# The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

Volume 34 **February 2017 Issue** Number 1


# A Bust for X-C Skiers

## 2016 Weather Review Shows Warming Trends and Not Much Snow

*Holiday skaters on Gillett Pond. Photo: Robert Low*

Submitted by Robert Low

Every year brings its weather quirks, more numerous than in the past with lots of temperature yo-yoing. For us it was a mix of record warmth and impacting drought, though we were spared violent weather experienced elsewhere.

January 2016 arrived white with cold nights but mild days, 20 bird species identified on the first, including robin and Canada goose. By the 10th there was little sign of winter with temperature in the 50s, heavy rain, strong winds, thunderstorms, rainbows and regional power outages. Winter again showed its presence mid-month, Gillett Pond finally becoming available for recreation. Next the expected January thaw, with maple trees tapped and running in southern Vermont. By the end, dryer than usual and the warmest January ever.

*Sap began to flow in January, leading to worries about a short season, However, extended sap runs brought excellent yields and good quality syrup. Photo: John Hadden.*

February began with record warmth, sap runs now through much of the State. Yo-yoing, new regional low temperature records were followed by record highs around Valentine's Day, though not to the 90 degree levels seen in the Mid- and Southwest. Continuing yo-yo weather in March heralded excellent Pond skating at first but ice-out conditions by the 6th, and a new record-high on the 9th. A paltry three inches of snow meant no XC skiing in the surrounding fields for the first time in decades up here on the Hill. The Pond was canoe-able before month's end.

April continued yo-yo temperature running from single degrees doing in early daffodils, to the 60s, threatened a return at the end with regional record cold and snow though not much for us at five inches. Extended sap runs brought excellent yields. Early May saw a bit of snow, with conditions more like late March-early April, protracting spring. With that, the winter of 2015-16 registered some 32 inches of snow for us, a third of our average over the past 50 years. Record heat at the end of May required termination of the Burlington Marathon before many runners could cross the finish line. Dry conditions persisted to the end.

June was hot and dry, excellent weather interrupted by sporadic thunder storms. Gardens continued to flourish despite early light frost. July again was hot

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# Hegman Qualifies as Top US U23 Male

*Jack Hegman of Huntington recently raced at the US Nationals in Soldier Hollow, Utah, where he placed second and third in the sprints and fifth in the 15K Skate race. With these results, he qualified as the top U23 (under 23 years) male in the country and will represent the United States at the 2017 FIS (Federation of International Skiing) Nordic Junior and U23 World Championships.*

# A Community Works Together

## Creating the Brewster-Pierce Outdoor Classroom

by Jane M. Vossler

Early this winter, kindergarten students at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in Huntington gathered around their teacher, Christina Driver. They were getting ready to go outside and spend the day in the outdoor classroom. Driver led a discussion about what animals do in the winter. Do they hibernate? Do they just get a little sleepy? Or do they stay active?

Students then put on their warm winter clothing and excitedly headed outside. They played a game to reinforce what they'd discussed inside about different animals doing different things in the winter. Next, they headed to the open field near the school to explore for signs of deer such as tracks, antlers, and scat.

You can watch this kindergarten class in action at the You Tube site: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPOiBsgBF4w&feature=youtu.be. You can see their excitement as they discover an antler. They talk about the points on the antler and ask questions. It's clear from the video that the children are not only having a great time, but they're also learning about animal

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OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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# Letters

## After School at CHMS

Learning at Camels Hump Middle School doesn't end when students are dismissed at 2:40 pm. There are a number of after school opportunities offered throughout the school year. Studies show that after school programs bring a wide range of benefits to youth, families and communities. After school programs can boost academic performance, reduce risky behaviors, promote physical health, and provide a safe, structured environment for the children of working parents. At the present time, we offer the following: Fun and Fitness, Indoor Rock Climbing, interscholastic basketball, the Mountaineers Chef Club/ Junior Iron Chef, Pokemon, Minecraft, Artists Inc, Bolton Valley Ski and Ride, Cooking Club, Engineering Club, Magic the Gathering, Lego Robotics, and skating (weather permitting).

This year, CHMS is one of the lucky schools fortunate enough to participate in the Trout in the Classroom program. Team Spark students will be helping to raise brook trout with the plan to release the fry in the spring. CHMS scientists will be helping to raise the fish, test and monitor the water chemistry, and observe the life stages and growth process over the coming months. In the wild, just 1 of every 100 brook trout eggs is expected to survive. We are hoping for a 70-80% survival rate. It will be an exciting learning process for everyone! Before the December break, Bob Wible, a volunteer with the Trout in the Classroom program, came to talk to Team Spark students about the setup of the tank. Students tested the initial water chemistry to make sure everything was prepared for when the eggs arrived the first week of January.

*Above, Bob Wible, at right, a volunteer with the Trout in the Classroom program, came to talk to Team Spark students about the setup of the tank. Below, students tested the initial water chemistry to make sure everything was prepared for when the eggs arrived the first week of January. Courtesy photo.*

On Thursday, January 19, CHMS geographers will test their knowledge of the world around them in hopes of bringing home the National Geographic medallion and the opportunity to represent CHMS at the state-level Geo Bee. Check our website, https://camelshump.cesuvt.org/ for the Geo Bee results!

Once again, we will host hundreds of middle-schoolers and their families over two nights in celebration of winter and the youth's progress since September. On Thursday, January 19, Open House for 7th & 8th Grades will be from 6:00-8:00 pm and on Thursday, January 26, Open House for 5th & 6th Grades will also run from 6 pm to-8 pm. Open House attendees will be treated to choral and band concerts as well as ice skating under the lights, weather permitting. Artwork from all grades will line the halls of the school. Student projects will be in abundance throughout classrooms and in display cases. Open House gives students an excellent opportunity to share their accomplishments with family and friends. We welcome any and all community members to our open house.

The next meeting of the Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District will be January 23, 2017, 6 pm, at Richmond Elementary School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

—*Mark Carbone*, Principal
Camels Hump Middle School

*continue to page 12*

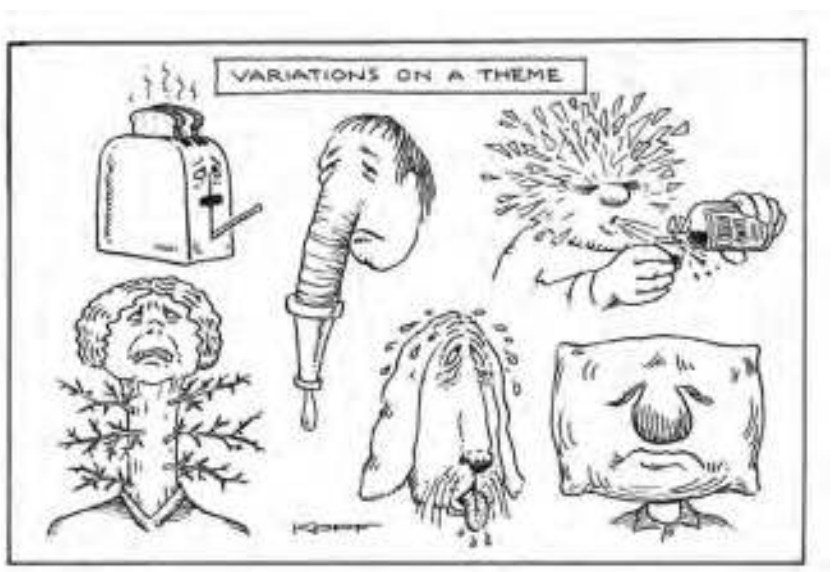
## Richmond Senior Foot Clinics

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 February 21, 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.



# Annual French Canadian Supper

Looking for an opportunity to taste some authentic French Canadian food without having to journey to Quebec, Canada? You can do just that by partaking in the Richmond Knights of Columbus (Rosary Council 4684) unique and tasty Annual French Canadian Supper. The date to reserve on your calendar to let the Knights and their helpers do the cooking for you is Saturday, February 4, 2017. Featured food items include such traditional French Canadian favorites as pea soup, meat pie ("tourtiere"), mashed potato, beverages, dessert, and more.

The supper will be held in the Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church on West Main Street in Richmond beginning at 5 pm. Admission is by a suggested donation of $10. The evening's proceeds will benefit the various charities (scholarships, donations to the needy, etc) supported by the Knights of Columbus. For information call Doug St. Amour at 777-5302 evenings or the Church secretary at 434-2521 Tuesday, Thursday or Friday during the day.

# 2017 Richmond Blood Drives

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the Our Lady Of The Holy Rosary on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, from 11:30 am to 5 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 & health history questionnaire. Complete on line on February 22 before you arrive to donate.

The need for blood is critical.

The need for blood does not take a holiday.

Please roll up your sleeve so others may live.

Mark you calendar for more local opportunities:

April 19: Richmond Congregational Church, 11:30 to 5:30;

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

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

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

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

# Winter Wildlife Tracking and Training

Join field naturalist Sophie Mazowita on Sunday, January 29, 10 am to 4 pm, for a full-day immersion in tracking and trailing wildlife in winter. at the Green Mountain Audubon Nature Center in Huntington. The day will start with an indoor presentation in the Education Barn, on the basics of track and sign ID, interpreting gaits and behavior, and understanding winter wildlife ecology and habitat. Participants will then head out to explore the forests, brook and beaver pond to find out who, why, when, and where wildlife is on the landscape.

Sophie Mazowita is an avid wildlife tracker and coordinator of the Burlington Mammal Tracking Project. She is a program director at Crow's Path Field School in Burlington and was formerly Education Manager at Green Mountain Audubon Center. She's been a student of wildlife tracking for a decade and dedicated much of the last year to honing her practice while getting on the trails of wildlife in New England and Ontario. Sophie Mazowita has a deep appreciation for tracking as a skill set and framework to foster connection with the land and its wild inhabitants.

The program is for adults and children, ages 13 year and older. Cost is $40 for Audubon members and $45 for non-members. The Audubon Center is located at 255 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington. Information: gcauser@audubon.org

# Joseph Bishop's Historic Richmond Photos

Richmond Historical Society announces a winter program that will appeal to photographers as well as local history buffs.

On Sunday, February 19, at 3 pm, the Richmond Historical Society (RHS) will host a slide show presentation of early 20th-century Richmond photos in the Richmond Free Library Community Room. The photos were taken in the 1910s and 1920s by professional photographer Joseph Bishop (or Levesque) of Richmond. Last year, the RHS acquired more than 400 of Bishop's glass plate negatives in the estate sale of his great-nephew, the late Tom Levesque. The images range from studio portraits to community events to people at work or play. They offer fascinating glimpses of life in Richmond a hundred years ago.

