The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

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Land Deal Tops Richmond Ballot

by Greg Elias

The ballot is bereft of contests, but Richmond residents will decide if the town should buy pristine land that offers hiking trails and other recreational opportunities.

Voters on Town Meeting Day will be asked to authorize spending $125,000 for the 428-acre Andrews Forestland, located off Route 2 on the eastern end of Richmond.

That item headlines a March 7 ballot that otherwise includes just uncontested candidates for two Selectboard seats and other elected boards. At the annual town meeting the same day, a vote on a proposed $3.5 million municipal budget is the only major agenda item.

The proposed forest acquisition has roots in years of discussions among the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and members of the Andrews family, Robert Heiser, VLT's Champlain Valley regional director, told the Selectboard last fall. The organization previously worked with the family to conserve 187 acres of farmland.

Now VLT has a purchase option on the forested portion of the family's holdings. It wants to facilitate transfer of that parcel to the town of Richmond.

The idea is that the town would preserve the undeveloped land, which includes a trail that could connect to others in Richmond. The organization does not want to own the land itself, although VLT will raise money to cover the balance of the $450,000 purchase.

Vermont Land Trust has applied for a $256,000 federal grant, Heiser said in an email. The organization plans to pursue other grants.

So if voters approve the expenditure, Richmond could get the land at a fraction of its appraised value. But that seemingly great deal comes with at least one downside, the loss of current and future property tax revenue.

The total annual property tax bill for the parcel is about $6,318, according to figures provided by Heiser.

Not all of that money will be subtracted from municipal and school property tax revenue, Heiser said. The property is enrolled in the state's current use program that reduces taxes on conserved properties, so the state reimburses the town for a portion of municipal taxes. Schools are funded in part by the state, he noted, so local taxpayers will not have to cover all the forgone education property taxes.

Heiser calculated that annual property tax bill for a $250,000 house would have to rise by $1 to replace the lost revenue.

Richmond's $125,000 contribution toward the deal would come from the town's Conservation Fund. Money for the fund, which currently contains $263,919, was generated by adding a penny to the property tax rate. Voters authorized the fund in 2005 to acquire land that preserves the environment and provides outdoor recreation.

Heiser said he expects to know about the grants by late spring or early summer. If the funding comes together, the Vermont Land Trust will assign its purchase option to the town of Richmond, which will complete the sale with the Andrews family.

That option must be exercised by the end of this year, Heiser said, and closing on the land must follow within 90 days.

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Huntington to Review Town Forest Survey Results

In 1984, the Town of Huntington received a gift of 100 acres, which became known as the Huntington Town Forest. The property is next to the Camel's Hump State forest and abuts other privately owned property. The town of Huntington acquired the parcel in 1984.

Ongoing discussion at its meetings about Huntington's Town Forest prompted the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) to hold a public meeting last spring. Of the residents who attended the meeting, the opinions covered a wide range for what the town should and should not do with the land-locked property. The town forest is accessible during the winter through ski trails. The Camels Hump Nordic Ski Association and Catamount Trail maintain these trails.

At the hearing last spring, points were raised about the accessibility through private property in the milder months; whether to sell this property to purchase another, as yet unidentified, property with access to the Huntington River; keep this 100-acre parcel and also acquire another parcel. Participants at the meeting held up the Hinesburg Town Forest as a model.

In November, the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) asked community members to complete an online survey or printed copy of survey located at various locations in town. The purpose of the survey was to find out how the townspeople feel about town forests in general, and specifically the Huntington Town Forest. The HCC received 153 responses to the survey - about 23% of Huntington households. About half (54%) of those that responded knew the location of the town forest. Twenty-six percent of respondents had used the forest. The survey also asked residents about the importance of possible uses for any town forest. The majority felt conservation (58%), wildlife (67%) and ecology (53%) were extremely important. Many respondents noted river access (43%) and education activities and workshops (42%) as very important. Twenty percent of the respondents made additional comments on the

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Town Meeting Day is March 7

Richmond

CAMELS HUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 7 am to 7 pm

Town Meeting: 9 am

Doughnuts & Coffee: Coffee and homemade doughnuts available in the morning, beginning at 7 am.

Lunch: Pastries, sandwiches, soups, provided by Beacon Light Grange, after meeting. Nominal fee.

Huntington

BREWSTER-PIERCE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 6:30 am to 7 pm

School Meeting: 9 am

Town Meeting: following school meeting

Bake Sale: Sweet rolls and coffee in the morning. Bake sale beginning mid-morning to benefit Boy Scout Troop & Cab Pack 645.

Lunch: Traditional covered dish lunch with fresh bread to benefit the Hot Lunch Program and Community Church of Huntington. $7 adults; $4 under 12 years.

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Letters

Vote Yes on Andrews Forestlands Purchase

On Town Meeting Day we (the Town of Richmond) will be presented with an option to purchase the Andrews Farm Forestland property. This proposal represents a once in a generation opportunity for the town of Richmond. This 428-acre parcel includes a structure, the family homestead which is listed on the National Register of Historic places, a pre-existing trail network including access for recreational snowmobilers and hiking. The land itself is ecologically rich as part of an area of undisturbed wildlife cover which the State of Vermont considers amongst its most important habitat blocks. It is home to three different vernal pools and the headwaters of multiple creeks and streams bisect the property.

It is worth noting that this option is a trigger contingent on the rest of the funding coming from other sources. The $125k that the town would authorize will leverage Federal grants and private fundraising. If Vermont Land Trust (VLT) falls short of meeting its fundraising targets, the town is held blameless. But if they reach their fundraising goal the town will inherit an incredible asset. The parcel's proximity to Burlington/Montpelier means that it's possible the town could enjoy financial spillover as day trippers come into Richmond and frequent local businesses. Moreover, this property is a working forest with a management plan. Activities like controlled harvesting of timbers provide similarly-sized and situated communities with a positive income stream, this parcel has been managed for many, many years and would continue to be managed should the move forward with this agreement, as such; this income stream could help provide some small measure of tax relief in a community already too dependent on the residential property tax to sustain town government.

I am supporting this proposal because I believe it represents great value for the town and encourage each of you to do the same. Absentee balloting has begun, and you can vote anytime at the town's clerk's office. Town Meeting Day will be March 7, 2017 and the polls will be open from 7 am-7 pm.

—*Steve May*, Member-Richmond Selectboard

Huntington Outdoor Classroom

Re: A Community Works Together: Creating the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School (BPMS) Outdoor Classroom by Jane M. Vossler

Thank you for publishing the wonderfully written article about the BPMS Outdoor Classroom. It really captures the essence of how outdoor education deepens learning, piques curiosity, and not to mention simply gets us all outside a little more! I want to be sure to recognize the important role that our community as a whole has played in making this initiative a success. Adjacent land owners have been very welcoming, many families have donated their time and other resources, we've had school-wide staff support, and Audubon Vermont has been incredibly committed to working with Brewster-Pierce through grant funding support, staffing, curriculum development, and more.

It's so great to live in a community where our businesses, non-profitsorganizations, families and schools all work together for the good of the next generation.

—*Kasie Enman*, Huntington

Paul Susen, Huntington School Board Candidate, 3 yrs.

My wife, Sheila, and I moved to Huntington in the Fall of 2011, from Connecticut. After receiving the BA in Experimental Psychology from Franklin and Marshall College (Lancaster, Pennsylvania) and the Masters and PhD in Cognitive Psychology from the University of Kentucky (Lexington, Kentucky), my professional career has been in Higher Education, as a faculty member and administrator, in universities and community colleges in West Virginia, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

My interest in the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School Board in 2014 stemmed from my background in Psychology and Child Development and was triggered in a significant way by the merger discussion. After the merger vote in Huntington failed in November, 2014, two vacancies occurred on the School Board. I interviewed and was selected to serve in a three-month interim position until the March 2015 town meeting at which time Huntington voters selected me to serve the balance of a three-year term until March 2017. As a member of the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School Board, I was also appointed to serve on the Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) Finance Committee and the CESU Collective Bargaining Negotiating Committee.

After considerable thought, I decided to run again as a candidate for Director of the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School Board for the three-year term from 2017 to 2020. Within a reasonable budget, I very much want to continue to support the positive, stimulating and caring educational environment created by the teachers, Principal and staff at the school. Given the continuing challenges presented by Act 46, the changing federal landscape, and the need to always be aware of the tax implications of every major decision we make, I believe that I can contribute to the success of the school as one of five members on the school board. My wife and I feel fortunate to live in a community which is sincerely interested in the very best education every child Pre-kindergarten-4 can receive at Brewster-Pierce.

—*Paul Susen*, Huntington

[Editor's Note: All candidates were invited to submit letters of introduction. Paul Susen responded.]

News from CHMS

Winter is finally here! Some cold temperatures have afforded students and families the opportunity to skate on the school's rink while the new snow accumulation has been fantastic for sliding, skiing and riding. Recreational activities and academic exploration abound for students at Camels Hump Middle School (CHMS).

On February 10, students at CHMS participated in a day of scribing for Vermont Writes Day. Hosted by Young Writers Project, writers from all across Vermont (and elsewhere), of all ages and writing styles, congregated together during the day and at youngwritersproject.org to share their ideas, words, and stories.

Teachers at Camels Hump Middle School have been working to develop a deeper understanding of math fractional reasoning. They are unpacking the research around how to connect operations with whole numbers to operations with fractions. They are developing these understandings through the use of visual models (like area models and number lines). By using a visual model, learners are developing more efficient strategies to operate with fractions that will then lead

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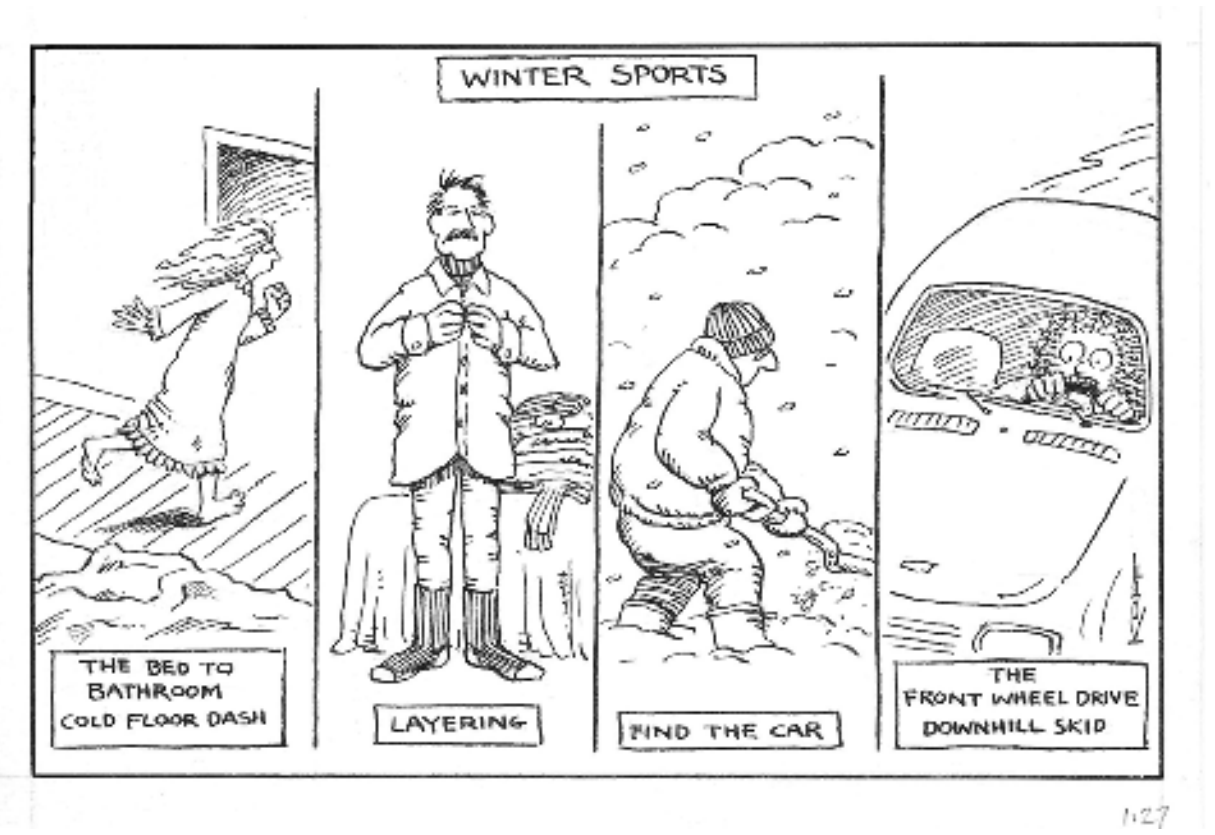


Vermont Weather with John Hadden

Morning sunlight backlights a bit of snow on apple branches. Photo: John Hadden

On March 1 at 1:30 at the Richmond Free Library, John Hadden will present Vermont Weather. John Hadden has been an amateur weather "enthusiast" for close to 30 years. He observes the weather and collects data at his home in Huntington, and publishes his East Street Weather Blog daily. Along with morning observations of temperature, and precipitation, the blog includes an Almanac of weather history, a Sky Notes section, and a daily photo taken near his home. Hadden will be sharing his love of the natural world and discussing the peculiarities of Vermont weather, as well as showing several of his favorite photos. This event is sponsored by the Community Senior Center.

