may seem esoteric, but they are connected by the fact that Vermonters across the state are hoping we can clarify our statutes.

Besides testimony, we are being given a lot of reading to do for research. Some of this material is considered pro forma — annual reports, brochures, etc. — but a lot of it is integral to our understanding of the issues. For instance, if you would like to join us in contemplation of making our income tax system more equitable and transparent, you may want to read the Blue Ribbon Tax Structure Commission Final Report from 2011. The recommendations in the report are some of the clearest we have ever seen in reforming our tax structure — and they are so clear that they have been put aside because they have been interpreted as too disruptive to our year-to-year collection of taxes. This doesn't mean we won't address this shift this year, so I have bookmarked it and am spending time educating myself so that when it does come forward, I will know the issue better.

Over the past two years, our legislative website has become more transparent and, this year, much more user-friendly. Driven by the desire to save on paper (imagine a committee of 11 receiving numerous drafts of 25 page bills over the course of a session versus being able to call them up on a computer or iPad) and to make our work more accessible, the State has invested in making the public information we receive easier to search for and find online.

Perhaps education reform is your cup of tea? On the House Education Committee's webpage, you may read all of the same handouts or copies of testimony received by the committee. By doing so, you can begin to glean the depth of difficulty involved with trying to balance governance reforms with finance reforms, not to mention with trying to enhance achievement of successful educational outcomes. If you are concerned with the legislation surrounding background checks, you can visit the Senate Judiciary page to read supporting or dissenting documents or search from the Legislature home page for the text of the bill.

I encourage you to read along with us. I receive a lot of phone calls and emails discussing these topics and when I respond with the links for these sites, most folks are pleased that we can provide this information. Our decision making process often seems to be shrouded in mystery only because there is so much going on at the same time. Visit our website, find our committees, search for the issues you are interested in, spend your snowy nights reading and let us know what you think.

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Huntington Pancakes, Maple Tour and More on March 28

For a quick cure to those Mud Season Blues, join your neighbors and friends for sweet treats during Huntington's Annual Sugar Makers' Tour. On Saturday, March 28, from 11 am to 3 pm, many Huntington sugar making operations will be open to the public. Sugar makers from one end of town to the other will be boiling that day (weather permitting) and invite people to check out their facilities, sample this year's crop, enjoy sweet treats and purchase a variety of delicious maple products. Maps with directions to participating sugar makers will be available after March 6th at the local store. Or contact Margaret Taft at 434-3269 for more information.

The tour is sponsored by the Huntington Conservation Commission. It is intended to raise awareness and appreciation for local agricultural enterprises in the town. The approximate 30,000 taps in Huntington are found in a mix of retail and private operations ranging in size from 120 taps to 12,000 taps.

Did you know the following maple facts?

• Vermont sugar makers produce an estimated 750,000 - 1,000,000 gallons of syrup each year.

• Vermont is home to an estimated 3,000 sugar makers.

• There are an estimated 3.5 million taps in Vermont.

• Vermont sugar making contributes more than $225 million to the state's economy annually.

Source - February, 2013: George Cook, Tim Wilmot - UVM Extension Maple Specialists; Tim Perkins - UVM Proctor Maple Research Center, Director; Henry Marckres - Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Consumer Assurance Chief.

Huntington Boy Scout Troop 645 will hold its annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 28, 2015, serving 8 am to 11 am, at the Community Church of Huntington Annex in Huntington Center.

Made-to-order pancakes (with fresh maple syrup and Vermont butter) will be served with juice, and sausage or fruit, and a beverage that includes a choice of coffee, tea or hot chocolate. The cost is $6 adults, $4 6–12 years, $3 preschoolers and under,

The event is the troop's largest fundraiser and is held in conjunction with the annual Huntington Sugarmakers Tour, which begins at 11 am.

Bring some reading material and plan to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast before touring Huntington's sugarhouses.

Huntington Boy Scout Troop #645 is an active troop of about 5-10 boys. The troop is always looking for boys who are interested in having fun doing group outdoor activities like camping, hiking, fishing, canoeing, gardening, swimming...