Join the Richmond Historical Society for this free slide show program led by RHS archivist Karen Yaggy.

A brief RHS business meeting and election of officers will precede the program; refreshments provided by the RHS Board of Directors will follow. For more information please contact Martha Turner at rhs@oldroundchurch.com or 434-6453.

# Huntington Town Hall Hosts Monthly Contradances

The next Huntington Town Hall contradance will be January 28, beginning at 7:30 pm in Huntington Center. Says contradance caller Lausanne Allen, "I'm really excited about the band, The ShrewdBerries, from in and around Shrewsbury, Vermont." The band includes father and son Mark and Silas Hamilton on fiddle and guitar respectively, joined by the well-known mandolin and tenor banjo player Claudine Langille from the Celtic band Gypsy Reel.

In February there will be a break from the fourth-Saturday contradance as the Town Hall is being used for a private party.

Mark your calendar for March 25,Allen said, "We'll pick back up with the contradance series in March with a fine family band from Cornwall, Honey in the Hive...and April's dance (April 29) will bring back Sarah and John's Megaband Jam.

The historic Huntington Town Hall upstairs has a hardwood floor and a small stage for the musicians. The building has undergone extensive renovations is now completely ADA accessible with a lift from the first floor to the upstairs. The building is heated and the plumbing can be used for events all winter.

All are welcome. Remember, no experience or partner is necessary and contradancing is good exercise and fun. All dances are preceded by a walk-through. Admission is by donation at the door, sliding scale $5-$10. Come on out and enjoy the music, dance or both!

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hpl@gmavt net

**Annual Baby Brunch** Sunday, January 29, 11:30 am – 1 pm. Each year we welcome new babies with a special new library book Baby Book Dedication bookplate which honors the baby's birth and a delicious brunch. Invitations were be sent to all those born in the year 2016 and should have arrived in mailboxes by the middle of January. If you had a new addition or two to your family, plan to join us!

**Music for Little Hands** with Rob Zollman on Sunday, January 22, 2017, 12:30 pm. Rob specializes in exploration and playfulness, using percussion instruments, singing songs, chanting rhythms, and dancing and getting bodies moving! Activities will be improvisational and fun. As Rob says, "Because the journey is more important than the destination, there are few specific expectations." The focus will be on ages under 11, but, all ages are welcome! Free event.

**New Adult Fiction** The Sleeping Beauty Killler by Mary Higgins Clark; Under the Influence by Joyce Maynard; Swing Time by Zadie Smith; Faithful by Alice Hoffman.

**Adult Non-Fiction** The Hidden Life of Trees – What They Feel, How They Communicate by Peter Wohlleben; Keeping Track, Inc. - KTMP Readings and Resources by Susan Morse; Strangers in Their Own Land by Arlie Russell Hochschild; The Hop Growers Handbook by Laura Ten Eyck; And Then All Hell Broke Loose - Two Decades in the Middle East by Richard Engle; The Brothers – John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War by Stephen Kinzer; The Crystal City – FDR's Secret Prisoner's Exchange Program and America's Only Family Internment Camp During World War II by Jan Jarboe Russell; Gods, Wasps and Stranglers – The Secret History and Redemptive Future of Fig Trees by Mike Shanahan; Progress – Ten Reasons to Look Forward to the Future by Johan Norberg; Holy Moli – Albatross and Other Ancestors by Hob Osterlund; Rain Gardens – Sustainable Landscaping for a Beautiful Yard and a Healthy World by L.M. Steiner and R.W. Domm.

**Adult Audio** Today Will Be Different by Maria Semple.

**Adult Biography** House of Stone – A Memoir of Home, Family, and a Lost Middle East by Anthony Shadid; Born to Run by Bruce Springsteen; Our Revolution by Bernie Sanders.

**Children's Picture Books** No Two Alike by Keith Baker; Where Do They Go? by Julia Alvarez.

**Junior Novels** Pegasus Series by Kate O'Hearn, Books 1 – 6 Valkyrie by Kate O'Hearn; Diary of a Wimpy Kid Double Down by Jeff Kinney; Fantastic Beasts – The Original Screenplay by JK Rowling.

**Huntington Playgroup** Birth through 5 years, Fridays 10 am – 12 pm. The Playgroup aims to create an inviting place for babies and children with their caregivers. We will have fun playing with toys, doing crafts, and meeting new friends. Sponsored by Building Brighter Futures and facilitated by Jen O'Hora.

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

**First Friday Movie Night** Friday, February 3, at 7 pm. Wear your cozy pajamas, bring your buddies, and we will have popcorn ready! In February we will be showing The Secret Lives of Pets.

**VOL - Vermont Online Library** is available to all Huntington residents, with a valid library card. This service offers a wide array of electronic information databases on a wide variety of topics for all ages and interests.

Use the password "student" for the GALE database and for the "Heritage" databases your password is the barcode on your library card (homecard). Call or email for further assistance.

**The Huntington Historical and Community Trust (HHCT)** posts photographs of existing and past historic structures in the Times Ink from time to time through out the year. The above Mystery Photo was printed in September. The last photo was originally the Free Will Baptist Church (built 1841), later (1948) It was renovated by the volunteer Fire Department for the firehouse. Since the current firehouse was built It has been used by the recreation committee for storage. This is the oldest PUBLIC building in Huntington, is a contributing structure in the state designated Huntington Center Historic District and is deserving of preservation (see page 62 in the booklet "Huntington Vermont 1786-1976" available for sale at the town office

The new PLACE (shown below) dates to 1915. Where is it? What was it used for and what is its current use? If you think you know, please send us your answer!

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**January Art Show** Richmond resident Dolores Carter will share thirty years of cross-stitched works in the display case and on the walls.

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

**Tax Preparation Assistance with AARP Volunteers** Every year, volunteers help seniors submit their tax returns. If you think you may be interested in meeting with a preparer, let us know and we'll put your name on a list.

**Music at the RFL:**

• **8 Cuerdas.** Featuring the American soprano Sarah Cullins and Colombian guitarist Daniel Gaviria, this duo is known for their lively performances that juxtapose impossibly soft, gentle moments with high-powered vocal and guitar virtuosity. Friday, January 28 ,at 7:30 pm.

• **Classical Quintet.** This musical performance of the Vermont Chamber Artists will be Sunday, February 5, at 7:30 pm.

**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.

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

**Community Mitten Art:** If you decorated a mitten for the December wall show and you would like to have your mitten back, please stop by the front desk sometime before the end of January and request your mitten.

**Love Your Library Video Challenge** Students (ages 10 - 16) will create a short film highlighting some aspect of public libraries and will submit it to the Vermont Access Network as part of this annual Vermont Public Access TV Video Challenge. Participants will develop their acting, writing and filmmaking skills. This is a free, hands-on workshop sponsored by Mt. Mansfield Community Television and the Richmond Free Library and will take place at the Library and the MMCTV studio in February over the winter break from school.

**Senior Activities** The Community Senior Center has organized many great activities at the Library. Visit http://www.cscvt.org for more information on yoga, Mahjong, German conversation sessions, and genealogy research. These activities are not just for seniors.

**Vermont Reads** The Vermont Humanities Council is pleased to announce that the Vermont Reads book for 2017 will be Jacqueline Woodson's Brown Girl Dreaming. This beautiful memoir of the author's childhood, written in verse, tells the story of a young person finding her voice and examines the strength of family bonds. Pick up a free copy of the book at the library circulation desk and join us for a discussion on Tuesday, February 21, at 7 pm.

**Book Discussions:** The Silent Sister by Diane Chamberlain. (Riley MacPherson #1). Riley MacPherson has spent her entire life believing that her older sister Lisa committed suicide as a teenager. Now, over twenty years later, her father has passed away and she's in New Bern, North Carolina cleaning out his house when she finds evidence to the contrary. Pick up a copy at the library and join us for a discussion on Tuesday, January 10, 6 pm.

Smoke by Donald Westlake. There was nothing secondhand about this: Freddie Urban Noon broke into a cancer research lab--where two scientists were getting paid big money by the American Tobacco Research Institute to prove that smoking is good for you. Join us for a discussion on Thursday, January 19, 7 pm.

**Annual Book Sale** It's almost time for the Friends of the Richmond Free Library's annual book sale extravaganza complete with good-quality books, musical guests, chocolatey bake sale items, and exciting raffle prizes. Book donations are currently being accepted. Help is always needed to run this event. If you have some time to give on the weekend of the sale or in advance please contact Mary Keller-Butler at 434-3619 or unnamedmnt@hotmail.com. The book sale will be Friday, February 17, from 5:30 - 8:30 pm, and Saturday, February 18, from 9 am - 3 pm.

**Facebook** Go on, like us! Find out what's happening at the RFL and in the book-loving community. Find our page at www.facebook.com/richmondfreelibraryvt

**Thank You** to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket during the month of December for one of three book baskets. Even if you didn't get "the call" on December 19 you are still a winner, as the proceeds from the raffle will be used to expand our DVD and Playaway collections.

**Tech Lab** You will find computers, a printer, a copier, a fax machine, and small office supplies in our newly renovated tech lab. This comfortable space is open to all during Library hours and offers a good place for checking email, faxing or scanning documents, homework or online research.

**New Adults** Fiction Faithful by Alice Hoffman; Fortunes by Peter Ho Davies; Gamblers Anatomy by Jonathan Lethem; Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain; Hell Bay by Will Thomas; I Will Send Rain by Rae Meadows; Black Widow by Daniel Silva; Fisherman by John Langan; Mistletoe Murder by P.D. James; Moonglow by Michael Chabon; Presumption of Guilt by Archer Mayor; Raintree County by Ross Lockridge, Jr.

**Nonfiction** American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750-1804 by Alan Taylor; American Ulysses by Ronald C. White, Jr.; The Attention Merchants: The Epic Scramble to Get Inside Our Heads by Tim Wu; Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS by Jody Warrick; Hero of the Empire: The Boer War, a Daring Escape, and the Making of Winston Churchill by Candice Millard

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# Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

At the Huntington Selectboard meeting December 19, 2016, Melanie Rodjenski, CPA, from Fothergill Segale & Valley (FSV), shared the fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016 draft audit report with the Selectboard. The Town's policies and procedures are up to date, FSV reported, and no issues were found with its accounting practices. A timing issue with the Town receiving its the new grader before the FY 16-17 created a deficit in the highway equipment fund for FY 15-16 but will get corrected, since the first payment was not due until FY 16-17.

