The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
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Fall Webworm Infests Area

For several weeks, white webs on the tips of branches have been apparent on many trees in the towns of Huntington and Richmond and surrounding areas. These silken tents are the work of the larvae of the fall webworm (HYPHANTRIA CUNEA). Fall webworm caterpillars construct a web over the end of a branch, enclosing leaves on which they feed. As the caterpillars grow, they enlarge the web to encompass more leaves, with tents sometimes extending two to three feet.

In much of the Northeast, there is one generation per year, with two generations in more southerly areas. Adults are active from May to July. The female lays a mass of several hundred eggs on the underside of a leaf and covers it with hair from her abdomen. The larvae emerge within 10 to 15 days and immediately begin to spin silken webs around the leaves on which they feed. They feed gregariously throughout remaining six weeks of the summer, gradually enlarging the web to enclose more and more foliage. In early fall, the larvae leave the web to search for places to spin their cocoons. They overwinter in their cocoons, emerging as adult white moths the following summer. Most pupate in bark crevices, in the leaf litter, or just beneath the soil surface. In late May or June, adults emerge from their cocoons. After mating, the females lay their eggs, and the adults die. The adult moth stage lives only a few weeks.

If it sometimes seems that evidence of fall webworms appears overnight, that may be the case. They do not attack conifers, only broadleaf plants

Webworms, which are recognized by long white or pale yellow hairs on each body segment, work all night long and after the colony grows to a certain size, the web grows quickly. A large nest may be three or four feet long and encase several branches.

Predictable Cycle in the South The extent of infestations varies from year to year, but in the areas more to the south of Vermont and even areas in southern Vermont, fall webworm outbreaks are as predictable as bird migration, the fall rut of white-tailed deer, and winter snows.

In late August, trees at the top of Wes White Hill were among the first to show large tents of fall webworms. Photo: Heidi Racht

Though nests of fall webworms are conspicuous, the small white moth that results rarely attracts attention. In fact, the moth that arises from a fall webworm is so nondescript it doesn't even warrant a name. A FIELD GUIDE TO MOTHS: EASTERN NORTH AMERICA simply calls it the fall webworm moth.

Management Nests can be pruned out as for tent caterpillars. According to Forest Pests: Insects, Diseases & Other Damage Agents, "although webs can be an unattractive nuisance, the loss of leaves generally has little effect on the health of the tree because it occurs at the end of the growing season. Rarely, persistent infestations on individual trees may cause branch and top-kill." Many predators, parasites, and disease organisms serve as natural controls on webworm populations. If additional controls are necessary, web-bearing branches of small trees may be cut and burned when larvae are still young. Perry cautions, "Don't use fire [on the web in the tree] to destroy these or tent caterpillar nests, as the fire may damage the host plants." Amy Grant in Webworm Treatment: Tips for Controlling Webworms, takes this even further: "Controlling fall webworms via this route is dangerous due to the flaming webs one must dodge, the probability of making a conflagration of the entire tree and not least, the difficulty in hanging onto a stepladder with a flaming 20 foot pole! However, to each his own."

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School Merger Complications

An In-Depth Analysis

by Helen Keith

This article is about three boards struggling with the requirements of Act 46 to have the State Board of Education (SBE) issue a Statewide Plan for School District Governance structures by November 30, 2018 to be effective July 1, 2019. It involves the staff of the Agency of Education, recently hired attorneys and others. These attorneys, the Huntington School Board (HSB) and other unmerged school districts are challenging the authority of the State Board of Education (SBE) under Act 46 to direct/force the 43 un-merged school districts that have not already voluntarily merged and that propose to operate in the future with their current or proposed governance structures. The article is an attempt to share or highlight the complex issues for the public.

Meetings and Issues At its August 30 Annual Planning meeting, the Huntington School Board voted unanimously to advise the Board of the MMMUSD (Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District) to delay the warning of a vote that is based on an anticipated directive to merge by the State Board of Education until the State Board of Education actually issues its final Act 46 School Consolidation statewide plan on or about November 30, 2018.

From the minutes of the meeting: Tara Fowler made a motion to acknowledge that HSB is concerned about MMMUSD taking a vote which is contingent upon future actions of the State Board of Education, and would advise MMMUSD to delay the vote until SBE makes a decision. Seconded by Jordan Davies; unanimously approved. (Alert: the MMMUSD at its September 17 meeting and after an executive session in which Gail Conley excused himself due to a perception of a conflict of interest, voted to table the motion to warn a merger vote.)