Richmond Food Shelf Extends Welcome to All

The Richmond Food Shelf is committed to ensuring that every person in our service area has the food they need to reach their human potential. Those with the courage to ask for help must trust that the Richmond Food Shelf cares only about their human potential. Making that personal, trusting connection means that anyone—regardless of national origin, race, gender, culture, age, income level, disability or any other attribute—should feel the place they access food assistance is open, diverse and welcoming. In response to the current social and political climate, including the President's recent Executive Order on immigration, the Richmond Food Shelf wants every individual in need of food assistance to be assured that they are welcome to access the food and services we provide without concern for their safety or privacy.

As a member of the Vermont Foodbank, the state's largest hunger relief organization, the Richmond Food Shelf has joined together with other Foodbank member organizations to commit to treat our neighbors with dignity and respect. Any information collected is used only to provide better service to our neighbors. Food is a basic human right, and the Richmond Food Shelf is a sanctuary for those seeking to exercise that right.

The Richmond Food Shelf is located at 58 Bridge Street, across from TDBank. Our hours are: Tues 10-4 Wed 1-4 Thurs 10-6 Fri 10-4 Sat 10-1 Our website: richmondfoodshelfvt@gmavt.net In addition, a listing and locator of local food shelves can be found at https://www.vtfoodbank.org/agency-locator

Huntington Pancake Breakfast & Annual Sugar Makers Tour

Huntington Sugar Makers Open House photo, courtesy of Aaron Worthley

The sweet aroma of maple will be in the air in Huntington on Saturday, March 25, when maple lovers can join friends and neighbors for Huntington's Annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast (8 am to 11 am) and then visit local sugar makers for the 23rd Annual Huntington Sugar Makers' Open House (11 am to 3 pm), sponsored by the Huntington Conservation Commission.

The events will be held regardless of the weather and visitors can sample this year's crop and enjoy a variety of free maple treats. Weather permitting, sugar makers from one end of town to the other will be boiling that day. A variety of delicious maple products will also be available for purchase. Huntington boasts over 45,000 taps, situated in a mix of retail and private operations ranging from 600 taps to 17,000 taps.

The cost for the Pancake Breakfast is $7 for 13 and over, $5. for four – 12 years old, and $3 for under the age of four. The breakfast will feature all-you-can eat pancakes, fresh local maple syrup and tasty bacon and sausage from Vermont Smoke and Cure, complemented with fresh fruit, juice and endless coffee. The meal benefits Huntington Boy Scout Troop 645 and Huntington Cub Pack 645,

Maps with directions to participating sugar makers will be available at Huntington Town Meeting, Beaudry's Store, the Huntington Town Clerk's Office or online at www.huntingtonvt.org in March. The Sugar Makers' Open House is free of charge.

Cochran's to Host Nordic Cross Country Challenge

Photo, courtesy of Pennie Rand

The first Nordic Ski Cross Event in New England, since 2014 will be held on April 2, at Cochran's Ski Area.

• A festive and competitive citizens Nordic Ski Cross Race for all ages. Hilarious, challenging and loads of fun!

• Uphill, downhill, slalom gates, jumps, and obstacles, all on one pair of skis.

• Spectator friendly. Don't want to race? Come watch and bring the whole family!!!

• Free pancake feast with hot Slopeside Syrup for all competitors.

• Interval start. Seeding based on ability, age and sex. Shorter course for kids, 12 years and under.

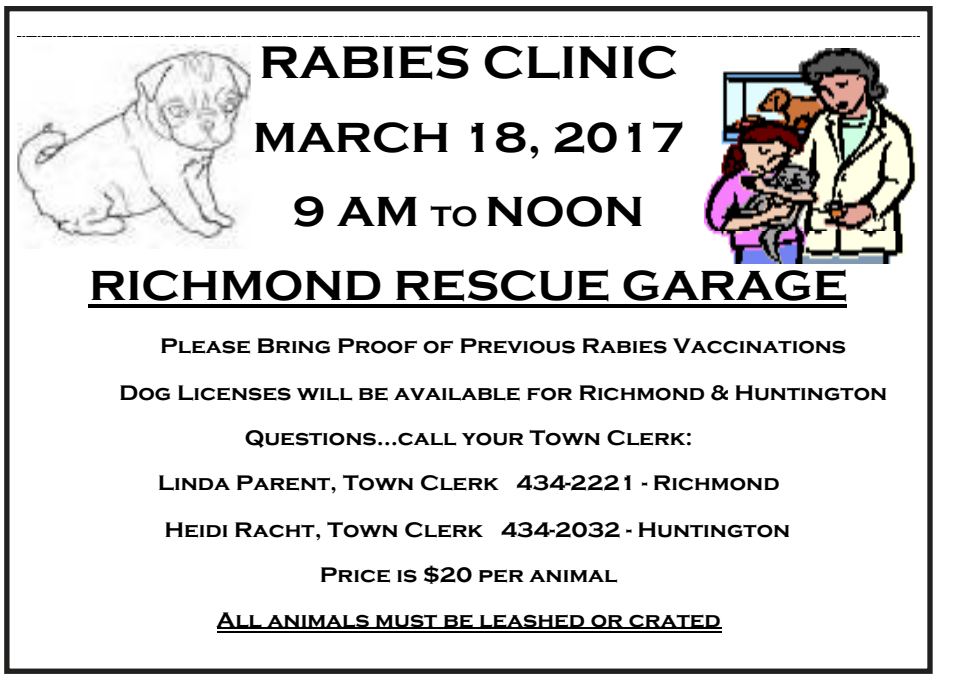
• Prizes for top three in all age categories.

• Cost: Kids $20 (12 & under), Adults $30, Family $60 (family of 4), Early registration deadline, March 30 Day of race fee $40.

• Registration on-line: Go to www.cochranskiarea.com

• Start Time: 11 am Kids & 12:30 pm Adults

For more information contact: Jimmy Cochran at manager@cochranskiarea.com 802-310-6500 or Pennie Rand at mrand@gmavt.net 802-373-7204.



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Special Fun During School Break

We have lots of special events coming up over the school break (February 27 through March 7). Check out the list below and please join us for a movie, coloring, or a reading session with Tippy the dog!

Matinee Monday. The Jungle Book (2016 release) based on the book by Rudyard Kipling. Rated PG. All ages. Monday, February 27, at 4 pm.

Baby Laptime. Infants, toddlers and caregivers. Songs, stories, bounces, rhymes and finger plays with Wendy. Every Monday at 10:30 am.

Love Your Library Video Workshop. Ages 10—14. This hands-on, free workshop will guide participants through the process of planning, filming and starring in a short, library-themed video. Monday, February 27, and Tuesday, February 28, from 9 am to noon. Workshop is full, but contact us to be added to the waitlist.

Lego Challenge. Ages 4-12. We'll supply the Legos, the challenge and the prizes. Kids supply the ideas, dexterity and ingenuity. Wednesday, March 1, at 1 pm.

Adult & Teen Coloring. Ages 14 and above. We'll supply the pens, pencils and coloring pages as well as the soft music and hot tea or cocoa. Wednesday, March 1, at 6:30 pm.

Read to a Dog (Tippy). Ages 5-10. Sign up for 15 minutes with Tippy, a friendly, cute and patient therapy dog who loves anyone who will read him part of their favorite story. Sessions are private. Thursday, March 2, from 1 – 3 pm.

Early Bird Math. Young children and caregivers. A fun, interactive storytime highlighting early math concepts through stories, songs and games. Every Friday at 11 am.

Matinee Monday. Pete's Dragon (2016 release) is a remake of the 1977 Walt Disney animated musical about a boy and his best friend, a dragon who can turn invisible. Rated PG. All ages. Monday, March 6, at 4 pm.

March Display Case Rick Burns will share his red-hot match book collection featuring match books from everywhere, some of them dating back (almost) to the time of the cave-dwellers.

March Gallery Our March art show will feature the photography of Richmond resident Stephanie Menard. Her photos show children and animals in their natural habitats around the world.

Book Discussion Group This Must be the Place by Maggie O'Farrell, Tuesday, March 14, 6 pm. The dazzling new novel from bestselling, award-winning author Maggie O'Farrell, This Must be the Place crosses time zones and continents to reveal an extraordinary portrait of a marriage.

Mystery Book Club Discussion Group Invisible City by Julia Dahl, Thursday, March 16, 7 pm. A finalist for the Edgar and Mary Higgins Clark Awards, in her riveting debut Invisible City, journalist Julia Dahl introduces a compelling new character in search of the truth about a murder and an understanding of her own heritage.

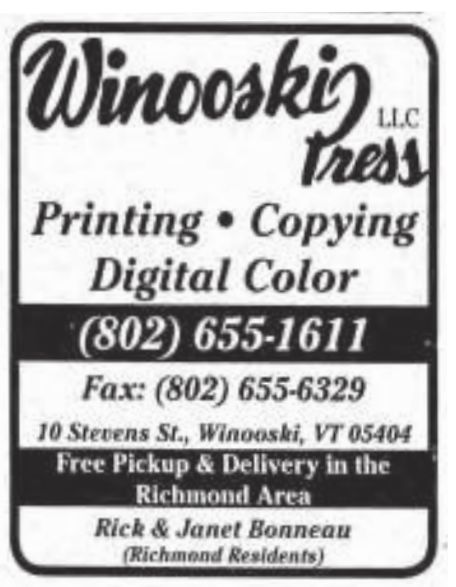
Tax Return Help Volunteer tax preparers are volunteering their time on Mondays to help people file their tax returns. First established by AARP, this is meant not only for seniors but for anyone else with limited means. Some slots are still available. Call the Library for details or to make an appointment. The last day for tax filing with the volunteers is April 10.

New Playaways We just added many new youth Playaway devices to our collection. These handy all-in-one audio devices let each of the squirmy children in your backseat listen to their own story at their own speed. The devices are easy enough for elementary-aged children to operate without assistance and come with batteries installed. Find them upstairs in the picture book room.

New DVDs Walk in the Woods (w/ Robert Redford), Under The Shadow (w/ Narges Rashidi), Kubo and the Two Strings (voice by Charlize Theron), The Wind Rises (voice by Joseph Gordon-Levitt), Arrival (w/ Amy Adams), Shetland (season 3).

New Adult Fiction Autumn by Ali Smith, Behind the Throne by KB Wagers, Borderline by Mishell Baker, Dukes Prefer Blondes by Loretta Chase, Every Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire, The Girl in Green by Derek Miller, I Almost Forgot about You by Terry McMillan, Loving Eleanor by Susan Wittig Albert, Manitou Canyon by William Kent Krueger. The One Man by Andrew Gross, The Patriots by Sana Krasikov, Recluce Tales: Stories from the World of Recluce by L.E. Modesitt, The Second Life of Nick Mason by Steve Hamilton, To the Bright Edge of the World by Ivey Eowyn, Two Days Gone by Randall Silvis, The White Mirror: A Mystery by Elsa Hart.

Adult NonFiction Art of the Pie: A Practical Guide to Homemade Crusts, Fillings, and Life by Kate McDermott, The Best American Nonrequired Reading 2016, Rachel Kushner (ed), Blood at the Root: A Racial Cleansing in America by Patrick Phillips, Economism: Bad Economics and the Rise of Inequality by James Kwak, Epic Bike Rides of the World, March (Trilogy) by John Lewis, Remaking the American Patient: How Madison Avenue and Modern Medicine Turned Patients Into Consumers by Nancy Tomes, The Rise and Fall of Nations: Forces of Change in the Post-Crisis World by Ruchir Sharma, Rodale's 21st-Century Herbal: A Practical Guide for Healthy Living Using Nature's Most Powerful Plants, Snowball in a Blizzard: A Physician's Notes on Uncertainty in Medicine by Steven Hatch, The Unbanking of America: How the New Middle Class Survives by Lisa Servon, Victory Gardens for Bees: A DIY Guide to Saving the Bees by Lori Weidenhammer.



Huntington Public Library

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hpl@gmavt net

Current Art Exhibit The featured artist this season is local watercolor artist, Terry Boyle. Terry has a gift with light and shadows on rural scenes. Please come see the beautiful exhibit, which will be shown through February.

Planet Huntington Planet Huntington returns to the Huntington Public Library on Sunday, February 26, at 5:30 pm. Come experience what it is like to ride camels in the Sahara Desert, hike in the Atlas Mountains, visit the ancient walled city of Fez (800 AD), or a Moroccan Haman as Don Dresser, Barb Winters, and Nancy Stoddard tell you all about their adventures in Morocco.

Kids Pop-Up Book Making with Aurora All elementary aged children are invited to come learn how to make your own animal pop-up book or card during winter break with local artist, Aurora! All materials will be provided. Friday, March 3, at 1 pm.

Citizen Scientist Program Please join us on Friday evening, March 31, 6 pm, for snacks and desserts, and 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm for the program. This is our second Citizen Science program. Please remember that we are a Zero Waste venue (see below).

Citizen Scientists are members of the general public who voluntarily contribute time, energy, and resources as part of collaborative projects with professional scientists. CitSci enables research to occur on a large geographic scale over time in ways that individual scientists are unable to duplicate. The scope of opportunity is vast – biology, literature, history, language, nature, medicine, art, physics, social services, climate and space! Our program will feature examples and projects based in the natural world. You'll find out what your friends and neighbors do when heading outdoors. Come with or without your device and learn how to get started on submitting data or just enjoy learning about local and global efforts to understand our world. Teens and adults are welcome. Contact the Library for more information.

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

Story Walk Come walk through the Library to read our newest Story Walk! The story is No Two Alike by Keith Baker. Visit the Library to learn more about Story Walks!

New Adult Fiction Never Never by James Patterson; The Perfect Girl by Gilly Macmillan; The Sellout by Paul Beatty; Death Wave by Ben Bova; The Air We Breathe by Andrea Barrett; The Line by J.D. Horn.

