The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

Volume 33 **February 2016 Issue** Number 1

View of the renovated Monitor Barn, from the Town of Richmond website.

Richmond Kicks Off Planning Nights: Our Town, Our Future

The Town of Richmond kicked of the New Year by asking residents to put their new vision into a plan of action. On January 6, a series of planning nights are being hosted by the Richmond: Our Town, Our Future planning project to identify strategies and prioritize action on all 11 components of the Vision Statement.

As stated within the opening sentence of the Vision statement "the Town of Richmond aims to be the most livable small town in Vermont." The Vision will provide the foundation of the new town plan which will serve as a source of information and as a long term guide to help shape the future physical, social and economic environment of the town.

"The volunteer efforts of the Town Plan Steering Committee and the Planning Commission have been a tremendous asset in gathering public input" stated Richmond Town Planner, Clare Rock. "Now we know where we want to be heading as a community, the next step is to start identifying strategies to make the Vision a reality."

The upcoming Rapid Fire Planning Nights will be fast paced conversations to identify strategies and prioritize action on all 11 components of the vision. Meetings will take place on the first and third Wednesdays January through March and will cover a variety of topics from Affordability, to Transportation to Transparent and Inclusive Decision-Making. All meeting will start at 5:30 pm where people are invited for refreshments and socializing, with the working sessions starting at 6 pm. Meetings will take place at the Town Center Building. For those who are unable to come to the meetings, submit comments by email or mail, or call the Town Planner.

Our Town, Our Future is a community planning process designed to help Richmond's residents choose the future they want for the community. Led by the Town Plan Steering Committee and Planning Commission, the process will help to create a community vision for the future and a plan that will accomplish this. Visit http://richmondvtfuture.weebly.com/ where agendas, minutes and the information about committee members are easily found.

For additional information, contact Clare Rock, Town Planner (434-2430) or townplanner@gmavt.net

Huntington to Vote on Bridge and Fire Truck Bonds and Again on School Merger

In addition to the local elections, the MMM Budget ballot, and the Presidential Primary, voters in the Town of Huntington will see three Australian ballot questions:

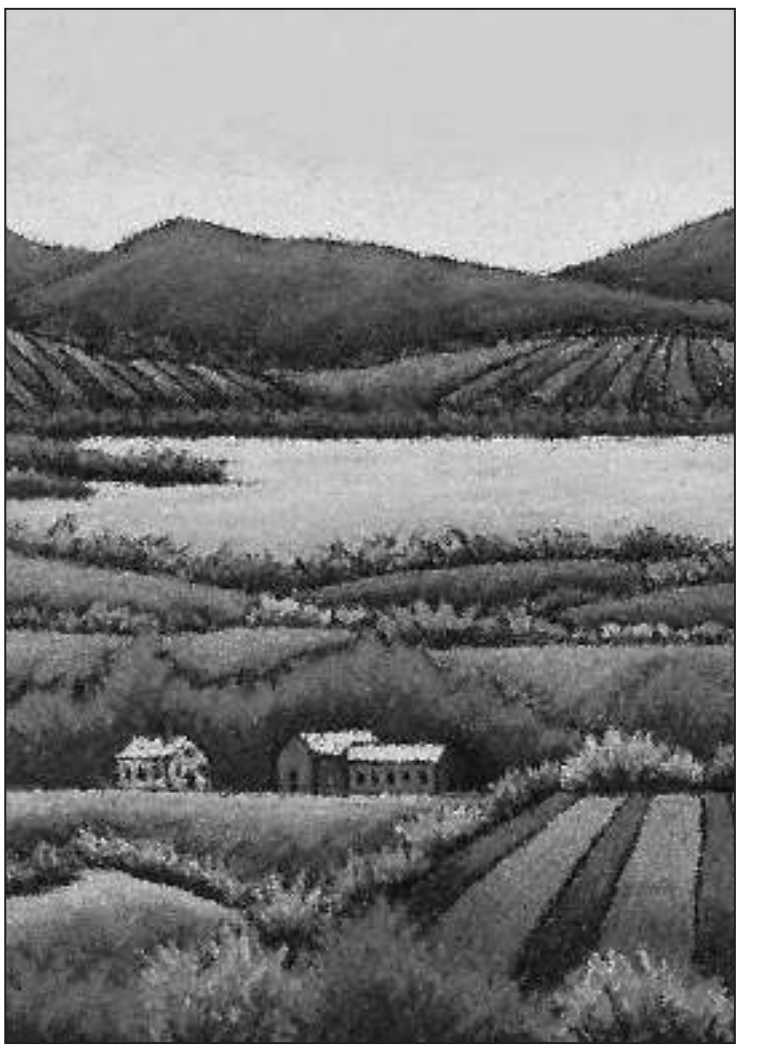
Bond vote for $105,500 to cover a portion of the local share costs of two bridge repair/replacement projects: Town Highway Bridge No. 8 (Main Road just south of Moody Road) and Town Highway Bridge No. 30 (Camel's Hump Road).

Bond vote for $287,500 for the purpose of financing the cost of acquiring a replacement fire engine.

An informational meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2016, at 7 pm, at the Huntington Fire House.

Huntington School Merger vote (anticipated) to dissolve Huntington School District and have the school become part of the MMMU School District. This has been voted on under Act 153 and Act 156 and now Huntington voters will vote under the latest legislation, Act 46. At the time of this printing, the Agency of Education is scheduled to vote whether to allow the proposed merger vote to proceed at their January 19 meeting, and the Legislature is trying to come to an agreement on the allowable growth percentage, i.e. cap, provision of Act 46. Also, Vermont schools have not received final figures from the Agency of Education for budgetary purposes.

Painting by Daryl Storrs to Represent Vermont Expo



Daryl Storrs's print, Lake Champlain, will represent the Vermont Historial Society's 2016 Vermont History Expo. It will be used for promotional posters and other publicity.

The Vermont Historical Society has chosen Daryl Storrs of Huntington as the featured artist for Vermont History Expo 2016. Her pastel painting entitled Lake Champlain will be used as the signature artwork for this biannual celebration of community history and heritage. It is a colorful pastoral scene with a lakefront focus.

Since its earliest days, Vermont History Expo has featured a Vermont artist's work as its signature image, emphasizing the event's collaboration with local artists and cultural organizations throughout the state to highlight Vermont's rich heritage. Storrs's painting will be used for promotional posters and other publicity.

Daryl Storrs has been a printmaker for 35 years. She apprenticed with Sabra Field to learn the art of woodcuts, then earned a graduate degree in printmaking. A resident of Huntington for the past 23 years, Storrs renovated an old barn into a studio for her woodcuts, jewelry and pastels all focusing on the Vermont landscape. Learn more and explore the breadth of her work at www.darylstorrs.com.

The Vermont History Expo will take place at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds June 18 and 19, featuring over 150 local historical societies, museums, and heritage organizations, musicians, authors, genealogists, crafters and other talented professionals. The weekend is filled with heritage animals, parades, presentations, re-enactments, performances, demonstrations, and is held alternate years. Find out more at vermonthistory.org/expo.

The Vermont Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that operates the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier, the Leahy Library, the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre, and programming throughout the state. Established in 1838, its purpose is to reach a broad audience through outstanding collections and statewide outreach. It believes that an understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities.

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

The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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HUNTINGTON RICHMOND

Letters

Senate Update

Last month, I spoke with a woman with a movie star name and rock star performance. Dr. Vivian Lee is the CEO of University of Utah Health Care, and her accomplishments in Utah should serve as a model for Vermont.

When Lee became the CEO of her hospital, she pulled her executive team together and asked a basic question: do we know what it actually costs to provide services? This simple question, which would be completely unnecessary in any other industry, elicited shrugs and shakes of the head from her staff. The "sticker price" for medical procedures in Utah, like here in Vermont, bore little to no relationship to the actual costs incurred by the hospital to perform them.

Lee articulated a simple directive to her staff: determine the true costs of everything we do. Rolling up their sleeves in what she described as "the Utah way," her staff sifted through the swamp of medical costs and emerged five months later with the true expenditures for every procedure and treatment at the University of Utah medical center.

Was it worth it? Boy was it! Armed with the true costs, physicians and departments throughout the hospital were, for the first time, able to see who the high spenders were and why. Actual expenditures were matched up to patient outcomes, reforming the way many physicians treated their patients, improving public health while saving money.

Importantly, Lee's work was motivated by pressures just like those we're experiencing in Vermont. Limited Medicaid funding, coupled with a move away from "fee-for-service," required transparent cost data in order to smartly manage her hospital budget moving forward.

Here in Vermont, we are rightly moving forward with payment reforms that will move us away from fee-for-service. But unless we know the true costs throughout the system, our hospital leaders will be flying blindly as they make decisions on where and how to restrain spending. It is my goal in the coming year to make sure that payment reform and transparent pricing work in tandem to lower costs for Vermonters. Perhaps in just this one instance, as goes Utah, so should go Vermont!

To learn more, read this New York Times article: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/08/health/what-are-a-hospitals-costs-utah-system-is-trying-to-learn.html?_r=0

—*State Senator Tim Ashe*, Chittenden County

result of their month-long donations drive, the team created 84 gallon size bags with items like hats, gloves, socks, granola bars and trail mix, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, conditioners, and lotions to help those in our community without shelter meet their most basic personal needs.

Team Grit split up and spread their talents over a number of community service activities just before the holiday break. Four members of the team brought ingredients and made chocolate chip cookies for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House. While they were there, the students were able to interact with a family staying at the home. The boys offered the warm, homemade cookies to Grace, a two year old little girl on her way to visit her brother at the hospital. A few of the team members volunteered at the Y Early Childhood Program in Burlington and the remaining students on the team read their favorite storybooks to youngsters at Underhill Central School.

CHMS Updates

Have you seen us on public television? The Camels Hump Middle School broadcasters club, led by Renee Barrett, our technology integration expert, has been taping and broadcasting boys and girls basketball games on Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV). Student members of the newly-formed after school club are even discussing the possibility of a feed news broadcast--stay tuned for further developments!

In Celebration of Computer Science Education Week (December 7-13), CHMS students wrote computer code during "Hour of Code", a grassroots campaign with a goal for tens of millions of students to try writing an hour of code (see photos by Jean Campbell).

Mae Quilty, the new Farm-to-School Coordinator at CHMS and Richmond Elementary School is working to strengthen connections between the classroom, community, and cafeteria as well as to foster healthy eating habits and hands-on learning experiences for students. Quilty and four CHMS student have been awarded a grant to participate in the 2016 TRY for the Environment-Food System Program. TRY stands for Teens Reaching Youth and is an environmental leadership opportunity for youth in grades 7-12. The teen-led environmental education program has an embedded service learning component designed to teach environmental literacy and responsibility to younger youth. TRY for the Environment includes three program areas—renewable energy, waste solutions, and food systems—to connect young people to real-world environmental problems in which they can be key change agents helping to create real-world solutions.

Since November, eighth grade students on the Spark team have been working to support COTS (Committee on Temporary Shelter) and homeless Vermonters. As a result of their month-long donations drive, the team created 84 gallon size bags with items like hats, gloves, socks, granola bars and trail mix, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, conditioners, and lotions to help those in our community without shelter meet their most basic personal needs.

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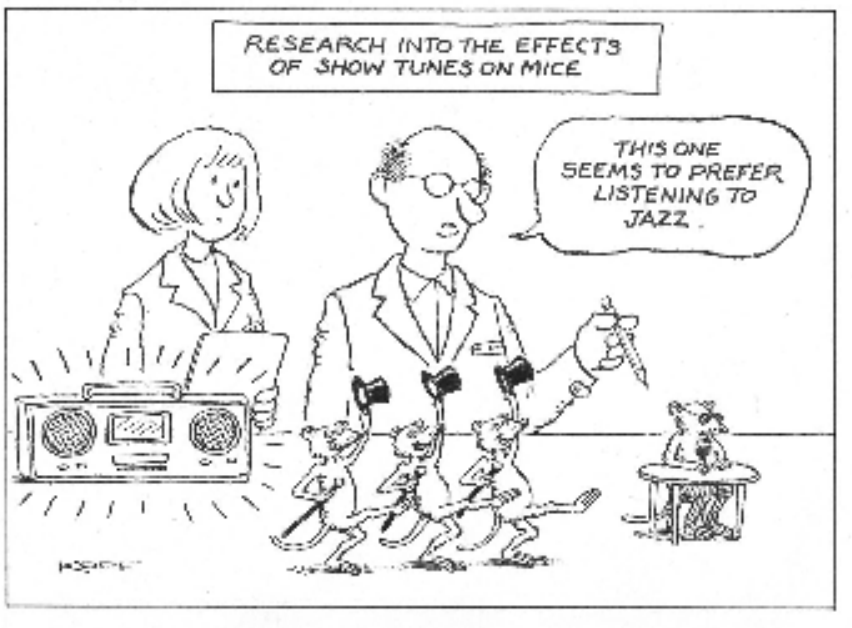
Many thanks to the Ben & Jerry's Foundation for the recent donation to our PROSPER program for 6th graders and their families. PROSPER Strengthening Families Program 10-14, is a series of seven, fun workshops for students and their families to support successful transitions through middle school. We still have limited openings for the spring session. For more information, or to register for this fun, family-oriented program, email chmsprosper@cesuvt.org.

