The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
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Herbicide Plan Makes Waves at Lake Iroquois

by Greg Elias

A local advocacy group has long fought an invasive weed that is choking Lake Iroquois. Now a plan to deploy herbicide in the battle is creating controversy.

The Richmond Selectboard, at its May 1 meeting, heard the pros and cons of using the herbicide Sonar to kill the Eurasian milfoil that has resisted all other eradication efforts.

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation has issued a draft permit to apply Sonar this summer. The permit could be altered based on public input and has yet to receive final approval.

The proposal has generated both support and opposition from residents of towns bordering the lake.

Pat Suozzi, president of the Lake Iroquois Association, outlined for the Selectboard unsuccessful efforts to remove the plant since it was first spotted in 1990. She said the advocacy organization has tried to pull the plants out by hand, used a mechanical device to harvest the weeds, and even placed weevils in the water so the insects can feed on the milfoil.

Those methods, however, were too slow, too expensive or generally ineffective, she said. So the association sought state permission to use Sonar, a compound that contains the active ingredient fluridone. Sonar's manufacturer claims that it is safe to use in water used by swimmers and boaters.

Suozzi said the herbicide has produced "excellent results" in controlling milfoil in other recreational waterways and reservoirs around Vermont and across the nation. The draft permit allows Sonar to be used in concentrations of 5 to 8 parts per billion, well below the 20 ppb standard considered safe by the Vermont Health Department.

But some residents who live near the lake and whose homes are supplied by well water told the Selectboard that it is far from clear that Sonar is harmless and helpful.

Hinesburg resident Elizabeth Deutsch said a study conducted in Wisconsin and published in a scientific journal concluded that using the herbicide was most effective in waters with infestations less than 10 years old. She noted that milfoil has been in Lake Iroquois for more than 25 years.

Lake Iroquois looking east toward Camels Hump. Photo, courtesy of Jessica Remmey Photography.

"It is not your No. 1 choice for eradication," said Deutsch, whose well is just 40 feet from the Lake Iroquois shoreline. She said a state official told her that Sonar would only control, not eliminate, milfoil.

Fran Pomerantz, a Richmond resident who lives about a quarter-mile from Lake Iroquois, said she is unconvinced that the herbicide is safe. She noted that the state's draft permit forbids using lake water to feed plants for 30 days after Sonar is used.

In fact, the permit advises that no water from the lake and streams up to one mile away be used for drinking, swimming, boating or fishing on the day Sonar is applied. Drinking water should not be used until a test is done that shows the chemical's level is below 20 ppb, and bottled water must be provided to those who depend on the lake for drinking water.

Deutsch wondered if the Lake Iroquois milfoil had been tested to determine if it is a hybrid strain. She said that hybrids are resistant to Sonar.

"As far as we know it has not been tested," Suozzi said, but noted that the association has worked with the state biologist who has assured her that Sonar will work.

Hinesburg resident Roger Donegan complained that the process of informing the public about the proposal has been flawed, noting that he only learned about the herbicide use after the permit application was posted on the state's website.

"Most of us are here tonight because we have been blindsided by the whole thing," he said.

Pomerantz echoed that concern, noting that those who rent vacation homes need time to notify their tenants about the herbicide treatment. She worried that it would hurt local tourism.

But Chris Conant, a member of the Lake Iroquois Association board, said the milfoil problem has caused beach attendance to drop, and "on certain days the smell is horrid."

Conant, who lives on the lake, said he often helps boaters tangled in the milfoil. "We have to do something or it won't be long before this body of water becomes a swamp."

Not a Gentle Kiss Judy Rosovsky of the Richmond Conservation Commission said the panel endorsed the herbicide use. She said as someone who has worked with the state on water quality issues for years, she learned that when an invasive species causes the loss of native species, as has happened at Lake Iroquois, "you have to do something. At this point, this is an appropriate step."

But Rosovsky acknowledged that applying herbicide is not a trivial matter. "It's not like a gentle kiss on the aquatic plant community," she said, noting that it could kill other plants

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Huntington Regs Ready for Public Comment

Contributed by Heidi Racht

The Huntington Planning Commission has been at work on revising the town's regulations for over two years. The biggest change is that the zoning, subdivision and flood regulations have been streamlined into a sectioned, single document, now called the Huntington Land Use Regulations. Although it is a good-sized document, the Commission has been able to create a single glossary and weave together written elements of the zoning and flood hazard regulations into a series of visuals and maps that it hopes will aid property owners with their questions about property use.

The Commission has held three public meetings on different sections of the document and has discussed each comment and made changes. For the past six months, the Commission has been working closely with Regina Mahony of the Chittenden Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC).

Public Meeting The Commission will hold a public meeting on June 26 at 7:20 pm in the Huntington Public Library. Copies of the proposed document can be downloaded from the town's website (huntingtonvt.org) and are available at the Town Clerk's Office and at the Huntington Public Library.

Flood Regulations As the Huntington Planning Commission works its way through the myriad of issues that now face towns in Vermont, it has turned its attention to the flood hazard and river corridor regulation piece of the new Huntington Land Use Regulations.

At a Planning Commission meeting last spring, Commissioner Shayne Jaquith presented extensive information for the flood hazard corridor section of the new regulations, explaining that the Commission needs to "understand why we are going through this exercise." It is about health and safety and insurance, both for a property owner and the municipality and its population. As Huntington is a river valley town, this is a major consideration for the residents who travel the roads and the taxpayers who pay for the infrastructure that includes 27 bridges and numerous large culverts. The National Floodplain Insurance Program is administered by FEMA, a federal program.

Flood hazard regulations encompass three parts: Flood insurance, development regulations, and floodplain maps. Property owners in this area must have floodplain insurance when they have a mortgage or home equity line of credit with a bank. The insurance costs are cheaper to the property owner if the town participates through zoning regulations.

Another issue is should residential development be allowed in the flood zone? And, still another issue for Huntington is much of the land in the Lower Village is in the flood zone. Flood-proofing a structure, it was noted, is not an improvement and would be allowed. One outcome is the removal of the buffers in the regs as all streams are covered as they are embedded under the standards. Huntington has detailed flood hazard and river corridor maps.

Village Zoning In the town's three villages, much of the property use is non-conforming: close to the road and not meeting the 50' setback (the setback was reduced to 50' in the last update after having been 60' for over two decades) and lot sizes smaller than the zoning district's one-acre minimum. Much of what is done in the village requires a variance from the DRB (Development Review Board), which has to meet all five criteria set by the state.

The primary focus of the Commission for over a year was a change to the villages that would encourage walking, biking and business in a compact area that plans for new development in a pattern of historic village development – what is now called Growth Centers of Neighborhood Development Areas by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. The concept behind the zoning addressed the goal to guide the villages with zoning that created smaller setbacks, requiring buildings to be closer to the roads and neighboring properties. Included in the discussion were traffic calming

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Heidi Racht, Editor, **434-2690**
news@timesinkvt org

Meg Howard, Advertising
advertising@timesinkvt org

Gina Haddock, Business Editor
434-2210 • lifetypes@gmavt net

• **LJ Kopf,** Cartoon
Jimmy Vaughn, Calendar Illustration
Meg Howard, Distribution

Reporters: Diane Wester, Ruth Blodgett, Greg Elias

Regular Columns: Demaris Tisdale

Photographers: Jared Katz, Pennie Rand, Heidi Racht, Robert Low, Gina Hallock

Contributors: Jane Vossler, Bob Low, Brad Elliott, Dawn Taylor, Scott Funk, Jared Katz, Larry Detweiler, Katelyn B. Macrae, Patty Baumann, Father Dan Jordan,Brenda Waters

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Letters

The Value of Healthy Communities

Until recently, I had never understood the big deal about invasive plants. I had assumed they were just harmless plants that caught a boat or boot ride into new territory and settled in. I wouldn't know an invasive plant even if it gave me a blistering rash. As long as it looked good, I would have welcomed it with open arms and introduced it to my wonderful group of eclectic friends in the garden.

But it's within our eclectic gardens, roadsides and woodlands that invasive plants become a problem. They choke out and weaken the health of native flora, often a food source and habitat for wildlife.

Elizabeth Spinney, Invasive Plant Coordinator for Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation stated, "Exotic plants may be non-native, but not all exotic plants are invasive. For example, we welcome cultivated apples, originally from Europe and Asia due to the benefits they provide. However, an invasive plant, such as purple loosestrife negatively impacts natural communities—reducing biodiversity and outcompeting native plants."

Native plants and wildlife have an intertwined relationship. Each provide and take services from one another. Invasive plants choke out native plants that wildlife use as a food source. Unlike our native plants, invasive plants lack any natural constraints, such as predators, competitors or disease. I witnessed this shift first hand, although at the time, I had no idea what was happening. Over the course of two seasons, an entire meadow in Huntington, abundant with Pink Fleabane, Joe Pye Weed and Milkweed transformed into a field of Wild Parsnip. Butterflies, caterpillars, finches and other wildlife were no longer able to feed and nest in this meadow. Restaurant closed.

Invasive plants are aided in their spread by trail users of all sorts: bikers, runners and hikers. Logging, excavation and landscaping projects also unwittingly contribute to the expansion of territory. We can help contain the spread by cleaning our foot ware, gear pets, and equipment.

What else can we do? Get 'em while they're down! Newly disturbed soil should be mulched and seeded with native species soon after the soil has been disturbed. Additionally, mow or pull before seeds come to head, usually prior to August 1st.

When invasive plants are removed it's best to destroy them by:

• Drying on impervious surface; or hang plants roots up in other vegetation.

• Brush piles, or stacked on rocks or logs (if not in seed)

• Bag, secure and set in sun. Then check with local waste management to see if they accept invasive plant material. According to the CSWD website; "Chittenden Solid Waste District recommends that invasive plants are placed in compostable leaf, or paper bags, and brought to Drop Off centers. Let the Drop Off center know when you have invasive plants, as they are not allowed into the landfill. Product is then taken to Green Mountain Compost where temperatures are high enough to degrade the noxious compounds and destroy the seeds." Do not home compost, as temperatures are not high enough.

Additional information, including pictures, can be found at iNaturalist.org, or VTinvasives.org. The iNaturalist site encourages users to become citizen scientists and help share findings with researchers.

By reducing the amount of invasive plants we can aid in the reopening of favorite wildlife dining areas. There's nothing like a belly full of good food to keep everyone happy and healthy.

—Contributed by Jeannette Segale, for the Huntington Conservation Commission.

News from CHMS

Spring is here at last, and with it comes warmer weather and longer days. At this time of year, students at Camels Hump Middle School take more time for exploration and discovery on campus, in the local community, and on field trips.

Our 8th graders travelled to Lowell, Massachusetts to explore the woolen mills as part of their studies of the industrial revolution. Again this spring, students will be working on amphibian crossing species inventory and rescue on Sherman Hollow Road and Wes White Hill Road in Huntington for the Huntington Conservation Commission and Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Program. Other field trips include: ECHO Center, Bristol Cliffs, Audubon Center in Huntington, and a Civil War re-enactment in Shelburne. Sixth graders will soon make the annual trek to Ottawa, Canada.

On May 5 and 6, 18 CHMS students participated in the Vermont American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Festival. The festival was designed for 125 students in grades 6-9 from throughout Vermont state to come together in one chorus to perform high-quality choral music. Students rehearsed and performed with conductor David Castanguay and pianist Shirley Smith. This year's program consisted of American Folk Songs as well as songs in Spanish and Finnish.

As part of Burlington's Discover Jazz Festival, the CHMS select chorus and jazz band will perform on Church Street on June 7.

Congratulations to 7th and 8th grade CHMS playwrights! Thanks to generous grant funding from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, students were able to learn about the fundamentals of playwriting with visiting teaching artists Geeda Searfoorce and Joan Robinson over three workshop sessions at Camels Hump Middle School. Students participated in the 23rd Vermont Young Playwrights Festival at the Flynn Theatre in Burlington on Thursday, May 11. At the festival, plays by Lucas Ingham (Brix Brane and the Hotel) and Bridget Hall (Grounded) were featured and performed by Vermont Stage Company actors. Plays written by Ella Villeneuve (The 'Normal' Life) and Kylee Michaels (Misunderstood) were read on stage. Playwrights Theresa Christiansen and Kennice Rich were awarded Honorable Mention.

CHMS student Sarah Danks with Senator Bernie Sanders at the Climate Rally in Montpelier on April 29. Courtesy photo

This season's athletic activities include inter scholastic baseball and softball as well as after school mountain biking, street hockey, wiffleball, and a fitness program.

