The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

Volume 34 **April 2017 Issue** Number 3

Spring Snowstorm!

A relentless snowstorm covered much of Vermont in over three feet of snow, with much higher drifts, on March 14 and 15, closing schools for two days (real snow days!). Roy and Lisa Haynes photograhed their Taft Road home in Huntington.

History: Rising from the Ashes

Submitted by Mo Humphrey

Richmond was constructed on a parcel of land obtained from Julius H. Ransom on what was called, at that time, Ransom's Corners. That would be at the corner of Bridge and what would later become Front Street — and was later renamed Depot Street. The lot was bordered on the north by land owned by Martin Gleason and Bridge Street on the east. The west border was with the lot owned by Bridget Henley on Front Street. To the south the deed only states the land going all the way to the depot grounds making it unclear exactly where the south border would have been.

The building was constructed with the bottom level storefronts facing south toward the Railroad tracks. On the second floor the storefronts faced Bridge Street with the lodge rooms on the top floor. Little else is known about the building other than the number of stories and that it was of wood construction. By 1890 the Gleason and Norton Blocks would adjoin the Masonic Block to the north on Bridge Street.

On Tuesday evening, February, 6, 1891, a devastating fire broke out in the Norton Block. The front page headlines of the Burlington Weekly Free Press read as follows.

FIRE AT RICHMOND

BUSINESS PART OF THE TOWN BURNED TUESDAY

Richmond --- The large Masonic Block and four other buildings destroyed. Burlington and Waterbury Firemen save the town.

The Burlington Weekly Free Press had a reporter live on the scene chronicling the fire from its starting point in the office of J. B. Norton & Co. through to the destruction of Mr. Greene's funeral parlor on Front Street. For the most part, the

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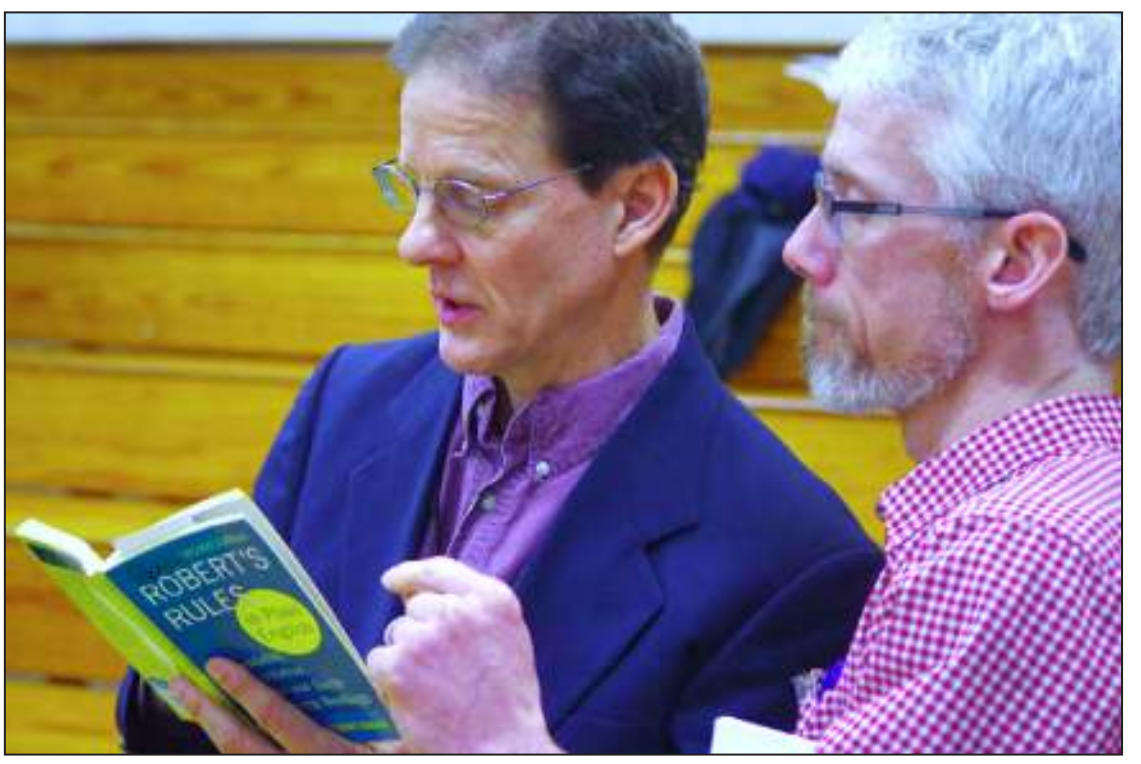
Town Meeting Day: the Usual Business, Plus a Surprise or Two



Marshall Paulsen consults Roberts Rules with a Point of Order at the Richmond Town Meeting. Photo: Jake Levison
Continue to page 7 to read about Richmond's meeting. See page 11 to read about Huntington's Town Meeting.

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OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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Letters

Town Clerks Organize Rabies Clinic

Richmond and Huntington Town Clerks organized a rabies clinic that was held at the Richmond Rescue Building on March 18. Dr. Kerry Lindemuth of Huntington volunteered her time to inoculate 58 dogs and cats.

Big, little, quiet and loud dogs and cats arrived in their crates or on their leashes, even if some of them were not very happy about it.

We had lots of help for the morning. Thanks go to Mary Keller-Butler, Reilly Butler, Pam Alexander, and Beverly Little Thunder. The entire Lindemuth family helped with the clinic. Thanks Brett, Noe, Snow, Farmer and Plum for your help. Special thanks to Taylor Yeates and the Richmond Rescue Crew for hosting the clinic.

We plan on offering another clinic next March at the Huntington Fire Station.

—Heidi Racht (Huntington) and Linda Parent (Richmond)

News from CHMS

Congratulations to Jacob Laird, who represented CHMS at the Vermont State Geographic Bee. After victory in the CHMS Geo Bee, Jacob performed well enough on the written exam to progress to the state round.

And congratulations to Ben Weinstein, who represented CHMS for the third time at the Vermont State Spelling Bee at St. Michael's College. After going head-to-head for several rounds with eventual runner-up Mckayla Webb, Ben successfully spelled conflagration and allegiance for the win.

Due to the snow, we were two days late celebrating Pi Day. Pi Day is celebrated on March 14 (3/14) around the world. Pi (Greek letter "π") is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant—the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter—which is approximately 3.14159. At CHMS, we celebrated Pi Day with pizza pie and whoopie pies for lunch. At the end of the day, all CHMS students lined up with a number of Pi….to 327 digits!

CHMS engineering club members have been hard at work designing and constructing popsicle stick bridges for the upcoming Bridge Building Competition hosted by Vermont Technical College. Working in teams, the students are charged with researching, designing, and building their bridges under a strict set of competition specifications. Almost entirely student-run, the contest provides an excellent opportunity for collaboration while providing a showcase for an impressive showing of middle school ingenuity. These bridges are BIG! With a clear span of one full meter, these aren't your basic miniature balsa wood bridges. Teams will use several mathematical tools to estimate their bridge's carrying capacity and strength to weight ratio and will then submit their bridge to mechanical testing to determine its failure point. CHMS has three teams attending the competition. Wish us luck!

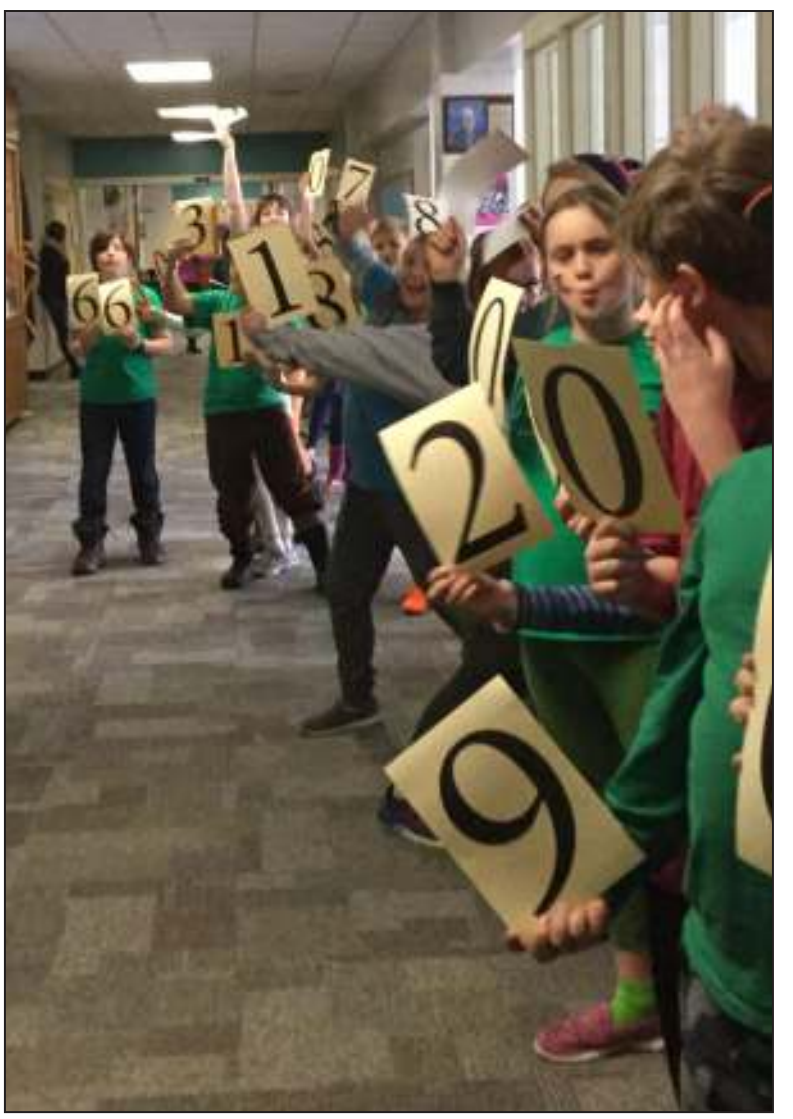
We are excited to have a CHMS team for the Middle School March Madness (MSMM) Volleyball Season/Program. We are joining a program with other schools that is already in its third season, and growing in size each year. The month long program offers students daily volleyball practice after school with round robin games each Wednesday with other participating schools. The season will culminate with a jamboree the first week of April.

The school's greenhouse is host to 1,000 onion sets and over 200 spinach and lettuce seedlings. We are hoping for this fresh produce to be ready for student consumption by the end of April/beginning of May. We are always looking for volunteers to help with the CHMS community garden. If you are interested, please contact me by calling 434-2188.

The next meeting of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School Board is at 6:30 pm on April 3 at Camels Hump Middle School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Thank you.

—*Mark Carbone*, Principal



Pi Day at CHMS: the whole school lined up with each student holding a Piece of Pi.

Spamalot at MMU

King Arthur (Akash Kushwaha, center) knows how to entertain at Camelot - along with his singing and dancing Knights of the Round Table. (Front row: Madeline Nickerson, left, as Patsy, and Ian Sturm , right, as Sir Robin.

The Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department presents the the wildly hysterical Broadway smash hit Spamalot, lovingly ripped off from the movie Monty Python and the Holy Grail. You won't want to miss the Trojan Rabbit, the Killer Bunny, Tim the Enchanter, the Black Knight, or any of the other wacky Monty Python antics in the musical Spamalot. Performances are Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, April 9, at 2 pm.

Tickets are just $6 for students and children and $9 General Admission. Tickets can be ordered https://sites.google.com/a/cesuvt.org/mmu-theatre-department/home/ticket-order-form and should also be available at the door.

Seniors Presentation: Vermont Wildflowers

In the late 1800s, Caroline Low Peckett painted over 100 native Vermont wildflowers from species that were brought to her, all growing in the Bradford, Vermont area where she lived. Caroline was a talented artist with no formal training. The original paintings were bound in a volume that were later photographed and made into slides. More recently the slides were digitized to make them easier to view. Although not quite as vivid as the true colors of the actual paintings themselves they are detailed and beautiful and represent many of Vermont's wildflowers.

Huntington resident Debbie Worthley, a descendent of Caroline Peckett, will show the paintings in a slide show on April 13 at 1:30 pm at the Richmond Free Library, sponsored by the Community Senior Center.

With real spring just around the corner come enjoy these wildflower paintings and then head to the woods to find some specimens yourself.

Lasagna Dinner at CHMS

The Prosper Program at Camels Hump Middle School (CHMS) will hold a Lasagna Dinner Fundraiser and Free Movie Screening of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story for CHMS Families on Friday, April 7.

Dinner includes lasgana, salad,bread and

Dine in (5:30 pm to 7:30 pm) or pick up (5 pm to 7 pm). the fiom begins at 7:30 pm.

Pre-orders: $5 or $20 for a family of five; over five people, add $5 per person. Orders must be placed by 3 pm on March 31. Tickets purchased at the door are $6 or $25 family rate.

For more information, visit: http://camelshump.cesuvt.org/news

Prosper is a sixth-grade family program. CHMS has been running this seven-week parent/child program for the past three years and the feedback from families and students is very positive. During the seven weeks parents and children have the opportunity to discuss adolescent development, communication and decision making.

Richmond Senior Foot Clinics

The 2016-2017 Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors are underway and are a resounding success. Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building. Come to the back door of the building for 9 am.

Mark your calendar for April 4, May 16, June 27 and September 5.

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

Bring a towel and enter through the back door of the building. The clinic is sponsored by UVM Medical Center. More information can be obtained at singersallydan@yahoo com.

Social Band Sings to the Moon

People have sung to the moon in many ways throughout history. The moon is a companion in the dark, a milder alternative to the sun's harsh rays, an instigator of madness, a member of the cosmic chorus of earth, sun and stars and a timekeeper of rituals and tides. Social Band, Burlington's lively band of singers, dedicates its spring program to this jewel of the night with song and poetry.

Jewel of the Night / Musical Reflections on the Moon:

Saturday, April 1, 7:30 pm ~ Richmond Free Library

Sunday, April 2, 3 pm ~ First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington

Saturday, April 8, 7:30pm ~ United Church of Hinesburg

Sunday, April 9, 3 pm ~ Charlotte Congregational Church

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

Richmond Blood Drive

The need for blood is critical. The need for blood does not take a holiday.

Please roll up your sleeve so others may live.

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at the Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall on Wednesday April 19, noon to 6 pm. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to redcrossblood.org for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Those with appointments are able to help minimize the time it takes to donate. To further reduce your wait time, consider using RAPIDPASS (http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass), a pre-donation and health history questionnaire.

Complete on line on April 19 before you arrive to donate.

The winter blood supplies have been extremely low. Watch for donor incentives closer to the drawing.

Mark you calendar for local opportunities to donate blood:

June 14: Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, 10:30 am to 4 pm;

August 16: Richmond Congregational Church, 11:30 am to 5 pm;

October 11: Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, 11:30 am to 5 pm;

December 13: Richmond Congregational Church, 11:30 am to 5 pm.