Community service and participation in Huntington activities is a priority.

Boys in the troop are encouraged to live up to their potential and take pride in what they do.

Huntington Boy Scout Troop #645 does not discriminate.

For information about troop activities or to join, call Brian Valentine (434-2162), John Christiana (434-3292), Heidi Racht (434-2690) or Tamara Kushwaha (434-6472).

❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄

Join us for the Second Annual

"We Saved Bolton Nordic and Backcountry Lands" Celebration

Tours & Après Ski, featuring Bon Temps Gourmet

March 7, 2015 2 - 6 pm
après ski begins at 4 pm

Join us for tours of the Nordic and backcountry trails. All are welcome!

❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄ ❄

Your hosts: Vermont Land Trust, Catamount Trail Association, Friends of Bolton Valley Nordic and Backcountry, and Green Mountain Club.

$10 for members of the Vermont Land Trust, Catamount Trail Association and Green Mountain Club; $15 for non-members. FREE for kids 12 and under.

Activities planned for the whole family. All participants must purchase a $5 Bolton trail pass at the Nordic Center prior to the event unless they hold a season's pass.

RSVP and Tour Registration Required

www.vlt.org/events or
(802) 262-1222

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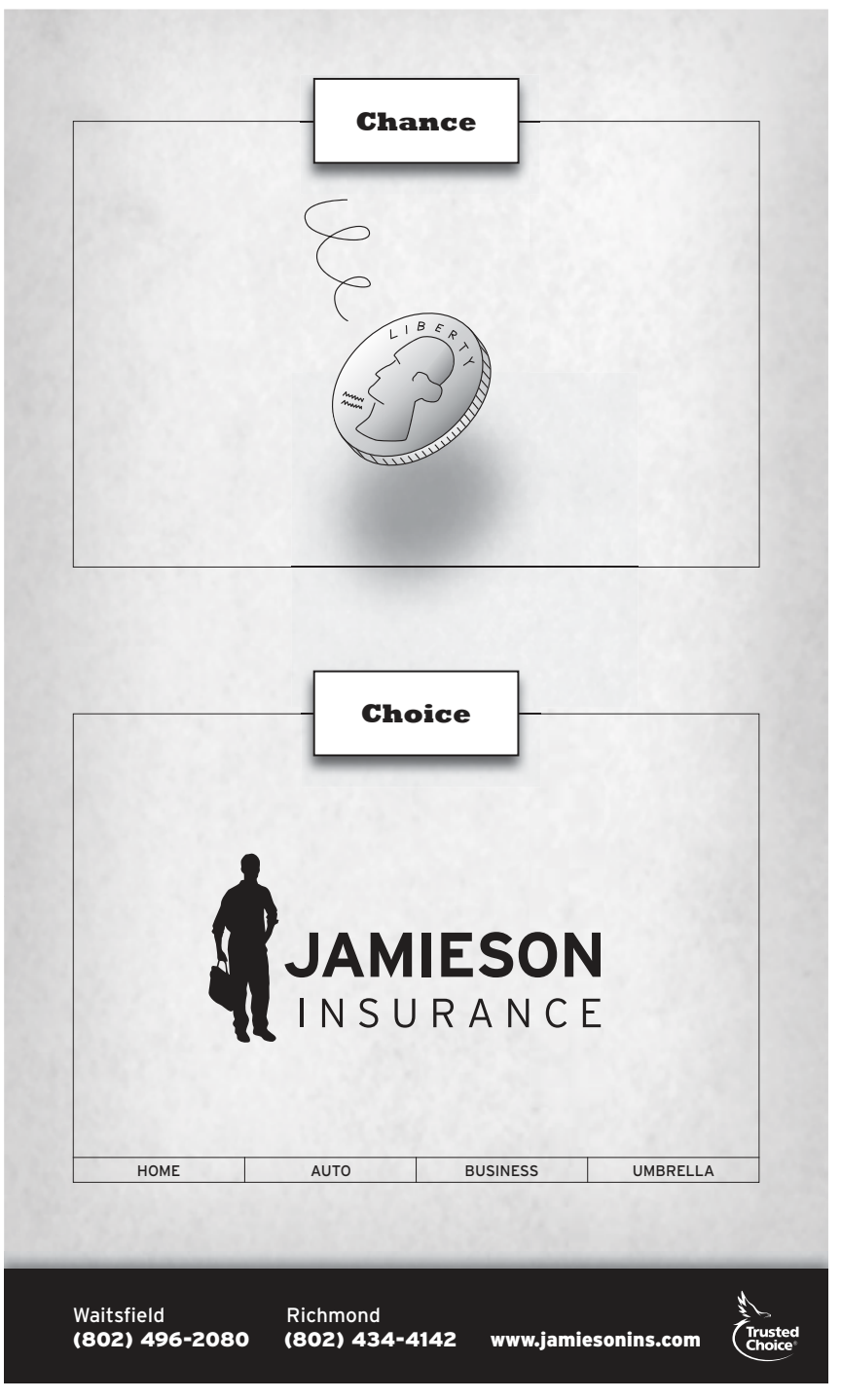

