# The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

Volume 33 **April 2016 Issue** Number 3


# Unified Board Goes to Policy Governance

The MMMUSD (Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District) voted to adopt the Policy Governance Model on February 15, 2016. Huntington Board member Dave Clark cast the only no vote.

In this model, the Boards develops the "Ends" (goals, strategic priorities), and the "Policies" which govern the actions of the Superintendent (sometimes referred to as the CEO). The means to implement the goals are left to the Superintendent. The Superintendent is examined by the Board during scheduled Monitoring Reports to judge whether his means actions are "in compliance" or "not in compliance" with policy. If the means/action are not in compliance, the Superintendent will present an action plan to correct the situation. This model offers the Superintendent greater speed and flexibility to achieve the day-to-day business of the district, while allowing the Board to concentrate its' efforts on strategic priorities, such as a language immersion program. (See report on page 8)

Next steps include training in the monitoring process, ownership linkage, and board self-evaluation. Val Gardner of VSBA (Vermont School Boards Association) will conduct these trainings before July 1, 2016. The Ends need to be written, and the draft policies adopted.

"Over time, it will evolve," said John Alberghini, CESU Superintendent.

*—Diane Wester*

# A Maple Day

## 22nd Annual Huntington Sugarmakers' Tour

But first... pancakes!

On April 2, start your day with a filling breakfast of all-you-can-eat-pancakes with fresh fruit or local sausage from Vermont Smoke and Cure. Coffee, juice, tea and milk - pick a beverage. The meal will feature fresh maple syrup from local producers.

This annual breakfast, held at the Community Church of Huntington, is an good effort by Huntington Boy Scout Troop 645, joined this year by the new Huntington Cub Pack 645. Serving is from 8 am to 11 am, when you can then continue your sugar intake by touring Huntington's local sugarhouses.

Breakfast is $6 adults; $4 kids; preschoolers $2. It benefits the scouts' activities, which include community service (Green Up Day, Eagle projects), camping and other fun outdoor adventures and summer camp.

Join your neighbors and friends for sweet treats during Huntington's Annual Sugar Makers' Tour. On Saturday, April 2, 11 am to 3 pm, many Huntington sugar making operations will be open to the public (regardless of the weather) and invite people to check out their facilities, sample this year's crop, and enjoy a variety of free maple treats. Weather permitting, sugarmakers from one end of town to the other will be boiling that day. A variety of delicious maple products will also be available for purchase.

The event is free and for all ages.

Maps with directions to participating sugar makers will be available after the pancake breakfast earlier in the day and at Beaudry's Store. Earlier, you can pick one up at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office, Brewster-Pierce School and the Huntington Public Library.

The tour is sponsored by the Huntington Conservation Commission. It is intended to raise awareness and appreciation for local agricultural enterprises in our town. The approximate 30,000 taps in Huntington are found in a mix of retail and private operations ranging in size from 600 taps to 16,000 taps.

Participating sugarmakers include:

1. Green Mountain Audubon, 434-3068.
2. Purinton Maple, 434-4385.
3. Lawrence Phillips, 434-4103.
4. Taft's Sugarhouse, 434-2727.
5. Jim Rowe/Mountainside Maple, 434-7415.
6. Leon Stokes, 434-2211.
7. Happy Hollow Sugarworks, 434-8579
8. MADwood Maple, 434-7012

# Snow! Skiing! Local Stars!

Slalom State Championships and then went on to be the overall winner of the Eastern High School State Championships (both slalom and GS).

Downhill competitor Ella Goetz with the MMU banner. She and Viva Goetze also had strong finishes in alpine skiing as members of the Cochran's Ski Club.

Jack Hegman, a senior at UVM, is an NCAA All American and won many Division I carnivals this season in Nordic Skiing.

Left, Ella Goetz, Karin Rand and Amelia Frederick

Other stars to watch: Greg Burt, an MMU freshman, who won the Vermont State Nordic Championships and just returned from Junior Nationals with very good results, and Kai Richter, who also is in the upper tier of MMU Nordic skiers.

Photos: Pennie Rand

Although many of us missed the snow this strange winter, local photographer Pennie Rand spent many hours on the slopes.

Here are some highlights of local talent on the mountain tops and in the woods.

From top:

Karin Rand, who won the Giant


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# Write to Us!

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

The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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• Submissions can be made electronically or to our PO Box.

• All political ads and ads intending to influence polling decisions must be accompanied by the name of the person responsible for managing the campaign's funds and the telephone number of a local contact person.

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HUNTINGTON RICHMOND

# Letters

## Thank you

Dear Huntington Friends (by now, I feel I call you all that),

Thank you for allowing me to participate again in your great town meeting.

I really appreciate the opportunity to have all those conversations with people over lunch, in the school hallways, etc — and I also appreciate being able to report out to you — my employers — on what I am working on as a legislator. Very best wishes,

—*Chris* (Senator Christopher Bray)
Addison County, Huntington & Buel's Gore

## Using Music to Inspire at Our Community Cares Camp

I love teaching music at Our Community Cares Camp in Richmond! A couple years ago Marie Thomas approached me and asked if I'd be interested in teaching ukulele at OCCC. An offer I just couldn't pass up.

I've always loved the spark that comes into a child's eye when they play their first chord and realize that they can do it and hey, it sounds pretty good. This summer will be my third season at the Camp. The first year included large group sing alongs and lots of small group and individual ukulele instruction. It was great, but I felt that it could be more. Last year we focused on a variety of instruments. This drew in kids with interest in piano, percussion, guitar, bass guitar and of course vocals. We ended up with a mini music room at OCCC. It was a joyful cacophony of sound and discovery. Teen age counselors with interest in music were invaluable as they became drawn to the experience. On several occasions, I looked around and saw nurturing and musically talented older kids facilitating learning in younger kids and I thought to myself, "This is what it's all about."

We started else something the first year that caught on. Each time a child learns a new simple song, usually something like Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star or My Darling Clementine, they are encouraged to play it through for one of the musically inclined counselors or myself. With each success, they place a piece of paper with their name written on it in a basket. At the end of camp, names are drawn and that child gets to keep a ukulele, clip on tuner and song book. Kids always approached me in the course of this process and proudly state the number of times their name is in the basket. Usually I cross my fingers smile and say "good job and good luck." I encountered a girl at Smilie, who had worked hard two summers at camp and last year, finally won a ukulele. She greeted me with big smiles and assurances that she is still working hard.

I am looking forward to another great July of musical empowerment at Our Community Cares Camp. I can't wait!!

[*Buddy Dubay is Musical Director of The Minor Key Youth Music Program and teaches at Poker Hill School in Underhill. He regularly leads sing alongs in various schools in the CESU District.*]

## Spring Happenings at Camels Hump Middle School

I am pleased to welcome Wilhelmina Picard as the interim Assistant Principal of Camels Hump Middle School. Mrs. Picard earned her Masters in Education from Western Maryland College and for the past eight years has worked for the State of Vermont, overseeing the educational programs within the Department of Corrections. Prior to this, Mrs. Picard was the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Essex Town School District. Mrs. Picard brings a wealth of knowledge and energy to our middle school. We look forward to her expertise and leadership.Please stop by Camels Hump and welcome her to our community!

This year's drama production at CHMS is Alice in Wonderland. Performers and crew have been working hard with Lauren Larkin of Very Merry Theatre. The Very Merry Theatre is a dynamic organization that provides children from the ages of five to eighteen with the opportunity to produce and perform original plays through their schools. Performances open to the public will be Friday, April 1, at 7 pm and Saturday, April 2, at 4 pm.

With the melting ice on the lake and Sugar Maple sap running, the spring activities at Camels Hump Middle School begin: softball and baseball, intramurals, and the second session of after-school programs including the healthy cooking club with our Farm-to-School Coordinator, Mae Quilty.

Students at this time of year are rigorously tested on the new common core standards via the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium. SBAC replaces the previously used NECAP standardized tests. For more information about SBAC, visit www.smarterbalanced.org. Upon completion of SBAC Testing, all CHMS students will be participating in the Second Annual Grand Prix! Teams will race tricycles through a challenging course in the school parking lot--last year's event was well-received and a ton of fun!

The next Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District meeting will be held on April 4, at 6:30-8:30, at Brewster-Pierce School. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

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

## OCCC in the News

OCCC has been spotlighted in the new KidsVT magazine. You can check it out online at http://www.kidsvt.com/vermont/feeding-body-and-mind/Content?oid=2188702

It's wonderful to have this kind of recognition in a state-wide magazine. Just wanted to share the good news.

—*Marie Thomas*, Director

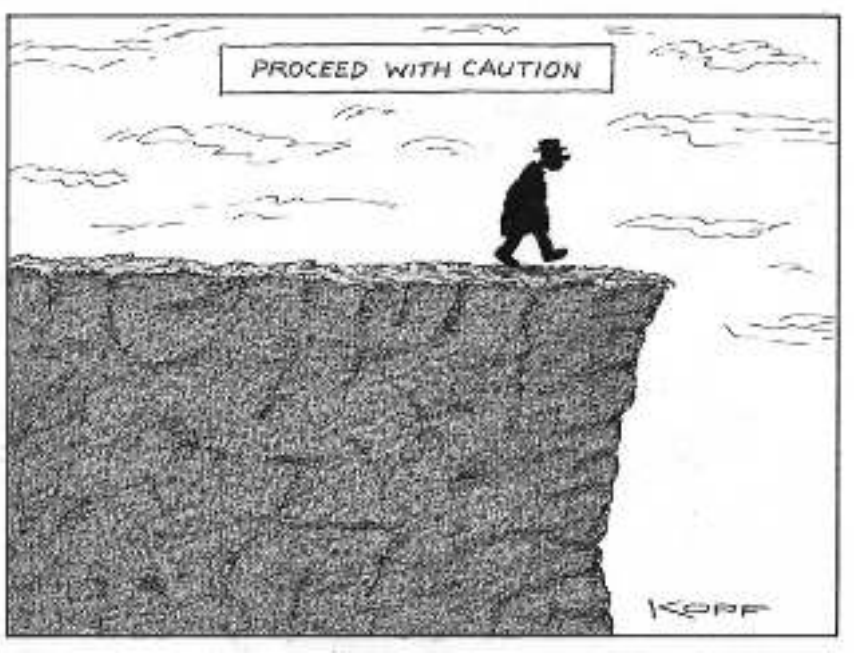
## Huntington Valley Arts Grants

Huntington Valley Arts, Inc. exists to encourage and promote the development of artists, art projects, and art education. It works to connect our arts community with our local community as a whole, and emphasizes the importance of the public sharing and celebration of art processes and finished works. At this time, HVA is in a position to offer aid to individuals or organizations seeking financial support for arts projects and/or arts education.

A wide range of proposals will be considered for aid including, but not limited to: sculpture, painting, photography, ceramics, woodworking, glass working, fiber arts, film, theatre, literature, poetry, music, dance or any endeavor that demonstrates a celebration of the creative spirit. Grant amounts range from $100 to $500. Priority is given to those programs that offer a public awareness of the value of artistic expression. The deadline for grants this year is June 1, with recipient notification by July 15.

Grant application: Send a written description of your project or program, explaining its purpose and how it relates to HVA's grant mission. Include a budget with an estimate of the cost and the scope of the project and what other resources might be available to support the program. For the full grant guidelines go to www.huntingtonvalleyarts.net/grants or if you have questions contact hva@huntingtonvalleyarts.net.

Send your completed applications to Huntington Valley Arts, PO Box 91, Huntington, VT 05462. Be sure to include all your contact information.



# Raffle to Benefit CHMS PROSPER

The PROSPER Community Team, a partnership of University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and Camels Hump Middle School, is holding a raffle to raise money for PROSPER. This youth and family education program at the Richmond school benefits sixth graders and their families as well as seventh graders.

The grand prize is a one-week stay in a three-bedroom villa at the Westgate Lakes Resort and Spa in Orlando, Florida. The fully-equipped villa can accommodate up to 12 guests and is close to several of the area's major attractions.

Tickets are $50 each and will be sold through April 27 with the winner notified the following day. They may be bought online through PayPal or with cash or check at Camels Hump Middle School between 8 am and 4 pm when school is in session. Tickets also will be sold at selected local events in the Greater Richmond area. Go to www.chms.k12.vt.us and click on CHMS PROSPER for information or a link to PayPal.

Only 200 tickets will be sold. If fewer than 120 tickets are purchased, the raffle becomes a 50/50 raffle with the winner taking home half of the total amount of money raised.