Adult Non-Fiction 10% Human – How Your Body's Microbes Hold the Key to Health and Happiness by Alanna Collen; The Hidden Life of Owls – The Science and Spirit of Nature's Most Elusive Birds by Leigh Calvez; Deer Resistant Landscaping – Proven Advice and Strategies for Outwitting Deer and 20 Other Pesky Mammals by Neil Soderstrom; Packing for Mars – The Curious Science of Life in the Void by Andrea Barrett; The Man Who Planted Trees – A Story of Lost Groves, The Science of Trees and a Plan to Save the Planet by Tom Robbins; The Book of Joy by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams; Grit – The Power of Passion and Perserverance by Angela Duckworth; The French Market – More Recipes From a French Kitchen by Joanne Harris and Fran Warde; The Princess Diaries by Carrie Fisher.

Adult DVDs Indian Summers – The Complete First Season; Poldark – The Complete First Season; The Durrells in Corfu – The Complete First Season; Bewitched.

Children's Picture Books Fairy Houses All Year by Liza Gardener Walsh; Take Heart My Child by Ainsley Earhardt; Monarch and Milkweed by Helen Frost; Hotel Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins; A Hat for Minerva Louise by Janet Morgan Stoeke; Bunny Slopes by Claudia Rueda; They All Saw A Cat by Brendan Wenzel; Sleep Tight Farm by Eugenie Doyle; Perros! Perros! Dogs! Dogs! - A Story in English and Spanish by Ginger Foglesong Guy; Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman; Demolition by Sally Sutton; The Construction Crew by Lynn Meltzer; Are You Sure Mother Bear? by Amy Hest; Alphonse, That Is Not OK To Do by Daisy Hirst; In My Heart – A Book of Feelings by Jo Witek; Maple and Willow Apart, Maple and Willow's Christmas Tree and Maple and Willow Together by Lori Nichols; Sweet Pea and Friends – Brave Little Finn by John and Jennifer Churchman; Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn by Kendard Pak; The Invisible Boy by Patrice Barton; Daddy Hugs by Nancy Tafuri; Feathers for Peacock by Jacqueline Jules; Madeline Finn and the Library Dog by Lisa Papp.

Junior Non-Fiction Horse Crazy – 1001 Fun Facts, Craft Projects, Games, Activities and Know-How for Horse-Loving Kids by Jesse Haas; A Child's Introduction to Natural History – The Story of Our Living Earth by Heather Alexander.

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10:15 – noon. The playgroup aims to provide a welcoming, fun, and social environment for babies and toddlers with their caregivers. Sponsored by Building Brighter Futures. For more information contact Jen O'Hora at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Story Time Fridays, 10:45 am Join for preliteracy skills with books, singing, rhyming, counting, and crafts!

Book Sale A variety of adult and children's books are for sale in the lobby. Cozy up on a chilly day with a good book!

Movie Night The next First Friday Movie Night will be on Friday, March 3, at 7 pm. We will be watching Trolls!

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June 19th-23rd
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Intermediate Ballet Camp Pointe Prep 1-4 pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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August 21st No Camps
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Regular Dance Classes Start September 5th

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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Richmond has made it a little easier for homeowners to rent a room. The Selectboard, at its February 6 session, loosened rules governing accessory apartments.

Commonly called in-law apartments, such dwellings are often an issue for municipalities, which sometimes prohibit or restrict renting portions of single-family homes. But those rules are generally not enforced strictly or at all as owners quietly rent basements and other parts of their homes to help pay bills.

Richmond's zoning had mandated that accessory apartments comprise no more than 30 percent of a home's total square footage. That meant an apartment in a 2,000-square-foot home could be no larger than 600 square feet, a small rental by rural Vermont standards.

The Planning Commission received a request last summer to allow larger apartments. Commissioners held a public hearing on the issue and an amendment to the existing zoning was proposed. The change considered by the Selectboard increased the allowable size to 75 percent of the floor area of a single-family dwelling, or 1,000 square feet, whichever is smaller.

The Selectboard also discussed whether or not to change another part of the ordinance that requires owners to occupy either the principal residence or the accessory apartment. In a memo, Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik said sometimes a homeowner will sell a property, and then the new owner rents both the home and accessory dwelling. That poses an enforcement problem.

"The zoning office finds it nearly impossible to track this type of situation," he wrote, "thus accessory apartments become illegal, but eventually over time become an unintended, grandfathered use (after 15 years according to case law)."

But the proposed amendment did not change the owner occupancy requirement. Selectboard Chairwoman Ellen Kane noted that the current rule provides a grace period, giving occupants a year to continue living in their apartment after an ownership change.

Board members spent little time further discussing the issue. They voted 4-0 to approve the change allowing larger in-law apartments.

More on Housing The Selectboard considered a related issue: affordable housing. But Board members only vaguely addressed the topic, deferring action until later in the process of revising the town plan.

Richmond Town Planner Clare Rock wrote a lengthy memo that exhaustively outlined the issue.

The memo states that most of the town's newer single-family houses were constructed during a growth spurt between 1960 and 1980. Early on in that period, Interstate 89 was constructed and the IBM plant in neighboring Essex Junction opened, spurring growth in Richmond and elsewhere in Chittenden County.

But since then, Rock noted, population growth in Richmond has nearly come to a standstill. Housing starts over the past few decades have showed a corresponding slowdown.

Most of the newer houses have been built outside of the village center in subdivisions such as Hidden Pines and Southview. Some 73 percent of the town's housing is now single-family houses; just 16 percent of residential buildings are apartments and duplexes.

Rock told the Selectboard that Richmond's main problem is a lack of housing diversity. A related issue is Richmond's aging population. This leads to a stagnant demographic and a shortage of apartments and less expensive housing for adults just starting out.

"I think it's pretty safe to say we have an absence of affordable housing," she said. Houses are usually priced above what is considered affordable for people earning the state's median income.

Kane said it appears there is also little turnover among the more affordable houses. She said the choices tend to gravitate toward two extremes: houses selling in the $200,000s, and houses priced over $400,000, with few choices between.

Board member Bard Hill noted that affordability includes factors other than purchase price. Houses in outlying areas far away from shopping and public transit, for example, drive up transportation costs for their owners.

Rock said younger people increasingly want to live closer to amenities, in downtown areas rather than outlying subdivisions. And older empty nesters want to downsize. Richmond offers little for these groups.

But high infrastructure costs, such as streets and utilities that must be installed in new subdivisions, appear to rule out affordable housing, Rock said. She pointed to a state study found that the cost of building a new house is now about $300,000. Subsidizing infrastructure expenses with low-cost loans for developers, she said, can help overcome this problem.

Former Selectboard member Mary Houle noted that much of the town is off-limits for developers because it is in the floodplain. And the availability of land is further restricted by the fact that some 16 percent of all land in Richmond is permanently conserved.

Selectboard member Lincoln Bressor said such open land is "a really great resource for the town."

Houle retorted, "It pulls people in, but then they have to go home because there's no place to stay."

Kane noted that affordable housing has come up often during discussion of the new town plan, "where it was a priority." She and other Selectboard member thought it made sense to delay any action until the plan is closer to completion.

Huntington Town Forest

continued from pager 1

survey. The HCC plans to review these comments at the next meeting.

The HCC will develop recommendations concerning the future of the Huntington Town Forest in the coming months for the Selectboard to consider. These recommendations will incorporate the findings of the survey and the public forum held April 28, 2016. Huntington residents are encouraged to stay engaged throughout this process. The HCC welcomes participation and public comments at its monthly meetings. The next HCC meeting is February 23, 7 pm, at the Huntington Public Library.

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard meeting on January 16, 2017, began with a visit from Vermont Legislators. State Senators Claire Ayer and Chris Bray, along with Representatives Tom Stevens and Theresa Wood joined Board members for a discussion of issues affecting the Town. Each legislator gave a summary of his or her recent committee work.

Ayer, Chair of the Health and Welfare Committee, began with an overview of healthcare issues, telling the Board her Committee is "Taking a good look at the mental health system, [which is] not working out right now." Wood, member of the Human Services Committee, said "One of the big things is digging into the blue ribbon childcare report, [figuring out] how to sustain high quality child care." Wood also mentioned ongoing work implementing recommendations for quality foster care acknowledging the need for better relationships with foster parents. Stevens, Vice Chair of the General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee, spoke of the committee's focus on affordable housing. "We recognized that there is a gap between what Vermont employers pay and what a new house costs. There is a gap between what people can afford and what the housing market is." Stevens asked, "How can we help builders build infrastructure that provides housing that is affordable? Housing is so important for the economy." Bray, Chair of the Natural Resources and Energy Committee, referred to the committee's focus on the Clean Water Act (Act 64). "[We are] focused on oversight and due diligence. We have to clean up large waterways in Vermont, phosphorus and nitrogen, we want to make sure we get the program running well. We need a lot of money to implement the plan, looking for a sustainable way to raise the money for the long haul. The motto is 'everybody in', municipalities, and farms. A carbon tax is something we need to look at, the way we use fossil fuels is not healthy for us but Vermont is not going to jump in and solve this problem on its own. I'd like to know how the energy plan is gong in Huntington," Bray added.

Board Chair Dori Barton responded, "A resident recently asked about bringing 3 phase power to Huntington, which may bring in things we might not want." Dave Clark, of the Energy Committee, continued, "[Some residents are] looking into community solar arrays, usually about an acre of solar panels and these people need 3 phase power." Bray replied, "People are very sensitive to any change in the landscape." Bray told the Board there is technical assistance for Town energy plans. Clark told him "The town does not have an energy plan."

Board member Nancy Stoddard, referring to upcoming bill H.42, authorizing municipal legislative bodies to appoint town treasurers and clerks asked, "Could a treasurer be appointed instead of elected? Having that option might be nice." Board members emphasized the unique skill set required by a Town Treasurer. Board member Roman Livak commented, "A layperson could no longer run [for Treasurer] with more regulation from Montpelier." Town Clerk Heidi Racht expressed concerns that appointment rather than election of the Town Clerk would eliminate the separation between the Selectboard and the Town Clerk's office.

Bray shared some information about Cellular phone service. The company CoverageCo, which had Huntington on its list for the installation of cellular base stations, is experiencing difficulties with its business model, reported Bray. Stevens mentioned Huntington's PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) will be increased by $8,474 in Fiscal Year (FY) 21.

Town Meeting Preparations The Board looked at suggestions from the Town Auditors about the General Fund narrative and spreadsheet for the Town Report. Human Resources (HR) Subcommittee Chair Stoddard will explain the process used for salary increases greater than cost of living, including the performance review evaluation form. The Board gave approval of the financial reports for the Annual report, looking at the most recent copy of General Fund and Capital Plan. The Board requested the narrative and the financial spreadsheets prepared by Town Treasurer Kathleen Clark be sent to the Town Auditors. The Board praised Town Administrator Barbara Elliott and Clark for their efforts in preparing the financial reports. The Board signed the warning for 10 Town Meeting Articles, which have been reviewed and approved by the Auditors.

Police Coverage Hendrickson and Elliott reported meeting with Richmond Police Chief Alan Buck regarding supplemental traffic enforcement, at a rate of $45 hour, including mileage. The Richmond Police Department is not interested in less than three hours a week or more than 10 hours a week of coverage. The Board reviewed the Vermont State Police (VSP) 2016 crime report. Board member Chris Norris suggested requesting the VSP for data illustrating trends over the years, "Especially if we are going to spend money on extra enforcement we could track changes."

Act 64 To begin the Huntington Selectboard meeting February 6, 2017, Darlene Palola, Huntington's representative to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) Clean Water Advisory Committee updated the Board on Act 64 implementation plans. The clean water permit as part of the Vermont Clean Water Act requires towns to have road erosion inventories by July 2018. New inventories and implementation plans will be due every 5 years. Palola shared the schedule for the Municipal Road General Permit (MRGP) process. Palola divulged the State Treasurer's estimate of $2.3 billion to carry out Act 64 over 20 years is considered too low by many officials. An agreement on a viable funding mechanism has yet to be established, but there is consensus that "everybody has to pay their fair share, and the nexus of the issue is to reduce phosphorus," stated Palola. Legislation to establish a regenerative agricultural certification program is being considered. Livak commented, "We want to promote agriculture yet it becomes more expensive." Norris countered, "What we are looking to is a more sustainable form of agriculture." Barton requested Palola to keep the Board apprised of deadlines and opportunities.

Selectboard Change Norris told the Board he withdrew his name from consideration in the upcoming election. Norris stepped in last year to fill a vacancy on the Board. Members expressed appreciation for his thoughtful participation in Selectboard discussions.

Appointments The Board made appointments, as recommended by the Huntington Volunteer Fire Department: Tate Jeffrey for Chief and Brian Valentine for Assistant Chief and head of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). It also approved the appointments of Miiranda Keir and Nathaniel Olgilve to the Energy Committee.

In Other Business, the Board:

• Passed the motion to support the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Race for Sundaes by providing police coverage under the VSP contract.

• Voted to accept and sign the Certificate of No Appeal from the Huntington Listers.

• Reviewed the professional audit engagement letter from Fothergill, Segale and Valley for FY 2016-2017, which requests no increase. The Board reached consensus to send the letter to Town Auditors with its approval.

• Reviewed, in a confidential session, the nominations for the Olga Hallock Award. The award is presented each year at Town Meeting to honor a Huntington resident (or residents) for outstanding Community Service. It honors the late Olga Hallock, Town Clerk for 31 years.