Several other key things happened at the HSB August 30 meeting, including a unanimous vote to cost out and prepare a budget for FY 20 (which begins July 1, 2019) that includes about 57,000 dollars for a new gym floor which has been documented during many past years of being in serious need of repair. The actual work would be done next summer; and, if merged, would have to be approved by the now called MMMUSD Board this winter-spring. There would not be an annual meeting of the Huntington School District to listen to and approve (or not) the HSD budget during March 2019 Town Meeting as the process would be consolidated and replaced by a vote by Australian ballot which does not identify towns in the vote tally.

There were other reasons discussed to not hold a vote at that time as well, including that there are several outstanding issues still under consideration at the state level: a new set of Articles of Agreement, legal support for potential challenges to the Act 46 reports, and lack of information on the process and meaning of a merger vote again in Huntington for acceptance (or not) of a likely merger recommendation by the State Board (if that is the final statement from them by the November 30 report) and the wording of warning and a vote regarding the acceptance by the MMMUSD (or not) of bringing Huntington into MMMUSD thus making it a UUSD or a Unified Union School District.

Attorney Retained The HSB voted to go into Executive Session to discuss the process and actions of hiring an attorney to assist the Huntington School Board in presenting its issues with Act 46, the merger that is being recommended by AOE and other related issues in maintaining its school district status and its participatory governance process. Taken from the minutes of the meeting: The Chair called for an executive session to plan legal strategy in advance of a meeting with the attorney Friday morning. The Chair requested that Gail Conley, resident of Huntington and also member of the (MMMUSD) CESU Board, be invited to attend the Executive Session. After the executive session ended, a motion was made and seconded that the Chair of the Huntington School Board sign a contract for legal services with Paul Gillies Attorney at law, for the purpose of representing the Huntington School Board on any matter related to

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Letters

A Jewel Growing Strong

Our Community Cares Camp, or OCCC, is a community jewel that provides a free summer camp for children in the school district, complete with meals, field trips, learning activities of all kinds, and lots of great friends. It is my privilege to be a board member of OCCC and to learn from its leaders, staff, and campers what a great opportunity it provides to its kids, its counselors, and the many community members who support it through fundraising, volunteering, and just caring – thus, its name.

OCCC will have its annual meeting on Monday, October 29, at Camels Hump Middle School from 7 pm to 9 pm and we especially like to hear from community members at this time. OCCC has a lot to share: the camp has been growing over its ten years of history and we want to make sure it keeps going strong, as a permanent part of our community. If you are interested in giving youth opportunities for growth and self-discovery and want to learn more about the camp, or help it continue through the next decade, please come.

This is an organization that makes you feel good while doing great! Please share your thoughts with us the last Monday of October at CMHS, and stay for a few minutes or longer. The Community in OCCC refers to you and me.

—*Connie van Eeghen*, Richmond

Protesting Policy of ICE Separation

On July 28, 2018, hundreds of people gathered in front of the Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) office in Williston, Vermont to protest our government's inhumane separation of children from their parents and illegal treatment of immigrants seeking asylum. Thirteen of us—two still children themselves—blocked traffic in and out of the ICE parking lot. We were arrested for disorderly conduct and are now facing trial in Chittenden Superior Court in October.

This was not our first protest against the immigration policies of the Trump administration, but it was the first in which we chose civil disobedience. The cruel treatment of our fellow human beings, including infants and children, was, and remains, so egregious that we felt we had to do more.

We thought that U.S. law presumes innocence until proven guilty. We thought that asylum seekers, fleeing threats of death or torture at home, and presenting themselves at our border, have the right to due process, guaranteed by international treaties to which our country is a party. We thought the United States was not a country that deliberately separates families with no plan or intention of reuniting them, ever..

We were wrong.