The next Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District Board meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2016, at 6 pm, at Richmond Elementary School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

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



Annual French Canadian Supper

It is that time of year for Richmond's Knights of Columbus (Rosary Council 4684) unique and tasty Annual French Canadian Supper. Mark Saturday, February 6, 2016 on your calendar for the date to let the Knights and their helpers do the cooking. Featured food items include traditional French Canadian favorites of pea soup, meat pie ("tourtiere"), mashed potato, beverages, dessert, etc. This a great opportunity to taste some authentic French Canadian food without having to journey to Quebec and to support a local community group at the same time.

The supper will be held in the Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond beginning at 5 pm. Admission is by a suggested donation of $10. The evening's proceeds will benefit the charities (scholarships, donations to the needy, etc.) of the Knights of Columbus.

For information, call Doug St. Amour (777-5302 evenings) or the Church secretary (434-2521) Monday, Tuesday or Friday during the day.

Nar-Anon Starts Local Group

If there is a drug problem in your home or with a friend, the Chittenden East Nar-Anon Group may be able to help you solve it. Nar-Anon helps the family or friend of the user attain serenity and a more normal life, regardless of whether or not he/she has stopped using. Anonymous and confidential, weekly meetings are held Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30, in the Richmond Community Room (located in the basement of the Richmond Town Center, next to the Post Office and with plenty of free parking). No fee expected but donations are appreciated. If you are interested in being part of the group and attending meetings, or just want to learn more, email Linda Donovan at lindadonovan421@yahoo.com <mailto:lindadonovan421@yahoo.com>

Documentary to Screen on February 7

The Hungry Heart, a new documentary film on prescription drug addiction and recovery in Vermont, will screen on Sunday, February 7, 2016, at 3 pm, at the Community Church of Huntington Annex. The film's director, Bess O'Brien, will run a question and answer session after the screening. Come and be part of an important conversation about this pressing issue.

The Hungry Heart was honored by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin during his January 2015 State of the State in which he devoted his entire speech to the opiate epidemic in Vermont. Since the Governor's ambitious initiative to deal with the rising prescription drug and heroin addiction in Vermont, The Hungry Heart has been featured on many national press and media outlets including the ABC Evening News, The New York Times, Al Jazeera television, The Boston Globe, NPR's On Point, WBUR's Radio Boston and MSNBC.

The Hungry Heart is the 2015 winner of the outstanding media award from the American Academy of Addiction Medicine.

The film has toured across New England to more than 100 towns and was presented in Washington, D.C. by Senator Patrick Leahy and Michael Botticelli the Acting Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The Hungry Heart, produced by Kingdom County Productions, provides an intimate look at the often hidden world of prescription drug addiction through the work of Vermont Pediatrician Fred Holmes whose patients struggle with this disease.

Holmes works closely with his patients to provide them with therapy and out-patient programs. In addition, he is part of the Suboxone treatment program. Much like Methadone, Suboxone helps many addicts in their recovery process-- for some taking Suboxone is a crucial stepping stone to long term recovery, for others Suboxone is abused and diverted onto the street. Through the film we see Holmes struggling with these challenges and trying to make sense and keep the faith in the midst of many contradictions.

But the film is not ultimately about Suboxone or the medical treatment these young people receive from Holmes. It is about the simple but profound connection that Holmes creates with each patient and how important listening and respect is for these young addicts as part of their recovery process. The film shines a light on the healing power of conversation and the need for connection that many of these young addicts yearn for but do not have in their lives.

In addition, the film interviews a number of older addicts and family members who share their stories of struggle and redemption. The road to recovery is paved with both success stories and strewn with relapses, downfalls and tragic losses. However, through the movie we see the many faces and diverse populations of addiction, and their continued search for a life of recovery.

Best-selling author David Sheff who wrote the book Beautiful Boy about his own son's addiction called The Hungry Heart "a brilliant and beautiful film that captures the true lives of people in recovery." MSNBC called the film "deeply moving."

Dr. Fred Holmes, at right. Courtesy photo, Kingdom County Productions

Geoff Kane, MD and Chief of Addiction Services at Brattleboro Retreat raves, "The Hungry Heart displays the unflinching honesty necessary for addiction recovery. Dr. Fred Holmes displays the unwavering respect, hope, and accountability that people need to get there."

The Hungry Heart opens up dialogue around many issues connected to addiction and recovery and serves as a jumping off point for discussion and action steps that many of our communities need.

The evening is made possible by Kingdom County Productions and the Huntington and Richmond co-sponsors (Neighbor Helping Neighbor, Huntington Public Library, Richmond Family Medicine, Pleasant Mount Farm greenhouse, Beaudry's Store and The Good Run Incorporated).

For more information: www.kingdomcounty.org or 802-357-4616.

P.M. Sundays Continue

Winner and former Prairie Home Companion guitarist for 20 years, Pat Donohue will be performing Sunday, February 21, at the Richmond Congregational Church, beginning at 4 pm, as part of the P.M. Sundays.

Donohue is one of the most listened to finger pickers in the world. After putting in his time with Garrison Keeler's popular program, he now has a full concert tour schedule nationwide, conducts guitar workshops and teaches at such popular music camps as Augusta Heritage Center, Swannanoa Gathering and Puget Sound Guitar Camp. His musical tastes are eclectic. Though he considers himself foremost a folk guitarist, Donohue's influences are rooted in bluesmen Blind Blake, Robert Johnson, Duke Ellington, Muddy Waters and Miles Davis.

For more details and ticket information about this event visit www.valleystage.net. Or contact Don Sheldon at don@valleystage.net or 434-4563.

Supper to Benefit Library Friends

Enjoy some good food for good books and a a good cause. Hinesburg Public House will be offering a community supper to benefit the Friends of the Richmond Free Library on Tuesday, February 2. A locally-sourced, four-course meal for an inclusive price of $20 (vegetarian option available). Half of the proceeds raised from the supper will be donated to the Friends. Reservations are strongly advised: 482-5500.

Popular Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors Continue

The Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors are underway and are a resounding success. Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building. Appointments can be made for 9 am, 9:30 am, or 10 am.

Mark your calendar for:

February 16, March 29, May 10, June 21

Don't wait to make an appointment or get on the waiting list. Call for an appointment: Sally Singer (434-3480 or Catherine Coggio (434-3572).

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

SAVE THE DATE!

Please come, and bring a friend!

Community Supper to Benefit Friends of the Richmond Free Library

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 5 to 9 pm
At the Hinesburgh Public House

A locally sourced, four-course meal for an inclusive price of $20 (vegetarian option available). Half of the proceeds raised from the Supper will be donated to Friends of the Richmond Free Library. Reservations strongly advised.

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Coming Together to Support our Library • http://richmondfreelibraryvt.org/

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Tuesday, 6 - 7 pm

Eucharistic Adoration:
Tuesday, 6 - 8 pm

Rosary:
20 minutes before all Masses

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French Canadian Supper
Saturday, February 6
Starting at 5 pm

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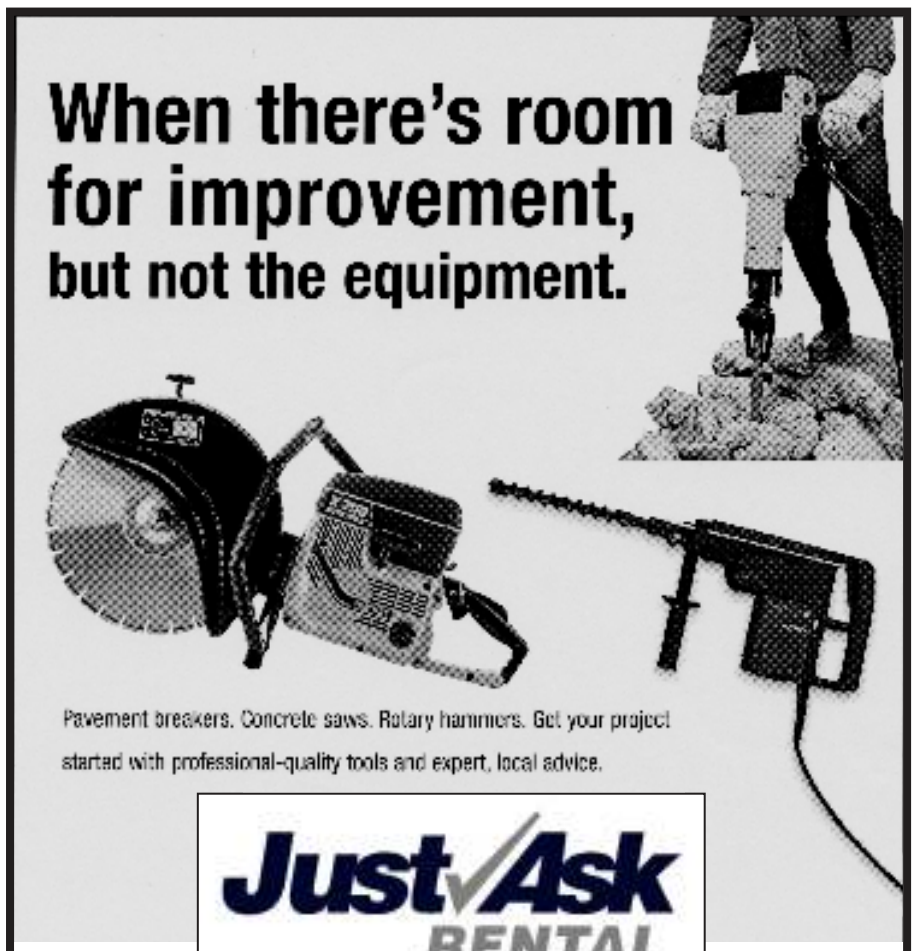

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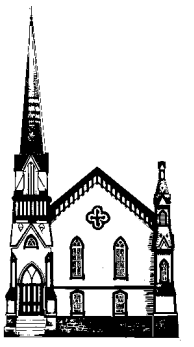

Richmond Free Library

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Fri 10 - 6
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rfl@gmavt net

Friends of the Richmond Free Library will be holding its annual book sale on Friday, February 12, 5:30-8:30 and Saturday, February 13, 9-3. This fun, annual event offers book lovers plenty to choose from as well as live music, bake sale goodies and a raffle with fantastic prizes. We are still seeking gently-used donations for the sale, as well as volunteers to organize and work at the sale. Call the Library.

Community Supper Hinesburg Public House will be offering a community supper to benefit the Friends of the Richmond Free Library on Tuesday, February 2. A locally sourced, four-course meal for an inclusive price of $20 (Vegetarian option available). Half of the proceeds raised from the supper will be donated to the Friends. Reservations are strongly advised: 482-5500.

Vermont Reads Vermonters can learn more about renowned explorer, Ernest Shackleton, by reading and talking about this year's Vermont Reads picks, The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander and Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong. Both books are well-written and image-rich; written in the late 1990s and thus include some of the previously unavailable sources and archival materials from the journey and high adventure, shipwrecks, and tales of survival against the odds. Vermont Reads is an initiative of the Vermont Humanities Council to get Vermonters reading and participating in events planned around a common book and theme. Free copies of both books will be available beginning in late February and in the month of March. See Community Senior Center News, page 13, for more.

eReader Devices available for Loan We have a Kindle and a Nook available for loan. Both devices are preloaded with a range of titles, including the latest Gillian Flynn title The Grownups. Want to give one of these devices a try? Just stop at the circulation desk.