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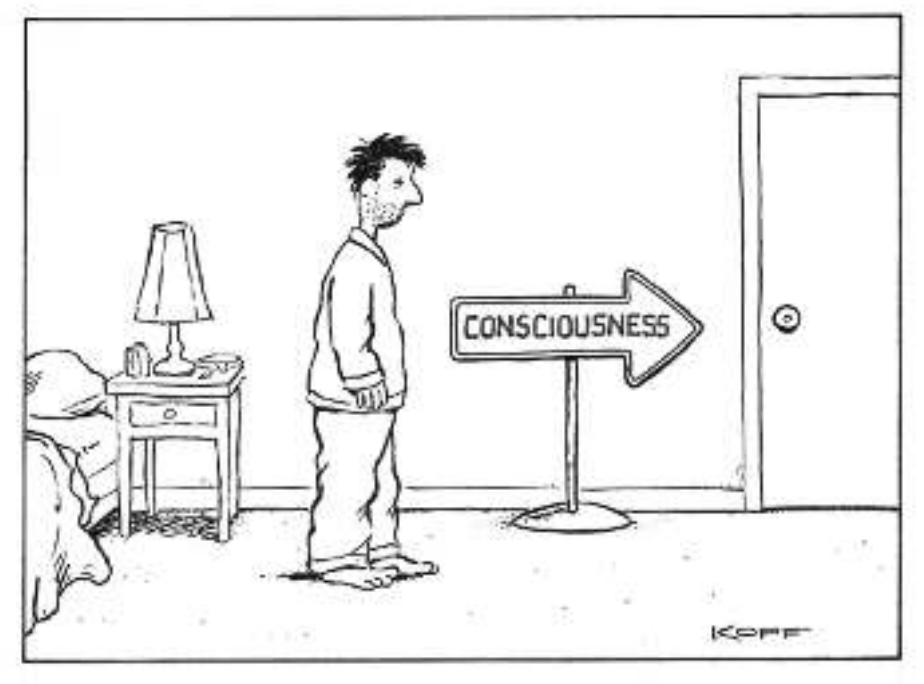

MMU Senior Play: Comedy Set in Vermont

Amnesia causes hilarious confusion in MMU's production of What's in a Name? *Cast members include Akash Kushwaha and Erin Courville, seated; Sophia Carfaro, Nick Cook, Arianna Belfield and Kelsey Parentau, from left.*

The MMU Theatre Department will be presenting the 10th annual Senior Theatre Production on June 2 and 3 at 7:30 pm in MMU's Jane Stickney Auditorium. This year's play is a mystery farce called What's in a Name? The Senior Theatre Production is produced and performed by seniors, giving the seniors one last time on the MMU Stage.

What's in a Name? takes place in a Vermont Bed and Breakfast during off season. The inn is first stumbled upon by a man with amnesia, who can't recall his name or identity, and then by several others guests arrive who all call him by a different name. Will the "Man" ever figure out his true identity, and figure out the importance of the questions... "What's in a name?" - Please come find out. The cast features - Akash Kushwaha as "the Man" along with Erin Courville, Sophia Carfaro, Arianna Belfield, Nick Cook, Espen Peterson and Kelsey Parenteau.

What's in a Name? performs for two nights only - Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, at 7:30. Tickets are only $4 for students and children and $7 for general admission. Tickets will be available at the door on show nights.

Volunteers Needed

Old Round Church

The Richmond Historical Society is seeking volunteers to serve as guides at the Old Round Church this season. The church will be open to visitors on weekends beginning on May 27, and daily from June 12 to Labor Day as well as during the fall foliage season. Each guide serves a three-hour shift (10 am -1 pm or 1-4 pm), typically once or twice a month.

Every year, visitors from around the U.S. and about two dozen other countries make their way to the Old Round Church. Guides share information about the church as well as supervise sales of postcards and other memorabilia. A one-hour training/orientation session will be held in late June. If you'd like to help keep this beautiful National Historic Landmark open throughout the season, please contact guide coordinator Martha Turner at 434-6453 or rhs@oldroundchurch.com.

Huntington Public Library

The Huntington Public Library is open on Sundays, noon-5 pm. Residents and library users from nearby towns enjoy the afternoon in the beautifully-restored Union Meeting House, choosing books, reading to children or using one of the Library public computer stations.

A regular pool of volunteers check on books and keep the Library open on Sundays - and, more are needed in order to keep the Sunday hours for the summer. Full shifts and split shifts need coverage.

If you have a couple of Sundays available, consider signing up. The building is cool and calm - a great way to spend an afternoon or part of an afternoon and then head out to the garden as the heat of the day passes. Training is provided.

Contact Anne or Stacey at 434-4583 for information.

July 4 Preparations Underway

Message from the Richmond Parade and Fireworks Committee

The theme of this year's Fourth of July parade will be America the Beautiful. We expect lots of red, white & blue! Go Patriotism!

Music, food and fun is planned for the big day! Music will be abundant with the St. Andrews Pipe Band in the parade, sponsored by GreenSea and Richmond Market. DJ Tony Basanta, star of MMCTV's Cuban Bridge will be playing in the band shell. The Richmond Community Band will be in the parade and perform their annual July 4 concert at 1 pm. Beginning at 6 pm, Pete Gosselin, Richmond's Highway Foreman, will play with his band, Northern Comfort in the tent on the playing field. They will play until the fireworks start at dusk.

Everyone should find something to eat at Volunteers Green following the parade. The Blue Star Mothers will be serving at the hotdog / hamburger stand. The parade committee will have fries and fried dough. We already have maple products and Italian ice signed up. There will be the annual Strawberry Shortcake prepared by the Richmond Congregational Church and lemonade prepared by the Richmond Land Trust. By the Fourth many more vendors will be signed on to participate.

Cameron Thomas will serve as auctioneer at the annual auction to benefit the fireworks. Closer to the event, a telephone number will be posted for calls for auction pick up. We accept saleable items for the auction. We do not accept clothes, major appliances, toilets or anything broken or oversized. We do have to be diligent in what we take, as we have to pay to dispose of any leftover items.

Jim O'Brien and Tom May are organizing the Car Show. Horses will be welcome to join in the parade. We plan on having Super Sounds join us.

There will be a flea market area with jewelry, spin art, collectables and many more interesting items.

The fireworks will be displayed at dusk. The Grand Finale will be sponsored by Richmond Home Supply and Jamieson Insurance, thanks!

If there are any questions or to participate in any of the activities, please contact Linda Parent at 434-2221.

Calling All Golfers

Come to West Bolton Golf Course on June 23 and compete in the first Our Community Cares Camp Charity Golf Tournament. Gather your friends and enjoy a morning on the course, knowing that you will be helping to feed local children this summer and send them to an enriching camp. Breakfast and lunch provided. Prizes and raffle. $320 per four-person team. Get your sign up form at http://www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org/

Please sign up by June 10.

Our Community Cares Camp - Creating a Caring Community Where Every Child Can Find Success!

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 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.

Richmond Blood Drive

Please roll up your sleeve so others may live.

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

Mark you calendar for local opportunities to donate blood:

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

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

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

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

Our Community Cares Camp Coupon Fundraiser

May 27, 28 & 29 (Memorial Weekend)

Hours 9- 5

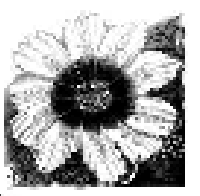

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Photo: Susan Winter

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8 am-11 am

Chittenden County Fish & Game Club's Annual "Free" Derby for Youth 14 years & under

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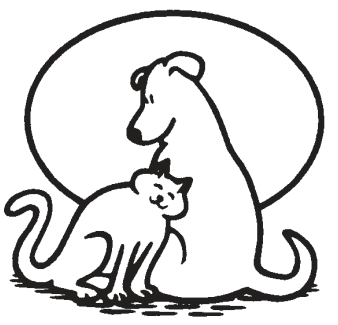

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Please note that we will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Sunday and Monday, May 28 and May 29.

Volunteers and Substitutes Needed Substitutes are needed for Sunday afternoons, and occasionally needed for our open hours. We are staffed by volunteers on Sundays Without the support of our community members, the Huntington Public Library cannot remain open for Sunday hours. Shifts are 2 ½ hours to 5 hours per month. Training and support provided. Please call or email for details.

Hatha Yoga with Tania Dornic O'Neal Wednesdays in June, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Celebrate Spring and Hump Day with a slow but empowering yoga class suitable for all levels of experience. We will focus on alignment in the postures, while being mindful of body, breath, and mind. The practice of yoga is the perfect way to reset yourself in the season of renewal!

Classes will be taught by Huntington resident Tania Dornic O'Neal. She is a certified and registered yoga teacher, who received her 200 HR RYT training in April 2015, and has taught classes locally at Balance Yoga Studio in Richmond, as well as at the Lund Family Center in Burlington through Sangha Studio's yoga service program. Classes are $10 each, with $1 of that fee donated to the Huntington Public Library.

While classes are drop-in, it would be helpful to know ahead of time how many of you plan to attend. You can contact Tania with any questions, or to let her know you are coming to any of the classes, at 802-355-4013 (call or text) starting.

Sponsoring Dorothy Canfield Fisher Books Dorothy Canfield Fisher was an educational reformer for both children and adults, social activist, and best-selling author in the early twentieth century. The Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book (DCF) Award was created to honor excellence in children's literature. Each year since 1957, Vermont students in grades four through eight have selected their favorite book from a list of 30 nominees. It is recommended that students read at least five of the year's nominated titles before voting. Voting takes place in the spring, generally beginning in April.

The Huntington Public Library is proud to be able to offer children the opportunity to read the DCF books each summer. We have a small book budget, but feel strongly that it is important to have the full list of 32 books. If you would like to sponsor an author or book for this year's DCF we would appreciate it!

New Adult Fiction Two From the Heart and 16th Seduction by James Patterson; Celine by Peter Heller; The Fix by David Baldacci; My Italian Bulldozer by Alexander McCall Smith; Anything is Possible by Elizabeth Strout; Into the Water by Paula Dawkins; Trajectory by Richard Russo; The Baker's Secret by Stephen P. Kiernan.

Adult Non-Fiction Climate of Hope – How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet by Michael Bloomberg and Carl Pope; Reality Is Not What It Seems and Seven Brief Lessons on Physics – The Journey to Quantum Gravity by Carlo Rovelli; Norse Mythology by Neil Gaiman; Irresistible – The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked by Adam Alter; Nature Fix – Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier and More Creative by Florence Williams; Mycorrhizal Plant – How Symbiotic Fungi Work with Roots to Support Plant Health and Build Soil Fertility by Michael Phillips;The Forest Garden Greenhouse – How to Design and Manage an Indoor Permaculture Oasis by Jerome Osentowski.

DVD Mysteries of the Unseen World – What We Can't See is All Around Us; Life in the Underground; Victoria; Far From the Madding Crowd; Rachel Carson; Maya Angelou and Still I Rise; Planet Earth II; Homeland Season 1,2,3,4; Mysteries of the Unseen World; Moana.

Picture Books Bunny's Book Club by Annie Silvestro; Grandpa's Sugarbush by Margaret Carney; Bird, Balloon, Bear by Il Sung Na; Pretty Minnie in Paris by Danielle Steel; Sleepy Snoozy Cozy Coozy – A Book of Animal Beds by Judy Young; I Love You the Purplest by Barbara M. Joose.

> We have a small book budget, but feel strongly that it is important to have the full list of 32 Dorothy Canfield Fisher books.

Junior Fiction Everything Everything by Nicola Yoon; Kokopelli and the Butterfly by Michael Sterns; Rebellious Thieves – A Robin Hoodlum Adventure by Kekla Magoon.

All the 2017 – 2018 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Books

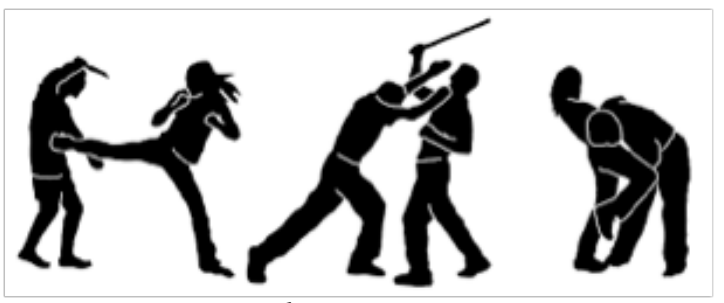
Junior Non-Fiction Drawing Book of Weirdos by Ed Emberly; Fairyopolis by Cecily Mary Barker; Hamster Princess – Giant Trouble by Ursula Vernon

Museum and Park Passes Did you know the Library has passes for free or reduced admission to the following places? Echo Center; Vermont State Parks (day use only), Vermont Historic Sites, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne Farms, and Birds of Vermont Museum. Passes are available on a first come basis for three-day periods.

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am – noon. The group strives to create a supportive, social and creative space for children and their caregivers. The Friday morning playgroup meets on the school year calendar and is facilitated by Jen O'Hora. Sponsored by Building Brighter Futures. Contact Jen for more information at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Story Time Babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills by listening to stories, fingerplays, rhyming and singing songs. Every Friday, 10:45 am.