A country that champions family values must honor family and its bonds. Yet we have witnessed children separated on a moment's notice from their parents. We have learned of parents forced to make an impossible choice between being deported and leaving their children behind forever, or bringing them back to the mortal dangers they risked life and limb to escape. In the weeks since a court-ordered deadline to reunite all these families, over 400 children remained separated (as reported by PBS on September 7), their parents' whereabouts apparently unknown to the agency that tore them away. Many of these children will never see their parents again. They have been permanently orphaned by ICE, by our government. Meanwhile, so-called "temporary" facilities to hold migrant children are not closing but growing—just one, in El Paso, is expanding from 1,200 to 3,800 beds—as our government diverts appropriations away from disaster relief (FEMA) to ICE.

Yet we, like most Americans, oppose the illegal and inhumane treatment of immigrants. We, the people, did not choose a policy of ripping families apart, kidnapping children, and creating orphans. We do not believe most Americans want their government and their tax dollars to carry out this immoral activity.

Nor do we think most Vermonters want their police and county court resources used to protect the illegal activities of ICE within our state, or have their state tax dollars spent on prosecuting us for trying to impede ICE's rogue mission. If you agree, please tell ICE in Williston (872-6050) or the Chittenden County State's Attorney (863-2865) how you feel.

—David Feurzeig, Huntington
and 10 others

Thank You

Thanks to all Chittenden County voters in the Vermont Primary in August. I was very glad to see the pundits proven wrong in that the turnout was far greater than predicted.

Obviously, I am also thankful for the support I received from so many of you in my bid to be re- elected to the Vermont State Senate. I am eager, should I be re –elected in November, to hit the ground running to continue with my work in promoting and protecting the interests of Vermont consumers and working families.

Thank you again.

—*Senator Michael Sirotkin*, Chittenden District
Chair, Senate Economic Development,
Housing and General Affairs Committee

CHMS Principal's Update

What a great opening to the 2018-19 school year! Fifth graders have started to settle into the middle-school routine and bus schedules are being ironed out. Afternoon practice is underway for soccer, field hockey and x-country running teams. Intramurals have also started for Dance Club, Artists Inc., MakerSpace, kickball and mountain biking--to name a few.

We are pleased to welcome back Heather Schoppmann as chorus/general music teacher. Rachel Elliott joins the CHMS team as health and nutrition teacher. We are also pleased to welcome Tim Keefe as our head custodian.

A number of exciting field trips are planned for this month. Team Sequoia will go the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium and Ricker Pond. Polaris heads to Rock of Ages in Barre, Lessor's Quarry and Lone Rock Point; Teams Polaris and Pride will explore the Long Trail; Navigator will visit Mt. Philo and Team Grit travels to Hosmer Point, Grand Isle State Park, the Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Ed Weed Fish Hatchery.

Mark your calendars for the Fifth Annual Pumpkin Chunkin' on Saturday, October 27, from 11am to 2pm. Come and witness pumpkins in flight! We are looking for teams throughout the community to participate; if you are interested, please contact mark.carbone@cesuvt.org. This fun, family event helps support the continuation of the PROSPER Program; a seven-week program for fifth and sixth grade families to assist both through the challenges of adolescence. Prosper participants meet weekly for seven-sessions which include family dinner, games and activities, and childcare for younger siblings. For a portion of

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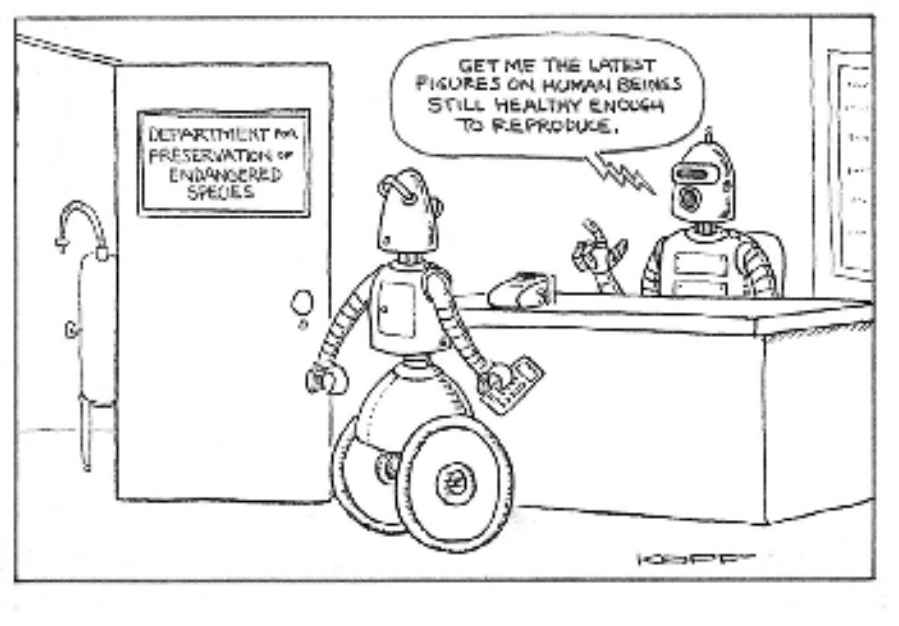