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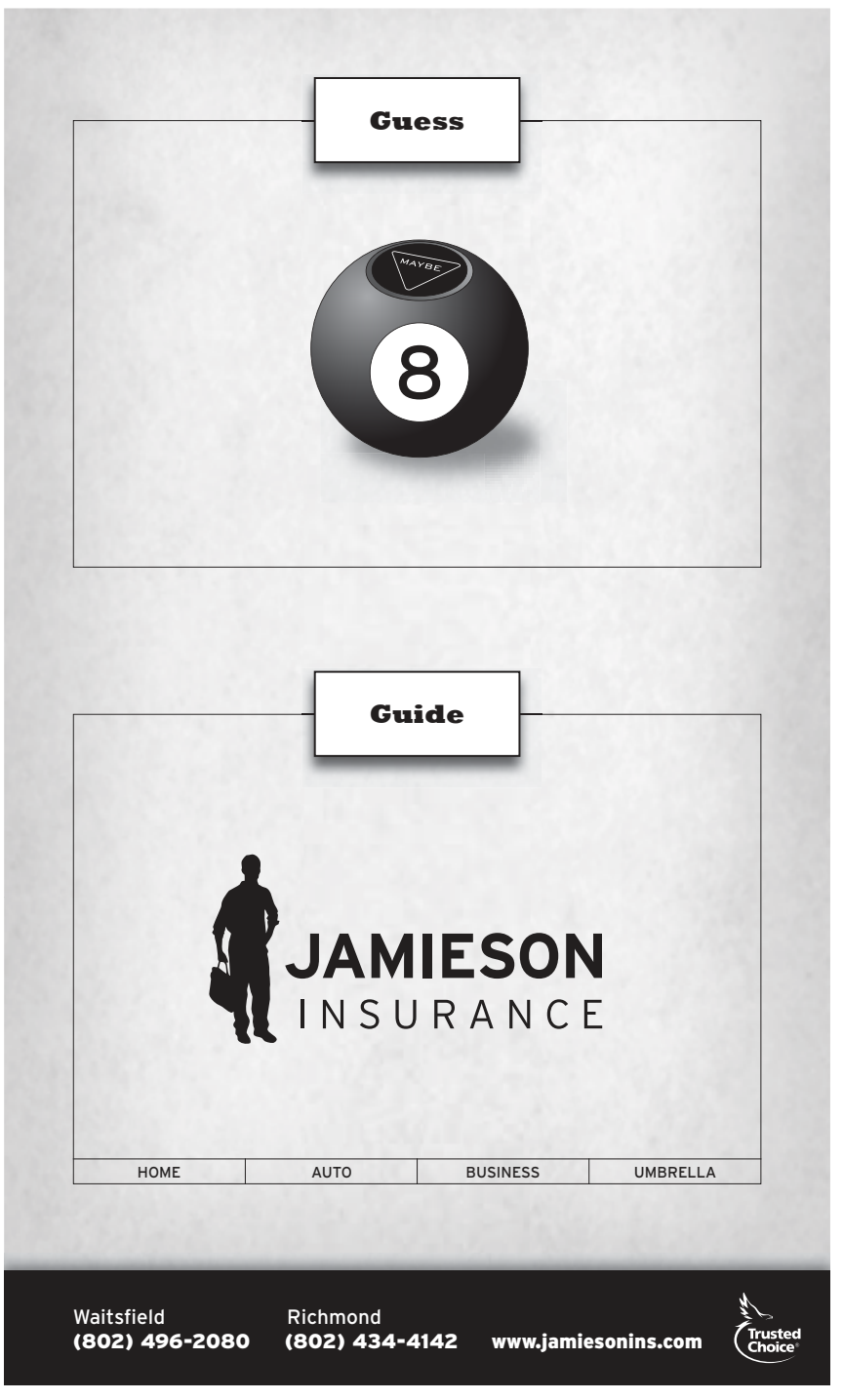

Huntington Public Library

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

Citizen Scientist Program Please join us on Friday evening, March 31, at 6 pm for snacks and desserts, and 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for the program. Please remember that we are a Zero Waste venue (see below). Our presenters will be Erin Talamge, Introduction to CitSci and iNaturalist 101; Ali Wagner, Citizen Science is for the Birds; Cindy Sprague, Herps and The Vermont Altlas of Life; Elizabeth Spinney, Mapping for Healthy Forests; Larry Montague and Darlene Palola, Huntington Town Garage Stormwater Mitgation; Holly Kreiner, Volunteer Stream Sampling; Wally Jenkins, Dragonfly Days and Data, and John Hadden, Backyard Weatherman. There will also be a short intermission featuring data collection challenges. Come with or without your device and learn how to get started on submitting data or just enjoy learning about local and global efforts to understand our world. Teens and adults are welcome. Call or email for more information.

Library Notes The Library Notes Series continues with Petes Posse live at the Huntington Public Library on Friday, April 7, at 7 pm! Vermont based trio Pete's Posse is composed of acclaimed musician Pete Sutherland (fiddle, piano, banjo, melodica and vocals), Oliver Scanlon (fiddle, viola, mandolin, foot percussion and vocals) and Tristan Henderson (guitars, mandolin, jaw harp, foot percussion and vocals). Twin fiddles are used in harmony over guitar and footwork with mandolin, clawhammer banjo, jawharp, and keyboards, then adding their voices to the mix. Songs and tunes, old and new, lyrical and driving: that's the multi-generational heart and mind of Pete's Posse, Friday, April 7, at 7 pm. Tickets $10 at the door. This concert is a collaboration of the Valley Stage Productions and the Huntington Public Library. The Library Notes Series is sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation.

Thank You A very special thank you to Laura Andrews, the former owner of Stargazer Toys and Gifts in Richmond. She has generously donated a large amount of books and Summer Reading Program incentives.

Zero Waste The Library is now a Zero Waste venue. When you come to the Library and/or attend programs where refreshments are served we ask that you bring your own cups, plates, utensils and napkins. If you have babies or children, please remember to bring everything out with you that you brought in with you!

Book Club Sunday, April 23, 10 am. The Weird Sisters is about three rather eccentric well-read sisters who do love each other, but do not necessarily enjoy each other's company, but are each deeply connected on their journey of self -discovery. Younger children are also welcome to come along to join the mini book group with stories, crafts, and toys! Copies of the book are available at the Library. Coffee, tea, conversation, and goodies will be available.

Programs at the Library

Learn to Make Paper Flowers Friday, April 28, 1 pm. All elementary age childen are invited to make paper flowers with Aurora over spring vacation. Maybe you will be adventurous and try to make a tree, since it will be Arbor Day! All materials will be provided.

Introduction to Bookmaking with local artist Aurora. Sunday, April 30, 11 am – 1 pm. Join Aurora to learn simple techniques to make a handmade book. Workshop size is limited due to materials needed. Call or email to sign up.

New Adult Fiction Humans Bow Down by James Patterson;The History of Wolves by Emily Fridlund; The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen; Like Family by Paolo Giodano; Friday on My Mind by Nicci French; The Tie That Binds by Kent Haruf; Home Front by Kristin Hannah; The Girl Before by J.P. Delaney.

Adult Non-Fiction The Color of Food – Stories of Race, Resilence and Farming by Natasha Bowens; The Healthy Bones Nutrition Plan and Cookbook by Dr. Laura Kelly and Helen Bryman Kelly; Atlas Obscura – An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders by Joshua Foer; Writings on the Wall – Searching for a New Equality Beyond Black and White by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar; March – Books One, Two and Three by Lewis, Aydin and Powell; 100 Plants to Feed the Bees by the Xerces Society; The Upstarts – How Uber, and the Killer Companies of the New Silicon Valley are Changing the World by Brad Stone; Lost City of the Monkey God by Douglas Preston; The Man Who Planted Trees – A Story of Lost Groves, The Silence of Trees and A Plan to Save the Planet by Jim Robbins; Beyond the War on Invasive Species – A Permaculture Approach to Ecosystem Restoration by Tao Orion; Kombucha Revolution – 75 Recipes for Homemade Brews, Fixers, Elixers, and Mixers by Stephen Lee with Ken Koopman; Overview by Benjamin Grant.

New Adult Audio Lost City of the Monkey God by Douglas Preston.

DVD Chocolat; Trolls.

Picture Books Muddle and Mo by Nikki Slade Robinson.

Junior Fiction Eragon

Story Time Babies and children learn early literacy skills by listening to stories, singing songs, rhyming, and fingerplays. Join us Friday's for fun, stories, and crafts. Stories start at 10:45 am.

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am – noon. The playgroup aims to provide a warm, welcoming, and fun place for children and their caregivers to meet friends new and old. For more information, contact Jen O'Hora at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Movie Night Please Note that Movie Night is on the Second Friday of the Month! We will be showing Moana! Wear your pajamas, and bring your best friends! Friday, April 14, at 7 pm.

Substitutes Needed Substitutes are occasionally needed for our open hours. Please call or email for details.

Passes at the Library As the weather warms and the days get longer, it's a good time to check out a pass to an area attraction. The Library offers the following passes, including:

Echo Lake Aquarium and Science Center Pass will allow for $ 4 per person admission up to four people. The museum is open 10-5 daily. http://www.echovermont.org/

State Park Use Pass will allow for free entry into any Vermont State Park Day Use Area (up to eight people in one vehicle) Day Use Areas Open 10 am to sunset. Information available at http://www.vtstateparks.com

Richmond Free Library

www richmondfreelibraryvt org

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

The Health Care Movie The Library has acquired a license to show a download of this documentary on single payor health care and how it works, where it's been used, why it hasn't been adopted in the U.S. Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 pm.

Library Closed April 17 Library staff will be attending a special training workshop.

April Art Show Our April art show features the oil paintings of Williston artist Phil Laughlin. Vermont has a long rich history dating back to 1791, when it became a state. Alongside this unique character exists a thread of nostalgia, a yearning for days gone by. But a state with this much strength of character can't be bound by the past. Is Vermont still working for its residents and guests? This show attempts to look at that question and examine how the storied past endures into the present. The paintings concentrate on various structures and altered environments which stand witness to past efforts. Even though some have been re-purposed, they still prove useful in farming, business, as residencies and recreational areas.

April Display Plans for summer camps are underway. Take a peek at our foyer display case during the month of April and learn more about Richmond's own summer camp. Our Community Cares Camp, Inc. (OCCC) is a free day camp that provides food and fun in the summer for children from Bolton, Huntington and Richmond. During the month of July, OCCC offers a free, fun-filled enrichment camp to 80+ campers. These children, aged 5 to 11, try many different arts and crafts and many outdoor sports, games and adventures.

Community Art Installment Those members of the Richmond community who have read Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson will recognize the images in our community art installation as coming from the cover of this amazing little book. Richmond is participating in Vermont Reads, an initiative of the Vermont Humanities Council that invites multi-generational members in a community to read, discuss and think about the important themes in the chosen book. Many themes are introduced in Woodson's Brown Girl Dreaming including family, race, faith, personal dreams and important friendships. The library is inviting every visitor to the Library to explore these themes in their own lives by contributing a butterfly and a part of their own story to the art installment. Come see it. Come be a part of it. Life-size watercolors and silhouettes by Kathryn Wysockey-Johnson. Butterflies by all of us!

Welcome Baby Social On March 26, we had a welcome brunch for our very newest residents that arrived in 2016 where parents could socialize with other new parents and met their child's future classmates. If you welcomed a new little bundle of joy into your home in 2016 and were unable to join the Baby Social sponsored by Building Bright Futures and the Library, please let us know. We still want to share with you some special details.

Egg Hunt at the Library Yes, you've got that right! In honor of the return of warm, sunny days and a love of chocolate we will be inviting kids between the ages of 2 - 10 to an egg hunt at the Library. Where better search for chocolate eggs than on the shelves where you search for great books to read. Participants will gather in the community room for instruction before being turned loose to search for eggs on all three floors of the Library as well as out in the yard. We are also looking for a few responsible teen helpers. Please contact us if you can help out. Don't miss it on Saturday, April 15, at 9:30 am sharp!

Weekly Children's Programs

Baby Laptime This short storytime is for babies ages 0 - 24 months and their grownups. We will share the magic of stories, songs, rhymes, bounces and fingerplays designed to introduce these youngest children to color, sounds, fine motor skills, and body movement. Join the fun on Mondays at 10:30 am.

Storytime For children age 2 - 5. One of the best things you can do for your child is introduce them to the wonderful world of books. We'll share excellent picture books both new and old as well as the classics at this storytime on Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

Early Bird Math Storytime For children ages 2 - 5. We will explore numbers, shapes, patterns and sets through books, songs, rhymes and games. This fun, interactive storytime happens in the community room every Friday at 11 am.

Please note that these programs will not be running during the April school break the week of April 24-28. In addition Baby Laptime is cancelled on Monday, April 17, as the Library will be closed for a staff training.

Love Your Library Video Challenge This past February five local teens met at the Library and at the MMCTV station and worked together to create a short film highlighting some aspect of public libraries. They submitted their video to the Vermont Access Network as part of the annual Vermont Public Access TV Video Challenge. You can view their video entitled, The Crazy Quiz Show at https://vimeo.com/206155978 (no password needed).

Richmond Area Playgroup meets on Wednesdays from 8:45 am–10:15 in the Library Community Room.

New DVDs American Honey, Arrival, Bones – Season I, Arrival, Captain Fantastic, Casino, Deadpool, The Girl on the Train, Hacksaw Ridge, Hell or High Water, Hello, My Name is Doris, Hunt for the Wilder People, In America, A Man Called Ove, Manchester by the Sea, Nocturnal Animals, Schindler's List, Shetland – Season 3, The way back

Adult Fiction A Bird in the Hand by Ann Cleeves (by the author who inspired BBC series Vera and Shetland), Blood Is the Sky by Steven Hamilton, The Boy Who Escaped Paradise by JM Lee, Bright Air Black by David Vann, Burning Bright by Nick Petrie, Celine by Peter Heller, Charcoal Joe by Walter Mosely, Cold Earth: A Shetland Mystery by Ann Cleeves, The Corners of the Globe: A James Maxted Thriller by Robert Goddard, Dark Flood Rises by Margaret Drabble, Dark at the Crossing by Elliot Ackerman, Dreamer's Pool: A Blackthorn and Grim Novel by Juliet Marillier, The Fire by Night by Teresa Messineo, The Fireman by Joe Hill, For the Most Beautiful: A Novel of the Trojan War by Emily Hauser, Garden of Lamentations by Deborah Crombie, The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa, Golden Prey by John Sandford, The Grace of Kings by Ken Liu, Her Every Fear by Peter Swanson, The Ice Beneath Her by Camilla Grebe, In This Grave Hour by Jacqueline Winspear, Man Overboard: An Ali Reynolds Novel by J.A. Jance

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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard meeting on February 20, 2017 began with a Clean Water Act presentation, specifically addressing the Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP)."Act 64 is going to be a huge thing," said Town Administrator Barbara Elliott. Act 64 was signed into law in 2015, and requires storm water permits and discharge permits for industry, agriculture, and logging. Towns must conduct road erosion inventories. Annual fees are starting in 2018 and municipalities will have to develop implementation plans and file semi annual compliance reports. Remediation plans will need to be developed by Fall 2020. The runoff from the town's unpaved roads contains phosphorus which pollutes Lake Champlain. "We are part of the Winooski River water shed."

Board Chair Dori Barton asked, "Is it a one time application fee?" Elliott clarified that in addition to the one time application fee, every five years the Town must submit an implementation plan and pay a processing fee, and pay an annual operating fee of $2,000. There will be different requirements for paved roads, gravel roads and class four roads.

Selectboard member Nancy Stoddard asked, "What will we be doing to the identified roads?" "We don't know yet how the new standards will compare to what we are doing already," responded Elliott, adding,"We will continue to go after Better Back Roads grants, and different funding sources, but none will meet the total need."

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger provided an update on the winter highway budget. "I'm out of salt money and almost out of sand, I'm crossing my fingers we don't have too much bad weather between now and April." Barton told Alger to keep the Board apprised of this situation.

Alger shared Bridge 10 repair estimates from Parent Construction. For $82,000, they could fix one side or fix the whole deck for $192,00. "If we could get a structure grant it would cover 75%," said Alger. Barton recommended, "We should do the whole thing, not just a 'Band-Aid' fix."

The Board passed a motion to sign the annual Vermont Department of Transportation (VTrans) Certification of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards. This yearly certification assures the Town remains eligible for 12.5% of State Emergency Relief Assistance Funds. The Board also approved the Annual Financial Town Highway Plan for Fiscal year (FY) 2018, certifying that more than $300 per road mile for maintenance is raised by Town taxes.

Town Meeting Preparations The Board conducted a Town Meeting article review with Town Clerk Heidi Racht and Town Moderator Dana Cummings. Racht asked if there would be any follow up on the PACE program (Property Assessed Clean Energy) which was discussed at the 2015 Town Meeting. Elliott answered, "The analysis was done and sent to the Energy Committee, but no one has expressed any interest in participating. "

Professional Audit The Town Auditors communicated their professional audit recommendation, agreeing with the Board that the Fothergill, Segale & Valley fee is fair and the Accounting firm has done a good job. The Board agreed to sign the engagement letter with Fothergill, Segale and Valley for the FY 2016-2017 Professional Audit at a cost of $12,800.