Raffle Baskets Thank you to everyone who participated in buying tickets for our raffle baskets! We did very well, and were able to purchase 52 DVDs to add to our collection. Some of the titles for children added were Home, Inside Out, Paddington, Minions and Ender's Game. Adult titles added include Fury, Gone Girl, Home Fires, Woman in Gold and the Hundred Foot Journey. Borrow one, or up to four, today!

Family Movie Nights Join us for Friday Family Fun Movie Nights at 6:00 in the Community Room on January 15, 22 and 29. Movies are all rated PG, include popular new releases and are appropriate for a family audience. Snacks and some couches will be provided but consider bringing your own comfy pillow or chair.

Lego Club Come join other Lego enthusiasts at the Library. We have lots of Legos to build with and our collection is growing, thanks to donations from the community. Lego club is appropriate for youth age 5-10 and is in the Community Room every Wednesday 3 pm-4 pm. No registration is necessary. Just come play!

Book Discussions (copies available at the circulation desk):

- Tuesday, 6:30 pm, February 2: Orphan Train by Christina Kline.
- Thursday, 7 pm, January 21: Flying Finish by Dick Francis.
- Thursday, 7 pm, February 18: Nine Dragons by Michael Connelly.

February Display A collection of maps from around the world will be on our walls and in the foyer display case for the month. Map collector Clare Rock will share some of the items from her collection which includes a variety of map styles from the very old to comtemporary maps of places around the globe.

Tax Prep Help AARP volunteers will offer tax preparation help for those over age 60 or low-income. Appointments are 10:15, 11:15, and 12:15 by calling the Library to reserve one.

What's in stock? Browse rfl.kohavt.org

New DVDs We recently made some great additions to DVDs in both the J and YA rooms: Coraline, The Wizard of Oz, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, The Sound of Music, Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy, Paddington, Inside Out, Peter Pan Live, The Fault in Our Stars, Despicable Me, Insurgent, Cinderella, We Bought a Zoo, A Little Princess, The Secret Garden, The Maze Runner, Annie, Mary Poppins, The Golden Compass, Ender's Game, Sleeping Beauty, The Secret of Roan Inish, Queen of the Elephants, The Last Mimzy, Ballet Shoes, Catching Fire, Max, Anne of Green Gables, and more.

New Picture Books Beyond the Pond by Joseph Kuefler, I Used to Be Afraid by Laura Seeger Vaccaro, The Princess and the Pony by Kate Beaton, Tiptoe Tapirs by Han-Min Kim, The Little Snowplow by Lora Koehler, Elephant in the Dark by Mina Javaherbin, Little Penguin Gets the Hiccups by Tadgh Bentley, Lenny & Lucy by Philip C. Stead, I Hear a Pickle by Rachel Isadora.

Intermediate Readers The Phantom Bully (Star Wars: Jedi Academy #3) by Jeffrey Brown, Star Wars: The Force Awakens Incredible Cross-Sections by Jason Fry, Star Wars: The Force Awakens Visual Dictionary by Pablo Hidalgo, Stella Batts Needs a New Name by Courtney Sheinmel, Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-a-Lot by Dav Pilkey, I Funny TV by James Patterson, Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics by Chris Gaberstein, Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley, Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories by R. J. Palacio, Robots Go Wild! by James Patterson, and Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms by Katherine Rundell.

YA Novels Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo, The Sleeper and the Spindle by Neil Gaiman, The Thing about Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin, Fairest: Levana's Story (The Luna Chronicles) by Marissa Meyer, The After-Room (The Apothecary Series) by Maile Meloy, The Kiss of Deception (The Remnant Chronicles) by Mary E. Pearson, and Joyride by Anna Banks.

Graphic Novels Windmill Dragons (A Leah and Alan Adventure) by David Nytra, Tippy and the Night Parade by Lilli Carre, A Year without Mom by Dasha Tolstikova, Written and Drawn by Henriette by Liniers, Star Wars: Skywalker Strikes by Aaron Cassaday Martin, The Wild Piano (A Philemon Adventure) by Fred, and Descender by Jeff Lemire.

Have you seen our new Playaway section in the J room? Check it out!

Richmond Area Playgroup A facilitated free, weekly playgroup in the Community Room every Wednesday while school is in session beginning at 8:45 am.

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

Huntington Public Library

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

We will be celebrating the arrival of the newest residents of Huntington! Any child born or adopted in 2015 is invited to this event. Come meet your child's future friends and classmates, and socialize with your neighbors. The Library will have a selection of new picture books to browse through, and you may choose a special book to be dedicated with a special bookplate including your child's name and birthdate, which will then become a part of our permanent lending collection.

Planet Huntington Road bike in the Italy from the Dolomites to Venice. Join Jeannette and Joe Segale on Sunday, January 31, at 5 pm as they share their road bike adventure cycling from the Dolomites of North Eastern Italy through mountain passes and vineyards into Venice. Their self-guided tour included quiet mountain villages, bustling towns, great food, interesting locals, and temporarily lost spouses.

More Planet Huntington Got fish heads? Got brown cheese? Join Rob and Jeanne Zimmerman on Sunday, Febraury 28, at 5 pm, as they experience the spectacular scenery of Norway, the land of the Midnight Sun: Touring Oslo & Bergen, hiking the Lofoten Islands (above the Artic Circle), biking and boating the fjords. Adventures by planes, trains, automobiles... buses, boats and funiculars too!

Film Event The Hungry Heart, a documentary on prescription drug addiction and recovery in Vermont, will be shown on Sunday, February 7, at 5 pm, at the Huntington Library. The film's award-winning director, Bess O'Brien of Kingdom County Productions, will run a Q and A after the screening /showing. Come be part of of an important community conversation about this issue. This event is generously sponsored by Kingdom County Productions, Huntington's Neighbors Helping Neigbors, Richmond Family Medicine, Pleasant Mount Farm Greenhouse, Beaudry's Store, The Good Run Incorporated, and the Huntington Public Library.

First Friday Movie Night Bring your best friends, wear your pajamas and get ready to watch Minions at the Library on Friday, February 5, at 7 pm. Popcorn provided.

New Adult Fiction The Storied Life of A.J.Fikrey by Gabrielle Zevin; The Rosie Project by Graeme Simison; A Star for Mrs. Blake by April Smith; After Alice by Gregory Maguire

Non-Fiction The Holy Earth - The Birth of a New Land Ethic by Liberty Hyde Bailey; The Forest Feast – Simple Vegetarian Recipes From My Cabin in the Woods by Erin Gleeson; The Etiquette of Illness by Susan P. Halpern; The Witches – Salem, 1692 by Stacy Schiff; Back to Eden – Landscaping with Native Plants by Frank W. Porter

Audiobooks The Lake House by Kate Morton; The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende; The Martian by Andy Weir; The End of Your Life Book Club by Will Schwalbe.

Children's Picture Books B is for Bethlehem; Seven Spools of Thread – A Kwanzaa Story by Angela Shelf Medearis; Snow What Fun! When Snowman Come to Life on Christmas Eve by Cheryl Hawkinson; 5-Minute Fancy Nancy Stories by Jane O'Connor and Robin Preiss Glasser; Ollie's Valentine by Olivier Dunrea.

Junior Fiction Emily Windsnap and the Ship of Lost Souls by Liz Kessler; The Tale of Rescue by Michael J. Rosen; The Marvels by Brian Selznick; Cooper & Packrat - Mystery on Pine Lake by Tamara Wight; Winter Shadow by Richard Knight; Hickory by Palmer Brown; The 5th Wave Books 1 & 2 – The 5th Wave and the Infinite Sea by Rick Yancy.

Playgroup Fridays, 10 am – noon. The Huntington Playgroup aims to provide a safe and enjoyable space for children and their caregivers to play, explore, and socialize. For more information contact facilitator, Jen O'Hora at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Story Time Fridays, 10:45 am All young children are invited to learn and practice pre-reading and math skills by listening to stories, holding books, singing, rhyming and fingerplays!

Local Author Launches Book

Local author Linda Cruise reads her new non-fiction children's picture book, Around the World from A to Z, at Stargazer Books in Richmond in December. Released by Tandem Light Press (Atlanta), the event also had a book signing, and raffle, which benefited Vermont DCF foster children. Many children attended the book launch in costume from somewhere around the world. Cruise has also recently read her book at the Richmond Free Library. Her next appearance is at the Jericho Town Library on March 5. The books are available locally from Stargazer Books. Follow her Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/aroundtheworldlindacruise/?ref=hl

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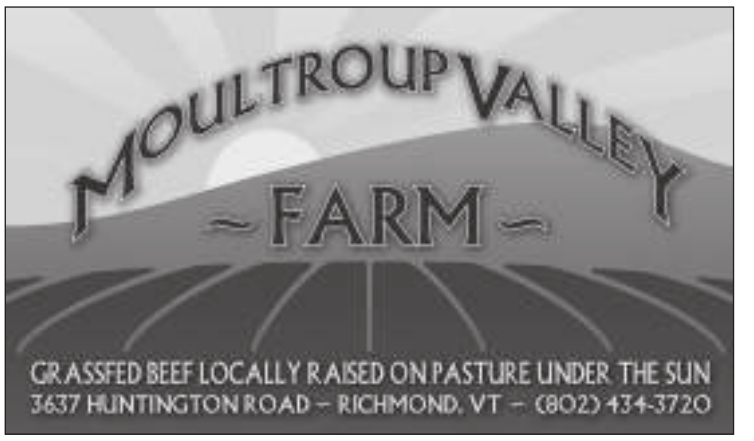

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Upcoming Lifelong Learning Programs

• Adult Coloring
February 11 at 1:30
Richmond Library
Switch off the phone, computer and TV. Come try the new coloring book trend that is helping adults benefit from the quiet zen that a coloring session can bring. Books and color pencils are provided. **FREE**

• Nutrition for Healthy Aging
March 10 at 1:30
Richmond Library
Nutrient needs change with age. A well balanced diet can help improve your overall health. **FREE**

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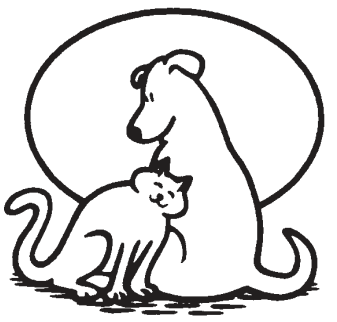

Drs. Virginia Clarke,
Daniel Hament & Cori Weiner

The Glass Slipper

February 6, 4 pm
February 7, 2 pm

Essex High School
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Arabesque Etc Dance
Winter Performance
$12 adult
$8 child

Tickets on Sale at Arabesque Etc Dance,
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Vote Could Pave Way for Route 2 Project

Reported by Greg Elias

Piggybacking on the state's roadwork, town officials will seek voter approval for $650,000 to pay for new sidewalks and curbs along East Main Street.

The Selectboard, at its January 4 meeting, instructed Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik to draft wording for the bond referendum on Town Meeting Day in March. Urbanik said he expected the Selectboard to approve the ballot language at its next session.

The money will pay for new sidewalks along an approximately 2,000-foot stretch of East Main Street, the portion of Route 2 east of Bridge Street. Other plans for so-called streetscape work include curbing and stormwater drainage work.

The proposal is the final piece of a larger project that will include repaving East Main Street and replacing aging, leak-prone water lines along the road. The Vermont Agency of Transportation will pave all of Route 2 through Richmond in coming years. Last June, local voters approved $1.2 million to pay for the water line replacement.

The town will try to coordinate its part of the work with the state's paving project to reduce costs and avoid tearing up new asphalt.

The streetscape work will improve current sidewalks. It will also beautify the approach to Richmond, said Selectboard member Lincoln Bressor.

"It's one of the main entrances to our town, and it looks really bad," he said during the Selectboard meeting, according to a video recording of the session by Mt. Mansfield Community Television.

In an email, Selectboard Chair David Sander seconded that opinion. "The existing sidewalks on East Main Street are in very poor condition," he said. "They are asphalt, narrow and not flat. Their condition has deteriorated significantly. They are hard to navigate. Many residents have mentioned that they have great difficulty walking on them."

Sander added that curbing is nearly nonexistent on the stretch of Route 2 Installing it will enhance safety by providing "a physical barrier between traffic and pedestrians."

Much of the Selectboard discussion revolved around the schedule for improvements along East Main Street and complying with stormwater requirements.

Spurred by new federal regulations, the state has pushed municipalities to reduce stormwater runoff that pollutes waterways. Unlike some central Chittenden County towns, Richmond has not yet been forced to make upgrades. But Selectboard members worried that future rulemaking might mandate stormwater improvements after the road project is done.

