The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 34 **October 2017 Issue** Number 8

Richmond to Vote on New Fire Truck

by Greg Elias

The Richmond Fire Department faced a question familiar to any owner of an aging auto: repair or replace it?

Rust and engine problems plaguing one of its three fire engines led the town to opt for replacement of the expensive vehicle. So on September 26, voters will be asked to approve a $395,000 bond to pay for a new truck.

Fire Engine No. 3, purchased in 2001, was expected to last until 2021. But when the truck underwent its annual inspection earlier this year, severe frame rust was discovered. The frame later was reinforced with welded supports.

It was clear, however, that the fire engine's days were numbered. In addition to the rust, the water tank developed a leak and the engine's cylinder head warped.

"The truck is deteriorating," said Richmond Fire Chief Dennis Gile. The truck passed inspection this time despite the frame rust.

But Gile said if the voters reject the bond and the truck fails inspection, the department would have to make do with one less engine, losing the firefighting capacity that comes with 1,500 gallons of water it carries.

"Chances are your homeowners insurance would probably go up because our fire rating would go down," Gile said.

The Selectboard scheduled the bond vote following debate at multiple meetings over the summer about what to do with the repair-prone fire engine.

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Hanksville Gets New, Safer Bridge

The narrow bridge on Huntington's Main Road north of Hanksville was replaced this summer. Extensive work required a detour, closed to large trucks. The site of accidents and one fatality in the past 30 years, the approach was straightened at both ends, making the bridge safer for all vehicles and cyclists. Photo: Heidi Racht

MMCTV 20th Anniversary

New and old friends of local public access television are invited to the West Monitor Barn to celebrate 20 years of Mt. Mansfield Community Television. n MMCTV 20th Anniversary Harvest Dinner on Thursday, October 5. The evening will feature a meal assembled by chefs from Hatchet and Richmond Community Kitchen, plus wood-fired pizzas by NOFA-VT and dessert courtesy of Sweet Simones – all to the foot-stomping tune of Red Hot Juba. "We are gearing up for our biggest fundraiser to date," said Angelike Contis, Executive Director. "We are grateful for local eateries and farm/food businesses for their donations, which are making it all possible."

Early-bird tickets ($35 adults, $10 children under 18) are now available for this event, in person (35 West Main Street, Richmond, 434-2550), by mail (MMCTV, PO Box 688, Richmond, VT 05477) or online www.bitly.com/mmctvHarvest. Each guest will receive a commemorative beer glass (and a pour of Stone Corral beer). "This summer," said Contis, "Stone Corral generously created a popular special Spruce Tip beer in honor of our 20th anniversary." A portion of each pour is going to MMCTV.

Volunteers looking to help out at the Harvest Dinner can call 434-2550 or angelike@mmctv15.org for more information.

More About MMCTV At MMCTV's studio, fall means fresh MMU football game videos, new episodes of the series Two Towns Garden Tour, and a return to MMMU/CESU meetings. Two MMU students are volunteering in the editing room and summer youth camp workshop videos on the airwaves. (Although the Barber Farm episode of the Memory Map road history series may take some time, due to the goldmine of history discovered on that Jericho stretch this summer.)

With the onset of cooler weather, the walls are now decorated with water images by Richmond's Mary Claire Carroll; a reception was held in early September for this exhibit. Stop by during office hours, Monday to Thursday, or by appointment through October 15 to enjoy her images of magical moments at places including Gillett Pond, Lake Everest and the Lamoille River.

MMCTV is the public access television channel located in Richmond which serves Richmond, Jericho and Underhill. It is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and a member of the Vermont Access Network.

Chicken Pies for Over 70 Years

It is always a sell-out. Count on it. So get your tickets early to enjoy this popular Richmond fall event.

The 70th Annual Chicken Pie Supper will be held on Wednesday, October 4. This traditional supper is to celebrate the fall harvest and season. The fare features chicken pie, mashed potatoes, winter squash, and cole slaw. Top off this tasty meal with apple or pumpkin pie.

An appreciative crowd at a recent Richmond Chicken Pie Supper. Left, the next generation of cooks for this popular fall event. Courtesy photos

Details for attending the supper remain the same.

Reservations are required and can be made by going to www.rccucc.org and selecting the CPS tab or by calling 318-5359 between the hours of 6 pm and 9 pm. Three seatings will be on the hour at 5 pm, 6 pm and 7 pm; and take-outs will be on the half hour 4:30 pm, 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm. The prices: $12 adults and takeout; $6 children under 12; and preschoolers, free.

Larger groups wishing to be seated together need to reserve early to ensure the requested number of tickets.

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The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

PO Box 532 • Richmond, Vermont 05477
news@timesinkvt org

The Times Ink! is published monthly by The Richmond Times, Inc , a non-profit educational corporation. It is wholly supported by paid advertising and subscriptions. It is mailed free to all 2995 post office boxes and households of Richmond & Huntington, and the Bolton Access Road.

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Next Issue/Deadline: October 5
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Letters

Richmond Fire Truck

continued from page 1

"The determination of the Fire Department is that this vehicle has little life left for Richmond as its problems continue to worsen," stated a town media release about that bond vote.

While it is roadworthy today and capable of fighting fires, the decision was made to request a replacement ahead of its intended cycle by about 2.5 years."

Gile attributed the truck's premature demise to rust caused by the shift in recent years from rock salt to the salt brine used to clear ice off winter roads. Many motorists have complained that the brine is causing their vehicles to rust.

"We'll keep it in service until we get the new truck," Gile said. "But the other thing is that truck is starting to be a money pit." He said the cylinder head repair cost $5,000-$6,000.

The other two fire engines are much newer. One was purchased in 2015 and the other dates back to 2011. The department also has a brush truck and a utility truck that are eight and 12 years old, respectively.

If approved, the new fire truck will be financed over seven years, with annual principal payments of $57,142, plus 3 percent annual interest. The property tax rate will increase by about 1.4 cents to cover the payments.

Richmond is unlikely to recoup much for the old fire engine. It may be sold at auction, with the value estimated at $15,000.

The Richmond Fire Department assumes a 20-year lifespan for its vehicles. The town tries to set aside about $28,000 each year to replace equipment, said Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik. But he said the earlier-than-expected retirement of Fire Engine No. 3 and the replacement of the other engine two years ago means the town has not had time to replenish reserves.

During his 45 years with the Richmond Fire Department, Gile said residents have always approved money for new equipment. "We've never had a no vote that I know of," he said.

The last time he could remember voters rejecting a Fire Department funding request was in the mid-60s, when Richmond village and town were separate entities and the bond payments were going to have a disproportionate impact on the village's taxes. Voters in 2014 approved by a 534-320 margin funding for the department's newest fire engine.

The special vote was driven by the urgency to start the lengthy replacement process and get a new fire engine on the road before the old vehicle is no longer usable. But such standalone votes not held during the November election or March town meeting typically produce a tiny turnout.

For example, in a July 2015 bond vote on a $1.2 million water line replacement project, just 9 percent of registered voters cast ballots. Richmond town meetings typically draw about a third of eligible voters; presidential elections can produce turnout exceeding 60 percent.

Buying a fire engine is not like walking into a dealership and driving out with a new car. Bids are first solicited. Then the town must select a bidder and wait 12-15 months for delivery.

Three vendors already have been contacted and none of them could provide a new truck any faster, Gile said. So it will likely take until late 2018 before the new truck is delivered.

In the meantime, town officials hope to limp by with Fire Engine No. 3. If the vehicle gives out, the town would be more dependent on help from nearby towns under mutual aid agreements when fighting a major fire.

"Thank goodness we haven't had a structure fire for a couple of years now," Gile said, "but that's not saying that is not going to happen tomorrow."

Voting on the bond for a new fire truck will be held Tuesday, September 26 from 7 am to 7 pm at the Richmond Town Clerk's office in Richmond Town Center. Absentee ballots can be requested by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 434-2221.

Call to Artists

VSA Vermont and the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts invite established and emerging Vermont artists to participate in FLOURISH, an exhibition showcasing works of art by Vermont artists with various disabilities. The exhibition is to be held at the Amy E. Tarrant Gallery at the Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, April 7 – June 30, 2018.

FLOURISH will offer participating artists opportunities to be featured in statewide publicity, build larger audiences for their work, and receive technical assistance in the professional documentation and presentation of their work. The Amy E. Tarrant Gallery at the Flynn Center is physically accessible and the exhibition will provide accessible program and communication features coordinated by VSA Vermont.

The artwork will be of high artistic quality, demonstrating originality, imagination, skillful use of materials, and quality of craft. Vermont artists with various disabilities, regardless of experience or formal training, who are at least 18 years of age or older are eligible to apply. A disability, as defined in the Americans With Disabilities Act, substantially limits one or more major life activity.