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News from Area Churches

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.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

Father Lance Harlow, 434-2521

February marks the beginning of the Lenten season this year. The beginning of Lent, marked by Ash Wednesday, varies every year depending upon the lunar cycle. The word Lent is the modern equivalent of the Middle English word "lencten" which means "spring." That's a very hopeful word for us in Vermont in mid-February. At the time of this writing, it has been snowing for two days straight with a third day in the forecast! I have a priest colleague who is from England and is stationed in Vermont. He recently told me that when he was visiting his homeland the daffodils were already popping up—in January, mind you.

Whatever the timing of spring, Lent is always the same. It debuts on Ash Wednesday as a day of fasting, abstinence from meat, prayers and repentance in order to inaugurate the holy season devoted to prayer, fasting and almsgiving culminating with our highest holy day—Easter. The imposition of ashes on our foreheads finds its roots in the ancient Jewish custom of covering the head with ashes (and the body with sackcloth) as a sign of mourning and repentance. The head has long been a prominent place for manifesting one's religious beliefs: Catholics wear ashes one day a year; the Hasidic Jewish men have the long "payot"-- those curly ringlets growing from the head in front of their ears; the Hindu women decorate the space between their eyebrows with the "bindi"; that is, the red dot; the American Indians used to have tattoos on various parts of their faces; and diverse African tribes even today have lip plates which stretch out their lips, facial scarring rituals and nose plugs. Numerous people today have tattooed, pierced, dyed and/or altered various parts of their head to communicate some kind of message- religious or otherwise.

So, at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church on Ash Wednesday, we find ourselves every year not wearing our "heart on our sleeve," but rather, wearing our faith on our forehead in the form of ashes which represent the outward sign of our need for interior conversion. It's our inheritance from a five thousand year old Judeo-Christian tradition. I hope that in Vermonters' yearning for cultural diversity, the ashes of Ash Wednesday will prompt many of them to a deeper level of cultural awareness and inquiry causing many to remark: "I love your ashes. What do they mean?"

Ash Wednesday

I am striding along an ice
encrusted back road,
snowy fields stretching cleanly
away on either side,
keeping up a brisk pace
in the hopes of getting warm.

Something tells me to halt my
steps and listen.
Standing still, breath clouds
rising, I hear them.

The birds are fluting a new song,
lighter and brighter
than their winterlong desultory
chatter.

Somehow,
despite a silver disc of sun
in a pewter sky,
despite ice crystals falling down,
they know.

The light is informing them.

It's coming.
Rebirth, renewal, resurrection.
Their hymn of hope sings to me
and my heart, recognizing the
truth of it,
lifts on wings of joyful
expectation.