The Times Ink! OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

2017 Schedule

January 4 deadline
January 19 issue

Town Meeting Preview

February 9 deadline
February 23 issue

March 16 deadline
March 30 issue

April 13 deadline
April 27 issue

May 11 deadline
May 25 issue

June 15 deadline
June 29 issue

July 27 deadline*
August 10 issue

September 5 deadline
September 14 issue

October 5 deadline
October 19 issue

Holiday Issues

November 2 deadline
November 16 issue

December 7 deadline
December 21 issue

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Richmond Elementary Gets New Principal Over Vacation

The School Directors of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District recently announced the appointment of Benjamin White as the Principal of Richmond Elementary School.

White earned a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education from Saint Joseph's College in Maine. He will complete his Doctorate program in 2018 at New England College. White began his career as a teacher and since then has moved into administrative roles with experience in both the elementary and middle school levels. His last position was the Assistant Principal at Main Street Middle School in Montpelier for two years.

White's leadership philosophy focuses on the whole student and preparing them for life in the 21st century. He is a student-centered education leader and a firm believer that every student should reap the benefits of a positive learning environment.

Snow Motion: RES Ski & Snowboard Program

In the winter of 2012, the RES (Richmond Elementary School) Snow Motion Program at Cochran's was created by RES Parents, Physical Education teacher Brian Godfrey and Barbara Ann Cochran. Snow Motion's Mission is "to provide Richmond youth the opportunity to learn to ski and snowboard during the school day at no cost."

Snow Motion is a fully inclusive program that occurs as part of the school day. Students are provided free transportation, rental equipment, lift tickets, and ski/snowboard lessons. Through various fundraisers and generous donations, there is no cost to students to participate in Snow Motion.

The program is entirely run by parent volunteers and RES teachers. All scholars K-4th grade at Richmond Elementary School are participating in the program this season. The Snow Motion Program helps grow kid's confidence while teaching them to be safe and responsible skiers and riders. Many Richmond youth wouldn't have access to skiing and snowboarding if it were not for Cochran's Ski Area. Many thanks to Barbara Ann and the rest of the Cochran's family for providing RES scholars with such a wonderful opportunity.

RES courtesy photos

MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

School Board Meetings January 9 and February 6, 2017

In With the New/Out with the Coach Richmond Elementary School welcomed new principal Benjamin C. White in January. White received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from St. Joseph's College in Standish, Maine. He anticipates completing his Doctorate in Education this year. He received the 2015 Adult Citizenship Award, voted on by the entire student population, from the Montpelier School System where he was Assistant Principal from 2014 through 2016.

A veteran coach of nearly 50 years, the contract of soccer coach Phil Jacobs was not renewed by the administration (only one year from his stated date of retirement). About 20 community members spoke to the integrity, contributions, and commitment of Jacobs. Present and former players, former school board members, other coaches, neighbors, alumni who graduated up to 20 years ago spoke on his behalf. One after another, they stated Jacobs created community and expressed doubts that the process of his dismissal was open and fair. Many, many asked Jacobs be granted the one last year he requested before his retirement. Jacobs's wife, Cindy, claimed "he was fired." She asserted no reason was ever given for his dismissal.

Personnel Privacy More than one Board member explained that their hands were tied – no personnel issue may be discussed in a public forum, by law, due to privacy issues.

Policy Governance Trumps Also, in the Policy Governance model adopted by the Board – the administration is responsible for this action, as limited by the policies of the Board. However, policy governance model or not, Marks stated the Board had never overturned a personnel hire or fire made by the Board in a dozen years.

Further discussion of if, when, and how a contentious matter such as this will be communicated with the public will be put on the agenda for the next meeting February 20, 6:30 pm at BRMS.

More on Effective, Reliable Communication A principle part of the Policy Governance Model is for each board member to go out into their constituencies to communicate directly with the "stakeholders" – i.e. parents, members of the community, business leaders, and retirees. An online survey has been launched (www.cesuvt.org – scroll to School Board, Community Survey. Some small gatherings have taken place throughout the district and chair Edye Graning is seeking input from any group who wishes to voice their opinion.

Related to communication with a "community outreach" program, no one foresaw that a plan to replace the YMCA afterschool program at Underhill Central, Underhill ID and Jericho Elementary Schools with the one currently being used successfully at Richmond Elementary, Camels Hump Middle and Smilie Memorial Schools (named Part 2) would meet with such resistance. An apology was extended toward the affected families; surveys and comments are currently being evaluated.

New Website and Other Electronic Communication Director of Curriculum and Communications Michael Berry gave a power point presentation outlining the improvements in digital communications throughout the District during the past few months. Berry thanked Steve Jarrett, calling his work "vital." Berry said the district website is much improved, communicating events and videos to the community. There are now over 700 subscribers to email alerts, 200 friends on the District Facebook account, and over 300 on Twitter, Instagram, etc. Better technology will also enable teachers to communicate to each other – sharing instructional strategies, instruction improvement, etc.

Baby, It's Cold Outside The ice rink at Camels Hump Middle School (CHMS) is a tremendous success this year, and open to the public. Seventy students from Browns River Middle School (BRMS) participated in the Penguin Plunge to benefit the Special Olympics this year.

School Choice The recommended capacity was approved. Taking into consideration the 40 transfer students, and the 12 returning students to the school choice program, there will be four openings next year. Preference will be given to families who have applied previously and did not receive a spot.

Language Choice The Spanish Language (Partial) Immersion Program lottery for one pilot classroom next year in Jericho is in motion. Four spaces each are allotted to the towns of Jericho, Underhill, Bolton and Richmond. An informational meeting for parents was held February 9. School choice forms are due March 17. Transportation will be arranged once the spaces are allotted. The program will gradually spread over the years to reach more classes, and more grade levels. Middlebury College is working with this program and offering support. Peter Duval of Underhill continues to advocate for French as the immersion language as he asserts it is a heritage language in Vermont; Quebec is a major trading partner with Vermont; and Canada is the largest bilingual country in the world.

Two Steps Forward, One Step Back After hours of volunteer efforts by the entire finance committee, the student representatives, and the administration a budget of $44,224,649 was created and approved unanimously by this board. The budget represents a total budget increase of only 2.45%, even though special education costs have risen by 10%. Nevertheless, the governor requested level funding of school district spending (no increase whatsoever). This proposal is an attempt to balance the $50 million difference between what his new administration is proposing to include in the Education Budget, and what it is willing to contribute to the Education Budget from the General Fund. Information from Montpelier is sketchy at this time. The topic will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Future public information meetings explaining the CESU/MMMUSD* budget before Town Meeting Day will be held February 23 at Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMU)and March 2 at BRMS. Both meetings are at 6:30 pm. The meeting at MMU on February 23 is also the district Annual Meeting.

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Area Residents Honored

Alec Eschholz and Jonathan Fisher, both of Richmond, after the 60m Hurdles race on February 3, 2017 at the Dartmouth Classic in Hanover, N.H. Eschholz ('15) and Fisher ('16) are both MMU graduates and are competing at Dartmouth and Middlebury respectively. Between the two of them they won 12 of the last 13 state championship hurdle races in Vermont High School Track competitions.

Top Row: Akash Kushwaha, Gary Starecheski, Ian Sturm

October was an important month for a local martial arts school. Crouching Lion Tang Soo Do has joined 58 other schools in the Atlantic-Pacific Tang Soo Do Federation, which means the students and instructors now have internationally recognized credentials. Two inaugural events were overseen by Federation president Grandmaster John St. James, who traveled from Georgia for these and other New England regional events. Assisting the Grandmaster were International Master Deborah Jett, also from Georgia, and Master Peter Desorda, Gary Starecheski's instructor, from New Hampshire.

On October 20, **Ian Sturm** and **Akash Kushwaha** tested for black belt while **Gary Starecheski**, Chief Instructor, tested for 3rd degree black belt. All three were promoted after passing a variety of physical and mental challenges while demonstrating strong spirit. The next day a seminar was held for 28 Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do and Shaolin Kempo martial artists to train with the Grandmaster and Masters. There was a lot of physical training and plenty of time spent on martial arts philosophy and history.

Tang Soo Do was started in 1945 in Korea, but also has influences of Chinese Kung Fu and Okinawan Karate. Our local classes emphasize the whole person concept with physical and mental training combined to develop a strong spirit. Gary Starecheski was tested for black belt by Young Kwon and by JC Shin, who was Chuck Norris's first instructor. Staresheski is also second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do and uses this varied background to run difficult but fun classes. Stop by the Huntington Town Hall on Monday evenings or BPMS on Thursday evenings to see beginner and advanced martial artists in action.

Dean's List - Fall 2016

Michael Elkins, Richmond, sophomore astrophysics major, Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Students make the Dean's List if they complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a minimum grade point average of 3.50 for the semester.

Helen R. Cox, Huntington, majoring in Psychology, St. Lawrence University, Potsdam.To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

Ryan Johnston, Richmond, majoing in Communications with a minor in Journalism, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.

Kathryn Devlin, Bolton, majoring in studio art, Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours in graded courses.

continued to page 13

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Richmond Town Meeting

continued from page 1

No Contests for Municipal Boards Continuing the trend of other recent town meetings, only uncontested elected offices are listed on the ballot.

Stephen Ackerman seeks a two-year term on the Selectboard. He will fill the seat vacated by Ellen Kane, who announced in January she would step down when her termed ended.

Ackerman has lived in Richmond for about 12 years. He consults with Vermont companies on operational efficiency practices and team building. He previously served on the Richmond Development Review Board.

He said in an email that he loves living in Richmond and wants to contribute by serving on the Selectboard.

"More and more, we seem to be entering a period of political divisiveness in our country," he said. "I would like to help make sure that Richmond is able to continue as a civil and collaborative town that encourages healthy discussion of issues facing all of us."

Incumbent Selectboard member David Sander is running for another three-year term. Sander has lived in Richmond since 2001. He is employed as a case manager with Washington County Mental Health Services.

Sander expressed ambivalence about serving another term at the meeting when Kane announced she would not seek re-election.

"I was having some mixed feelings about running again," he said in an email. "I did not want to stand in the way of someone else willing to serve."

Sander said he decided to stay on the Selectboard because he and Bard Hill are the longest-serving members, and he sees the experience as helpful in guiding the town. Also, several residents urged Sander to run again, which "greatly influenced my decision," he said.

He said the property tax burden and a new public safety building are among the most important issues facing Richmond.

Other uncontested candidates on the ballot include: Town Clerk Linda Parent, who seeks a five-year term as Cemetery Trustee; Jenna Bisset, running for a five years as Library Trustee; Andy Squire, who seeks another year as Town Constable; and Michael Marks, who wants a three-year term on the Mt. Mansfield Modified School Board.

Meeting Offers Money Talk The agenda for Richmond's annual town meeting will feature just one major item: debate and vote on the municipal budget for the fiscal year starting July 1.

The spending plan totals $3,533,883.89, up 4.7 percent from the current year's budget. If approved as proposed, the budget would boost the property tax rate by two cents, costing the owner of a $300,000 house an additional $60 a year.

Most departments ask for no more than single-digit spending hikes under the proposed budget. Exceptions include Richmond Free Library, which seeks a 12.4 percent bump in funding, largely to pay for shifting a part-time assistant director to a full-time; and the Fire Department, where spending is up 19.6 percent to pay for rising personnel and equipment costs.

Richmond is one of the few Chittenden County towns that still votes on its municipal budget at Town Meeting rather than during balloting. Residents also can discuss and even change the bottom line during the meeting.

Tradition with a Twist The meeting at Camels Hump Middle School (CHMS) also maintains its social tradition, with volunteer groups staffing tables lining the hallway. They will include the Richmond Parade Committee, the Historical Society, the Senior Center and Girl Scouts selling cookies, according to Parent.

The Richmond Grange will as usual serve lunch in the cafeteria. New this year is a free yoga class, also offered during the lunch break. Participants are asked to bring their own mat.

But lunch will likely mark the end of the meeting rather than an intermission. With the budget the only significant business, Parent said the session would "definitely" finish by the break.

Residents who want to learn more about the budget can attend an informational meeting on Monday, March 6, at 6 pm, at CHMS.

Voters may request mailed absentee ballots by calling the Town Clerk's office at 434-2221. They can also vote absentee at Richmond Town Center. And for the first time, voters need not worry about registering in advance. A new state law now allows same-day registration.

Town Meeting Day balloting takes place Tuesday, March 7, from 7 am to 7 pm at CHMS. Town meeting itself begins at 9 am.

Mt. Mansfield Community Television (MMCYV - Comcast Cable channel 15) will not offer a live stream of Richmond's town meeting this year. But it will record the meeting and air it later, likely the evening of Town Meeting Day, according to MMCTV Executive Director Angelike Contis. The meeting will also be shown online. Go to mmctv15-public.sharepoint.com

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Panel Discusses Town Forest Proposal

Submitted by Brad Elliott

About 35 people turned out for a panel discussion last month focused on a proposal for Richmond to invest in protecting 428 acres of local woodland as their community's first Town Forest.

Voters will decide the question in all-day balloting on Town Meeting Day.

The parcel is located north of Rt. 2, just past the series of curves east of the village. Bordered by approximately 5,000 conserved, wooded acres, it's part of a forest ranked in the top three percent of Vermont wildlife habitat blocks.

The land has been in the Andrews family for generations. The late Everett and Mary Jo Andrews dairy-farmed and harvested timber in the area for decades, welcoming hikers, hunters and snowmobilers to their land as well. Hoping to keep the forest intact and open to the public, the family is offering to sell it to the Town for $90,000 under its appraised value.

In December, the Richmond Conservation Commission recommended and the Selectboard unanimously approved contributing up to $125,000 from the Town's Conservation Reserve Fund to the $597,000 project – if voters concur on Town Meeting Day.