Town Treasurer Kathleen Clark suggested the Board be specific about which fund money is coming from to pay for items included in the Capital Plan. The Board discussed the current practice for tracking grants, which Rojenski said "makes sense...yet grants that bridge a fiscal year, you need to keep track of the them [in grant accounts] but at audit time they have to be incorporated into the general fund." Board member Nancy Stoddard questioned, "Instead of looking at all the grants together, should we be looking at them project by project?" Town Administrator Barbara Elliott commented, "We are often times dealing with multiple fiscal years, grant cycles are different than fiscal years."

Clark has told the Board she may not run for an additional three-year term in 2018, unless the job is restructured. With appreciation of Clark's excellent work and strong accounting background, the Board will work with Clark to analyze the system of Town treasurer work.

The Board reviewed changes to the Capital Plan. Clark talked about debt service, and the Board compared long-term costs of a five-year loan for a new excavator versus a 10-year loan. Stoddard asked, "Do we want to pay it off quickly or do we want to spread it out over the years to smooth out the tax rate, but paying more interest in the long run?" The Board chose the 10-year loan. Clark explained she has worked to keep tax rate increases "fairly consistent for the next three years." Stoddard inquired, "Is there anything that could be moved out to smooth it out even further? "Elliott mentioned there are limited grants to cover Lower Village paving. Board member Roman Livak, referring to the benefit of having the Capital Plan, offered, "Least ways we know where the tax rate is going in the future, compared to ten years ago when we could say one year it will be this and the next year we have no idea where we will be."

The Board perused the General Fund budget again. "I am thrilled we got our numbers down," said Board Chair Dori Barton.

The Selectboard passed a motion to approve the Capital Plan and General Fund budget.

**Library Budget Reduction** Library Trustee Paula Kelley, called in from the Library Trustees meeting to talk about final revisions to the Library's General Fund Budget .The Board had told Kelley it could not support the requested 11.3% increase to the library budget, but would back a 3.2% increase. Kelley said the Board agreed to take up to $5,000 out of the Library CSA Fund (formerly the Friends Fund) to cover over budget items, rather than trim the budget. "We submitted this budget at the beginning of October, " added Kelley, "and now [in December] we have a big problem... be more on time with feedback next year, okay?" Barton explained that the budget process starts early and "We are gathering information from a lot of different sources before decisions can be made. "

**Three-Phase Power** During Public Comment at the Selectboard's January 3, 2017 meeting, Duncan Keir discussed the issue of three-phase electric power in Huntington. Keir urged the Selectboard to persuade Green Mountain Power to run this power to our community. This issue is particularly urgent, explained Keir, since Brewster-Pierce Memorial School (BPMS)'s newly approved heating system requires three-phase power. The Town will have to pay extra for an electrical conversion to single phase, continued Keir. He noted that three-phase power would allow for more commercial development in Huntington, since it is used to power large motors and is more economical. Barton pointed out that three-phase power availability in Town would appeal to large-scale solar farm developers. Barton planned to check how three-phase power could be made available in Huntington.

Later in the meeting, Keir was appointed to the Huntington Energy Committee (HEC), as requested by the HEC.

**Town Auditor Comments** The Board reviewed suggestions offered by Town Auditor Patty Baumann on the Capital Plan and General Fund. The revised spreadsheets will not impact the numbers in the Capital Plan and General Fund Budget passed by the Board.

**Town Meeting Articles** The Board examined the draft Town Meeting Articles, which will be approved at the January 16 meeting. Articles include purchases of an excavator and a new truck , funding for additional traffic enforcement, and a request for the use of money from the General Fund fund balance to finance an engineering study for a Lower Village paving project.

The Board considered a draft narrative and detailed outline of Selectboard, Highway and Town Administrator projects, for the Town Report. Board members were asked to contribute highlights from the past year's activities.

**Senators Visit Prep** Anticipating Huntington's State Senators and Representives' attendance at the January 16 meeting, Board members brainstormed potential discussion topics. Proposed subjects include: rural three-phase power, cell coverage, and the impact of Camel's Hump trail usage. Questions about: highway grants, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for State land, and Chittenden Unit for Special investigations (CUSI) funding will be raised.

**Town Appraiser Contract** A motion to sign the FY 2016-2017 contract for appraisal services with Vermont Appraisal Company passed unanimously.

# Tony Trischka to Perform

Banjo artist Tony Trishka will appear as a part of the Valley Stage P.M. Sundays concert series on Sunday, February 12, at 4 pm. The concert will take place at the Richmond Congregational Church, 20 Church Street, Richmond.

Trishka is considered to be perhaps the most influential banjo player in the roots music world. For more than 45 years, his stylings have inspired a whole generation of bluegrass and acoustic musicians with the many voices he has brought to the instrument. In addition to being one of the most innovative banjo players, he is one of its most respected and sought after instructors creating 15 instructional books as well as a series of DVDs.

As a part of his appearance at the P.M. Sundays series Trishka will be conducting a workshop for banjo players beginning at 1:30 on the same day at the church. The class will be limited to 10 participants. Interested individuals should contact Don Sheldon.

"…the great banjo liberationist…"
—Tom Ashbrook, NPR – On Point

For more information about this concert, the workshop and all Valley Stage events: www.valleystage.net, 434-4563 or don@valleystage.net

# Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Richmond residents would see another small property tax hike under the municipal budget being considered by the Selectboard. Upon the recommendation Richmond residents would see another small property tax hike under the municipal budget being considered by the Selectboard.

At its January 3 meeting, the Selectboard continued its review of the proposed budget for the 2017-18 fiscal year, discussing Library spending and pay for the town constable. It also scheduled a public hearing at which the budget could be finalized.

The Selectboard and Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik have been working on the budget since October. After several drafts, it stood at $3,533,884, a 4.7 percent increase over the current year's budget.

That budget as originally proposed would have boosted the tax rate by about four cents, resulting in roughly a $120 annual tax increase for a $300,000 home. But the Selectboard decided, as it has in each of the last few years, to limit the tax increase to two cents. So began the search for cuts.

During previous meetings, Selectboard members questioning department heads, zeroing in on specific line items in an effort to find place to shave spending. That was the case with the Richmond Free Library and the Town Constable.

Library Trustee Kristen Hayden-West said the budget contains only one significant change, which involves shifting Wendy de Forest from being a part-time youth librarian and assistant director to a full-time employee. That will permit her to receive benefits.

But it will also cause the Library's medical insurance costs to soar 1,600 percent to $26,995. That line item accounts for most of the 12.4 percent increase in the library's proposed $239,846 budget.

Hayden-West said de Forest might opt out of the insurance, instead taking an additional $5,000 in salary. But she said the Library nonetheless had to budget for the health insurance increase.

She noted that de Forest is a State Certified Librarian and can fill in for Library Director Rebecca Mueller. Hayden-West said the Library wouldn't be able to find such a highly qualified person to work part-time.

Board member Bard Hill wondered what the Library would do if the new expense was rejected. Hayden-West said she would have to talk to Library staff but noted that de Forest has said she needs the full-time position.

Hayden-West said that though the jump in health insurance costs looks large, it actually brings the Library's overall salary-benefit ratio in line with other town departments.

Constable Andy Squires also fielded questions about pay for his position. Constables have duties that vary by town and can include destroying animals, helping health officers and collecting taxes. Constables also sometimes assist police.

But a few years ago, the Vermont Legislature passed a law requiring constables who have law enforcement duties to be certified like any police officer. That involves satisfying police training requirements.

"My goal from the beginning, when I got this job three years ago, was to make the Constable a respectable supplement to Richmond police," Squires said. So, he has for the last year been completing the mandatory training.

But he said that required many hours of his own time. Richmond does not currently pay town constables.

Squires requested pay similar to that received by the town's Animal Control Officer. Urbanik said that position pays $12 an hour with a three-hour weekly minimum whether or not there is work to be done, plus travel expenses.

The police budget originally included a $2,000 stipend for the position. The Selectboard later cut that to $500, which would cover only training expenses. In addition, Squires will need a bulletproof vest, said Police Chief Alan Buck.

"I don't have $1,000 to buy a new vest," he said. "Otherwise, it's coming out of his pocket. That's why I put the line item in the budget."

Selectboard members did not decide whether to pay and equip the Constable. Doing so would require exceeding its spending cap or finding cuts elsewhere.

The Selectboard scheduled a public hearing on the budget for January 17, when it may make final decisions on the spending plan. Results from the meeting where not available at press time.

**Public Safety Study OK'd** The Selectboard revisited a discussion about how much voters would be willing to spend on a new public safety building to house the town's police and fire departments.

A preliminary estimate pegged the price at $9 million. That eye-popping number caused the Selectboard to collectively wince, and even members of the committee studying the proposal admitted it was too high.

The new building would replace substandard fire and police stations. Police currently operate in the flood-prone lower floor of Richmond Town Center, and the cramped Fire Station is located east of downtown on Route 2.

Board Chairwoman Ellen Kane said she remained interesting in gauging just how much voters would be willing to spend on a new facility and tailoring plans to their comments. Committee members continued to insist that the facility as planned met police and fire needs and was not extravagant. They said $9 million was only a rough guess and the town needed to pay a professional cost estimator for a more precise number.

Kane suggested that the committee could perhaps give a presentation about the project at Town Meeting in March. Committee member Rick Barrett said without the information from the cost study the committee would not be able to fully answer voters' questions.

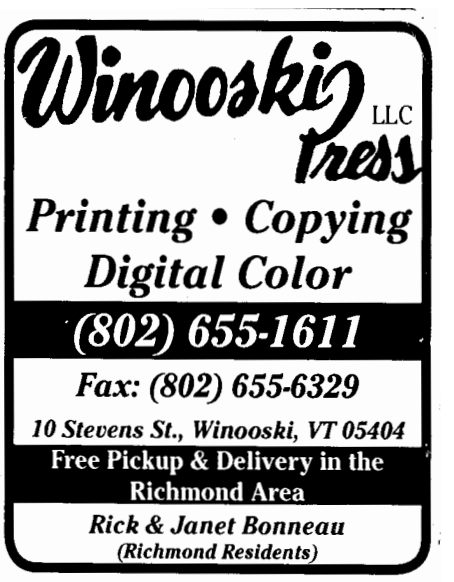
The committee reiterated its request for $10,000 to fund the study. Committee member Bob Stafford said information from the study might be completed in time for town meeting— if the Selectboard provided immediate funding.

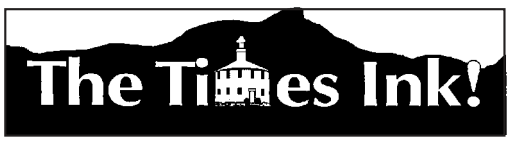
"But we need to get moving on this if we're going to present on that day," he said.