PROSPER, short for Promoting School-community-university Partnerships to Enhance Resilience, encourages positive youth development and strong families. This collaboration between UVM and Camels Hump Middle School is designed to help young people as they enter their teen years to make healthy choices, including avoiding drug and alcohol use and other risky behaviors, as well as learn responsibility, problem solving, decision making, how to handle stress and peer pressure and communicate more effectively with their parents or guardians. The program also helps adults improve their parenting skills by showing them how to set limits, make house rules, encourage positive behaviors and talk to their kids about making sound choices and the negative impact of unsafe behaviors.

To learn more about PROSPER, visit www.uvm.edu/extension/family/prosper or contact Sarah Kleinman at 656-0311.

# Foot Clinics

The successful Richmond Foot Clinics continue on May 10 and June 21. Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building. Appointments can be made for 9 am, 9:30 am, or 10 am.

Call for an appointment: Sally Singer (434-3480 or Catherine Coggio (434-3572).

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

# Alice in Wonderland

Alice in Wonderland is coming to Camels Hump Middle School on Friday, April 1, and Saturday, April 2. Budding theatre arts enthusiasts at the Middle School have been working hard rehearsing songs, studying lines, sewing costumes and painting sets.

Friday's performance will be at 7 pm and the Saturday performance will be at 4 pm. Seating is limited for both shows.

Tickets are $5 adult and $3 student each and are available by calling Anne Finlayson at 324-2143 or by emailing equinepc@yahoo.com. If leaving a message, please be sure to clearly state your name, contact information (phone number and/or email address), performance you would like to attend (Friday or Saturday) and number of tickets desired. Also let them know if anyone in your party requires special seating accommodations, so they can make those arrangements.

Payments can be left at the front desk of CHMS. Once payment is received, arrangements will be made for you to pick up your tickets at CHMS ahead of the performance or they will be available for pick up upon your arrival on the day of the performance at a will-call desk.

# River, Seas and Dreams

Rivers - both literal and metaphorical – is the theme of Social Band's spring concert series. This choral program features a newly commissioned song cycle by Brattleboro denizen, Anna Patton. She set a selection of poems from the work DART by British poet Alice Oswald, about the people who live along the River Dart. Join Social Band as they flow down the river with eels, foresters, swimmers and water nymphs.

River, Seas and Dreams –Musical reflections on water will be performed:

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm: Richmond Free Library

Sunday, April 3, 3 pm: First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington

Saturday, April 9, 7:30 pm: United Church of Hinesburg

Sunday, April 10, 3 pm: Charlotte Congregational Church

Admission is by suggested donation of $15. Tickets are available at the door. For more information: www.socialband.org, on Facebook, or (802) 355-4216.

# 9 to 5 Performances in Early April at MMU

The Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department presents the musical 9 to 5. Journey back in time to the 1980s with the characters from the iconic movie of the same name. Performances are Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, at 7:30, and Sunday, April 3, at 2 pm. Tickets are $6 for students and children and $9 for General Admission. For ticket info call 899-4690 or visit https://sites.google.com/a/cesuvt.org/mmu-theatre-department/home/ticket-order-form

*Top photo, the ladies of the office are forced to take their boss, Mr. Hart (Akash Kushwaha) prisoner in his own office. Mr. Hart seems to have a special connection with his employee Roz Keith. If only she knew what was happening on the other side of that door.*

*Above, Becca Sprano as Violet Newstead dreams of being a female CEO, and becoming a star.*

*Right, Doralee (Sawyer Thompson - in the background) dreams of how she would "bump off the boss." It would involve a rodeo, some hog tying and some dancing cowgirls.*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**Wed: June 22- Aug 10** Beg Ballet for Teens: 6-7:15
*Hip Hop Classes for teen/adult beginners day and time TBD, please check website

**June 20** Hip Hop 4 Camp: 9-12 with Tanner Paffen
Tiny Ballerina Fairytale Camp Ages 3-5: 9-12 with Martina Price
Int/Adv Contemporary/Jazz: 1-4 with Erin Johnson

**June 27** Intermediate/Advanced Ballet Intensive: 9-2 with Clara Behrman
Novice 2-3 Ballet Camp: 9-12 with Martina Price

**July 5-8*** (4 day camp, prorated)
Ballerina Camp Ages 6-8: 9-12 with Martina Price/Pointe Students

**July 11** HH3 Camp: 9-12 with Molly Potter
American Girl Camp #1 for 7-10 yr. olds: 9-3 with Martina Price
HH5 Evening Intensive: 6-8 PM with Sam Parker

**July 18** **Sample Dance Camp for 12 -15 yr olds: 9-3 with AED Staff
**July 25** **Adv. Sample Dance Camp for 14-19 yr olds: 9-12 with Gabbi Richards

**Aug 1** Musical Theater Camp for 7-11yr olds: 9-12 with Martina Price
Beginning Hip Hop Boys and Girls: 9-12 with Chloe Clark/Tanner Paffen
HH4 and High School Int. Hip Hop: 12-3 with Addie Price

**Aug 8** **Sample Dance Camp for 7-11 yr olds: 9-12 with AED Staff
Contemporary Dance Camp for 12-teens: 1-4 with Lisi Price
HH5 Intensive: 12:30-4:30 with Sam Parker

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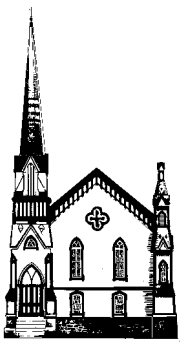

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Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 2
**434-3036**
rfl@gmavt net

**April art gallery and Display** Richmond Elementary School first and second graders will be showing off their embossed metal creations. Under the direction of art teacher, Kim Aucter and inspired by the Aztec Sunstone, the students worked hard to include symbols as well as many details to fill their space in the same manner as the sunstone.

**Vermont Reads** Join Vermonters throughout the state as we learn more about renown 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. They were both written in the late 1990s and thus include some of the previously unavailable sources and archival materials from the journey. If you love high adventure, shipwrecks, and tales of survival against the odds these books are for you. Vermont Reads is an initiative of the Vermont Humanities Council which seeks to get Vermonters reading and participating in events planned around a common book and theme. Free copies of both books are available at the library throughout the months of March and April. Pick up your copy and mark your calendar today with these upcoming events:

**Film** The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition: George Butler's 2000 documentary film based on Caroline Alexander's book by the same name. Join us on Friday, March 25, at 7 pm.

**To Endure: A Reader's Theatre of Community Voices.** Fifteen adventurous readers will tell the story of Shackleton's expedition from the perspectives of the men who were aboard the Endurance (and then not aboard the Endurance), all of whom survived - but not easily. Join us on Friday, April, 1 at 7 pm.

**Antarctic Travel Show** Marc and Peggy Faucher have twice visited Antarctica in the last 8 years, crossing paths with routes of explorers of 100 years ago. They will show slides of some of the historical elements as well as the current wildlife.The show begins at 7 pm on Friday, April 8.

**Autumn's Abundant Garden Display** Plan and plant now for an abundant garden display next Autumn. From Bugbane and Blazingstar to Windflower and Fleece Flower; see perennials that rival Asters and Mums in the Autumn garden. Add late native blooms to nourish pollinators for winter and migration. View how bold foliage, in an array of color, texture and form, play a distinguished role around which Fall blooms transition. Cash donations to the Richmond Food Shelf will be accepted. To register, call Richard Dube at 434-4834 or e-mail richdubegeo@cs.com. Join him on Saturday, April from 9:30 - 11:30 am.

**Social Band Concert** Social Band presents a cappella choral music to the public, encourages new compositions especially by local composers, and fosters the joyful and thought-provoking expression of music. Their repertoire is based on the notion that "folk" and "classical" music are parts of a continuum, each with its own distinct flavor. They will offer a concert featuring music from a wide range of genres, with a suggested donation of $ 15 at the door on Saturday, April 2, at 7:30 pm.

**Lego Club** Come join other Lego enthusiasts. 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. No registration is required, just come play on Wednesday from 3 - 4 pm.

Book Group will be discussing Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:30 pm.

Mystery Book Group will be discussing the book Defending Jacob by William Landry on Thursday, April 21, at 7 pm.

**24/7 Library** The Library gives patrons access to thousands of audiobooks and eBooks twenty-four hours a day and from anywhere you find yourself with your device and a web connection. Links directing patrons to ListenUpVermont and OneClick can be found on the RFL website. If you need assistance, ask staff.

**New Youth Items** We have three wonderful new picture books by Marianne Dubuc, creator of the lovely book The Lion and the Bird: Mr. Postmouse's Rounds, Animal Masquerade, and In Front of my House. Margarita Engle's Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music is based on a true story from Cuba. Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings is a memoir by Margarita Engle. Around the World from A to Z was written by local author Linda Cruise. Snappsy the Alligator (Did not Ask to Be in This Book) by Julie Falatko is a hilarious, postmodern romp. Polo and The Dragon by Faller Regis is a shorter book for all Polo fans. The Princess in Black and the Hungry Bunny Horde by Shannon Hale is the third book in the series. We also just got all three books on audio. Jody Feldman's The Gollywhopper Games was a 2010 DCF book. You can read more about the games in The Gollywhopper Games: Do You Have What It Takes to Win? And The Gollywhopper Games: The New Champion. The latest Magic Tree House Book is Balto of the Blue Dawn by Mary Pope Osborne. Firelight by Kazu Kibuishi is the seventh graphic novel in the Amulet series. Claudia and Mean Janine is the color version of Raina Telgemeir's graphic novel adaption of the Ann M. Martin's Baby-Sitters Club book. Adventure and humor go hand in hand in Gordon Korman's Masterminds: Criminal Destiny. For Big Nate fans, we have Big Nate: Welcome to My World, Big Nate Blasts Off, and Big Nate: Thunka, Thunka, Thunka. The Rose Society is the second book in Marie Lu's The Young Elites series. The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley concerns evacuation of children from London during WWII. A transgender twelve-year-old is the focus of Ami Polonsky's novel Gracefully Grayson. Set in 1911, The Hired Girl by Newbery Medal winner Laura Amy Schlitz was inspired by the journal of the author's grandmother.

**Storytimes** We offer storytime every Monday and Wednesday at 10:30 and on Fridays at 11:00. No registration is required. All ages are welcome. Stories and songs are also a part of the Richmond Area Playgroup which meets on Wednesdays from 8:45 – 10:15 in the Library Community Room.

# Huntington Public Library

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

**Planet Huntington (last show of the season).** In the heart of Central Asia, a new model for conservation and leadership education is taking shape. This August, the American University of Central Asia, an innovative university located in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan will partner with UVM graduate student and Hinesburg resident Nathan Fry to host the Ecological Leadership Program (ELP) in Ala Archa National Park, Kyrgyzstan. Combining traditional environmental education with leadership development, the ELP seeks to create a new generation of ecologically-minded leaders through this unique new curriculum. Visit Planet Huntington on Sunday, April 24, at 5 pm, to learn more about Kyrgyzstan and the exciting new developments in the ecological Leader Program. You can also catch a preview of the ELP's work by visiting http://www.facebook.com/EcoLdrProj/

**Vermont's Historic Henry Theatre Curtains** Between 1880 and World war II, painted theatre curtains were artistic features of most New England villages and towns. In a tour of some of the 177 curtains in Vermont, Christine Hadsel, director of Curtains Without Borders, provides a glimpse into the world painted stages in town and Grange halls, opera houses, and community theaters. A culture of local variety shows and traveling, professional talent florished in front of those curtains in some very remote vermont communities.

The Huntington Public Library is fortunate enough to have three special theatre curtains on display/exhibit that have been restored by Chris and her team and are on display. Join Christine Hadsel on Friday, April 29, at 7 pm, at the Library.

**Photo Exhibit by Janet Labelle** A wonderful display featuring origial Vermont photography can be seen in the art gallery. Labelle is a talented Huntington resident who also uses her photographs for cards. The exhibit will be on display though spring.

**The Huntington Music Box** Hear something new, share something old. Good music like a good book feels like it should be shared and enjoyed by as many people as can get their "ears" on it. Valley Stage Productions has had the good fortune to hear and witness a lot of music from the concerts we've been able to attend and produce as well as conferences of musicians and just normal acquisition of CDs and LPs throughout the years.

You are free to take, borrow or add to box of CDs that Valley Stage will "initiate" on the table as you enter the Huntington Public Library. Take what you like, listen to it for as long as you like and share! We'd also suggest that musicians contribute their workto the collection. Exposure to your compositions could result in people attending a performance of yours in the future or perhaps an acknowledgement of your talent the next time you stop into Beaudry's Store or cross paths at a Huntington function.

If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Don Sheldon; 434-4563 or don@valleystage.net

**New Adult Fiction** Crooked Heart by Lissa Evans; Secrets of a Charmed Life by Susan Meissner; A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman; Montalbano's First Case and Other Stories by Andrea Camilleri; Scattered Pages by Justine O'Keefe; Private Parts by James Patterson.