—Tess Starecheski
February 3, 2015, 2:11 pm

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski & Bike Center
Huntington, Vermont
www.skisleepyhollow.com • (802) 434-2283

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

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 27 & 28/MARCH 1: 2015 Vermont Flower Show, Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Sponsored by Green Works--Vermont Nursery and Landscape Association in collaboration with University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and other organizations. 10 am – 6 pm (Friday and Saturday), 10 am -4pm (Sunday). Adults $15; Seniors (60+) $12; Children (3-17 yrs) $3; Two Day Pass $22; Three Day Pass $32. Advance tickets: http://greenworksvermont.org/vermont-flower-show/; Price Chopper Stores; Gardener Supply Stores in Williston & Burlington. Keynote presenter Jane Knight, an internationally acclaimed landscape architect, on February 28 and March 1, 1:30 pm.

MARCH 5: First Thursday Music in the Loft, beginning at 6 pm, Shelburne Vineyard, 6308 Shelburne Road, Shelburne. Tiffany Pfeiffer, solo soul/jazz/pop performance; Headless Barbecue will be on-site with fresh, local BBQ supper specialties and Shelburne Vineyard wine and Fiddlehead will be for sale by the glass. Free. Portion of beverage proceeds will benefit the Humane Society. Information: www.shelburnevineyard.com or Shelburne Vineyard on Facebook.

MARCH 8: Artist opening reception 2 pm to 4 pm: Katie Loesel, Piles and Passageways - Drawings and Prints, Shelburne Vineyard, 6308 Shelburne Road, Shelburne. Artist Reception: wine for sale by the glass and complimentary cheese and crackers. Information: www.shelburnevineyard.com

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

MARCH 11: Fifth annual Vermont Organic Dairy Producers Conference, Judd Hall, Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, 9 to 4. Sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension's Northwest Crops and Soils Program and Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont's Organic Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program. $25 includes lunch, if payment is received by March 4. Online registrations: www.uvm.edu/extension/organic-dairy or by mail. Checks payable: University of Vermont, mailed to UVM Extension, Attn: Organic Dairy Conference, 278 South Main St., Ste. 2, St. Albans, VT 05478. Disability related accommodation: Deb Heleba (debra.heleba@uvm.edu) or Susan Brouillette (802-524-6501, ext. 432) by February 25.

MARCH 11: Brownbag Lunch Panel: Do We Still Need Women's History? Vermont History Museum, Pavilion Building, 109 State Street, Montpelier, noon to 1. A panel of esteemed historians and scholars addressing questions facing women's history in the 21st century. Free and open to the public: sponsorship from Clute Wealth Management, the Vermont Commission on Women and co-sponsorship by Cabot Creamery Cooperative and Key Bank. Information: (802) 828-2180.

MARCH 13: Eleventh Annual Vermont Grain Growers Conference, Essex Resort and Spa, Essex, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, Northern Grain Growers Association (NGGA) and University of Vermont (UVM) Extension. $45 NGGA members, $50 non-members. Lunch included. Online registrations: www.uvm.edu/extension/grainconference until March 13. Disability-related accommodation: Susan Brouillette at (802) 524-6501, ext. 432, or susan.brouillette@uvm.edu by February 25.

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

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 Nordic Style at the Trapp Family Lodge.

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.

Vermont 2-1-1 is 10 Years Old

February 11, 2015 marked the 10th anniversary of Vermont 2-1-1, the statewide information and referral program of the United Ways of Vermont.

Annually, almost 50,000 callers to Vermont 2-1-1 receive free person-to-person service from Information and Referral Specialists and trained volunteers. People call the confidential 2-1-1 helpline looking for resources to meet basic needs, like heating or utility assistance, shelter, emergency help, or to find the closest food shelf. Vermonters also call for important everyday non-emergency needs, such as developmental screening for a child, home health care for a relative, job training or free tax filing support.

Vermont 2-1-1 also becomes the number to dial during disasters and public health emergencies as the Public Information Line for The Vermont Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), and the Vermont Department of Health.

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

It's time to push aside the burden of winter and treat yourself to an afternoon out. Instead of looking out at the familiar Vermont winter landscape, come and view the scenery of a distant land. Bring a friend or come alone and meet a new friend.