Huntington has been asked by the Vermont State Police (VSP) to participate in a car break-in mitigation project, which will look at getting better communication between towns and police.

March 6 The Selectboard met briefly on March 6, 2017.

The Board unanimously voted to have the Town of Huntington claim a three-rod right of way centered on the traveled way for Camel's Hump Road. VTrans requested this declaration as it begins project planning for Bridge 32.

The Board authorized the purchase of an additional speed radar sign and one paved speed table. The speed table will be installed somewhere between the Union Meeting House driveway and Maplewood Cemetery. Although the cost of these items will exceed the amount budgeted for traffic devices, Alger assured the Board this money would come from under spending in other areas of the Highway budget.

Barton informed the Board about a possible donation of land to the Town. The half-acre parcel on Charlie Smith Road contains a popular Cobb Brook swimming hole.

Board Business The Selectboard meeting March 20, 2017 began with organizational items. Town Clerk Heidi Racht delivered the Oath of Office to newly-elected Board member Daniel Rissacher and reelected member Barton. Andrew Hendrickson was also reelected but had taken the oath of Office on March 7.

The Board voted to appoint Barton as Chair and Stoddard as Vice Chair. Barbara Elliott was appointed as official recorder. The Rules of Procedure were readopted with no changes.

Liquor Licenses The Liquor Control Board reviewed annual license renewals for Huntington River Vineyard and Beaudry's Store. The Board approved the licenses and Racht signed them.

New Town Truck and Excavator Alger met with the Selectboard for the Highway report. Randy Clark from Clark's Truck Center joined the discussion. Alger said he has gotten three quotes for a 7600 series International tandem dump truck, and the deal Clarks is offering Huntington to trade in the old truck "is great." Voters at Town meeting approved this truck purchase. Stoddard commented, "The money wasn't approved until July." Alger and Clark said it would take that long to manufacture the truck. Alger said the amount of the purchase should be under budget. The Board passed its motion to proceed with the truck order. Clark thanked the Board for the Town's business.

Voters at Town Meeting also approved buying an excavator. Alger described a used excavator he would like to purchase, which has 330 hours on it, and a 3-year warranty "like it's brand new." Alger's plan would be to take it as a rental for May and June with the cost of he rental being deducted from the final cost. Hendrickson asked, "What about a trailer?" Alger said he was looking for one.

Road Crew Opening A road crew job opening has been posted and Alger reported receiving several applications. The Town hopes to fill this Highway Department vacancy as soon as possible. A motion to set the maximum salary for this position at $18.00 an hour passed. The Board agreed to have the Chair and Vice Chair, along with Alger, offer a full time job to their chosen applicant.

Huntington Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey met with the Board, explaining the Fire Department handles fire and first response calls, along with performing backcountry rescue. Jeffrey described the emergency call procedure: a 9-1-1 call first reaches a dispatcher in Shelburne, which is then dispatched to pagers. If no member of the Huntington Fire Department responds, a page is sent to the next agency. If an emergency is a natural disaster 9-1-1 is still called and if a State of Emergency is declared the Town Administrator is in charge of the Fire Department, Jeffrey continued. "We don't have a whole lot of members that are around during the work week, if its a medical call Richmond Rescue is available, but help during

continue to page 15

Richmond Town Meeting

Reported by **Greg Elias**

Elected officials confront an ever-skeptical electorate these days. In a sharply divided country, criticism is in the job description.

So it was remarkable when resident after resident attending Richmond's annual town meeting on March 7 praised Town Clerk Linda Parent, then voted to give her a big pay raise. They said she goes beyond her official duties while dealing with municipal matters large and small, even cleaning up road kill and walking stray dogs impounded by the town.

"She is the face of Richmond to many people who come here and to people who live here," said Jane Van Landingham, a justice of the peace who often interacts with Parent. "But if you have a special problem, she is the Mother Teresa of Richmond."

She made an initial motion to boost Parent's annual pay by $3,000. That raise was later doubled and a new salary of $53,334 was approved by a voice vote. Not a single "nay" was heard among the estimated 185 residents gathered at Camels Hump Middle School.

The appreciation for Parent came during discussion of the municipal budget, as shown on a video recording of the meeting made by Mt. Mansfield Community TV. Rounding out the nearly three-hour session were non-binding resolutions that confronted Trump-related national controversies.

Meanwhile, in separate Town Meeting Day balloting, voters resoundingly approved spending $125,000 to buy undeveloped land on Route 2. The Vermont Land Trust is working with the town to facilitate the purchase. Also on the ballot were elected offices, all uncontested.

Most Chittenden County municipalities use balloting for budget approvals, relegating the annual meeting to an afterthought. Richmond, however, has preserved tradition by continuing to vote on the budget at Town Meeting, often debating and altering individual line items.

Talk about Parent's pay consumed much of the budget discussion. The $3.5 million spending plan for the fiscal year starting July 1 boosts spending by just over two percent.

After Van Landingham made her motion for the raise, resident Bruce LaBounty offered an amendment doubling the pay increase to $6,000.

Then several residents stepped up to the mike and complimented Parent. Among them was resident Marie Thomas, executive director of Our Community Cares Camp in Richmond.

"Linda is my rock," Thomas said. "The number of things she does that are above and beyond what her Town Clerk duties are do keep us together as a town."

Van Landingham pointed out that Parent has received only cost of living raises and noted that other clerks in smaller towns are paid more.

Some residents asked if Richmond has a pay scale. The town does have a salary grid that accounts for years of service and qualifications, explained Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik, but it has not been closely followed. Most town employees have received just 2 percent annual cost of living raises in recent years.

In an interview, Parent confirmed that she has in fact received only the standard cost of living pay increase since first being elected as Richmond's town clerk in 2005. Parent said she has taken several professional development classes and achieved the highest possible certification for her experience.

Van Landingham said during the meeting that did not tell Parent that she was going to propose the raise. But while readying paperwork for town meeting, Parent learned something was afoot after a fellow employee "slipped" and made a reference to the raise. But the employee refused to say more when Parent asked what she was talking about.

More surprising to Parent was the parade of compliments. After the raise was approved, the camera recording the meeting zoomed in on her as residents applauded. Sheepish might best describe her facial expression.

"I did not expect that at all, to have so many people ring my praises," Parent said.

Trump Comes to Town His name was never spoken, but President Donald Trump's actions clearly motivated a trio of non-binding resolutions passed during the meeting.

The first, proposed by longtime resident Jeff Forward, targeted Trump's ban on immigrants and refugees from Muslim-majority countries in the Mideast. It stated that Richmond accepts all people regardless of color, nationality, religion and sexual orientation. Similar town meeting resolutions were passed in towns around Vermont, including neighboring Williston.

Forward said he was worried about growing intolerance and wanted to emphasize that Richmond is a welcoming community.

"There's been so much negativity and divisiveness in our country that frankly it's been hard for me to take," he said. "And it continues. I for one am sick of it. I don't believe this nastiness is who we are as a country, and I know for a fact it's not who we are as a community."

The Rev. Katelyn Macrae of Richmond Congregational Church proposed broadening the resolution by stating that Richmond also accepts people of any gender identity and socioeconomic status. The amended resolution easily passed by voice vote.

Also approved was a proposal by resident Mike Foote requesting the statement be included in the new town plan and directing the Selectboard to appoint a diversity liaison.

In one other Trump-inspired measure, Selectboard member Steve May offered a resolution that asks the state Legislature and Vermont Secretary of State to require financial disclose for all candidates to qualify for the presidential primary ballot beginning in 2020.

Trump has refused to release his tax returns, a disclosure other presidential candidates have made for decades. He has cited an ongoing audit by the Internal Revenue Service, but tax experts and the IRS have said that there is no law that forbids making audited returns public. (On March 14, Trump did release two pages of his 2005 tax return in response to a leak of the document first reported by cable network MSNBC.)

Some residents said they were concerned that Vermonters would just have fewer choices on their ballots should a candidate refuse to make the required disclosure. But the resolution passed anyway, with supporters significantly outnumbering those voicing opposition.

Land deal OK'd Daylong balloting was also held on Town Meeting Day in Richmond. Without any contested races for municipal elected offices, the biggest ballot item asked voters to fund purchase of a parcel known as Andrews Forestland. The ballot item passed by a lopsided 725-178 margin.

continue to page 15

Correction

A story about Richmond's town meeting in the March edition misstated the rise in spending under the proposed municipal budget. The budget will actually increase spending by 2.3 percent.

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2017 Vendor Applications Requested

Attention potential Richmond Farmers Market vendors! The 2017 market season is rapidly approaching! April 1, 2017 is the first-consideration deadline for vendor applications. If you've been thinking about vending at the market, now is a great time to apply! There are still some full/half season options, as well as day vendor spots available, but they are going fast. Interested vendors may apply online.

The Richmond Farmers Market takes place on Friday afternoons at Volunteers Green in Richmond, Vermont from June through mid-October. Our primary goal is to provide fresh, local food and products. We focus on strengthening the direct connection between consumers and producers by creating a market for the folks who keep our local food system strong. Our customers enjoy family-friendly dining options at the Market and our vendors make it easy to create wonderful meals by offering fresh, healthy ingredients to take home in addition to unique, hand-crafted products that make great gifts. The Richmond Farmers Market also offers entertainment for everyone, with weekly music and fun activities for children, as well as a lively social event right in our local community!

RICHMOND FARMERS MARKET

2017 Richmond Farmers Market
Every Friday afternoon
3 pm–7 pm, June 2 through Sept 15
3 pm–-6 pm, Sept 22 through Oct 13

Please visit http://richmondfarmersmarketvt.org for more information about the market and the process for becoming a Richmond Farmers Market vendor.

Easter Services

Richmond Congregational Church
HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 9. 10 am
Worship with Brunch following

Maundy Thursday, April 13, at 7 pm
at Williston Federated Church

Good Friday Ecumenical Service, April 14, 7 pm worship
at Richmond Congregational Church

Easter Sunrise Service at Volunteers Green
April 16 at 7 am
Followed by a light breakfast served at RCC

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday Service, April 13, at 7 pm
at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston

Good Friday Service, April 14, at 3 pm
at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Richmond

Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday, April 15, 7:30 pm
at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston

Easter Sunday Masses
8:30 (Richmond) & 10:30 (Williston)

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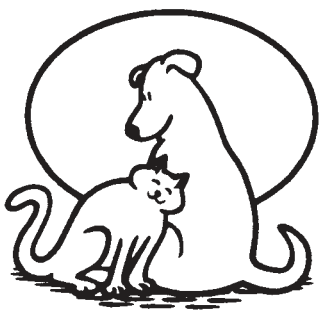

Drs. Virginia Clarke,
Daniel Hament & Cori Weiner

Upcoming Lifelong Learning Programs

at the Richmond Library

Hand Painted Vermont Wild Flowers

Presented by Debbie Worthley

April 13, 1:30 p.m.

In the late 1800s Caroline Low Peckett painted over 100 native Vermont wildflowers from species brought to her, all growing in the Bradford, VT area. Caroline was a talented artist with no formal training. Her paintings were eventually photographed and recently digitized from slides to make them easier to view. Debbie Worthley, a descendant of Caroline, will show the detailed and beautiful wildflower paintings that represent many of Vermont's wildflowers. Come enjoy viewing these paintings and then head to the woods and fields to find some specimens yourselves.

BOLTON + RICHMOND + HUNTINGTON

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Intermediate Ballet Camp Pointe Prep 1-4 pm

June 26th-June 30th
Tiny Ballerina Camp Ages 3-5 9am-12 pm
Hip Hop Ages 12-16 9 am-12 pm
Advanced Contemporary/Jazz Camp 1-4 pm

July 3rd-7th Studio Closed
July 10th-14th
Sample Dance Camp Ages 5, 6, and 7 9 am-12 pm
Hip Hop Ages 12-16 9 am-12 pm
Jr. Contemporary Camp Ages 12-14 1pm-4 pm

July 17th-21st
Ballet Pointe Prep-Advanced Intermediate Ages 9-12 9 am-12 pm
Sample Dance Camp Ages 7-11 9 am-12 pm
HH Adv Evening Intensive 5-7 pm

July 24th-28th
Sample Dance Camp Ages 12-16 9 am-12 pm
Hip Hop Camp Ages 7-11 9 am-12 pm

July 17th-July 28th (excludes weekend) **2 Week Camp**
Mary Poppins Musical Theater Camp Ages 7-16 1pm-4pm
**excludes weekend **must participate in both weeks **performance to follow

July 31st-August 4th
Fairy Tale Ballerina Camp Ages 6-8 9am-12pm
Sample Dance Camp Ages 9-12 9am-12pm
Intermediate Hip Hop Ages 12-16 1pm-4pm

August 7th-11th Studio Closed
August 14th-18th
Advanced Conditioning Ballet Camp 9am-12pm
Advanced Hip Hop Camp 1pm-4pm

August 21st No Camps
Advanced Ballet and Hip Hop classes start for the 2017/2018 school year

Regular Dance Classes Start September 5th

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MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

At the MMUSD (Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District) Annual Meeting on February 24, the Board's approved 2017/2018 school budget was presented to the public for information purposes only. (It was publically approved at a later date by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 7, at a margin of slightly over 2:1 by its member towns.)

William Wilson was re-elected moderator for one year. Ben Joslin was elected as Clerk for one year. Dave Clark was elected Treasurer for one year. The Annual Report was approved. The Board was authorized to borrow money, etc. MMMUSD/CESU (Chittenden East Superviory Union) Superintendent of Schools John Alberghini presented the background information that shaped the generation of the budget. An emphasis was placed at presenting/explaining the goals and targets of the school system rather than the sheer volume of numbers. Some goals include: to provide equal opportunities and resources for students and professionals to "help them realize their aspirations" Alberghini said, and closing the achievement gap between FRL (Free and Reduced Lunch eligible) and non-FRL students. Currently 80% of non-FRL students achieve at grade level versus 50% of FRL students. Universal preschool will help to bridge this gap. Currently 78% of eligible preschool students in CESU are in the system.

The most challenging target of this budget year is to meet in the 9% increase in need for Special Education services. It is both a moral and statutory necessity to provide both physical and emotional support for more students. This 9% increase is not unique to CESU – the national increase is also 9%.

Enrollment numbers indicate this has leveled off. Class sizes have been balanced throughout the schools (school choice has helped this). These two circumstances allow for a reduction of six FTE employees.

The Board continues to strive to balance the highest quality education that the community can afford equally to all students throughout the district while sharing efficiencies and maintaining the shared physical assets.

Bathroom Break Alberghini has received clarification on the restroom and gender identity issue from the Secretary of Education: the Vermont Constitution states that equal access for all will be given to the educational environment along with equal access to any resources needed for success. This is in line with the Obama administration guidelines – therefore no change in the district.

Community Engagement A community engagement survey has been posted www.cesuvt.org. Choose Parent information from the top banner and scroll down. It asks the community member to check off answers for a dozen questions about the quality of the school system and the direction it should take in the future. There is also ample room to add comments to the survey's questions. Printed copies are available at the Central Office in Richmond. Finance Committee Chair Kevin Campbell asks for everyone's help in this survey.

February Board Meeting The Board toured Richmond Elementary School (RES) on February 20 before its regularly-scheduled meeting. RES Principal Theresa Layton spoke about the Maker Space where students can build, create and explore as an enrichment to the curriculum or for personal projects. She reported the preschool program is at capacity (with a waiting list). The PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) is back in operation. The Snowmotion program which gives all RES students the opportunity to visit Cochran's Ski Area free of charge once a week during February has been a great success.

Huntington's Dave Clark's Last Meeting The Board thanked Huntington Representative Dave Clark for his many years of service. His contributions will be celebrated at an upcoming event.

MMU Soccer Coach The Board adopted a resolution thanking Phil Jacobs for his many years of service and dedication to the MMU community. While it respects the right of the public to comment – it is the responsibility of the administration to make personnel decisions. The decision not to extend the contract of Coach Jacobs stands. The Board does not comment on personnel matters, out of respect for privacy and legal concerns.