**Adult Non-Fiction** Pollinator Friendly Gardening by Rhonda Fleming Hayes; Planting in a Post-Wild World by Thomas Rainer and Claudia West; The New Vegetarian Cooking for Everyone by Deborah Madison; A Landowner's Guide: Wildlife Habitat Management for Lands in Vermont and Conserving Vermont's Natural Heritage: A Guide to Community-Based Planning for the Conservation of Vermont's Fish, Wildlife and Biological Diversity by Vermont Fish and Wildlife Deptartment; When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi.

**Adult Audiobooks** Tweak by Nic Sheff; The Road to Little Dribbling by Bill Bryson.

**DVD** Minions; Cinderella (2015); Monk Season 1 & 2; Door to Door.

**Children's Picture Books** It Hurts to Poop – A Story for Children Who are Scared to Use the Potty by Howard J. Bennett, MD; Around the World from A to Z by Linda Cruise; Potty Animals by Hope Vestergaard; Vegetable in Underwear by Jared Chapman; Four Seasons Make a Year, At the Beach, My Spring Robin, The First Snowfall and Apples and Pumpkins by Anne Rockwell; Sparky by Jenny Offill; I Used to Be Afraid by Laura Vaccaro Seeger; Finding Winnie – The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick; Sweetpea and Friends – The SheepOver by John and Jennifer Churchman; Red: A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall; I Am Invited to a Party! and Elephants Cannot Dance by Mo Willems.

**Junior Fiction/ Young Adult Fiction** Percy Jackson's Greek Gods by Rick Riordon; Maximum Ride Series by James Patterson: Forever, Angel and The Final Warning.

Suggestions for books, audiobooks, DVDs, and programs are always welcome!

**Huntington Playgroup** Fridays, 10 am to noon. The playgroup aims to provide a safe and enjoyable space for children and their caregivers to play, explore, and meet new friends. Sponsored by Building Brighter Futures. 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 and rhymes, fingerplays, and songs.

**First Friday Movie Night** This month's movie will be The Good Dinosaur. Bring your best friends and we will pop the popcorn! All ages welcome. Friday, April 1, at 7 pm.

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# Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

The Richmond Selectboard has hired a temporary replacement for the ailing Town Manager.

Geoffrey Urbanik went on medical leave in mid-March to undergo heart surgery. Urbanik said he expects to be out for about eight weeks after the operation.

Selectboard members, at their March 7 meeting, held a closed-door meeting in a separate Town Center office to consider hiring an interim manager. After a 30-minute discussion, they filed back into the meeting room and voted unanimously to appoint Paul Bohne of Essex Junction to the position.

Bohne served as Shelburne's town manager for 14 years. He retired in 2014. He has since filled two temporary management positions, first with the Chittenden County Transit Authority and then as interim town manager in Milton, according to his application letter.

There was another applicant for the position whose name was not disclosed. Minutes from the previous Selectboard meeting show that a closed session was held to discuss a personnel matter.

Vermont Open Meeting Law permits private discussions of employment of public officers in what is called an executive session.

In an email, Urbanik said he preferred not to discuss in detail the reasons for his leave but did confirm he would have surgery.

"It is strange having to go through this while in the public eye, but others have the same experience so I need to get used to it. The encouraging words at Town Meeting and in personal conversations have convinced me that Richmond is indeed a special town, more special than perhaps many realize, and I'm glad I'm here right now."

"This was something that the board did not enjoy doing," said Chair David Sander of the process of hiring an interim replacement. "We have the utmost confidence in Geoff. We are very sorry he has to go out on medical leave but we understand the necessity of that happening. We wish Geoff the best."

Compensation for Bohne has yet to be determined. Urbanik said he expected the position to involve a workweek of no more than 10 hours, with a total cost of no more than $10,000.

Urbanik said the interim manager would help ensure that key projects don't lie dormant during his absence. They include the East Main Street waterline replacement and a grant for the hazardous waste cleanup of the Richmond Creamery site.

Sander noted that Bohne has experience in dealing with crisis management, which might come in handy given that "Richmond has a history of crises," presumably a reference to the town's periodic flooding when storms cause the Winooski River to spill over its banks.

"I'll try to keep the ball rolling," Bohne told the Selectboard.

**Clean Bill of Financial Health** The Selectboard's other major item of business was to hear a presentation on an audit conducted by Sullivan, Powers & Co., a Montpelier-based public accounting firm. The recently completed audit produced a "clean, unmodified report" that the town's finances were in good order, said Fred Duplessis, a CPA with the firm.

That favorable conclusion contrasts with a 2012 audit that uncovered serious flaws in Richmond's finances. They included dozens of failures to reconcile accounts, invoices that were paid twice and a lack of training for the town's financial director. It found seven material weaknesses – problems that risk fraud – in the town's accounting system.

That audit angered residents, some of whom thought the Selectboard failed to exercise adequate oversight. The town now produces periodic financial reports for the Selectboard to review.

There were no big problems uncovered by the new audit. But Duplessis said the town still has some room for improvement, noting that a financial operations manual that will standardize accounting procedures has not been completed.

"What this is saying is that you've got a good system – let's document how and why you're doing it," he said.

Duplessis also recommended that the town formulate an investment policy, which would ensure the town's funds are safe and liquid.

"But none of this rise to the level of material weakness or significant deficiency," he said.

Urbanik said the town "has come a long way in the last four years," noting the "rough audit" of 2012.

One change the town made after that audit was have an independent CPA oversee finances. Urbanik said that move has helped train town employees and sort out problems, but the $20,000-a-year cost "is way over where it should be."

Urbanik proposed instead having Sullivan Powers & Co. assist as needed at a substantially lower cost. He noted that Duplessis has assured him that could be done "without compromising the integrity" of the annual audit.

Urbanik said he would ask the firm to put together a proposal to assist the town on a regular basis rather than just to produce the audit.

**Appointments Delayed** The Selectboard traditionally picks a new chairperson and makes various committee appointments at the first meeting after Town Meeting Day.

But with two of five members absent, those present decided this year to wait until the next meeting.

Also delayed was selection of Board members to serve as liaisons to committees and commissions covering areas such as conservation, recreation and economic development. Urbanik offered to continue as board secretary, the person who prepares minutes and agendas and completes other tasks.

**Official Town Newspapers** The Selectboard did discuss which publications to use to as official town newspapers. The Times Ink! and the Burlington Free Press have long been Richmond's official newspapers. The daily Free Press is paid to print the town's legal notices.

Board member Steve May, attending his first meeting after election on Town Meeting Day, suggested also naming the Starksboro-based Mountain Gazette as an official newspaper

Urbanik said the Times Ink! prints "a lot of local news." The town also could send news releases to the Mountain Gazette, "but whether they print them or not is their option," he said.


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# Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

Informational meetings about Town Meeting bond votes and the proposed Town Forest Easement preceded the Huntington Selectboard Meeting on February 22, 2016. Board Chair Dori Barton provided an overview of the Australian Ballot Articles. Article 1 regarded bonding for Bridge 30 (Camel's Hump Road) and Bridge 8 (Main Road south of Moody Road) replacement. Bridge scoping reports were made available. Construction on Bridge 30 will begin in May 1016, and the new bridge will remain at a width of 18 feet.

Article 2 addressed bonding for a new fire engine. Barton explained the Selectboard had pushed the replacement schedule out one year for capital planning purposes. Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey described the new truck's specifications, and its cost to taxpayers. Debbie Worthley asked if waiting another 3 years to purchase a truck had been considered. Jeffrey explained factors including maintenance and repair costs as well as loss of trade in value, which led to the decision to make the purchase this year.

**Town Forest Discussion** The following Public Information meeting clarified the Selectboard has already issued formal notice of intention to convey a non-exclusive perpetual right-of way easement to Catamount Trail Association (CTA) for use by CTA and the general public from November through April. This easement will be signed by the Town in March, 2016 unless a petition was filed by February 29,2016 by 5% of the voters.

Dave Brautigam, President of the Camels Hump Nordic Ski Association (CHNSA), raised concerns about the trail easement proposed by CTA through the Town Forest. Brautigam suggested CTA choose a more "user friendly" route, which matches up with CHNSA trails. Changing the route would require restarting the easement process from the beginning. Dave Clark asked about uses or the proposed trail. The trail would be open for non-motorized winter use only. Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) Co-Chair Rebecca Ryan noted that the 2009 State of the Forest report recommended this easement.

During regular Selectboard business, the Board approved a Driveway Permit Application for Bill White on Handy Road.

The Board passed a motion to approve the Humane Society of Chittenden County's 2016 Animal Control Housing Agreement. This agreement specifies a $90.00 per dog intake fee, with no charge for the first 3 cats and $15.00 each cat thereafter.

The Board also spent time preparing for Town Meeting with Town Moderator Dana Cummings.

At the start of the Huntington Selectboard's meeting March 7, 2016, Town Clerk Heidi Racht said, "Everyone has taken their oath and we have to have a reorganization meeting." The Board unanimously approved Barton as chair and Nancy Stoddard as vice chair. The Board appointed Barbara Elliott as Selectboard Recorder. Barton thanked the Town Clerk for a good Town meeting.

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger delivered the Highway report. Alger shared three estimates for blacktop paving. The Board passed a motion to accept ECI (Engineers Construction)'s price, not to exceed $310,00, for paving 0.6 miles of East Street and 1.2 miles of Main Road in Hanksville.

Alger reported on his pursuit of quotes for a new grader. "I recommend we stick with John Deere," said Alger "The service has been awesome." Livak added, "The other one has really held its trade in value."

Brent Lamoureux, Delinquent Tax collector, met with the Board, presenting a list of delinquent tax properties. Lamoureux wanted to assure the Town would still bid on properties that have not been sold at a tax sale. Elliott responded, "It has been normal that we did that, but VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) said we shouldn't do that if we don't really want the property."

Livak asked, "If we don't bid on it, what happens?"

Lamoureux answered, "The property will still accrue taxes."

After discussing the properties that may go up for tax sale, the Board reached consensus to support the tax collector bringing properties to tax sale as recommended by the Town attorney, and to bid on any property not sold through the tax sale.

**Town Forest Easement, Again** No petition has been filed calling for a special vote for the Town Forest easement, so the Selectboard moved to request the Town Agent sign the conveyance document approved by the Town's attorney.

**Emergency Response** Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey came to talk to the Board about Fire and First Response protocol. Jeffrey described the flow for 911 calls. The Shelburne Dispatch contacts Huntington Fire Department members via test pager because, "Radio is not reliable in Huntington," reported Jeffrey. Livak asked, "What is the average response time?"

Jeffrey replied, "It depends on the time of day."

Jeffrey stated there were approximately 80 first response calls this past year, and no structure fire in Huntington in three or four years. Over 20 volunteers serve on the fire department presently, said Jeffrey, with its biggest issue being daytime coverage. Jeffrey added, "It's getting better," since two new people with daytime availability have recently joined the department. "Eventually you will see paid emergency services, " predicted Jeffrey, "It's too much for a volunteer department to take care of all the things besides going out on calls."

**Appointments** The Board appointed the following people who agreed to continue serving on Board or Commissions: Britt Cummings, Development Review Board (DRB); Larry Detweiler, Town Service Officer; Barbara Elliott, Emergency Management Coordinator; Dean Grover, Deputy Health Officer; Rebecca Ryan, Conservation Commission; Nate Sands, Tree Warden; and Aaron Worthley, Town Hall Committee. Remaining open appointed positions include a DRB alternate and one Conservation Commission member. Elected official openings include one Selectboard member, and an Auditor.


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• "Growing Up With Cows"
**April 14 at 1:30 p.m. -**
Llamae Lund talks about her recent book "Holy Cows", the story of her family's survival during the depression on a small family farm in Iowa.

**Vermont Reads 2016 Collaboration**

**March 25 at 7:00 pm -**
Documentary Movie: **The Endurance: Shackleton's Legendary Antarctica Expedition.**

**April 1, at 7:00 p.m. -**
Community Reader's Theater telling the story of Shakelton's expedition.

**April 8, at 7:00 p.m. -**
Slide show of Antarctica trip by Marc and Peggy Faucher.

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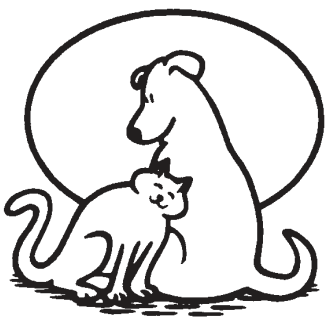

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# MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

The distribution credits system (Carnegie) used to evaluate high school students for graduation for about 100 years is changing; the way the school board governs is changing – making the superintendent more like the CEO of a company; the former MMU capital reserve fund of $400,000 is now available to the new MMMU district; and, your child may be able to enroll in a Partial Immersion (half-day) world language (Spanish) curriculum as early as the fall of 2017. Your child may, in fact, enroll in any school in the district, pending availability of space.