FLOURISH: A statewide exhibition of artwork by Vermont artists with disabilities

The application deadline is September 29, 2017.

Vermont artists may obtain assistance with the application form from a support person, family member, or friend. Artists should have direct involvement in the completion of an application when assistance is used.

Application materials and more information: www.vsavt.org/flourish.

Senior Foot Clinics

Here are the next dates for the 2016-2017 Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors. Mark your calendar. Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building. Come to the back door of the building beginning at 9 am.

October 17, November 28

Dates for 2018: January 9, February 20, April 3, May 15, June 26

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

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

Mirth and Mystery: A Nordic Piano Trio Program

On Saturday, October 7, at 7:30 pm, the Stellaria Trio kicks off its 2017-18 season at the Richmond Free Library with a spotlight on works by Finnish, Norwegian, and Danish composers. Violinist Letitia Quante, cellist John Dunlop, and pianist Claire Black present the Lovisa Trio of Jean Sibelius, Edvard Grieg's Andante con moto, and Piano Trio in F Minor by Peter E. Lange-Müller. Free admission. Donations welcome.

Huntington Residents to Discuss Water Quality Issues

In partnership with the Huntington Conservation Commission, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is hosting a special meeting to gather public comments and ideas about important water quality issues in Huntington. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 2, starting at 6:30 pm at the Huntington Public Library. Staff from the CCRPC, along with Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staff, will conduct a community discussion of threats to resources and opportunities for protection in the town of Huntington.

Do you use a special place that needs to be identified? Do you have a problem with erosion or pollution that needs to be addressed?

Dan Albrecht from the CCRPC, and Karen Bates, DEC Basin Planner will use the information from this meeting to develop project ideas for the Huntington River and its tributaries to help improve water quality both locally and in Lake Champlain. These ideas will then be incorporated into DEC's draft Winooski Basin Plan and guide the State in reviewing where projects can best be implemented.

The CCRPC and DEC need to know how the Huntington River can best contribute to the protection of the Winooski Basin and Lake Champlain. How citizens value and use the natural resources is important and necessary information.

—Darlene Palola, Huntington resident and town representative on CCRPC Clean Water Quality Advisory Committee

Music and Crafts

Huntington Valley Arts and the Huntington Town Hall Committee are joining talents and space to bring a day of art, crafts, music and good food to Huntington on Saturday, October 14, 10-5, in the Town Hall in Huntington Center. Crafts and artists tables downstairs, music above, on stage. Concert, family sing-a-long with Buddy Dubay at noon, Traditional Music jam session 2 pm to 4 pm, led by Carl Thornton. Cook out 11-2, 50/50 raffle.

Free entry, crafts for sale, big silent auction of donated art, all to benefit both above organizations. Call Alison if you'd like to exhibit (434-4235) or help with set up, clean-up, advertising. Come enjoy the fun and support your friends and neighbors!

Flute Concert on October 1

International world flute recording artist and Vermont Native, Gary Stroutsos, returns to the Old Round Church for a meditative solo flute concert on Sunday, October 1, at 4 pm. Tickets are by a suggested donation of $15. Stroutsos is enthusiastic about the upcoming concert, saying, "I like to play inside great spaces where the space can be a musical partner or a collaborator with me. The Old Round Church is one such magical and unique acoustic space." He will showcase his one-of-a -kind flute collection with many songs from his diverse catalog of world flute music featuring traditional old love songs from the Native American tribes he has worked with, as well as introspective jazz and British Isles traditional music.

Stroutsos's live performances have captivated audiences around the world with meditative flute music and time-honored stories evoking the lands and cultures that he has studied over the course of his 35-year career. His work is to carry the music forward to future generations and to promote stewardship of diverse cultures and the natural environment. His unique musical style and use of humor transcends human differences in age and culture, connecting audiences in a shared contemplative space that transports listeners to a spirit of place.

For more information about Gary Stroutsos, visit wwwgarystroutsos.com

For more information about the concert, call Fran Thomas (434-3654) or Mary Ann Barnes (434-3220).

Green Mountain Chorus Barbershop Quartet Harmony in Richmond

For 70 years, the Green Mountain Chorus has been delighting audiences throughout New England with its uniquely American Barbershop Quartet style of "a cappella" singing. On September 24 starting at 3 pm, the group will perform familiar and memorable songs in a program titled Songs of Your Life at Richmond's Congregational Church.

The Chorus is a regular feature at Burlington's First Night events. They also appear at major fundraisers, private and civic events and at competitions in the Northeast, where they rank consistently among the top four-part harmony groups.

In addition to songs by the entire company, they also feature individual barbershop quartets that mix vaudeville and comedy with their musical numbers. One of these quartets, Chordination, is the current Mountain Division Champion of The Barbershop Harmony Society.

This is their first performance in the Richmond, Huntington Bolton area. The event is hosted by the Bolton-Huntington-Richmond Community Senior Center, with net proceeds to benefit the non-profit organization.

Chordination, the current Mountain Division Champions of the Barbershop Harmony Society, is one of the Green Mountain Chorus' quartets that will perform in the Richmond'Congregational Church on September 24.

Advance tickets at $17 per person can be purchased by personal check payable to the Community Senior Center. They are available at the Richmond Town Clerk's office, and by mail, and held on a will call basis on the day of the event. Mail requests must be postmarked by September 18 and include a personal check payable to the Community Senior Center, the purchaser's name and phone number, and sent to: Community Senior Center, P.O. Box 508. Admission can also be paid at the door.

A Vermont treasure, the Chorus is based in Winooski, with members hailing from many areas of the state. They have been members of The Barbershop Harmony Society since 1947.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

4930 Main Road Huntington, Vermont 05462

The Huntington Development Review Board will meet on October 10, 2017, at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office in Huntington Center to review the following applications:

Request for Major Subdivision Final Review

Nat Weaver to subdivide 189 acres into three lots (Lot 1, 179+/- acres; Lot 2, 5 acres; Lot 3, 5 acres). Access to subject property is located on Weaver Road in Huntington, The hearing will be at 7:15 pm.

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

Request for Subdivision Sketch Plan Review

Brian Cavanaugh, 691 East Street, 3-lot subdivision of 6.2 acres (Lot 1, 4.2 acres; Lot 2, 1 acre; Lot 3, 1 acre). Property is in the Village District. The hearing will be at 7:45 pm.

Request for Variance Review

Shawn Carroll, 1920 Camels Hump Road, to build a log cabin, on a .37-acre parcel, that is within the setback of Brush Brook and also Camels Hump Road. Access to subject property is located Camels Hump Road in Huntington and is the Rural Residential District. The hearing will be at 8 pm.

The DRB will conduct a Site Visit to the property at 6:30 pm.

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

—Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk, September 20, 2017

Richmond Free Library

www richmondfreelibraryvt org

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

September Art During the month of September, we will have the work of Vermont artist Cathy Stevens Pratt both on the walls and in the foyer display case. She works in a multitude of media such as acrylic paint, watercolor, ink, scratchboard and digital; to name a few. Her art ranges from whimsical to realistic. Cathy has been an artist "forever." A professional graphic designer, she works next to a window in her home that pulls her imagination out into the gorgeous woods. She paints with watercolors, acrylics, pens and ink. She adores cats, mermaids, trees, beads, fiber and chocolate. Oh, and frogs and peepers!

Coming in October

Art: Anita Cotrone

Display: Memorabilia of Delta Airlines, the early years

Insights into Early Chittenden County History Wednesday, September 20, 7 pm, Brennan Gauthier, VTrans archaeologist, will present documentary and archaeological evidence on various aspects of Chittenden County and the remarkably rich and diverse archaeological heritage that spans almost 13,000 years of human history. Sites range from Native American campsites used by Paleo-Indians (the earliest Vermonters), to 12th century Native American farming sites Come hear about the earliest human inhabitants of the area and some of the animals that roamed here – including mammoths and mastodons. This is one of the many fabulous events of Vermont Archealogy Month, for more information, visit: http://historicsites.vermont.gov/vt_history/archaeology

Drag Queen Story Hour Saturday, September 23, 12:30. Stories followed by Q & A. Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) is just what it sounds like—drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, and bookstores. DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood. Kids are able to see people who defy rigid gender restrictions and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, where dress up is real. (dragqueenstoryhour.org)

Book Discussions (Mystery) The Scold's Bridle by Minette Walters, Thursday, October 19, 7 pm. The death of Mathilda Gillespie shocks the English village of Fontwell and sets local tongues wagging. The wealthy old woman is found dead in her bath, a bloody kitchen knife within reach, and a scold's bridle - a medieval instrument of torture used to silence nagging women - over her head.