PERSONAL SAFETY
Seminars for Teens and Young Adults



Have Fun and FEEL YOUR POWER

June 4th 1 to 2:30 PM Jericho Community Center
June 11th 6 to 7:30 PM Huntington Old Town Hall
FREE- donations encouraged
We'll decide on the day of the seminar
which non-profit to support.

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www.joanndwyermassage.com

Richmond Free Library

www richmondfreelibraryvt org

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

May Art Show We are showing some circular weaving pieces that were done by Richmond Elementary School fourth graders under the direction of art teacher Kim Aucter. There are some colorful mixed media pieces created by the RES preschoolers in the foyer display case.

June Art Show Richmond resident Nancy Sandblom will be sharing her grandmother Lucile Judge Firey's landscape and portrait works in watercolor and oil. Luce passed away in 2004, but she painted throughout her life and taught art history at American University and Mt. Vernon College.

June Display Case The Birds of Vermont Museum will be sharing a collection of owl facts and artifacts. An owl tree cavity, owl pellets. Facsimile eggs, feathers, diagrams, descriptions regarding camouflage, flight, vision as well as carvings all generate understanding of and admiration for these highly adapted birds of prey.

Summer Programs We are putting together a summer schedule that includes our youth reading program, stories, art, music, yoga, nature programs, movies, crafts and more. Schedules will be out in early June, but mark your calendar today with Dinoman, our kick-off program on June 26. See details below.

Dinosaur tracks lead right to the Library. Have no fear, Dinoman is here! With magic, merry mayhem, and magnificent giant blow up dinosaurs, the audience will be taken on a trip throughout the mesozoic era. How do we know dinosaurs were here? What is a fossil? How are they made? This program is fun and informative for all ages. Dinoman Dinosaurs! has garnered a Best Bet from the LA Times, quoted in the Wall Street Journal, and has appeared at the largest family celebration in the country—Boston's First Night—ten times. This very popular show for kids of all ages will serve as our summer kick off program on Monday, June 26, at 10:30 am.

StoryWalk® is a fun way for children and their adults to enjoy a good story and the outdoors at the same time. Pages from a children's book are laminated and attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. As visitors make their way down the trail, they're directed to the next page in the story. StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier and was developed with the help of Rachel Senechal, Kellogg-Hubbard Library. The Richmond Recreation Committee along with the Library will be setting up a StoryWalk® (Lost by David McPhail) along the river trail at the Volunteers Green for the first two weeks of June. Take your favorite little person on a fun story and find a nature adventure.

Our Weekly Children's Programs run September through May and so are coming to an end for the summer. Look for one of our summer schedules to identify programs that might be appropriate for your child, and remember there are always plenty of books to read and toys to play with at the library even when storytime is not in session. Our weekly programs will resume in the fall.

Pick up a Pass Shelburne Museum has reinstated the Library Pass program and allows for half-price admission, Birds of Vermont, State of Vermont Passes to Day Use State Parks and Vermont Historic Sites, Shelburne Farms and Echo Aquarium passes are also available.

Windows 10 and Related Technology Trying to navigate your smart phone? Missing your Windows 7 Operating System and bewildered by Windows 10? Scott Lowe will guide you to the way to greater functionality, a six week session starting Tuesdays, May 30-July 18, at 6 pm (with a break for July 4).

Community Senior Center Benefit Concert Piano Concert on May 31, 7:30 by the The Greenfield Piano Associates, a group of Vermont's premier pianists, will perform a program of classical works at the Richmond Free Library to benefit the Community Senior Center of Bolton, Richmond and Huntington. Acclaimed internationally for her performances and recordings, Elaine Greenfield is also a distinguished piano instructor. The theme for this year's concert is based on Handel's works, and titled Inspired by the Muse: Water Music and More. After the performance, the artists will be on hand to talk with the audience about their music. A $10 donation is suggested to benefit the Community Senior Center. The Richmond concert precedes the performance of the same program at St. Paul's Cathedral in Burlington on June 2 to benefit the Greenfield Piano Associates. Both are open to the public.

More Memoirs Family Memoirs, Wednesday, June 7, 7 pm, featuring Winifred Walsh Doane. The Community Senior Center of Bolton, Richmond and Huntington has been conducting a popular memoir writing class led by Jane Vossler of Richmond. It instructs participants how to capture the memorable events, people and stories from their family's history, and the value of preserving these memories to share with future generations. Professor Doane will discuss and read excerpts from her book titled Backflashes: Short Memoirs from a Long Life. Winifred is a part-time Richmond resident who hopes to change that to full-time soon. Winifred spent many years on Wes White Hill before pursuing a research and instruction career at Yale University and then Arizona State University. She has donated signed copies of her book to the CSC which will offer them for a discounted price at the event. The lecture and discussion, open to the public, will also feature several of the CSC's memoir writing class participants and local residents who will share some of their best family stories. A $10 donation is suggested to benefit the Community Senior Center.

Book Discussions (copies available at the 1st floor desk):

Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell. Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 pm

Death at La Fenice by Donna Leon. Thursday, June 15, 7 pm

Other Events English Country Dance with Val Medve. No experience necessary, wear soft-soled, no-marking shoes and comfortable clothes. $3 fee. Six week session starts Wednesday, June 21, at 6:30 pm.

Summer Keys with pianist Annemieke McClane. Three week series begins on Thursday, June 22, at 7 pm. Donation.

Huntington Race for Sundaes
Saturday, June 24
1 mile fun walk/run, 5k and 10 k
Registration is open.
Register online in advance:
huntingtonrace4sundaes.weebly.com/
Information:
race4sundaes@gmail.com

Proceeds go to "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" which gives financial support to struggling individuals in the Huntington community and surrounding areas.
NHN Information: Rev. Larry Detweiler, 989-2679

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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard meeting May 1, 2017 began with an update on Mark Hough's request to install concrete abutments in a stream crossing off Town Highway 9 (TH9). Town Administrator Barbara Elliott and Road Foreman Yogi Alger met with Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) engineer Jaron Borg, who is responsible for issuing a permit. Borg conveyed concern about Town liability once it signs off on the permit, since the bridge will be in the Town Right of Way (ROW). Board chair Dori Barton commented, "It's the perception the town is maintaining this bridge on a Class 4 Road." By the May 15 meeting, Hough had made alternative arrangements for accessing the property across the brook; constructing a bridge off TH9 was no longer an issue.

Vandalism to Rec Field and Horseshoe Pits The Board was asked to consider whether to pursue a civil suit against an individual suspected of creating $3,000 in damage to the recreation field. "I'd like to pursue it if we were assured we could get some of the money back, it would be good incentive to this person to stop doing it." Recreation Committee member Heidi Racht said the recreation committee is considering measures to deter vandalism, including the installation of a locked gate. Elliott will follow up with the Town attorney before taking legal action.

Smith Development Road The Board addressed a suggestion made to the DRB (Development Review Board) that the end of Bert White Road be thrown up and turned into a private road as it will be encircled by Markley and Marijke Smith's proposed subdivision. The Smiths are working to create a Planned Unit Development (PUD) including 9 dwellings on small parcels with approximately 130 acres of common land. Barton recused herself, speaking on behalf of the Smith project rather than as Selectboard chair. Elliott said, "We have never had this particular situation, never had a PUD surrounded by a town road." Barton commented, "One of the standards the DRB is looking at is the impact on local roads and town services as part of subdivision review." "[Alger] was requested to look at this," added Aaron Worthley. Alger said he was asked to look at driveway cuts, and has been reluctant to sign off on the development's impact while the issue of throwing up the road is being debated. Acting Chair Nancy Stoddard expressed, "It sounds like there was a misunderstanding on DRB involvement." Elliott clarified, "This is a new wrinkle, the town throwing up the road, and not in [Alger's] purview to decide." Barton continued, "The applicant would not like to wait for this decision before a decision on the subdivision." Markley Smith offered,"I want to stress that our impact is constructive for the town." Barton concurred, "A PUD is done as a benefit to the town, to preserve wild acreage... the Smiths have proposed a plan with Alger to pay the town for maintenance of the road ... to treat this project differently because it is a PUD flies in the face of what the Town Plan outlines. We believe that throwing up the road is penalizing the Smiths." Alger responded, "I was ready to sign off on this, it's a Class 3 road, but all of a sudden I'm being asked to decide something else." Smith addressed the Board, "All our lives we have sought a reciprocal relationship with the town. We seek in the future to sustain that reciprocity, I think this event is absorbing a lot of energy and the Selectboard should get out of this." Jeanette Segale said she was, "Here to make the argument that the road to Windekind remain open. They have consistently opened up their land for us to mountain bike and ski. The Smiths are a gem in our community. The least we can do is maintain the road."

Responding to a comment from Barton that this discussion came up late in the process, Jim Christiansen, who made the original comment to the DRB spoke, "My comment was made to the DRB a month ago, not late in the game. I asked the DRB to throw up the road once it gets into the PUD. It should be a private road just like other PUDs. The DRB will make the request to the Board to approve this. We are talking about whether it's a town road or private road. There is no curtailing of activities unless the developer decides to change that. The only thing that would change is the town will no longer maintain the road. I will go back to the DRB to conditionally approve this project and ask the Selectoard to vote on this."

Joe Segale opined, "I think it's not really fair to say that since Windekind is at the end of the road we are going to ask them to take over this road. " Acting Selectboard chair Stoddard suggested, "We can't vote on throwing up road, but can [Alger]do what he needs to do?" Elliott explained, "This is on the agenda because [Alger] wants to make sure he did not approve driveway cuts before the project is approved." Livak, responded, "Smith needs [Alger] to say the traffic increase is acceptable." Christiansen countered, "Where was this decision by [the road foreman] on the warning?" Livak responded, "It is in the purview of his job." Alger agreed to sign a letter supporting the development. Livak clarified next steps: first, Alger will send a letter stating the impact is acceptable from a municipal services standpoint, then after DRB approval of the project, Alger will sign off on driveway cuts.

Private Road Request An inquiry was received from residents on Agnes Drive to change this private road to a Town road. Board member Nancy Stoddard asked, "Would this be setting a precedent?" All members thought it would set a precedent. Board member Roman Livak observed, "We have a hard enough time maintaining our roads now." The Board agreed it is not interested in this change.

Town Forest Grant Application Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) Co-Chairs Rebecca Ryan and Sheri Lynn Forest told the Board about a grant opportunity through Vermont Urban and Community Forestry. This Town Forest Recreation planning Community Assistance Program Grant provides up to $10,000 for technical assistance. HCC would use the money to develop a plan to improve access to the Town Forest or to create a plan for obtaining another piece of land that is easier to access. Ryan told the Board, "It seems like a great opportunity," and asked the Board for support. Ryan revisited the Board at the May 15 meeting with the grant application. The Board moved to approve the application.

The Board had held a site visit earlier on May1, to consider placement of Lower Village traffic devices. The Board passed a motion to approve installation of the new speed table at the telephone pole by the community garden and speed feedback sign anchors at chosen locations in the Lower Village.

Easement through Town Property A public information meeting on a proposed agricultural easement through the Town Garage property opened the May 15 meeting. No public comment was made against the easement. Members of the public have 30 days to petition against the easement. Livak clarified that the easement specifies agricultural access only. If the property accessed through the Town garage area is no longer used for agriculture, the easement will revert to the Town.

Noise Complaint During public comment, a Huntington resident asked the Board how to proceed with filing a noise complaint against a neighbor. This resident and other neighbors had personally addressed the offender, but no reduction in the noise had occurred. Elliott explained the process for filing a complaint that may lead to a civil violation in accordance with the Town's noise ordinance. First, a written complaint should be brought to the Board. Elliott would then write a letter to the violator. Board members suggested visiting the neighborhood and using a decibel meter to concur an infraction has occurred. Stoddard said, "If we get to the point of having to enforce it, how would we enforce [the ordinance]?" The Board agreed this point should be discussed further.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

An aging truck has brought the Richmond Fire Department to the crossroads of repair or replacement.

At the Selectboard's May 1 meeting, Fire Chief Dennis Gile and Assistant Chief Gerald Levesque sought advice on what to do with a fire engine that has a rusting frame and engine problems.

The frame has already been repaired and it passed inspection, although how long that $2,400 fix will last remains uncertain, they explained. Now the engine possibly needs repairs costing $4,000. The exact price tag has yet to be determined.

But the fire truck is about 17 years old and scheduled to be replaced in a few years. So Gile wondered if the Fire Department should continue spending money on repairs.

During back and forth with Selectboard members, it became clear that the Department had little choice but to make the repair and gamble the truck would not break down again.

Gile and Levesque explained that the Fire Department could ill afford to do without the vehicle. One less engine would mean that the department does not meet the 4,000-gallon standard for water on hand to fight fires. That could boost insurance rates for businesses and homeowners.

Nor could the department immediately buy a new fire engine. It takes upwards of a year for the manufacturer to build and deliver a new truck after it is ordered, Gile said.

Then there's the eye-popping price: at least $350,000. A bond vote would be required, which would take months to schedule.