**But Wait! There's More!** Assistant Superintendent Jen Botzojorns is resigning after 17 years with the District, some as Principal of MMUHS. Botzojorns is leaving to become the Superintendent of Caledonia North Supervisory Union. She was honored at the MMMUSD Annual Meeting in February. The MMMUSD Assistant Superintendent position will be modified to become a Curriculum, Communications and Innovations Director.

**Some Things Are Unchanged … (Except)** Jon Milazzo remains the Board Chair, Andrew Pond the Vice Chair, and Diane Kirson Glitman the Clerk of the MMMUS District. The current Committee structures and personnel remain the same, pending the transition to the Policy Governance (PG) model.

However, there were two Jericho representative positions open, but only one candidate ran. Susan Lillich was re-elected for a three year term, and newcomer Kurt Muller was appointed by the Board for a one year term.

**School Choice Options** Families of all students in the five elementary and two middle schools will be offered the opportunity to attend any school of their choice, pending availability of space. The example outlined in official documents was of a family whose residence was located in Underhill, but whose workplace was located in Waterbury requesting space at Smilie in Bolton. Spaces are first offered to students in the local district, then open spaces are offered to applicants (and their siblings). Overflow requests will be entered in a lottery. Bus routes are published, and may possibly accommodate some students, but ultimately transportation will be the parents' responsibility. More information, applications, etc. are available at the CESU Central Office in Richmond, or on line.

**Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR)** The State has mandated graduation requirements shift from the 20 "Carnegie units" (22 at MMU) in math, language arts, science, etc. to PBGR. A "D" was a passing grade the old system. These new changes go into effect ,beginning with this year's 8th grade class. The State wishes to prepare students for post-graduation life. Now evidence of proficiency in curriculum content must be demonstrated in these areas: literacy, math, science, global citizenship (formerly social studies), physical and health ed., artistic expression, and transferable skills (including problem solving and technology). The principle of PBGR demands "Can you take this knowledge and problem solve, apply it in a different way," said Mike Weston, Principal MMU. Students now collect proficiencies instead of credits. The high school curriculum committee has been studying at how these proficiencies may be measured for the past two years. Students will continue to receive letter grades. In addition, Proficiency also will be reported as W (working to meet) M (meeting) or E (exceeding). Students will receive two transcripts to submit to colleges. The goal is for PBGR to be fully operational for the graduating class of 2020. "We're in a good spot to do this," said Anton Kelsey MMU Chemistry teacher and curriculum team member. He also noted the monthly two-hour delay has helped teachers a great deal with developing this program. "Teachers are reinvesting in their curriculum," added Weston.

**Language Immersion Program** One of the first areas the Board wished to explore post-merger was the possibility of a (voluntary) World Language Immersion Program in grades pre K-5. An ad hoc committee was formed, led by Jen Botzojorns. A thoroughly researched, 17-page "white paper" was produced by this committee and is available on line.

Studies prove dual language learning language at an early age makes the second language easier to acquire. Dual language learners are prepared to communicate better, demonstrate increased"critical thinking skills, cognitive flexibility and outscore their non-foreign language learning peers in both verbal and math sections of standardized tests." (White paper, p. 4).

It was decided a "partial" immersion would be the best fit for the district – half a day taught in English, half in another language. Spanish was recommended because of the wealth of materials available, (including edition of the Math Book currently being used by the district,) the demographic shift in the population of the US, and the current and future availability of Spanish speaking teachers in the District. A time line was proposed, and costs were estimated. Where the program might be located, transportation, and interest/participation rate are issues yet to be addressed. The public will be invited to comment in the future at a time yet to be determined.

Currently grades K-5 receive Spanish instruction for each grade for 45 minutes a week. More languages for longer instruction periods of time are offered in the upper grades.

Richmond representative Chip Noonan said evidence suggested this is not solely "an enrichment program" but might address the achievement gap due to the increased "plasticity" experienced by dual language learners in the young mind. Richmond resident Roger Brown grew up learning two languages and calls it "an incredible gift" to give to our children. "You could charge any amount you want for this," he joked," you could make money." Connie van Eeghen, strongly supports the immersion program, as the unsupported disparate lessons currently offered do not produce fluency. Peter Duvall of Underhill supports the idea of early world language learning, but noted only Spanish teachers were on the white paper committee, calling it an "echo chamber." He noted, "We have a great resource in being so close to Quebec with its wealth of native French speaking persons/teachers." He also wishes those students enrolled in the current language programs have stronger support – instead of investing so much on a few sections of kindergarteners of 2017. Derek Miodownik of Richmond hopes a world language program will be the gateway to global citizenry.

Michael Marks, Richmond, noted the program needed further study. He pointed out he did not know if this program compared favorably or unfavorably to other priorities. "The white paper is a critical step, but only a first step." The start up and continuing costs for a few students needs to be known. For instance: during the budget process, most administrators noted the need to address the achievement gap between the different socio-economic strata. He would not vote for the pilot program, but would vote for further study. Noonan doesn't want the item tabled. He believes if the goal is fluency, then immersion is the 21st century answer. He wants a more comprehensive discussion, with the whole white paper committee present.

Lamborghini believes this program will transform "the way we teach" for years to come. He equated it to the one-to-one laptop initiative when it was first introduced to great resistance. It too began with only a pilot program that grew along with greater acceptance. He believes the "upside" far outweighs the risks, and believes the costs will not be great. He took note of every suggestion/potential problem and solutions will be investigated.

It was agreed the white paper committee, headed by Botzojorns, will continue to investigate the immersion issue, taking into considering all the issues raised by members of the Board and community in the February meetings and make a presentation to the Board at a future date.

**Budget** A budget presentation was made before the general meeting February 15, and at the Annual Meeting February 25. There were a few questions from the public. Shared responsibilities of the two schools on the same campus (Richmond and CHMS) enable a reduction in SRO hours (Student Resource Officer, Richmond Police). A member of the public suggested that since it is only the Richmond and CHMS schools which have an SRO that perhaps this function be cut from the budget. Huntington resident Megs Keir asked about the $60,000 increase in Operations. It is principally due to water and sewer rate increases in the Town of Richmond. The $300,000 drop off/parking lot revision of BRMS can be accommodated within this year's budget without an additional bond, and without depleting the capital reserve fund. Alberghini noted a reserve fund of less than $500K for a district this size is dangerously low.

The increased budget of 0.62% over last year passed by Australian Ballot 4304 to 1821 on Town Meeting Day. The total was $43,168,293.

The Board voted to make the MMU Capital Reserve available to the entire MMMUSD. In addition, a new capital reserve fund will be started for the "new" monies collected for the new, merged district.

**Calendar Available On Line** A new 2016-2017 school year calendar was approved by the Board and is available on the website. The only change from last year was to make Friday, December 23, 2016, a holiday and Monday January 2, 2017, a student day.

**Grades 5-12 Math Progress Report/School-based Assessment Data** Botzojorns shared a presentation of the aggregate data from the middle and high school programs. Above and beyond complying with State and National standards (MMU exceeds them) one goal is to have 100% of the students earning a 3 (meeting expectations). Co-teaching with a special educator alongside the math instructor is helping bridge the achievement gap, as is the late start Wednesdays which have improved team collaboration and student data analysis.

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# MMU News

## MMU High School News Reporter Needed

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

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

Applicants must be able to:

1. Make a deadline.

2. Write in complete sentences.

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

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

# Gov's Institutes Winter Grads

This winter, 154 Vermont high school students attended the Governor's Institutes of Vermont Winter Weekends. GIV hosts intensive, hands-on learning experiences for young people on college campuses throughout Vermont. This winter, ten Institutes were held at Goddard College in the following topics: Acting Masterclass, Astrophotography, Biomedical Research, Debate and National Issues, Entrepreneurship, Fiction Writing, Girls' Advanced Mathematics, Global Issues Dialogue, Hacking and Cybersecurity, and Singing from the Soul.

*Celia Goodyear of Huntington, left, participated in the Biomedical strand (the first time this topic was offered) at the Governor's Institute of Vermont's second Winter Weekend, February 19-21*

Congratulations to the 2016 Mt. Mansfield Union High School winter GIV graduates: Celia Goodyear and Anna Valentine of Huntington and Nicholas Cook and Liam Rinehart of Jericho.

*Anna Valentine participated in the Debate and National Issues strand at the first Winter Weekend this year (February 5-7).*

Students apply to the competitive Governor's Institutes through their schools. Applications are available now for the summer 2016 Institutes. Topics this summer include: Arts, Astronomy, Current Issues and Youth Activism, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science and Technology, Information Technology and Digital Media, Mathematical Sciences, and Young Writers. Learn more and start the application today at www.giv.org, or call 865-4448 with any questions.

# Student Essay

## My Friends

My friends mean so much. Everyone should have the right to have friends that care and wonder when you are sick or absent from school. Or help you when you are struggling. My friends always want to help me and I always want to help them. In my mind that's what matters in a friendship. In other words, everyone deserves the kind of friend I do. The important thing about this is that I have my friends and I am glad that I have them. To add on, my friends want to play with me at recess. They want me to come to their house and to eat with them at lunch. It means a lot to me to have friends like I do.

By Rebecca Hall
Grade 4
Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

# TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

## NOTICE OF CONDITIONAL USE & SITE PLAN REVIEW

Pursuant to the Huntington Zoning Regulations, the Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Conditional Use Review on the application by Jedediah Randall to operate a commercial vehicle repair garage. Subject property is located at 111 Maple Ridge Lane (off Bridge Street). The hearing will be at the Huntington Town Office on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, at 7:15 pm

The Board will conduct a site visit at 6:30 pm on April 12.

The application and map are available for viewing at the Town Clerk's Office during business hours.

—Heidi Racht, Clerk
March 28, 2015

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# Huntington Town Meeting and Ballots: Variety of Topics, High Participation

Huntington's Town Meeting, March 1, 2016, drew a large and lively crowd nearly filling the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School (BPMS) gym. Polls were busy as voters made their choices for United States Presidential nominees along with Town Officers, and considered another school merger vote, the Mount Mansfield School Union budget as well as two municipal bonds.

Town Clerk Heidi Racht, Selectboard members Roman Livak, Andrew Hendrickson, Dori Barton, Helen Keith, and Nancy Stoddard occupied the stage with Town Moderator Dana Cummings who called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Cummings reviewed the Rules of Order for Town meeting, then moved quickly through Article 1, requiring voters to elect all officers by Australian ballot.

Article 2 asked voters to hear and act upon reports of the Town Officers and Committees. Livak further explained the Selectboard's narrative in the Town Report. Heather Pembrook questioned the lack of certain content in the record of last year's Town Meeting within the Annual Report.

*View from the back of the room of a well-attended Huntington Town Meeting, complete with voting, dog registration, displays by committees and other groups, a bake sale and an eagerly anticipated lunch at noon. Photos: Mason Rachampbell*

Racht explained the format change, "We were just trying something different...tried to shorten it a bit. The complete minutes are on the Town website and recorded in the town vault." Article 2 passed without further discussion.

Article 3, asking, "Shall the Town pay current taxes to the Treasurer of the Town and School District?" was approved without comment, as was Article 4 authorizing the Selectboard to borrow money when needed to meet current expenses and indebtedness.

Hendrickson introduced Article 5, requesting authorization to purchase a new Highway Department grader replacing the 18-year-old piece of equipment currently in use. Hendrickson further elaborated on the article, referring to the Capital Plan, and the plan to use combined funds from the General Fund surplus (fund balance), noting changes in the Capital Plan postponing some items from last year's plan in order to prioritize, in this case purchasing a grader before a new plow truck. Britt Cummings asked why this item was needed this year. Hendrickson responded that the current grader was beyond the 15-year replacement cycle the Selectboard preferred.

Don Sheldon asked about the bid process. Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger said he was getting 3 quotes on graders. Terry Ryan asked why the Town's tractor is not being replaced since it is older. Alger responded that since the tractor is rarely used, and the grader is heavily used, replacing the grader first makes sense. Heather Pembroke asked about numbers, and how these figures would affect taxes. Town Administrator Barbara Elliott explained that the cost is $304,000, "Less trade in, fund balance and highway reserve." Stoddard additionally clarified, "We have the fund balance of $57,000 and $163,000 out of the equipment reserve fund which is raised by taxes." Megs Keir asked, "Are these expenses built into the budget?" Barton answered, "Yes, we built the articles into the budget, including the bonds." Duncan Keir spoke, "This article, along with the two bond votes (for financing the repair and rebuilding of Town Bridges #8 and #30 and the acquisition of a new fire engine), are already built into the town budget and the budget would go down if these are defeated, [so] what happens if we pass the budget and the bond votes (Australian ballot items) fail, what happens to that 'surplus'?" Cummings reminded everyone that discussion should remain related specifically to Article 5.