(Fiction) The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin. In the spirit of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society and The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, Gabrielle Zevin's enchanting novel is a love letter to the world of books--and booksellers--that changes our lives by giving us the stories that open our hearts and enlighten our minds.

Weekly Children's Programs No one ever regrets taking their child to storytime. We offer three weekly programs for young children. Choose the one that's right for your child and schedule. While the programs are planned with the ages listed in mind, older and younger children are always welcome. No registration is required.

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

Playgroup and Storytime For children age Infant - 5. Introduce your child to many new friends and to the wonderful world of books on Wednesdays. Playgroup begins at 8:45 am. Storytime begins at 10 am.

Early Bird Math Storytime This storytime is for children ages 2 - 5. We will explore numbers, shapes, patterns and sets through books, songs, rhymes and games. This fun, interactive storytime happens in the community room. Join us on the first three Fridays of the month at 11 am, beginning after Labor Day.

Yoga Storytime Children ages 2-5 can join us for yoga storytime. We'll enjoy thoughtful books and engage our bodies with active movement. Join us on the Fourth Friday of the month at 11 am.

Read to Tippy the Dog Children ages 4 - 12 can sign up for a private session with Tippy, a Certified Therapy Dog. Why read to Tippy? Because Tippy is friendly and cute and she will love anyone who reads her a story. Readers will gain confidence while they enjoy some private story time with Tippy. Tippy will gain praise and adoration.Sign up for a slot in advance or just drop by on the second Tuesday of every month beginning on September 12, 3 pm - 4 pm in the Community Room.

Diabetes Prevention Workshop For those diagnosed with prediabetes or at risk, begins on Wednesday, October 4, at 1:30. This workshop will meet once per week for 16 weeks, then every other week for a total of 25 sesions. Participants will receive education and support to help you adopt healthier eating and exercise habits that can lead to weight loss and reduce your risk of getting diabetes. If you're overweight, don't get enough exercise, have high blood pressure, have abnormal cholesterol or have a parent or sibling with diabetes, you are at greater risk for developing diabetes. Prevent it now! To register and for more information contact Amanda Biggs of Community Health Improvement at 847-5468.

New Materials We add new items to our shelves every month. Recently we have been paying particular attention to our junior nonfiction section. Remember that our shelves are full of excellent resources for complementing the school library and aiding with school assignments. Think of us at book report time.

New Carpet Our fresh look on the second floor is inviting and whimsical. Enjoy an hour or two in our youth library with your favorite little person. We have puzzles, blocks, and toys to play with and of course lots of books to share.

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hpl@gmavt net

Thank you to all those who dedicated their time and energy towards the Annual BBQ! The BBQ is an important fundraiser that pays for expenses not covered in the general fund. We are so grateful for such a wonderful community.

Another huge thank you to all the volunteers who make the Summer Reading Program so successful: the many local guests who shared their special way of Building a Better World, Radiate Art in Richmond, and Marie Thomas of Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) for sponsoring Pizza Fridays!

Hatha Yoga with Tania Dornic O'Neal Wednesdays, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm in September. Envigorate your week with a slow yet empowering yoga class suitable for all levels of experience. We will focus on alignment in the postures, while being mindful of body, breath, and mind. Classes are $10 each, with $1 of that fee for the Huntington Public Library.

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

Please note that starting in October classes will be shifting to Thursdays, 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

Babies and Toddlers Need Books Attention Huntington Home Daycare Providers! Whether you are register daycare provider or watching a few children during the weekdays – your group is eligible for a monthly Story Time visit from the Huntington Public Library! A trained staff member will come to your home with a complete Story Time kit, which includes books to read aloud, rhymes, songs, and a craft. We can also bring a bag of library books for you to read to your young readers during the month and return with a new bag next visit! For more information please email Stacey.

Art Space Available The Library offers gallery space to Vermont artists who would like to exhibit their work. Space is free, and artwork may be sold with all monies going directly to the artist. All media is welcome, from photos to textiles, as long as work can be safely exhibited by hanging. Contact the Library for more details.

Adult Fiction Gwendy's Button Box by Stephen King and Richard Chizmar; Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi; Pay It Forward by Catherine Ryan Hyde; Dark Saturday by Nicci French; Dune by Frank Herbert; A Legacy of Spies by John LeCarre; The Minnesota Trilogy – The Land of Dreams, Only the Dead and The Ravens by Vidar Sundstol; The Engineer Trilogy – Devices and Desires, Evil for Evil and The Escapement by K.J. Parker. A Column of Fire by Ken Follett; Kiss Carlo by Adriana Trigiani; The Debutante by Kathleen Tessaro

Adult Non-Fiction Dock Dorks – The Liveaboard by C. Shelton; The Curious Nature Guide – Explore the Natural Wonders All Around You by Clare Walker Leslie; No Dig Organic Home and Garden – Grow, Cook, Use and Store Your Harvest by Charles Dowding and Stephanie Hafferty; The Market Gardener – A Successful Grower's Handbook for Small-Scale Organic Farming by Jean-Martin Fortier; Silent Sparks – The Wondrous World of Fireflies by Sara Lewis; Option B – Facing Adversity, Building Resilience and Finding Joy by Sherly Sandberg and Adam Grant; A Native Plants Reader – Brooklyn Botanic Garden Guide; Our Renewable Future b-Laying the Path for One Hundred Percent Clean Energy by Richard Heinberg and David Fridley; The Bucket List – 1000 Adventures Big and Small.

Childrens Picture Books Mama Lion Wins the Race by Jon J. Muth; Are You a Bee? And Are You a Dragonfly? By Judy Allen and Tudor Humphries; Oskar Loves....., One is Not a Pair – A Spotting Book, The Odd One Out – A Spotting Book, Let's Talk About Animals and Let's Talk About Dinosaurs by Britta Teckentrup; Nurse Clementine by Simon James; She Persisted – 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton.

J Audio Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson.

Young Adult Non-Fiction We Rise – The Earth Guardians Guide to Building a Movement that Restores the Planet by Xiuhtezctl Martinez.

Story Time & Playgroup Fridays, 10 am – 12 noon. Storytime starts at 10:45 am. Babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills by listening to stories, fingerplays, rhyming, singing songs, doing and crafts. The playgroup aims to provide a warm,welcoming, and fun place for children and their caregivers to socialize and make new friends.

First Friday Movie Night Friday, October 6, at 7 pm. We will be watching Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul. Bring your best friends, wear your pajamas, and we will pop the popcorn! Remember, suggestions for upcoming Movie Nights are always welcome!

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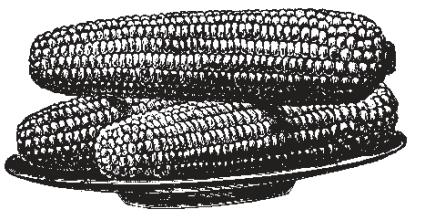

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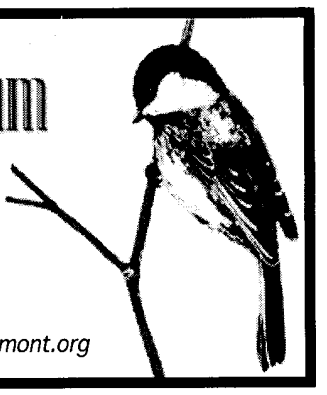

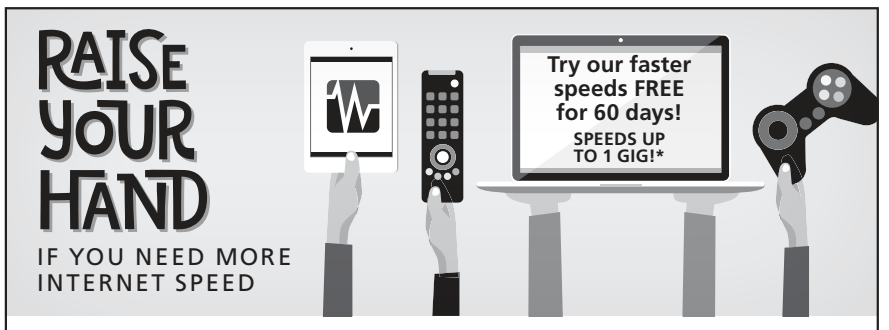

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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Should Richmond forgo permitting fees levied on a development if the project benefits the town?

That was the question considered by the Selectboard at its September 5 meeting as it debated a fee waiver requested by Buttermilk LLC, developer of the mixed-use project at the site of a defunct creamery off Bridge Street.