A "yes" vote would open the way for the Vermont Land Trust to raise the remaining $472,000 from a combination of state, federal and private sources.

There are now more than 150 town forests in Vermont. Most are managed by town conservation commissions or forest committees, with Selectboard oversight.

Bob Heiser is Champlain Valley Regional Director for the Vermont Land Trust, which brought the proposal to the Town. He views the parcel as offering the community a wide range of benefits, among them protections for wildlife habitat and water quality. Recreational users would bring more customers to local businesses, and the forest could serve as an educational resource for residents of all ages.

At last month's panel discussion, Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County Forester, said, "All town forests feel different. Each town decides on its own what its priorities are."

Tapper described most town forests as being managed by conservation commissions and local volunteers with selectboard oversight. He said County Foresters often provide help in writing forest management plans and technical assistance in implementing them.

Another panelist was Pat Mainer, chair of the Hinesburg Conservation Commission. She outlined the public process her town went through in writing a management plan for the Hinesburg Town Forest, and the effort to resolve conflicting goals, such as protecting habitat and building infrastructure to accommodate more people.

Phil Huffman, chair of the Waitsfield Conservation Commission sat on the panel as well. He said, "It's all about balance, and figuring out what's a good amount of use, and what's too much. We try to manage Waitsfield's town forests without degrading habitat by recognizing the spectrum of sensitivity among species."

Ellen Kane, chair of the Richmond Selectboard, asked the panelists about management costs for their town forests. Mainer said Hinesburg budgets a total of $1500 a year for management and recoups that through timber sales. Huffman said Waitsfield spends about $2000 a year on its two forests, and covers that and more through timber sales and maple sugaring leases.

Tapper sees the parcel as giving voters "a unique chance to be part of protecting a large block of habitat of statewide significance."

"They're not making 400-acre forested parcels in Chittenden County anymore," he said.

ECOS 2016 Annual Report: The State of Chittenden County

ECOS stands for Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability.

The Chittenden County ECOS Partnership has released its 2016 ECOS Annual Report and online data Scorecard. For the second year in a row, the Annual Report is an infographic that visually displays some of the most interesting trends and notable accomplishments from 2016 relating to people, place, and prosperity in Chittenden County.

The ECOS Annual Report summarizes progress toward the goals set in the 2013 Chittenden County ECOS Plan, the combined Regional Plan, Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Chittenden County. The ECOS Plan includes 17 broad goals in four categories: Natural Systems, Social Community, Economy, and Built Environment. ECOS stands for Environment, Community, Opportunity, Sustainability.

To track progress made toward ECOS goals, the ECOS Partnership monitors 90+ indicators over the course of the year. The indicators are drawn from the most reliable statistics, objectively based on substantial research, and intended to be understood by broad audiences.

Relating to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's (CCRPC) land use and transportation areas of focus, notable trends from the 2016 ECOS Annual Report include:

For the fifth year in a row, Chittenden County has met or exceeded its goal for 80% of residential development occurring in areas planned for growth, with an average of 83% between 2010 and 2015.

In 2015, all three measured transportation modes moved in the right direction: Walking and biking increased by 0.1%, transit use increased by 0.4%, and driving alone decreased by 0.1%.

All data informing the Annual Report is found in the ECOS Scorecard, an interactive online platform that promotes easy access to the indicators that measure how Chittenden County is doing. To access the online platform and track how Chittenden County is doing year to year on a wide variety of topic areas: ecosproject.com.

Following the adoption of the ECOS Plan in 2013, the ECOS Partnership formed to keep the focus on implementation. The Partnership includes the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, the City of Burlington, Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation, Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, United Way of Northwest Vermont, University of Vermont, University of Vermont Medical Center, and the Vermont Department of Health. The Partners remain committed to working together to build upon collaborative successes and address areas of concern.

For more information, contact Emma Vaughn, CCRPC Communications Manager: evaughn@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490 x *21.

MMU Honor Roll

FIRST QUARTER 2016-2017

Huntington

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4 00-4 33

Grade 9: Quinn Bisbee, Ethan Hall
Grade 10: Becket Hill, Brynne Russom
Grade 11:
Grade 12: Giulia Perissinotto, Allyson Rigutto

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

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

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

Grade 11: Alyssa Harvey

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

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

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

Grade 10: Grace Ashak, Kayden Bartlett

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

Grade 12: Olivia Merchant, Audrey Scott

Richmond

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4 00-4 33

Grade 9: Molly Austin, Nicholas Bender, August Biggio, Ezra Bush, Joshua Keough, Jonathan Knakal, Sophie O'Neil, Rory Ulmer, Isabel Wysockey-Johnson
Grade 10: Finley Clark, Maxwell Hartsfield, Alexander Naumann, Isabel Thon, Hunter Wasser
Grade 11:
Grade 12: Katherine Johnson, Benjamin Nussbaum, Jessica Peura, Moriah Pinckney, Cory Raymond

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

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

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

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

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

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

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

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

Grade 11: Ross Johnson, Timothy Kane, Kira Nolan, Lindsey Parent, Bram Rostad, Kaitlin Scherber, Elizabeth Werner

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

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HUNTINGTON

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Letters

continued from page 2

to understanding of the algorithms.

Camels Hump Middle School has been selected to represent schools across the nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know in math, reading and science. Administered by the National Center for Education Statistics of the U.S. Department of Education, NAEP differs from state assessments as it provides a common measure of student achievement across the country. The results of NAEP are released as "The Nation's Report Card," which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policy makers, and the public. To view sample subject area and contextual questions, please visit http://nationsreportcard.gov/parents.asp.

We are pleased to welcome Jake Magnan, the new Farm to School Coordinator with Chittenden East Supervisory Union. At CHMS, he will be working with the foodservice department to incorporate local foods, and with teachers to provide learning opportunities around food and nutrition in the classroom. Once the weather turns warm in a few weeks, he will help plant, run, and maintain the school's gardens to allow for further learning opportunities with students. A goal of the Farm to School program is to include school-grown food in the cafeteria and to process and preserve some of these foods for the following school year. Mr. Magnan is a Registered Dietitian, with previous experience working with children and adults, providing nutrition education towards a healthy lifestyle. Mr. Magnan is, "excited to work in a school setting that values child nutrition, and supports local farmers and agriculture. I look forward to working with Camels Hump Middle School this year!"

Mark your calendars for the annual CHMS theatrical performance: Thursday, April 20, and Friday, April 21, at 7 pm. With the talents of about twenty percent of our student body involved, the show will be a huge success!

Public information sessions for the the 2017-2018 budget (including the CESU budgets) will be held on Thursday, February 16, at CHMS, Thursday, February 23, at MMU High School, and Thursday, March 2, at Browns River Middle School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

—*Mark Carbone*, Principal
Camels Hump Middle School

The Cuban Bridge #62

These lines will be my impressions about Episode 62 of my TV show The Cuban Bridge at Mt. Mansfield Cable TV (MMCTV) Channel 15, which is about a short trip I made to Havana, Cuba during six days in November, last year, where I was invited by Cuban-Canadian piano master, composer and band leader Hilario Durán.

We were five days recording at Empressa de Grabaciones y Ediciones Musicales (EGREM) Studios in Havana, where Hilario Durán had been an awarded producer for many years while living in Cuba.

He reunited with former members of Arturo Sandoval Group and Perspectiva; bassist Jorge Reyes and guitarist Jorge Chicoy, and invited some of his closer collaborators, as drummer Horacio Hernández, and percussionists Changuito Quintana, Jorge Luis Torres better known as Papiosco" tres player Pancho Amat and Los Rumberos de Cuba.

Con Tumbao will be released by Alam Records, a label based in Toronto, Canada: www.hilarioduran.com

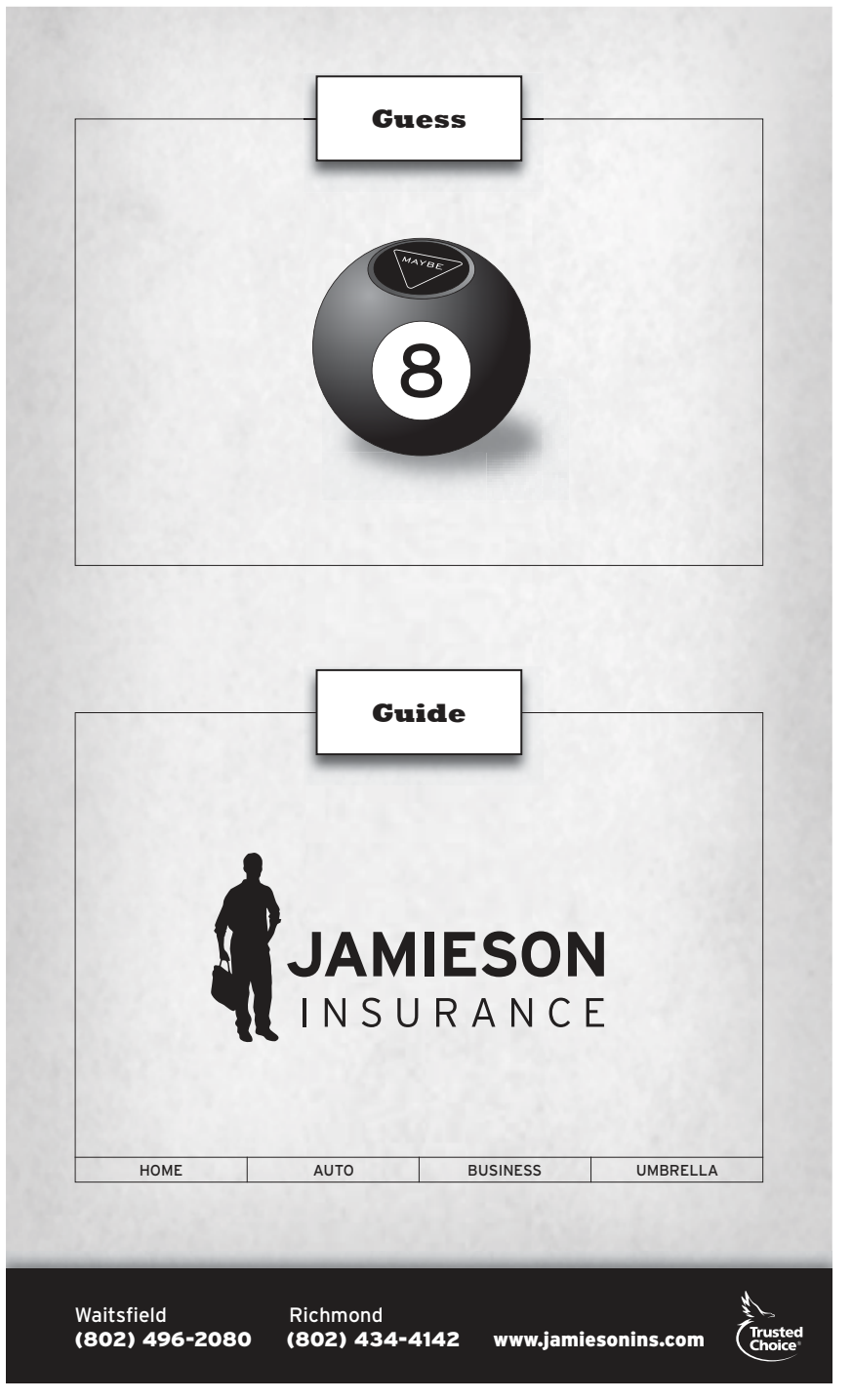
The recording session was entirely filmed and it will show also the final Concert at The Fine Arts Museum where the visit closed.

The audience was fantastic, giving all their energy and support in every piece. It was a grand finale to the recording of Con Tumbao. And for sure, we will see all this film on our Channel 15, very soon.

As Con Tumbao was not ready for our "welcome back TV show" we screened Habenera in Spain a composition of Hilario's daughter Yailen Durán which was a success in Havana, where I could share great moments with my radio buddies in Radio Metropolitana.

In our Episode # 62, we also had a good time presenting a whole new catalogue of music coming directly from my visit to Cuba and viewers will find the voice of Ivette Cepeda sided by Grupo Reflexion in a concert live in Paris, France.

—Toni Basanta



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The Pie Lady

by Jane M. Vossler

At Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond, a group of eight from Stowe came to the recent French Canadian Supper. After the meal, they made their way back to the kitchen. "We're looking for 'the pie lady,' they said.

Jeanne Desilets, who has made meat pies for the suppers for 22 years (63 pies this year!) replied, "That's me."

"We've heard of you!" they said.

This is the story of Richmond's Pie Lady.

The story began in 1976 when a women's group at the church decided to earn enough money to re-do the church's small kitchen and buy a much larger stove. Desilets said, "It took nine years to raise the money so we worked in the little kitchen doing cookie sales, corned beef and cabbage, spaghetti, lasagna, and dime-a-dip dinners. We even rented tables and spaces for a flea market on the front lawn. We finally raised $10,000 so that we could submit a plan to the diocese for renovation approval."

Desilets said yes and for the last 12 years many community members as well as people from neighboring towns have enjoyed the French Canadian supper.

The Knights of Columbus set up, find volunteers for the other jobs, and clean up afterwards. They convinced Vince Palermo to make the pea soup. Ray Desilets, Jeanne Desilets's husband, makes the mashed potatoes. The wives of the Knights of Columbus and some other church members bake cookies and cupcakes for dessert.