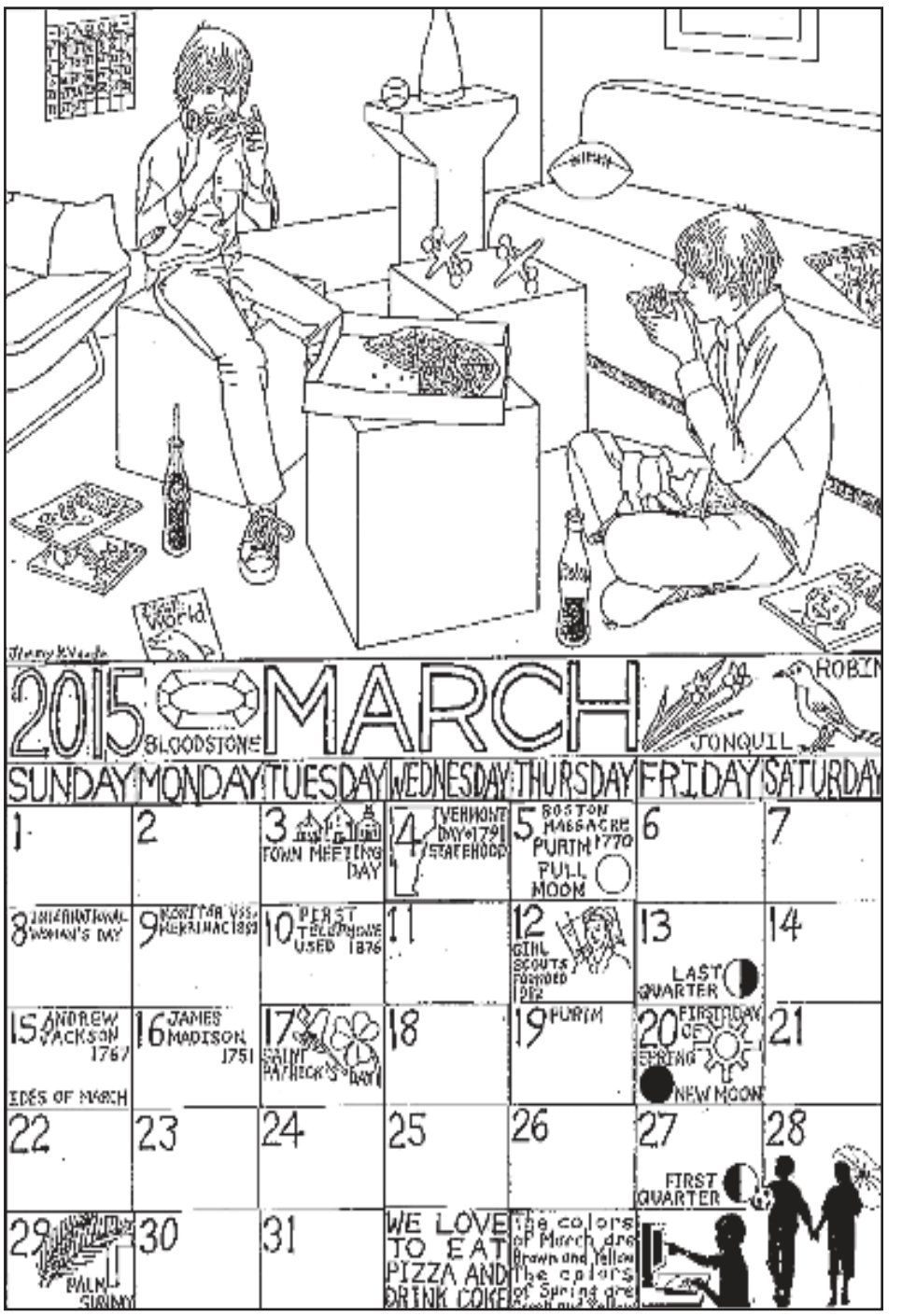
On Monday, March 9, at 1 pm, at the Richmond Free Library, join a group of fellow armchair travelers. Richmond's travel expert and tour leader, Jim Hagan, will take you on a tour of Cambodia. You will be able to learn about the people, culture and geography of Cambodia through his stunning photography and first hand stories.