"It sounds like you may want to fix Engine No. 3 either way," said Selectboard Chairman Lincoln Bressor.

Another reason to make the repair is that the department might not be able to sell the truck otherwise, Levesque said.

Gile said the department is looking at various models of new fire trucks. The department will have to buy a vehicle with an upgraded engine large enough to traverse the town's terrain. "All roads out of Richmond go up a hill," he noted.

Board member David Sander summed up the situation, saying the town could ill afford to subtract a fire engine from its fleet.

"We don't know when the next big structure fire will come, and we need that truck," he said.

Waste District Plans Sarah Reeves, General Manager of the Chittenden Solid Waste District, outlined her organization's proposed budget and how one operational change could impact Richmond.

The district serves all of Chittenden County, coordinating waste disposal among private haulers and operating drop-off centers where residents can bring trash and recyclables.

Reeves said the $10.5 million budget represents an 8.6 percent increase. CSWD expects revenues to exceed expenditures by about $750,000. On the expense side, Reeves said rising health insurance premiums and employee retirements over the next few years would boost costs.

Disposal fees will not be increased, Reeves said, with the exception of $1.50 per-bucket charge for food scraps commercial haulers pay. Individuals can still bring scraps to drop-off centers for free.

But there will be one big change that could affect Richmond.

Hinesburg plans to construct a new public works facility at the site of its current drop-off center. That means that Hinesburg residents may start bringing their trash and recycling to Richmond's already busy facility on River Road.

Reeves said that CSWD is looking for a temporary location to replace the Hinesburg drop-off center. She also pledged that the district would consider ways to mitigate traffic problems in Richmond.

Particularly on Saturdays, traffic often backs up along the Richmond drop-off center's access road, with the line of vehicles sometimes extending onto River Road, creating a hazard.

Selectboard members asked a few questions about CWSD operations, wondering if the overall volume of waste is projected to increase and if the district expected revenue to rise from sale of recycling commodities like metals.

Reeves said the volume of recyclables would likely rise while trash tonnage remains stable. Revenue from commodities is also expected to remain level.

Selectboard member Bard Hill suggested that the town or the district take steps to control traffic at the Richmond drop-off center. He said some sort of signage could help.

Selectboard member Steve May wondered if the access road was wide enough to permit a second lane entering the drop-off center. Reeves said CSWD would consider that idea.

But she also noted that residents who use the Richmond facility are "efficient customers" who quickly throw their trash bags into the bin and dispose of their recycling, then exit the drop-off center to make room for the next person.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to endorse the district's budget.

Parking Plea During the public comment portion of the meeting, Richmond resident Christy Witters complained about parking enforcement.

Witters lives on Tilden Avenue, a small residential street just west of downtown Richmond that runs parallel to Route 2, connecting Baker and Millet streets.

She explained that the previous weekend she had guests at her home. She was on her porch when a police officer pulled up and threatened to give her friend a ticket for parking on the street.

"He comes on to my property and says, 'Would you rather have a $25 ticket or would you prefer a $100 ticket?' I was like, what, you can't park on the street?"

Witters said she has lived in Richmond for more than a decade. She displayed pictures of her neighborhood with and without cars parked on the street.

She requested that if parking is seen as a problem on her street that the Selectboard discuss the issue at a future meeting. "Until that time, I'd like someone to tell the officers not to ticket us any more."

The ensuring discussion indicated that parking is in fact allowed along Tilden Avenue. Hill suggested that enforcement could have been spurred by previous complaints that people were parking too close to intersections on residential streets. Town ordinance forbids parking within 15 feet of an intersection.

Witters said it would be more reasonable for an officer to issue a warning to those parked too close to intersections before handing out tickets. She noted that parking is tight on residential streets in the center of Richmond and might get tighter now that the town has loosened restrictions on "in-law" apartments.

Board members agreed to schedule a parking discussion for a future meeting. Bressor said Witters' request to forgo ticketing people parked on her street would be passed on to the police chief.

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MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

Jericho Elementary School (JES) Baseball Press Box Proposal Discussions during two Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School Distrcit (MMMUSD; MMM) Board meetings and the Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) Finance Committee meeting resulted in the following:

The decision of structures on school grounds by private groups falls to the CESU Superintendent under the Policy Governance model. It is the Superintendent's job to provide a report about his/her decision. It is the Board's responsibility to communicate the decision to the public.

Superintendent John Alberghini noted: (1) there is an extremely heavy construction work load scheduled throughout the district this summer that needs to be monitored [above and beyond normal JES summer maintenance and JES Rec Board activities]; (2) maintenance for previous private construction projects such as the Underhill ID dugouts and the JES tennis courts have fallen on to the district as volunteers have fallen off; (3) residents near JES are already concerned about the walking path. Therefore, the project cannot go forward this summer.

Dan Randall of Browns River Little League noted all previously noted concerns regarding the involvement/approval of the community, Principal and District Facilities Coordinator had been addressed. No financial assistance is required ($14,000 raised) and significant liability insurance is already in place. The project has been cleared by a wetlands engineer. "This would be an asset now and in the future," said Randall. The addition of a press box might mean Jericho could host All Star games. Deferring the construction to another year would mean that some families that had done fund raising would not see any direct benefit.

Board member Chip Noonan (Richmond) asked for clarity for future projects – funds should not be raised for projects without prior approval. Alberghini will meet with Randall to try to resolve communication issues.

Assessment Committee The tech support budget line item and the transportation budget will be changed to an assessment-based upon equalized pupil count next year.

The Central Office continues to experience difficulties tracking the expenses of two different school districts (combined and Huntington). The figure of 1% of the central office budget to achieve this expense tracking was used. One full year of data will be available in September. "We're comfortable not making any decisions (right) now and coming back(to them) after September," said Andrew Pond (Bolton Board member and MMM Board chair).

Financial News The Finance Committee Minutes of the meeting held March 16 reports the UID/BRMS traffic improvement parking lot repaving project will exceed the budgeted $300,000. An extra $62,000 will be taken from the FY 16 impact fees surplus. SD Ireland will perform the work.

Business Manager Robert Fahey shared the influx of special education students into the district, increased numbers of identified students needing IEPs, coupled with additional out-of-districts costs have created an additional $400,000 deficit in the Special Education portion budget which will be met with a portion of the FY 2016 surplus.

Vermont Education Tax Situation The changing face of the education taxes on a state level is affecting the district most immediately in the following manner – four special education teachers have been "RIF-ed" while the state works out its reimbursement plans. Also, plans to negotiate health insurance at the statewide level (including teachers) may result in a state wide tax increase. "This year there seems to be a greater level of uncertainty," said Superintendent Alberghini, who promised to keep the Board updated.

Contract negotiations continue with the teachers. Contracts for next year with the old rates were delivered to the teachers for their signature – they can be modified in the future as necessary.

MMUSD Community Engagement Subcommittee The purpose of the Community Engagement Subcommittee is to gather comments from the community (parents, students, teachers, staff, and business owners, all other community members) to establish the community's values/goals in providing education to the students in the district. Codification of these values are called the "ends" in the Policy Governance model. Community meetings and surveys have been conducted. The raw data will be reviewed by the Board in a retreat or a lengthy meeting. Committee Chair Edye Graning said the final analysis of this data will be pushed to December. Survey results should be available for the Finance Committee by October. Finance Committee Chair Kevin Campbell stated that the budget will be weighted by the "ends" the community specified. He needs these "ends" before December for the budget to be able to incorporate them. As the information becomes available throughout the year it will be considered when creating the budget.

The "ends" need to be written to enable the Board to see if the governing policy monitoring reports of the "means" (policies) have been met (are within "compliance"). Four policy monitoring reports were presented in the April and May meetings. These policies and evidence of compliance are reviewed by committee. A compliance rubric is developed, and the findings of the committee are presented to the whole Board for acceptance. Because the "ends" as generated from the community have not yet been created – there has been some difficulty in trying to judge whether the "means" (policies) have been implemented. Policy 3.3 Delegation to the Superintendent was judged compliant, but not unanimously. Policy 3.4 Monitor Superintendent Performance did not pass and is being revised. Financial Conditions and Activities Report 2.3 was unanimously judged compliant, although Michael Marks (Richmond) called it "inartfully drafted" and Les Kanat (Underhill ID) believes it "requires attention." Policy 2.4 Financial Planning and Budget Report was also accepted as compliant. "The district is in good financial condition." stated Alberghini.

The Board accepts that there are "areas of concern" concerning the implementation of the Policy Governance model that need to be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

Update on Spanish Language Partial Immersion Project The twenty kindergartners have been chosen for the pilot program which begins next fall.

Richmond Elementary School News New Principal Benjamin (Ben) White began on April 24, 2017. Teacher Librarian Beth Redford has been recognized as a finalist by the American Association of School Librarians for her contributions in using social media to empower student voice.

Sources: *School Board Meetings of April 17 and May 1, 2017; Superintendent's Report of April 17, 2017; Monitoring reports 2.3 and 2.4 May 1, 2017; Finance Committee Minutes March 16, 2017; Assessment Committee Meeting Minutes March 29, 2017 and MMMUSD Community Engagement Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes April 5, 2017 (April 17 minutes not yet available.)*

Richmond Nordic Skier All-American at NCAA

UVM Nordic skier Ian Moore, celebrating his NCAA All American finish with cousins (L to R) Karin Rand, Julia Rand, Annavitte Rand, and Allison Rand. Moore, a recent resident of Richmond, is a University of Vermont Nordic skier. He qualified for NCAA National Championships, where he raced to a 9th place in the NCAA 10K Classic race, as the top Eastern skier, earning All American. The national races were held at the Jackson Ski Touring Center, hosted by the University of New Hampshire on March. 9-11.

Spring Poems by Ms. Aitken's Class

RABBITS

by Kate Compo

Hopping merrily
Getting food for family
Out of the garden

Mud

by Simon Rowe

You hear a weird squish
You sink in like quicksand
It is dark, dark, brown

Spring Frogs

by Ruthie Stone

Round and bubbly
Looks just like eyeballs staring
Soon a frog is born.

Frog Eggs

by Lev Dransfield

Appear in the spring.
Black and clear, eye balls staring
like a swarm of flies.

MUD

by Gabrylle Morales

Brown dirty squishy
Throw it at my two brothers
It gets in my mouth

Spring

by Kaleb Germaine

Getting very warm outside
Beams of sunlight, very bright
Very moody now

Buds

by Phoebe Riggs

Little buds on trees
To be pretty as can be
Colorful dresses

Spring Sounds

by Sadie Gage

Chirping in the air,
birds are singing everywhere,
flapping in the sky.

Worms

by Harper Couperthwait

Wiggle Wiggle Down
Into the ground, Deep Deep Down
Helping plants grow strong

Poetry by Huntington students of Ms. Barbara Aitken.

RAIN

Rope falling from the sky
Darker is the bark on trees
Mother-nature what is your grief?
I sit getting drenched, yet…
Everything is peaceful.
Just me in my own world
RAIN

by Oakes Chapman

Star

by Oakes Chapman

Twinkly, shiny
Sparkling in the night sky
We are above you

Spring Birds

by Rosemary Thompson

Colors of fall leaves
returning from a trip south
songs ring out at dawn

DEW

byAdrien Toneatti

Dew happens in spring
Many people are happy
Bringing happiness

Frogs

by Olivia Weaver

Like a gloopy glob
I'm a black hole in water
Waiting to be frogs

GRASS

by Gabby Alger

I turn green as green
You always cut my hair short
But always growing

Mud

by Cooper Wyman

Squishing brown sinking
Time to open a shop now
Selling sticky slimy squish

Walking silent,
no sound,
the field is empty,
there is one sign of light.
A firefly dancing in the night,
like quills on parchment,
telling a story that can't be heard
or barely seen,
telling the story of you.
—by Cooper Wyman

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Please join these local participants:

#8 Kevin Jenness Woodworking
700 East St., Huntington 434-3438
Elegant functional furniture, boxes and bowls

#9 Huntington Valley Arts
2209 Main Road (Fuller House), **Alison Forrest**, handwoven throws, bags; **Will Keyworth**, clothing dyed with indigo, Shibori techniques; **Cheryl Christner**, shirts, scarves, napkins hand printed, needle felted accessories, decorations

#10 Huntington River Smithy - Jim Fecteau
1735 Main Road, Huntington, 434-3871
Hooks, lighting, hardware, gates, hangers

#11 Birds of Vermont Museum
900 Sherman Hollow Rd, Huntington, 434-2167
Sculpture, dioramas, woodcarved birds

#12 Meinhardt Design - Jean Meinhardt
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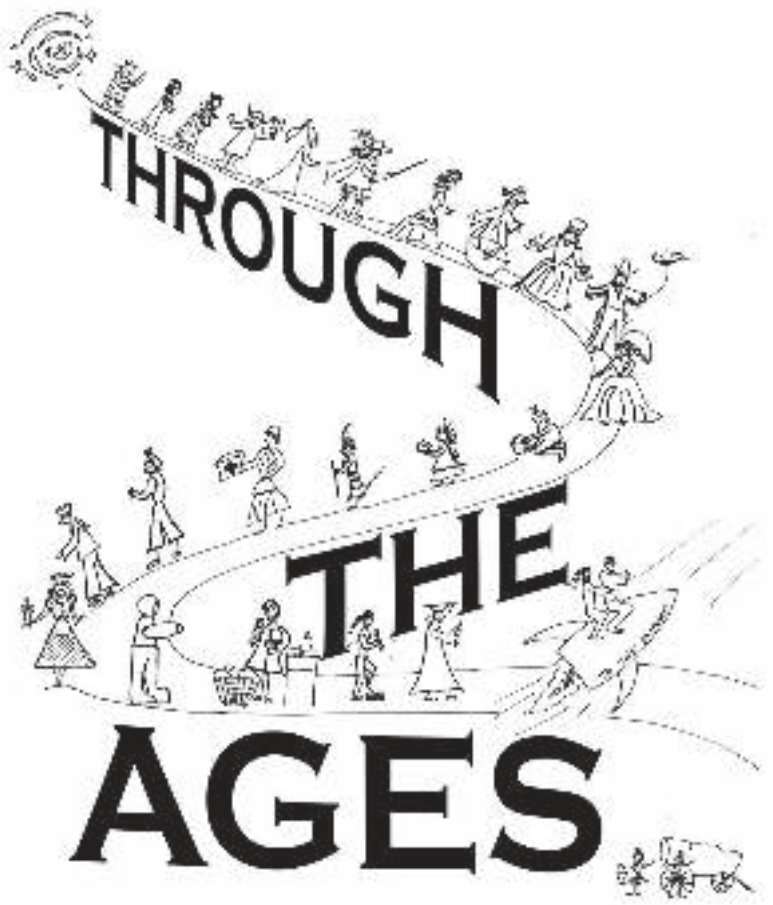

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Personal Essay

Is Anyone Better Off?