Affordable, Comfortable, Energy-Saving: House Tour in Richmond

Come join in this tour - riding the Solar Bus to four Richmond houses all around the town! See what others have done, and what you can do, to reduce energy use, use renewable energy, and reduce pollution, while making houses more affordable and comfortable to live in. These houses produce quite a bit less carbon pollution than the average home.

The tour will be on Sunday, October 21, noon – 4:30 pm. Gary Beckwith's Solar Bus (solarbus.org) will bring tour participants from one house to the next. (The bus runs on carbon neutral biodiesel created from waste vegetable oil from local restaurants.)

It will begin at Jeff Forward's house on Hinesburg Road (2899 Hinesburg Road) – meeting in his barn – with a short presentation on energy-efficient houses and solar energy, followed by a tour of his solar farm. Participants are invited to bring a bag lunch.

The group will then ride the bus to Jack Linn's house on Williams Hill Road (572 Williams Hill Road). His recently-built house is super-insulated and requires very little energy to heat.

Chris Granda's house in Jonesville (422 Wes White Hill) will be the third stop on the tour. Granda's house was built about 14 years ago, is very well insulated, and is powered by solar energy. He is putting in a larger solar array so it can supply electricity to several neighboring houses.

From top: the Solarbus; solar array on Hinesburg Road; heat pumps on Jericho Road

The last stop is in the village at Betsy Hardy's house on Jericho Road (341 Jericho Road), which was built in 1907. Energy improvements include: new insulation and windows; cold-climate heat pumps to heat the home; a heat pump hot water heater; and solar energy.

Here's the tour schedule:

Noon – 1:15 pm Jeff Forward's: program in the barn; tour of the solar farm
1:30 – 2:15 pm Tour of Jack Linn's house
2:30 – 3:15 pm Tour of Chris Granda's house
3:30 – 4:15 pm Tour of Betsy Hardy's house
4:30 pm Tour ends - Bus drives participants to their cars at Jeff Forward's.

For more information, contact Betsy Hardy at 434-3397.

Richmond Chicken Pie Supper

File photo

The 71st Richmond Congregational Church Chicken Pie Supper will be held on October 3. The traditional supper has been held to celebrate the fall harvest and season on the first Wednesday in October. The fare features chicken pie, mashed potatoes, winter squash, cole slaw, and is topped off with apple or pumpkin pie. Three different seatings of 145 guests will be held: at 5, 6, and 7 pm, with take-outs available for pick up at 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30 pm.

Prices are $12 for adults, $6 for age 12 and under, and preschoolers eat for free. Reservations and payment are required in advance. The online reservation system is via the church website at www.rccucc.org Reservations can also be made by calling the church office: 434-2053. Questions can be answered by email: church@rccucc.org or by calling the church office.

Huntington Harvest Supper

Huntington's Harvest Supper is back this year on October 20. The supper is a collaboration volunteers - some new and some old - to produce this event to benefit the Huntington Volunteer Fire Department. Brewster-Pierce School. The meal will feature a wide range of favorite dishes made by Huntington's best cooks, from chicken pie to Jello salad to savory baked beans. Serving at 5:30, until all are served, will be held at Brewster-Pierce School.

The admission is $10 adults; $5 children; kids under five are free.

Contributions of food are needed. If you don't get a call from a neighbor, don't be shy. Bring in a salad or hot dishes when you come to eat.

The potluck supper is a great opportunity to visit with neighbors, eat an eclectic plate of food and support a necessary local volunteer organization.

Richmond Senior Foot Clinics

Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors are off and running for fall. Mark your calendar. Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building. Come to the back door of the building beginning at 9 am.