Brad Washburn of Green Mountain Engineering, the town's consultant for the project, told the Selectboard that plans call for replacing grates and catch basins as well as under-road storm sewer pipes. He said it is unclear if additional infrastructure to cleanse pollutants and sediment from stormwater will be required. He recommended seeking a state sign-off on plans before the project begins.

Sidewalk funding is another gray area. Washburn explained that the state would pay for repairs to existing sidewalks. But the town plans to replace asphalt walkways with concrete, which is considered an upgrade, not a repair. Washburn said the state might split the cost with Richmond if the town has a policy of replacing existing sidewalks with concrete.

Selectboard member Bard Hill said regardless of state funding, water and sewer users don't want to also pay for the streetscape work. The water line replacement cost will be borne exclusively by municipal water and sewer users, who represent a small fraction of all Richmond residents. Board members unanimously voted to put the streetscape funding on the Town Meeting Day ballot.

A Matter of Timing Sander said the town should time the streetscape work and stormwater improvements to mesh with the paving. "Not coordinating these projects to coincide as one project would be financially irresponsible," he said.

The roadwork involves digging up the concrete base before laying new asphalt. Excavation will also be required to install new water and stormwater pipes. By coordinating all the work, Sander said, the town can minimize costs. The paving project involves a complete rebuild of the 8.3-mile stretch of Route 2 from the Richmond/Williston line to Bolton, said Jesse Devlin, program manager with the state Agency of Transportation. The concrete roadbed will be replaced with gravel mixed with reclaimed material from the old base. Then the road will be paved.

"This is considered our most complex and involved type of paving project," Devlin said. The anticipated cost is $9 million.

Devlin pledged that AOT would work with the town "in an effort to minimize/eliminate overlap and make it beneficial for both parties."

The paving project is still years away. Detailed design work will begin in 2017, Devlin said. Culverts will be replaced in 2019, with paving scheduled for the following year.

That extended timeline came as a surprise to Urbanik, who said the state has changed paving plans for Route 2 between Williston and Waterbury multiple times over the past few years. Nonetheless, he said, the town will push ahead with the water line replacement this year. If voters approve funding, the town also intends to complete streetscape improvements – with the potential exception of parts of the stormwater system – as soon as possible.

"We just would be ahead of the game," Urbanik said.

Olga Hallock Service Award

The Huntington Selectboard seeks nominations for the Olga Hallock Community Service Award, given to formally recognize residents who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to the community by:

1.participating in a number of community service projects or
2. participating in one project, which required a significant commitment of time and/or resources.

Include in a letter to the Selectboard by January 27, 2016:

1. name of person nominated;
2. nominator's name, signature, full address and phone number;
3. a biographical sketch of the nominee that includes award justification (describe, in specific terms, the work or contribution that justifies the nomination);
4. highlights of the accomplishments, particularly impact and results.

The award will be presented at Town Meeting.

Address nominations to: Olga Hallock Award Nomination, Huntington Selectboard, 4930 Main Road, Huntington, Vermont 05462

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard meeting December 7, 2015 began with Town Administrator Barbara Elliott announcing completion of a Highway project on Beane Road addressing drainage issues. The Board reviewed correspondence from Huntington resident Corinna Parnapy, District Manager for the Natural Resources Conservation District, who is interested in working with the Town to provide aquatic organism passage through culverts. Board Chair Dori Barton suggested the state database might contain information from a 2007-2008 Huntington River and Stream assessment regarding potential aquatic organism passage project sites. Parnapy will meet with the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC).

Stormwater Management The Board considered information about the 20-year management plans required from municipalities to meet the requirements of recently passed State stormwater legislation.

During a discussion about Town paving projects and their cost, Barton asked Town Treasurer Kathleen Clark what the difference of doing paving all at once rather than bonding for each individual project would be. Clark replied, "Money has to come from somewhere, probably taxes." Barton added, "We can't take advantage of VTrans (Vermont Department of Transportation) grants by doing it all at once."

Library Budget The Huntington Public Library (HPL) Trustees Lori Richland, Heidi Racht and Paula Kelley joined the Board for budget planning. The Library is looking for a 1.45% increase coming out of the General Fund.

Cemetery Discussion Cemetery Trustees Kelley and Racht talked about the cemeteries' "minimalist budget." A large amount of 2014-2015 expenses were due to tree removal from the December 2014 storm, the Trustees reported. By law, the Town must pay for maintenance, said Racht. Board member Andrew Hendrickson asked how repairs in the inactive Center or Gore Cemeteries are covered. Racht and Kelley answered, "Work in the past has been mostly a volunteer effort."

Sign Off on Suit A motion to accept a check for $180 from Suburban Propane and waive the right to pursue further legal action in a class action suit brought by the Attorney General passed. The Library used to be a Suburban Propane customer.

Discussion of Advertised Property Elliott shared research on a real estate listing for Bert White Road property. "There is nothing wrong with how it is being advertised," stated Elliott, "since the new property owners would be involved in how the property will be subdivided."

Change to Capital Plan The Board spent time looking at the Capital Plan, leading to a discussion of the 2016-2017 budget. "This year we are going in with considerably higher operations, we kicked the can so far down the road we are faced with much more than the 2% [increase] hoped for. Because we have pushed infrastructure projects out so far, including pavement and equipment, some of the funding for this has to come out of the operations budget," said Elliott.

Selectboard member Roman Livak continued, "We started off with pie in the sky but we have a lot more data and are more realistic about where we are in the Capital Plan." Barton concurred, "We can't continue with level funding, it's not realistic." Livak responded, "At 2%, we were not able to pay for what we had to." The motion to approve the Capital plan with a change of formatting passed.

The Board held a special budget meeting on December 14, 2015.

Resignation During this meeting, Selectboard member Helen Keith submitted her resignation from her three-year term on the Board, with two years remaining, effective Town Meeting Day. Keith hoped that a candidate would be on the ballot, so the Board would not have to make a one-year appointment after Town Meeting.

Budgets and Audit At the Selectboard meeting December 21, 2015, the Board reviewed adjustments to the Capital plan based on an updated quote for paving. The Board moved to pass the Capital Plan as modified. The Board also reviewed changes to the General Fund budget including actual expenses, and moved to adopt this modified budget.

Melanie Rodjenski from Fothergill, Segale & Valley, CPAs, presented the professional audit to the Board. Rodjenski reported the Town's audit was clean. Rodjenski will issue a letter of correction for a couple of typographic errors within the report, as noted by Board members and the Town Auditors.

Hinesburg Hollow Road Paving Project The first Huntington Selectboard meeting of the new year on January 4, 2016, began with Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger relaying different prices for Hinesburg Hollow Road paving. The Board passed a motion to approve a paving contract with S.T. Paving, as part of this year's budget. The project should be done in May or June, Alger said.

Revised Driveway Policy The Board discussed its driveway culvert policy. Currently, the Road Foreman inspects culverts after the property owner installs them, then the Town is responsible for culvert maintenance 12 months later. Alger proposed changing the policy to require owner maintenance for 36 months. Livak proposed increasing the application fee for new curb cuts. The motion to increase the fee and change the time frame of transfer to Town responsibility for culvert maintenance from 12 months to 36 months after the inspection of the final driveway construction passed unanimously.

Town Meeting Preparation The Board began reviewing Town Meeting articles, discussing how articles will be presented. Barton suggested being prepared upon the defeat of any articles, checking how this will affect the General Fund and what the Board's response is going to be.

The Board considered the Energy Committee's request for a Town Meeting Article asking voters to establish Huntington as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) District. PACE offers 1.9% low interest loans to property owners for energy efficiency improvements. The Board voted unanimously to grant the Energy Committee's request for this Town Meeting Article.

Other Business The Selectbotard was asked to contribute $25 to help sponsor screening the movie, The Hungry Heart, to be shown February 7. Selectboard member Nancy Stoddard, asked, "Did we run this through our own process for supporting events?" Board member Helen Keith emphasized that the importance of the Town supporting public education about opiate addiction was more important than the money. The Board planned to continue this discussion at its next meeting.

The Board considered and approved a request from Brewster-Pierce Memorial School to waive the zoning permit application fee for the construction of a "pagoda-like" structure for outdoor learning.

Appointments:

- Ryan Elliott to the Board of Listers until March 1, to fill the vacancy created by Les Hunton's resignation, passed.

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TAX NOTICE

Town of Richmond

Third Quarter 2015-2016 tax payment is due Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

Town Clerk's Office will be open until 6 pm on February 16 to accept payments

A late fee of 1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 17.

Postmarks on or before February 16 will be accepted as timely and there is a TOWN CENTER DROP BOX located by the side door across from the post office entrance.

See online payment at richmondvt.com.

Town of Huntington

The 3rd installment of taxes is due February 16, 2016.

Taxes can be mailed, but must be postmarked February 16, 2016 or earlier.

Office Hours Tax Week

Monday, February 15, 8 am – 7 pm

Tuesday, February 16, 8 am – 6 pm

Payments through the door slot at the Town Office are accepted up until midnight on February 16.

1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 17.

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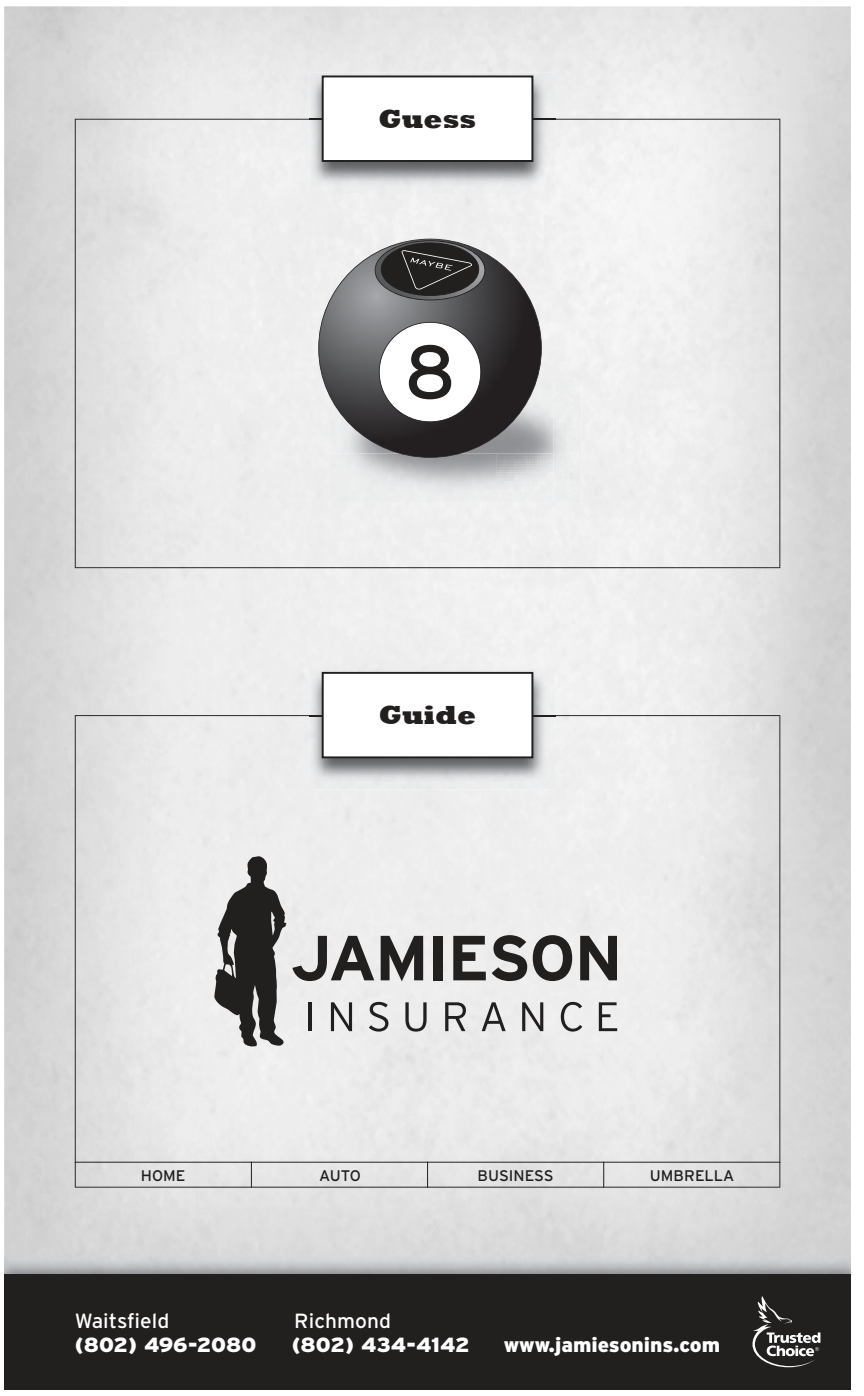

MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

"They moved our cheese," said Finance Committee Chair Kevin Campbell. One factor in the labyrinthine process of determining the school tax rate each year is the State's definition of the "Equalized Pupil." The State changing this definition decreased the number of Equalized Pupils for the district by more than 50 students, which in turn lowered the dollars allocated to the district significantly. However, due to the six-month painstaking process of working with each school, each administrator, the Special Education and Transportation departments, and the merger tax incentive reduction, the overall budget for MMMUSD/CESU will show an approximate overall increase of only 1%. This number includes a multi-year-long deferment of redesign and repaving the CHMS/Underhill ID parking lot. One-time and recurring savings gleaned from the district merger will be outlined at a future time – probably in the January Superintendent's report. Declining enrollment over the past four years is a driving factor, and reduction in hours in some positions were made. A narrated budget presentation is available online. There will be several public forums, a flyer mailed to each taxpayer, and an Annual Report published before Town Meeting Day.