Also in March, the Community Senior Center is sponsoring its third film in the Not to Be Missed Movie Series. On March 18, at 12:30 pm, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid will be playing at the Richmond Free Library. In this classic from 1969, Paul Newman and Robert Redford team up to rob money trains and are pursued by a relentless super posse. The combination of the chemistry between the two stars, the ironic humor and ultimate tragedy make this a film worth watching a second or third time. Subtitles and popcorn will be provided. Of course, you can watch it on your TV at home, but sometimes it's more fun to watch it in a group and share laughter and post movie commentary.

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

Save this Date: May 15 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.



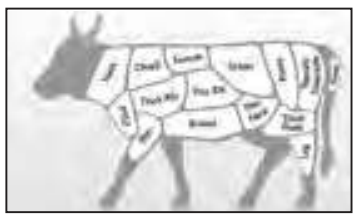
Service Directory

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]

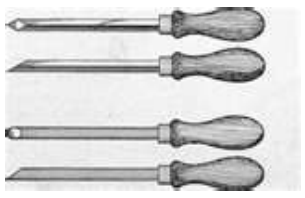
RICHMOND ANIMAL HOSPITAL Drs.Virginia Clarke, Cori Weiner and Daniel Hament, Veterinarians. Main Street, Richmond across from Harringtons. Full-service pet hospital. Call 434-4935 for day or evening appointments or emergencies. [04/14]

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]



Catering

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.

Cleaning

Dental

Excavating / Mowing

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]

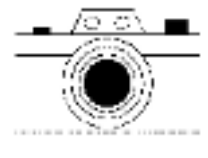
Landscaping

Laundry Service

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

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]

Sewing

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 _____

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Advertise with us in the Service Directory!
Contact Meg Howard at advertising@timesinkvt.org
Your ad. This page. $25.
3 mos minimum / prepaid
1.375" high x 3.25" wide

Business Beat
by Bill & Gina Haddock

June Banks, owner of **Snaffle Sweets**, has been in the wedding cake business for more than 25 years. Recently, Banks and her husband Dave moved from their Main Street home location where Banks's business was located. Banks and Dave have been planning this move from her in-home operation in Jonesville for at least three years but they only settled on a new spot in the village of Richmond in January. Banks has strong ties to Richmond and so it was important to keep her business here. She's been active in the local 4-H, Western Slopes Business Association as well as countless volunteer committees, and she's donated literally hundreds of her yummy cupcakes to various Richmond fundraisers.

Snaffle Sweets is now reopened at 287 Main Street on the left shortly before you pass the fire station as you leave the village. This new location has served as a two story apartment building for a number of years but now the ground floor units have been converted to space for two commercial business suites. Snaffle Sweets occupies the suite at the west end of the complex, on the left as you face the building. It presents a bright blue door for an entrance. Inside there is ample space for Banks to make presentations to her clients as well as teaching classes in cake making. She has been teaching in the Burlington area for twenty years and several of her students are now teachers as well. Her classes were held at Ames Department Store and A.C. Moore which were nice venues but of course she is excited about having her own space in which to teach. Banks has some fun classes in the works including candy making, sugar eggs for Easter and even "spirited cupcakes" for people who want to include some liquors in their baking. Banks also taught middle school children cake baking skills in her in her home in Jonesville and intends to continue doing this in this new location which is much closer to Camels Hump Middle School. Students can either walk to their six-week-long class at Snaffle Sweets after school or take the school bus— a fun after-school activity.

This new location has also created an interesting new business model for Snaffle Sweets. Banks is making the space available for temporary rentals such as an incubator business might make use. There is a spacious commercial kitchen with ample equipment for making large cakes for weddings, showers, anniversaries, birthdays and so forth which could be rented out to another home business on occasion or even to a creative bride and friends who wanted space and equipment to make their own wedding favors-half the fun is preparing for that special day. The front room is large enough for birthday parties or other festivities that could be tied into a cake making experience. Or, it could be used as a quiet and private meeting place for eight or ten people getting together for business reasons. In addition, there is a smaller 100 foot square office with furniture for several individuals including in-house business machines – a computer with fax and internet, a printer/copier and photo printer, and telephone.