Town Clerk Linda Parent asked if the Selectboard intended to include a bond referendum for the facility on the Town Meeting Day ballot.

"We won't be ready," replied Kane. That means that a vote would either have to take place in a special election or during the 2018 town meeting.

The Selectboard voted 4-1 to approve $10,000 for the cost study. Lincoln Bressor cast the lone no vote, explaining that he still had concerns about the project's cost and didn't want to spend money on further study without first hearing from voters.



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# TAX NOTICE

## Town of Richmond

Third Quarter 2016-2017 tax payment is due Wednesday, February 15, 2017.

Town Clerk's Office will be open until 6 pm on February 15 to accept payments

A late fee of 1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 16.

Postmarks on or before February 15 will be accepted as timely and there is a TOWN CENTER DROP BOX located by the side door across from the post office entrance.

***See online payment at richmondvt.com.***

## Town of Huntington

**The 3rd installment of taxes is due February 15, 2017.**

Taxes can be mailed, but must be postmarked February 15, 2017 or earlier.

**Office Hours Tax Week**

Monday, February 13, 8 am – 7 pm

Tuesday, February 14, 8 am – 3 pm

Wednesday, February 15, 8 am – 6 pm

**Payments through the door slot at the Town Office are accepted up until midnight on February 15.**

1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 16.

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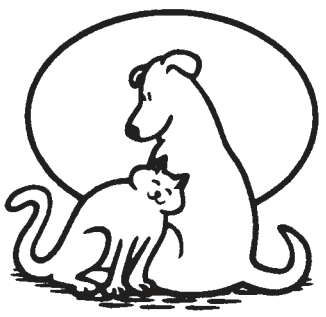

Drs. Virginia Clarke,
Daniel Hament & Cori Weiner

## Upcoming Lifelong Learning Programs

**at the Richmond Library**

**Identity Theft and Consumer Fraud**
**February 9, 1:30 p.m.**
Presented by Consumer Assistance Program of the Vermont Attorney General's Office. This informative session will include practical tips to prevent elder fraud and identity theft.

Future Events:

**All About Weather**
**March 16**

**Hand Painted Vermont Wild Flowers**
**April 13**

**Visit to Artist Diane Shullenberger's Studio**
**May 11**

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# MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

School Board Meetings December 2016

**Money, Money, Everywhere**

The principal subject of the late December and early January meetings is the 2017/18 Budget. On December 15, a draft of this budget was made to invited members of the Vermont State Legislature. Richmond Representative Marcia Gardner, Underhill representative Trevor Squirrell, Jericho Representative George Till, Senators Philip Baruth, and Chris Pearson as well as Beth Ann Ward were in attendance.

Kevin Campbell, Chair Finance Committee and Superintendent John Alberghini made a short presentation to the Legislators about the challenges to the school budget and the savings and opportunities presented by the recent merger.

Overall, every budget Fiscal Target increase of less than 2-3% has been met, with the exception of Special Education. The increase in special education spending will be spread throughout other parts of the budget. There continues to be a number of "moving parts" and unknowns from the State which makes it impossible to be sure – but – due to the 2% (decrease) merger incentive – the tax rate may not increase this year for the MMMUSD even though the budget will increase about 2%.

The principal driver to the budget is increase in special education services. Alberghini explained to the legislators "This is a significant challenge to us – the budget is going up 10% and the (individual school) assessment is going up 12%. This is my 16th year, and I have not seen an increase…of more than 6%. We are seeing more really young students coming in with significant trauma…born addicted to drugs, fetal alcohol syndrome … significant medical needs as well. We have about 15 students that [sic] are in out of district placements that are costing us about a million dollars. That's about 10% of our special ed budget for fewer than 5% of our special ed students. Around 44% of special ed costs are local" (i.e. unrecoverable from state or federal sources) "and that puts special pressure on every other part of the budget."

Included in the budget is $10,500 for a World Language Immersion director. A partnership has been finalized with Middlebury Language Schools. Spanish is the language chosen to be taught. Jericho Elementary School (JES) is the proposed location for the pilot program next year. Parent information nights will be held in February.

Good budget news is that pupil enrollment seems to have stabilized. The target of 17.25-20 student per teacher (average) will be met. Cost savings continue to be realized due to consolidation of services in the merged district. Debt retirement on old bonds helps to enable expenditures on the UID/BRMS parking lots. This and other significant capital expenditures to HVAC systems will add to the decision to postpone the move of Central Office to CHMS. The original (unacceptable) estimate for this move was $500,000. One alternative to achieve a lower cost is to do it "in house" with estimates from Phil Graff (maintenance director at the high school), and the possibility of Michael Berry (who oversaw the major renovation of RES) being the construction supervisor.

Future budget presentations are: February 16 at CHMS, February 23 at MMUHS, and March 2 at BRMS. All presentations begin at 6:30. The Budget, and the budget presentation of February 16 are available on line at www.cesuvt.org.

More good news not related to the budget is that June 2016 saw the highest percentage of high school students going on to two-year and four-year colleges in the past 15 years - about 75%. Including the military and technical certifications, about 90% of last year's graduating high school class are going on to further their education.

This year, Dylan Charter, Erin Courville, Dyani Jones, Iris Lewis and Loughlin Neuert have been selected as National Merit Scholar Semi-finalists. Less than 1% of high school students achieve this high academic level.

**Richmond Principal Search** The first round of interviews will be January 16. Final interviews and school visits are scheduled for the week of January 23. Parents and community members will have the opportunity meet the candidates then. A decision is planned for the end of January.

**Vandalism Deterents** Security cameras are being installed at Smilie in Bolton and JES to deter vandalism.

**FEMA Renege** FEMA continues to torment the district over the reimbursement for repairs to the Richmond Elementary school stream bank failure of 2010. FEMA now says it really didn't mean to authorize over $200,000 in repair money – but – a federal law prohibits them from asking for it back. Meanwhile, about $70,000 in costs are still in limbo. Legal counsel has been sought.

Sources for this report include: video and minutes of Finance Committee 12/15/16, minutes of CESU School Board meeting 12/19/16 and Superintendent's Report of 1/9/2017.

# Museum Open for Bird Count

The next Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is February 17-20. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the GBBC was the first online citizen-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. More than 160,000 people of all ages and walks of life worldwide join the four-day count each February to create an annual snapshot of the distribution and abundance of birds.

For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 17-20, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish!

In 2016, Great Backyard Bird Count participants in more than 130 countries counted 5,689 species of birds on more than 162,000 checklists.

Drop by the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington on Saturday, February 18, 10 am to 3 pm, to find out more about the GBBC.

New to the count? The Museum staff and volunteers can tell you about it and help you participate.

Need to warm up from your outdoor excursion with Audubon Vermont? Do so from the comfort of the Museum's viewing window chairs.

Need help identifying a bird? From apps to field guides, the Museum can help. You'll need to know your fieldmarks, though! (And they can help with that, too)

During the count, you can explore what others are seeing in your area or around the world. Share your bird photos by entering the photo contest, or enjoy images pouring in from across the globe.

More general info: http://gbbc.birdcount.org/

Admission: Discounts for kids and seniors.; free for members at the Birds of Vermont Museum.

# Area Residents Honored

## Spring 2016 College Honors

**Ezekiel Benshirim** of Huntington was named a Harvard College Scholar (top 10% of his class) for the 2015-2016 school year. He is the son of Annelies McVoy and David Feurzeig of Huntington.

The following students have been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire in Durham for the spring semester of the 2015-2016 academic year:

**Marina Bowie**, Jericho, Highest Honors

**Emily Desautels**, Richmond, High Honors

**Annavitte Rand**, Richmond, Highest Honors

**Kristina Cyr**, Richmond, Highest Honors

**Abigail Hahr**, Starksboro, Highest Honors

Dean's List Highest Honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0.

**Maya Bower**, Richmond
**Samantha Bursell**, Richmond
**Reilly Butler**, of Jonesville
**Gina Cassara**, Jericho
**Anna Chaffee**, Jericho
**Alison Chivers**, Jericho
**Virginia Churchill**, Richmond
**Clara Douglas**, Jericho
**Julia Ginorio**, Huntington
**Jennifer Hayes,** Jericho
**Alaina Hendrickson**, Huntington
**Dakota Jones**, Jericho
**John Landis**, Richmond
**Ariana Matthews-Salzman**, Jericho
**Ryan Morse**, Jericho
**Maeve Poleman**, Richmond
**Willem Rossi**, Richmond
**Bailey Willett**, Huntington

## More Honors

The Assumption College Honors Program inducted 61 new members from the Class of 2020 and two from the Class of 2019, including Richmond's **Johanna Arnott**, on Sunday, October 30, before an audience of administrators, faculty, and families. The Honors Program at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, is a demanding, in-depth curriculum that seeks to challenge students to achieve their full potential. It enables academically gifted students to push themselves and explore their ambitions with other highly motivated students. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.25 in Honors courses, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25.

In September 2016, Huntington Town Clerk **Heidi Racht** earned Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. IIMC grants the CMC designation only to those Municipal Clerks who "complete demanding education requirements; and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, community and state." Racht is the 19th Vermont clerk to receive this award.

## Trustee's List

**Amanda Nielsen** of Huntington was named to the Champlain College Trustee's List for the fall 2016 semester. Students on the Trustee's List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters. Nielsen is majoring in Marketing.

## President's List

The State University of New York at Potsdam recently recognized the following local students for their academic excellence in the Fall 2016 semester:

**Christopher Danilich**, Richmond, Music Education

**Samantha Day,** Jericho, Music Education

**Mikayla Kelemen**, Jonesville, Music Education

**Anthony Perri**, Jericho, Childhood/Early Childhood Education

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

## Dean's List, Fall 2016

**Joshua Fuller**, Huntington, Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire, honors.

## University of Vermont

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

## Champlain College

The following students have been named to the Champlain College Dean's List for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

**Shannon Begins**, Jericho, majoring in Business Management.

**Alex Carrier**, Jericho, majoring in Criminal Justice.

**Kayla Mazza**, Bolton, majoring in Communication.

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

**Andersen Pinckney**, Richmond, majoring in Game Design.

**Emma Rivers**, Jericho, majoring in Business Administration.

**Chelsea Rublee**, Starksboro, majoring in Communication.

**Kate Lashway** of Richmond, Part Time Honors at SUNY Canton. She is a Physical Therapist Assistant major and a 2014 graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School. Part Time Honors recognize students who earned at least a 3.25 GPA in 6 to 11 credits of course work. It stands alongside the college's Dean's List and President's List as the top awards given for academic success during a semester at the college.