Next dates for 2018-2019:

October 16	November 27	January 8	February 19
April 2	May 14	June 25	

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

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

Richmond Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Love God,
Seek Peace,
Build Community,
Welcome All.

Sunday Worship 10 am
Sunday School

October 3
71st Annual Chicken Pie Supper

October 7, 10 am
World Communion Sunday

October 12 & 13
Fall Rummage Sale

Pastor Katelyn B. Macrae
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Art and Crafts Festival Returns to Huntington

Huntington Valley Arts (HVA) and the Huntington Town Hall Committee are joining talents and space again this year to bring a day of art, crafts, music and good food to Huntington. The Festival takes place on Saturday, October 13, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Town Hall in Huntington Center. Last year's event not only showcased the community's artists and craftspeople, but also became a real community gathering, with neighbors participating, eating, shopping, enjoying local art, and visiting.

For 2018 the Town Hall will be bustling with things to do, buy, see, taste and hear. 20 local Artists display and offer their work for sale, including ceramics, fabric arts, paintings and photography. A table of art and craft activities for kids and adults is sure to bring out everyone's creative side. Local music is scheduled for the afternoon. A cook-out lunch of tasty food will be served from 11 – 2, with coffee and snacks available all day. A silent auction of donated art, crafts, services, and other local items runs until 4, with the 50/50 raffle giving a chance to take home a nice chunk of cash.

Huntington Valley Arts is a non-profit organization serving Huntington and Richmond and is devoted to the development of contemporary arts and the preservation of rural crafts in the Huntington Valley area. The Huntington Town Hall is an historic building in Huntington Center which has a mission to serve as a civic and cultural resource for the community. The operations and maintenance of the Town Hall is supported in large part by donations, fundraising, and building rentals.

Entry to the Arts event is free and a percentage of all sales will go to support HVA and the Town Hall. Come enjoy the fun and support your friends and neighbors!

RSVP Bone Builders in Huntington

Starting October 1, FREE classes will be held every Monday & Wednesday from 10-11 at the Community Church Annex. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers,

The RSVP Bone Builders Program focuses on balance and light weight training to protect against fractures caused by osteoporosis. Based on studies conducted by Tufts University and published in the New England Journal of Medicine, those who participated in this program just twice a week gained muscular strength, balance, and increased bone density. Bone Builders keeps you fit and reduces your risk of falling, while also helping maintain your independence!

Regardless of your age or fitness level, you will likely be a perfect candidate for this gentle but empowering program!

Valley Stage Opens 2018-2019 Season

Genticorum to Perform at RCC on October 7

The fifth season of P.M. SUNDAYS began in September and will continue until April 2019 with eight concerts in the intimate and acoustically balanced sanctuary at the Richmond Congregational Church. The performances will include artists from around the US, Sweden, Canada, Norway. Genticorum, Muriel Anderson, Night Tree and Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem will make up part of this year's lineup.

Traditional Quebec group Genticorum

Genticorum will make an appearance as a part of the P.M. SUNDAYS concert series on Sunday, October 7 at 4 pm.

Over the past 15 years, the traditional Quebec group Genticorum has become a fixture on the international world, trad, folk and Celtic music Circuit. The band's five albums met with critical acclaim in Canada, the United States and Europe, assuring the band a brilliant future. Known for its energy and stage presence, Genticorum has given more than 800 concerts in more than 15 countries.

Firmly rooted in the soil of their native land, the energetic and original traditional power trio also incorporates the dynamism of today's North American and European folk culture in their music. They weave precise and intricate fiddle, flute and accordion work, gorgeous vocal harmonies, energetic foot percussion and guitar accompaniment into a big and jubilant musical feast. Their distinctive sound, sense of humour and stage presence makes them a supreme crowd pleaser.

The concert will take place at the Richmond Congregational Church at 20 Church Street in Richmond. Tickets are $20 in advance and $23 day of show. Seniors (65+) and children 16 and under are $15.

For more information about this concert and all Valley Stage events, visit www.valleystage.net or contact Don Sheldon at 434-4563 or don@valleystage.net.