OCCC counselor Reilly Butler with some of the happy campers

Submitted by Marie Thomas

When Our Community Cares Camp was incorporated in 2009, its mission was simple – feed children who needed nutritional support in the summer. But in order to feed them, we needed to establish a congregate feeding site so the program would qualify for reimbursement from the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). A partnership with the Chittenden East Supervisory Union that included transportation allowed low income children from five towns to easily access the food program at Camels Hump Middle School. OCCC recruited highly qualified program and kitchen staff and established a summer day camp with many enriching activities and a supportive camp culture that stressed community, mutual support and respect. OCCC became a place of safety and friendship for children from lower income families. OCCC set a high standard for nutritious meals, filled with fruits and vegetables and "made from scratch" entrees, using local sources when possible.

As OCCC progressed, we developed in response to the needs of the community. It was soon obvious that young teens needed summer activities but often felt themselves "too old" for day camp, but were also too young and inexperienced to hire as counselors. OCCC created the Leadership Adventure Camp to serve upper middle school students. This camp provided them with activities better suited for their age, giving them the skills they would need to grow up to be responsible adults: self-esteem, leadership and lessons in being positive role models. OCCC also established the internship program for teens who already had some skills and who were ready to take on the challenges of being a junior counselor or culinary intern.

Each camp season, the program staff reviews and reflects on the successes and challenges they faced and improvements are introduced the following year. Each of the initial eight years of the camp has seen growth. We now feel that we have reached an appropriate size for the camp, meeting many of the needs for food and summer activities for children of lower income families and training and leadership development opportunities for teens. Based on the findings and recommendations of many reputable research organizations, we now wish to focus on optimizing the time we have with the campers to produce better outcomes.

Many funding agencies and foundations want to know "is anyone better off"? Using Results-Based Accountability (RBA)(1) methodology, OCCC began to collect data in 2016 to document achievements and the impacts of the programs on the campers and community. We surveyed campers, parents and staff and drafted an assessment based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs (see figure). The preliminary findings are that OCCC provides a safe and caring environment for campers and staff, helping them progress up the pyramid towards self-actualization. OCCC continues to explore ways to document the impact of the camp experience in both the short and long term through a partnership with a local college.

Recent research supports the OCCC model and suggests ways for us to improve our program to support the development of resilience in our campers and staff. These resources may offer additional ways for OCCC to answer the question "Is anyone better off"?

A review of current research assures us that OCCC is pursuing a correct course. For example, Robert Putnam, Professor of Public Policy at Harvard University, writes in his book, Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis, that poor kids these days have an opportunity gap. Because they do not have easy access to a variety of activities and arts, they have far fewer opportunities to rise out of poverty. Poor children need to have quality engagement time with caring adults and access to enriching activities. Children without access to these resources are less likely to be successful in school or work and generally have a harder time advancing up the economic ladder.(2)

Recent studies of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) demonstrates that health and longevity for people with four or more ACES is adversely affected regardless of economic strata, but are more profound for lower income families. Caring relationships and safe and supportive environments help prevent and mitigate the consequences of ACEs. (3)(4)

Research in the field of strength-based training, where strengths, rather than deficits, are emphasized, shows that children will achieve greater overall social development and improved academic performance, as well as resiliency, when their strengths are emphasized over their deficits. When a child discovers a strength, she or he also develops resiliency against future stress or hardship. (5)

The Center on the Developing Child at Harvard

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OCCC

continued from page 10

OCCC campers head into the field to harvest vegetables. The kids are picking veggies at the farm at VYCC to put in to the health care shares and also to prepare a meal for local seniors. Courtesy photos

University has studied brain development and the adverse effects of constant stress on the developing brain. "Negative influences on the prefrontal cortex include poor nutrition, exposure to excessive alcohol, drugs, toxins, neglect, abuse, and chronic stress. We know less about specific positive influences, but higher socioeconomic status, exercise, cognitive training, adequate sleep, and mindfulness all have protective influences. We also know that supportive, responsive relationships in stable, safe environments sup¬port the healthy development of the whole brain in the earliest years." (6)

These studies all agree that positive engagement with caring adults, with exposure to the arts and positive role models, can help build resiliency and will provide a certain amount of protection from the adverse effects of ACEs and deficit-based approaches. Some economic and health policy papers (4, 5) suggest that a three-legged stool of family, school and community can help build resiliency in individuals as well as strengthen communities. OCCC is the community part of this triad for the children we serve. Many come back each year and their positive behaviors are reinforced annually through OCCC's opportunities for self-discovery and personal success.

OCCC has the opportunity to "turn the curve" and greatly improve outcomes for campers with an enhancement to our training program. In order to maximize our positive impact, OCCC will provide directed instruction in strengths-based training to its staff, many of whom are under 20 years of age, and have very little experience with understanding or dealing with behavioral issues. Such training will help the staff and interns find their own strengths, and will provide practical understanding of the reasons behind campers' behaviors, along with tools to direct the campers to better choices and help each camper find their own strengths. The training will help build skills and confidence in our counselors, some of whom are former campers.

Invariably, once a camper discovers something to feel passionate about, whether it be music, art, cooking, science or sports, they have something to look forward to each day and his or her overall behavior and attitudes improve. Moreover, we expect that academic performance and social skills will improve and campers will become more resilient to social stressors. OCCC has the opportunity to significantly enhance the outcomes for our campers, staff, and community if we are able to provide directed training to staff and employ coaches and consultants to be mentors and monitors.

References:

1. Friedman, Mark. 2005. Trying Hard is Not Good Enough – How to Produce Measurable Improvements for Customers and Communities. FPSI Publishing.

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3. Oregon Health Authority. 2014. Building Resiliency – Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES).

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5. Maton, Kenneth I, Cynthia J. Schellenbach, Bonnie J. Leadbeater and Andrea Solarz, eds. 2004. Investing in Children, Youth, Families and Communities. Strengths-Based Research and Policy. American Psychological Association, Washington, DC.

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7. Centers for Disease Control. 2014. Essentials for Childhood. Steps to Create Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments.

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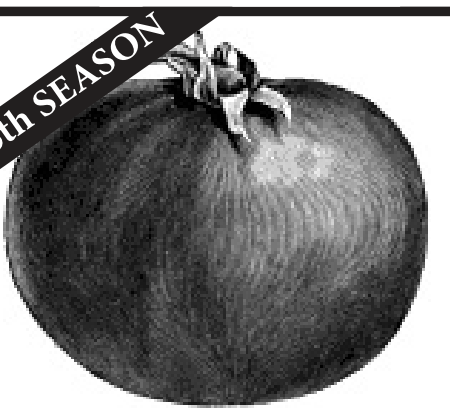

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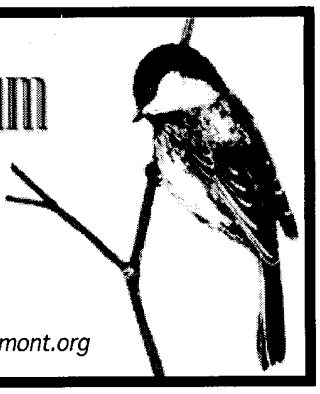

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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

4930 Main Road Huntington, Vermont 05462

The Huntington Development Review Board will meet on June 13, 2017, at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office in Huntington Center to review the following applications:

Request for Conditional Use Review

Annie Beauchesne to convert a single-family residence into a two-family rental. Subject property is located at 78 Taft Road. The property is in the Rural Residential District. The hearing will be at 7:15 pm.

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

Request for Variance Review

Jessica Arkley to construct an addition to a deck on the back of a single-family residence that is located within the river buffer setback distance. The variance request is 37.5 feet (Zoning Regulations, Section 5.22.1(a)) The hearing will be at 7:35 pm.

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

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

Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk, May 20, 2017

Huntington Regs

continued from page 1

(getting motorists to slow down as they approach the villages) and the encouragement of residential buildings with multi-uses (i.e., commercial use downstairs and apartment upstairs or in back). Denser residential construction with a clear goal of concentrating population increases through the building of multi-family houses and accessory dwellings in the village was proposed.

The Village District that has been in effect for over 30 years, was divided into two districts: Village District and Neighborhood District, as shown on maps. The zoning in each was reflective of the plan to concentrate density in the very center of two villages and then lessen it moving outward. Most of the zoning in the Neighborhood District (current Village District not covered in Village) would remain in place. An outcome of the proposed changes to the zoning, therefore, would be fewer preexisting, nonconforming properties in the Village District.

Over two years ago, the Commission held a public meeting on a document with proposed radical changes to the villages and the zoning for the rest of the town. Attendees at the May 2015 hearing, most of whom were residents in the villages, were clearly not aligned with many of the proposed changes. The zoning would have allowed for uses and changes of use that did not require review. This concept was proposed for the Lower Village and Huntington Center.

Conscientiously distilling over 200 comments by topic, the Commission made several changes to the document and proceeded to the next draft. A public meeting was held in May 2016 focusing solely on the Village and Neighborhood Districts to take comments about the village core concepts remaining in the document. More changes were made, bringing the document to the current draft.

Stormwater Run-off and Damage Coming from the discussions around residential development is a focus on stormwater run-off. Resident and Conservation Commission member Darlene Palola has attended several Planning Commission meetings to advocate for Performance Standards to address stormwater run-off. She stated, "It is going to be required [by the state]. The DRB (Development Review Board) is going to have to restrict development from having pollutants run into surface waters." She noted that is not about construction run-off. "It will have to be put into the Town Plan, so it is required by whoever builds." The state, too, is considering decreasing impervious surface coverage from one acre to a half acre.

Planning Commissioner Shayne Jaquith talked about the new standards for municipal roads that require the Road Foreman to work with the town to start thinking about how development is laid out so water isn't shunted into the town's drainage system. At issue are changes made to a property that redirect water into a roadside ditch that can overflow and wash out roads and damage other properties. He said that he had already met with Huntington Road Foreman Yogi Alger about Economou Road. Further comment included that development can impact the flow of water and that developers would need to design projects so the water drains away from roadways/ditches.

Other Zoning Districts The Commission then held a public meeting on the rest of the districts, some of which were determined by elevation. Eight-five percent of the undeveloped land in Huntington is in the Rural Residential (five acre) District. The Commission proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD), which allows for greater density in exchange for maintaining remaining open space. Some at the meeting proposed a larger minimum lot size in order to keep open fields and wooded areas more intact. Resident Shawn Smith noted that the allowable lot size is the single most important factor in how an area is developed. Others expressed concern about the effects of single-family residences that create a rural "sprawl."

Recent discussion has also focussed on the impact of residential development on habitat. There are different ecosystems at different elevations. Should year-round structures, requiring a more robust road network that has a correspondingly more expensive maintenance, be allowed in the Woodland District (1500-2500 feet elevation)? It was suggested several times that the Commission go back to the Town Plan and make changes to require larger lot size. The fact that at least three town-maintained roads now have only one or two residences on the end of them was brought up because of the cost of winter plowing and road surface materials. Megs Keir suggested that the Commission consider zoning outside the village that reflects the different ecosystems at different elevations. "There is plenty of ag damage that gets a lot of publicity," but there are impacts on soils erosion in steeper areas. Development uphill impacts what is at a lower elevation. The Commission decided to retain the restriction on new year-round residences in the Woodland and Conservation Districts.