# Pre-Kindergarten CESU Opportunities

Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) opportunities for the 2017-18 School Year are available to residents of Bolton, Jericho, Huntington, Richmond and Underhill. In 2014, the Vermont Legislature passed a Universal Pre-Kindergarten bill (Act 166). This bill entitles all 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds, not attending kindergarten, to receive 10 hours per week, for 35 weeks, of publicly funded Pre-K. This education can be in any pre-qualified program which includes: school-based Pre-K, Private Community Pre-K, or Home Based Pre-K. If a child attends a pre-qualified Private Community or Home-Based Pre-K, $3092 toward tuition will be provided to pay for 10 hours per week and 35 weeks of Pre-K for the school year. If a child attends a School-based Pre-K, the program is free of charge.

To ensure funding for your child's private Pre-K or to apply in a MMMUSD/CESU school based option (offered at Brewster-Pierce, Richmond, Smilie and Underhill I.D. School), parents/guardians should complete an enrollment/application here: https://www.cesuvt.org/our-schools/pre-kindergartenschool

If you have questions, feel free to contact PreK Coordinator at CESU's Richmond office, 434-2128 or email lianne.petrocelli@cesuvt.org.


Richmond Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Worship 10 am
Sunday School

January 22
Hymn Sing (instead of a sermon!)

February 5
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February 12
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Pastor Katelyn B. Macrae
434-2053 • church@rccucc.org • website: www.rccucc.org

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# 2016 Weather

continued from page 1

*Robins arrived, February 29, 2016*

and dry, concern for wells now full bore, even with modest rain relief coming later in the month. Gardens absolutely flourished, from already five-foot tomato vines to maturing potatoes.

August brought some, but brief, rain relief. Heavy rain the 16th-17th had the Huntington River a raging torrent from upstream precipitation. For us, most feeder streams were not overflowing, and no meaningful change occurred in the Gillett Pond water level. Severely depleted groundwater meant insignificant runoff. Minimal rainfall the first two weeks of September did little to mitigate overall drought conditions, though many reveled in the string of excellent weather days that occurred that month. A first and mild frost on the 25th did little garden damage.

October continued the dry spell with drought conditions announced for the Champlain Valley forcing the Fort Ticonderoga ferry to stop service early. Fall colors were spectacular despite drought, a special feature the wide variation in color in a single tree. First meaningful frost occurred on the 15th. Heavy snows toward the end of the month brought excellent high-altitude skiing throughout much of northern Vermont.

November brought tantalizing rain, though with many areas still behind, Mild conditions led to early completion of pre-winter chores for many. The three-day snow storm starting the 21st brought us 9.5 inches, the most in a single storm since two winters previous: with it some XC skiing.

Three days of rain during transit into December finally had ground water levels restored as reflected in the nearly one foot rise in Pond level

*Looking south down the Huntington River valley from Taft hill, November 27, 2016.*

and filled feeder streams. Measureable snow fell 16 of the first 18 days of the month, with below zero temperatures arriving in force starting the 15th. However, the month's high came a few days later. A second freeze / thaw cycle resurfaced Gillett Pond in time for a Christmas day skate, in contrast to last year's Christmas day canoeing. Still another freeze-thaw right after Christmas resurfaced Gillett Pond, leading to the most memorable skating in years.

Overall, the year was our warmest ever, exemplified by Burlington heating degree days 12% below and cooling degree days 75% above normal. Many will remember warm summer nights. An extremely strong El Niño has been blamed for 2016 recording the warmest world-wide temperature average ever. Indeed, El Niño has been associated historically with upward annual bumps already rapidly rising world temperature. Newly released studies of pacific coral reefs have documented that the occurrence of El Niño over the last 7,000 years has increased 25% over the last century. Our year was abnormally dry as well, leading to a busy time for well-drillers. Again, El Niño likely to blame for widespread drought here and elsewhere.

At the same time, we were spared the weather extremes occurring elsewhere. January brought Mississippi River floods, a mid-Atlantic Coast record-setting blizzard and record cold in the southeastern US. Early summer brought huge rains in Texas and the mid-Atlantic coast, tornados in the Mid-West, massive floods throughout much of Europe, a Southwest heat wave and massive California fires. Late summer brought torrential rains to Florida, 30 inches in three days to Louisiana. Drought continued a persistent problem world-wide, exemplified by conditions on our west coast and southeast States. A result has been rapid depletion of underground aquafers due to increasing overuse with little or

*Wheat ripening in the Farr's field south of Richmond, July 1, 2016*

no natural replenishment.

The 14th annual Climate Prediction Applications Science Workshop was held in Burlington, this past March, thanks to the efforts of Lesley Dupigny-Geroux, UVM Professor of Geography and State Climatologist. A partnership between UVM and NOAA brought experts from across the world to present a wealth of studies with supporting websites, dealing with topics from managing flooding to risk assessment of all weather-related matters and toolboxes available to assess and respond. Particularly important for us was a soon-to-be published summary provided of climate change and its effects in Vermont, graphs summarizing recent and projected increases in temperatures, the increased frequency of extreme weather events, the dwindling number of Lake Champlain ice closings, increasing annual precipitation and the like. Summaries of many of the presentations are available (http://www.uvm.edu/~cpasw). An important, related web site is from Climate Central with its wealth of graphics (http://www.climatecentral.org/gallery/graphics).

Climate cause and effect relationships are becoming more and more demonstrable and quantifiable, such as loss of sea ice due to global warming, much due to CO2. The US has been pegged as a leading country in terms of sea ice melt, at some 45-60 square meters per person per year. Rising temperature, of course, also means less CO2 can dissolve in our seas. The author's prize for innovation here goes to Iceland which has developed a novel solution. Injecting CO2 into volcanic rock converts it to carbonate rock.

Sea levels, of course, continue to rise, an issue for low lying islands and coasts, not only due to ice melt but water expansion due to warming temperatures. Less well-known, this is not uniform across the world. For example, sea level rise along our southern east coast is 2-3 times higher than world average, as residents of Miami and like locations are well aware. Causes include land mass sinking and loss of Antarctic ice reducing its gravitational pull.

It is everyone's responsibility to take steps locally. Efforts must be made to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, the target of State Act 174, requiring the location of renewable energy facilities throughout Vermont, including Richmond. Individuals can reduce their own energy needs as well as put their own renewable energy generators in place.

The New Year brought continued excellent skating on Gillett Pond, reminding us of its value to our community. The future of the Pond remains in jeopardy. Resources need to be gathered to replace its dam and assure a future for this natural and recreational treasure.

## Photos contributed by John Hadden.

Huntington resident John Hadden is a musician and photographer (among other things).
He publishes his daily East Street Weather blog featuring
a morning observation, forecast, almanac, sky notes, and photo.
You can visit his two blogs at: johnhaddenphotography.com and eaststreetweatherblog.

*Milkweed seems to drift with the clouds along School Street,*

*A circle of ice at Horseshoe Bend on the Huntington River, December 22, 2016.*

# Road To Recovery: A Lift for Cancer Patients During Treatment

Today's busy lifestyles can make it hard to find time to volunteer, however, the benefits of volunteering are enormous to you, your family, and your community. The right match can help you make an impact in the community, learn new skills, and even advance your career. As an American Cancer Society volunteer, you also can honor a survivor or a loved one lost to cancer while joining the fight to end the disease.

The American Cancer Society's Road To Recovery® program offers flexible scheduling and a chance to give back while literally helping to save lives.

An estimated 4,000 Vermont residents will learn they have cancer this year and getting to their scheduled treatment will be their greatest concern. To help patients get to the critical care they need without additional stress, the American Cancer Society Road To Recovery program provides free transportation to and from treatment for people who don't own a vehicle, can't afford the extra gasoline, or don't have access to public transportation. Some patients may be elderly and unable to drive, too ill to drive, or have no family members or friends who are able to provide regular assistance with transportation.

The Road To Recovery program provides transportation options for patients in dire situations and currently is in need of volunteer drivers in Chittenden County. Volunteer drivers donate their time and the use of their cars so patients can receive the lifesaving treatments they need. Drivers also provide encouragement and support.

"Volunteering doesn't have to take over your life to be a valuable experience," said Katy Nowoswiat, American Cancer Society program manager, Mission Delivery. "In fact, just three or four hours per week can be highly beneficial to both the volunteer and the cause. Volunteering should be a fun and rewarding experience, not another chore."

To volunteer, you must have a valid driver's license, a safe and reliable vehicle, and proof of automobile insurance. Drivers must be 18 years of age or older and have a good driving history. They arrange their own schedules and can commit as many or as few hours as their schedule allows. The American Cancer Society provides free training to drivers and conducts criminal background and driving record checks.

Volunteer coordinators also are needed to schedule the requested rides. Coordinators can work from any location that is convenient for them. Great organization and communication skills can make a major impact on the well-being of cancer patients in the community.

"Volunteering is a great way to meet new people," said Nowoswiat. "It also strengthens your ties to the community, exposes you to people with common interests, and provides a sense of purpose."

To learn more about the benefits of volunteering and how to become a Road To Recovery volunteer driver or coordinator, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org.

# Junior Iron Chef Vermont Registration due January 24

Registration is now open for Junior Iron Chef Vermont, a culinary competition for Vermont middle and high school students. Those looking to demonstrate their adeptness in the kitchen—chopping, slicing, blanching, frying, plating, and other kitchen skills—are invited to cook in the statewide contest, to be held March 18, 2017 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction.

This is the tenth consecutive year Junior Iron Chef Vermont has challenged teams of students to create healthy and delicious dishes, made from local ingredients, which will ultimately inspire school lunch menus. Preparing for and participating in the contest provides hands-on experiential learning which helps create positive attitudes toward healthy food and a greater awareness of our local food system.

The contest guidelines are rigorous, intending to demonstrate the real-life challenges that food services face in creating healthy meals for schools. Two heats will be held the day of the competition, with 90 minutes of cooking time per heat.

The contest features three award categories—Mise en Place, Crowd Pleaser, and Lively Local—with winners in each age group, judged by a panel of judges. Winning teams receive prize packages, and have an opportunity to feature their recipes for legislators at the Vermont Statehouse Cafeteria in April 2017.

Junior Iron Chef Vermont is hosted by Vermont FEED, a collaborative Farm to School Project of NOFA-VT and Shelburne Farms. From the start, the event has been committed to providing middle and high school students with a hands-on experience cooking nutritious, farm-fresh foods. When the event began in 2008, 35 teams participated. Last year, 236 students from every corner of the state competed on 58 teams. Students from CHMS placed well in the competition and all had a great experience.