Community member Ted Alexander, Jr. expressed great frustration that the Board would not respond with a reason why the contract was not renewed. He presented a petition with 400 signatures and 100 comments. Underhill resident Peter Duval asked the Board provide written responses to written questions.

The Policy Governance Compliance report concerning the Board Job Description was not accepted – additional detail is needed. It will be resubmitted at a future date.

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MMU Honor Roll

Editor's Note: Due to an "error in the reports," we received an incomplete list of the Richmond and Huntington MMU Honor Roll First Quarter and several names were left off (phone calls, emails... so glad to know that people are reading the paper). Here is the complete list. Congratulations to all our hard-working young residents!

FIRST QUARTER 2016-2017

Huntington

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4 00-4 33

Grade 9: Quinn Bisbee, Ethan Hall
Grade 10: Caitlin Dooling, Becket Hill, Brynne Russom
Grade 11: Grace Butler
Grade 12: Eliza Bryan, Maia Hendrickson, Akash Kushwaha, Giulia Perissinotto, Allyson Rigutto

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

Grade 9: Elizabeth Altermatt, Kimberly Buzzell, Mareike Ganzenmuller, Cassidy Keefe, James Lubkowitz, Dimitri Reed, Asher Symanowicz, Benjamin West

Grade 10: Arnold Blair, Caitlin Boyarsky, Morgan Cross, Kai Richter, Elizabeth Syverson

Grade 11: Willoughby Carlo, Alyssa Harvey, Yvette Provencher

Grade 12: Mason Bouffard, Grace Brown, Jay Chandler, Daniel Cox, Ian Sturm, Katherine Van Der Vliet, Nathan Williams

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

Grade 9: William Ashak, Ariella Aubin, Kilee Flemings, David Hennessey, Independence Raymond, Sayler Ruggles

Grade 10: Grace Ashak, Kayden Bartlett, Ian Boyarsky

Grade 11: Peter Christiana, Mason Cota, Rowan Hamilton, Natalie Mohn, Eli Ogilvie, Charles Roberts, Zane Russom, Elijah Symanowicz, Charles Young

Grade 12: Aidan Cummings, Olivia Merchant, Nicholas Metruk, Audrey Scott, Anna Valentine

Richmond

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4 00-4 33

Grade 9: Molly Austin, Nicholas Bender, August Biggio, Ellen Bissell, Ezra Bush, Noah Gagliardi, Viva Goetze, Joshua Keough, Jonathan Knakal, Sophie O'Neil, Rory Ulmer, Isabel Wysockey-Johnson
Grade 10: Eleanor Churchill, Finley Clark, Maxwell Hartsfield, Alexander Naumann, Isabel Thon, Hunter Wasser
Grade 11: Ella Goetze
Grade 12: Grace Biggio, Katherine Johnson, Benjamin Nussbaum, Jessica Peura, Moriah Pinckney, Cory Raymond, Benjamin Slattery, Oliver Waite

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

Grade 9: Luke Bursell, Sadie Firman, Jesse Martin, Connor Philbrick, Alana Picard, Ada Renner, Marion Sandblom, Edward Waite, Annabelle Werner

Grade 10: Raina Carfaro, Allison Charland, Abigail Chastaine, Joya Corr, Hannah Ducharme, Colby Giroux, Isabelle Hammond, Cecilia Harris, Samuel Hayden, Eamonn Heney, Martina Monroe, Ella Myregaard, Eli Rankin, Julius Rosen, Amelia Sanborn, Andrew Shepard, Ethan Slattery, Lucaiah Smith-Miodownik, Nora Sylvester

Grade 11: Benjamin Austin, Abigail Carter, Anna Coffin, Abigail DeBay, Skye Douglas-Hughes, Max Eriksson, Elise Killian, Sean Mesa, Kira Mincar, Tyler Muttilainen, Caroline Noonan, Alaynna Northrop, Jack Parker, Maygan Thompson, Sawyer Thompson, Christine Trumper

Grade 12: Allie Bianchi, Autumn Burbo, Sofia Carfaro, Sierra Fabiani, Bella Firman, Hagen Harris, Anna Hogan, Sarah Knakal, Ellyn Lapointe, Cole Preavy-Carrier, Kyle Youngberg

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

Grade 9: Alexander Barnes, Dana Cabrera, Ian Clark, Autumn Collins, Jessica Ewing, Charles Fisher, Kai Frieze, Jacob Grimm, Edward Kane, Joshua Kupiec, Kaiya Linn, Kira Margolis, Zoey O'Donnell, Ian Volk

Grade 10: Nathan Coulter, Dylan Davis, Aislynn Farr, Teagan Low, Dylan Margolis, Dixie Miller, Cameron Mincar, Iris Moultroup, Sonia Nussbaum, Isabel Scott, Claudia Sherman, William Smialek, Ely Webster, Daniel Weidman, Hunter Werneke

Grade 11: Samuel Bender, Ross Johnson, Timothy Kane, Trent LaBounty, Kira Nolan, Lindsey Parent, Ashley Rosen, Bram Rostad, Kaitlin Scherber, Elizabeth Werner

GRADE 12: Taylor Blair, MaryKathryn Estes, James Ewing, Alex Siple, Simon Wagg

SECOND QUARTER 2016-2017

Richmond

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4 00-4 33

Grade 9: Molly Austin, Nicholas Bender, Ellen Bissell, Ezra Bush, Noah Gagliardi, Viva Goetze, Joshua Keough, Jonathan Knakal, Sophie O'Neil
Grade 10: Eleanor Churchill, Finley Clark, Colby Giroux, Isabelle Hammond, Hunter Wasser
Grade 11: Abigail Carter, Ella Goetze
Grade 12: Benjamin Nussbaum, Jessica Peura, Moriah Pinckney, Cory Raymond, Benjamin Slattery

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

Grade 9: August Biggio, Luke Bursell, Sadie Firman, Jacob Grimm, Edward Kane, Kira Margolis, Zoey O'Donnell, Connor Philbrick, Alexandra Prigano, Ada Renner, Marion Sandblom, Rory Ulmer, Annabelle Werner, Isabel Wysockey-Johnson

Grade 10: Abigail Chastaine, Nathan Coulter, Hannah Ducharme, Colby Giroux, Maxwell Hartsfield, Eamonn Heney, Martina Monroe, Ella Myregaard, Eli Rankin, Julius Rosen, Amelia Sanborn, Lucaiah Smith-Miodownik, Nora Sylvester, Isabel Thon, Ely Webster

Grade 11: Benjamin Austin, Abigail DeBay, Alexandra Devaux, Skye Douglas-Hughes, Elise Killian, Trent LaBounty, Georgia Malone-Wolfsun, Kira Mincar, Tyler Muttilainen, Caroline Noonan, Jack Parker, Maygan Thompson, Sawyer Thompson, Christine Trumper

Grade 12: Allie Bianchi, Grace Biggio, Sierra Fabiani, Bella Firman, Hagen Harris, Katherine Johnson, Sarah Knakal, Ellyn Lapointe, Margaret Thompson, Kyle Youngberg

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

Grade 9: Dana Cabrera, Jessica Ewing, Joshua Kupiec, Dominic Lewis, Kaiya Linn, Alan Picard, Ian Volk, Edward Waite

Grade 10: Connor Bosley, Raina Carfaro, Joya Corr, Aislynn Farr, Cecilia Harris, Samuel Hayden, Teagan Low, Dylan Margolis, Cameron Mincar, Andrew Shepard, Claudia Sherman, Ethan Slattery

Grade 11: Samuel Bender, Anna Coffin, Max Eriksson, Timothy Kane, Kira Nolan, Alaynna Northrop, Zachary Reinhardt, Bram Rostad, Kaitlin Scherber, Elizabeth Werner, Ryan Witham

GRADE 12: Taylor Blair, Sofia Carfaro, Dylan Danilich, Kayla Laird, Kyle Leggett, Cole Preavy-Carrier

Huntington

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4 00-4 33

Grade 9: Quinn Bisbee, Ethan Hall
Grade 10: Caitlin Dooling, Becket Hill, Brynne Russom
Grade 11: Grace Butler
Grade 12: Grace Brown, Eliza Bryan, Maia Hendrickson, Akash Kushwaha, Giulia Perissinotto

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

Grade 9: Elizabeth Altermatt, Kimberly Buzzell, Mareike Ganzenmuller, James Lubkowitz, Asher Symanowicz, Benjamin West

Grade 10: Kai Richter, Elizabeth Syverson

Grade 11: Willoughby Carlo, Peter Christiana, Natalie Mohn, Eli Ogilvie, Yvette Provencher, Charles Roberts, Zane Russom

Grade 12: Mason Bouffard, Jay Chandler, Daniel Cox, Allyson Rigutto, Ian Sturm, Katherine Van Der Vliet, Nathan Williams

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

Grade 9: William Ashak, Kilee Flemings, David Hennessey, Cassidy Keefe, Dmitri Reed, Sayler Ruggles

Grade 10: Grace Ashak, Kayden Bartlett, Bailey Piper, Jake Underwood

Grade 11: Elijah Symanowicz

Grade 12: Aidan Cummings, Olivia Merchant, Audrey Scott, Anna Valentine, Katherine Van Der Vliet, Nathan Williams

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From the Ashes

continued from page 1

lodge managed to save all of its furnishings and records, except for the chandelier and the rug, before fire consumed the building leaving nearly all the business district in ashes.

It would be June 12, 1891, before a contract was signed by North Star Lodge's building committee with the F. H. Parker Construction of Essex Junction to rebuild the Masonic Block. The building was to be 80 feet by 60 feet and three stories in height on the south side. Work was to commence in two weeks. The next article mentioning the building appeared in the Burlington Weekly Free Press on October 9, 1891, stating that the roof of the Masonic Block was in place and construction would be completed by January. By then most of the insurance claims had been settled and the lodge received a check for $6000 from their insurance company.

When it was completed, the new Masonic Block was a square shaped building with a flat roof. Tall and narrow arch-topped windows were grouped in pairs beneath a heavy, bracketed cornice. The storefronts were fitted with large plate glass windows on both street levels with oriel windows on the second floor of the east elevation. Above the top floor windows of the southern elevation, a centered gable, containing the date and name of the building, breaks and rises above the horizontal cornice.

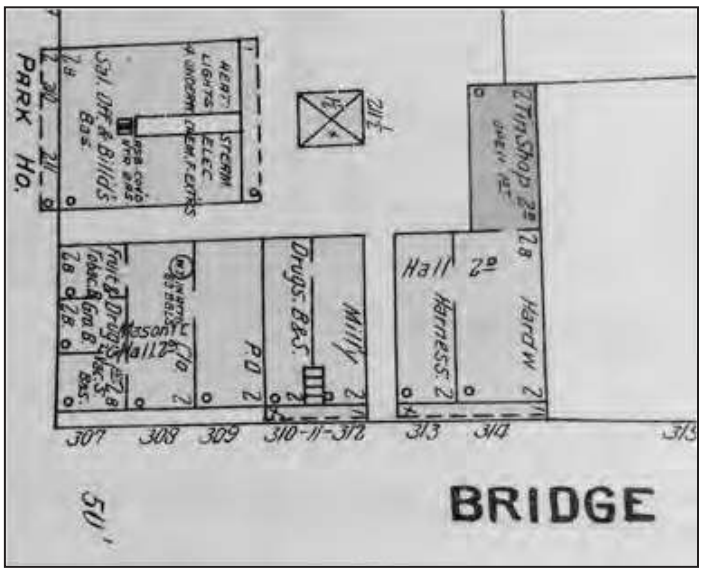
These distinguishing features are all aspects of the Italianate style which was commonly used for both commercial and residential buildings from the 1860s to mid 1890s. Unlike the previous wooden building, the 1891 construction was built with brick and stone.

The following picture is dated somewhere between 1902 and 1904 as can be seen by the electric power pole in front of the south east corner of the building. According to records of the lodges secretary, electricity was installed in the building in 1903 with subsequent monthly payments for useage. Although the picture is slightly faded, it can be seen that there are not a lot of wires on the pole; as yet.

The following diagram is taken from the 1904 Sanborn-Perris fire insurance map for the town of Richmond. The originals were colored to show usage.

This map pictures the corner of Bridge Street which is left to right, and Front Street on the left. North is to the right and West is up. The top left building is the Park Hotel after it was expanded in 1904. It's interesting to note that the map lists the hotel as having steam heat and electric lights.

The building in the lower left is the Masonic Block with an alley between it and the Gleason Block to the right which has a Tin Shop extending out the back. The little building in the middle is a small livery stable for the hotel.



1904 Sanborn-Perris Fire Insurance map for the Masonic Block

This depiction of the Masonic Block shows a collapsed view of the three levels of the building with the lodge rooms listed on the top floor. The Bridge Street store fronts are numbered while the bottom level ones are not. Various notations on the map give a hint as to each tenants business and were helpful in determining who they were.

There were also access doors behind the basement storefronts that allowed further access into the rest of the basement floor and possibly stairs leading down to the basement under the outside stairway that led up to the top floor. The outside stairway is listed as 11 on the map between 310 and 312.

The west most store front on the bottom level was A. Ralli's Fruit & Tobacco store. He paid $6.00 a month in rent back in 1904. The center store front was where Salmon Green ran his grocery store. Both tenants moved there in 1876 before being burned out in 1891, and both returning after the building was rebuilt in 1891.

Salmon Green was also Town Clerk for Richmond, fulfilling the duties of that office from his storefront from1866 until his death in 1925. He also paid $6.00 a month in rent and was a member of the lodge serving as its master in 1887.

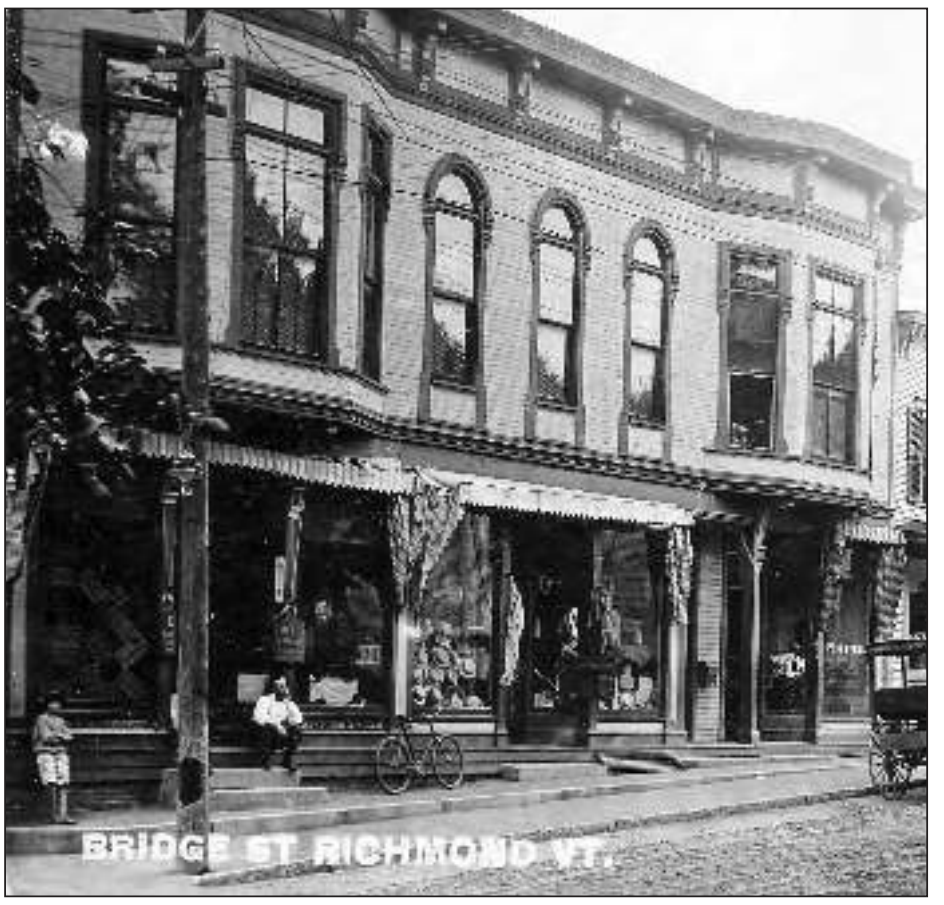
The corner spot is where the town offices and the library were located. On the map there is an opening in the back into another section under the clothing store where the town police and jail were located. Their rent was $37.50 paid in May and August by the Town of Richmond. This works out to $6.50 monthly rent and comparable to the other two tenants on the bottom level considering the amount of floor space used.