Mo' Money In concert with former CESU Facilities Coordinator Joe O'Brien, new facilities Coordinator Jeff Forward and CHMS Principal Mark Carbone, CESU is investigating the feasibility of relocating Central Office out of leased space in the Richmond Town Center to one wing of CHMS. There is room at the school. It would save over $50,000 per year in leasing fees. Ideally, the move would "pay for itself in two-three years." Design, development and submission to the Finance Committee for review and approval is targeted for the 2016/2017 fiscal year.

Ken Remsen was appointed Treasurer of MMMUSD/CESU to replace Tom Levesque.

Huntington News After a public forum, the School Board has submitted paperwork to the state to unify its elementary school with the existing Modified Union. Assuming approval of this paperwork by the state, the Board could warn an article for a vote on Town Meeting Day. Andrea Ogilvie is now the Brewster-Pierce School Board Chair.

Related to this topic, MMMUSD Board Chair Jon Milazzo specifically asked Underhill Central School Principal Barbara Nason how her school was affected by the merger. She stated she was always a strong proponent of merging.

Teachers' Supervision & Evaluation Presentation Alberghini gave a power point presentation outlining how/when/and why each teacher in the district is evaluated. Student learning is the core of the system. Teachers review test data to note areas to improve learning, write measurable goals, and reflect on growth on the end of year. The administration observes teachers to provide specific feedback. It is a "guide to support people to be their best." There is intentional training for administrators in order to evaluate the teacher's goals. A good administrator's recommendation is specific, concise and measurable. Recommendations are not punitive. Any teacher who needs specific help has an intensive assistance plan. Huntington representative Megs Keir noted these evaluations/reflections "respects the individual …. and mirrors the Personal Learning Plan" the students have.

Personal Learning Plans MMU Principal Mike Weston, CHMS and BRMS Principals Kevin Hamilton and Mark Carbone presented a summary to date of the implementation of the state mandated (Act 77) Personal Learning Plans for each individual student. Implementation began this year with grades 7, 9, 11 (and some 12) with more grades being integrated in future years. A minimum of one meeting per year between student, advisor/teacher and parents is mandated in order to identify the students' interests and strengths and develop a plan for the next year. In no way does this "pigeonhole students into careers." Said Weston. One problem identified to date which is being addressed: ratio of students to advisors – ideally the plan is designed for one teacher/advisor to work with 1-2 students – currently the advisors are working with groups of 10 students. Another problem is that a portion of the plan directs the middle school student to "reflect" on his/her achievements/strengths/and interests to plan for the following year. Carbone remarked this was not the easiest task to implement with a 13-year-old.

The Board continued its commitment to visit each facility, seeing Brewster Pierce Memorial School on December 7 and Underhill Central School on the December 21. In each case, the principal conducted the tour, exhibited the strong points and listed the needs of their respective physical plants. Each described one quality which makes their school unique. Brewster-Pierce uses one teacher for each class for two consecutive years. This "looping" occur in grades 1 and 2, and 3 and 4. Underhill Central has a deeply integrated cross-curriculum arts program. This fall, for instance, while the classroom teachers met together for 90 minutes for planning purposes, the art, music, and physical education teachers rotated the 60 students through 3 stations that explored the art, music, and activities of Native American culture – as an in-depth enhancement to the social studies curriculum.

The Board's continued consideration of converting to the Policy Governance Model continued. Using the Draft Model Policies developed in previous meetings, Val Gardner of VSBA led the group through dealing with a simulated crisis to experience how Policy Governance would work. The board will continue to practice the model in future months – led through various scenarios by other board members.

[This report has been augmented by written reports from the Superintendent, the Finance Committee and on-line Budget and Personal Learning Plan Presentations available at www.cesu.k12.vt.us. Alberghini noted Richmond Principal Michael Berry" has been invaluable in supporting our presentations… elevated our communication and media efforts… (which) can only help the system."]

Richard (Dick) Streeter
West Bolton
May 13, 1933-July 27, 2014

We miss you more and more!
Brothers and Sisters
Joe, Johnnie, Raymond, Nellie, Mona, Phyllis, Betty, Dorothy, Pearl

CE Wolverines: Future Superbowl Sunday Stars

Wolverine Running Back Dominic Lewis #38 (from Richmond) avoiding a South Burlington defender with Quarterback Nolan Barber #7 (Jericho) watching and Lineman Dylan Little #96 (Bolton) out front blocking. Game was played at Mills Riverside Park in Jericho on October 24. Photo Siobhan Barber.

As football fans gear up for Superbowl Sunday on February, it is fun to reminisce about the many hours put into the local youth football league by the players, coaches - and parents! The hard work has paid off. The Wolverines are the 2015 Northern Vermont Youth Football Division 1 Champions. The Wolverines made it back to back titles by beating the Essex Chargers 14-12 on October 31, 2015 at Colins Perley Recreation Center in St. Albans. The Wolverines now have titles in 2009, '12, '14 and '15 and were runners up in 2001 and 2008 This years 8th Grade Wolverines will look to move on and join the Cougars next fall and play for Coach Richards and his staff.

The Wolverine crowd was loud and supportive all game and witnessed a thrilling championship game. Essex played extremely well and deserve a lot of credit considering a lop-sided loss to the Wolverines earlier in the season.

The Haywire Hayride

by Eliott Sands

"Want to take the Scenic Route?" the man questioned. My family, our friends Chris, Sarah, May, Conrad and I were at Shelburne Orchards and decided to take the wagon back to our cars. I hopped on the trailer and thought, "This will be fun!" We started to move and hit a bump. "OUCH!" I roared. Then we started uphill. "UH OH," I thought.

I felt my stomach crawl into my throat. I could not see the top of the hill yet. As the top came into view, much to my disbelief I saw MORE BUMPS!!! "Ow Ow Ow Ow Ow!" I exclaimed as the tractor accelerated. I closed my eyes and crossed my fingers that the ride's completion was near the end. We hit a bump. "OUCH!" I squealed. "Don't close your eyes, you can't prepare yourself for more bumps," I muttered.

Next the driver swerved into the parking lot (our car was not in this particular parking lot). "We're going to hit something, I'm sure of it," I told my sister. Frantically I made sure I was in a position that I could see the ground and I was comfortable but safe. The tractor sped up until it felt like we were going 1,000 miles per hour. Next thing I know we're on a wooden bridge made from skinned logs. "Great, just what I want to see," I think.

As soon as we speed off the bridge onto the smooth grass I see our car. "Finally," I sigh a sigh of relief. Right before we reach our car we hit the biggest bump yet as if it's goodbye. "Well we're getting off," the driver says, "I know you had fun." "Oh yeah," I replied. We say goodbye to our friends and drive home. This was an unforgettable experience.

—Elliot Sands, Grade 4, Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

Down to Earth Learning at Brewster-Pierce School

Photos: Marie Abbott-Riggs

Submitted by Ruth Blodgett

Research strongly suggests what parents and teachers have long suspected, that learning from nature in the outdoors engages all the senses and benefits the growth of young minds. To take advantage of this educational opportunity waiting outside the traditional classroom, private endeavors such as the Crow's Path in Burlington and the Richmond Forest School have gained popularity in recent years. Inspired by programs such as these, parents initiated Forest Fridays for kindergarteners at Brewster Pierce Memorial School this fall, with the support of school administration and faculty.

Patti Delaney, then a pre-school parent, approached Principal Sally Hayes and kindergarten teacher Brianne Parker last spring about constructing an outdoor classroom space for implementing a full day open air learning adventure. Delaney's son Henry had participated in a variety of Audubon Center programs including a Forest Pre-school for four-year-olds. "Outside learning seems like such a natural for our kids in Huntington," says Delaney, "- and as educators ourselves, my husband [Dean Menke] and I know there is plenty of research and data to show that experiential, exploratory, nature-based education is a great way for kids to learn, grow, and develop."

Parker and Hayes were enthusiastic about the idea of hosting an all day science-learning program. Hayes realized the need for volunteer support along with a naturalist to design lessons. Grant money from Ben and Jerry's and Redducs helped fund the assistance of Sophie Maowita and Debbie Archer from Green Mountain Audubon at the program's beginning. "Once we determined what would be needed, Sally Hayes stepped right up and made it happen. She is a great leader!" comments Delaney.

Each week, Forest Friday revolves around a theme, which is explored through observation, reading, singing, and playing. Every Friday there are between three and six parent (and grandparent) volunteers helping activities run smoothly while emphasizing inquiry. Snack and lunch also take place in the outdoor classroom, utilizing space behind the school near the nature path. Parker works to ensure the experience imbeds mathematics and literacy lessons aligned with Common Core standards. "Some of the best learning opportunities have been those that were unplanned but occurred naturally outdoors: sorting milkweed pods and counting them, spreading seeds, noticing there were more insects and living things in specific areas and speculating why, etc.," remarks Parker. Working together on projects also provides social lessons for her 20 students, Parker noted. Throughout the remainder of the week, children can explore items they have gathered kept in the classroom "nature bin."

As the program moves forward, kindergarten parent and active Forest Friday volunteer Kasie Enman has assumed the role of curriculum designer for Forest Fridays. Enman, who previously taught at Robinson Elementary School, Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) and the Green Mountain Audubon Center, has a Masters Degree in Educating for Sustainability. "I see my role as merging the ethic of outdoor education, state curricular standards, and models of other similar programs in a way that is fun and enriching!" Enman says, adding," The kids surprise us every week with their imaginations, the learning connections they make, and the way they work together in new ways." Enman and Delaney would like to see Forest Fridays expand school wide and are exploring grant opportunies to fund the effort.

As with any school program, many staff members contribute to Forest Friday's success. Food Service Director Alison Forest prepares bag lunches every Friday, Maintenance Director Sandy Heyman donated logs for seating, Hayes made a Weather Station for the outdoor classroom, and paraprofessional Marie Riggs has provided logistical support. Riggs has described these outdoor days as "magical."

Hayes reports, "The majority of parents who have volunteered or spoken up about the program are very happy that their child has this opportunity." Parker concludes, "I think I can speak for most kindergarten teachers when I say that some of the best learning comes when children are moving and playing. It takes a lot of planning between parents and staff; however, the children just seem happy outdoors. I feel fortunate to have such a collaborative group of parents that are so involved in their child's education."

Weather 2015: From Extreme to Extreme

Submitted by Robert Low

Every year brings new weather stories. No exception for us, from record cold in February to record warmth in December and our third "100 year storm" in the last five years in June, records falling with regularity here and elsewhere.

January began with a New Year's Day skate on Gillett Pond, bringing area residents together with many from as far as Montana. Snow, then rain followed by record cold waves just over the first week were the prelude to excellent month-long winter sports throughout the area. Snowfall was near average, with 17 days of measureable white stuff. There was no traditional January thaw, temperatures rising briefly into the 40s but twice. Coupled with 16 night temperatures below zero, the monthly average came in some 3 degrees below normal. We were spared the several coastal storms that by the end of the month already had dumped some 3 feet in areas around Boston and elsewhere along the New England Coast.