Buttermilk asked the town to waive fees totaling $3,600. Town Planner Clare Rock said the fees, which include charges for a zoning permit and fire impacts, are actually $5,470.

Buttermilk partner Josi Kytle said in a memo that her company deserved a break after spending more than $1 million cleaning up a site contaminated by industrial uses that stretch back more than a century. That toxic legacy has long been a concern for the town, creating a public health hazard in the heart of the downtown business district.

"The project has been very expensive, complicated and risky for Buttermilk both in terms of the clean up and other unique situations – many of which were unnecessary," she wrote. "As part of the permitting process, we have already incurred significant costs to pay for review, inspections, (an) application fee and other unique requirements not normally requested from other developments or projects."

Kytle's memo said Buttermilk paid roughly a quarter of the cleanup costs, with the remainder covered by government grants. She said her company also paid other town fees totaling about $4,000. She said waiving the remaining charges "would be a gesture of partnership to achieve this complicated and expensive project."

The Selectboard, however, seemed unsure if the town was Buttermilk's partner or just dealing with developer trying to maximize profits. The ensuing discussion was a continuation of talk that began at an August 21 meeting when Kytle first requested the fee waiver.

"I'm just torn, because on one hand I do recognize the history of this parcel, and rightly or wrongly the perception that our community has not been as favorable to business activities," said Selectboard member Steve May.

"On the other hand, these are real estate developers and this is not their first development," he added. "At a certain point, we need to stop treating them as the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament (a Roman Catholic order of nuns) and recognize they are looking to make a profit."

Some Selectboard members worried that a fee waiver could set a precedent for future developers. Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik suggested that the Buttermilk waiver could be framed in such a way to sidestep setting a precedent.

"The area has been handled in unique ways since 2014 and it is conceivable that a unique fee waiver could be done without setting a broad precedent for waiving fees under normal circumstances," he wrote in a memo.

Selectboard Chairman Lincoln Bressor noted that Richmond has already done much to promote redevelopment of the creamery, such an enacting interim zoning.

"I don't want to set a precedent, or bend over backwards to not set a precedent," he said. "When someone doesn't pay these impact fees, the rest of the town pays them."

Bressor added that though he appreciated Buttermilk for improving the property, he opposed the fee waiver.

Another opponent was Heidi Bormann, co-owner of Mann & Machine, a Richmond auto repair shop. She told the Selectboard that permitting fees are part of the cost of doing business and granting the waiver would simply increase profits.

She pointed out that the town granted other concessions, such as allowing residential units to be built on property originally zoned for commercial use. "I just feel like at this point in time we're starting to give away the farm," Bormann said.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to reject the fee waiver request.

Pedaling Uphill The Selectboard revisited the topic of improving bicycle and pedestrian access along Route 2, an issue that has long flummoxed the town.

The two-mile segment between Bridge Street and Interstate 89 that links downtown Richmond to the park and ride next to the highway has narrow-to-nearly-non-existent shoulders, leaving little room for walking and biking. Other impediments include a cemetery and railroad tracks along the stretch, which would stymie efforts to build a bike path or sidewalk.

A 2014 study by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission found that building a bike and pedestrian path would be complex and expensive. Breaking down the project into phases, the study estimated the total price tag would exceed $5 million.

Board member Bard Hill noted the cost has deterred the town from further pursuing plans. "The wheels didn't turn on that project," he said.

"Pinch points" created by the cemetery and the railway would get in the way of a full-fledged bike and pedestrian path, he said. Paths that accommodate both bikers and pedestrians can be up to 10 feet wide.

Those who do try to traverse that stretch of Route 2 find the existing shoulders are just 1-3 feet wide. That's narrower than the standard 4 feet width found elsewhere on state roads.

"So it's not a safe place to walk, ride your bicycle or push your child in a stroller," Hill said.

He noted that Richmond has a park and ride facility aimed at reducing vehicular traffic and promoting public transit. The park and ride is the only Richmond stop for Green Mountain Transit buses. But there is no way for someone to safely get to the park and ride without driving.

If the town can't afford to build its own bike path or convince the state to foot the bill, Hill said, it could at least encourage the state to widen the shoulders when Route 2 is repaved.

There was discussion of getting the regional planners to push the Vermont Agency of Transportation to include shoulder widening as part of any future repaving project.

Selectboard members shared horror stories about accidents and near-misses, noting that the narrow shoulders also create hazards for motorists because there is no way to dodge a broken-down car or an accident along the winding, two-lane road.

"It really is a question of public safety," May said.

Urbanik said the town would seek a meeting on the matter that would include Selectboard members, representatives from the Agency of Transportation and the Regional Planning Commission, and Marcia Gardner, Richmond's Representative in the Vermont House.

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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

At the Huntington Selectboard meeting on August 7, 2017, the Board discussed the loan for the excavator, approved by voters as part of the FY 17-18 Capital Plan. The Board considered a loan repayment schedule prepared by Town Treasurer Kathleen Clark. It agreed with Clark's recommendation to start payments in June 2018, which is still in this fiscal year (FY). At the August 21 meeting, the Board took Clark's advice to take an eight-year loan rather than a 10-year loan, noting that Road Foreman Yogi Alger was able to negotiate a purchase price $22,500 less than original quotes. The Board signed the paperwork for the excavator loan at its September 5 meeting.

The Board heard a request for a culvert reimbursement from Bradley Frazer of 500 Bert White Road on August 7. Frazer referenced a neighbor on Bert White Road who had his culvert replaced and paid for by the Town. Frazer claimed that FEMA and Better Back Roads grant projects required replacement of four driveway culverts, including his, a conclusion he reached from reading the Town website. Frazer also said his driveway is steeper since ditch work was performed." Yogi came up and looked at it. I have no access to my house so I have to get it done myself," said Frazer. Alger responded, "The issue here, if your culvert had been a good culvert we wouldn't have had a problem. The culvert was all rotten."

"Yes, the culvert did collapse, but did the ditching make that happen more quickly?" asked Frazer. Frazer said his culvert was within the town right of way (ROW). Nancy Stoddard, acting Board Chair, said, "All of your research will be reviewed and a decision will be made." Elliott clarified that the data Frazer presented concerning grants was from a 2011 study providing recommendations, rather than an outline of work to be performed. At the August 21 meeting, Board member Roman Livak reported a site visit to measure the distance of the culvert from the road's centerline, which determined the culvert's location is outside the Town ROW. The Board moved to not reimburse the property owner for the culvert installation at 500 Bert White Road.

At the August 21 meeting, the Selectboard unanimously passed a motion to amend the Town of Huntington Sign and Traffic ordinance to lower and maintain the posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour for all of Camels Hump Road, in accordance with the Camels Hump Road Traffic Engineering study, conducted by CCRPC (Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission). This ordinance takes effect on October 20, 2017, unless a petition by at least 5% of voters is filed with the Town Clerk by October 4, 2017 requesting a vote of disapproval. At the Selectboard meeting September 5, the Board signed the traffic ordinance changing the speed limit for the Camels Hump Road corridor to 25 mph.

At the August 7 meeting, the Board reviewed the CUSI (Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations) Intergovernmental agreement, which outlines provisions for the Town's participation, and has to be signed every four years. The agreement includes a request for funding. Board member Andrew Hendrickson, Huntington's CUSI representative, alerted the Board to changes in the agreement, including updates to documentation procedures. Livak moved to approve the agreement for one year and provide comment that "We are having this forced on us." This motion was not seconded. The motion to approve the agreement as written did not pass did not move forward. Mike Warren, former director of CUSI, attended the August 21 meeting. Warren provided information on CUSI services, funding, and his attempt while director to procure State funding for CUSI's State-mandated services. Livak asserted property taxes should not fund CUSI; the responsibility lies with the State. Warren concurred, but commented that since the State has not provided additional funding, CUSI has to seek financial support from the towns and cities it serves. The motion to pass the CUSI Intergovernmental agreement passed.

Eagle Scout Project Proposed Troop 645 Eagle Scout Candidate Peter Christiana presented a proposal to install three benches along the side of the recreation field, as his Eagle Scout project. The benches would be constructed of cedar, providing 24 feet of seating for watching soccer and other activities. Christiana reported support from the Recreation Committee. Board member Andrew Hendrickson asked about future maintenance. Christiana assured him the benches should last a long time. The motion to endorse this project and write a letter of support to the Eagle Scout Project Committee Chair passed.