This picture is dated by the amount of new wiring and additional cross arms near the top of the pole. Another addition shown are street lights positioned halfway up the poles and in front of the storefronts are defined curbs and sidewalks. Although Bridge Street remained unpaved modern living had arrived in Richmond.

With a power pole at the corner, this view is from around 1903.

This view also shows the striking Italianate architecture of the east side of the building, very common to this era, the style aesthetically breaking the facade into three almost equal sections. This picture is really a snapshot in time and like other pictures from this era even the people are posed in place for the slow action of the camera.

Also note the grate just to the right of the steps to the center store front, possibly an opening where either wood or coal could be delivered to the furnace in the middle of the lower level of the building.



View of the east face of the Masonic Block about 1907.

However, matching the tenants from this picture to the store fronts as listed on the Sanborn-Perris fire insurance maps can be tricky. The Sanborn map has a few inconsistencies as can be garnered from this wonderful glimpse of the Richmond business district from the early 1900's.

Across the East side of the Masonic Block along Bridge Street side were several separate store fronts of varying sizes and listed on the Sanborn map as locations 307 – 312. Be wary though, the map itself is not to scale and there are a few other errors as well.

(307-308) – First is the Owl Drug Store shown on the left in both the picture and on the map. It was the largest unit with windows on three sides. It was also the most expensive spot costing E. W. Freeman $12.50 a month in rent. His store comprised the left third of the building as can be seen by looking closely at the lettering under the plate glass windows on both sides of the front door.

(309) F. G. Nichols ran a clothing store in the center section which can also be clearly seen in the picture above. He only paid $10.42 in rent as it was somewhat smaller than the left end. The 1904 insurance map lists the Post Office there but that is more likely a fault of the map maker who may not have updated their records from the 1894 and 1899 maps.

(310) The northern third was broken into two smaller store fronts with the stairway to the upper level in between. The left slot may have been subdivided as well. According to the records, and agreeing with the Sanborn map, B. E. Buzzell ran a barber shop for $8.34 a month. There is also mention of a Dr. G. D. Sampson running a drug store for $5.00 a month in the back; but he was listed only now and then.

(311) According to the map, this spot is the stairway that led up to the upper floor where North Star Lodge held its meetings. There were also a few offices on the upstairs level but they aren't listed on the insurance map nor were there any other tenants listed for that level. In 1892 G. D. Hall had his insurance office on the top floor but may have moved elsewhere by 1903.

(312) According to the 1894, 1899, and 1904 Sanborn insurance maps for Richmond, this space was a millinery store. However, from the previous picture, which is clearly from that era, the Post Office is located there. There are no monthly rents listed for the Postal Service, or a millinery store for that matter, but there is one for R. E. Jones for $8.42 a month. That would coincide with the cost for a space of that size and also with the Burlington Weekly Free Press article from April 30, 1908 listing the Post Office as being in the Masonic Block. The register of post masters lists Ralph E. Jones as post master for Richmond between 1897 and 1909.

At North Star Lodge #12's annual meeting in March of 1908, a new slate of officers were elected and installed the following month as noted in this April 16, 1908 issue of the Burlington Weekly Free Press:

"At the annual meeting of North Star Lodge Tuesday afternoon, the following officers were elected: H. J. Ellis, W. M.; A. T. Crandall, S. W.; H. H. Seeley, J. W.; A. C. Berry, treasurer; C. G. Austin, secretary; W. W. Miller, S. D.; J. W. Berry, J. D.; E. Bradley, S. S.; O. C. Curler, J. S.; George Palmer, chaplain; E. A. Rhoades, marshal; J. H. Morton, tyler. A banquet was served after the meeting.

Less than two weeks later, at 11:30 pm on April 23, 1908, fire broke out near the furnace in the basement of the Masonic Block. In less than two and a half hours, everything in the business district, including two hotels, post office, town rooms, village library, more than a dozen businesses, along with several residences and apartments over the stores, had burned to the ground. The Masonic Block and all of its contents were destroyed. Less than a month after being installed, it would be the weighty task for the newly elected Master, Wardens, and the lodges building committee, to begin the arduous task of rebuilding their lodge building once again!"

Huntington Town & School Meeting Highlights

School District Meeting

Summary by Heidi Racht

The Huntington School Board held its Annual Meeting on March 7, 2017, at 9 am. The Board presented a budget for Brewster-Pierce School and the local school's portion of the CESU budget, taking comments from taxpayers and answering questions.

Discussion on contents of School Report included proficiency statistics for female students. A lengthy explanation by BPMS Principal Sally Hayes included the number of students tested is so low that 8% represents two out of 27 students. In order for the measure to show, ten students need to be in the category and the school may not have this number.

The voters discussed and approved a budget of $2,334,689 which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The estimated spending is $15,506 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.73% higher than spending for the current year.

Board chair Andrea Ogilvie explained that everything is the same in the budget for the school items. Special education is the largest increase as it is now allocated on the equalized pupil formula and the needs of the children as some are now placed outside the district. In general, there is an increase in needs in all populations. The HVAC bond, which passed 2.5 to 1 in November, will have a first-time interest payment of 22%.

There followed discussion about comparison to elementary schools in the MMUSD, which was inconclusive due to the state tax incentives and the fact that the elementary schools are not shown separately in the MMM budget, with Ogilvie pointing out that the tax rate for all five towns is almost identical. It was also noted that population in all towns appears to be increasing. After a protracted discussion following a challenge to the moderator about germaneness to the discussion about the budget, the voters, on a division of the house, defeated the resolution.

The Board defended its decision to maintain the current level of staffing, despite an initial slight decrease in students, which is now an expected increase of four. Various issues around student/teacher ratios were discussed. Clarification from Ogilvie about size of class: 20 is not recommended.

Dave Clark was recognized for his 15-plus years on the MMU and MMM School Boards: his travel to attend, most meetings being two towns away, and also his good attendance and hard work on Finance Committee presentations. Clark received lengthy applause.

Town Meeting

Reported by Ruth Blodget

Huntington's Town Meeting, March 7, 2017, began after lunch, at 12:50 pm. The Huntington School Board Annual Meeting preceded Town Meeting. Before discussing the ten warned articles, Town Clerk Heidi Racht presented the Olga Hallock Community Service Award to Mike Ramsey who was not present at the meeting. Racht highlighted Ramsey's contributions to the Town, particularly as a member of the Huntington Volunteer Fire Department. Ramsey joined the Fire Department in 1988, and became Assistant Chief in 2003. Ramsey recently retired from serving as Assistant Fire Chief and was given the title of Assistant Chief Emeritus. Ramsey was described as "leading by example" and being a mentor to the community. On behalf of the Fire Department, Ed Sayre accepted the award and it will be presented to Ramsey at the department's annual dinner.

After reviewing the rules for the meeting, Town Moderator Dana Cummings presented the articles for discussion. All articles requiring approval of funds were eventually passed as presented, except for Article 8.

Articles 5 and 6 asked voters to approve the purchase of Highway Department equipment: a replacement Highway Department tandem dump truck and an excavator. The article states the price of the truck will not exceed $198,020., to be paid for with $83,020 from the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund, a $65,000 loan and $50,000 from trading in the 2010 plow truck. Selectboard member Nancy Stoddard explained that replacing this truck has been part of the Capital Plan. Duncan Keir expressed appreciation for the work of the Selectboard and Highway Department along with concern about the spending increase. "We are asked to spend a lot of money this year on two significant pieces of equipment," Keir remarked, "Could we defer one of these pieces of equipment, and if so, which one would you suggest?"

Barton responded, "We recognize that 7% is a big increase but we are still in a period of responding to years of deferred expenditures. The issue that we have with bumping things is, in future years we won't' have equipment expenses but will have paving expenses."

Stoddard clarified, "The intent is we will smooth things out. The goal is to get where things are stablized."

Huntington School Board members take a question from the voters on Town Meeting Day. Photo: Owen Rachampbell

Mark Smith inquired, "What procedure do you go through to determine when it's time for a truck replacement?"

Barton explained, "We look at repair expenses, and do an analysis of the warranty cycle."

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger acknowledged that Huntington's terrain takes a toll on its highway equipment.

Britt Cummings opined, "If we stick with this capital plan we are committed to 7% tax increases every year. It is not sustainable for the Town."

Carl Ashley continued, "I wish we could kick this addiction to debt, all the money we are spending on debt service..."

Megs Keir asserted, "I don't know what the interest will be, but it seems like you are looking at $30,000 a year. You should not replace the vehicle."

Joe Segale suggested, "The Capital Plan shows we're going down a road of tax increases year after year, maybe we need to expect a little less. We are a small rural community with a small tax base, maybe we have to have worse roads."

Mark Smith countered, "I appreciate many of our roads are challenging. I like our roads. I'm inclined to approve a new purchase. The cost effective analysis by the Selectboard is sound."

Paul Susen asked, "What if you reduced the number of trucks?" Alger defended the number of trucks the Town has, " I don't see if we cut down one truck what it will do to the town, how we could get the town plowed."

David Worthley stated," Before the Capital Plan, we never knew from year to year what we would need, it was always a surprise."

Duncan Keir commented, "I hope this will not be cyclical going up and up. I appreciate the roads are far superior than they were but we are paying for it. Is it worth it? I think so, more convenient, safer, and less wear and tear on vehicles."

Article 6 addressed the purchase of a new excavator, at a price of $106,500 to be funded by a loan. This item was also included in the 2017-2018 Capital Plan. Selectboard member Roman Livak explained, "We have been renting an excavator at an annual expense of $16,000 and we are not able to fully utilize it. We will need the excavator for meeting standards for the Clean Water Act."

Britt Cummings challenged, "Just because we planned it doesn't mean we have to do it, how do we get what we need while keeping tax increases to the 3% range?"

Barton pointed out, "We can't eliminate the rental money which will be about the same amount. Our needs for ditching are not going to decrease, I can assure you that, with the requirements coming from State."

Darlene Palola proposed, "The Clean Water Act will go on for decades, in the future, we should think about sharing equipment with other towns."

Margaret Taft asked, "Have we looked into a good used excavator to save money?" Alger noted most used excavators need a lot of expensive repairs.

Duncan Keir concluded, "There is a huge advantage to having a piece of equipment available at your beck and call when your crew is available, it's a really good investment."

Michelle Cummings asked about subcontracting ditching projects. Alger told the crowd, "I hired an outsider to help when I was overwhelmed with FEMA projects and it was a huge bill."

Barb Winters frames a question at the Annual Huntington School Meeting.

Pam Hart reacted, "We need to make some cuts, we are coming to the peak of what we can pay, maybe we can't have perfect roads!"

Article 7, asking voters to allow the Selectboard to use up to $20,000 from the General Fund fund balance for a local match contribution if a grant is secured for a Lower Village pavement project engineering study. Barton described this as a "huge project" which has to comply with the "complete streets" statute. Joe Segale defined, "What we're really looking at is reconstruction of this road." Alger concurred, "This reconstruction will address water issues."

Margaret Taft sought clarification, "If you don't get a grant we will not spend the $20,000?" Barton responded, "yes," adding, "This project would not add to this budget. If you look at the Capital Plan we are contemplating a bond."

Knox Cummin stated, "If we don't do anything about the water issues we will just be kicking the can down the road." John Hadden inquired if this project would consider the traffic studies for the East Street intersection. Barton said no decisions have been made about reconfiguring that intersection.

Barton assured voters there would be many more public meetings clarifying the details of this project as it moves forward.

Article 8 offered voters the opportunity to contract for additional traffic enforcement coverage at a cost of $10,000, which had not been included in the General Fund budget. Selectboard member Andrew Hendrickson introduced, "This article is in response to complaints from Lower Village and Camels Hump Road residents." He added that (separate from this article) a speed table and another movable radar sign have been purchased to address the speeding issues. Jeanine Carr affirmed, "The only thing that at will stop people is more enforcement."

Linda Fickbolm dissented, "It is not worth it, the radar signs work better than speed traps."

Many other community members spoke in favor of more radar signs, rather than speeding tickets and Article 8 was defeated.

Article Nine sought voter authorization for a General Fund expenditure of $1,773,244.00 for fiscal year (FY) 2017-2018. Barton informed townspeople the Selectboard had made over $100,000 in cuts to requests from Town Departments.

Dave Clark proposed an amendment to help fund events for the Energy Committee by increasing its budget by $300. Many spoke out against deciding this at this at Town Meeting, suggesting the Energy Committee go to a Selectboard meeting with its request. The amendment was voted down.

Britt Cummings proposed reducing the Town budget by $6,500. Barton made clear, "This cut would have to come out of operations budget. I appreciate the intent but it puts us in a difficult position. Really, what you're looking at is capital expenditures." Joe Segale and Duncan Keir referred to a motion passed several years ago which required the Selectboard to reduce the budget by 5%, leading to deferred maintenance on roads.

Voters declined to amend Article 9. Barton reminded voters that the Town budget last year comprised only 30% of a property tax bill, while the school budget made up 70%.

Voters overwhelming supported the budget.

Article Ten addressed any other Town business thought proper. In response to the dwindling crowd at the meeting, some suggested moving Town Meeting to Saturday or the evening. No action was taken. Alison Forrest suggested voters attend the MMMU School Board meetings if they wish to "have an effect on the big picture of our taxes." Barton reminded citizens, "One of the great ways to give input is at our meetings, there is always Public Comment and we will set aside time for specific agenda items. We meet a minimum of twice a month, the first and third Mondays, at 7 pm."

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.

Young Filmmakers Take Film Challenge

Submitted by Angelike Contis

February and early March were busy at MMCTV, as five local short films were submitted into the Vermont Access Network's Video Challenge on March 8, the day after three Town Meeting Day videos were turned around.

The first video, initiated by Underhill VSAC (Vermont Student Assistance Corporation) staffer Heidi McLaughlin and directed/produced by Winooski High Cchool student Vonae Thibou is called Vermont Winter Warning; the film calls attention to declining annual Vermont snowfalls. MMU student Simon Thompson also has snow on his mind, but from a different angle. In short documentary Smuggs Boys, he and his friends talk about skiing and show off tricks on the slopes.

On the fictional side of things, Underhill's Nissi Diffenderfer created The Descendants of Bonny and Clyde, about a bank heist, against a Richmond backdrop.

The Crazy Quiz Show was created by five middle school students at The Richmond Free Library in a workshop held with MMCTV on February 27 and 28. "The library is always the answer," on that fictional game show, even though it takes three zany contestants a while to figure that out. The Mansfield Cooperative School entered a Norse legend; these students, who are becoming MMCTV regulars, worked on lots of creative costuming to bring their script to life.

All of the videos are running on Comcast 15 and on www.vimeo.com/mmctv.

Wanted: 20th Anniversary Underwriters
Businesses and individuals are invited to underwrite MMCTV in its 20th anniversary year. Contribute $100 and we will list your name and business address each time a program series runs on Comcast and online on Vimeo for the year. Other underwriting opportunities include Gold Business Underwriters; contribute $500, and MMCTV staff will make a 20-second video about your business that will air three days a day for a year (and be found online).

Angelike Contis is Executive Director of Mount Mansfield Community Television. For more info or to request an updated TV schedule by mail, call 434-2550 or email angelike@mmctv15.org. Find out more

The public is invited to MMCTV (35 W. Main St., Richmond) on Friday, March 31, 5 pm to 7 pm, for an exhibit of artist Jane Sandberg's stunning work.