Jeanne Desilets starts pie crust for the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church's Annual French Canadian Supper. Below the pies in progress. Photos: Jane Vossler

In 1985, with a big stove and the kitchen doubled in size, Desilets and the other women wanted to do something different from what they'd been doing. Nancy Martel, who has since passed away, found a recipe in an old cookbook for tourtiere, the traditional French Canadian meat pie. Thus began a yearly French Canadian dinner at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church. Their menu consisted of meat pie made by Desilets, mashed potatoes, homemade French bread that Jeanne baked, and ice cream donated by Ben and Jerry's. The women not only did the cooking, they also advertised the meal, set up the hall and did all the cleaning up afterwards. It was a lot of work and, as the number of volunteers dwindled and burnout set in, they called it quits in 1995.

During the next ten years, the church held other dinners, but there were no more French Canadian meals served.

In 2005, the Knights of Columbus approached Desilets and asked her if she'd consider making the pies again. The Knights knew her pies were a big draw, and they were looking to make money to help them in their good works in the community. They reassured her she'd only have to make the pies and they'd do the rest.

And what does the Pie Lady do? First, she buys all the groceries. In March, she starts checking the ads to find the best deals especially on the 75 pounds of beef and pork needed for the pies. She recalled that when she first started buying the ingredients, the bill came to approximately $200. Today it costs $400 for the same ingredients.

At 5:45 am on the day of the supper, she and her "apprentice," daughter Corinna Hussey, arrive at the church kitchen to start cooking the meat. Desilets said that her mother used to make her pies with all pork, but she likes a mixture of pork and beef. They use a strainer to drain the fat from the meat, leaving just enough to give it some flavor. She mixes onion, dry stuffing mix (to bind the meat together), and spices into the meat. She said that her mother used to use a small amount of mashed potato as the binder in her pies.

For spices she uses cinnamon, cloves, thyme and sage. She explained that "the pies taste a

continue to page 16

The Times Ink! OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

2017 Schedule

January 4 deadline	January 19 issue
Town Meeting Preview	
February 9 deadline	February 23 issue
March 16 deadline	March 30 issue
April 13 deadline	April 27 issue
May 11 deadline	May 25 issue
June 15 deadline	June 29 issue
July 27 deadline*	August 10 issue
September 5 deadline	September 14 issue
October 5 deadline	October 19 issue
Holiday Issues	
November 2 deadline	November 16 issue
December 7 deadline	December 21 issue

Contradance at Huntington Town Hall

The next Huntington Town Hall contradance will be March 25, beginning at 7:30 pm in Huntington Center.

Co-organizer and caller is Lausanne Allen. "We'll pick back up with the contradance series in March with a fine family band from Cornwall, HONEY IN THE HIVE...and April's dance (April 29) will bring back Sarah and John's MEGABAND JAM.

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

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

Honors

continued from page 9

University of New Hampshire (UNH)

Jeffrey Carter, Jericho, Honors
Michael O'Connor, Jericho, High Honors
Marina Bowie, Jericho, High Honors
Annavitte Rand, Richmond, High Honors
Caroline Quintal, Richmond, High Honors
Kristina Cyr, Richmond, Highest Honors

Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI)

Julia Dunn, Jericho, majoring in biomedical engineering.

Eli Frank, Huntington, majoring in mechanical engineering.

Jonathan Griffin, Jericho, majoring in aerospace engineering.

Nathaniel Peura, Richmond, majoring in electrical and computer engineering.

The criteria for the WPI Dean's List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

Castleton University

Casey Briggs, Starksboro
Danielle Forand, Starksboro
Jacob Peet, Richmond
Austin Purinton, Huntington
Allison Sibley, Jericho

To qualify for this academic honor, the student must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5.

Photo, courtesy of Gordon Miller

AKC – CKC Champion Kinghtcastel's Graceful Hopper, a four-year-old Flat Coated Retriever, exhibited by PHA Katherine Mines, and was awarded Best of Breed designation at a recent AKC sanctioned event in Springfield, Massachusetts. Call name: "Hopper" is co-owned by Yvan Ruel of Ville Marie, Quebec and Gordon Miller of Huntington.

AKC Breed Standard for the Flat Coated Retriever: "The Flat Coated Retriever, one of the six AKC recognized retriever breeds, is a versatile family companion hunting retriever with a happy and active demeanor, intelligent expression, and clean lines. Traditionally described as showing "power without lumber and raciness without weediness" is keen and birdy, flushing within gun range, as well as a determined, resourceful retriever on land and water. As a family companion he is sensible, alert, and highly intelligent; a lighthearted, affectionate and adaptable friend. He retains these qualities, as well as his youthfully good-humored outlook on life into old age. The Flat Coat is a cheerful, devoted companion who requires and appreciates living with and interacting as a member of his family. To reach full potential in any endeavor he absolutely must have a strong personal bond and affectionate individual attention."

Black is the most common colour, but Flat-Coated Retrievers also occur in liver (dark brown) and yellow, although yellow is not allowed by the breed standard.

The breed originated in the mid-19th century in England, gaining popularity as a gamekeeper's dog. Part of its ancestry is thought to have come from Newfoundlands brought to British ports. After its introduction into the U.S., the Flat-Coated Retriever quickly gained in popularity until the 1920s when it became eclipsed by the Golden Retriever. By the end of World War II, so few Flat-Coated Retrievers remained, the breed's survival was uncertain. However, beginning in the 1960s, careful breeding brought the population back and the breed gained in popularity again. Today, the Flat-Coated Retriever enjoys a modest popularity.

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Vermont Weather
Presented by John Hadden
March 16, 1:30 p.m.
John Hadden has been an amateur weather "enthusiast" for close to 30 years. He observes the weather and collects data at his home in Huntington, and publishes his "East Street Weather Blog" daily. Along with morning observations of temperature, and precipitation, the blog includes an Almanac of weather history, a "Sky Notes" section, and a daily photo taken near his home. John will be sharing his love of the natural world and discussing the peculiarities of Vermont weather, as well as showing several of his favorite photos.

Future Event:
April 13
Hand Painted Vermont Wild Flowers

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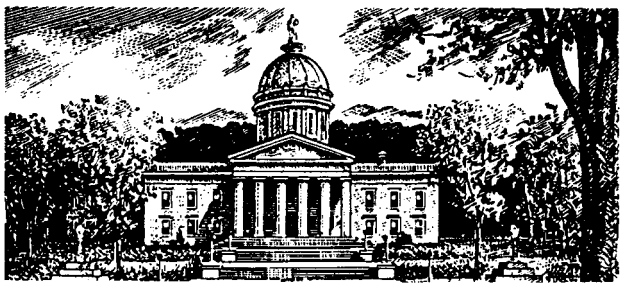

State House News

Rep. Tom Stevens

It's hard to believe we are six weeks into our work in the new legislative biennium, especially since we are really just beginning. A biennium is a two-year arc of work, split by annual sessions, where we address issues that affect Vermonters in primary ways (even when they don't seem that way to some). With thirty-four new members in the House of Representatives, out of 150, the early weeks of the session have been taken with committee assignments, training of new members, updates on issues and budgets from administration officials and, in this year's case, the transfer of gubernatorial power from former Governor Shumlin to Governor Scott. In some ways, we are just settling into work in Montpelier, and just when we are settled in, we will have to deal with what we presume will be serious changes in our governance and financial relationship to the federal government. We will be working, on your behalf, in ways I have yet to experience in my time representing you.

I have been reassigned to be Vice Chair of the General, Housing and Military Affairs, which includes veterans' affairs, liquor and lottery law, labor, and housing. Our committee size has increased from eight members to eleven, and the new Speaker of the House, Rep. Mitzi Johnson, has indicated that finding a way to build more housing that is affordable will be a priority if we are to honestly advance an agenda of quality economic development. The new governor, Phil Scott, apparently agrees, as his budget has proposed a $35 million bond to develop housing for lower and middle income individuals and families and to deal with our ongoing homelessness problem.

It has taken some time, but it is fulfilling to see that housing is being seen by more people on all sides of the political spectrum as an incredibly important part of public health and economic development. For some, the lack of stable housing can cause crises ranging from hunger to behavioral development to job loss. By providing safe and stable housing to our vulnerable population, coupled with necessary services, we can reduce the stresses on our health care and social service budgets, and we can relieve some of the noneducational stresses we place on our public schools. For others, finding an affordable place to live for Vermonters who make less than 60% of our area median income, or for Vermonters who are finding themselves in a middle income class -- including those making enough to be considered to be doing "pretty good," is proving to be difficult to do while relying only on the "market." We are seeing commercial developers, who are doing their best to build new housing that is affordable, finding it more and more difficult to do so. Nonprofit housing agencies, such as Downstreet Housing and Community Development (disclosure: I am currently president of the board of Downstreet), find it difficult to develop housing for those at the lower end of the economic spectrum and folks who qualify for housing find it difficult to make these rents without further subsidy.

We feel, deeply, that if we are to continue our economic growth, be it in Waterbury, Central Vermont, or in Chittenden County, we need to provide the right tools to developers to build housing that is the foundation for every other part of succeeding in Vermont.

Our committee, and our caucus, is dedicated to connecting the dots of being able to survive and thrive in Vermont. Decent and affordable housing, good food, access to health care, quality public education, jobs that can provide living wages, and regulations that promote the smart growth of small businesses. The Legislature will also be considering bills to present a balanced budget, provide clean water, to consider the loss of funding for our psychiatric hospital, to provide for more high quality child care, to legalize or further decriminalize marijuana, to continue to try to bend the curve of affordability for health insurance and care, and to continue to work with communities on access to quality education. All of this is in the context of uncertainty of the policies emanating from Washington.

Please feel free to contact me about issues of importance to you. Your voice is important.

Rep. Theresa Wood

A major topic that affects all school districts across the state is Governor Scott's education proposal in his fiscal year 2018 budget. In his budget address, the Governor proposed moving spending for higher education (UVM, State Colleges and VSAC), early education and childcare and teachers' retirement into the Education Fund. He also proposed that teachers and all other school employees be required to pay a minimum of 20% of their health care premiums. The Governor also proposed freezing school budgets at their current levels. The Governor indicated that if schools wanted to spend more at the local level they could implement an increase in their local tax. This part of the proposal, in particular, has the potential to be in violation of the Supreme Court "Brigham" decision that resulted in Act 60.

On its face, the proposal might appear to be straightforward, particularly to taxpayers who are clamoring for property tax relief and those of us who already pay 20% of our health care premiums. However, each part of the proposal would affect the Education Fund, school budgets, teacher contract negotiations and would heavily impact local property tax rates. The proposal relies on "savings" from the "budget freeze" and teacher health care premium increases. However, neither of these things are likely to be achieved, at least in the short term. Teacher benefits are negotiated through union contracts, and freezing school budgets cannot be done from Montpelier down to the local level. In fact, the voters decide on their local school budgets. And what I commonly hear is that people want to control education spending; except when it comes to their own local schools. Each community believes their local schools are special and unique – and they are to their local parents and communities. We are also in the midst, statewide, of reforming education governance (through Act 46) to achieve more equity in education and control costs. This process is in its infancy and needs time to see results.

The Governor's budget also includes investments in early childhood care and in higher education. The concept of thinking about the education process from early childhood through college is well supported. However, the investments the Governor is proposing for the early childhood and higher education areas are reliant on the "savings" achieved in K-12 spending, which are not likely to be realized. Therefore, a rather significant hole exists in the Governor's budget. We will be working diligently with the Governor's office to identify priorities to close this gap. However, given that the savings are not likely to be achieved in the next year, the Governor's spending proposals as presented could actually result in an increase to the property tax.

The Governor also suggested a requirement for schools to move their budget votes to May 23 each year. The Senate Education Committee unanimously turned down the proposal. And after several proposed amendments, the full House ultimately also turned down the proposal to move the school budget votes to May 23. Many school budgets have already been adopted by school boards across the state and have gone to the printers. The timing of this proposed change would have caused substantial issues for school districts across the state.

Investing in quality education is an expensive business and ultimately the Legislature debates ways to make it fairer and less demanding on local taxpayers almost every year. It is a debate we will continue to have and more than likely, yet another change may, in some form, be adopted this year as well.

Rep. Marcia Lawrence Gardner

The new 2017 Vermont Legislative session started on January 4. Even long-time watchers of our Legislature cannot remember a time when it has had so many new elected officials, including a new Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House (Mitzi Johnson), Senate President (Tim Ashe) and nearly 40 new Senators and Representatives. Because of the high number of newcomers, there was speculation that the session would get off to a slow start, with the first weeks being more of a training session.

This was certainly not true of my committee – Government Operations - chaired by Maida Townsend of South Burlington. We were almost immediately asked to weigh in on several key issues. The Government Operations Committee "considers matters relating to the organization, oversight, and conduct of state government, compensation of state officials and employees; pensions; law enforcement; public safety; reapportionment; municipal corporations; suffrage; nominations, elections, and the election of members; local, county, and regional governmental structures; relations between State and local governments; open meeting issues, and public records issues." This committee is a good fit for me, considering my many years in State Government.

The first item we were asked to review was the Governor's proposed FY 2017 Budget Adjustment bill. While the budget was passed last year, adjustments need to be made throughout the year to accommodate unforeseen revenues and expenditures. Last year's budget focused on supporting a healthy economy, and this year's budget adjustment was particularly smooth because of the good work that was done last year to: reduce reliance on one-time funds and make targeted investments that support families, communities, and a healthy economy.

We looked at requests from the State's Attorneys Office for additional funds for Victims Advocates, and to authorize making permanent three of the temporary positions within the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB). Our committee suggested that the Victims Advocates program make adjustments to its budget so extra funding would not be needed in the future. We recommended the temporary positions be extended for one more year and be reviewed again, at that time, to determine if the positions should be made permanent. We were also asked to investigate a nearly $1 million transfer into the General Fund from the Department of Liquor Control (DLC). My years of experience with the DLC proved very useful, as I knew this was the Department's annual contribution of any profits remaining after all its bills had been paid.