Unregistered Dogs Town Clerk Heidi Racht presented research regarding Jericho's unregistered dogs procedures at the August 21 meeting. This investigation led Racht to conclude free registration is unfair to non-dog owning taxpayers, since there are costs to the Town for State fees and the purchase of tags. Stoddard and Hendrickson planned to investigate the feasibility of online registration and to have the Treasurer explore how to set up credit card payment. Clark reported her findings at the September 5 meeting, highlighting the costs involved for the town to set up a credit card payment system along with the fees passed on to those using the system. Livak and Hendrickson expressed skepticism that this would streamline the dog registration process, since tags would have to be mailed and rabies certificates collected.

Town Plan and Regulations Move Forward At the September 5 meeting, HPC (Huntington Planning Commission) Chair Everett Marshall, along with HPC Clerk Heidi Racht, came to the Board to discuss proposed Land Use Regulation changes made after the Public Hearing June 26. Changes were based on oral or written feedback, said Marshall. The draft proposed Land Use Regulations are available on the Town website. A main point, said Marshall, is the Town used to have separate zoning, flood and subdivision regulations, the new Land Use Regulations will be combining them. Flood regulations have to follow state and federal regulations language, added Marshall. Board members posed specific questions to Marshall regarding the draft document, which had been forwarded to the Selectboard prior to the meeting. Livak suggested the Commission look at wastewater capacity in the village districts, for future development. Livak asked if the voters should be asked to approve these regulations. Marshall responded, "I would persuade [the Selectboard] to approve them." The Town has not voted to require voter approval of the Land Use Regulations, so the Selectboard can approve them.

Marshall told the Board about a State Surfical Geological Mapping project, which examines deposits such as gravel, clay and sand in Vermont towns. This mapping is available with no cost to the Town. A motion of support for this passed unanimously. Marshall agreed to compose a letter for the Selectboard to sign in support.

During Public Comment, Marshall informed the Board about cars being frequently parked overnight in the commuter lot behind the library, some for extended periods. Marshall suggested signage prohibiting overnight parking. Elliott suggested the Town start with a sign, then move to enforceable measures if the signs are not enough to deter this practice.

Other Business:

• The Vermont Arts Council awarded the Town Hall Committee a $13,500 Cultural Facilities grant for electrical improvements and installation of a second restroom at the Town Hall.

• On August 21, responding to the unanimous vote by the HPC (Huntington Planning Commission) to recommend an additional term for Town Zoning Administrative Officer (ZAO) Ed Hanson, the Selectboard voted to reappoint Hanson to a three-year term.

• Britt Cummings has submitted a written resignation from the DRB (Development Review Board). The Board expressed gratitude for Cummings' many years of service.

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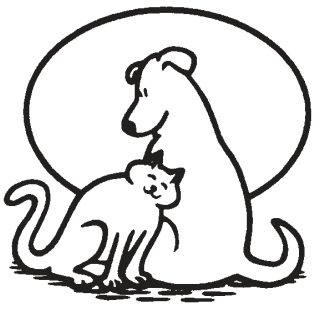

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FOURTH QUARTER 2016-2017

Richmond

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Grade 9: Molly Austin, Nicholas Bender, Ellen Bissell, Ezra Bush, Viva Goetze, Joshua Keough, Jonathan Knakal, Sophie O'Neil, Rory Ulmer
Grade 10: Eleanor Churchill, Finley Clark, Ella Myregaard, Hunter Wasser
Grade 11: Abigail Carter, Alexandra Devaux, Ella Goetze, Kira Mincar, Jack Parker
Grade 12: Allie Bianchi, Bella Firman, Katherine Johnson, Benjamin Nussbaum, Jessica Peura, Moriah Pinckney, Cory Raymond, Benjamin Slattery

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

Grade 9: August Biggio, Luke Bursell, Dana Cabrera, Noah Gagliardi, Kira Margolis, Connor Philbrick, Alana Picard, Alexandra Priganc, Ada Renner, Marion Sandblom, Annabelle Werner, Isabel Wysockey-Johnson

Grade 10: Hannah Ducharme, Kurt Eriksson, Aislynn Farr, Colby Giroux, Isabelle Hammond, Cecilia Harris, Maxwell Hartsfield, Eamonn Heney, Teagan Low, Cameron Mincar, Martina Monroe, Alexander Naumann, Amelia Sanborn, Lucaiah Smith-Miodownik, Nora Sylvester, Isabel Thon, Ely Webster

Grade 11: Benjamin Austin, Samuel Bender, Anna Coffin, Abigail DeBay, Skye Douglas-Hughes, Max Eriksson, Elise Killian, Trent LaBounty, Georgia Malone-Wolfsun, Tyler Muttilainen, Bram Rostad, Maygan Thompson, Sawyer Thompson, Ryan Witham

Grade 12: Grace Biggio, Sierra Fabiani, Hagen Harris, Anna Hogan, Sarah Knakal, Kayla Laird, Ellyn Lapointe, Kyle Leggett, Kirsten Stevens, Margaret Thompson, Simon Wagg, Kyle Yongberg

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

Grade 9: Sadie Firman, Darren Gravel, Jacob Grimm, Edward Kane, Joshua Kupiec, Kaiya Linn, Zoey O'Donnell, Edward Waite

Grade 10: Raina Carfaro, Abigail Chastaine, Joya Corr, Nathan Coulter, Samuel Hayden, Eli Rankin, Julius Rosen, Andrew Shepard, Ethan Slattery, William Smialek, Daniel Weidman, Hunter Werneke

Grade 11: Ross Johnson, Timothy Kane, Kira Nolan, Caroline Noonan, Zachary Reinhardt, Kaitlin Scherber, Christine Trumper

GRADE 12: Sofia Carfaro, Cameron Smith

Huntington

HIGHEST HONORS GPA 4 00-4 33

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

HIGH HONORS GPA 3 50-3 99

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

Grade 10: Elizabeth Syverson

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

Grade 12: Mason Bouffard, Jay Chandler, Allyson Rigutto, Audrey Scott, Anna Valentine, Katherine Van Der Vliet

HONORS GPA 3 00-3 49

Grade 9: David Hennessey, Autumn Beane, Ethan O'Neal, Dimitri Reed, Sayler Ruggles

Grade 10: Grace Ashak

Grade 11: Rowan Hamilton, Chelsea Layton. Eli Ogilvie, Elijah Symanowicz, Charles Young

Grade 12: Aidan Cummings, Olivia Merchant

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Area Residents Honored

Anthony Perri, a resident of Jericho, was one of 102 SUNY Potsdam student-athletes to earn a spot on the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll for the 2016-17 school year. Perri is a junior member of the SUNY Potsdam men's cross country team. Athletes named to the academic honor roll had a minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA for the year.

Joe Adkisson, a senior from Jericho, was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honorary scholastic fraternity at Carleton Colelge in Northfield, Minnesota. The Phi Beta Kappa national honorary scholastic fraternity was founded in 1776. The Carleton chapter was established in 1913 and elects its membership from students who rank in the highest 15 percent of their graduating class and meet other prescribed criteria.

Area Graduates

Spring 2017

Ryan Peden-Spear, Jericho, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, cum laude with a B.S. in Architecture in May as part of the Class of 2017.

Chantel Charlebois, Jericho, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York, BS in biomedical engineering.

Celia Dunn, Jericho, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Engineering Summa Cum Laude.

Allison Sibley, Jericho, Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, Castleton University, Castleton, Vermont.

Students who received their degrees from Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York:

Jahan Lam, Huntington

Alexander Clift, Jericho

Celia Dunn, Jericho, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island.

Full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average. Part-time students qualify with the accumulation of 12 or more credits for letter grades earning at least a 3.30 quality point average.

St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York:

Emma L. Morgan, Starksboro, a member of the Class of 2017 and Neuroscience major. Morgan attended Lakefield College School.

Alita F. Roger, Huntington, a member of the Class of 2017 and Sociology major. Rogers attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

To be eligible, 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.

Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York:

Elliot Lowe, Richmond

Adam Morin, Richmond

University of New Hampshire, Durham:

Jeffrey Carter, Jericho, with Honors

Michael O'Connor, Jericho, with High Honors

Annavitte Rand, Richmond, with Highest Honors

Kristina Cyr, Richmond, with Highest Honors

Students have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). 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.

Rochester Institute of Technology , Rochester, New York:

Chantel Charlebois, Jericho, Biomedical Engineering

Nick Trumper, Richmond, Electrical Engineering

Connor Maynes, Huntington, Electrical Engineering

Degree-seeking undergraduate students are eligible if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of Incomplete, D or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Dean's List

Spring 2017

Johanna Arnott, Richmond, Class of 2020, Assumption College, Worcester, Massachusetts. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester.

Nathan Eaton, Husson University, Bangor Maine. A Jericho resident, currently enrolled in Husson's Bachelor of Science in Communications Technology with a concentration in audio engineering program. Students must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a grade point average of between 3.60 to 3.79 during the semester.