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

New Overdrive/Listen Up Vermont authentication procedures. As of August 15, all patrons using Listen Up Vermont to download audiobooks or ebooks will need to log in using a different verification process. In addition to the library patron barcode (from the back of the card) users will also supply the password of their last name. This is also the same authentication process for logging into the library catalog, rfl.kohavt.org, which patrons may use to view check-outs, renew items, place items in the Richmond collection on hold, make purchase suggestions, and so on.

Baby Laptime This 30-minute program is for our youngest visitors. Adults interact with their little person through simple stories, songs, rhymes, bounces and wiggles that are sure to bring out the smiles and giggles. Baby Laptime is designed for infants through age 2 and runs September through May. Join us on Mondays at 10:30 am.

Playgroup with Stories and Music The morning begins at 10 am with songs, stories and a simple snack (bring your own) on the alphabet rug. Around 10:30 am we'll get out the toys for free play with friends in the library's sunny and spacious Community Room. We have gross motor and fine motor toys, puzzles and activities for infants through preschool age children. Join us on Wednesdays, September through May.

Movers and Shakers Storytime Frequent exposure to picture books not only entertain and delight children but also strengthens their vocabulary and their ability to make sense of the world. We'll share fantastic new and classic picture books and work some early literacy magic into a child's day. We'll couple stories with simple songs and activities for some interactive moving and shaking. Toddlers and Preschoolers and their caregivers are welcome on Fridays at 10:30 from September through May.

Storytime Outreach Visits to Richmond Childcare Providers This outreach program brings storytime out into the community. Children and caregivers enjoy stories and music making with a focus on the early literacy skills necessary for strong reading readiness upon entering school. Bins of library books are dropped off and picked up every few weeks. If you operate a childcare business in Richmond and have not participated in this program in the past, contact Wendy for more information and to sign up.

Weekly programs at the Library follow the CESU school district schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Wild Nature Speaker Series This fall and winter, the Library is hosting several speakers who will talk about the natural world and inspire us to enjoy and protect it. The series kicks off with a talk on Celebrating our Ancient Forests through Words and Action with Joan Maloof. As someone who has probably visited more US old-growth forests than anyone alive today, Maloof will discuss what remains of these never-logged forests and what makes them so special–including the latest scientific findings. She'll also tell us about the successful expansion of the Old-Growth Forest Network, an organization she founded to ensure that each county in the US will preserve at least one forest open to the public. In addition, Maloof will discuss her writing process and how each of her books were 'born.' Maloof, a Professor Emeritus at Salisbury University in Maryland, is the author of four books about forests: Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest; Among the Ancients: Adventures in the Eastern Old-Growth Forests; Nature's Temples: The Complex World of Old-Growth Forests; and The Living Forest: A Visual Journey into the Heart of the Forest. Please join us on Sunday, November 4, at 4 pm for this discussion of special forests and how they might be saved for the next generation.

September Display Case Cynthia Haviland started collecting enamelware as she set up households after college. She is fascinated by the staggering amount of different styles and myriad uses this utilitarian product represents. Early on she settled for the classic white with blue or black rims, to have some cohesiveness to the collection. The graceful lines of metal imitating pottery intrigue her, along with the tiny to "ginormous" size range. Her collection now numbers near 100 pieces with some of the smaller, older, more interesting items displayed in the Library foyer display case during the month of September. She still uses enamelware over plastic in her home when possible.

September Photography Show We are featuring the photographs of Richmond resident Bill Kneen on the walls for the month of September.

October Display During the month of October our foyer case will highlight the work of Our Community Cares Camp which celebrated its tenth year in operation this past summer.

Fiction Book Discussion Zorro by Isabel Allende. Witnessing the injustices against Native Americans by European settlers from childhood, Diego de la Vega, the son of an aristocratic Spanish landowner and a Shoshone mother, returns to California from school in Spain to reclaim the hacienda on which he was raised to seek justice for the weak and helpless. Join us on Tuesday, October 9, at 6 pm.

Mystery Book Discussion Angel of Darkness by Caleb Carr. Carr brings back the vivid world of his bestselling The Alienist but with a twist: this story is told by the former street urchin Stevie Taggert, whose rough life has given him wisdom beyond his years. Thus New York City, and the groundbreaking alienist Dr. Kreizler himself, are seen anew. Join us on Thursday, October 18, at 7 pm.