My committee also has oversight of elections and has been reviewing the contested election in the Orange-1 district between Republican Robert Frenier and Progressive Susan Hatch-Davis. Frenier won the second legislative seat for the district by eight votes. State law "provides a losing House candidate with the right to have the votes recounted, if the difference between the number of votes cast for the winning and losing candidate is less than 5% of the total votes cast for all the candidates for the office, divided by the number of persons to be elected." Hatch-Davis requested a recount and one was conducted on November 28. In the recount, Frenier won by seven votes. However, Hatch-Davis perceived a number of irregularities in the way the recount was conducted, and therefore exercised her legal right to bring it to the Legislature. There was lively debate on the House floor as to whether the Legislature should, indeed, become involved. My committee proposed a resolution to conduct a second recount passed; we are working on the rules and guidelines for the recount. The legislative recount should be conducted within the next few weeks and the final winner of the House seat announced. The recount is giving us good information for this year's review of election laws. I've met with the Richmond Town Clerk's office on election law and procedures and vital records.

The vital records proposed legislation, H. 111, is 101 pages long, and we will be reviewing it in segments over the next few weeks. It creates a statewide registration system for all birth, death, marriage and civil union certificates that can be accessed from anywhere in the State, not just the issuing town. We toured the State Archives in Middlesex. The records "document the rights of citizens, the decisions of government, and the history of the state from its establishment in 1777 to the present." The public is invited to conduct research in the archives, and it is well worth the visit.

Reps. Theresa Wood, Tom Stevens, Marcia Lawrence Gardner

The State House is a vibrant, exciting place where all are welcome. If you have the opportunity to visit, please notify me in advance so I can meet with you in person. I thank the voters of Richmond for this opportunity.

Rep Theresa Wood
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839-0515 (cell)
ellisvermont@yahoo com

Rep Tom Stevens
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Waterbury, VT 05676
595-0429 (cell)
tom@stevensvermont com
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Rep Marcia Lawrence Gardner
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2290 Hinesburg Road
Richmond, VT 05477
434-2854
mgardner@leg state.vt.us

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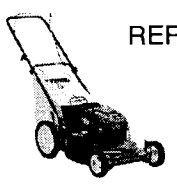

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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Andrews Forestland?

For nearly a century, the Andrews family has owned Gray Rocks Farm, located about a mile out of Richmond Village on US Route 2. The farm is on the National Register of Historic Places. When the family was ready to sell the land, they sold the farmstead with two acres. In 2013, they conserved 187 acres of farmland along Route 2. Conservation helped lower the price of the land for a local farm family, Bruce Hennessy and Beth Whiting of Maple Wind Farm, who had been leasing it. The Andrews still have 428 acres of forestland that they'd like to sell. The family would love to see the land remain forested, open to the public, and ideally publicly-owned. They will retain a separate 9 acres on either side of Route 2.

The Andrews Forestland has significant educational and recreational opportunities, and could also connect existing trail networks. It has extensive wildlife habitat and is part of an immense, important block of forestland. The property contributes to Richmond's rural character, and provides a scenic, forested backdrop to the Monitor barns.

Why create a Richmond Town Forest?

The purchase of the Andrews property as a Richmond Town Forest will give residents of Richmond a place for outdoor education, recreation, and connection to nature. Town ownership will give the community the greatest input into the uses for this forestland, and a chance to participate in shared stewardship of this land. A Richmond Town Forest can also be an anchor parcel for what is becoming an increasingly interconnected trail system, attracting more visitors to Richmond and local businesses. Town forests can offer many direct economic and social benefits—examples in other towns have included revenue from timber harvests, providing wood for floors in town buildings, and firewood programs for families in need.

Vermont has a long tradition of towns owning and managing forests for public benefit. During early settlement, town charters required the designation of public lands for community support. In 1915, the Municipal Forest Law authorized the purchase of land by towns for the purpose of growing timber and wood. And today, 67,000 acres of forestland are owned by 168 Vermont municipalities. Many nearby towns in Chittenden County, such as Hinesburg and Bolton, cherish their own town forests as a vibrant, essential part of their town's character.

Why now?

The Andrews family is interested in selling their woodland. If a conservation sale is possible, they are willing to sell the land for $90,000 less than its full appraised value. If a conservation sale is not possible, they will be selling the property on the open market. This is a one-time opportunity for the Richmond community.

Is the land under contract (purchase and sale agreement)?

To secure the property, Vermont Land Trust (VLT) has obtained an option to purchase the property for $450,000. The option can be transferred to the Town of Richmond, and the Richmond Selectboard voted unanimously to accept assignment of the option agreement.

For more information: www.vlt.org/andrewsforest
Bob Heiser at bheiser@vlt.org, 861-6404.

What is the proposed timing?

The option agreement can be extended until December 31, 2017, provided $225,000 is raised by June 30, 2017. If the option is exercised by December 31, 2017, the purchase will then need to close in the following 90 days. A closing in early 2018 would be expected.

How much will the purchase cost the Town?

The Town will need to contribute up to $125,000 from its Conservation Reserve Fund (CRF) toward the purchase of the land, if approved in a vote at Town Meeting. The CRF currently has a balance of approximately $264,000, and a contribution of $45,000 in July, 2017 will bring the balance to approximately $309,000.

What is the total cost of the purchase, and how will the remainder be funded?

The land has been appraised at $540,000. Costs related to the permanent conservation of the land will be $57,000, leading to a total conservation budget of $597,000. Sources of funding are likely to include:

Andrews Family donation of value	$ 90,000
Town of Richmond CRF	$125,000
Vermont Housing & Conservation Board	$150,000
Other Grants and Private Fundraising	$232,000
Total Budget	$597,000

The Town of Richmond and VLT have already submitted a grant application to a Federal Community Forest Program, for $256,000. This is a very competitive, national grant program. If this application is successful, the Town's necessary contribution will likely be less than $125,000. VLT will be seeking grants and private fundraising to assist the town in the purchase.

What are the property tax impacts of the Town's purchase of the land?

The 428-acre Andrews Forestland parcel currently contributes approximately $1,868 to Richmond's municipal property tax revenues. The property is enrolled in the State's Use Value Appraisal Program (Current Use), so the $1,868 is received from a combination of the landowner and the State of Vermont's reimbursement to towns for land enrolled in the State Current Use program. If purchased as a Town Forest, the town will no longer collect these municipal taxes from this property. The owner of a "typical" property in Richmond ($250,000 listed value) would see an increase of about $1 in their municipal tax bill to absorb this foregone revenue. The impact of foregone school taxes (approximately $4,450) would be spread across tax payers at the state level, not just Richmond taxpayers.

Who decides whether the land is purchased as a Town Forest?

Richmond voters will decide in a vote at Town Meeting whether to authorize the Town of Richmond to purchase the Andrews Forestland as a Richmond Town Forest. Through participation in property walks, public meetings, individual conversations, a survey, and town meetings, the Richmond community has expressed significant interest in Town ownership and conservation of the Andrews Forestland. The Vermont Land Trust prepared an application for the Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund for up to $125,000 towards the Town purchase of the property. The Conservation Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval to the Selectboard, and the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve the application, contingent upon a positive vote at Town Meeting.

What uses will be allowed in the Town Forest?

Through a public process, the Richmond community will develop a Town Forest Management Plan to define the uses of the property. Options frequently mentioned by the community include hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowmobiling, wildlife habitat protection, timber harvests, and outdoor education. There have also been many in favor of a balance of multiple uses of the forest. The planning and management for most Town Forests are overseen by the Selectboard, Conservation Commission, Trails Committee, and sometimes a designated Town Forest Committee. The management plan can evolve over time.

How will the forestland be protected into the future?

The Town Forest will be subject to a perpetual conservation easement held by Vermont Land Trust. The conservation easement will permanently protect the public's access to the land and its important resources, including productive forestland, wildlife habitats, natural features, and non-motorized recreational, educational, and other compatible community uses. The conservation easement will restrict activities that threaten those values, such as residential, commercial, or industrial development, mining or extractive uses, or manipulation of wetlands or streams. The conservation easement will require that the land be open to the public, and that a Management Plan be developed and updated with meaningful community input.

What can the Town expect in terms of expenses for ongoing management?

Expenses for the Town Forest will depend directly on community decisions about management of the property. Trail development and management is often done by volunteers, a non-profit trail partner, funded grant opportunities, or some combination of all these approaches. Richmond has the unique benefit of this land being adjacent to VYCC, providing opportunities for mutually-beneficial partnerships on recreational and educational management. Towns often seek assistance from the Vermont Recreational Trails Program, which can provide up to 80% of a trail project's costs. Towns have also used revenues from timber sales to help cover management costs. At a recent Richmond panel of representatives from nearby town forests, two towns reported that the Commission/Committee overseeing the management of the town forest receives an annual budget of $1,000 to $2,000.

Will there be public parking?

There is an existing, improved logging road from Route 2 (across from Maple Wind Farm's barns) that leads into the Andrews Forestland property. The area near the road can currently accommodate about a half-dozen cars, but the area will likely need some improvement as a parking area. VYCC has also expressed an openness to talking about options for parking on the VYCC land if additional parking is desired.

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News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington

Rev. Larry Detweiler, 434-6715

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Pie Lady

continued from page 12

lot like the ones my mother made. They're not very spicy." Traditionally, every cook added the amount of spice they preferred and Desilets's paternal grandmother, and her husband's mother and grandmother made their pies much spicier.

Ray Desilets mixes mashed potatoes

The taste of the pies, not surprisingly, was, and still is, passed down from mother to daughter.

Next, Desilets mixes up the pie dough from scratch and soon she's joined by two other women (they call themselves the "holy rollers"), and they roll out all 126 crusts.

Then she fills up the crusts. Some of the pie plates are eight inches and some are nine inches, but they all get the same amount of meat—three cups or 1-1/4 to 1-1/2 pounds. That way, everyone gets the same amount if meat in their serving, which is a generous one quarter of a pie.

Desilets tries to get the pies ready to bake by 2:30. Twenty to twenty-three pies can be baked in the oven at a time so she needs to do three batches. As they come out of the oven, they're kept hot on top of the stove until the supper begins at 5 pm. She hopes to some day see the church purchase a warming oven.

In addition to the Pie Lady and the others mentioned so far, it takes a lot of other people to make the supper a successful event. Two volunteers seat people as they come in, Vince Palermo has two helpers to make the pea soup, five or six people dish up and serve the meal, two do the take out, two wash the dishes, the confirmation class and some high school students pour and serve the drinks, and, finally, everyone who's been helping with the meal cleans the hall and kitchen until, as Desilets said, it sparkles.

One year when both the Desilets children were living at home, the whole family worked on the supper—Jeanne made the pies, Ray made the mashed potatoes, and their children, Corinna and Matt, served. That year the Knights of Columbus gave them the Family of the Year award.

Jeanne Desilets was brought up on a farm in Hinesburg and her mother before her was also a farmer's daughter. She remembers that her mother was always cooking, and they often had ten around their table for meals — her parents and two siblings, her grandfather, an elderly man who'd been a neighbor and now lived with them, and several hired men. They had big boiled or fried dinners because they were easiest. Tourtieres were reserved for special occasions. Desilets remembers that on Christmas Eve they'd open one gift and then head out to midnight mass. When they came home, her mother would pop the already prepared meat pies in the oven and while they baked, they'd open their gifts. Then they'd all gather at the table for a meal of meat pie, mashed potatoes and Mom's homemade pickles.

Today, Jeanne Desilets doesn't serve ten at her family table as her mother did, but she carries on the tradition of cooking for others by making meat pies that nourish over 200 people each year.

You might want to mark your calendar for the first Saturday in February and plan to attend next year's French Canadian supper at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church. You might even get to meet the Pie Lady!

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Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MARCH 7: Free community yoga class. 50-min free gentle yoga at Town Meeting during the lunch break. Sponsored by Balance Yoga. Bring your own yoga sticky mat. Some extra mats will be available. Info: balanceyogavt@gmail.com

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

MARCH 20: French Connections/ franconnexions Conference, University of Vermont. A conference highlighting the historical, cultural and economic contributions of French Canadians from Québec into Vermont and New England and looking forward – thinking about how these past waves of immigration inform present immigration conversations. Information: https://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1882131&

MARCH 23: 13th annual Grain Growers Conference. Five sessions on industrial hemp including talks by Vermont and Canadian growers who will share their insights and experiences with growing this crop. Essex Resort and Spa in Essex, 9 am to 5:30 pm, sponsored by the Northern Grain Growers Association (NGGA) and the University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program. $75, $50 for NGGA members, and includes lunch. Live broadcast of the hemp sessions: $35. Register: www.regonline.com/grainconference through March 17. To request a disability-related accommodation, contact Susan Brouillette at (802) 524-6501, ext. 432, or (800) 639-2130 (toll-free in Vermont) by March 2.

Regular Meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
Huntington: 2nd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office

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

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

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

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Calvary Episcopal Church 370 Vermont Route 15,Underhill Flats. Worship service 9:30 am. Sunday morning Eucharist with supply priests or Morning Prayer at Calvary, followed by a coffee hour. Sunday School will be available. The last Thursday of every month a free Soup & Bread Supper to the public, 5 pm to 7 pm. Handicapped accessible. information: www.calvarychurchvt.weebly.com or 899-2326.