Contradances Begin This Month

Once again the Old Town Hall in Huntington Center will ring with the sounds of fiddle, accordion, flute, guitar, mandolin, banjos and more on September 30 when the monthly Contra and Square Dance resumes again. All dances are preceded by a walk-through and no prior experience is needed. Bring both left feet and kick up your heels with your neighbors! Come alone or bring your friends. This first dance of the season will be a rare evening of music and dancing--more of a dance party than ever to celebrate visitors from the Netherlands. Annelies and her daughter Bregje on fiddle and accordion will be joining forces with Sarah and John's Megaband Jam--an open band that was a grand success at last year's dances. Bring your instruments and your comfortable dancing shoes. All are welcome to sit in the evening band under the skillful guidance of Sarah and John.

For a special treat, from 4:30-6:30 that afternoon, Annelies and Bregje will lead a music workshop like the ones they lead around Europe, offering up a few of their favorite tunes from northern European traditions that will be played that night for the dancing.

Following the workshop will be a potluck dinner downstairs preceding the evening dance at 7:30. All are welcome to attend any or all of this event. Admission by donation at the door and no one will be turned away. Even if you can't dance you can come hold down one of the fine chairs that line the room to enjoy. Come out to welcome wonderfully talented friends from a far off shore.

For more information about the afternoon workshop, the potluck or the evening dance: Lausanne Allen (453-2199).

For more information about Sarah and John's Megaband, Jam: www.woodburystrings.com

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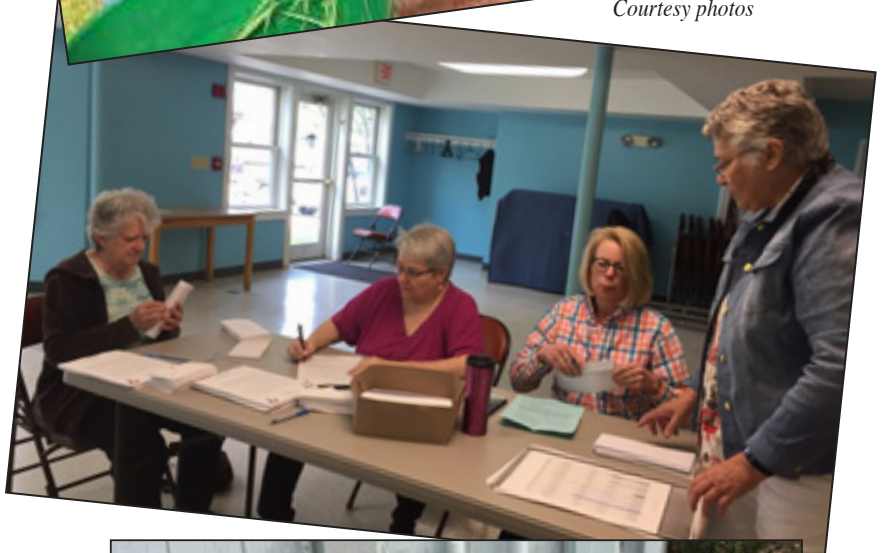
Sunday of Service

This spring, Richmond Congregational Church members put faith into action during their third annual Sunday of Service. Fifty people of all ages participated in a variety of service projects including cooking a meal for Act 1 Bridge Shelter in Burlington, preparing a mailing for Our Community Cares Camp, singing with the residents of Sterling House, gardening and washing windows for senior citizens, and clearing a new trail with the Richmond Trails Committee.



From top photo, many cooks in the kitchen help prepare a delicious meal for the Act 1 Shelter in Burlington;

Gretchen Paulsen, Richmond, weeds a garden bed;

Zoe Jilleen, Linda Parent, and Cindy Preston help Marie Thomas prepare a mailing for Our Community Cares Camp;

Wendy Deforest and Ella Plumer of Huntington weed a garden for a local senior citizen.

Courtesy photos

RES Powder Run Fun

What mud? Students and staff from Richmond Elementary School had fun running in the Second annual Powder Run on June 9, 2017. The event is hosted by RES classroom teachers and all proceeds go back to Grade Level Teams to purchase school supplies for next school year. Courtesy photo

More Images: Snipe Ireland Bridge Replacement

Photos from Robert Low
Above, anyone remember when Route-2 was concrete? Removal of the asphalt shows the old concrete road underneath. Below, bridge nearing completion.

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Local 'Beaver Baffles' Help Prevent Flooding

To prevent flooding on nearby roads, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department recently completed several water control devices on beaver dams in Bolton and Richmond. Known as 'beaver baffles' these devices confuse beavers by using a large plastic tube to create a hidden breech upstream away from the beavers' dam.

The Fish & Wildlife Department expects to install more than a dozen additional beaver baffles throughout the state this year. The baffles are one of many techniques that department staff employ or recommend to landowners to minimize beaver damage to property or trees. Other techniques include using culvert fences or placing wire mesh or special paint around the base of trees.

Vermont Fish & Wildlife technician Tyler Brown installs a water control device, or beaver baffle, on a beaver dam in Bolton. The baffle controls water levels to eliminate damage to a nearby road while maintaining the wetland for beavers and other wild plants and animals.

"The wetlands that beavers create provide habitat for a variety of wildlife such as waterfowl, songbirds, frogs, turtles, and otters. These areas can also absorb extra water during rain events and clean pollutants from water, so we work hard to preserve these wetlands whenever possible," said Chris Bernier, wildlife biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

"Beaver control devices don't work in every situation," Bernier noted, "but they can sometimes help reduce flooding or tree damage while preserving these important wetlands."

While effective, the baffles are not inexpensive and have limitations. According to Bernier, each device costs roughly $1,000 to install, between materials and labor. They are also effective only on smaller streams. Each baffle can release roughly one cubic foot per second of water, so baffles are not usable on beaver dams built on faster flowing streams and rivers. In these cases, trapping may be another necessary tool for controlling populations and maintaining wetlands.

Once plentiful in Vermont, beavers were overharvested through unregulated trapping and disappeared by 1700. Beavers returned after the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department reintroduced them starting in the 1930s. Most of the roads and villages in Vermont were built in valleys and along streams before beavers became abundant again. As a result, conflicts between people and beavers are constant and a challenge to resolve. Beaver baffles have helped.

The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department has installed 291 beaver baffles in Vermont since the program started in 2000.

"We receive roughly 200 beaver complaints a year," said Bernier. "Several staff members respond to these complaints, and one technician is dedicated solely to addressing beaver conflicts from spring through fall. Despite these efforts, other management techniques must be used. We also rely on regulated, in-season trapping to maintain a stable beaver population so Vermonters continue to view beavers as a valued member of the local ecosystem and not as a nuisance."

Landowners with beaver programs can contact the Fish & Wildlife Department for assistance at www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Death Notice

Daniel M. Carhart, Sr.

Daniel M. Carhart Sr. of Clearwater Florida, Age 74 Heard The Owl Call His Name on July 6, 2017 at Mease Countryside Hospital.

God phoned him and said, "Dan, I want you to take me trout fishing." And Dan answered, "God, my fly rod and reel are all packed. I've been waiting all my life to take you fishing. Let's go get the big ones!"

When Dan was born God shined on him and said "This one is mine!" So he walked beside him all his life - even when he walked away from religion for 40 years. Three times, he wouldn't let him die when he should have, so he could keep a vow he made in 1959 when he was 16 and his dad died. That vow was to be there for his children. On July 30, 2011 he completed that vow. He leaves behind the pride of his life, Daniel Carhart Jr. and Colleen Carhart Davenport. A sister Mary Williams, several nieces and nephews.

The Vermont service will be held at the Volunteers Green in Richmond, on September 23 at noon.

If you have any questions you can email Dan Jr at dmciivt@gmail.com

Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Elohenu, Adonai Echad!

Baruch shem k'vod malchuto l'olam va—ed.

In a river he swam with his dog Skipper and he gave back.

In a forest he saw a squirrel and he gave back.

In a school he danced and he gave back.

In the military he traveled and he gave back.

In a city he found the love of having children and he gave back.

In a business he helped people grow and he gave back.

In a soup kitchen he met a friend and he gave back.

In a stream he saw a trout he did not want to catch and he gave back. In a corn field he saw geese flying and he gave back.

In a church he learned what God wanted him to do and he gave back. In a senior housing he cherished a person of 99 years and he gave back. In a Synagogue he found his home and he gave back.

May your life journey be as rewarding as mine.

This Poem is intended to be used freely.