February brought more snow and coldest ever temperatures up on Wes White Hill since records here began in 1971. Starting back in January, there were 37 consecutive days here when the temperature did not reach freezing. Coupled with 22 nights of below zero temperatures, the average February temperature was some 12 degrees below normal, moderation occurring briefly on the 22nd - a balmy month high of 29. Unusual events included 6 inches of snow at zero degrees on the 2nd, and freezing drizzle at 7 degrees on the 8th. Lake Champlain reportedly closed on the 17th. Total precipitation for the month was below but snowfall above long term average. Boston had experienced its third major storm by the 9th, some 70 inches having fallen, only to have a fourth storm by the 17th, areas near Boston counting a total of 8 feet so far, snow which in the end did not entirely disappear from snow banks until July 14.

March began with continued cold bringing mud season here on Wes White Hill. Much was due to road reconstruction that had taken place the summer before, areas without reconstruction not faring nearly so well.

May was a complete turnaround from previous months with record warmth, some 8 degrees above normal and splendid weather appreciated by gardeners. Precipitation was way below normal despite heavy major rain the end of the month, though was the wettest on record for the USA. The stage was set for the wettest June on record here – just short of 8 ½ inches for us. Seldom more than a single day without precipitation, ruining haying operations and impacting all but the sandiest gardens. Our area led the State with somewhat greater than 5 inches of rain in 48 hours beginning the 9th, a highly localized rain event, some areas of Huntington substantially spared. For Richmond, major road washouts occurred on Cochran Road, particularly Dugway, Greystone Drive. Wes White Hill was all but cut off for a brief period. A water main break due to culvert failure behind Mann and Machine, left Richmond Village without water. The Gillett Pond dam withstood the onslaught once again, this being the third 100 year storm in the past 5 years. The month ended with slightly above average temperature.

Pick-up soccer – teeshirts! – was a popular activity in Huntington Center on Christmas Eve. Photo: Noe Lindemuth

July began with more rain but quickly turned for the better, a bit warmer than normal with above average precipitation due to the early storms. August was warmer than usual with a number of days in the 80s, a heat wave in the third week. What was to become an extended dry spell began mid-month. September extended the dry spell with record high temperatures mid-month, much of September featuring splendid summer weather. The August / September combo helped bring in local garden produce, though tomato blight unfortunately was still with most of us.

Bronwyn Low and her aunt, Meg Low, enjoying Christmas Day canoeing on Gillett Pond. Photo: Robert Low

October was normal weather wise, the first meaningful frost coming mid-month November, however, was some 8 degrees above normal and very dry. Certainly no sign of winter here yet, though the Midwest had a major pre-Thanksgiving storm.

December brought more record warmth. The temperature record for the December 24, set in 2014, was broken again – by some 12 degrees – setting a new record for the month, 68 in Burlington, 66 up here. Snowless conditions continued but for a short-lived 1 inch teaser just before Christmas, a near full moon making up some for snowless conditions Christmas Eve. Excellent Canoeing for some on Gillett Pond Christmas day. Winter of sorts finally showed signs of arriving between Christmas and the New Year with 3-5 inches of snow, mixed with sleet and rain.

So what might explain record-making cold last February? As described to the writer by Leslie-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, UVM Professor and State Climatologist, the warmer Arctic (Science, 2015, 347:819) has reduced the normal temperature gradient between it and mid-latitudes. This led to hemorrhaging of the polar vortex of cold air circulating the arctic allowing extreme cold to filter into our area. Changes in storm track in the northeast caused by a block in the north Atlantic to the normal west to east storm progression resulted in the coastal record snows.

The bookend feature was the record warm temperatures absence of snow in the northeast in November and December. This was starkest in the Buffalo area which went from some 7 feet of snow over those two months in 2014, to a record zero snowfall well into December, 2015. For us it was the least pre-Christmas snow in 45 years of record-keeping. The year ended the hottest on record world-wide a record expected to be broken in 2016. Science, 2015, 341 (8/2) offers an informed discussion of Natural Systems and Climate Change.

One explanation offered for the warm year-end temperatures relates to the Artic Oscillation (AO: http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/detect/climate-ao.shtml). The November-December pattern kept the Jet stream on a mostly east / west orientation and cold air locked up north.

Additional responsibility may lie with the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/data/teledoc/nao.shtml). Its pattern at year end favored above average temperatures in the Eastern US; and a storm track putting us on the warm side of northeast storms.

These effects are reinforced by what likely will be the strongest El Nino ever (http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ensostuff/states/VT.html;

http://apollo.lsc.vsc.edu/classes/met130/notes/chapter10/elnino.html). El Nino generally brings the Northeast warmer temperatures with about normal precipitation to our area. Looking at records across the State during El Nino years, there is no consistent snowfall pattern for the season: no clear indication of what is to come this winter.

Climate warming remains a political football but a scientifically-based reality, bringing what knowledgeable people have labeled the start of the Anthropogenic geologic period (Elizabeth Kolbert, The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History). From a geologic point of view, this started mid-20th Century (http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35259194). However, as explained by UVM Professor Nick Gotelli and co-investigators in Nature, it began with agriculture some 6,000 years ago, as a dramatic restructuring of plant and animal communities (http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmpr/?Page=news&storyID=22035&category=ucommall).

Fortunately, reality may be stepping in. The recent Paris Climate Summit resulted in a first international agreement, though one that will not appreciably reduce the likelihood of a greater than 2C rise in global temperatures that has been the target. Closer to home, Huntington's past Representative, Rebecca Ellis, reported in TimesINK on State Act-66, placing Vermont in the lead in terms of addressing the issues of carbon emissions from the transportation and heating sectors.

To paraphrase E.O Wilson, the integrity of our natural world depends on balance. Humankind has reached no such dynamic equilibrium; indeed, has no real sense of what that might entail. This leaves Armageddon still as a strong possibility. Much to learn. Much to do.

The year for us ended placidly with a glimpse of winter between Christmas and the New Year, but still awaiting its arrival.

[Bob Low can be reached at 434-3132 or Bob.low@uvm.edu]

Area Residents Honored

President's List - Fall 2016

Local students recently named to the State University of New York at Potsdam President's List, in recognition of their academic excellence in the Fall 2015 semester:

Christopher Danilich, Richmond, Music Education

Mikayla Kelemen, Jonesville, Music Education

Anthony Perri, Jericho, Childhood/Early Childhood Education

Victoria Rosales, Jericho, Music Education

To achieve the honor of being on the President's List, each student must have satisfactorily completed 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Dean's List - Fall 2015

Kathryn Devlin, Bolton, a member of the Class of 2019, majoring in Studio Art, Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire

Matthew Sem, Jericho, Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire

University of Vermont

Maya Bower, Richmond, Ecological Agriculture major

Samantha Bursell, Richmond, Exercise and Movement Sciences major

Addison R Campbell, Starksboro, English major

Alison E Chivers, Jericho, Medical Laboratory Sciences major

Skyler P Davis, Jericho, Public Communication major

Christopher Erkson, Richmond, Engineering major

Mia M Faesy, Starksboro, Public Communication major

Samuel R Hartman, Jericho, Junior Business Administration major

Alaina I Hendrickson, Huntington, Art History major

Michael J Lawler, Richmond, Neuroscience major

Austin C Merrill, Jericho, Biological Science major

Sarah A Patton, Jericho, Psychology major

David A Polson, Jericho Center, Biology major

Andrew Ridgely, Richmond, Computer Science & Information Systems major

Jacob September, Huntington, Electrical Engineering major

Sydney Sloan, Richmond, Community & International Development major

Champlain College

John Brown, Jericho, majoring in Software Development.

Alex Carrier, Jericho, majoring in Criminal Justice.

Niles Fromm, Starksboro, majoring in Graphic Design & Digital Media.

Gabrielle Garfield, Bolton, majoring in Secondary Education-Social Studies.

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

Sozo Moon, Jericho, majoring in Communication.

Amanda Nielsen, Huntington, majoring in Marketing.

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

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

Nicholas Robbins, Jericho, majoring in Game Programming.

Chelsea Rublee, Starksboro, majoring in Communication.

William Sprano, Huntington, majoring in Management Information Systems.

Jericho Energy Task Force Film

The fifth annual Jericho Energy Task Force Film festival will begin on January 22 with a 7 p.m. showing of the film, BLUE VINYL, at the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library BLUE VINYL is the story of one woman's quest for environmentally sound cladding for her parents' house and investigates the negative health effects of polyvinyl chloride. An award-winner at the Sundance Film Festival the film was described as "scary and hilarious" by the NEW YORK TIMES.

The Jericho Energy Task Force works to find quality films which both educate and entertain. Task force members will provide cider and popcorn. This is a waste-free event so please bring your own mugs and bowls. For more information, contact Larry Lamb at lblamb@hotmail.com.

The Jericho Energy Task Force, working with guidance from the Selectboard, was formed in April 2009 to help promote energy awareness and efficiency in the community. A core group of volunteers focuses on four areas: energy efficiency, transportation, food production, and renewable energy. The monthly meeting are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Jericho Town Hall. Email for more information: enerjericho@gmail.com.

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Towns of Richmond & Huntington

Positions Open for March 1, 2016
Town Meeting Vote by Australian Ballot

RICHMOND

Position	Length of Term
Moderator	1 year
Town Clerk	3 years
Town Treasurer	3 years
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Cemetery Trustee	5 years
Library Trustee	5 years
Constable	1 year
MMMU School Director (two openings)	3 years

Petitions must contain 1% of the eligible voters from the Town of Richmond (30 names) and must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 25, 2016. A consent of candidate form is due at the same time. Petitions consent forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

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

HUNTINGTON

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

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

The petition must be returned to the Huntington Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 25, 2016.

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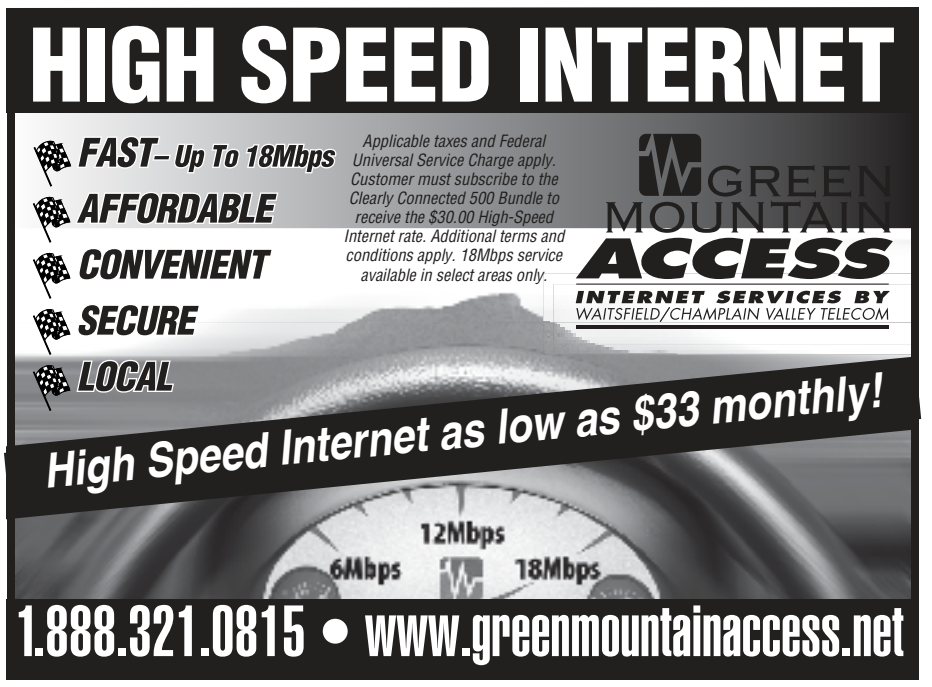

News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn B. Macrae, 434-6715

On Ash Wednesday, February 10, Christians around the world are marked with ashes as a visceral symbol that reminds us of where we come from and where we return to at the end of life. When we are marked with ashes, we celebrate having a fresh start and a new way of living as we begin the forty days of Lent. This year I will again be offering Ashes To Go from 4 pm to 6 pm in front of the Richmond Market. You will find me standing quietly outside the market with a sign saying Ashes To Go. Last year, more than 30 people stopped and received ashes-to-go! All are welcome, regardless of religious affiliation. If you prefer to receive your ashes inside, the church will also host an Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm in our Sanctuary.