*Sandy Heyman, right, is presented the Olga Hallock Award for Community Service at the Huntington Town Meeting. She received an extended standing ovation. Heyman grew up in Huntington and had worked on several fundraising projects with Olga Hallock. She talked about her admiration for the late, former Town Clerk and thanked the town for the award, saying, "This means so much to me."*

Joe Segale expressed confusion about the sequencing of articles since Article 6 (authoriizng the General Fund budget) "really needs to be approved before article 5."

Barton explained, "[The grader] is not paid entirely out of the budget, part is from the fund balance, and we need to get approval to use the surplus (fund balance)." The vote in favor of authorizing the Selectboard to purchase a replacement Highway Department grader appeared to be unanimous.

Alger thanked the voters.

Article 6 asked voters to authorize a total fiscal year 2016-2017 General Fund expenditure of $1,657,202.

Barton gave an overview of the budget and details of increases and decreases on line items resulting in a net increase, "The Selectboard embarks on a 4 month process to create the budget, bringing information from Departments, Committees and Commissions. We go line by line, assessing our needs versus wants. For wants, we will go back to Committees and Commissions to tease out the real needs." Barton continued, "This year, the Human Resources (HR) Committee worked on ranges for all salaries, bringing in equity and fairness. We look at every dollar amount, we do understand our tax rate is high... today is your opportunity to give us feedback; we will take that into account for future budgeting. We have a 5.5 overall percentage increase, which supports our capital reserve funding, our multi year financial planning...it's all connected, We've spent the last several years facing the budgets with a philosophy of level funding and budget caps, we kicked the can down the road and the reality of the situation is we have hit the wall and level funding is really not an option to preserve our level of services, such as repairs to roads, bridges, and culverts. "

Don Sheldon asked if last year's budget turned out to be "spot on" for what was requested in the budget for projects. Barton said "yes," adding she couldn't remember the last time the Town had a deficit. Duncan Keir asked again what happens to the money budgeted for bond articles if they are defeated. Barton said, "The tax rate will be adjusted." Dave Clark noted an increase for bridge operations. Barton confirmed, "That had been part of our level funding exercise kicking the can down the road and now we have bridges needing maintenance." Megs Keir suggested amending Article 6, putting in a clause about how the Board should proceed if bond items do not pass. David Worthley expressed that this discussion of an amendment showed distrust of the Selectboard, stating, "They already said they were going to reduce the budget if items were defeated." Margaret Taft asked, "There is no law saying you have to reduce the budget if bonds don't pass? We just have to trust you?" "Defeating the bridge bond is complicated," commented Barton. "We are committed to repairing those bridges." Larry Brace reminded townspeople to have common sense, and urged all to love one another. Liz Greenberg asked about salary increases. Barton restated the HR committee had reviewed salaries though many avenues, and the Town Administrator salary, for example, was adjusted accordingly. Caitlin Jenness questioned if the budget had really been "spot on", she saw a budget deficit in the 2015-2016 Highway budget. Barton explained that FEMA funds coming in to pay for storm damages don't always come in time to be reflected in the fiscal year in which that money was spent.

The "ayes" overwhelmingly supported the budget's passage.

Helen Keith introduced Article 7 asking voters to designate Huntington as a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) district. This designation would be the first step in enabling residents to participate in the PACE program, once the Selectboard completes research and decides whether to enter into an agreement with Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC). Residents would then be able to obtain low cost loans and technical assistance for clean energy projects, Keith explained. Mark Kelley from VEIC, doing business as Efficiency Vermont, was present to answer questions about the program. Terry Ryan asked what benefit this may bring to the Town and how much it will cost. Kelley explained that the PACE program is an alternative funding mechanism, different from bank loans, attached to the property and not a person.

Efficiency Vermont, continued Kelley, tries to take the entire burden from the Town, with no impact to town budgets. Kathy Couture asked why this was being brought up at Town Meeting.

Kelley explained that State law requires every town to vote to become a PACE district, since it is connected to town assessments. Town Administrator Barbara Elliott explained that a town has to become a PACE district first, then the Selectboard would go through the process of making a formal resolution to join the program. Ross Olgilve of the Energy Committee referred to available pamphlets detailing the program. Article 7 passed.

Article 8 addressed other Town business. Cummings reminded the crowd that anything proposed during this time was advisory only.

Duncan Keir offered a motion suggesting the residents of Huntington ask Democratic Super Delegates to forgo political cronyism and respect the majority popular vote in the event that a candidate running for the office of President of the United States receives a Vermont primary tally of a two-thirds vote. Cummings clarified this would be symbolic. After some discussion, the "ayes" had it and the motion passed.

State Representatives Tom Stevens and Theresa Wood each spoke briefly about issues being addressed by the legislature. Items mentioned included Medicaid funding, paid sick days, security within courthouses and school issues. Stevens took an informal poll by way of a show of hands, which demonstrated overwhelming

*continue to page 11*

# Richmond Speeds Through Town Meeting

Reported by Greg Elias

Richmond's town meeting may have set a benchmark for brevity this year, ending so early that the usual lunch break was more like brunch, even Second Breakfast.

*Fran Thomas asks a question about the budget during the Richmond Town Meeting. Photos: Jared Katz*

The March 1 session at Camels Hump Middle School clocked in at just one hour, 18 minutes, far shorter than the daylong affairs of years past.

The meeting featured approval of the municipal budget and talk about a $650,000 bond for sidewalk and stormwater improvements.

Under Richmond bifurcated system, bond referendums and elected offices are decided by Australian balloting. The exception is the municipal budget, which is debated and approved during the annual meeting.

The budget passed with a voice vote. The sidewalk bond won easy approval at the ballot box by a 1,277-420 margin.

There were no contested races for Selectboard and other local offices. Town Clerk Linda Parent was re-elected to serve another three-year term with 1,628 votes, the highest tally for any candidate. Other notable candidates included Selectboard incumbent Bard Hill, re-elected to a three-year term, and newcomer Steve May, who will serve a two-year Selectboard stint.

Relatively high turnout – 65 percent of Richmond's 2,919 registered voters cast ballots – in part may have been driven by Democratic and Republican presidential primaries. Richmond voters favored Republican John Kasich over frontrunner Donald Trump, and chose Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont over Hillary Clinton on the Democratic side.

Richmond annual meeting got off to a late start after a short power outage extinguished the traffic light at the nearby intersection of Route 2 and Bridge Street. Traffic backed up, so the meeting was delayed to account for late-arriving participants, Parent said in an email.

"Welcome to the democratic process," said moderator Clint Buxton to open the session, according to a video recording by Mt. Mansfield Community Television.

Selectboard Chair David Sander then carried out what he called a "bittersweet duty," dedicating the annual town report to longtime Fire Chief Tom Levesque, who died last year.

"Richmond will certainly miss Tom, driving through town, either in his red jeep or a new fire truck," Sander said. A copy of the town report was presented to Levesque's brother, Gerald.

Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik briefly outlined the $650,000 sidewalk and stormwater project. The bond funding will pay for new sidewalks, curbing and drainage work along the stretch of Route 2 just east of the Bridge Street.

The project was prompted by previously approved plans to replace water lines along the thoroughfare. That project in turn was spurred by the state's plan to repave Route 2 through Richmond. Town officials hope that dovetailing work on all three will reduce costs.

The roughly 185 residents assembled at the meeting then discussed and voted on the $3.4 million municipal budget.

*Marie Thomas questioned the timing of the sidewalk work and waterline project relative to state work that had been pushed back to 2020.*

Urbanik explained that the budget would boost the property tax rate by just over a penny to 67 cents. He said higher salaries for police officers and Highway Department workers largely accounted for the budget's 3.4 percent increase. The pay raises are intended to make Richmond more competitive with nearby towns that offer better compensation.

The town will boost starting pay for officers from $16 an hour to just over $18 over the next two years. Starting pay in the Highway Department will rise from $14 an hour to $16.

The budget passed with a one-sided voice vote. The response to a motion for budget approval was a chorus of yeas. Only a few scattered residents voiced no votes.

A short discussion of one issue not on the agenda, a proposed extension of the municipal water and sewer system along West Main Street, ended the meeting.

Resident Marie Thomas asked how negotiations with property owners were progressing. The proposal would require those along the route, most notably residents of Riverview Commons Mobile Home Park, to pay for connections to the new water and sewer lines.

Hill, who in addition to his Selectboard duties, serves on the Water and Sewer Commission, said the town has now received an income survey of the mobile home residents that will determine financing costs. But the project's financial viability remains in limbo.

"Is the project indeed going to happen?" he said. "Indeed, it may happen, and, indeed, it may not happen."

Parent said this year's town meeting was the shortest she could remember in more than a decade as town clerk. After adjourning, participants munched on homemade baked beans, cookies, pie and donuts prepared by the Beacon Light Grange.

"A few people thought it should be more of a brunch" in the future, Parent said, "but no one has spoken to the Grange yet."

*Despite the absence of a school meeting, Richmond's brief Town Meeting was well-attended with lively discussion.*

# Huntington

continued from page 10

support for legalized marijuana.

Senator Christopher Bray spoke of his work in the Vermont Senate focusing on long-term economic development, and natural resources. He referred to the passage of the Vermont Clean Water bill, which addresses storm water runoff and farmland management

Racht presented the Olga Hallock Award for Community Service to Sandra Heyman, Director of Maintenance and Head Custodian at BPMS, where she has been employed for 23 years, for going "above and beyond her duties." Racht mentioned Heyman's long service at Beaudry's Store as well as her commitment to Holiday Boxes. Heyman, referring to Hallock as someone she "really respected,"received a standing ovation.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

## Huntington School Budget increased at Town Meeting

At the Huntington Annual School Meeting, voters increased the school budget by $15,400 to cover the costs of replacing the remaining 11 windows at the school. The motion, made by Dave Clark and seconded by Heidi Racht, followed an extended presentation by the Board about cuts, Legislative spending caps, per pupil equalized costs, phantom students and enrollment projects, both in the town and in the greater MMM school district.

The main discussion of the school meeting, which began at 1:26 pm and ended at 3:08 pm, was the budget. This was the first year in recent memory where test scores were not discussed in detail.

After the budget passed, CESU Superintendent John Alberghini presented outgoing Board member Megs Keir with a framed print of the school, citing her hours of committed service. Keir received a standing ovation. Other discussion under Article 4 (other business) included the recurring theme of gender disparity in this school (lack of male teachers), bussing concerns (excessively long rides that have had children riding into past their homes into Richmond and then back again – addressed adequately for this school year) and appreciation for the work done by the volunteer Board members.

In the results of the Australian ballot vote on school merger, the town again defeated, for the third time, the opportunity to dissolve the Huntington School Board and have the school governed by a district-wide board. This time, the vote was 413-370 against the merger. Andrea Ogilvie was reelected to the Board; Jordan Davies was elected as a write-in candidate.

*—Heidi Racht*

Note: The Town Meeting minutes in outline form were made available, per state statute, following the meeting. The complete minutes are now available online and recorded in the Town Clerk's book of minutes in the vault.

# PM Sundays Concert Schedule

P.M. Sundays' last concert of the season will feature the San Franciso based duo Quiles and Cloud performing Sunday, April 10, at the Richmond Congregational Church beginning at 4 pm. With two guitars and two voices, Maria and Rory weave together modern folk songs with a symphonic elegance. They'll be joined by Oscar Wetteson on double bass. Valley Stage Productions has had the pleasure of hearing them on a number of occasion most notably when they won the Freshgrass Duo Award back in 2015 while performing at Mass MOCA in North Adams.

Next year's season schedule is almost completed. Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem will be kicking off the series on October 10. The season also includes Tony Trischka, Moores and McCumber, Natalie Haas & Yann Valquet,

Valley Stage Productions also announces a collaboration with Stone Corral Brewery with a series of "listening room" shows known as "Two for Tuesdays" beginning in October. There will be two musical acts; one local/one national touring performer. Stay tuned for additional updates.

For more details and ticket information about these events visit www.valleystage.net. You can also contact Don Sheldon at don@valleystage.net or 434-4563.

# Food Shelf Benefits from Groups' Activities

*In March, a food drive was conducted by parishioners of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Richmond. Parishioners donated over 550 pounds of food to the Richmond Food Shelf. The Knights of Columbus coordinated this successful food drive. This is the second food drive conducted by members of the Holy Rosary Church in the past six months. Pictured are Doug St. Amour, Joe Bouchard, Randy Barnard, Ray Desilets, Spike Robinson, Dan Novembrino and Dave Root.*

*The MMU Leo Club had a food drive on February 13 at the Richmond Market and Beverage. Althea Devereux and David Rosales (kneeling), Becket Hill, standing left, and Kai Richter delivered over 300 items and $153 in cash to the Richmond Food Shelf. Leo Clubs encourage youths to develop leadership qualities by participating in social service activities. The clubs are sponsored by Lions Clubs and comprise an official program of the Lions Clubs International.*

# New Baby!

Bellamy Clio Wyatt was born on February 8, 2016 to Carrie and Ian Wyatt. Big siblings Macallister, Emmerson and Willoughby are thrilled to have her join the family.