The core of Banks's business is focused on wedding and special occasion cakes and she brings a wealth of expertise and creativity to her business. And in many cases, she provides a great big dose of Yankee ingenuity as well. For example, when asked about some of the challenges in baking cakes, Banks smiled and told the Business Beat how she's been asked to create many cakes without traditional cake making ingredients. In fact, because of allergies one client requested a cake without sugar, wheat, dairy, vanilla and cinnamon and the final creation was quite delicious!

For Banks, part of the fun is doing the research needed to make the cake just perfect for the individual. Whether you need a gluten free or dairy free confection or are in search of a wedding cake with the bride and groom wedding toppers that look exactly like the real bride and groom, Banks can accommodate you. She achieves this by obtaining photos of the couple and works with another baker who can create edible figurines that look like a specific person! She also can create a cake to look like just about anything you might imagine so if your dream cake looks like Cinderella's castle or a cabin in the woods, talk to Banks.

Snaffle Sweets is opened by appointment except for Friday afternoons when the public can stop by to purchase treats. Banks can be reached at 434-2900 or email at snaffle.sweets@gmail.com. Visit Snaffle Sweets Facebook page to get the latest information about classes.

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Richmond Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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Pre-k through 8th grade
Nursery care available

Friday Food Affair at Five
A free meal for all in the community.
Come and join us!

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434-2053 • church@rccucc.org • website: www.rccucc.org
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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Meeting Notice

Conveyance of Historic Easement for the Huntington Town Hall

March 16, 2015 6:30 pm • Town Office

On Monday, March 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm the Huntington Selectboard will hold a public meeting at the Huntington Town Office to discuss the Selectboard's intention to convey a perpetual historic preservation easement on the setting, significant internal features, and external features of the Huntington Town Hall located in Huntington Center. The conveyance of the historic preservation easement will be signed by the Town on or about April 20, 2015 unless a petition is filed by 5% of the voters in accordance with 24 VSA 1061 calling for a town special meeting or vote. The Town will retain ownership of the property. Costs for the conveyance of the easement will be paid from the Town Hall reserve fund.

The Town proposes to enter into Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) Grant Agreement #2014-081-001 that provides a grant in the amount of up to $51,575 to the Town to rehabilitate the Huntington Town Hall. As a condition of VHCB funding, the Town will grant the historic preservation easement co-held by VHCB and Preservation Trust of Vermont.

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund Act, 10 V.S.A. Chapter 15 provides grants for projects which fulfill the Act's goals including conserving and protecting Vermont's historic properties. VHCB has determined that protecting the Huntington Town Hall will advance these purposes. The c. 1903 rural meeting hall symbolizes the economic boom brought to the community by the logging industry at the turn of the 20th century and is representative of the growth of local government in Vermont. The theatre space hosted performances by the Henry Family Traveling Theatrical Company and retains several historic Henry murals.

The meeting will provide an opportunity to understand the details of the conveyance of the historic preservation easement and inform the Selectboard about the opinions of Town residents regarding the conveyance.

Family Focus

by Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W.

Got Science?

"Science is no illusion. But it would be an illusion to suppose that we could get anywhere else what it cannot give us." —Freud

Shortly after taking office, and before the opposition became so polarizing, President Obama appointed John Holdren as his science advisor. Holdren is a University of California-Berkeley engineer and physicist who has been researching and writing on energy since the late 1960s. His work included examining mathematically how much energy is needed to feed the ever-expanding human civilization.

Holdren's long list of credentials include sharing in the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize. In the 1960s he mentioned a fact that was largely unnoticed at the time: the level of CO2 in the atmosphere had risen 10% since the turn of the century.

To understand the present, let's go back to the 1984 World Population Conference. "To the shock of the host country, Mexico, diligently trying to no longer be the world's fastest-growing nation, the United States announced it would no longer support UN family planning programs…(T)he U.S. representative explained …the more people on the planet, the more consumers for the products of capitalism."