9 to 5 at Lyric Theatre

Lyric Theatre Company presents 9 to 5 The Musical on the Main Stage of Burlington's Flynn Center for the Performing Arts for five performances April 6 through 9, 2017. Based on the hit movie with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton, 9 to 5 The Musical is a hilarious story of friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era. The title song, 9 to 5, has become the working woman's anthem.

Lyn Feinson, center, costume designer for Lyric Theatre's production of 9 to 5 The Musical, models Doralee's (the Dolly Parton character) "enchanced" dress. Photo by Pat Boera

The plot shines a spotlight on the plight of women in the workplace in the late 1970s. Pushed to the boiling point, three female co-workers concoct a plan to get even with the boss. In a hilarious turn of events, Violet, Judy and Doralee (played in the movie by Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda and Dolly Parton) live out their wildest fantasy – giving their boss the boot! While Hart remains "otherwise engaged," the women give their workplace a dream makeover, taking control of the company that had always kept them down. Hey, a girl can scheme, can't she?

With a clever story line and rousing production numbers, this fun, feisty and oh-so-fabulous show makes a great date or outing with your best gal pals. Local talent includes Isaiah Gilbert of Huntington, who appears onstage in the ensemble; Richmond resident Lyn Feinson, who has designed the costumes, and Laurie Dana (Richmond) and Heidi Racht (Huntington) costume shop crew.

Tickets ($23-$38) for 9 to 5 The Musical are on sale through the Flynn Center Box Office, by phone at 86-FLYNN, or online at www.flynntix.org. Student/senior discount available for some performances and group rates are available.

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The Buzz About Pollinators

Contributed by Anne Dannenberg

Who are Vermont's pollinators?

Native bees, honey bees, birds, thrips, wasps, beetles, moths, butterflies and flies.

Pollination is the transfer of pollen from the anther (male plant part) to the stigma (female plant part) of the same or different flower where fertilization occurs. Pollination is the crucial event in a plant's life because the resulting seeds ensure future generations and genetic diversity. 85% of flowering plants require animals, primarily insects, to transfer pollen. 15% rely on wind or are self-fertilizing.

Pollinators receive nutrient rich food in the form of pollen and nectar as well as other plant products used for nesting material and medicine in exchange for these pollination services.

How are pollinators helpful in other ways?

The seeds and fruits created through pollination feed everything from song birds to bears. They form the foundation of a food web that supports a US wildlife fishing, hunting and viewing industry valued at nearly $50 billion a year. Their free pollination services are vital for the production of one third of all crop production for our meals and nutrition amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars worldwide.

Bees are the most important pollinators. Honey bees were imported to North America in the 1600s and native bees have existed on our continent for millennia, evolving with the indigenous plants and animals. Native bees are generally the most efficient and effective pollinators. For example, 750 blue orchard bees can pollinate a one-acre apple orchard that would require tens of thousands of honey bees. Honey bees become increasingly productive in the presence of native bees.

Bees are the most important and effective pollinators because they require pollen as a protein source to feed their young and nectar for energy, minerals and vitamins. With diverse rearing and nesting requirements that don't solely necessitate pollen and nectar, the other pollinators provide incidental pollinaton.

Honey bees have a highly organized, hierarchical social system including a queen and workers in each hive. Hives exist in the wild but most are managed. They are important to large scale agriculture due to their sheer numbers in the many billions and they can be transported around the country to areas where seasonal crops require pollination.

There are approximately 20,000 species worldwide, 4,000 in North America and 450 in the Northeast, give or take. Most native bees are solitary – the female lays eggs in nests she builds and provisions herself. Bumble bees and some species of sweat bees are the exception. These queens initiate and provision their nests in spring after which the mature daughters assume the provisioning and nurturing responsibilities while the queen continues to lay eggs.

Native bees include mining bees, carpenter bees, bumblebees, sunflower bees, squash bees, resin bees, long-horned bees, leafcutter bees, alkali bees, carder bees, green sweat bees, mason bees, digger bees, yellow-faced bees.

Seventy-five percent of native bees are ground nesters enjoying a warm, sandy soil. Some, such as squash bees excavate tunnels below squash plants. Tilling often destroys their nests and consequently future generations of squash bees that would have pollinated our squash plants. 30% of native bees are cavity nesters enjoying beetle and borer holes, snags and pithy or hollow stems such as sumac and cane fruits. Bumble bees are found nesting in abandoned mouse nests, brush piles and grass tufts.

Why are bees declining in abundance and diversity?

1) Pesticides insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, singly and synergistically. ('cides' means to kill). Neonicotinoides and other systemic poisons are primarily indicated because they become part of the plant's roots, stems, leaves, pollen, nectar and bark following application via seed coating, planting medium, fertilizer, injection and/or pesticide use. Neonics also contaminate the soil, ground water and water bodies for weeks to years depending upon the specific chemical. Bees and their larvae may be poisoned, develop impaired navigation and compromised immune systems and/or experience reduced fecundity, size, food gathering abilities and life span after consuming any part of the affected plant.

2) Climate destabilization such as: phenological mismatch – plants bloom earlier than their pollinators may emerge resulting in sparce food, low reproductive and pollination rates; range contraction, especially regarding bumble bees who are disappearing from the southern states but not moving north.

3) Habitat conversion, degradation, fragmentation and destruction.

4) Parasite, pathogen and disease spillover from commercial and managed bee operations.

5) Resource competition with imported bees.

How can we help?

We can all be agents of change in pollinator conservation by taking a few thoughtful steps to increase the diversity, abundance and health of pollinator habitat.

1) Create pollinator habitat only if we, including our neighbors, do not use pesticides. Pollinator habitat emulates nature where a diversity of mostly native flowering plants, shrubs and trees bloom in succession from April through October. Nesting sites such as those discussed above are enhanced and/or created and a clean water source is provided. Disturbances such as tilling, mowing, raking duff from woodland edges and burning brush are eliminated/reduced.

2) Avoid fragmentation by ensuring protective contiguous habitat patches that link woodlands, gardens, meadows and wild edges.

3) Pollinator habitat also supports pest control services performed by beneficial insects. Use no pesticides. Many pesticides approved for organic culture are lethal to pollinators.

4) Develop land and garden management practices rooted in the creation and maintenance of healthy, fertile living soils.

5) Address climate destabilization.

6) Purchase Bee Friendly products. Look for seeds, flowers, shrubs, trees, potting soil and fertilizers that are neonic-free. No labels? Ask the store proprietor or research online products. Purchase organic products whenever possible. We don't want to lure pollinators to our gardens, window boxes and deck flowers only to harm and kill them.

7) Choose Bee Friendly organic food. Organic standards prohibit the use of systemic pesticides.

8) Become educated and share knowledge generously. Books, materials and websites on the subject abound! Xerces.org is the premier resource and will direct us to hundreds more. beyondpesticides.org is a proactive, informative site. On the state level: agriculture.vermont.gov/food_safety_consumer_protection/apiary/pollinator-protection. Locally, check out wildforpollinators.org. Volunteer opportunities are available at the Birds of Vermont Museum to help with the establishment of pollinator habitat (434-2167). The Huntington Public Library has a diverse and comprehensive collection of materials for all ages.

Contributed for the Huntington Historical and Community Trust and the Richmond Land Trust.

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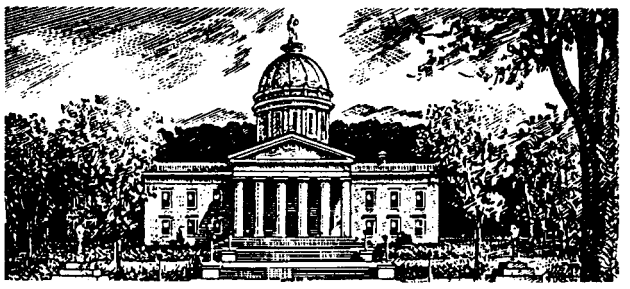

State House News

Rep. Theresa Wood

In the ongoing news stories about federal politics and the potential devastating impacts on Vermont of various federal budget proposals, I am pleased to share that the House Human Services Committee worked across party lines and passed out of committee two important bills. The first deals with the science and impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, otherwise known as ACEs. The second encourages savings and increased self-sufficiency for working families.

Examples of adverse childhood experiences include physical, emotional and sexual abuse; neglect; food insecurity; living with parents or others who experience mental illness or substance use disorder; experiencing or witnessing domestic violence, having divorced parents or an incarcerated parent. Science shows that these experiences have a direct impact on a person's health and social functioning throughout their life. Through many hours of committee testimony, we learned that Vermont has a number of supports in place provided by the State or its nonprofit partners that address the impact of these experiences, yet the pressure for services and increases in health care costs continue to face us. Our committee feels that taking a step back and doing a systemic review of the supports and services already in place is warranted. We propose to establish a short term working group to examine, in depth, whether current structures need improvement, redesign, and/or additional resources to reduce the human and financial impact of adverse childhood experiences on Vermont citizens. The committee would work over the summer and fall to recommend potential legislation in 2018.

Vermont's low-income working families experience struggles to advance their economic well-being. Examples of parents declining a raise because they would lose access to child care financial assistance are real. It may seem contrary to common sense, but the data shows that there is a place where a family's income is increasing and they are actually less able to meet basic needs like food and shelter because of something that is commonly referred to as a "benefits cliff." In reality, it is really more like a "benefits slope" and is a bit more gradual than a cliff. However, to families in this situation it is really a disincentive to continue to advance in their work and income earning capacity. In these tight fiscal times, we need to be creative about how to improve policies to encourage support for working families without adding to the State's expenses. Our committee approached this problem by proposing modest changes in how income and assets are treated in the Reach-up and Child Care Financial Assistance Programs.

The proposed changes encourage families to invest in their future by depositing earnings in certain types of specific savings accounts like a qualified child education savings account. Deposits made in these accounts would not count in determining a family's income for determining eligibility for Reach-Up or Child Care Financial Assistance. High quality child care is comparable, or in some cases, exceeds, costs for housing. By enabling families to begin to plan for their own future through savings, we will reduce the dramatic impact of losing assistance for child care. The result is that the parent continues to work, pay taxes, increase self-sufficiency and reduce long term reliance on state programs.

March 17 marked what is referred to as "cross-over" day where bills needed to be out of committee in order to be considered by the other body. These bills met that deadline and will now move to the House floor for debate next week and if passed, will move to the Senate, where comparable work is already underway.

Please feel free to contact me at twood@leg.state.vt.us for further information about these bills or other items of interest to you.

Rep. Marcia Lawrence Gardner

March is an eventful month at the Legislature. The first week of the month is a break in the session, allowing everyone to attend their local town meetings. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to talk with me at the Richmond Town Meeting. The second major event that takes place in March is "crossover day." This is the last day that committees can vote out bills to be sent for a vote from the entire body, and hopefully, on to the other chamber of the Legislature. There are a few exceptions to this rule, but for the most part, bills must be voted out of their committees to be considered in this session. Otherwise, they must wait until next year.

One of the largest and most important bills to come out of the Government Operations Committee is H.111, the Vital Records bill. H.111 amends the laws of Vermont that address the creation, registration, amendment, and issuance of official records related to birth, death, marriage, and civil union (collectively, "vital events"). And it creates the office of the State Registrar, who will oversee the statewide vital records registration system. The bill is an outgrowth of the work of the Vital Records Study Committee, which was created by Act 110 of 2016, who met in the summer and fall of 2016, and submitted a report to the Government Operations Committees in November 2016.

From this system, all births and deaths are recorded, and certificates can be printed. Currently, the Health Department maintains the system, which includes all births in the State of Vermont from 1909, and has nearly completed the cataloging of all deaths from the same year. At some point in the future, marriages and divorces will also be included. This statewide system allows anyone to contact their local participating town clerk's office or the State Archivist to request birth and death records, rather than having to contact the town where the person was born or died. It also tightens up the laws regarding who may request records, and requires that person to present a reliable form of identification. Previously, anyone could request a record for another person without having to show any form of identification. This will significantly cut the chances of fraud and identity theft.

H.22 was also passed out of the Government Operations Committee, and amends the statutes regarding the Criminal Justice Training Council, adding to their scope and authority. The Council was created to encourage and assist municipalities, counties, and governmental agencies of this State in their efforts to improve the quality of law enforcement and citizen protection by maintaining a uniform standard of recruitment, and in-service training for law enforcement officers. H.22 goes on to define what constitutes "unprofessional conduct" and requires all law enforcement agencies to report any allegations of such behavior to the Council for investigation. It also provides that prior to hiring a law enforcement officer who has been employed at another law enforcement agency, the executive officer of a potential hiring agency will require a written waiver explicitly authorizing the officer's last employer to disclose the reason that officer is no longer employed there. This eliminates the possibility of an officer, released by one agency for unprofessional conduct, to "job hop" without the new employer knowing why the officer was dismissed.

H.411 is an act relating to Vermont's energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment and the idea for the bill came from Richmond resident and former Selectboard member Chris Granda. Chris is a Senior Researcher/Advocate at the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP). ASAP is a 501c3 organization under the umbrella of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE). ACEEE is the largest and most effective advocacy organization for energy efficiency in the US. After hearing that the standards currently set by the U.S. Department of Energy could very possibly be revoked or rescinded, Representative Curt McCormack, of Burlington, and I co-sponsored a bill that would keep the standards in effect for Vermonters, should this happen. This protects consumers and assures that the household appliances we buy are safe and efficient. The bill was passed by the newly formed House Committee on Energy and Technology and will go to the House floor for a vote.

Thank you to all of you who have contacted me with your views and input. Please feel free to email, call or meet me at Sweet Simone's any Monday from 9 am to 10 am.

Rep. Tom Stevens

Did you know that the United States is, at last count, one of only two countries on Earth that does not offer paid family and medical leave for its citizens? Got that? On Earth. We spend a lot of energy, verbally and physically, trying to bend our minds around "competitiveness" and "affordability" and, when it comes to showing the most basic compassion toward our citizens, we have failed. But then, is it really a failure if we haven't really tried?

Oh sure, since the early 1990s, both Vermont and the United States have offered an unpaid family and medical leave for employees. The Vermont Parent and Family Leave Act (PELA) covers all employers doing business in or operating within the state of Vermont, which for parental leave purposes employ 10 or more employees for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year, and for family leave purposes employ 15 or more employees for an average of at least 30 hours per week during a year. The federal Family and Medical Leave Act applies to companies with more than 50 employees. The PFLA has been slightly more accommodating with the kind of leave one can take than the FMLA, but neither of them have evolved to include income replacement for those families who need to take leave to take care of their parents, themselves, or to bond with their children.

It is this "softer" reality that really makes people nervous. Many positive societal benefits, from stress reduction to quality health care to child bonding to self care and so on, are quantifiable, but the opponents of this bill refuse to consider them.

The Vermont PFLA and the federal FMLA are existing insurance programs, but without any financial compensation. They allow employees to apply for up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave a year for a number of family and medical reasons, and they protect the employee from losing their employment, unless their absence creates an undue hardship for their employer. But the leave remains unpaid.

Do you know the names of the countries that offer the most paid leave to their citizens? Estonia leads the pack with 87 weeks, and Bulgaria, Hungary, Japan and Lithuania, all offer over 60 weeks of paid leave. Germany? Over 40. Canada? Over 20. And here in the United States, only 14% of workers have been offered some kind of paid family leave by their employers, and the unpaid leave that has been granted is only available to 40% of all workers, given the limitations on the number of employees needed to qualify. Vermont's policy, as stated above, is slightly more generous, but it still exempts employees who work for companies with less than 10 employees. This is the result of a "free market" that wants to offer benefits that "distinguishes" companies by how "generous" they think they are being to their employees.

Five states have enacted paid family and medical leave, and one of them, Washington, still has yet to determine how it should be funded, ten years after enacting it (and this in a state that has legalized marijuana!). The other states have wrapped their paid family and medical leave insurance benefits around exisiting temporary disability programs. The only temporary disability insurance programs in Vermont are offered through third party insurance companies, and none of them can offer the same generosity offered by H.196.