Fall Rummage Sale at RCC

The Annual Richmond Fall Rummage Sale will be held at the Richmond Congregational Church on Friday, October 12, 9 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, October 13, 9 am to 1 pm.

The following donations are welcome:

clean re-saleable, reusable clothing

household items

children's books only

Please no large furniture items, luggage, electronics, TVs, ski equipment, adult books, or enclyclopedias.

Donation Times: Monday, October 8, 1 pm to 7 pm, through Thursday, October 11, at noon.

Support this sale and get some bargains at the same time.

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crateescapevt.com

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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

A proposal to shore up eroding river banks at Volunteers Green flowed into a debate about how much to spend and when to fix the problem.

The Selectboard, at its August 6 session, learned about a $179,000 plan to stabilize the banks near Richmond's popular park. Bids were solicited for the project following a long-running debate of what to do about slow but steady erosion along the Winooski River. The solution involves using riprap — rock or other material used to armor riverbanks — to protect the area around the southwest side of Volunteers Green and a nearby well house that serves the municipal water system.

Tyler Billingsley, an engineer hired to review the project, told the Selectboard that bids were solicited from six contractors. Todd Chagnon Construction Inc. of South Burlington submitted the lone bid.

Billingsley said that though that price was higher than expected, it was within reason. He noted that this time of year contractors are typically booked up, likely the reason for just one bid and the higher-than-expected price.

The town could accept or reject the bid or narrow the project's scope, Billingsley said. The later choice, for example, could mean the town shores up only the area around the well house.

But whittling down the work would only delay the inevitable, Billingsley said, reducing the initial expenditure while increasing the eventual cost.

"There's little bits you can shave out of this, but there's not a lot of fat in these types of projects," he said.

Selectboard members explored ways to reduce the price tag, including delaying work on the canoe access near Volunteers Green for an $8,000 savings. But Billingsley said shelving that or other parts of the project fail to reduce overall costs, in part because of the cost of transporting heavy equipment to the site, which would have to be done twice to complete some work later.

There was also talk about delaying the entire project until next year when the town may be able to get competitive bids. Billingsley acknowledged that erosion appears to be slow and steady, so delaying the entire project for a year or two may not create problems — unless Richmond is hit with a major storm like 2011's Hurricane Irene. He advised against delaying or shelving the work around the well house, however, because the town's water supply depends on the it.

Selectboard member David Sander wondered if some of the project could be completed by the Richmond Highway Department. Billingsley said the town doesn't have the equipment to do the job.

The Selectboard also mulled the idea of delaying the entire project until later in this construction season, potentially saving money and attracting other contractors to bid. Billingsley said state and federal regulators sometimes approve permit extensions that allow waterway work to occur later in the fall.

But Selectboard members concluded that delaying the work would simply increase the chance that rain would make the river rise and impede work. Board member Christy Whitters said it would be easier to simply stick with the original schedule, which call for a late-August start date and finishing by October 1.

In the end, the Selectboard unanimously voted to approve the project as bid and start the work as soon as possible.

"I'm disappointed in the cost," Sander said. "But this is not something we can elect not to do. We have to move forward."

Interim Manager Hired Filling the leadership void left by the impending departure of Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik, the Selectboard hired a temporary replacement.

Paul Bohne, former town manager for Shelburne, started September 17, after Urbanik left, and will stay until November 30, according to his employment contract. The contract states that the end date may be altered by mutual consent, presumably depending on when a permanent town manager is hired. Bohne will be paid $55 an hour for approximately a 20-hour work week.

Bohne was used as a temporary replacement for Urbanik about two years ago when he was out on an extended medical leave. Urbanik told the Selectboard that the town had a "good experience" with the arrangement.

Whitter noted that Urbanik's position is a full-time job. Would a 20-hour work week be sufficient?

"My thought is there is only so much that will get done before the new manager comes in," Urbanik said. He ticked off existing projects and said the part-time hours would be enough for Bohne to keep up with the basic parts of the job, such as gathering information needed for Selectboard meetings.

Sander mentioned that in Bohne's previous stint as interim manager he was expected to attend only to routine tasks but nonetheless dealt with unexpected issues.

"I said, now Paul last time we talked about this we said that when Geoff was gone there'd be no issues, then we threw you a couple of curveballs," Sander said. "I was impressed with how you handled it. Paul chuckled, then he said, 'Well I had fun hitting those curveballs.'"