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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

On September 3, we celebrated the 92nd Annual Pilgrimage at the Old Round Church in Richmond. This service is always a fun opportunity to look back in the history books and discover some gems from the past. The Pilgrimage Service began in 1925 and has continued every year since, save for 1932 when the church was between ministers. As I climbed the steps to preach in that very tall pulpit (which used to be 18 inches higher), I felt connected with the people who have stood there before me. Over the years, guest professors, preachers, historians and denominational officials have graced the pulpit. I would have liked to hear Northfield preacher Rev. Arthur Hewitt's 1953 sermon A Backwoods Preacher Long Ago. His sermon title sounds intriguing. In 1967, Rev. Thomas Luce from Holy Family Parish in Essex Junction, a Catholic priest, was the preacher.

Special guest musicians were also invited to participate in the Pilgrimage. Notably, Mr. Earnest Johnson, an African American tenor from Boston, sang a series of Negro Spirituals at the service in 1934. He was also invited to the 1940 service, but the program only indicates that Mr. Johnson sang "solos" that year.

Over the years, this service has been both a civic and religious event, drawing hundreds to hear famous speakers. In 1989, Bernie Sanders, gave the address where he was identified in the program as the "former mayor of Burlington." Another Vermont Senator perhaps less well known to current generations, Sen. George Aiken (who was also Governor of Vermont from 1937-1941) gave not a sermon, but an address in 1948 titled Keeping Step with a Changing World. Sen. Aiken, spoke again in 1980, a few years after retiring from a 34-year Senate career. I wonder what he saw as necessary to keep step with a changing world back in the 1940s, and what he might say to us today.

As much as we are called to keep step with the world, I think the world needs people to set the pace and model kindness, compassion, generosity and civility. We need more ways to reach across divisions and come together as a community. Standing there in the tall pulpit, literally standing in the footsteps of generations before, I urged everyone gathered to practice love as a verb – to be generous in showing love, kindness, peace, and compassion toward others. We then put "love as a verb" into action with a prayer and special offering for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. While our actions are only a small drop in the bucket in the face of such devastation, I hope that perhaps some future generation will look back on the Round Church Pilgrimage in 2017 as an example of how people in the small town of Richmond, Vermont came together and reached out beyond themselves with care and generosity. May the generations to come be inspired to find their own ways to practice peace, love, and kindness in a "changing world."

Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Camping, Again

It's been maybe twenty years since I last camped and I'm not the camper I was. Back then, I just wandered off into the wilderness, with 65 pounds of stuff strapped to my back, and stayed out for a while. My daughter still remembers the day I renounced it forever. "No more sleeping on the ground!" she swears I screamed out. So, everyone was surprised when I suggested taking up camping, again. My wife reminded me of all the camping gear I insisted on yard-selling over the past decade. My neighbor put a kind hand on my shoulder and asked, "Really? At your age?"

I don't know that I can tell you why; it's more a feeling than a reason. At nearly 70, I long for something I remember mattering a lot to a much younger me. Something before I became completely civilized and reasonable, before I lost the desire to sleep outside and battle mosquitoes during evening meals by a campfire. On a beautiful day this summer, the thought of camping crossed my mind and it felt right.

It wasn't some shining moment when I strapped back on the old back pack and headed down the Long Trail. Instead, it was a long reality check with my lovely wife, Kelly. Although I'd always hated campsites, the only option considered was camping at state parks.

We found options in between glamping and roughing it. Between thrift shops, yard sales, and Amazon, Kelly met our cooking and dining needs on the elegant cheap. We found a cabin tent on sale, promising to 'sleep six in comfort' with a screened-in porch, plenty of head room, and a door on a hinge! Six is a stretch, but it does fit a full-size air bed, a cushion for Pepper, our dog, and civilized necessities like bedside tables for books, snacks, and lamps.

Four weeks and a couple hundred dollars later, pulled into the Allis Vermont State Park, 20 minutes from our house. Setting up camp was a breeze. Wow, has tent construction improved! Blowing up the mattress was simply a matter of plugging it into the car. Water was near-by at a faucet and hot showers were available for a few quarters. Unfortunately, we forgot our towels, but we roughed it, in true pioneer spirit. Convincing Pepper we were not on a long walk and intended to stay in the semi-outdoors was difficult. She kept tugging us toward the shower house, which at least looked like a building.

The best part was how much time we had. Free of the chores and diversion (no computers or cell phones), we truly relaxed and talked. Meals were long to make and eaten in leisure. Walks were slow ambles or gentle hikes. We read or listened to the radio. Each night, we had a fire and each day we met some nice, friendly people. Although the days and evenings were incredibly long, we were never bored.

We came home refreshed and already planning our next trip. Little by little we hope to expand our horizons and length of stays. Off in the distance is a week on the coast of Maine. Think of it! Going to sleep and waking up listening to the surf. No wonder the modern camping motto is, "Go further, stay longer for less money."

Aging in Place, it doesn't happen by accident. Sometimes it happens by reaching back to what worked before and doing it again, but differently.

(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. You can access previous Aging in Place columns and blogs at scottfunk.org.)

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Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUNDAYS: Karma Yoga Class, 9 am to 10 am, Balance Yoga, $5 plus a non-perishable, non-expired item or two for Richmond Food Shelf (or $10 without food item). www.balanceyoga.com

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

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:

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

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

SCHOOL BOARD:

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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

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

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

SCOUTS

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

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

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

RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24: Nature Museum's 9th Annual Fairy House Festival, Grafton, 10 to 4.Visitors follow a woodland path sprinkled with charming fairy houses, where the acorn cap dinnerware and shelf fungi table remind them to walk sprightly on the earth. Fun crafts, music, bubbles, hula hoops, tasty treats and making their own fairy house. Light refreshments available for purchase; picnicking encouraged. Purchase discounted tickets in advance at nature-museum.org or for full-price at the gate. Dress up is encouraged.

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30: steAmfest - Village Art Walk, Essex Junction, 4 pm to 10 pm. Art+Innovation exhibits, STEAM activities, live bands throughout the downtown Essex Junction Village. SteAmfest - Artists Market and Essex Mini Maker Faire, Saturday September 30, 10 am to 4 pm, Railroad Ave. Artists Market, Mini-Maker Faire, Food Trucks and Live Performances. For schedule, artists and more information, see www.steamfestvt.com

OCTOBER 6: Jessica Weston, 5 pm to 7 pm, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank Street, Burlington. Meet and greet and tasting with the author of the new book Healing Tonics, Juices and Smoothies. Weston is owner and executive chef at Brattleboro's Superfresh! Organic Cafe. BA in medical anthropology from Ithaca College, graduate student of the Institute for Integrative Nutrition, career spent exploring the broad subject of food as medicine with Mayan healers in Belize, on organic farms, and with herbalists, shamanic practitioners, and more. Free. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

OCTOBER 12: Howard Center Fall Community Education Series - Becoming Bulletproof, 6 pm to 8:15 pm, Main Street Landing Film House (60 Lake Street, Burlington) Free and open to the public. A documentary that portrays an inclusive world of filmmaking featuring actors with disabilities. Followed by Q & A.

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

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

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

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

LIBRARY

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

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

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

COMMUNITY GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GIVE BLOOD TODAY

American Red Cross

GIVE BLOOD IN RICHMOND OCTOBER 11

Worship

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

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: 20 Church Street., 434-2053. Sunday Worship with Sunday School, 9 am (July & Aug).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2017-2018 First Wednesdays

The Vermont Humanities Council's popular First Wednesdays statewide lecture series begins a new season of diverse talks with renowned scholars this fall. New Yorker humorist and writer Calvin Trillin kicks off the season on the special date of September 27 with his talk The Writing Life at UVM's Ira Allen Chapel in Burlington. The schedule gets fully underway a week later, on October 4, when eight other First Wednesdays locations hold talks on topics ranging from The Beatles to FDR's New Deal to the musical Hamilton.

Other speakers on the 2017-2018 First Wednesdays schedule include cartoonist Alison Bechdel, Pulitzer-winning historian Douglas Blackmon (who will present two talks), NPR's Robert Siegel, and New York University professor Martha Hodes. And First Wednesdays welcomes the return of former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins and Pulitzer-winning author David Hackett Fischer, among many others.

First Wednesdays is a free monthly lecture series that runs October through May at 7 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

The program offers regular free lifelong learning opportunities to thousands of people in Vermont communities, and gives audience members the opportunity to engage the speaker during a question-and-answer period following each talk. The series draws 6,000-7,000 attendees each season.

Contact: Ryan Newswanger, Director of Communications, (802) 262-1354

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

Sue Morse will present a program called Animals of the North: What Will Global Climate Change Mean for Them? The program will be on October 5 at 1:30 at the Richmond Free Library.