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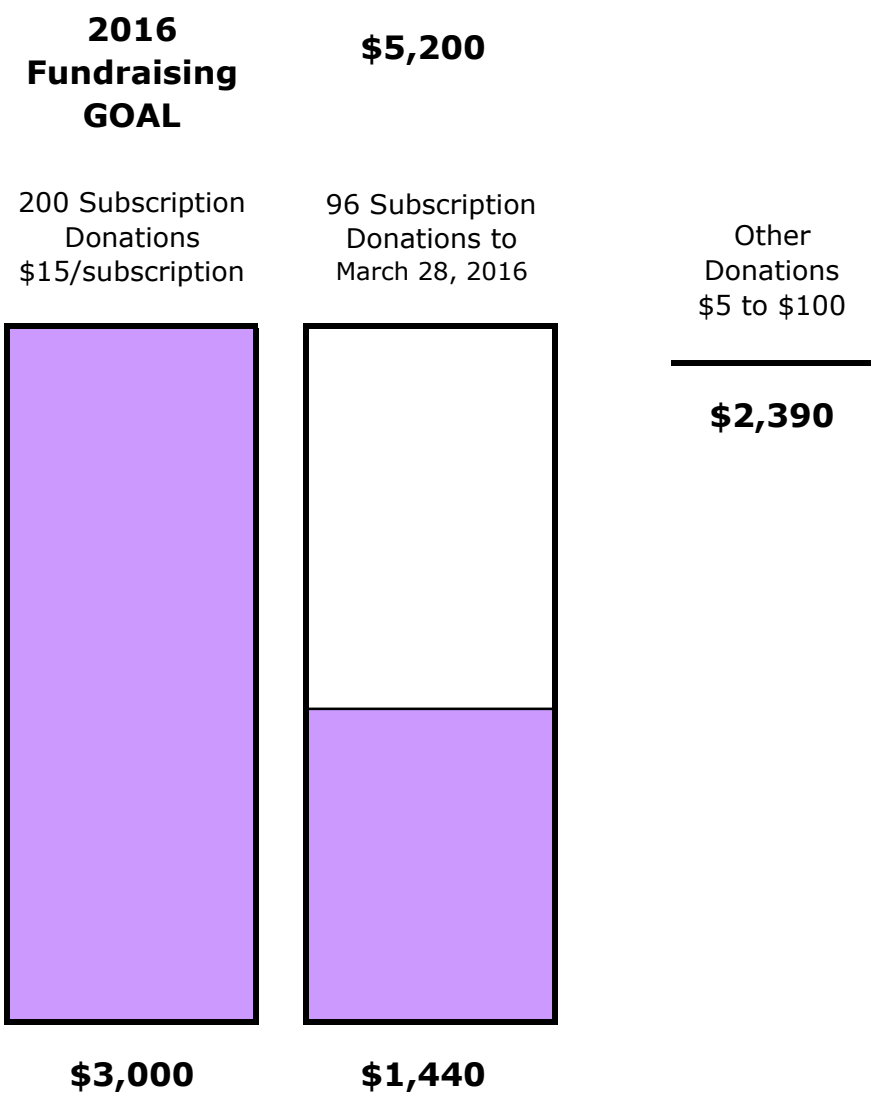


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So, if you like getting the newspaper in your box, please consider making a donation of $15 toward the cost. Surely, 200 households in the community can afford to do this!

Mail checks, of any amount, to The Times Ink, PO Box 532, Richmond,VT 05477. The paper is a 501(3) nonprofit, so donations are tex-deductable.

Thanks for your support - and thanks, especially, to the readers whose check amounts have been greater than the cost of a subscription!

## Gardening Talk

Plan and plant now for an abundant garden display next Autumn. Join Richard Dube at the Richmond Free Library on Saturday, April 9, 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Fee: cash donation to the Richmond Food Shelf.

Add late native blooms to nourish pollinators for winter and migration. View how bold foliage, in an array of color, texture and form, play a distinguished role around which Fall blooms transition.

To register call Richard Dube at 434-4834 or e-mail to richdubegeo@cs.com .

## CHMS Jr. iron Chefs Compete Successfully

The CHMS Junior Iron Chef Team The Cooking Mountaineers competed in the state competition earlier this month at Champlain Valley Exposition and won the Compost Award for their effort. CHMS team members Layla Drinkwater, Rory Wells, Evan Hazen and Emmi Clark made Sweet Potato and Apple Pierogies with Maple Balsamic Reduction and Dijon Beurre Blanc.


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# Your Digital Camera and You

On Saturday, April 9, 9 am - 1 pm, the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington will sponsor a workshop for those who would like to learn more about using a digital camera.

Give Bryan Pfeiffer four hours and he'll give you command of your digital camera. You'll understand the dials, buttons and menus on your point-and-shoot or digital SLR camera.

With humor, exuberance, plain language, and vivid photo examples, Pfeiffer gives you the tools to capture images of nature, family, pets, sports, artwork, sunsets, landscapes or any of your own digital aspirations. No longer will you set the camera to AUTO and hope for the best. No camera is off limits, no participant too inexperienced. So charge your camera battery and pack a lunch for this busy morning getting to know your camera and learning to take great photos.

Worskhop fee is $35, which includes handouts. For more information: 434-2167, museum@birdsofvermont.org or http://www.birdsofvermont.org

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# Special and Urgent Needs Grants Program Funds Available

Funding is now available from the Special and Urgent Needs (SUN) grants program at the Vermont Community Foundation. One of a number of competitive grant rounds at the Foundation, SUN helps Vermont nonprofits with unexpected expenses that impact their ability to meet their mission. A SUN grant of up to $5,000 can help an organization manage an unbudgeted, unforeseen, and time-sensitive emergency or take advantage of an unanticipated opportunity that will enhance its work.

The SUN grant program guidelines have been updated for 2016. Organizations working to meet basic human needs (social services, food, shelter, health) will be given priority. Applications for 2016 are now being accepted online on a rolling basis. Organizations are encouraged to apply as soon as the need and a plan to address the need are identified. Visit www.vermontcf.org/SUN to read the full guidelines and learn how to apply.

# Funding Available for Vermont Artists and Arts Organizations

Funding is now available for Vermont artists and arts organizations through the Vermont Arts Endowment Fund and the Concert Artists Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation.

The Vermont Arts Endowment Fund awards grants up to $5,000 to support the creation and presentation of new work by Vermont artists and arts organizations. Grants are typically made in the fields of dance; theater; music composition and performance; creative writing, including poetry, short stories, novels, and plays; sculpture; painting; photography; and film, although work in other media may also be eligible.

The Concert Artists Fund awards grants up to $10,000 per year to support organizations that present performances of classical music in Chittenden County. New this year, the Concert Artists Fund will switch to a two-year funding cycle of up to $10,000 per year. There will be no open Concert Artist Fund grant round in 2017. The Vermont Arts Endowment Fund will continue to accept applications on an annual basis.

Applications to both funds will be accepted through a new earlier deadline of April 1, 2016. Visit www.vermontcf.org/availablegrants to learn more.

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**Rosary:**
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# Area Residents Honored

St. Lawrence University student **Jennifer Finan** of Richmond, Class of 2017, traveled to San Diego with faculty to present research at the 251st national meeting of the American Chemistry Society, which took place from March 13-17, where more than 19,000 chemists from industry and academia gathered for talks, poster presentations and expositions.

Biochemistry major Finan and neuroscience major Ellis (E. J.) Curtis '17 of Canton, New York, worked with Samantha Glazier, associate professor of chemistry, studying the ways anticancer drugs work. These molecules bind into the structure of DNA and prevent cells from replicating. They presented posters on their recent findings.

**Michael J. Estes,** a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School in 2009, has just completed his primary flight training at Naval Air Station, Pensacola. Estes is a graduate of the University of Connecticut. After UConn, he went on to graduate from the Navy's Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. He is now headed to Texas in March where he will attend advanced jet training for the Navy.

**Jeffrey C. Estes**, a graduate of mount Mansfield Union High School in 2014, was named to the Deans List at the University of Connecticut in the fall of 2015 for the third consecutive semester. He is majoring in accounting. He is currently studying abroad in London. Additionally, Estes was recently named a 2015 New England Scholar, receiving this distinction for maintaining a GPA higher than 3.7.

Both are the sons of Dave and Jackie Estes, who reside in Richmond.

**Helen R. Cox** of Huntington is participating in an off-campus study abroad program during the Spring 2016 semester through St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York.

Cox is participating in St. Lawrence University's Spring off-campus program in Spain. She attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Nearly two-thirds St. Lawrence University students study off campus at some point during their undergraduate experience at either one its international or domestic study abroad program sites.

## Area Graduates

**Brent W. Adair**, Jericho, Bachelor of Science with distinction in Mechanical Engineering from Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York, December 31, 2015.

## President's List - Fall 2015

**Reilly Butler,** Richmond, a freshman majoring in Elementary Education, Plymouth State University, Plymouth New Hampshire.

**Casey Briggs**, Starksboro, Castleton University. To qualify for this highest academic honor, the student must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 4.0.

The following students have been named Presidential Scholars for the fall 2015 semester at Clarkson University.

**Thomas James Couture**, Huntington, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering.

**Grayden Patrick Shand**, Jericho, a sophomore majoring in interdisciplinary liberal studies.

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

## Dean's List - Fall 2015

**Elizabeth Morris**, a resident of Richmond and Journalism major, Ithaca College's School of Communications, Ithaca, New York.

**Andrew Nitchie**, Jericho, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have a 3.0 or higher academic average for the semester.

**Jon McClellan**, Jericho, Castleton University, Castelton.

**Bradley Adair**, Jericho, University of Delaware' Newark, Delaware.

**Kira Clokey** and **Kelsey Townson**, Jericho, Becker College, Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Celia Dunn**, Jericho, University of Rhode Island, Kinston, Rhode Island.

**Aliza Kenney**, Jericho, Emerson College, Boston, Massachusetts. Kenney is majoring in Theatre Studies. The requirement to make Emerson's Dean's List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

**Melissa Pickering**, Richmond, Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire. She is majoring in Accounting-Finance. Her parents are Pam and Tim Pickering.

**Lillian Devereux**, Jericho, Class of 2019, St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York

## Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York

**Nathaniel Ogilvie,** Huntington

**Sara Till,** Jericho

The Dean's Honor List recognizes full-time students who maintain grade-point averages of a minimum of 3.50 out of a possible 4.0 and have no grades below "C."

## Roger Williams University

**Olivia Spence**, Richmond, Architecture major,

**Andrew Lange**, Jericho, Visual Art Studies major

Roger Williams University is in Bristol, Rhode Island. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

## Rochester Institute of Tech

**Chantel Charlebois**, Jericho, Biomedical Engineering

**Connor Maynes**, Huntington, Electrical Engineering

Dean's List students qualify is their GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of Incomplete, D or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

## St. Lawrence University

**Emily R. Adams**, Jericho, Class of 2016, majoring in Neuroscience. She attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

**Danielle E. Scanlon**, Richmond, Class of 2016, majoring in Mathematics.

To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

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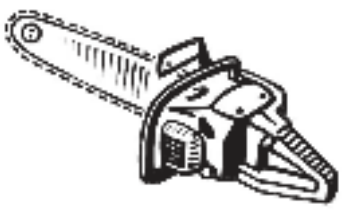

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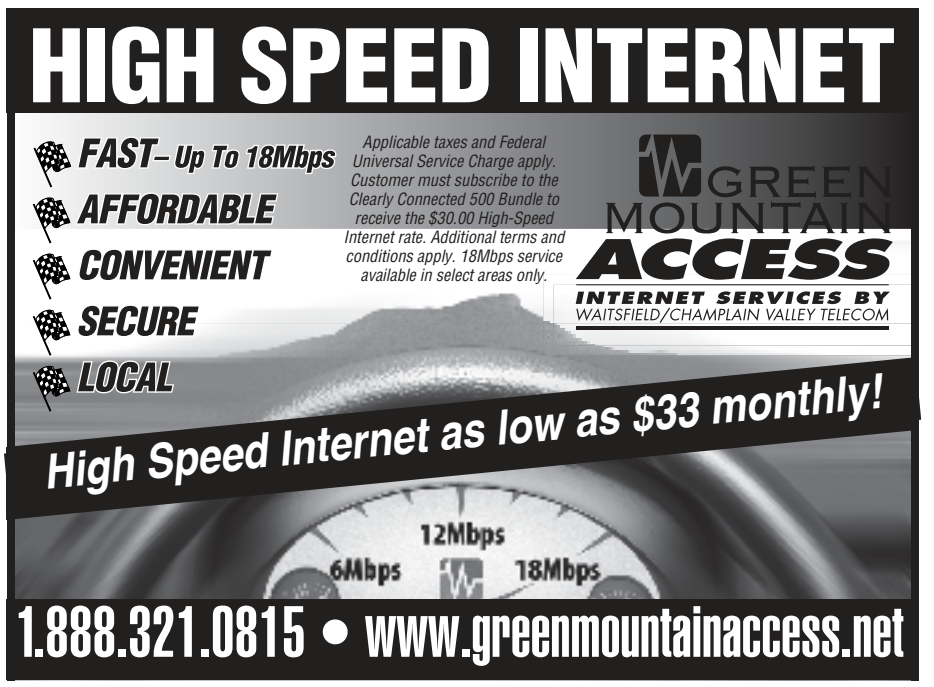


# News from Area Churches

## Community Church of Huntington

### Larry Detweiler, 434-6715

I asked Barbara Elliot to share about a new initiative in town. She writes, "Spiritual author James Redfield (The Celestine Prophecy) says nothing happens by coincidence; seemingly chance events actually 'occur at just the right moment and bring forth just the right individuals, to suddenly send our lives in a new and important direction.'