Copies of the draft regulations are available at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office and the Huntington Public Library. The document is also available at www.huntingtonvt.org

Upcoming Lifelong Learning Programs

at the Richmond Library

Music & Memoir

Classical Piano Benefit Concert, May 31, 7:30 p.m.
The Greenfield Piano Associates, a group of highly accomplished pianist, will perform a program of classical works. The concert theme is based on Handel's works, and titled "Inspired by the Muse: Water Music and More."

Writing Family Memoirs, June 7, 7:00 p.m.
Part-time Richmond resident and retired professor Winifred Walsh Doane will discuss and read excerpts from her book titled *Back Flashes: Short Memoirs from a Long Life*.

A suggested donation of $10 for each event will benefit the Community Senior Center.

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Letters

continued from page 2

Volunteers are needed for the CHMS community garden this summer. Please consider a one week commitment to weed, water, and nurture the gardens. We are always looking for additions to the CHMS flower beds, should you have leftovers after splitting home perennials.

The PROSPER Strengthening Families Program is an evidence-based program delivered over seven weeks for sixth grade students and their parents or caregivers. Youth benefit by learning to prepare for their teen years, communicate effectively with their parents, deal with stress and peer pressure, and avoid alcohol and drug problems. Parents and caregivers enhance their parenting skills by learning to set limits, making house rules, encouraging positive behaviors, learning to handle stress and helping their children understand the negative impact of risky behaviors. If you are the parent of a student who will be in 6th grade next fall and are interested in the program, please contact mark.carbone@cesuvt.org or rebecca.thompson@cesuvt.org.

On April 19-21, a cast and crew of over 40 Camel's Hump Middle School students delighted their peers and outside audiences with a production of HAPPILY FOREVER AFTER, a play by Charlie Lovett. The play told the story of Cinderella, Snow White, and Sleeping Beauty after the fairy tales we all know have ended and the princesses have become a bit bored with their all-too perfect princes. Enter Bad Bart, a beast and zoologist sidekick, a king and queen, a very headstrong additional princess, and a cast of creatures from the fairy tales (dwarves, a mouse and a bear, plus Lou, the delivery person), and the scene is set for a kidnapping, a rescue attempt, and the realization that it's important to be careful what you wish for, and that true goodness is better than a handsome facade. All involved worked hard, learned a lot about the fantastic art of theatre, and had a marvelous time. The cast and crew would like to thank school personnel and the many parent volunteers who worked on the set, helped with costumes, and supported this wonderful event.

The next meeting of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School Board is at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 5, at Camels Hump Middle School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

—*Mark Carbone*, Principal

Mansfield Coop School

Lots of exciting things are going on at Mansfield Cooperative School in Richmond!

We are an independent school for 3rd - 8th grade students with a focus on project-based learning and community involvement.

This spring, students studied local birds and designed their own birdhouses. Stop by their youth booth at the Richmond Farmer's Market to meet the students and parents, and purchase one of their birdhouses or some of their yummy baked goods.

When you're ready for dinner you can walk one block from the Farmer's Market to the Friday Food Affair (FFA) at the Richmond Congregational Church where our students will be preparing and serving a delicious meal (free or by donation) for the community.

We'll also be having an Open House for Mansfield Cooperative School from 3-7. Take a tour of the school, see what students are working on, and talk to teachers, parents, and students. The school is conveniently located across the hall from the FFA, so feel free to stop by before or after you dine! All are welcome!

Though it is not affiliated with the church, Mansfield Cooperative School is located on the first floor of the Richmond Congregational Church (20 Church Street, Richmond).

For more information about this event, or about The Coop, please contact Julia Skonicki at learntoliberate@gmail.com, visit us on facebook at www.facebook.com/MansfieldCooperative or visit our website www.mansfieldcooperative.org.

—Julia Skonicki

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Town of Huntington

Notice of Public Hearing
Revisions of Regulations
June 26, 2017 • 7:20 pm
Huntington Public Library

The Huntington Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing to accept comments on proposed revisions to the town's Zoning, Subdivision and Flood Hazard Regulations. All interested persons may appear and be heard.

The new Huntington Land Use Regulation will combine three documents into a single comprehensive document, which is entitled **Town of Huntington Land Use Regulations**. The geographic areas affected include all of Huntington.

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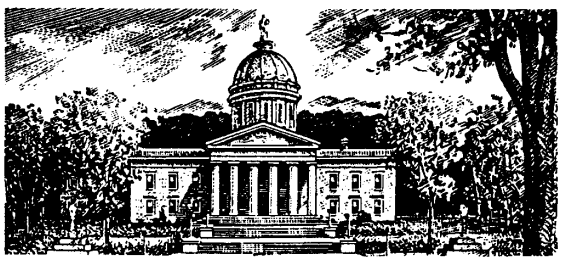
Copies of the entire text are available for review at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office at 4930 Main Road, and at the Huntington Public Library. It is also available on the Town of Huntington website (www.huntingtonvt.org). For more information, contact the Huntington Town Clerk's Office at 434-2032.

—Heidi Racht, Clerk, May 24, 2017



State House News

Rep. Theresa Wood

The Legislature has dealt with marijuana in two ways – expansion of the medical marijuana law and passage of the further decriminalization, removing all civil and criminal penalties for adult possession of 1 ounce of marijuana.

S.16 – The laws governing marijuana for symptom relief (otherwise known as medical marijuana) were created first in 2003 and have been amended several times since then, including this year in bill number S.16. By way of background, medical marijuana is available for people with a terminal illness, cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, and people under hospice care. It is also available for individuals with a chronic and debilitating condition that causes chronic pain, severe nausea, wasting syndrome, or seizures. The additions to this list this year are Parkinson's disease, Crohn's disease, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (when a person is also receiving psychotherapy).

Currently there are four dispensaries located in Burlington, Montpelier, Brattleboro and Brandon. Underserved areas include Bennington and the Northeast Kingdom. S.16 expands the number of dispensaries from 4 to 5 effective July 1, and after the number of patients has reached a total of 7,000 (currently there are approximately 4,000 patients statewide), a 6th dispensary can be licensed.

This year's modification of the law also clarifies that doctors do not issue prescriptions for medical marijuana – they are confirming the presence of one or more of the qualifying conditions. This is an important distinction given that doctors cannot prescribe something that is still illegal from a federal perspective. In Vermont, this program is currently operated by the Department of Public Safety and more information can be found at the following website http://vcic.vermont.gov/marijuana-registry.

The new law also requires the Department of Public Safety to prepare a new webpage for the program by November.

S.22 – This bill, which originally dealt with the prescription drug fentanyl, was amended by the Senate to include removing all criminal and civil penalties for the possession of one ounce of marijuana and for the possession of two mature plants and 4 immature plants by individuals age 21 and over. Essentially legalizing marijuana use for people 21 and over. It is still illegal for youth under 21 to possess marijuana. Essentially the same laws that relate to tobacco, will be in force for marijuana if the Governor allows this bill to become law. For instance, there is no allowed use in public places and furnishing marijuana to children is illegal. Towns can also adopt specific ordinances prohibiting use; landlords and business owners may prohibit use in their buildings and by their employees.

Growing your own marijuana is limited to 2 mature plants and 4 immature plants per household, not per person. The use of marijuana is also prohibited by drivers, including second hand smoke. In other words, no one in the car can smoke marijuana. Smoking in the presence of a child in a car is also prohibited. As an aside, it is also illegal to smoke regular tobacco in a car with a child present. Other prohibitions include the inability to use or grow marijuana in a child care facility, including home-based child care.

The bill also creates the Marijuana Regulatory Commission to prepare Vermont to tax and regulate marijuana. The Commission is charged with developing a legislative proposal to submit to the Governor and the legislature by November 2017.

It is important to note that there is a one year delay before this bill, if allowed to become law by the Governor, is effective. The Commission would begin work immediately, but the legalization of use and growing marijuana would not be effective until July 1, 2018.

Rep. Tom Stevens

Closing Time at the State House The news and rumors are flying fast and furiously this week as the Legislature bears down on the end of this first session of the 2017-18 biennium. This update will try to clarify some of the larger issues that are in front of us during the closing hours.

The Budget Earlier in the year, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that achieved one of Governor Scott's prized notions — it was balanced without raising taxes or fees. By choosing to present a budget this way, the House acknowledged that our economy, while stronger than most, has plateaued. And with the unknown fate of federal money, it is a budget that proposed little or no new spending, or spending that was offset by cuts elsewhere.

The Senate, on the other hand, has other thoughts about how our resources should be spent, and has proposed paying for some initiatives with the property tax. Again, the House does not support raising revenues through the property tax but rather raised through the General Fund, where everyone contributes.

And most recently, the governor has promised to veto the budget if it doesn't include changes to the teachers' health insurance program, as well as ending the teachers' right to strike. While the governor stated his desire to change the way teachers receive a locally bargained benefit, his administration did not make a proposal until the closing days of the session.

I am opposed to this proposal for many reasons, the first of which is that this is an attempt to destroy the teachers union, which will weaken our strong public schools. The savings proposed by the administration are inaccurate, in that, with the proposal starting on January 1, 2018, could only see half of that proposed amount.

Another local problem is this: Teachers (and others in the school system who have access to the same health insurance) currently negotiate with their employers — our local school boards. Changing to a statewide system — without their input as a stakeholder in their contracts — means they would be negotiating with an entity that is not their employer. If the administration (and the school board association) were serious about moving health insurance in this way, they would advocate moving to a single payer health insurance system. And even if there were any savings accrued in this way, those savings would not go to the local taxpayers.

Finally, an amendment being considered would end the teachers' right to strike after an impasse over negotiations about health insurance, and would also remove a school board's right to impose a contract upon the teachers. This is a fundamental collective bargaining right that is balanced between the two parties. They exist as the absolute last and worst option to come to an agreement, and it works. Over time, there have been over 5,000 contract negotiations between the teachers' union and local school boards, and only 50 have resulted in a strike or an imposition.

These proposals are discussed in some way every biennium, and while there is some merit to each point, the proper process to deal with them is through negotiation, and not by fiat at the end of the session. As a member of the committee who handles labor law, I am always open to a conversation held in good faith, with the acknowledgment that the subjects are difficult to negotiate, regardless of good intentions.

I am writing this on what may be the penultimate day of the session, and there are ongoing conversations about a compromise…

Marijuana We will, once again, consider H.170. Minor changes were made to the bill, but the bulk of it remains the same as earlier this session — full legalization of the possession of up to one ounce and of several homegrown plants and with continuing prohibitions on the sale of any amount. I appreciate this relatively minor move forward, but remain convinced that full regulation of sales and taxation remains the proper way to go.

S.22 is a Senate bill that proposes a commission be created to formulate the statute necessary to achieve a regulated market. The text of H.170 is attached to it in this last week of session. If S.22 passes (and is signed in law, which is an unknown), the commission would meet over the summer and fall, and the provisions pertaining to legalization of up to one ounce and plants would go into effect on July 1, 2018.

Paid Family Leave H.196 passed through the House last week, in what was a diluted version of what passed out of our committee but a good start, nevertheless. Research shows that new families benefit greatly from relaxed time to bond, with noted improvements in infant and mother health and savings that accrue from having child at home rather than in child care (which is increasingly hard to find). Testimony also showed that small businesses are clamoring to be able to offer paid family leave, which increases loyalty, productivity and profitability. We also know that "sandwich" Vermonters — those taking care of children AND older parents or family members — could use the same benefit. This benefit is meant to reduce the stress that comes from trying to take time that is unpaid in order to take care of their families.

The Ways and Means committee did excellent research and reduced the cost to employees to only .141% of their salary. They removed the short-term disability portion of the bill due to differences in how those benefits are paid out and taxed. They also shortened the time this benefit can be used to six weeks, and the payout to 80% of an employees gross income.

This benefit is meant to enhance the exisiting Parental and Family Leave Act and the federal Family and Medical Leave Act by providing qualifying employees with the ability to receive income replacement while they are healing and bonding after the birth of a child or when they are taking care of family members. We believe it is an important bill that will make Vermont more employee friendly, and make it more affordable to live, work and grow their family.

The bill will now "summer over" in the Senate, and is on the docket to be considered next session.

By the time this is printed, these issues should be resolved within the House. The budget, H.518, will pass by its merits, and not with last minute gimmicks that distract from what we, as legislators, strive to do in this building, which is to make our work transparent and a benefit to you.

Rep. Marcia Lawrence Gardner

As of Friday, May 12, 2017, the Legislature was still in session, waiting to pass the budget. I believe my fellow representatives - Theresa Wood and Tom Stevens - will be discussing some of the important topics from the session in their articles included here. So, I will give a quick overview of some of the bills that have already become law this session. (Bills become acts once they have passed both the House and Senate and are signed by the Governor.)