H.196 adds a fiscal element to the leave, at a reasonable cost to employees. With the statistical backup provided by a report done for the Vermont Depatment of Labor (DOL) and the Vermont Commission on Women (VCW), we have passed a bill, H.196, that will be employee-funded and will provide employees with up to 12 weeks of income replacement up to $1,042 a week (two times Vermont's Livable Wage for 40 hours a week, or $52,000). The addition of income replacement enhances our existing PFLA law, and is built right into it.

The benefits for employees are numerous, from having a financially stress-free length of time with their newborns, which will also save them thousands of dollars in quality child care, if it is available, to being able to take time off for their own medical treatments, to being able to take care of their family members at the most vulnerable times of their lives. The report written for DOL and the VCW is available on our website. We chose to mandate an employee contribution only due to the fiscal realities of asking the state, as an employer, to pay for their potential share in a year when finances are tighter than ever. Many small businesses wanted to be able to help their employees with this contribution, and may do so, voluntarily. H.196 does not extend the existing leave for employees, and extends medical leave reasons to include care of grandchildren, siblings and foster children.

There is much more to say about this bill, and its benefits, and I am available to discuss this in more detail.

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Richmond Town Meeting

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The undeveloped land is located on the eastern edge of Richmond next to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps complex. Years ago, the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) approached the Andrews family about conserving the property.

The ballot measure sought $125,000 from the town's conservation fund for the land, which could be use to extend existing trails and perhaps provide other recreational offerings. The VLT will act as a go-between, seeking contributions and applying for grants to cover the balance of the total $450,000 purchase price.

Robert Heiser, VLT's Champlain Valley regional director, has said the organization is seeking a $256,000 federal grant to help with the purchase. He expected a decision on the grant by late spring or early summer.

A pending purchase option, which the VLT would assign to the town, must be exercised by the end of the year. Closing must take place within 90 days after the option is transferred to Richmond.

Jane Van Landingham, of Wes White Hill, offered an amendment to the Richmond Town budget, increasing it by $6,000, in order to grant a raise to Town Clerk, Linda Parent. Van Landingham said, "I just thought it was time for [the Town Clerk] to get a raise." She offered supporting data in the form of comparable salary ranges in surrounding towns. The amendment passed unanimously by a voice vote of voters in attendance. Photo: Jared Katz

Huntington Selectboard

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the workweek is our biggest challenge. Its a problem a lot of towns are facing," Jeffrey told the Board, adding, "If you could get a road crew member with any experience in fire service that would be great."

Conservation Funds and Town Forest Update
Members of the Conservation Commission visited the Board to discuss a request from the Town Hall Committee for Conservation Funds. Sheri Lynn stated the Town Hall request met the Commission's criteria for distributing funds. Part of the process is holding a public hearing, Barton informed the Commission, which the Board scheduled for April 3rd.

Rebecca Ryan updated the Board about the Town Forest. In 2015, there was a potential buyer for the property, which prompted a public forum, attended by 23 people. The majority of attendees at the forum wanted to keep the present Town Forest. A survey by the Conservation Commission yielded similar responses. Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper has said there is valuable habitat in this unmanaged forest, said Ryan, but the Commission still wanted to consider a management plan with Tapper. The Commission will pursue public access to the Town Forest.

Racht proposed procuring an awning for the back windows of the Town Office to help control summer temperatures. Racht mentioned discounts from Otter Creek Awnings. The awning would be put up after the new windows are installed. The money would come out of the Town Office budget. The Board supported this purchase.

Elliott shared the detailed Local Emergency Plan, which provides information on the American Red Cross Shelter, ICS (Incident Command System) procedures and a list of contractors to call for specific needs. This emergency operation plan was approved by the Board.

The Board made the following appointments in February and March: The Board unanimously approved several appointments: John Altermatt and Joe Perella to the Development Review Board (DRB) for three-year terms; Mariah Riggs and Barbara Fickbohm to the Town Hall Committee for two-year terms; Donna Lewis, Heidi Racht, Paul Stephens and Timothy Tinker to the Recreation Committee for two-year terms; Larry Detweiler as Town Service Officer for a one-year term; and Nate Sands as Tree Warden for a one-year term; Yves Gonnet to the Energy Committee; Everett Marshall as DRB liaison for the Planning Commission; and Jeannette Segale to the Conservation Commission.

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News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington

Rev. Larry Detweiler

The Book of Common Prayer capture's God's divine embrace: "you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within reach of your saving embrace: …" The prayer speaks of what some call rightfully, "a just and generous Christianity." And as we are enveloped in that embrace, we are called to do likewise, opening our arms wide toward others and living generously.

God loves us all … everyone. If there were such a thing as favorites, then, according to our Scriptures, it would have to be "the widow, the orphan, the stranger among us." Or, in other words, those that have been marginalized, pushed aside, or what the world would label, "the least of these" (Jesus' words).

While in college, representing the class of '82 in student government, I stumbled into the responsibility of chairing a student committee responsible for the re-settlement of a Vietnamese refugee family. Catholic Charities gave us the Du family: mom and dad, four young children and their grandmother. The Du family had spent the previous year in a Malaysia refugee camp. At the time, I wrote in our student newspaper, "On October 29 at 11:48 pm, the family of seven arrived at O'Hare with beaming, excited faces and one bag full of possessions … no longer were they just a list of names, but also beautiful, smiling faces and personalities." We busily went to work securing temporary housing, scouring garage sales for basic household items, and trips to the dentist for the children. We loved it!

And so began for me, and others, the spiritual practice of learning how to open our arms wide, inviting others into a just and generous life. I can't think of anything more important as I, and our church, aspire to live out our faith. It's the spirit that fuels Neighbor Helping Neighbor.

We recently put up a political sign in our yard, with much trepidation, because we don't usually do this sort of thing. Pete at New Community Project in Starksboro made me aware of the sign's spread nationwide, its story picked up by NPR. In Spanish, English and Arabic, it reads, "No matter where you are from, we're glad you're our neighbor." Hopefully, the sign simply communicates an "embrace" to all who receive it. It's the same "embrace" our family received 13 years ago when we arrived in Vermont as your newest neighbor. At the time, we had felt pushed aside at our previous home. It's the least we can do to express our solidarity.

Come join us at Community Church of Huntington. We're a simple gathering of people that aspire to a just and generous Christianity. We gather on Sundays at 9 am, as well as other times.

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

The snow is melting, the creeks are rising, and the frost heaves and potholes are getting bigger. Mud Season has arrived. The slightly warmer temperatures also signal a change in our religious seasons. After the long journey through Lent, I am ready for Resurrection. I am ready to celebrate with you and proclaim the amazing power of God who said the cross was not the end of the story, but only the beginning!

In mid-April, we encounter the religious drama of Holy Week, where we will go to the depths and heights of our Christian story. Holy Week starts with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (April 9). As we draw towards the end of Holy Week, we will recall the last days of Jesus' life with worship services on Maundy Thursday (April 13 at Williston Federated Church) and Good Friday (April 14 at Richmond Congregational Church - RCC) at 7 pm. During this time we wait, watch and pray until Easter morning when we will proclaim that the stone has been rolled away and Jesus is Risen! We will celebrate Easter (April 16) with two worship services a 7 am Sunrise Service at Volunteer's Green, and 10 am Easter Celebration in the Sanctuary.

As our Lenten journeys lead us to Easter, I invite you to let the beauty and the mystery of this change of seasons wash over you. Where do you find truth in the resurrection story? What about this notion of new life speaks to you?

My favorite Eastertide story is the Road to Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke.

After his resurrection, Jesus appears to the disciples and walks with them all day. As soon as they recognize Jesus for who he is, he disappears (Luke 24:31). I wonder how many times we miss experiencing moments of closeness with God, and little moments of new life springing forth, because we are not attuned to it. Poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote, "Earth's crammed with heaven; and every common bush afire with God; but only he who sees, takes off his shoes. The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries." In this new season of Easter, let us (metaphorically) take off our shoes and draw our attention to the many signs of God's presence all around.

Wishing you Easter joy!

Visit us online at www.rccucc.org or on www.facebook.com/rccucc.

(Excerpts from Reflections From the Pastor by Rev. Katelyn Macrae, April 2015)

P.M. Sundays Ends Season

The current season of P.M. Sundays will close out with two final concerts at the Richmond Congregational Church on 20 Church Street on April 9 and April 30. The concerts begin at 4 pm.

A concert by Maja and David on April 9 wull show audience members a powerful performance of virtuosity and musical personality. They are known for their phenomenal contact on stage, and they possess the ability to create an intense atmosphere to surround their music.

Banjo master Tony Trischka will perform on April 30 and a workshop will be offered before the concert to a limited number of students.

For tickets ($17.50 in advance/$20 day of show) and more information about the concerts remaining this year, next season's schedule (Sept. 17 – April '18) and all Valley Stage events: www.valleystage.net or contact Don Sheldon at 434-4563 or don@valleystage.net

Huntington Contradance

Mark your calendars for the Huntington Fourth Saturday Contra and Square Dance on April 22 in the Town Hall in Huntington Center. Why not host a potluck at your house and then bring your friends and family for lively music provided by Sarah and John's Megaband Jam. If someone you knows plays an instrument and wants to sit in with this roaring jelly of a dance band, please bring them along! For more information about Sarah and John and the jam bands they lead, please check out www.woodburystrings.com

The dance is from 7:30- 10:30, but if you plan on playing you are welcome to come earlier to warm up with the band. This is the last dance until September.

Lausanne Allen is the caller, offering each dance with a walk through to teach the figures so no prior experience is necessary. Come with or without a partner and come even if you want to simply enjoy watching others whirl and kick up their heels! Sliding scale admission is $5-$10 per person with a discount for families and no one will be turned away.

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.

FRIDAYS: VolleyballL during school year, CHMS, 7 pm to 9 pm. looking for new players, $10 per year. Just show up. Richmond McCauley, 434-3798.

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

FIRST FRIDAY: Free yoga class. 7 pm to 8pm www.balanceyogavt.com

SATURDAYS: Karma Yoga Class, 10:30 am to 11:45 am, Balance Yoga, $5 plus a non-perishable, non-expired item or two for Richmond Food Shelf (or $10 without food item). www.balanceyoga.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

APRIL 8: Members of the Poetry Society of Vermont reading, 2 pm to 4 pm, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank Street, downtown Burlington. Free. Join members of the Poetry Society of Vermont for a celebration of National Poetry Month! Founded in 1947, PSOV is an association of poets and supporters who join in promoting an interest in poetry through meetings, workshops, readings, contests, and contributions to the society's chapbook. This will be the fifth annual PSOV reading at Phoenix Books Burlington. Info: http://phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

APRIL 29: Milton Artists Guild weaving workshop. 10 to 2, Milton Artists' Guild Art Center and Gallery, 199 US Route 7 So, Milton (Next to Aubuchon Hardware); $40 for MAG members, $45 for non-members plus materials fee $25 paid to instructor. Adults only. Each participant will weave on a small handheld loom to create a unique and personally meaningful piece representing their relationship with their Mother. No prior weaving experience is needed. REgister:

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, 7 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).

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

LIBRARY
Richmond: Trustees, 1st Thursday in January, March, April, June, September & November, 6 pm. 434-3036.

Huntington: Library Board, 4th Tues, 6:30 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 Jen O'Hora 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).

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.hinesburgcma.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 Browns Trace Rd) Jericho, 899-3932, Rev. Arnold Thomas, pastor. Worship Service: 9 am (nursery care provided), Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.goodshepherdjericho.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 370 Vermont Route 15,Underhill Flats. Worship service 9:30 am. Sunday morning Eucharist with supply priests or Morning Prayer at Calvary, followed by a coffee hour. Handicapped accessible. information: www.calvarychurchvt.weebly.com or 899-2326.

Second Annual Richard's Ride

Saturday May 20, 2017

On April 26, 2016, Richard Tom, a beloved and avid cyclist from Hinesburg, lost his life when a speeding and impaired driver struck him a half mile from his home as he began a bicycle ride on an otherwise quiet and peaceful morning. Rescue attempts by neighbors could not save him.

An outpouring of love and affection for Richard Tom was expressed the following Sunday when 400 cyclists gathered to honor and remember Richard at his Memorial Ride. The Richard Tom Foundation was formed and soon thereafter was chartered as a 501(c)(3) charity organization.

This mission of the Richard Tom Foundation:

• Sustain and build on Richard's legacy by promoting and hosting events that reflect his spirit of fun, fitness, and adventure gained through cycling in Vermont.

• Provide scholarship and financial support to organizations that build life experience, mentoring, and skill building to children through participation in cycling camps. The Foundation has initiated this aspect of our mission by creating partnerships with Little Bellas and Catamount Family Center, both of which offer summer cycling camps to young children.

• Advocate for safe riding and safe driving practices and also advocate for legislative action to increase the safety of vulnerable users of roads.

On May 20, the Richard Tom Foundation will host the second annual Richard's Ride. To support safe riding for the Children's ride, Cochran Road between Cochran's Ski Area and Dugway Road will be closed from 11 am until 1 pm. All rides will be staged from the Cochran Ski Area base lodge.

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

The number of activities offered by the Community Senior Center continues to grow. There are now twenty activities with more ideas coming in from community members weekly. If you have ideas for activities you'd like to see offered, please email martha3@gmavt.net. You can also email Martha if you'd like to receive the weekly email of activities.

Among the new offerings are a cribbage group, a bridge group, a discussion group on transitioning from work to retirement, a counted cross stitch class, and a birding group.

The birding program will begin on April 26 at 1:30 pm at the Birds of Vermont Museum. They will present a program on identifying warblers. That will be followed by a bird walk at the museum on May 3 at 8:00 am. If there's enough interest, we'll continue to offer the guided walks weekly. What better way to celebrate the return of spring than spending time with our feathered friends!

Don't miss the monthly enrichment program on April 13 at 1:30 at the Richmond Free Library. Debbie Worthley will show slides of paintings of Vermont wildflowers done in the late 1800s by her ancestor, Caroline Low Peckett. Come and enjoy these beautiful detailed paintings and be inspired to go exploring for wildflowers yourself this spring.

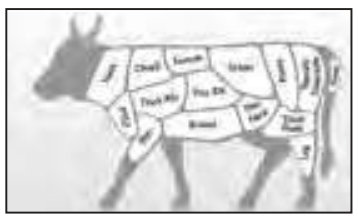
Happy Spring!

—Jane Vossler

Church News now on previous page.

Service Directory

Automotive



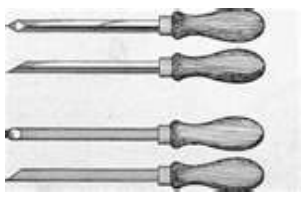
Beef

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 [08/17]

Builders & Suppliers

AL'S CARPENTRY No job too small. I do it all. Over 25 years experience. Great rates and references. Call us 802-336-2948. [01/17]

TEN TALENTS - RANDY RICHLAND, GENERAL CONTRACTOR Over 25 years of experience, creativity and excellence in the building trades. Call me for custom carpentry • repairs or remodeling • licensed electrical work • major appliance service and mechanical repairs/ installation • building evaluation /consultations • historic preservation. 434-5221. Fully insured. [01/16]



Catering

Cleaning

Sewing

Dental

Excavating / Mowing

Fuel Sales & Service

Gardening

Gifts & Antiques

Hair Salon

Landscaping / Arborist

Laundry Service

INTERESTED IN A SERVICE DIRECTORY LISTING?

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

Photography

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

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

Weddings

ROUND CHURCH WEDDING? Visit the Richmond Historical Society website or contact Mary Ann Barnes 434-3220. 2016 dates available!

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 [10/17]

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]

Lawn Care / Plowing

Legal Services

Wellness

ADVANCEDWELLNESSVT.COM to schedule: Medical, shiatsu and therapeutic massage, craniosacral,acupressure, chinese medicine, cupping. Heather Chadwick and Kate Bentley. 65 Huntington Rd., Richmond. 318-1423

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

QIGONG CLASSES Moving meditation based on Chinese Medicine, and MASSAGE THERAPY with Dawn Decker, certified healer of 32 years. 802-349-5404, www.dawndecker.massagetherapy.com [04/17]

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

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

Deadline: See dates on bottom of page 1

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

Number of appearances: _____
Price/month _____ Total _____

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timesink@gmavt.net

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

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"Helping you get back on the right path."
Providing Sports Medicine
and Rehabilitation Services
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61 Huntington Road, Unit 1A, Richmond
Phone: 434.8495 • Fax: 434.8499

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

Student Writing from Brewster-Pierce School

Students at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School have been producing opinion/persuasive writing pieces. Enjoy their thoughts!