At the so-called Earth Summit in 1992, after the George H. W. Bush administration defeated the agreement supported by every other nation to limit CO2 emissions, the President showed up and said, "The American way of life is not negotiable."

In the 1960s, scientists projected serious environmental and social problems due to growing populations. These early predictions did not come to pass, however, because the Green Revolution of modern agriculture produced vast fertilized monocultures. This discovery of chemical fertilizers reinforced the belief that advances in technology would surely solve the immediate problems of increasing numbers of humans and the projected shortages of food, water, and energy.

That was then. Now scientists overwhelmingly agree that technology can't keep pace with the growing problems or begin to fix them. The agriculture miracle "postponed the timing of what increasingly now looks inevitable." In fact, current projections are revising our outlook, because the original models drastically underestimated the catastrophic timetables.

But how can this be happening? We have many highly intelligent and educated people in our society, some of whom we rely on to do the research and tell us the truth. One of our highly intelligent and educated people is our President, a man who was astute enough to appoint John Holdren as his science advisor.

Obama is widely believed to be the strongest environmentalist in the White House for decades. However, despite his talk about green energy and fossil fuels, it appears he has failed to consult his own science advisor. It seems he has been reluctant to talk about the biggest question facing us and every other living creature on the planet. As the saying goes, No one can be an environmentalist without being a populationist.

Obama's health insurance law did provide for birth control, which is a good thing to do. But he has not related the need for family planning to population or the welfare of the human race. Allowing this critical issue to be ignored is not the legacy of a statesman. Maybe now that he's in his second term he'll change that.

The information and quotes in this column are from Countdown: A Last Best Hope for A Future on Earth? by award-winning journalist Alan Weisman.

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

LEFT TO RIGHT: DR. CHRIS LUNDBERG DR. FRED ZIEGLER DR. MATT ROGERS DR. TOM FISCHER

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Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Big Fins

Whether it was the '57 or the '59, the record seems pretty clear that the fashion of tail fins on cars reached its peak on a Cadillac. When we talk to young people today about life being different back then, it is impossible for them to imagine how different it was.

There were no seat belts and it wasn't uncommon to see a car drive by with a kid lying across the seatback, playing in the rear window. Gas cost pennies a gallon and when you pulled into the gas station, a guy in a uniform with a tie rushed out to pump your gas, wash your windows, and "Check the oil for you today, sir?" Once you were filled up, the guy would hurry back with your change (credit cards didn't exist yet and no one used checks) and a free glass or plate to add to your collection.

Back on the road, traffic was light. Speed limits where high and if you did get stopped for speeding, the cop would walk up to the car and inquire what was the hurry? Then there would be some back and forth banter about your accuse and the officer's concern you should slow it down. If you got a warning, that would be upsetting. If you got a ticket, the policeman would brace himself for an argument.

Driving may have been a privilege according to the law, but it was a right according to society. No, it was more than a right; it was a rite-of-passage. I got my learner's permit on the day I turned 15 ½. On my 16th birthday, I passed my driver's test, took the family car out that night, and loaded it up with my buddies for a cruise around town.

There were basically only two types of guys: those who owned a car and those who didn't get dates. The goal of every teenager was to own a car and the car you owned was a mark of status. My first was a '59 Bel Air Chevy with the horizontal fins. It was automatic, which was not cool, but had a back seat the size of a living room couch. That implied I could be a serious dude, but I wasn't. It turned out there was actually a third kind of guy. He drove an Army green, automatic Chevy and still didn't get dates, but it didn't matter. I could drive, and drive, and drive.

No air conditioning, crank down windows, doors that weighted a ton, bench seats that fit 4 abreast and a dial AM radio with only a dozen or so stations to listen to. If you wanted rock 'n roll there were, only a couple of choices.

Nothing about my Prius even resembles what I grew up thinking was a car. Yes, I enjoy the drive, it is very safe and the gas mileage is great, but it has no fins. There is no extravagance about it. It lacks the superfluous and it was the superfluous that used to make cars what they were.

Aging in Place, it's no accident, so drive safely.

(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.)