Conservation District Intern

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District announced the addition to its natural resource staff of Andrew Glose. He will conduct an internship for spring 2017, assisting with urban stormwater programs and green infrastructure management and design. Glose is currently a senior in the Environmental Studies program at the University of Vermont and hopes to bring his knowledge and experience in sustainability studies to the Conservation District.

Glose will assist with coordination of the Chittenden County Stream Team (CCST) program, performing such tasks as rain garden needs assessments, volunteer event coordination,water quality sampling sites identification, and rain garden design work. Additionally, Andrew will help with the coordination of a rain barrel workshop to be held in March (watch for details), in which participants will be instructed on how to build their own rain barrels. He will also assist in coordinating a stream cleanup for Vermont's 47th Annual Green Up Day, taking place on May 6. The Chittenden County Stream Team will also hold a rain garden cleanup event on Earth Day, April 22.

Glose hopes to assist a local landowner with designing a rain garden during his internship. If you are interested in this technical assistance, please contact: info@winooskinrcd.org or visit the WNRCD website at: www.winooskinrcd.org

To learn more about the CCST, and the WNRCD's Green Infrastructure programs or sign up for volunteer events including the Adopt A Rain Garden program and Volunteer Water Quality Sampling program: holly@winooskinrcd.org or visit: http://www.ccstreamteam.org/

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

If you're looking for something to do to make the cold, gray days feel brighter, the Community Senior Center is offering the following activities:

- "Bone Builders"
- Rug hooking
- Pickleball in Richmond and Huntington
- Genealogy club
- Pickleball in Huntington
- Knitting
- Bridge
- Cross country skiing and snowshoeing
- French conversation
- Mah jong in Richmond
- Conversational German
- Mah jong in Huntington
- Nordic walking
- Memoir writing

Email martha3@gmavt to find out the schedule and sign up. Or check out the website at http://www.cscvt.org/

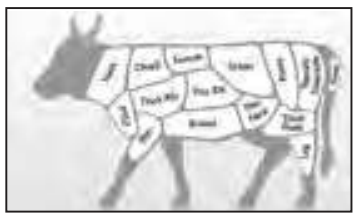
Better yet, take a look at Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/pg/cscrichmondvt/about/) to see photos of all the activities and smiling participants. You, too, can escape the bondage of cabin fever, learn something new, have fun, and meet some new people.

—Jane Vossler

Church News now on previous page.

Service Directory

Automotive



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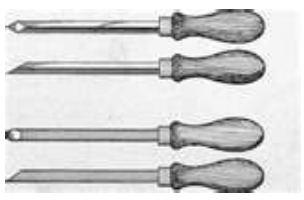

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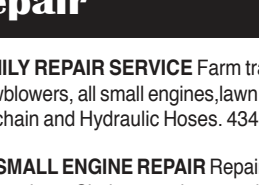

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Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Shopping Local at Maple Wind Farm

On a cold February day a surprise sign appeared along the south side of Route 2 about half way between Richmond and Jonesville : Farmer's Market Today from 2 to 6 pm. The sign was announcing the first of three "pop up" farmer's markets that Maple Wind Farm plans to host during the winter.

Maple Wind Farm, known for their grass-fed beef, chicken and pork, is located in Huntington but their farm operation also covers several acres along Route 2 in Richmond. In addition, owners Beth Whiting and Bruce Hennessy also rent fields and farm 100 acres in Bolton. In all the Hennessy/Whiting farm operation covers over 400 acres. They began farming in 1999 and have been dedicated to using natural processes whenever possible.

A lot has been written over the years about why grass fed beef is better. Pasture raised meats contain higher levels of omega-3 and CLSs 9 (conjugated linoleic acids) than conventionally raised meats. It's the pasture raised part that makes the difference, letting animals graze on the solar energy of the sun.

The pop up Farmer's Market is at the Maple Wind Richmond location. Whiting and Hennessey had worked in partnership with the Andrews family, who owned the original barn, for many years. Three years ago, when the Andrews family discontinued their farming operation, the Hennessey/Whitings worked with the Vermont Land Trust to purchase this property. The Vermont Land Trust made it possible for both the Huntington and Richmond properties to remain agricultural.

Shortly after they became official owners, the large barn on the property burned to the ground due to an electrical fire. Sad as this was, the couple used this as an opportunity to rebuild a new barn which centralized their winter operation, making it both energy efficient and functional for their specific farming needs. The renovations included a blast chiller for storing chickens. Blast chilling is a process that air chills the chickens before they are packaged, which in turn removes any liquid so the consumer is not paying for any water weight. The barn also has an egg washing machine, freezer, large cooler for root vegetable storage, and grinding machine so they can now offer ground chicken and turkey. Hennessey and Whiting worked with Brian Hayes of Bellweather Craftsman to design the barn and to make it energy efficient.

At this first winter pop up, there were a variety of winter vegetables for sale such as celeric, beets, winter squash and shallots; a nice selection of sausages including breakfast patties, Italian sweet and hot and andouille; a wide variety of pork and beef cuts, whole chickens, breasts and wings, turkey breast and fresh eggs. Smiling young farmers staffed a sample table filled with treats such as maple beef jerkey, salumi and summer sausage. To make this local culinary scene even more enticing, there were a number of special pricing incentives featured. From the constant flow of customers all afternoon, it was clear that Maple Wind Farm has a loyal following of patrons. It didn't take long for word to spread that this was a great way to stock up Richmond and Huntington freezers.

Whiting and Hennessey house their cows and pigs at their Huntington farm although the cows do come to the Richmond area to graze at times during the summer. The Richmond property is used for their chickens which produce 1,000 eggs a day as well. They will have turkeys later in the summer. The chicken and turkey processing takes place at the Richmond site. The fields and green house that are rented in Bolton are used for vegetables.

Maple Wind Farm employs twenty-two people during the summer but the winter operation is maintained by three people. Whiting and Hennessey expect that the new meat grinding will increase their winter staff.

Maple Wind Farm sells some of their products in the Richmond Market and in some Burlington stores. They also sell their meat to Hotel Vermont and American Flatbread in Burlington. Their next local pop up markets will be on Saturday, March 18 and April 15, featuring new incentives so this is a good time to think about stocking up your freezer. Hennessey and Whiting are committed to selling locally as well as helping their community. This past season Maple Wind Farm donated over 4,000 lbs of produce to the Food Bank. By working with a gleaning crew, they were able to get a lot of produce to the Food Shelf—a great arrangement that helped neighbors in need to receive fresh local food. Huntington and Richmond residents are also encouraged to call and shop by appointment. As the Maple Wind website states, "With the average conventional steak traveling 1000 miles from home to table and 80% of the vegetables in the U.S. coming from California, we've decided to cut out the environmental costs of such practices by keeping production close to home while strengthening the food system in Vermont and providing our customers with some of the freshest and healthiest food available."

Author and food activist Michael Pollan has written extensively about food, nutrition and the food distribution system in our country. He is proponent of local foods. In his book entitled In Defense of Food, Pollan writes, "In a short food chain, eaters can make their needs and desires known to the farmer, and farmers can impress on eaters the distinctions between ordinary and exceptional food, and the many reasons why exceptional food is worth what it costs. " As Pollan likes to say, "Shake the hand that feeds you."

And in this case, their names are Beth Whiting and Bruce Hennessey.

Photos, from top: Beth Whiting with daily production of eggs, Bryn Hennessy gives out samples of salami at the recent pop-up market, flock of chickens indoors and out.

For more information contact: Beth Whiting & Bruce Hennessy. The Maple Wind Farm Processing Facility and pop up market is located at 1149 East Main Street (Route 2), Richmond, VT O5477. The Home Farm is located at 1340 Carse Road, Huntington, VT 05462. To learn more about their farming practices, check out their website is www.maplewindfarm.com. Phone: 434-7257 and email with questions at goodfood@maplewindfarm.com

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Hypocrisy

"I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me, and yet I assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by all possible means except by getting off his back."

—Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910)

Greek in origin, the word hypocrisy comes from the word "hupokisis," which means "acting of a theatrical part; feigning; pretense." Our word has evolved to mean "the assuming of a false appearance of virtue or goodness, with dissimulation of real character or inclinations, especially in respect of a religious life or beliefs; sham."

Examples of hypocrisy are everywhere, and each of us is guilty to one degree or another. Typically, our normal hypocrisies are relatively minor, as described in a study in the June 2015 issue of The Atlantic which discussed ethicists who don't return library books on time. My personal confession is that although I am a strong advocate of following the law, if given the opportunity, I will jaywalk.

We witness the politicians who present publicly as moral and honest, only to learn they have been taking bribes and hiding large sums of cash in their freezer. Or the sanctimonious ones who we learn are exposing themselves to young boys. Then there are the religious leaders who piously preach chastity before marriage and faithfulness after marriage, but are carrying on illicit affairs, even as they chastise others for the same behavior. Perhaps we should not be shocked when it is revealed that the ones who display the most censorious temper are the very same ones who are engaged in the declared immoral behavior.

As individuals and society, we conveniently convince ourselves that our actions are good and right. We can assure ourselves that our righteous indignation is justified and we are legitimate in our outrage at the ideas and behaviors of others. We accept the false solutions offered by our leaders, of both political parties.

In our beautiful state of Vermont, we worship the goddess of "green energy," and yet we pretend that the permanent and irreparable damage and destruction of miles of land, forests, and animal habitat is acceptable.

Locally, we all insist we value a sense of community. At the same time, people want growth and development, apparently unable to see what that means. We are unable to see what's in front of us and are able to deny the obvious outcome of our decisions.

Though we view ourselves as kind and friendly citizens of our towns, we, too, can be vicious towards others when we disagree. The personal and venomous attacks on Front Porch Forum and in public meetings discussing the Creamery land were directly targeted at the dedicated senior citizens and our legislator who had unselfishly devoted hundreds of hours to work on our behalf.

But the major hypocrisy is seen in people who think they are saving the earth, self-proclaimed environmentalists who have lots of children. The cruel and inhumane effect of billions of lives on the planet results from major hypocrisy.

In order to satisfy our own immediate needs and wants, we pretend that we are not destroying the future for those who come after us. Is this not the height of hypocrisy?

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

Town of Richmond

2017 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SEARCH

The Richmond Selectboard is seeking volunteers to join their neighbors on the following Boards, Commissions and Committees, beginning in June. Further information is available via e-mail townmgr@gmavt.net or by calling Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, at 434-5170. Letters of interest should be emailed, or mailed to: Volunteer Search, P.O. Box 285, Richmond, VT 05477 by April 1, 2017.

- **PLANNING COMMISSION** 2 meetings per month; (one 4-year term) Work includes the completion of a major rewrite of the town plan and zoning and subdivision bylaws.
- **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD** 1 or 2 meetings per month; (two 3-year terms, and two 1-year alternate positions) Conduct public hearings most major land development and commercial projects and permit appeals.
- **CONSERVATION COMMISSION** 1 meeting per month; (one 4-year term) Develop planning tools for local natural resources and working on proposals to utilize the conservation reserve fund.
- **RECREATION COMMITTEE** meetings per month TBD; (two 3-year terms and one unfilled position expiring in 2018) Develop and manage recreation programs and enhance the use of Volunteers Green and Browns Court.
- **RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE** one meeting per month; (three 3-year terms) Develop and manage the trail and path network in Richmond, including making connections to neighborhoods.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** 1 meeting per month; (eleven 1-year terms) Assists the Selectboard in enhancing the business climate in Richmond.
- **RICHMOND RESCUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIAISON & REPRESENTATIVE** Board members oversee operations and guide policy for Richmond Rescue. This Board member should be willing to help Rescue improve as an asset to the Town.

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–Chittenden Solid Waste District, 2 yrs
-Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood, 1 yr
-Parade & Fireworks Committee, 1 yr
-Civil Defense Director, 1 yr
Transportation Advisory Committee, 2 yrs
-CCRPC Representative, 2 yrs
-Emergency Management Coordinator, 1 yr

Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Another Year

This column is being written late. That sort of sums up my success at keeping New Year's resolutions. Happens every year: I pile up the intentions like someone investing in a stock called "Disappointment," then I plunge into January and before no time at all, I'm reaping the dividends of failed expectation.

Since I'm already behind on this, let's look at expectations. We are told each year is a "clean slate." You know where that comes from, don't you? People used to write on slates. They'd write on them, wipe I 'em clean, and then start out fresh with a clean slate.

Let's examine that closer. Remember those great chalk boards that wrapped the walls of our elementary school class rooms? The teacher would write on them and then wipe them clean with an eraser. Except that they didn't come clean, there were always ghosts of words or math problems appearing from the past.

It was never a "clean slate." History showed through and so it does with us. Each fresh start is haunted by all we have done and all we have failed to do. We bring the same stuff with us to every new opportunity, even January 1st.

This is not a complaint, nor am I being negative. After enough years, it is actually a blessing. Expectations are not so high; the fall is not so far. We know how things work and I was not surprised to have gotten to this column late. It happens most months and it has been going on for years.

Yes, I made a resolution, but only because a group of friends wanted to hear each other's resolutions. So, I made that one up and then didn't think about it again until I realized on a Friday night I had a Monday morning deadline.

So, am I advising people shouldn't bother with New Year's resolutions? No, if I gave advice upon a new year, that wouldn't be it. What would it be? It would be advice others offered me that worked out well. What kind of advice? Well, since you asked, here is a little:

Be smarter than your phone. You should decide when to answer it and when not to. Have times you don't answer it. That is called having time for yourself.

Never miss a chance to pat a dog or scratch a cat.

The less you hurry, the more time you have. Odd, but true.

I got more, but that was already too much. Happy New Year.

Aging in Place, it doesn't happen by accident and it goes on year after year.

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