Applications will be accepted until January 24, 2017 on a first-come, first-serve basis. The registration fee is $150 for each team. Registration is limited to the first 72 teams, consisting of three to five students in Grades 6-8 or Grades 9-12.

More information, including competition rules and instructions for registering, is available online at www.jrironchefvt.org.

**The Times Ink!**

**2017 Schedule**

January 4 deadline
January 19 issue

**Town Meeting Preview**

February 9 deadline
February 23 issue

March 16 deadline
March 30 issue

April 13 deadline
April 27 issue

May 11 deadline
May 25 issue

June 15 deadline
June 29 issue

July 27 deadline*
August 10 issue

September 5 deadline
September 14 issue

October 5 deadline
October 19 issue

**Holiday Issues**

November 2 deadline
November 16 issue

December 7 deadline
December 21 issue

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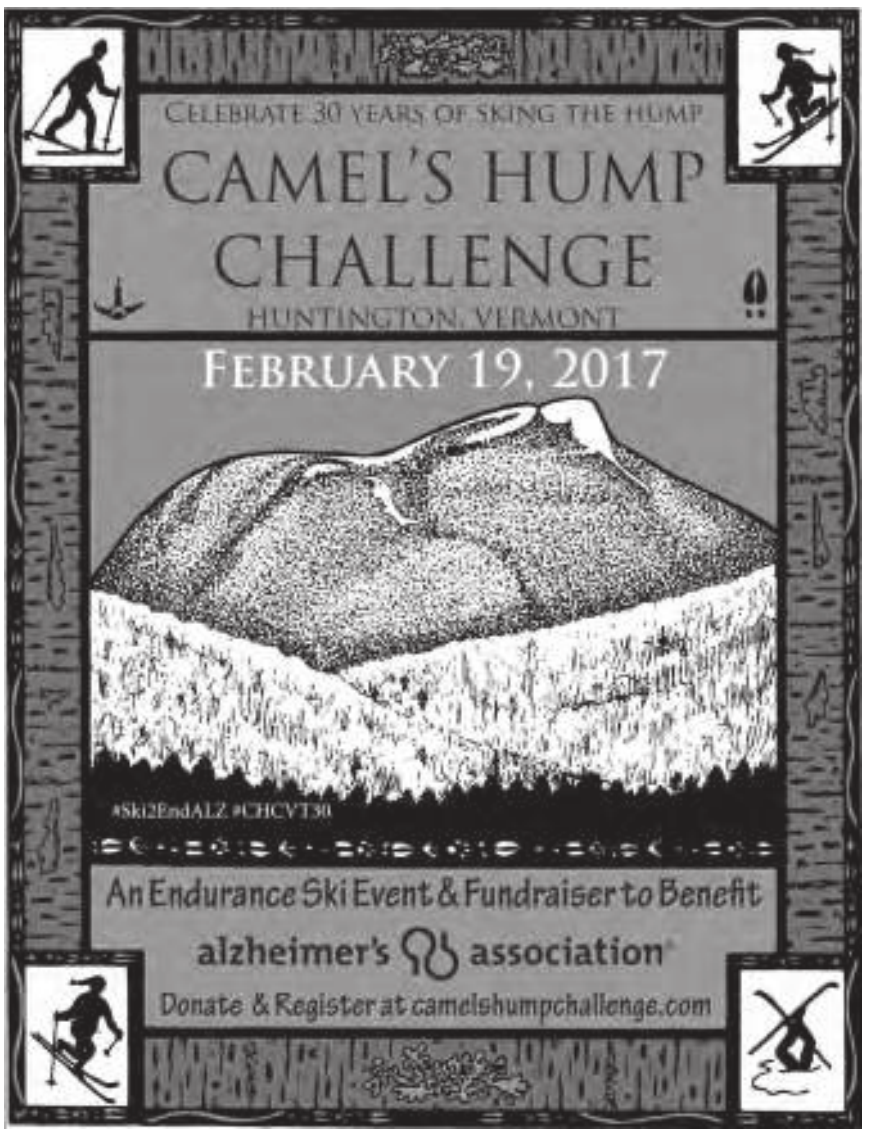

## Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

64 West Main Street
Richmond
434-2521

**Lord's Day Masses:**
Saturday, 4 pm • Sunday, 8:30 am
**Weekday Masses:**
Tuesday & Friday, 8:30 am

**Reconciliation:**
Saturday, 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Thursday, 6 - 7 pm

**Eucharistic Adoration:**
Thursday, 6 - 8 pm

**Rosary:**
20 minutes before all Masses

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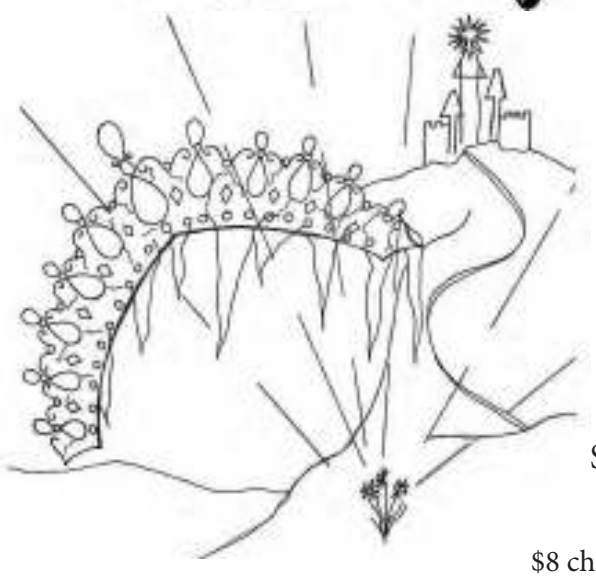

Saturday
January 21
6 pm

Sunday
January 22
noon

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# News from Area Churches

## Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

This year, our church is kicking off the year with three community reading events. In December we applied and were selected to participate in Vermont Reads 2017. This year's book is Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson. This memoir written in verse explores themes of race, family, and coming of age. Copies of the book are available to borrow and read at church and the Richmond Free Library. Our first event tied to the book will be a Civil Rights Worship Service on Sunday, January 15 at 10 am. On Tuesday, February 21, at 7 pm, the church's Book Club will open up their meeting to the wider community to discuss Brown Girl Dreaming at the Richmond Free Library. On Friday, March 10, at 7 pm, we will show the movie Ruby Bridges at church. Guests can join us for diner beforehand at the Friday Food Affair.

RCC gathers to worship every Sunday at 10 am. Sunday School (grades PreK-8 and nursery care are offered at the same time). Here is what we are looking forward to in worship in January and February 2017:

January 22: Hymn Sing (instead of a sermon)!

January 29: Rev. Sally May, Associate Pastor at First Congregational Church, UCC in Burlington will be our guest preacher. We welcome Rev. May to the pulpit to preach about her experience as a Vermonter recognizing white privilege and the work we are all called to as people of faith to repair the fabric of our community.

February 5: Communion & Celebration Slideshow followed by RCC Annual Meeting 2017 and Brunch in the Fellowship Hall.

February 12: Love Intergenerational Worship with Worship Stations, Choir Sings

# Letters

continued from page 2

## Holiday Boxes Thanks

It is always interesting to be on the organizational end of a big project for many years and then very liberating to have others take on roles that become essential to its success. This is definitely the case with the Huntington Holiday Boxes. The project has indispensible people whose years of work makes the whole effort seem like a well-oiled machine. First and foremost are Sandy Heyman and Lucinda Hill, each of them "claiming" a piece of the project and doing it well. Then, there is Paula Kelley, who heads up filling the gift bags; Gary and Jon Riggs, who transport cases of food from Lantman's on Friday; the Brown family (Tom, Christine and famiy) who seem to be everywhere at once, buying wrapping paper and tape, transporting food from Beaudry's Store, filling boxes and delivering them. George and Barb Mincar drive to Shelburne Farms and pick up the blocks of their fabulous cheese. This year, Jane Rice and Dave Martini took over organizing the bags of fresh produce that goes out with every box, a task that made everyone's trip out the door with food go much smoother.

A lot of the food box activity is done in advance of the delivery date. A food list was given to Linda Pecor at Beaudry's Store, Mark O'Brien for in-town shopping and Brian Busier at Lantman's Market in Hinesburg. An email was sent to Justin Rich of Burnt Rock Farm for local potatoes, carrots and other produce. Boxes were placed in collection sites in the community right after Thanksgiving.

Since we had a supply of nice boxes donated by Rhino Foods in 2015, the decision was made to do all the boxes at the school and save time driving them around town to be covered. On Friday, we had a small group (Maria Duryea, Kelly and Helen Hill, Maria and Lillian Tenney-Lawyer, Michele and Britt Cummings) that met at the school after supper. They assembled and covered all the boxes with colorful wrapping paper and set up the tables and then took the food out of the cases. Everything was ready for Saturday morning

It was a wonderful year all around – lots of donated food, plenty of donated money to purchase fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and other items, a great crew of volunteers filled the boxes and made the deliveries, (and a perfect day – clear and not too cold). With the money left over from 2015 and the generous donations from this year, were able to fund gift certificates for food at two stores, so 30 recipients received a certificate in their box or bag.

We decided to get roasting chickens (more versatile than turkeys) and hams for some boxes.

Our gift bags were again very special thanks to Abby Gaboriault for homemade cookies; Amy Seidl and the Goodyear girls fresh homemade bread; lovely rye bread from Alison Forrest; tins of chocolate mix from Lake Champlain Chocolates (thank you, Gary Coffey) and bottles of Citizen Cider sparkling juice (thank you, Caitlin Jenness). What a great treat!

Thanks to the workers at the school and for deliveries around town, including Amy Seidl, Helen and Dan Goodyear, Tom and Christine Brown family, the Riguttos (Lorraine, Rob, Allyson), Kathy and Bob Kort, Ed and Jacob Sayre, Micah Mutrux and Nina Ridhibhinyo, Adam and Juniper Galvani, Maggie Mae Anderson, Eliot Lothrop, Ed Guilfoy, Rosie Chase and Parker Bartsch, Liz and Ryan Smith, Julie Turpen, Jenn Yucius, Harper Oliver, Tom Keblin, and others who helped along the way.