As our church begins our Lenten journey, we will ponder questions about living in the place where issues of faith and life meet such as - Where do you find your voice in responding to the rising of religious violence and extremism from ISIS? How do you respond to the Syrian refugee crisis? What does your faith say about gun violence? How do you practice forgiveness when you've been wronged? Where is God when bad things happen to good people?

In order for the church to be transformative and relevant, both today, and a decade from now, we need to be asking questions that go to the very heart of what it means to be human together. We also need communities of faith to remind us that we are all beloved and we are called to share God's love with the world. Recently I was tasked by my denomination, the United Church of Christ, to ask the question "What will a transformational church look like in ten years?"

If you are 40 or under, and interested in this question, there is an online survey with a chance to win a free iPad here: https://www.research.net/r/future-offaith_iPad I will also be conducting one-on-one interviews as well as a focus group in the next month. If you have any interest in engaging this question, whether or not you have any religious affiliation, I'd be very interested in talking to you and/or answering any questions about the online survey. Please send me an email Katelyn@rccucc.org or give me a call at 434-2053.

And finally, may God be with us all as we continue our faithful pondering of deep questions and enter this new season of Lent.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

Father Lance Harlow, 434-2521

This year parishioners at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church are going to participate in events hosted at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Burlington celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The month of January is dedicated to recognizing lay ministries. A lay ministry is a function that is performed by a man or woman who is not a cleric—that is, someone who is not an ordained deacon, priest or bishop.

There are a variety of lay ministries in the Catholic Church. Some ministries are quite visible with people serving in various capacities to help the priest. They act as lectors reading from the Bible during the Mass. Some are trained to help with the distribution of Holy Communion if there is a large crowd. Other lay ministers work more behind the scenes, visiting the sick, working on various committees, decorating the church, providing music or teaching religious education. The motivation for all of these ministries is their love for Jesus and the expression of that love through concrete action.

It is important to inculcate the value of lay ministry in the Church even with children. Today both boys and girls can function as altar servers. We have special Masses where students in the religious education classes do the readings, take up the offertory collection and help out with the music—depending on their age and ability. This past Christmas, due to a variety of serious illnesses, our adult musicians were unavailable for the Christmas Eve Mass. In their stead, a group of our high school and middle school musicians formed a chorus and led the music. It was executed marvelously. Already they are demonstrating their love for Jesus in action and I pray that they will continue to manifest that responsibility for their parish into adulthood.

When a priest has two or more churches like I do with Richmond and Williston, these dedicated lay ministers make a big difference. Many times priests are pressed for time running between churches every weekend. The lay ministers ensure that everything flows smoothly—and it's fun!

One of the advantages of a small parish like Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is that we don't get bogged down by big committees with endless meetings. Our dedicated lay ministers help ensure the continuity of parish life from one pastor to the next and serve the Lord joyfully in every generation.

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

MEETING NOTICE

Conveyance of Perpetual Easement for the Huntington Town Forest
February 22, 2016, 7:30 pm • Town Office

On Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:30 pm, the Huntington Selectboard will hold a public meeting at the Huntington Town Office (downstairs) to discuss the Selectboard's intention to convey a non-exclusive perpetual right-of-way easement over a strip of land in the Huntington Town Forest. The easement will be thirty feet (30') in width, generally centered on an existing eight to ten feet (8'-10') trail, for winter use by the Catamount Trail Association, Inc. (CTA) and the general public from November through April as a back country ski and snowshoe trail.

The purpose of CTA, a non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Vermont, is to develop, maintain and protect as a public resource the Catamount Trail, which is a 300-mile long back country ski trail that runs from Massachusetts to the Canadian Border and is the longest cross country ski trail in the country. The organization is committed to encouraging and expanding outdoor recreational opportunities, including backcountry skiing and snowshoeing, in the Easement Area, and recognizes, acknowledges and agrees that permanently protecting the Catamount Trail will provide for the recreational enjoyment of the general public and will yield a significant public benefit.

The conveyance of the easement will be signed by the Town on or about March 1, 2016 unless a petition is filed by February 29, 2016 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 by the Catamount Trail Association, Inc.

The Selectboard Meeting on February 22, 2016 will provide an opportunity to understand the details of the conveyance of the easement and inform the Selectboard about the opinions of Town residents regarding the conveyance.

Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JANUARY 23: Annual Game Supper, seatings 5:30-6:30 and 6:30-7:30, Holy Family Parish Hall, Lincoln Street, Essex Junction. Adults $18; under 12 years $6. Benefit Essex Junction Knights of Columbus charity and scholarship funds. Tickets/reservations: Barry Corbin, 878-8314.

FEBRUARY 4: Second annual Harry Potter Book Night, celebrated throughout the world, and at Phoenix Books Essex with a Night of Spells, at 6 pm. Young wizards, witches and Muggles will be treated to an evening of games, activities, readings and quizzes. We'll be dressing up the venue and the Cafe at Phoenix Books will serve up specials inspired by some of the scrumptious wizard foods in the books. Free and open to the public, and all ages are welcome. Phoenix Books Essex is located at 21 Essex Way in the Essex Outlets. Information: 872-7111 or visit www.phoenixbooks.biz.

FEBRUARY 13: Birds of Vemront Museum open for the Great Backyard Bird Count, 10 am - 3 pm. More info: http://gbbc.birdcount.org/

FEBRUARY 13-15: Our Soil, Our Health, 34th annual NOFA Vermont Winter Conference, University of Vermont, Burlington. Keynotes speakers, 100+ workshops, speakers, and celebrations, Children's Conference, farmers market, lunch.Early registration discount until February 4, with additional discounts for NOFA Vermont members and volunteers. More information and online registration is at http://nofavt.org/conference.

FEBRUARY 19: Seventh annual Hop Conference, Hampton Inn Vermont Event Center, Colcheste, 9 am to 4 pm; registration beginning at 8:30 am. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension-sponsored conference. Fee, includes lunch: $60 for Northeast Hops Alliance members, $70 for all others. Anyone not able to attend in person may watch the conference as a live broadcast for $35. Register by February 16: www.regonline.com/hopconference. To request a disability-related accommodation to attend: Susan Brouillette, (802) 524-6501 or (800) 639-2130 (within Vermont) by January 29. Information: eather Darby or Susan Brouillette (802) 524-6501 or (800) 639-2130.

FEBRUARY 20: BrookTrout Carving Class with David Tuttle, 9 am - 3 pm, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington. Carve and paint a Brook Trout with David Tuttle of the Green Mountain Woodcarvers. Wood blank, eyes, snacks, and coffee provided. All levels welcome. Do bring your tools and gloves if you have them; if you don't, let us know. Dave often brings some knives, gloves, etc. to sell. Please bring your lunch. Great for adults and teens. Younger kids need parental permission and Cub Scouts could show their Whittling Chip. $30 for Museum and GMWC members • $40 for everyone else. Call 802 434-2167 or email museum@birdsofvermont.org to pre-register.

AUGUST 15-21: Vermont Open Farm Week, the second annual series of events celebrating Vermont's farm-fresh foods. Each day, farms across the state will open their doors for public events to showcase their part in Vermont's vibrant local agricultural traditions. In 2015, more than 80 farms participated in a behind-the-scenes look at Vermont's working landscape, celebrating the farm in farm to table: tastings and tours, tractor rides and on-farm dinners. Events for 2016 will be posted in late spring: www.DigInVT.com/OpenFarmWeek.

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:

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

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

SCHOOL BOARD:

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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

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

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

SCOUTS

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

Huntington: Boy Scout Troop 645, Sun, 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, 7 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).

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Huntington: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

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.

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

HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

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.

Third Thursday Lunch Series

Beginning January 21, 2016 and continuing monthly through May, the Vermont Historical Society will offer presentations about historic topics over the lunch hour at the Vermont History Museum at 109 State Street.

Bring your lunch and come to the museum for lively talks steeped in Vermont history. In the tradition of a book club circle, in May they will use Skype as a pleasant way to share thoughts with Sarah Roth, the Wisconsin author of new book Seven Years of Grace. The Vermont Historical Society's Third Thursday talks focus on artifacts, documents, and themes that can be found on exhibit in the Vermont History Museum.

Pick your favorite topic or come to all Third Thursday presentations:

• January 21, Human Interaction with Wildlife in Vermont with Kim Royar;

• February 18, Vermont in the 1970s: Update on Impact of Counterculture with Jackie Calder and Amanda Gustin;

• March 17, The Connecticut River Petroglyph with Annette Spaulding;

• April 21, A World War II Bomber Crash on Camel's Hump with Brian Lindner; and

• May 19, Seven Years of Grace: A Vermont Historical Society Book Club with Sara Rath.

The presentations are free, and the site is handicapped accessible.

Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Calvary Episcopal Church Route I5, Underhill, (899-2326) Sunday Eucharist/Sunday school 9:30 am. Nursery available, handicapped accessible, coffee hour following service. Rev. Regina Christianson. www.calvarychurchvt.org

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Community Senior Center

Do you remember how much fun it was to color as a child? Or maybe you used to enjoy coloring with your own children? Well, coloring is not just for children or young moms any more. Coloring is for adults, both male and female. If you don't believe me, go to Barnes and Noble and see the large display they have of coloring books for adults. Or stop in at the Dorothy Alling Library in Williston some Saturday morning and watch over a dozen people enjoying a coloring session. Coloring has become a hot new hobby. Everyone is trying it. As you focus on the intricate designs, it's very relaxing. Colored pencils and books will be provided. Come on February 11 at 1:30 to the Richmond Free Library and give it a try.

Save These Dates:

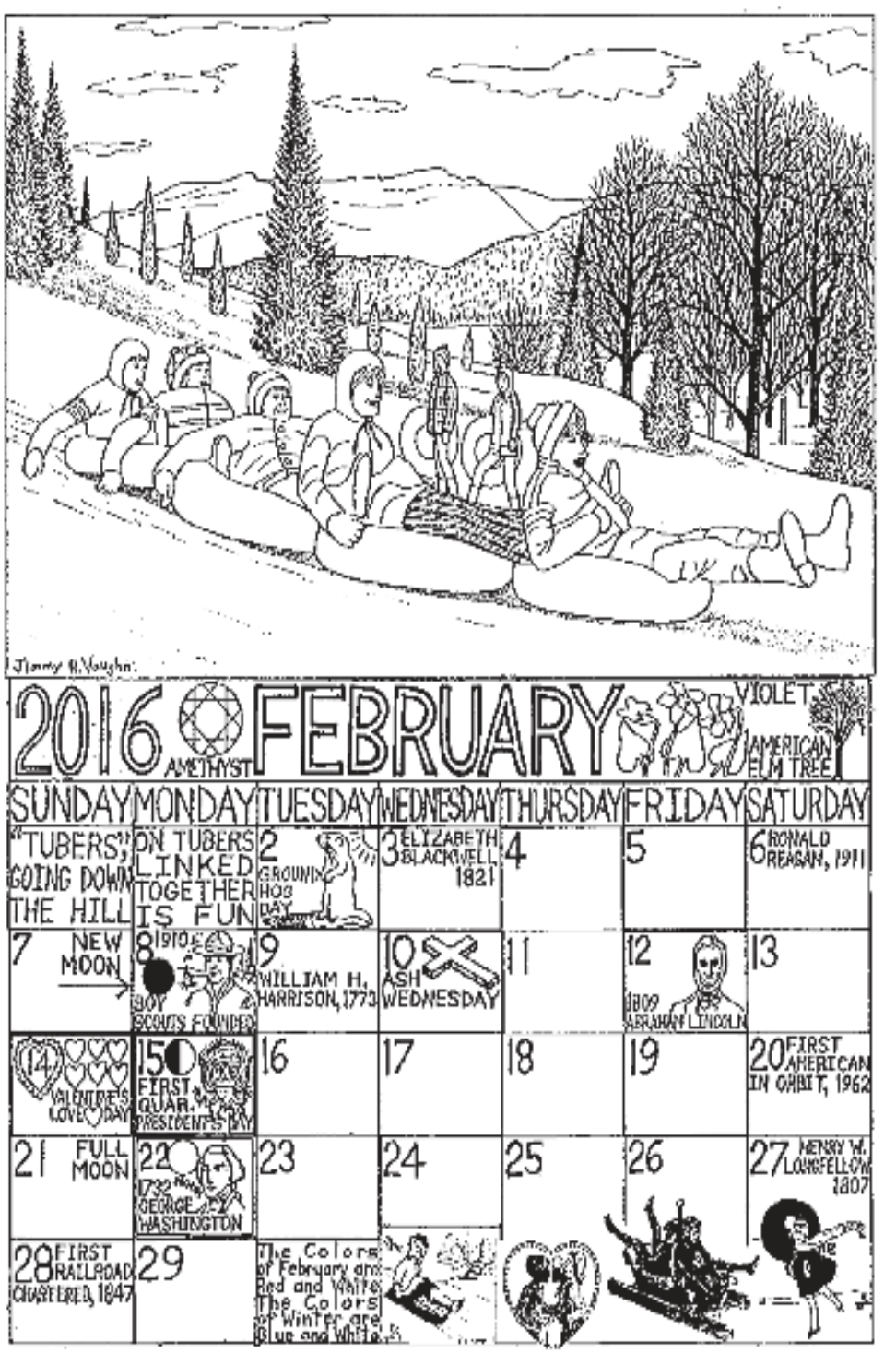
The Community Senior Center in collaboration with the Richmond Library as part of Vermont Reads 2016 will be sponsoring the following events related to the two Vermont Reads 2016 books—The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition by Caroline Alexander and Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World by Jennifer Armstrong. The books will be available at the library in late February.