Cirque Mother Africa

by Ella Compo

I enjoyed Cirque Mother Africa because it was a circus and I like circuses. I think Cirque Mother Africa was awesome.

One act I liked was the girl who did the gymnastics hula hooping. I thought it was cool because watching her do gymnastics really caught my eye. That act was awesome.

Another act I liked was the guy who did the ladder tricks with the regular ladder and the zigzag ladder. It looked he was going to fall but he didn't. I really liked that act.

The third act that I liked was the act that the man juggled the boy on his feet when he bent his legs at the knees. That act looked dangerous and the boy must have been dizzy doing all those flips.

The last act that I liked was the act when the boy and the girl did the juggling with seven balls each. It looked so cool when they did the ramp with the juggling balls and the balls went up and down and up and down again and again, and at the end of the juggling act the boy and the girl fake kissed in real life.

That is why I liked Cirque Mother Africa. I thought the acts were stunning.

Cirque Mother Africa

by Rowan Butler

On Tuesday, January 3, we went to Cirque Mother Africa. They go around the world entertaining people. One of the acts I liked the most was the guy on the unicycle. He was tall and yellow. He was so amazing. Another act that I liked did the hula hoops. She had 10-15 hula hoops on her body. She and I both like to hula hoop. She was very colorful too. She was also very fast. She was very talented and amazing too. Another act that I liked was the funniest one of them all. He would bang the drum and he had the audience clap. We would do it accidentally at the wrong time and he would say, "No, no no," and wave his finger in the air. He was so colorful too. He was so talented! Then there was another man, the tallest man of them all. He was great at climbing ladders and fun because the audience would get scared but excited at the same time. At the end they dabbed and the audience started clapping and screaming and laughing. Cirque Mother Africa was so fun and awesome!

Climate Change

by Alexander Lubkowitz

Some people say that they don't believe in climate change, but it's not a belief - it's a fact! And it is going to affect the world, it's going to affect you, in fact it already has but not that bad, except it will affect your children and all the generations after them unless we do something!

Because coal power plants and cars together release so much exhaust and smoke into the air, the world's temperature is rising fast and the ice in many places is melting. Because the ice is melting, the ocean is rising, and if it keeps rising just three more feet most of Florida and some of Australia and some of New York will go under water. This could take as little as 80 years to happen. So there's still a little time to help!

Also because of the ice melting, the sea and ocean water is becoming more acidic, this is causing lots of shelled animals' shells to not grow, but for other creatures the acidity is breaking down their shells. Since the creatures' shells aren't growing, many farmers and/or workers will be put out of business. Plus we won't be able to eat any or very little of these creatures that taste so good.

And if those reasons aren't enough then listen to this. All those coal power plants that give so many people power, and light are releasing gases that are very bad for us and the atmosphere. And eventually those gases are going to start harming us and plants and animals, by trapping lots of heat in the atmosphere and it is going to get way too hot in the world.

Luckily, there are ways that we can stop all of these horrible things from happening. The main things that we can do is start using solar power or water mills, and use electric cars, but if we're going to do something, we better do it soon!!

No More Smoking!

by Ashlyn Sands

I think that everyone in the world should stop!!! smoking because it is really (!!!) bad for you. It is also bad for the air. And also when you smoke it makes you litter, and of course you know littering is bad for the world!

The most important thing is it's bad for your lungs. If you are having a baby it is really bad for your baby. Your baby could get sick, very sick. Believe me it could damage your heart.

I know you might feel you like smoking, but it could get into someone else's body. The air could get polluted and the walls could get rotten.

Let me tell you seeing a pile of cigarettes on the sidewalk is disrespectful for everyone that doesn't smoke. Come on you people, know that type of stuff is bad. Really, you're old enough to know that five, six, seven, eight, and nine year olds see your littering on the sidewalk everyday and it's very yucky.

Cirque Mother Africa

by Izzy Stamp

I think you should see Cirque Mother Africa because all the acts are amazing. But the four acts I liked best are: when the man rode on the unicycle; when the girl spun the bowl and the table on her feet; when the man with the drum tried to get us to do a motion; and when the girl and the boy did juggling together with seven balls each.

I liked when the man rode on the unicycles because he started with only one unicycle, then he moved on to a second unicycle stacked on the first one, then he moved onto a very tiny unicycle and pedaled around. He had very good balance which I think helped him a lot.

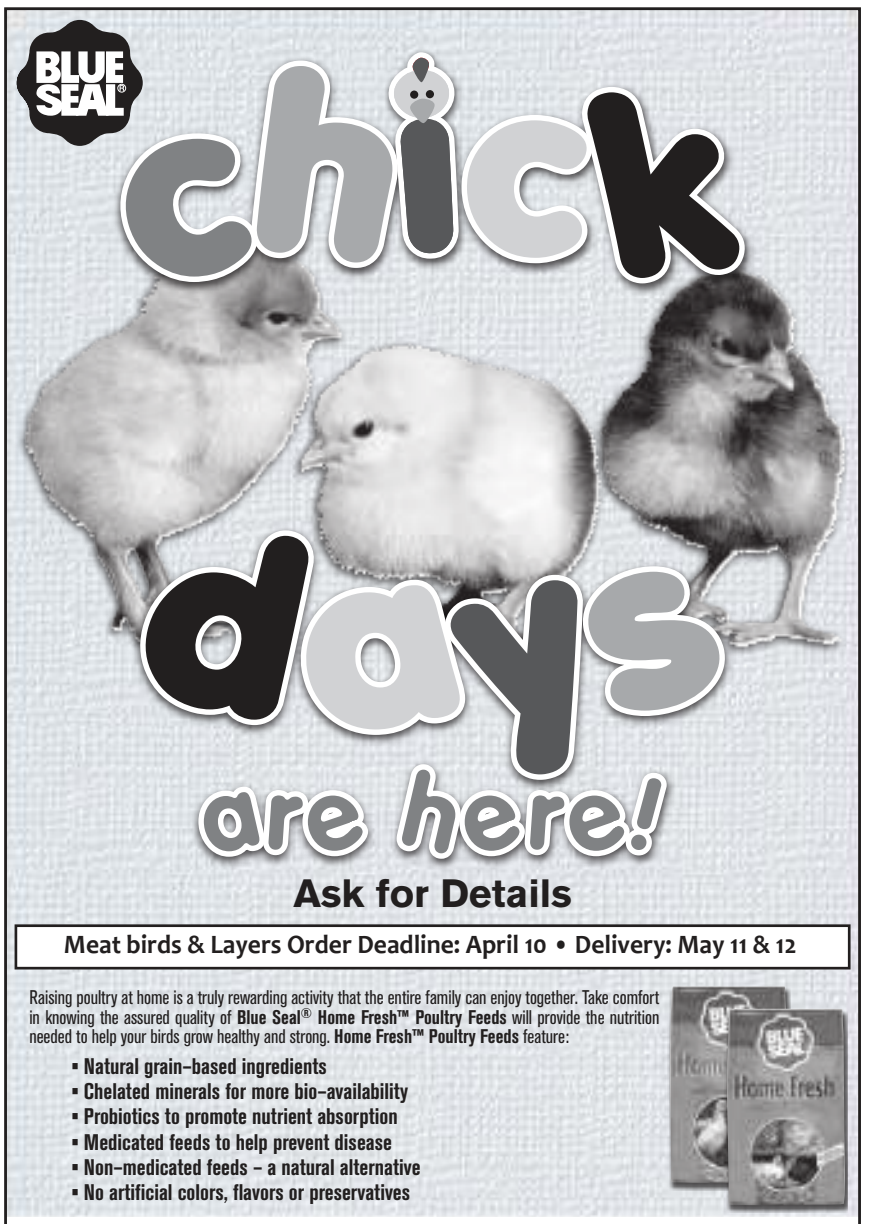
I like it when the girl spun the bowl onto her feet because she had to make sure the bowl and the table stayed balanced which can be very hard. She also seemed very confident she could do it and was happy she did it. When they were rotating the table and bowl it was kind of funny.

I enjoyed it when the man with the drum tried to get us to do a motion because it was funny in the beginning because nobody knew what he was trying to get us to do, but after really trying to understand him we found out he wanted us to lift our hands up when he played the drums--and not to clap.

I enjoyed the act when the boy and the girl did juggling with seven balls and because they made it look so easy!! At first just the girl juggled, then the boy next to her, then they juggled together. They caught the balls, bounced the balls and even tossed the balls all at the same time!

You might think that going to Cirque Mother Africa will be boring because you probably won't be able to understand their talking--there isn't much talking at all, but there are a bunch of awesome acts like I've said, and to me the most amazing acts are when the man rode the unicycles, the girl with the bowl and table on her foot, when the man with a drum tried to get us to do a motion, and when the boy and the girl did juggling together. That's why I believe everyone should see Cirque Mother Africa.

—Submitted by Aimee Motta Grade, 3/4 teacher at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School.



Ask for Details

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Raising poultry at home is a truly rewarding activity that the entire family can enjoy together. Take comfort in knowing the assured quality of **Blue Seal® Home Fresh™ Poultry Feeds** will provide the nutrition needed to help your birds grow healthy and strong. **Home Fresh™ Poultry Feeds** feature:

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MON-FRI 7-5:30 • SAT 8-4:30 • SUN 8:30-1:30

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Sheep

"If men are to be precluded from offering their sentiments on a matter which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences that can invite the consideration of mankind, reason is of no use to us; the freedom of speech may be taken away, and dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

—George Washington (March 15, 1783)

Life is hard. Once we can no longer rely on our parents to feed and clothe us, we have to work to earn a living and support ourselves. We strive to develop healthy social relationships. And it requires serious determination to maintain a stable marriage.

In addition, most of us try to be good citizens, engaging in our society and complying with its conventions, laws, culture, and language. We support the group's efforts to preserve a functioning society and work to be a contributing member of the herd.

Meanwhile, we are confronted with an endless array of distractions. Diversions offer some relief from the many demands on us, but we tend to find an increasing number of opportunities to do many things that aren't worth doing.

It is essential that we have times when we can escape from some of the pressure we feel, and we seek relief in a variety of entertainment and amusements. Leisure time is vital and a productive life is predicated on periods of down time. We need portions of time away from work, and time for rest and relaxation.

But maybe something deeper is going on. We have become anxious and fearful, believing society to be much more violent and dangerous than statistics actually support. We profess to value a racially diverse culture, but we pretty much stick with our own kind. We want to feel safer and more stable. Perhaps the success of a recent political campaign is due in part to the promises of the tough guy who would protect us from "the other" and provide a sense of safety and security in society.

In his recently released book, The Complacent Class, Tyler Cowen argues that we've become afraid of change. In our effort to avoid uncomfortable developments, we tolerate a society that is deeply divided between the rich and the poor, the haves and the have-nots. We have become less accepting of overt racial intolerance but very accepting of deep divisions in the norms and entrenched ideologies of our society. There are chasms between conservatives and liberals, widened by irreconcilable differences in opinions and procedures.

Drug use, both licit and illicit, has become rampant. We are very upset about the addiction rates to opioids, but we accept, actually encourage, huge numbers of people taking antidepressants and anxiolitics. We support the legalization of marijuana, the drug that "makes users spacey, calm, sleepy." And we medicate children, sometimes before they are out of diapers, to calm them.

In a way, our amusements and diversions keep us calm. We don't have to engage in the difficult struggle to be fully alive.

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

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Major Subdivision Preliminary Review

The Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Preliminary Review on the application by Nat Weaver to subdivide 189 acres into three lots (Lot 1 – 179. acres, Lot 2 – 5.0 acres, Lot 3 – 5.0 acres;). Access to subject property is located on Weaver Road in Huntington. The hearing will be at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 7:30 pm.

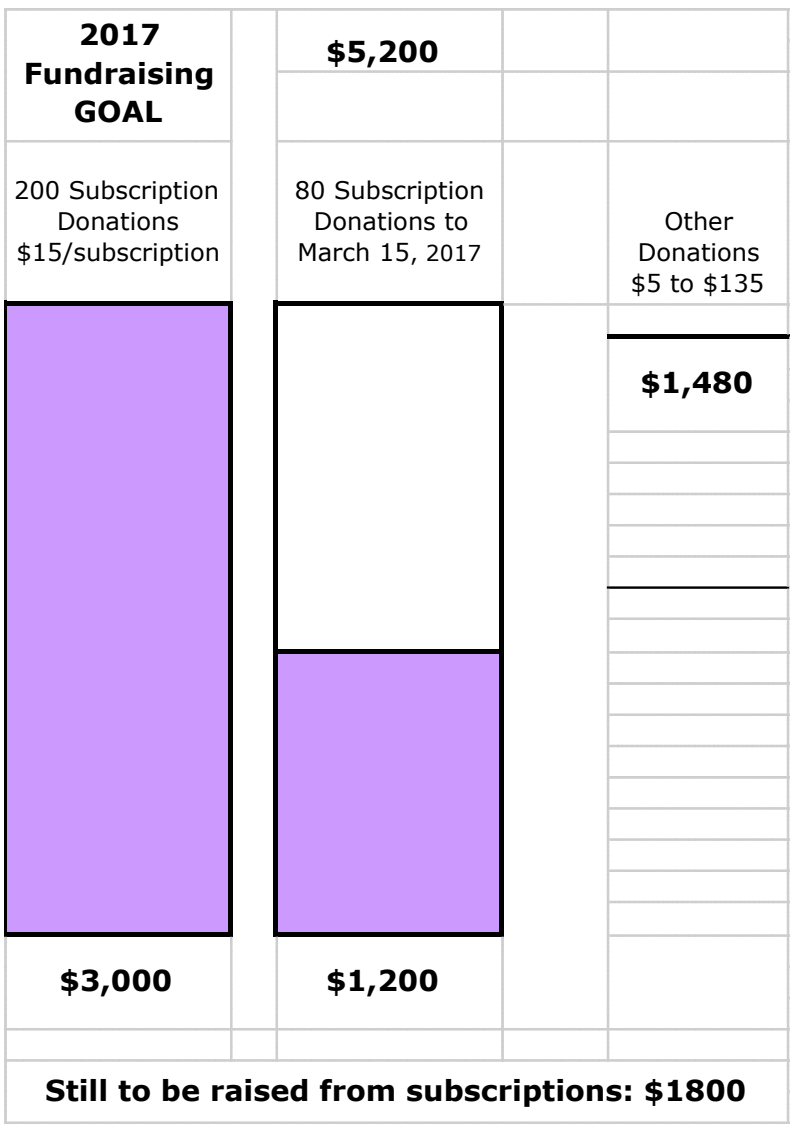
The application and map are available for viewing at the Town Clerk's Office during business hours.

Planned Unit Development Preliminary Review

The Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Preliminary Review on the application by Mark and Marijke Smith to subdivide 140 acres into 10 lots: 9 residential lots and remainder as common lands. (Lot 1 – 1.75. acres, Lot 2 – .74 acres, Lot 3 1.27 acres; Lot 4 - 1.27 acres; Lot 5 - .80 acres; Lot 6 - 1.07 acres; Lot 7 - 41 acres; Lot 8 - .44 acres; Lot 9 - .51 acres; Lot 10 - 105 +/- acres common lands). Access to subject property is located on Bert White Road in Huntington. The hearing will be at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, at 8:15 pm.

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

—Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk
March 27, 2017

Times Ink Update: 2017 Fundraising Goals

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Time Ink (a 501c3 nonprofit organization)- no donation is too small and definitely none is too large. See page 17 for more information. Thanks very much to the community members who have stepped forward with a voluntary subscription. Your donation helps to pay for the paper so that every mailbox delivered in Richmond and Huntington can continue to get our free community paper.