Donations were many and people were very generous. Thanks to Lantman's for chickens, Mark O'Brien for candy and other gift bag items, Justin Rich for vegetables, Shelburne Farms for cheese, Beaudry's Store for being the collection hub, and to all the others who donated money or a known quantity of food: the Richmond Congregational Church, Richmond Food Shelf, Diana Lesko, Gary and Tess Starecheski, Bob and Kathy Kort, Jim and Kathy Couture, Wally and Chris Jenkins, Tracie Knight and family, Pam and Dick Kellogg, Peter and Katie Jewett, Dianna Melville, Marcia Bedig and Ira Bernstein, Carolyn and Mickey Stone, Mike Pendriss Drywall and Painting, Allan and Carol Cherin, Bill and Lisanne Hegman, Mary Wills, Amy Stark and Jeff Maynes, Jeanne and Rob Zimmerman, Harvey and Marjan Schugar, the Racht/Campbells, John and Allison Gergely, and many people who donated cash or put food into the boxes.

We also had a sum of money that was available from contributions made this summer in memory of Edward Heyman. The boxes and bags had a deck of playing cards with a note asking everyone to enjoy a game with family and friends - Edward so enjoyed his family and they and their friends have been avid card players for years.

Thank you. It was a wonderful community effort and a great way to go into the holiday season. Best wishes for 2017!

—*Heidi Racht*, Coordinator


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# 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

**JANUARY 27:** Richmond Farmers Market's annual membership meeting, 10 am, Richmond Town Office's meeting room. Anyone who has an interest in the Market is welcome and encouraged to attend and share thoughts. Discussion and voting on this season's hours, dates, officers, and budget. (Voting privileges are limited to seasonal vendors and Board members.) Pick up an application packet for vending in 2017. The 2017 Richmond Farmers Market plans to run every Friday afternoon from 3 pm–7pm, June 2 through September 15 and then from 3 pm-6 pm, September 22 through October 13. Info@richmondfarmersmarketvt.org or call Carol Mader at 434-5273.

**JANUARY 28, FEBRUARY 25, MARCH 25:** Last Saturdays Bird Monitoring Walks, Birds of Vermont Museum, 8 am to 9 am. All birders welcome on the monthly monitoring walk outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Often coffee afterwards, indoors at theviewing window. Most fun for adults, older children. Bring your own binoculars. Free. Pre-register with museum@birdsofvermont.org or 434-2167.

**FEBRUARY 2:** Organic Revolutionary: A Memoir of the Movement for Real Food, Planetary Healing, and Human Liberation, 6:30 pm. Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank Street, Burlington. Author Grace Gershuny will talk on organic farming for the planet. She spent many years as an organic farmer, worked with the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) to shape Vermont's certification process, and was tapped to work with the USDA to develop its organic regulations. Her work has helped shape today's demand for organic products and interest in ecologically sound agriculture. Cosponsored by Phoenix Books, the Intervale Center, and NOFA-VT. Tickets $3 per person includes a coupon for $5 off the featured book. Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Seating is limited. Info: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

**FEBRUARY 11:** Brewster-Pierce Winter Festival, Huntington. Watch for more details.

**FEBRUARY 16:** 2017 No-Till and Cover Crop Symposium, Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center, South Burlington. Talks by Extension specialists and farmers from Vermont, Pennsylvania and New York; poster sessions and an exhibitor fair. Sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension's Champlain Valley Crop, Soil and Pasture Team in Middlebury and the Northwest Crops and Soils Program in St. Albans.

Register through February 10. $80 fee includes lunch and refreshments. Register or information: http://go.uvm.edu/ntcc.Disability-related accommodation: Karen Gallott at (802) 388-4969 or (800) 956-1125 (toll-free in Vermont) by January 26. Email: champlain.crops@uvm.edu.

**FEBRUARY 18-20:** Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA Vermont) 35th Annual Winter Conference: Beyond Borders: Our Role in the Global Food Movement, Davis Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, 100+ Workshops, speakers, and celebrations for farmers, gardeners, and foodies. Early registration for the conference is offered at a discounted rate until February 13th, with additional discounts for NOFA Vermont members and volunteers. More information and online registration is at http://nofavt.org/conference.

**FEBRUARY 21:** Vermont Dairy Producer's Conference, Sheraton-Burlington Conference Center. Information: www.vermontdairyproducers.com

**FEBRUARY 25:** Eighth Annual Vermont Hop Conference, sponsored by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension, Sheraton Burlington Hotel, South Burlington, 9 am to 4:30 pm, with registration beginning at 8:15 am. Registrations are due by Feb. 20. The fee, which includes lunch, is $75 or $65 for Northeast Hops Alliance members. Anyone not able to attend in person may watch the conference as a live broadcast for $35. Links to the conference flyer and registration site can be found at www.regonline.com/hopconference. To request a disability-related accommodation to attend, please call Susan Brouillette at (802) 524-6501 or (800) 639-2130 (toll-free in Vermont) by February 3.

**MARCH 11:** American Cancer Society's annual Relay For Life of NordicStyle, the only winter relay in the world, Catamount Outdoor Family Center Williston. Info: Erin Regan, community manager 872-6344 or Erin.regan@cancer.org.

## Regular Meetings

### SELECTBOARD:

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

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

### SCHOOL BOARD:

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

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

### PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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

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

### WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

**Richmond:** 1st Mon., Town Center

### SCOUTS

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

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

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Richmond:** 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr

**Huntington:** 2nd Thursday, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

### RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE

**Richmond:** 3rd Tues, 7 pm, Town Center Meeting Room

### RICHMOND LAND TRUST

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

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

### TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

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

### LIBRARY

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

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

### HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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

**HHCT (Huntington Historic and Community Trust):** 1st Thurs, Huntington Public Library, 6:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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

## Worship

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

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

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

**Community Alliance Church:** 190 Pond Road (overlooking CVU), Hinesburg. Sunday, 9 am, Sunday school for all ages, with adults and teen electives; Scott Mansfield, 482-2132, www.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. Sunday School will be available. The last Thursday of every month a free Soup & Bread Supper to the public, 5 pm to 7 pm. Handicapped accessible. information: www.calvarychurchvt.weebly.com or 899-2326.

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### How to Fight Back Against Cabin Fever

These days, you never know when cabin fever might strike, and you could suddenly find yourself desperate to get out of the house and do something, anything different. Here are some steps you can take to prepare yourself in case the dreaded fever strikes you.

1. Sign up to receive the Community Senior Center weekly emails so you'll be the first to hear about new and ongoing programs and activities and classes. Email martha3@gmavt.net and ask to be on the mailing list. If you don't have email and would like the list mailed to you, call Jane at 434-5439. We currently have eleven activities on offer locally with more coming soon. There's also an enrichment lecture once a month. Rides are available to all events. Also, if you have ideas for activities or classes you'd like to see offered, we'd love to hear from you. Or, perhaps you'd like to teach a class. It could be a one-session class or a number of sessions. Just let us know.

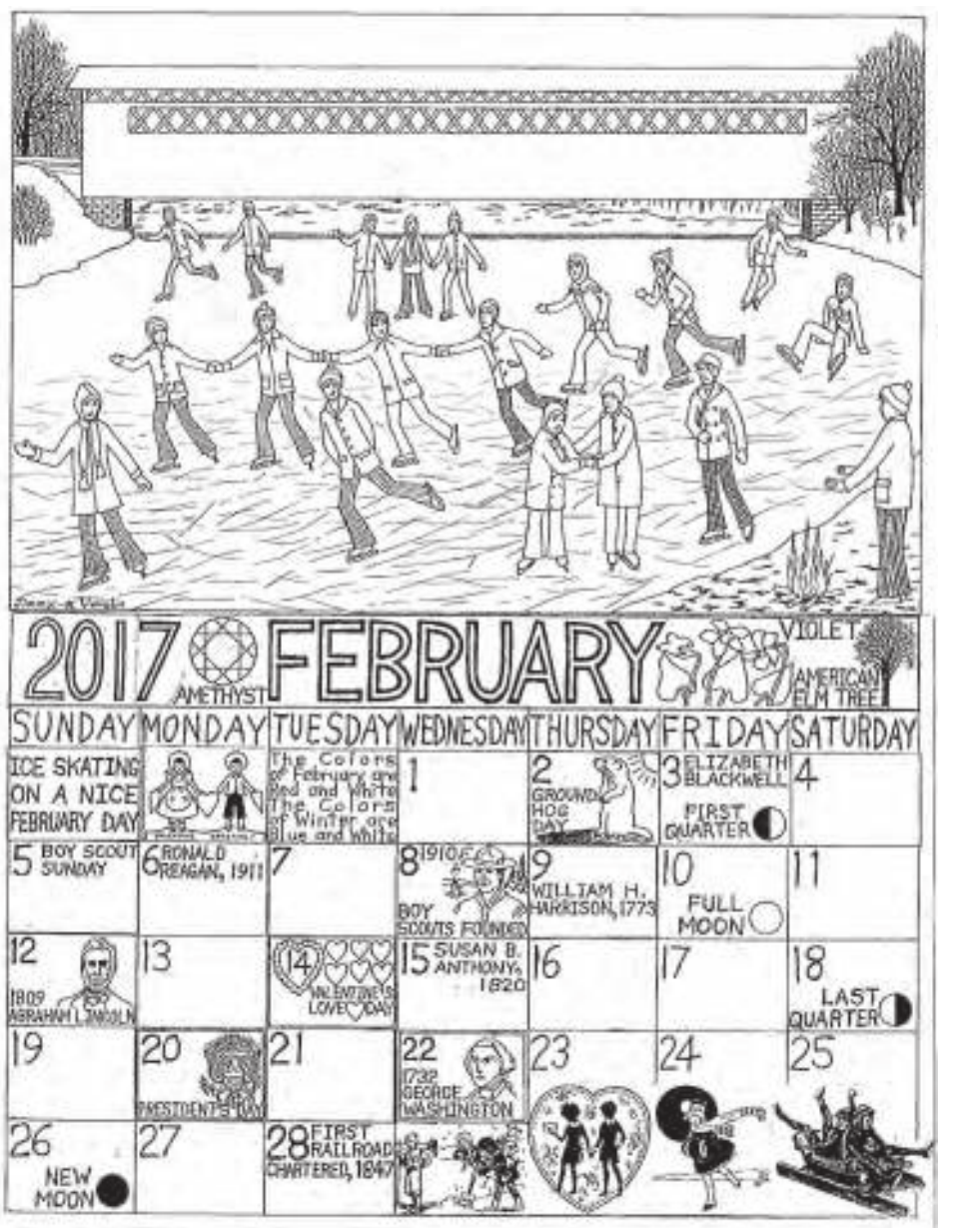
2. Look at the long list of classes being taught at CVU's Access Program. A newspaper style brochure was mailed recently to everyone in the area. Cooking, sewing, arts and crafts, computer, language and music, dance and fitness, and much much more – 160 classes are being offered between January and June.