So, just how did the community movement called Huntington EATS come together to offer two pilot projects to provide good food for neighbors who might be hungry? Three days after Christmas, Ed Guilfoy, replying to one of my emergency shelter emails, suggested we look at hunger in Huntington. I emailed him some questions (or, more accurately, assumed I had) and waited to hear back.

Shortly after New Years, my friend and pastor, Larry Detweiler, lent me Sara Miles' memoir, Take This Bread. I don't know why, from among the hundreds in his library, Detweiler chose that book. Raised as an atheist, one morning, for no earthly reason, Miles wanders into San Francisco's St. Gregory's Church. She ate a piece of bread and took a sip of wine, and thus began her inspiring journey of bringing people to the table by opening more than a dozen food pantries in the poorest parts of that city.

No sooner had I finished reading Miles' story, I discovered (to my great chagrin) my email to Ed Guilfoy a month earlier had never actually been sent. We spoke that same day. He wanted to know what we, as a community that has so much to offer, could do for neighbors who may be hungry. And so, with a Miles'-like call to action, we began a conversation about hunger with people from Neighbor Helping Neighbor, the Community Church, Town Office, BPMS hot lunch, Meals on Wheels, Senior Meals, Holiday Boxes, Beaudry's, and others. Two meetings later, Huntington EATS, had organized Soup's On and Huntington's Weekend Backpack Program.

Please join us Wednesday, April 20 (4-6 pm) at BPMS for our first free take-out Soup's On Supper: Sandy's Ham and 15-Bean Soup and Heidi's Oat Bread. Pick up some for yourself and/or drop some off for a neighbor in need.

Our other project, the weekly Weekend Backpack Snack Program, kicks off on June 24 with free take-home healthy food (cereal, peanut butter, whole grain crackers, fresh fruit) for kids served by the Friday Summer Meals Program at our library.

Although you may not believe as some of us do, that something far greater than coincidence brought this group together at this time to address this important issue, we hope you'll work with us to make sure no one in Huntington has to go to bed hungry."

## Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

### Father Lance Harlow, 434-2521

The highlight of the liturgical year is Holy Week since it puts into perspective the rest of the year. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday with the solemn procession through the church with the palm branches and the reading of the Passion according to St. Luke. After Mass, the parishioners take the blessed palm branches with them to decorate their homes. What they experience at Mass should be extended into their daily lives—that is, witnessing to their faith. Tuesday of Holy Week is always the celebration of the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral with the Bishop. At that Mass, the priests renew their promise of obedience to him (recalling their original promise on the day of their ordination). Priests come from every corner of the state of Vermont for this Mass. The Bishop blesses the holy oils that will be used throughout the year for Baptism, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick and the priests take them back with them to be used accordingly.

Holy Thursday marks the institution of the priesthood and the Eucharist. Our daily faith revolves particularly around the sacred events at the Last Supper; so much so, that there is a representation of twelve men whose feet are washed by the priest. The re-enactment recalls not only Jesus' gesture of washing the Apostles' feet, but goes back even further to the ancient Jewish rites of the washing of feet required of the Aaronic priesthood described in the Book of Exodus. The stripping of the altar and sanctuary after Mass recalls the suffering of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Good Friday is the only day in the entire liturgical year when no Mass is celebrated. Instead, the veneration of the Cross occurs with prayers for the world. This is celebrated at 3 pm, the hour of Jesus' death.

Holy Saturday is celebrated as a Vigil Mass beginning at 8 pm. The Mass begins typically in total darkness and recalls the history of redemption from creation through the Resurrection. And then, Easter Sunday morning with the return of the Alleluias at Mass celebrates the joy of Jesus' rising from the dead.

Our whole Christian life finds its source in Holy Week and sets the course of personal holiness for the rest of the year. While Easter Sunday may have come and gone, may you forever experience the beauty of these sacred days.

## Vermont Faith Leaders: Support for Legislation

In a letter to state senators on February 23, a diverse group of more than a dozen local clergy and faith leaders from across Vermont expressed support for legislation that would end marijuana prohibition in the state and regulate the cultivation and sale of marijuana for adult use. The bill, S. 241, is expected to receive a full Senate vote this week.

S. 241 would make it legal for adults 21 years of age and older to possess up to one ounce of marijuana and establish a tightly controlled system of licensed marijuana cultivation sites, testing facilities, and retail stores.

Full letter from Vermont faith leaders to the members of the Vermont Senate:

:To the Honorable Members of the Vermont Senate,

What we punish people for and how we punish them are moral questions. When a policy that involves punishment fails to meet its objectives and causes harm to those it is intended to protect, we believe we have a moral obligation to support change.

Laws that punish otherwise law-abiding adults simply for using marijuana have caused more harm than good for the people of Vermont. They have also been disproportionately enforced against the poor and people of color.

As those who teach compassion and love, we believe the harm associated with marijuana can best be minimized through a regulated system that emphasizes education, prevention, and treatment rather than punishment.

For these reasons, we support S. 241, the proposal to end marijuana prohibition and regulate marijuana in Vermont.

Sincerely,

Rev. Barnaby Feder, Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, Middlebury

Roy V. Hill, II, president, Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society, Burlington

Rev. Elissa Johnk, Middlesex

Cantor Kate Judd, Brattleboro Area Jewish Community, Brattleboro

Rev. Dr. M'ellen Kennedy, Springfield Unitarian Universalist Church, Springfield

Pastor Jeremy Kirk, First Congregational Church of West Brattleboro, West Brattleboro

Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, Church of the Good Shepherd, Barre

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, Richmond

Rev. Bert Marshall, Centre Congregational Church, West Brattleboro

Rev. Peter Plagge, Waterbury Congregational Church, Waterbury

Rev. Abigail Stockman, First Church in Barre, Universalist, Barre

Rev. Ken White, College Street Congregational Church, Burlington

Rev. Peggy Yingst, Trinity Lutheran Church, Brattleboro

The Vermont Coalition to Regulate Marijuana is a broad coalition of citizens, organizations, and businesses working to end marijuana prohibition in Vermont and replace it with a system in which marijuana is regulated and taxed. For more information, visit http://www.RegulateVermont.org.

# 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

**FIRST FRIDAY:** Free yoga class. Balance Yoga, Richmond. First Friday of each month. 7 pm to 8pm. 434-8401 or go to www.balanceyogavt.com

**MONDAYS:** Community Yoga Class. 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm. Bring a non-perishable, non-expired item for Richmond Food Shelf and take class for only $5. With no food item, class fee is $10. More info at: www.balanceyogavt.com

**SATURDAYS:** FREE group meditation 8:15 am to 8:45 am, Balance Yoga, 840 West Main St, Richmond. See: 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

**3RD FRIDAY:** March, April and Ma, Candlelight Yoga with Tibetan Singing Bowls , 7 pm to 9 pm, $30. Pre-registration advised at www.balanceyogavt.com

**MARCH 30:** Rural Vermont joins the Vermont Young Farmers' Coalition to host the next Small Farm Action Day at the Statehouse in Montpelier. The event will focus on On-Farm Slaughter: Preserving a Vermont Tradition, and other issues affecting Vermont's small-scale farmers. An advocacy training, opportunities to meet with lawmakers, and farmer-to-farmer networking. More info, farmer stipend applications, and RSVP: www.ruralvermont.org or (802) 223-7222.

**MARCH 31:** The 4th Annual A Show of HANDS will feature 100 decorated wooden hands at Penny Cluse Café 169 Cherry Street, Burlington during the month of March. A silent auction of the hands will take place on Thursday, March 31, at 5:30 pm with bidding ending at 7:45. The exhibit and auction are a benefit for HANDS, a local non-profit striving to close gaps in getting food to older Vermonters. Monday-Friday from 6:45 am-3 pm, as well as weekends from 8 am-3 pm. Information: www.handsvt.org.

**APRIL 2 & 3:** 8th Annual Burlington Yoga Conference. Held at UVM Davis Center, 4th floor. For schedule and info, go to: www.burlingtonyogaconference.com

**APRIL 7:** In celebration of National Poetry Month, Vermont Poet Laureate Chard deNiord reads from his new collection Interstate, 7 pm, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank Street, Burlington. $3 per person, and include a coupon for $5 off a book by the featured author. Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Seating is limited. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

**APRIL 14:** Spring Blooms! Fashion Show and Dinner, 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm, DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, South Burlington. Cocktail reception with live jazz music by the band In the Pocket at 4:30 pm. Followed by dinner and a fashion show, 5 pm. Stick around after the program until 7 pm for more live music. Tickets : $65 per person. Reserve a table of 10 for $650. Registration is open until April 4. Also a Live Auction including prizes like JetBlue tickets and 4 passes to Walt Disney World. Raffle prizes throughout the evening. Benefit VNA.

**MAY 25, JUNE 1, JUNE 8:** Building Empathy and Addressing Racial Oppression Workshop by the Peace and Justice Center, 6:30-8:30pm at the Brownell Library in Essex Junction Register online at pjcvt.org or call Kyle at 863-2345 x6.

**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).

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

### TOWN HALL COMMITTEE
**Huntington:** 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

### 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)

### 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):** 1st Thurs, Huntington Public Library, 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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

## Worship

**Community Church of Huntington:** (See article, above, for specific activities.) Sunday morning Worship 9 am. Communion:1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155). Small Groups: 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: 8 am & 11am. Nursery care provided; Sunday school for all ages, 9:30 am. Fellowship, 10:30 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

## 25 years of Relay For Life of Chittenden County

The American Cancer Society is celebrating 25 years of Relay For Life of Chittenden County. The annual community event that unites teams from local families, businesses, schools, places of worship, and the community as a whole to celebrate, remember, and fight back against cancer will be held June 17-18, 6 pm – 6 am., at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Teams and individuals can learn more about what's new and exciting at Relay For Life on this silver anniversary year and sign up for the event by visiting relayforlife.org/Chittendenvt.

The Relay For Life movement unites communities across the globe to celebrate people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action to finish the fight once and for all. Teams and individuals will gather at Relay For Life of Chittenden County to camp out – for a few hours or overnight – and take turns walking or running around the path. Participants will enjoy games, such as Human Foosball and Bubble Soccer, along with activities, ceremonies, and entertainment.

Relay For Life movement is the world's largest fundraising event to fight every cancer in every community, with four million participants in 6,000 events worldwide in 2015. Funds raised support American Cancer Society research and free patient programs and services to help people get well and stay well.

Visit relayforlife.org/chittendenvt to learn more about Relay For Life of Chittenden County or call 1-800-227-2345.

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
**Community Senior Center**

Upcoming Events: All events are free and will be held at the Community Room of the Richmond Free Library.

**April 1:** To Endure, a Community Reader's Theatre with fifteen voices from the community telling the story of Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica one hundred years ago. This is one of the greatest survival stories of the modern world Co-sponsored with the Richmond Library. 7 pm

**April 8:** A slide show of Antarctica by Marc and Peggy Faucher who have visited Antarctica twice in the last 8 years. They'll show some of the historical elements as well as wildlife. Co-sponsored with the Richmond Library. 7 pm

**April 14:** Growing up with Cows. What was it like growing up during the Great Depression? Everyone who lived through it has stories of that difficult time. LLame Lund tells her story as the daughter of a single mother who was struggling to make ends meet on a small farm in Iowa. "It was having the cows that saved us," said Lund in a recent phone conversation. She decided to write about her memories and published them in Holy Cows. She'll discuss her writing process and read excerpts from Holy Cows as well as from a new book she's working on called Spoonholder. 1:30 pm

**Coming Soon:** Elaine Greenfield Piano Associates adult recital on June 1.

Be sure to check out our new Facebook page which has lots of new photos of recent activities. Go to Facebook and search for Community Senior Center of Richmond, Huntington and Bolton.