Sue Morse is nationally known as an expert naturalist, photographer and tracker who's won many awards. She leads a busy life doing field research including photographing animals, leading training programs, writing countless articles and a regular column for Northern Woodlands magazine, and sharing her knowledge with audiences both near and far. On her website it states, "Since 1977, she has been monitoring wildlife, with an emphasis on documenting the presence and habitat requirements of bobcat, black bear, Canada lynx and cougar." She's written a book called A Guide to Recognizing the Florida Panther, Its Tracks and Sign.

In 1994, Sue founded Keeping Track, a non-profit whose goal is to "to inspire…young and old alike, to join us in the vital crusade to change our fossil fuel-burning ways, conserve natural resources and share a healthy planet with all that lives."

If you want a preview of the stunning photos Sue will be showing us, you can go to http://keeping-track.org/. The Canada lynx, moose, American marten, caribou, polar bear, arctic fox and arctic marine mammals and waterfowl are some of the species she'll show us as she explains the ways in which they are already being affected by climate change.

We are indeed lucky to have Sue Morse do a presentation for the Community Senior Center. Hope to see you there!

—Jane Vossler

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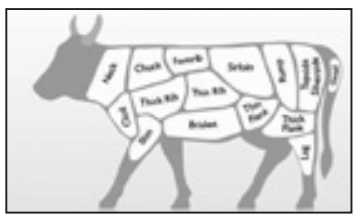

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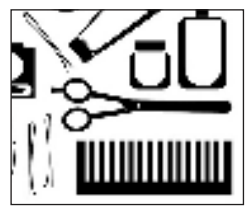

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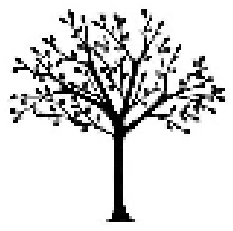

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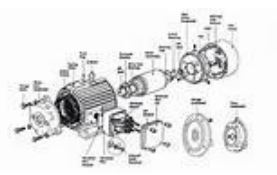

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***Personal, NOT BUSINESS ADS. Business ads must appear a minimum of 3 mos in the Service Directory**

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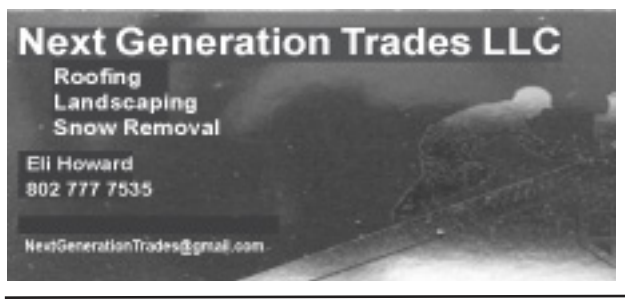

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Business Feats

Jon Jamieson Carrying the Insurance Torch

Jon Jamieson

July 2017 marked the 40th anniversary of Jamieson Insurance, owned and operated by Jon Jamieson of Waitsfield. The agency was founded by Jon's father, Dick Jamieson, in 1977. The Jamieson family's involvement with insurance goes back even farther. Jon's grandfather, Mahlon Jamieson, wrote the first insurance policies for Sugarbush Resort when it opened in 1958. Documents exist which show that Jamiesons were selling insurance as far back as 1865. And Jon's family came to the Mad River Valley even earlier, settling in Waitsfield in 1798.

After graduating from Harwood Union High School in central Vermont's Washington County, Jamieson entered the University of Colorado, graduating in 1990. After college, he gained valuable experience in sales working with companies in the outdoor equipment manufacturing business on the West Coast but in 1992 he moved back to Vermont, joining the Jamieson agency and taking over the fledgling branch office in Richmond.

In 2000, Jamieson left to work for Progressive Insurance Company as a territory sales manager. It was a huge jump in responsibility and revenue as he oversaw sales operations of 163 agencies. Looking back, he recalls that "it was a little like getting an MBA in agency management."

Dick Jamieson sold the agency to his son Jon in 2003 and retired in 2005. Today, the agency sells primarily personal and small business insurance, with special focus on nonprofits and specialty food providers. Since taking over, Jon has increased sales from $5.3 million to $8 million. He's added a third office in Waterbury and increased employee numbers from nine to twelve, every one a licensed professional. Jamieson Insurance now directly represents 18 insurance carriers, up from 12 when Jon became CEO and principal.

Jamieson cites several key factors for such dramatic growth. One is putting the customer first: "We don't make any changes in our business operations without considering the impact on the level of service we deliver to our clients," Jamieson states. Providing such superior service that exceeds clients' expectations means having more employees than most agencies of similar size. "We pride ourselves in not putting people on hold," Jamieson emphasizes.

Mindful of his 18th-century roots, Jon Jamieson believes in giving back to the communities that have supported the success of Jamieson Insurance. He's served on boards for schools, the town, and other businesses. The agency has a record of generously supporting community organizations and events though volunteer time, sponsorships and donations.

New Deli Changes at Beaudry's Store

The deli at Beaudry's Store in Huntington, famous for decades for its buxom sandwiches made with fresh ingredients and served with personality, has been shuttered for the past few months. Linda Pecor, owner of Beaudry's Store, is excited to report that the deli has been leased and will re-open with new managers, Cindy and Steve, on September 25. The deli will be called **Hungry Belly Deli at Beaudry's Store**, open 7 am to 7 pm, seven days. Watch for more details in next issue's **Business Beat.**

Faths Close Toscano

Jon and Lucie Fath, owners of **Toscano Bistro and Cafe**, located in the heart of Richmond and a popular favorite dining destination, closed the restaurant in early September. The Faths, who ran the business with their son Max, decided to retire after 14 years in the building that once housed another popular culinary destination, **Daily Bread Bakery.**

Jon and Lucie Fath retired from the restaurant business on September 9.

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Silence and Denial

"The worst enemy of the people is the majority."
—Henrik Ibsen, An Enemy of the People

In this, the land of free speech, we are raised to recognize that this privilege comes with some guidelines. Various rules and restrictions apply for public safety, and a civilized society is predicated on a basic level of civilized behavior.

Radio, magazines, and newspapers offer expert advice on what, when, and where to say and do what is socially correct. They make the fine distinctions between what we should and should not say in "polite society" and clarify rules of behavior for basically all of our social interactions.

But rules aren't always followed. Much of what used to be unacceptable has become not only acceptable, but commonplace. Language and behavior which were unthinkable a few years ago, are now everywhere in everyday speech and behavior.

One of several factors contributing to this development is our ever-increasing ability to ignore and deny. We pretend we don't hear or see things, acting as if we are ignorant of what is the "elephant in the room." Early roots of this can be seen in beliefs that various actions and behaviors are none of our business, that "nosy" people are a kind of social deviant. Such attitudes allowed domestic violence and child abuse to become widespread social ills. Social pressure leads us to ignore certain things, as demonstrated by the three monkeys: "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil."

Medicine constructed its own wall of silence, for example, when for many decades doctors avoided direct talk about terminal illness, with the full collaboration of patient and family. No one wanted to face the reality of death. Surgeon Atul Gawanda, in Being Mortal, explores his own struggle to talk honestly with his patients about their serious diagnoses and chances of survival.

We humans are masters of self-deception, employing a range of tactics to keep certain things out of our awareness. The powerful media are our allies as they choose what information to show on TV or print in papers, thus keeping various issues out of our awareness by just not covering them. For many years they ignored, and then equivocated about, global warming, even suggesting that it was "controversial" despite the overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary. Power provides the ability to distract public attention.

Now we are faced with "fake" news, facilitated by digital technology and its ability to rapidly disseminate information. Large numbers of people fall victim to inaccurate or misleading information -- think anti-vaxxers.

Self-deception was dramatically portrayed in Nineteen Eighty-Four. With courage, insight, and a need to know the truth, George Orwell famously portrayed ways people ignore and can be trained to engage in "doublethink" and the ability "consciously to induce unconsciousness."

As another prime example, the silence around overpopulation is deafening. We virtually never hear anyone in the media use the words "population" or "overpopulation." How many of us know the growth rate of our country (one birth every 11 seconds) or the population of the world (7.4 billion)? Furthermore, although more and more people recognize that climate change is primarily human caused, starting with the Industrial Revolution, how many actually acknowledge the obvious consequences?

These issues that we don't want to talk about, that we ignore and deny, are the elephant in the room, with full support from the conspiracy of the oil and gas companies, the politicians, and the media, all of whom benefit financially by ignoring the obvious signs.

As I write this, Hurricane Harvey is wreaking havoc in Houston. It is heart-wrenching to witness the trauma and loss experienced by the city's 6.5 million people.

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

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