3. Pick up an Olli at UVM brochure from your library or go to learn.uvm.edu/osher-life-long-learning/olli to see the large number of classes offered at UVM for retirees. They have everything from Tai Chi to a Saturday history tour of Burlington to how to cook muffins, scones and other teatime treats to estate planning for retirees. One-night classes and others that last four to six weeks.

4. EEE: Education and Enrichment for Everyone: Check out eeevermont.org/ to view a series of one hour lectures on Friday afternoons at the Faith Methodist Church in South Burlington. There's a wide range of topics from President Trump After Six Weeks What do we know? to The Melting Greenland Ice Sheet and Sea Level Rise to Gershwin's Great American Opera: Porgy and Bess. The speakers are usually experts in their field and accomplished speakers.

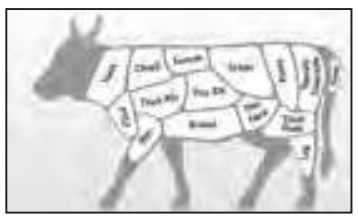
To keep up to date on CSC events, you can check out the Facebook page at Community Senior Center of Richmond, Huntington and Bolton Vermont. You can look at the website at cscvt.org/. Or you can email rcsc@gmavt.net to get your name on the mailing list.

Church News now on previous page.



# Service Directory

## Automotive



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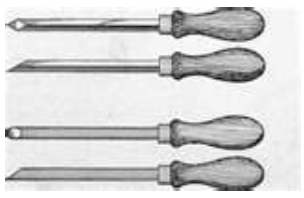

## Catering

## Cleaning

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

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## Gardening

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## Hair Salon

## Landscaping / Arborist

## Laundry Service

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

## Weddings

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**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 [02/17]

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**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**

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# Huntington Outdoor Classroom

*Clockwise from above: Brewster-Pierce kindergarteners enjoy outdoor learning on Forest Fridays; posturing in front of the new outdoor classroom; ceiling details; kindergarten students working in mud kitchen. Photos with students, courtesy of Brewster-Pierce School. Detail photos: Braeden Stone.*

continued from page 1

behavior and science vocabulary such as hibernate and scat. Just as importantly, they're practicing skills that will help them throughout their life—to observe, to think, and to ask lots of questions.

At Brewster-Pierce is an outdoor classroom that all students participate in each week. This began in the spring of 2015 when a small group of incoming kindergarten parents advocated for outdoor learning for their children. They spoke to kindergarten teacher Brianne Parker and Principal Sally Hayes.

It was decided that during the 2015-2016 school year, kindergarten children would spend all day Friday outside. The effort was led by Parker, kindergarten paraeducator Kristin Bair-Cummings and parent volunteers along with help from the Green Mountain Audubon Center, which is located in Huntington. Parent Kasie Enman helped organize the other volunteers and helped plan activities.

Part way through the winter of 2015, some dads got together on a Saturday and put up a lean-to for the children to use when it rained or snowed. It soon became apparent that a bigger, permanent space was needed.

Parents approached Brian Hayes, owner of Bellwether Craftsmen and no relation to Principal Sally Hayes, who agreed to create a couple of designs for people to consider. One particular design, a vision for a 20 X 20 post and beam structure was greeted with the most enthusiasm. A materials list was created and everyone began thinking about ideas for fundraising.

Bair-Cummings and parent Carrie Wyatt took charge of coordinating the fundraising, which continues as money is now needed for a roof. The building will be finished sometime this year.

Dean Menke, one of the parents who was involved since the beginning, organized a pizza dinner. Two moms, Kerry Walker and Braeden Stone, had the idea for a yoga and brunch day. Balance Yoga and the Huntington River Vineyard collaborated with them to make it happen. This proved popular and brought in over $900. A Go Fund Me site online brought in more donations The Huntington Historical and Community Trust gave a grant to the outdoor classroom.

The generosity of individuals and businesses who donated time and materials was a huge help. John Scott did the excavating. Laughing Stock Farm in Fletcher donated materials. Eliot Lothrop of Building Heritage, a restoration company, cut posts for the timber framing. Giroux Body Shop donated some of the structural steel needed at cost. SD Ireland donated pre-cast piers for footings.Brown's Crane donated crane time at cost to put up the beams.

Community members helped with cutting timbers at Brian's and also helped raise the structure. The kids were able to watch it being raised, and they also went out to watch the crane put up the beams.

Kristin Bair-Cummings said, "It's people coming together to make a difference in their community that has made the outdoor classroom a reality."

What began as a kindergarten program had by 2016 expanded to all students in the school. Students have chosen a name for the day their class is in the outdoor classroom. One group of 3rd and 4th graders go out on Mountain Mondays. A second group of third and fourth graders spend Wild Wednesdays outside, while the third group are outdoors on Thrilling Thursdays. Kindergarten, first, and second grade students go out on Forest Fridays.

Sally Hayes talked about the success of this whole school effort. "There is no way an initiative of this magnitude would be as successful as it has been without the teachers' commitment, dedication and willingness to grow. The teaching staff's hard hard work and flexibility is the reason this is working."

Describing the benefits of the program, teacher Anna Carter said, "This is my first year trying outdoor education with my third and fourth graders. I'm noticing the students are working together and cooperating outside in a way that I don't often see in the classroom. I'm also seeing that certain students who may struggle in the traditional classroom setting are finding that they shine outdoors. The students leave school with positive feelings around school, friends, and the outdoors."

Aimee Motta, also a 3rd and 4th grade teacher reported that, "These young learners have photographed nature and drawn nature. They display a true connection to the outside world."

If you were to join the students outside you might see a weather station where they measure rainfall and temperature at the beginning and end of the day, then take the information they've gathered back to the classroom and learn to make charts and graphs. This is only one example of how teachers are integrating math into the outdoor classroom. Reading and writing are also being integrated.

If you venture into the outdoor classroom you might observe the solstice tree where they leave food for animals and then study the animal tracks that come to the tree.

You might also see students in the mud kitchen with pots and pans and spoons, and, of course, mud. In the winter it becomes a snow kitchen. They're obviously having fun, but the kitchen also provides an opportunity for dramatic play, developing social skills, and learning how to share.

Students practice the lifelong skill of working in small groups not only in the outdoor kitchen, but in other ways such as building forts. Recently, an unplanned opportunity for small group work arose. Kristin Bair-Cummings slipped and fell when trying to cross the stream that's on the property. The children decided to build a bridge across the stream to prevent others from falling. It required working together, problem solving and persistence to accomplish their goal.

In addition to the science learning and skill building that happens in the Outdoor Classroom, Principal Hayes talked about another benefit for children. She said children are developing "a connection to the natural world that will become part of them for the rest of their lives."

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# All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

## Laws of Sustainability

*"If it's not sustainable, then its condition is terminal."*

— Nancy Rae Mallery, Publisher
Green Energy Times

In September, 2013, University of Maryland professor Erle C. Ellis was quoted in The New York Times. "The idea that humans must live within the natural environmental limits of our planet denies the realities…. We transform ecosystems to sustain ourselves…. The only limits to creating a planet that future generations will be proud of are our imaginations and our social systems."

We are an ingenious species and have been clever enough to invent and develop extraordinary devices and systems. But I wonder if Professor Ellis thinks we are inventive enough to put more resources into the ground. Does he believe that we can produce something from nothing? Is he aware that at present, more and more energy is being required to get resources of poorer and poorer quality?

The Compact Oxford Dictionary defines sustainable as: "1. able to be sustained. 2. avoiding depletion of natural resources."

Albert Bartlett (1923-2013), Professor Emeritus in Nuclear Physics at the University of Colorado and honored for his scholarly contributions and celebrated lectures, published 21 Laws of Sustainability, published in 2005, which addressed populations and rates of consumption of goods and resources in the world. A partial list of these Laws follows:

**First Law:** Population growth and/or growth in the rates of consumption or resources cannot be sustained. The term Sustainable Growth is an oxymoron.

**Third Law:** The response time of populations to changes in the human fertility rate is the average length of a human life, or approximately 70 years.

**Fifth Law:** One cannot sustain a world in which some regions have high standards of living while others have low standards of living.

**Eighth Law:** Sustainability requires that the size of the population be less than or equal to the carrying capacity of the ecosystem for the desired standard of living.

**Ninth Law:** The benefits of population growth and of growth in the rates of consumption of resources accrue to a few; the costs…are borne by all society.

**Fourteenth Law:** (Second Law of Thermodynamics) When rates of pollution exceed the natural cleansing capacity of the environment, it is easier to pollute than it is to clean up the environment.

**Sixteenth Law:** Humans will always be dependent on agriculture. Supermarkets alone are not sufficient.

**Seventeenth Law:** If, for whatever reason, humans fail to stop population growth and growth in the rates of consumption of resources, Nature will stop these growths. Nature's method of stopping growth is cruel and inhumane.

We see each night on television news…large populations experiencing starvation and misery due to floods, fires, and drought.

**Twenty-First Law:** Extinction is forever.

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

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# Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

## Not Feeling My Age

Millennials aren't fond of talking about age because they are "as young as they feel." They are the age they are and, at any point, that is the right age to be. Such is the confidence of youth.

It is among older folks one hears the talk of how aging feels, or how one feels about aging. So comes the phrase, "I'm only as old as I feel", to the Boomer generation. We have enough years on us that using years to count age is becoming increasingly unfashionable. "Only attitude matters!" is the claim, but I hope that isn't true.

Last week I pulled a muscle in my lower back by turning wrong as I was getting out of bed. Yeah, that's right. I got injured getting up in the morning. It wasn't that I worked too hard or I played too much; simple movement got the best of me and laid me out. Ambushed without warning.

As I hobbled about the house, foggy with pain killers, that phrase crossed my mind, "I'm only as old as I feel." I hope not. I felt 102. If attitude was everything, I wasn't going to survive the week. All I felt was forlorn, sore, and groggy from the meds.

Worst of all was the sense that this was the new norm. If you can hurt yourself turning, what next? Am I feeling my age or what my age is going to feel like?

A week later, all was well. The pain was gone, my mind was clear and shoveling the front walk felt like a blessing and a privilege. It was great to be using my muscles and getting some exercise again. Then a thought crossed my mind, "Am I feeling my age, or fighting my frailty?" Like when you wake from a dream where you were dreaming you were waking up. What is real? Which am I? The agile person I feel now or the frail person I was last week? In other words, am I acting my age or acting the age I want desperately to still be.

Maybe there isn't an answer to that question, because the important thing isn't the question, but the fight to stay active. The battle for mobility, which is regrettably a war of attrition. While you can still fight, you are winning, and so fight on.

Aging in place, it doesn't happen by accident. It isn't a battle; it's a war for independence waged on many fronts.

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

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