Church News now on previous page.

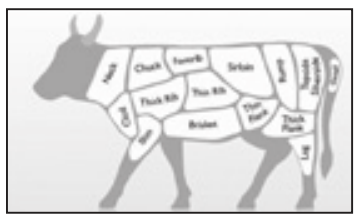
# Service Directory

## Automotive

**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]

## Beef

**GRASS FED BEEF** Our freezers are full of roasts, steaks, ground beef and more. Follow us on facebook: Moultroupvalleyfarm for details. Also call Debbie @ 434-3720 [12/16]



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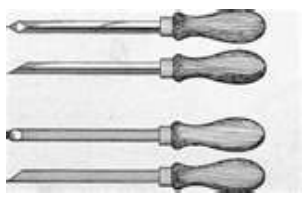

## Catering

## Cleaning

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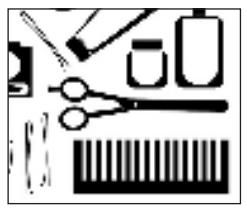
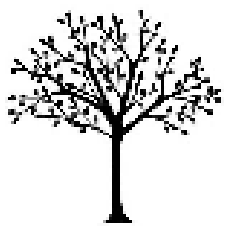


## Hair Salon



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

## Professional Services

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

## Repair

**FARR FAMILY REPAIR SERVICE** Farm tractors, compacts, snowblowers, all small engines,lawn and garden, chainsaw, chain and Hydraulic Hoses. 434-2151. [05/16]

**YOUNG'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR** Repair and service of all small engines. Chainsaws sharpened. Jim Young, 3147 Dugway Road, 434-3993. [12/16]

## Sewing

## Weddings

**HAVE YOUR DREAM WEDDING** at the Sleepy Hollow Round Barn in Huntington. A beautiful 17-sided barn that can seat up to 165. Let your family and friends enjoy over 800 acres of true Vermont. Two nights in our Eight bedroom Inn is included. Dates still available for next summer and fall. Please visit www.skisleepyhollow.com for more information or call 434-2283. [12/16]

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

## Wellness

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

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

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

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

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**Deadline:** See dates on bottom of page 1

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# Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

## Friday Evening Flowers

Our state seems to inspire an entrepreneurial spirit in people. Some wonderful in-home businesses have been developed when creative people have identified a need and a niche market. But Sharon McGreevy and Jenny Hermenze, owners of a new in-home business called **Friday Evening Flowers**, came to their business in a slightly different way. It all started off as a tradition.

Jenny Hermenze has been interested in floral arranging and horticulture for a long time. She has a degree in art history and is self-taught in botany. She currently works for Gardener's Supply and American Meadows so she knows plants and flowers and she loves them. "I always wanted to work with a florist," Hermenze told the Beat. So to satisfy my love of floral arranging, I began making an arrangement with real flowers every Friday. Then I would post my weekly arrangement on my Facebook page for all my friends to see. It was a hobby and fun outlet for me." To this day, Hermenze still does a weekly post of floral arrangements on her Facebook page. She explained her journey from doing a weekly floral arrangement to creating exquisite paper flowers. "One day I came across a book about making paper flowers. I was just so taken with the craft involved in creating something so beautiful. I called my friend, Sharon, and said, 'Let's do this for a business.'" Much to Hermenze's delight, McGreevy replied, "Sure!" A new business was about to take root! Every Thursday evening, the two friends get together to create flowers, share experiences and talk about the business. They say that this weekly experience raises each other's game and they constantly learn from one another.

*Sharon McGreevy, left, and Jenny Hermenze recently started Friday Evening Flowers, a custom design paper flower business. Photos: Bill Haddock*

Hermenze and McGreevy registered the business in December as Friday Evening Flowers in honor of Hermenze's weekly Facebook ritual. She brings an extraordinary knowledge and expertise of flowers. McGreevy brings her graphic expertise to the business and an impressive attention to the detail and care it takes from moving something from just "pretty" to a "work of art." McGreevy graduated from Parson's School of Design and previously owned her own graphic design firm named Blue House Graphics. In describing her role in the business, McGreevy talked about how she approaches each creation. "I try to create something that truly shows how nature works when I make an arrangement. That means that I may include a flower bud, a full bloom and a flower beginning to lose its petals. I want to show how nature works. Our process is a combination of art, botany and color."

Since the fall, the two friends have gotten together each week to perfect their craft and create a mix of new creations. They decided to put their main business focus on custom work and the bridal market. One of the first ways they began to reach out to the public was through the Vermont Bridal Show at the Inn at Essex and much to their delight, they were recognized as the sixth favorite vendor by the brides-to-be who attended the show--- a huge accomplishment for such a new business. The partners found that the idea of being able to preserve a bridal bouquet had a lot of appeal to the brides.

What exactly does it take to make a beautiful paper flower? Well for one thing – patience and lots of it. These are not the type of flowers you might find in a craft store. The attention to detail and the artistry involved produce a life like quality to the blooms. As McGreevy held up a beautiful poppy for inspection, she explained what makes up the process. She starts with a wire and builds from the center. Wire, glue and crepe paper are the main materials but not just any crepe paper. The challenge is to find the right paper and McGreevy and Hermenze use the highest quality Italian crepe paper. They also try to use acid free paper and natural dyes in their work. When they work their magic using this green crepe, you would swear it is a real leaf. Leaves are even more time consuming than flowers and each flower can take up to 45 minutes to make.

They can make stunning replicas of peonies, poppies, roses and much more. They also love the challenge of creating less common flowers. So if you know someone is especially fond of a rare David Austin rose, for example, they can create a likeness of that specific rose. McGreevy will actually take apart a real flower and study every part of the flower including stem, stamen and thorns to then create a paper version. One of the biggest challenges is creating paper flowers with very tiny blooms such as Queen Anne's Lace.

The art of paper flower creation is quite a movement out west in areas like California but it is still fairly new in the East, according to McGreevy and Hermenze. Most of their work will be custom design. So if you want a version of your wedding bouquet, a special anniversary or a one of a kind Mother's Day gift, you can contact Friday Evening Flowers to discuss your idea. They can work with old photos to bring your memories to life. Jenny Hermenze and Sharon McGreevy can be reached via email at info@fridayeveningflowersvt.com. Their website is www.fridayeveningflowersvt.com. Depending on the scope, most projects take about two weeks.

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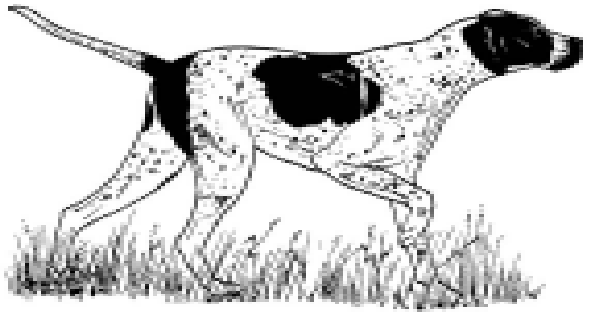

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We are creating a neighborhood that is aesthetically uplifting, culturally rich, environmentally and economically sustainable and affordable for younger families.

Learn More by

- Contacting Mark and Marijke Smith at 434-4455 or at mark@windekindfarms.com and schedule a visit to the farm.
- Read more about the project by going to our website: www.windekindfarms.com and then to the section on the Commons.
- Attend our open house and community picnic scheduled for Saturday, May 28, at 4 pm.


# All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

## Keeping Track

*"If you're in the field, observing animal behavior that isn't textbook, believe the animal."*
*—Susan Morse*

Last summer, I was trotting along a dead-end road in central Vermont. Suddenly, out of the woods, just a couple hundred feet ahead of me, appeared a mother black bear and her two cubs. She and I saw each other at the same moment, stopping dead in our tracks. After we eyed one another for a few moments, I smiled and said, gently, "I won't hurt you." Mama and babies ambled into the forest, continuing on their way.

I was elated. I've seen bears a few times, but this encounter was special. I felt full of love for this secluded place, honored for my good fortune.

As I related my delight to friends, they asked, "Weren't you scared?"

No, it never occurred to me to be frightened. My lack of concern triggered warnings and tales of bears chasing people, narrow escapes, and not-so-narrow escapes.

A few weeks ago, I was at a gathering of people who support Keeping Track, an organization helping people discover, document, and conserve key wildlife habitats across North America. It is the brain-child of Susan Morse, who was present when I told my story, concluding with the comment that "I wasn't scared - I guess I should have been."

"No," Sue said calmly. "The bear knew you weren't a threat. She sensed your respect."

And that is what Sue and Keeping Track are all about. Many of you are well aware of this amazing program and the principled and passionate person who founded and directs it. The antithesis of the self-centered, self-promoting people we are being subjected to in this political season, here is a woman who insists that it's all about the animals, not her.

I met Sue over 20 years ago when I showed up with a couple of teenage boys for an all-day tracking workshop. I thought I'd be cold, standing around looking at scat and claw marks, but was so engaged in the experience I was completely unaware of the frigid temperatures. Sue's interest in plants and animals goes way back and she seems most comfortable in the woods, listening and seeing with skills finely honed over the years. She is passionately devoted to animals and their habitat, and dedicates her life to helping the rest of us open our eyes and see.

In spite of her preference for woods and wildlife, Sue campaigns tirelessly to inform and educate. And she takes pictures - amazing photographs of the animals, some of which are printed in her annual calendar against a stunning black background, a treasure to anyone lucky enough to get one as a gift. She is in demand all across the country as a speaker and presenter, inspiring and entertaining with her slides of the antics of her subjects in their natural environment. A recent show that she billed as "x-rated" was an expose of animals caught on Sue's cameras as they marked territory, scented trees and stumps, and performed courting rituals. It was very funny.

Sue says her favorite pursuit is in the field where she studies animals' behavior and their uses of habitat, work she's been doing for 40 years.

She has become a noted authority for her scent-marking research. But she's worried.

In the face of constant pressures from people and global warming, shrinking territory and environmental conditions are threatening the animals' homes and habits. This doesn't bode well for humans either.

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

# Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

## Colds

My lovely wife and I have just survived three hacking, coughing, sneezing weeks of headaches, fevers, and fatigue. It was one of those times in life that demonstrate how wonderful it is to be in love with the person you live with. Nothing tells more about a relationship than a stuffy nose and productive cough. This is especially so when it is obvious I'm the one who brought the bug into the house.

Younger people may find this gross, but it is in taking each other's temperature and making hot tea or a rosemary-thyme steam that we really know the value of having a partner. No one else is going to forgive the disruptive coughs or risk nearness when there is a fever like someone who actually loves you.

Whether it is because of this winter's lack of snow or the extreme swings between high and low temperatures, I don't know. What I do know is that both of us spent most of February thick-headed and runny-nosed. By the time we broke down and went to the doctor, we were ready for the miracle of science to cure our ills. We got reassurance "that this too will pass" and something to quiet the coughs and let us get a little sleep.

Then it was back to long hours on the couch, searching Netflix for something new that didn't explode. There we snuggled up and appreciated how wonderful it is that someone can love you while you are sneezing. It got so pitiful, even the dog began to avoid us.

Fortunately, I'm in a business working with older people and so can't go to work if I am sick. This gave us the greatest luxury modern medicine can offer: time to simply rest and recuperate.

That isn't something enough people have today. Too many work multiple jobs with no sick leave benefits. They have to soldier on and take symptom suppressants while they struggle through the workday, infecting all around them. Not so for this old guy and his wonderful wife; we got to lay low and let the vile cold run its course.

Being over 60 with a cold is kind of scary. It is amazing how low it can lay you out and how hopeless it can make you feel. There were points when it was hard to believe people don't die from the sniffles. The older we get, the longer and more precarious the road of recovery can be.

We are in the 21st Century and there is still nothing anyone can offer that is better than chicken soup, lots of rest, and reassuring hugs from someone who truly cares. With all the advancements of science there is still nothing more therapeutic than the look of a loved one who can see through the fog of illness to the vibrant person you still are somewhere deep inside.

Aging in place, it doesn't happen by accident and you should always have some Kleenex in the house.

*(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk is Vermont's leading Aging in Place advocate, writing and speaking around the state on issues of concern to retirees and their families. He works as a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage and HECM for Purchase specialist. You can access previous Aging in Place columns and blogs at scottfunk.org. )*