Friday, March 25: Showing of the documentary,The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition.

Friday, April 1: To Endure—a reader's theatre of community voices telling the story of the expedition.

Friday, April 8: Slides of a trip to Antarctica by Marc and Peggy Faucher

Church News now on previous page.



Service Directory

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BEE THERE TOWING & RECOVERY 24-hour Emergency Services, Towing and Junk removal (434-4580); Automotive Repair (434-6405). 3465 East Main Street, Richmond. AAA beetheretowing@gmail.com [01/16]

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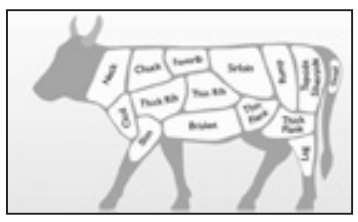

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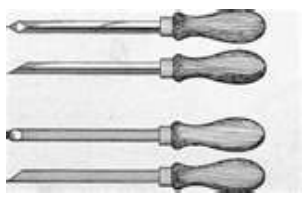

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If you would like to purchase space in the Service Directory or if your current listing expires soon (check the date at the end of your listing), write to the address for Classified Ads. Cost is $25 for 3 months, $40 for 6 months, $60 per year, .20/word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

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BILL ATWOOD EXCAVATING Driveways, ditching, grading, culverts replaced, drainage systems, house sites, septic systems, clearing. Excavator/dozer Bolton, 244-7495. [04/16]

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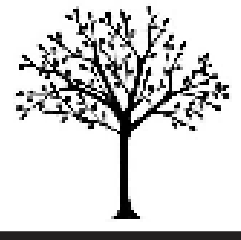

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SEWING & MENDING Shorten pants. Selling: holders, baby bibs, blankets, hot mats, vests, doll blankets, bag holders, clothespin bags, aprons. Raelene Emerson, 434-6159.

Weddings

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Business Beat

by Gina Haddock

What is calligraphy? The dictionary definition says that it comes from the Greek word kallos meaning 'beauty' and graphia meaning 'writing.' But many calligraphers would say that this ancient art form has taken on a larger meaning that could be described as art that incorporates integrity, harmony, ancestry, rhythm and soul. Some even say it is the closest you can get to hearing music with your eyes.

Flourish and Blots of Richmond is making sure that the art of calligraphy not only remains alive but that it is celebrated and taught to others who want to learn this impressive skill. Business owner **Chris Carfaro** has been perfecting his penmanship skills since he was a young boy. Several years ago he won a calligraphy contest and the prize included lots of writing materials which inspired him to continue to hone his talent. During this time Carfaro also discovered a flexpen style of fountain pen which allowed him to widen his font with hand pressure as he was writing. This technique, known as copperplate calligraphy, created an even more dramatic style in Carfaro's work. Copperplate is the style in which the Declaration of Independence was written. Carfaro also took his first formal training with world renowned master penman, John DeCollibus, of Boston. The idea for a business began to take root.

Last year, Carfaro decided to open his business aptly named Flourish and Blots in honor of the Harry Potter store where Hogwarts students purchased their quill pens. He offers a huge selection of calligraphy pieces which feature documents, certificates, awards, quotes and much more. One of his more unique selections blends Carfaro's love of cartography with calligraphy in his series of pirate maps. He uses his cartography skills to create a map that he personalizes with drawings of sea monsters and mythical creatures, a beautiful compass rose and geographic locations that reflect the family names of individuals who will receive the map. What child would not want his or her own personalized treasure map? Most recently Carfaro was invited to do a calligraphy version of a series of quotes about Vermont currently carved in granite on display in the main hall of the Vermont State House. These eight famous quotes are now on sale at the State House gift shop in Montpelier. When asked about some of his favorite types of work, Chris told the Beat that he really enjoys creating certificates of gratitude, particularly for public servants. "We tend to take our public servants for granted and when we do say thank you, it is often done in a hurry without any poise or patience. When someone receives a beautifully designed hand-done calligraphy 'recognition certificate', the recipient knows that a significant amount of time and thought went into the piece to honor this person. The document becomes very meaningful." Carfaro knows how important this type of recognition is from his own personal experiences. Having served for many years as one of Richmond's emergency medical technicians, Carfaro worked side by side with men and women who risked their own lives to save people. He began to create exquisite citations to honor his colleagues for exceptional acts of bravery. On a grander scale, Carfaro would like to become more involved in creating documents in calligraphy to recognize state public servants.

When it comes to ideas for projects, the sky seems to be the limit for Carfaro. He has done the design for the State of Vermont EMT patch, created unique holiday decorations, designed fictitious stock certificates and even has a comic book coming out soon. His website (www.flourishandblots.com) provides a showcase for his impressive array of artwork.

When asked what it takes to develop calligraphy skills, Carfaro was quick to tell the Beat that patience is an important trait. "There is no 'spell check' or 'delete' when it comes to making a mistake at the very end of your written work. A piece can literally go from art to trash with the wrong stroke of a brush." Letting go of control so that your creative side can express itself was also key according to Carfaro. "Sometimes I just close my eyes in the process. You have to trust yourself."

For anyone thinking about pursuing the art of calligraphy, Carfaro offered the following suggestions. "Get advice on what to buy for art supplies and do some research so you don't get disillusioned. The pen, ink and paper you use make a big difference. A store bought prepackaged calligraphy kit may not give you the best start because the materials can be more difficult to use."

Carfaro does provide a resource page for students on his website filled with helpful information. He also suggested the book entitled Calligraphy in 24 Hours which gives twenty-four one hour lessons. Last December, Carfaro offered Copperplate calligraphy classes which filled up quickly. He will be offering classes at the Richmond Free Library again in the Spring and he is currently filming a TV show about calligraphy which will be released to local public access stations in Vermont and will be available nationally, if stations want to pick it up. Home viewers will be able to tune in each week for a specific lesson on the art of calligraphy.

If you would like to discuss a calligraphy project or want more information about upcoming classes or Carfaro's TV show, you can email to Vermontcarfaro@gmail.com, call 999-6520 or visit the website.

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Open Letter to Lt. Governor & Gubernatorial Candidate Phil Scott

Dear Lt. Governor Scott:

Fifteen years ago, I had occasion to call you with a problem. You were courteous, responsive, and helpful, and I believe that's how you've acted as a politician, business owner, and concerned citizen, a man deeply committed to serving Vermonters. I was eager to support you as our next governor.

But my confidence in you was shattered when I read in the Burlington Free Press of your goal to increase our small state's population by tens of thousands of people. I just don't get it.

As you are no doubt aware, the United States has just finished an entire year of extreme weather. In the West, droughts and wildfires put water and agriculture in severe jeopardy, while rainfall records were set in the Midwest. In part of the Northeast, unprecedented amounts of snow caused power outages and treacherous travel conditions, while in other sections there was so much snow it didn't completely melt until July, all of which was followed by extreme heat and a record-setting Christmas Eve throughout New England. The Southwest had drought followed by a tropical storm and flooding, and another tropical storm hit the South in May followed by a hurricane in October. As I write this, Missouri and Illinois are battling disastrous flooding and we have temperatures of 22 degrees above average.

All these conditions, and lots more, are directly related to human population growth. There's a long list of warning signs, all happening faster than anyone anticipated. Meanwhile, the current administration of Vermont has seen fit to destroy mountains and National Forests in pursuit of ridiculously expensive wind turbine projects, and to approve the ever-increasingly expensive Addison County gas pipeline. Adding more people results in demand for more energy. Given these facts, and many more, why would we want to compound the growing number of problems and potential for increased harm to our citizens due to unstable climatic conditions? Why would our small state, with dozens of small cities and towns, want to grow larger and put more people at risk? And, at the same time, increase the financial burdens of repairing and rebuilding?

And what happens to the sense of community so many Vermonters experience when towns become larger and larger? History has shown that the larger the town, the lower the level of volunteerism and community involvement.

People seem to feel less committed and motivated to participate in such valuable groups as PTAs. As my own town of Richmond has grown, we've had more and more trouble getting people to run for offices and serve on boards. Further, there's no evidence that adding people to the tax rolls solves our spending problem, as shown in Williston where growth has necessitated added taxes.

I cannot find a parking spot at my Park n Ride, though not long ago it was greatly expanded. I thank my lucky stars that years ago I chose to go east to work in Montpelier, and enjoy the beauty of our scenic state, rather than west to Burlington and contend with the development and traffic.

Nothing can grow forever. Some economists argue for growth and economic activity. Mother Nature says we can't afford either. Two books published in 2012 said that Vermont's population is already unsustainable. The present global conditions and the health and well-being of our citizens and communities will not be well served by increasing our numbers to 700,000. Please re-consider this misguided plan.

Sincerely, Demaris Tisdale, MSW

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

February Gardening Tips

Submitted by Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulturist, & Charlie Nardozzi, Garden Consultant

De-icing walks safely for plants, and searching catalogues and online for new flowers and vegetables are some of the gardening activities for this month.

When de-icing walks, use one of the granular products with a chloride other than from sodium—these are safer on plants. They may cost a bit more, but you often can use less product. Calcium chloride works best in the coldest areas (down to about 5 degrees F). If below this temperature, don't use any chemical product but rather sand instead for traction. To save on cost and dilute the salt too, mix it with a large portion of coarse kitty litter. Liquid products don't track into buildings as granular ones often do. Apply any material before ice and snow, if possible, for best results.

If you are clearing your driveway with a snow blower this winter, direct the snow away from plants. Otherwise, the blowing ice crystals may damage the tender bark of young trees and shrubs. This isn't as much of a concern for plants wrapped with burlap.

A great winter pastime for gardeners is spending hours with seed and plant catalogues, or at such firms online. Make sure fruit plants are suited for your region and hardiness zone. Make sure vegetables varieties fit your growing season. Catalogues generally will list how many days from sowing, or transplanting (read the fine print to find out which applies) until harvest. If you're in an area with cooler summers and short growing seasons, look for varieties having the fewest days to harvest.

Look for All-America Selections winning flowers and vegetables to try. These are the best of the new seed-grown varieties, and you'll often need to start the newest ones from seeds yourself in order to have them. A couple of new 2016 winning vegetables are Chef's Choice green tomato, and Candyland red tomato. The latter is a currant-type tomato, meaning fruit are even smaller than cherry tomatoes. Other winning vegetables to check out are Sweet Baby radish, Super Moon (of course, white) pumpkin, Japanese Red Kingdom mustard, Bunching Warrior onion, and two golden-yellow frying peppers.

New flower winners for 2016 in the All-America Selections program include Brocade Cherry Night geranium, with large cherry-pink semi-double blooms; Brocade Cherry Fire also has semi-double blooms only in orange, and with tri-colored leaves; and Summer Jewel Lavender salvia is the fourth winning color in this series of upright flowering sages.

Other gardening activities for this month include bringing any potted spring bulbs that you're forcing from cold into warmth, cleaning bird feeders and heated bird baths, checking seed starting supplies, sharpening pruning tools, sowing begonias and onions (and their relatives) indoors, and buying some Valentine flowers for special people in your life.

[Charlie Nardozzi is a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach (CharlieNardozzi.com). Distribution of this release is made possible by the University of Vermont, and New England Grows-- a conference providing education for industry professionals and support for university outreach efforts in horticulture.]