Act 4 (H.53) provides that a planting project in a flood or other hazard area or river corridor protection area shall be considered to have a municipal land use permit by operation of law. However, a planting project will not be considered to have a permit by operation of law, if it is part of a larger construction project or forestry operation.

Act 5 (S.79) states that a state or local governmental agency, or employee, shall not:

• collect information regarding the religious beliefs, practices, or affiliation of any individual for the purpose of registration based on his or her religious beliefs, practices, or affiliations;

• knowingly disclose personally identifying information to any federal agency or official for the purpose of registration; or

• use public agency money, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to assist in creating or enforcing any federal government program for registration.

It also states that only the Governor, in consultation with the Vermont Attorney General, is authorized to enter into, modify, or extend agreements pursuant to which State and local law enforcement can assist federal authorities in carrying out certain immigration and other functions. However, State and local law enforcement can enter into such agreements when it is necessary to address threats to the public safety or welfare of Vermont residents arising from a declared State or national emergency.

Act 9 (H.201) extends the length of time that runaway youth may stay at a shelter designated by the Commissioner for Children and Families from seven to twenty-one days.

Act 21 (H.136) declares it unlawful employment practice for an employer to fail to provide a reasonable accommodation for an employee's pregnancy-related condition, unless it would impose an undue hardship on the employer.

And, while H.411, proposed by Richmond resident Chris Granda, has not become an act yet, it was passed by both the House and Senate, and is just waiting for the Governor's signature. The bill sets minimum energy efficiency standards for home appliances.

These are just a few of the new laws passed this session. The June edition of The Times Ink will have a final report from the 2017 General Assembly.

Rep Theresa Wood
Washington-Chittenden 1
1461 Perry Hill Road
Waterbury, VT 05676
(c) 802.585.5202 |
(h) 802.244.8087
theresa.wood@comcast.net

Rep Tom Stevens
Washington-Chittenden 1
12 Winooski Street
Waterbury, VT 05676
595-0429 (cell)
tom@stevensvermont com
tstevens@leg state.vt.us

Rep Marcia Lawrence Gardner
Chittenden 4
2290 Hinesburg Road
Richmond, VT 05477
434-2854
mgardner@leg state.vt.us

Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W.
Psychotherapist

802-229-2770
Montpelier, VT 05602

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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

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At RCC our new motto is Love God, Seek Peace, Build Community, Welcome All. Everyone is welcome here. In a world that is increasingly polarized, it is important to have a place where diverse views are welcome. We don't all hold the same view point, or vote the same way - and that's okay.

Each week during worship, we share joys and concerns. Our church prays for each other, for our community, and for the world. In this way we recognize how we are connected to each other and to all of God's creation. Our faith community also rallies around people in times of joy and pain through celebrating births, marriages, and funerals.

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We are planning a Mission Trip to Costa Rica from February 24-March 5, 2018 to build 2 homes for families in need. The trip is for adults and high school youth (with parent chaperone). We welcome community members to join us on the trip or make a donation to support construction costs. For more information see: http://rccucc.org/costa-rica-mission-trip-2018/

As Christians we look inward to discover our unique identity as a child of God, and we look outward to use the unique gifts and talents we have each been given to serve others. I'm proud to serve RCC, and to help our community grow into the people God has made us to be. And I invite you to consider doing something radically countercultural - join us some Sunday morning and come find out what we're about! You might just be surprised!

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Lake Iroquois

continued from page 1

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Lake Iroquois borders Richmond, Williston, Hinesburg and St. George. A 2014 survey found that milfoil had infested 71 acres of the 244-acre lake.

Eurasian milfoil is a non-native plant that originated in Europe, Asia and northern Africa. Usually found in shallow bays and near shorelines, milfoil forms beds that can snag boats, reduce fish spawning grounds and overwhelm native plants.

State and local money is being used to fund the milfoil reduction project. The Town of Williston, with the Lake Iroquois Association, applied for a state grant worth up to $41,320, according to Ann Bove, who oversees the funding program for the Department of Environmental Conservation. Williston must provide matching funding.

The controversy over herbicide use extends beyond Richmond. Williston and Hinesburg officials have received dozens of written and verbal comments from residents.

The volume of public input triggered a state rule that requires a public hearing, which was held May 4 in Hinesburg.

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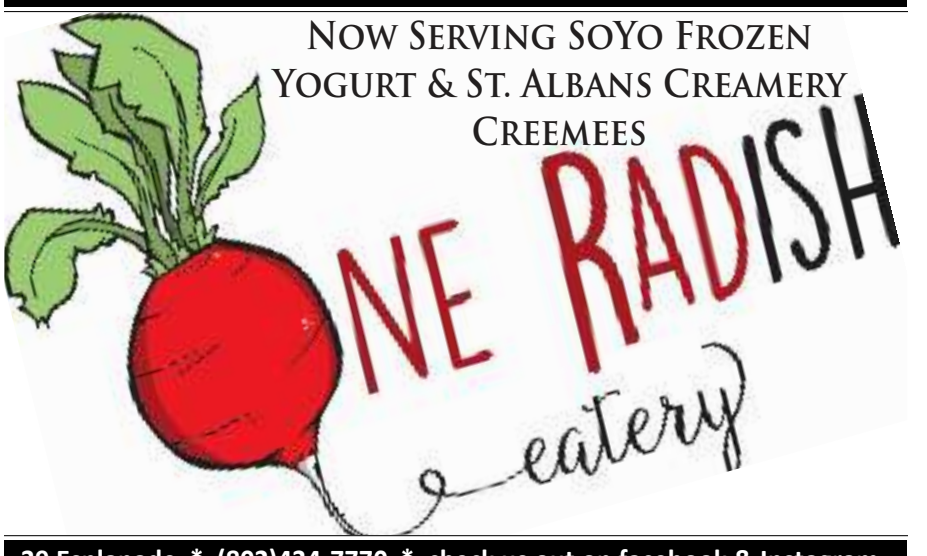

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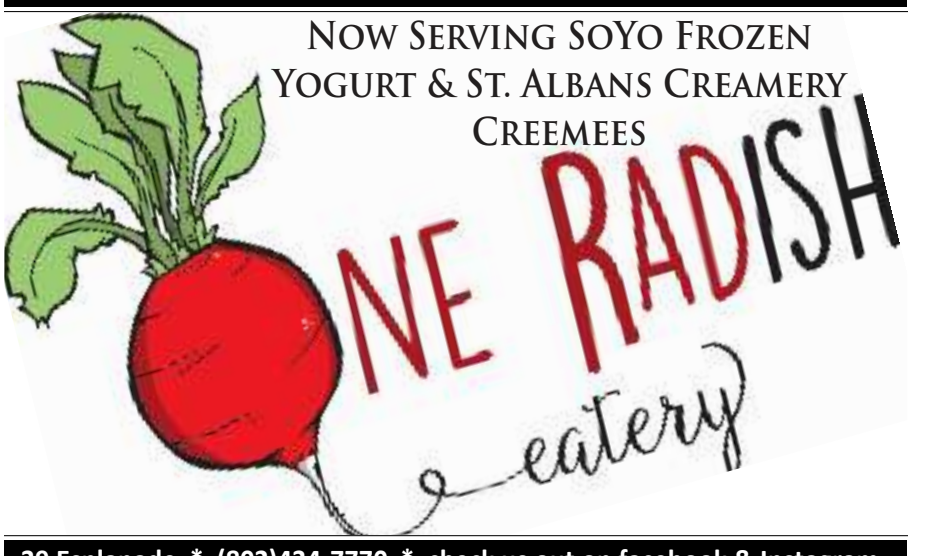

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Calendar of Events

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

FRIDAYS THROUGH OCTOBER: Richmond Farmers Market. Rain or shine: 3 pm–7 pm, June 2 through September 15; 3 pm—6 pm, September 22 through October 13. Volunteers Green, Richmond. Visit with your neighbors, support local farmers and artisans, enjoy a good dinner and live music. For more information: www.RichmondFarmersMarketVT.org or RFMManager@gmail.com.

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

SUNDAYS: Karma Yoga Class, 9 am to 10 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.

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:

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

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

SCHOOL BOARD:

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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

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

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

SCOUTS

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

Huntington: Boy Scout Troop 645, Sun, 7 pm, Community Church of Huntington, John Christiana (johnpchristiana@gmail.com) or Tamara Kushwaha (tamara.kushwaha@gmail.com).

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

Huntington: 1st Tues, even months, 7 pm, Town Clerk's Office.

RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE

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

MAY 27 & 28: Open Studio Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, 10-5 Celebrate spring and art with local artisans

MAY 27: Woodcarving Demonstration with David Tuttle, 10 am - 2 pm, Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington.Tuttle will demonstrate skills, techniques, and answer questions.

MAY 27, JUNE 24, JULY 29: Last Saturdays Bird Monitoring Walks, 7:30 am – 9 am, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington. All birders welcome on the monthly monitoring walk outdoors on the Museum's trails

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.

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

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Huntington: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Town Hall.

LIBRARY

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

Huntington: Library Board, 4th Tues, 6:30 pm, Union Meeting House, 434-4583

HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am, newborn through preschool (with older siblings welcome) Residents 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

SUNDAYS: Early Birder Morning Walks, May – June • 7 am to 8:30 am, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington. Ramble the Museum's forests and meadows, led by experienced Vermont birders. Finish the walk with bird-friendly coffee at the viewing window inside the Museum. Free. Tick repellent, binoculars, good walking shoes recommended. Best for adults and teens. 434-2167.

SECOND SUNDAYS: Who Walks These Woods, May – October, 1 pm to 3 pm, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington. Expert tracker Mike Kessler guides the journey into the ancient of tracking, where participants learn as much about themselves as the animals and landscape around them. Included with Museum admission. Please pre-register: 434-2167.

JUNE 6: Book launch celebration for Lila and Theron, Bill Schubart's new novel, 7 pm, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank Street, Burlington. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Vermont Foodbank. Your $3 ticket comes with a coupon for $5 off a copy of the featured book Coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

JUNE 18: Annual Father'sDay Fishing Derby, 8 am to 11am, Chittenden County Fish and Game Club, youths ages 14 and under.Trophies in age groups 5-14 years, prizes for all. Lunch available. 1397 Wes White Hill Road, Jonesville. Considered one of Vermont's oldest known fishing derbies in existence. Free.

AUGUST 27: Zoe's Race, Oakledge Park, 2 Flynn Avenue, Burlington. A 1K/5K race to benefit home renovations programs for families with children with developmental differences. $20-40 with the option to fundraise for more projects. Information: http://hc.kintera.org/faf/help/helpEventInfo.asp?ievent=1160621&lis=1&kntae1160621=95C50DF0E87948CEBBFC158EB9E84748

Worship

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

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

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

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

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

Jericho Congregational Church: on the green in Jericho Center. Pastor David Coons. Youth Pastor Glenn Carter. Sunday services: 8 am & 11am. Nursery care provided; Sunday school for all ages, 9:30 am. Fellowship, 10:30 am. Sunday Youth Group: 6:15 pm. 899-4911; www.jccvt.org

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 VT Rte 15 (near Browns Trace Rd) Jericho, 899-3932, Rev. Arnold Thomas, pastor. Worship Service: 9 am (nursery care provided), Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.goodshepherdjericho.org

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

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

Calvary Episcopal Church 370 Vermont Route 15,Underhill Flats. Worship service 9:30 am. Sunday morning Eucharist with supply priests or Morning Prayer at Calvary, followed by a coffee hour. Handicapped accessible. information: www.calvarychurchvt.weebly.com or 899-2326.

Summer Youth Leadership Programs

Two University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H programs designed to build leadership skills through fun, interactive activities will be offered this summer for youths ages 11 to 18.

Leader Ship and the 4-H LEAD Day Camp are part of a series of LEAD (Leaders Emerging and Developing) programs that help young people become better leaders through experiential learning, mentoring, collaboration and goal setting. These programs are open to both 4-H club members and non-4-H'ers.

Leader Ship takes place at the Community Sailing Center in Burlington with morning sessions on July 18, 20, 25 and 27. It is limited to 14 participants who will learn how to communicate and work as a team as they master sailing skills on Lake Champlain. Early Bird Registration is $160. The fee goes up to $170 after June 1 and to $180 after June 18. Registrations will be accepted online at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth until July 1.

4-H LEAD Day Camp will help young people develop leadership skills through team building and adventure activities including a low ropes course, high ropes course and climbing tower. It will be held on July 29 at the Aloha Foundation Middlebrook Campus in Fairlee and is limited to 30 participants. The fee is $65 if received by June 1, $75 until July 1 and $85 until July 21. Lunch is included.

Register at www.uvm.edu/extension/youth. Leadership, team building and communications skills and activities learned at this day camp will prepare students for the 4-H LEAD Weekend Camp to be held September 9-10. To request a disability-related accommodation for Leader Ship, contact Lauren Traister, UVM Extension 4-H Teen and Leadership Program coordinator, at (866) 260-5603, ext. 402 (toll-free in Vermont) by June 16. For the 4-H LEAD Day Camp, call by June 30.

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

It's 8 am on a chilly but sunny May morning, and a group is gathered in the parking lot at the Birds of Vermont Museum for a birding walk with Museum director Erin Talmadge. She's telling them about three new warblers that have arrived since their walk the week before. She shows photos of the birds and asks the group to tell what identifying marks they notice. Then she plays the birds' songs from an app on her phone.

When the mini lesson is over, the group heads across the road to the path that goes to the pond. They stop at key points to listen and look for birds. "Four birds are calling right now," says Talmadge at one point. "Can anyone identify them?" The birders listen intently. They scan the tree tops and branches, binoculars always at the ready. When the walk is over, most people head inside the museum for a hot cup of tea or coffee and conversation. All agree it's been a great morning to be outside enjoying nature.

The walks are scheduled through the end of May and will continue into June, if there's interest. Contact janevossler@gmail.com, if you'd like to participate.

The birding walks are only one of the many activities being offered this spring by the Community Senior Center. Check the Sunday night emails to see what's happening for the upcoming week. If you don't currently receive the email and would like to be on the mailing list, notify martha3@gmavt.net.

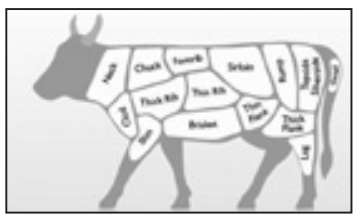
As spring bursts into full bloom, hiking and walking programs will resume as will croquet. Keep an eye out for the beginning of these and other warm weather activities.

—Jane Vossler

Church News now on previous page.

Service Directory

Automotive



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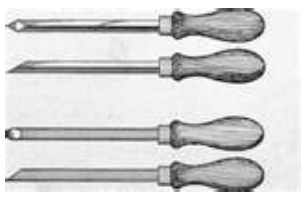

Catering

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Dental

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Fuel Sales & Service

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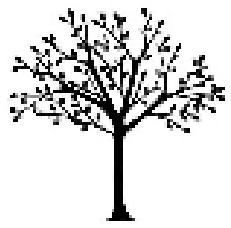
Hair Salon

Landscaping / Arborist



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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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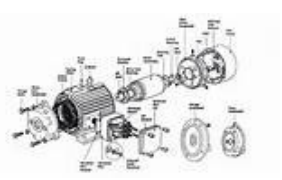

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Legal Services

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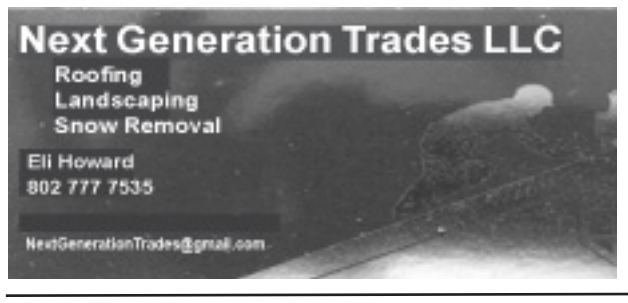

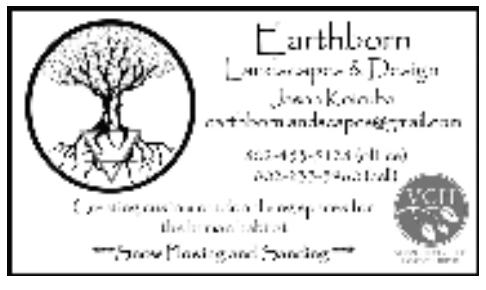

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Getting Back Her Eye

by Jane M. Vossler

Julie McGowan of Richmond recently returned from a trip to New Zealand with thirty-five other artists from around the world. She'd been invited to attend by the publishers of Plein Air magazine and Fine Arts Connoisseur. They spent ten days traveling to scenic places, doing sketches and starting paintings. She showed me several paintings that she'd begun there and brought home to finish. She explained that there had been "a semi-focus on hobbits," and they'd visited places where Lord of the Rings was filmed including Hobbiton complete with hobbit houses, which has become a hot spot for tourists.

Julie McGowan painting in New Zealand. Below, The Remarkables, a New Zealand landscape. Courtesy photos

One of McGowan's current goals is to finish twenty paintings that she either started in New Zealand or was inspired by during her travels. She's planning an exhibition of these landscape paintings called "Travels with Frodo: In Search of Middle Earth." She's also working on a landscape with a hobbit house to enter in a juried show, "Fantastical Landscapes," at Bryan Memorial Gallery in Jeffersonville.

McGowan said that from early childhood,"I knew that I would be an artist…I loved looking for beauty in my environment and translating it into drawings and paintings." She set off on that path but got waylaid by another career. Now she's retired and immersed at last in her love of doing art.

In college she majored in art and philosophy, specializing in Renaissance portraiture. She sold paintings to help pay her way through college. After graduation she was accepted at an art school in London. Her mother told her that art was not going to pay her bills and that she needed to do her graduate work in something practical. McGowan decided to heed her mother's advice and got a Masters in Library Science and a post Masters certificate in medical librarianship.

But she hadn't lost her passion for art and because she loved learning she got a second masters in art history "just for fun."

Later she got a PhD in medical education. This led her to a busy career and a long and impressive resume. Over the course of four decades, she held administrative and faculty positions in four different university schools of medicine, including the University of Vermont. She lectured, consulted, taught, administered research projects, published papers, and served as an associate dean at Indiana University School of Medicine. Throughout her career, Julie McGowan was a hard working, ambitious woman who competed in a world dominated by men.

She was way too busy to do art.

When she retired in 2001, she knew that she wanted to get back at last to art. But would she be able to "get her eye back" after all these years? What kind of art would she do? The world was wide open for anyone with a love of learning and a passion, and McGowan approached her new life with the same energy and enthusiasm that she'd approached her career.

Someone told her that if she wanted to sell her work in Vermont, she should do landscapes. So she bought some oils and did two landscapes but was totally dissatisfied with the results. She knew she needed to learn more. She liked the realistic landscapes of Vermont artist Andrew Orr, and she managed to do a private workshop with him She showed him her two paintings, and he gave her good suggestions for one of them. The other, she said, "he didn't even want to talk about because it was so bad."

"I learned so much from him," McGowan said. She went home and, using what she had learned from Orr, she redid the painting he'd declined to discuss. She sold it for $1500. Her painting career had been launched.

But McGowan still had a lot to learn. And learning was one of the things she did best; after all, she'd been learning her whole life as she moved from one job to another. She set out to make her own curriculum for becoming a better painter. She started with research, looking online for painters whose work she admired.

The first artist she found was Eric Koppel, a new Hudson River School artist who used many of the techniques of the original Hudson River School artists of the 19th century. She loved the look of his paintings, filled with light and depth. She discovered that he was doing a six-day workshop that summer and immediately signed up. "I learned a lot in those six days," she said.

Later she took classes with two other Hudson River School painters—one because she liked the way he painted waterfalls. She wanted to learn how he made the water tumble over the rocks and how he did the light on the water.

Most times she took a class, she bought a painting by that artist and then painted a different painting of her own using the skills she had learned. She took me on a tour of her house where many walls had paintings by one of her teachers hung beside her own painting done in the same style.

She wanted to learn how to make her paintings luminous or radiating with light. She took a class with Bill Davis, a preeminent luminosity artist. She learned how to make her sky, clouds, and water brilliant with light. There were definitely techniques she wanted to add to her repertoire.

And so she created her own style by taking what she considered the best from a number of artists. She took Andrew Orr's style of painting trees, the Hudson River School's landscapes with their great depth, and Bill Davis's luminous sky and water.

The result was Julie McGowan's own style.

McGowan paints every day—some days more than others. She always has several paintings going at a time. One of her goals is to enter every juried show at the Bryan Gallery in Jeffersonville. So far, she's accomplished that and usually sells the paintings that are hung in those shows. However, she sells most of her paintings at the Artisan's Gallery in Waitsfield where she works one day per week. There are a number of people who collect her work.

I asked her whether she planned to take more classes, and she said that it went without saying that she would continue to learn more about painting.

Another project that keeps her busy these days is preparing for a show at the Gruppe Gallery in Jericho next year. She's doing the show with Mary Claire Carroll, a photographer from Richmond. The theme is luministic landscapes in Vermont, scenes that radiate light. Carroll and McGowan have chosen twenty Vermont scenes that Carroll will photograph and McGowan will paint. McGowan has already finished some of the paintings including ones of Moss Glenn Falls, Camel's Hump, Mount Mansfield, and the Winooski River. Keep an eye out for this exciting show and McGowan's other upcoming exhibits.

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Town of Huntington

Notice of Public Hearing
HuntingtonTown Plan
Change to Village & Neighborhood Zoning District Maps
June 26, 2017 • 7 pm
Huntington Public Library

The Huntington Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Huntington Public Library, on Monday, June 26, 2017, at 7 pm to receive public comment on a proposed update to the Huntington Town Plan (adopted September 8, 2014). The geographic areas affected include the Village and Neighborhood Districts of Huntington Lower Village and Huntington Center. The two Village Districts are proposed to be expanded, in turn, causing the Neighborhood District(s) to be somewhat smaller. This is a change to Map A (details on Map B and Map C).

Copies of the maps and summary of the change are available for review at the Huntington Town Office at 4930 Main Road, and on the Town of Huntington website (www.huntingtonvt.com).

—Heidi Racht, Clerk
May 24, 2017

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Magical Thinking

"And that's the way it is."
—Walter Cronkite (1916-2009)

Multiple stories in the news lately contain the same theme: We are a nation of people who are masters of magical thinking.

Though the examples are endless, let's arbitrarily pick just a few and try to gain some understanding of this phenomenon. As we do so, perhaps we can inject a little reality into some of our fantastical thinking.

While we Americans are justifiably proud of our country for many reasons, we hold some beliefs that are not supported by the evidence.

For example, many believe that we are the happiest nation in the world. But according to the 2017 World Happiness Report, Norway is now the happiest country, followed closely by Denmark, Iceland, and Switzerland. The U.S. has dropped to 14th.

We repeatedly hear (especially from members of Congress) that we have the best medical care in the world. Not so. Not only are our health care costs "50 percent to 100 percent higher per capita than in other developed nations," but "overall U.S. health care is relatively mediocre, producing shorter life spans, higher infant mortality, and worse health overall than the systems in such countries as the U.K., Switzerland, Canada, Australia, and Sweden." NPR has just recently reported that we have "the worst rate of maternal deaths in the developed world."

Gun deaths, car accidents, and drug overdoses are responsible for most of our fewer years of life, with guns killing over 33,000 people a year in suicides, homicides, and accidents. We are terrified of immigrants and terrorism, but ignore real dangers that pose far greater risks to our lives and health.

In spite of (or because of) our thriving pharmaceutical companies, Americans are more prone to anxiety than citizens in any other nation with "five times the anxiety rate among people in Third World nations."(The Atlantic) We also have higher rates of mental illness. And the United States has the highest percentage of its citizens who are incarcerated.

These facts indicate that we are easily confused between what we perceive and what we only imagine. So how do we come to believe something? We seize evidence that appears to support what we want to believe, a pattern that originates in infantile omnipotence. All babies believe that thinking something makes it so, and this is the essence of magical thinking. If they think something delightful, it delights them, and if they think something horrible, they feel horrible. The infant blocks out evidence that contradicts what he feels. As we develop our mental functioning, including reality testing, we are better able to distinguish between hallucinations and perceptions.

Technically speaking, reality testing allows us to tell the difference between an "idea" of something satisfying and the conscious awareness of the satisfying thing. It's a mental device that develops so that we can discriminate between things external and things that are internal, what's real in the outside world and what's a wish we've created to satisfy some emotional need.

A few facts:

- It is no longer possible for people to achieve success by simply pulling themselves up by their bootstraps.
- The planet has a finite supply of resources.
- Global warming is real.
- Wishful thinking will not change reality.

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

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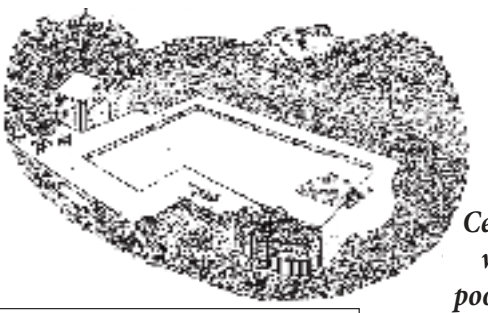

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Morning Lessons	Afternoon Lessons
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11 - 11:45 am	2:15 - 3 pm
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	3 - 3:45 pm
	3:45 - 4:30 pm
	4:30 - 5:15 pm
	5:15 - 6 pm

Lap swims and special classes 12:30-1:30 pm.

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