The Selectboard unanimously approved hiring Bohne.

Police Progress Urbanik updated the Selectboard on another temporary employee, this one guiding the Richmond Police Department.

Paco Aumand was hired as interim director of police services after Alan Buck stepped down as police chief at the end of June.

Since then, Aumand has talked to the Williston Police Department about using its facilities on as-needed basis, Urbanik said. Richmond's own station fails to meet standards for processing suspects and is frequently flooded during storms.

Aumand has also offered an officer position to an unnamed applicant who has already received state certification. As of the meeting, that person had not yet decided whether to accept the job. In addition to the chief's position, the department is short two officers.

Urbanik touched on a handful of other police issues, including recruitment of a new chief, which he has said should only occur after a town manager is hired. He said Aumand's end date could be flexible to allow the town enough to find the right person to head the department.

In the meantime, the town plans to continue soliciting public input on the department's future. A series of "listening sessions" started after voters in March rejected continued planning for $3 million police station. The Selectboard later concluded that a public discussion of police services was needed, appointing a committee that has studied the question and held public meetings.

Whitters suggested that the next listening session be held after school starts.

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

During Huntington"s Selectboard meeting on August 6, 2018, the Board moved to approve three driveway permit applications. Two applications were for residential permits, one off East Street and one off of Huntington Woods Road, both to newly subdivided property near the intersection of these two roads. The third driveway permit approval was for an access to a Handy Road property.

The Board moved to approve the Town Treasurer job description as presented by the Treasurer Selection Subcommittee. The Board also moved to eliminate the Assistant Treasurer position. The hours and compensation previously allocated for the Assistant Treasurer will be transferred to the Assistant Clerk position. Money was built into the budget approved at Town Meeting to fund training of the new hire by current Treasurer Kathleen Clark.

At the September 4 meeting, the Board reviewed the Treasurer work schedule, and proposed compensation as prepared by the Treasurer Selection Subcommittee. The Board moved to set the salary range for the Treasurer at $21,840-$28,000 annually for 15-20 hours per week. Town Administrator Barbara Elliott noted that job description changes proposed by the Town Attorney had not been included in the current description. The subcommittee will review the job description and present changes to the Board at its September 17 meeting. The job benefits still need clarification.

The job description will be posted on the Town website once finalized. Clark asked what the timing is for interviewing applicants. Treasurer Selection Subcommittee members said they aim to begin interviews in October.

Animal Control The Animal Control Officer (ACO) report accounted for two quickly-resolved lost and found dog incidents since March. The ACO is currently addressing reports of a vicious dog on Carse Road.

Tax Sale Delinquent Tax Collector Brent Lamoureux presented a list of four delinquent tax properties to the Board. The discussion of these delinquent tax properties, on the September 4 agenda, was tabled.

Expenses Under Budget **M**any factors, including grants offsetting highway expenses, have contributed to Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 expenses being $100,00 under budget. Non-tax revenue, such as increased current use reimbursement, has exceeded the budget.

Visit from the State Police Vermont State Police (VSP) Williston Barracks Station Commander Lieutenant Robert Lucas and Bill Warner, VSP liaison, began the September 4 meeting with a visit to the Selectboard.

Lucas gave an overview of the barracks, which serves Chittenden County and Lamoille County, with 17 troopers and special teams such as the bomb squad and K-9 unit. Lucas discussed the demographics of both counties, saying Chittenden is the most densely populated and racially diverse County in the State. One benefit of working in Chittenden County is the number of local law enforcement agencies, Lucas commented.

Lucas shared data about calls for service in Huntington in 2017 and 2018, showing a dramatic drop in arrests over this period. Huntington's VSP contract is capped at 318 hours of traffic enforcement, with 261.75 hours provided in FY17/18 . In this period, 131 traffic tickets were issued. Lucas shared speed data for Main Road and Camels Hump Road. Speed data shows the 85th percentile for speed by the Town Office is 32MPh and 28 MPH on Camels Hump Road. Hopefully, added Lucas, more speed data will be collected before winter. Lucas explained that any calls coming from Huntington while a trooper is on contract hours will be handled by that trooper, who will otherwise be handling traffic enforcement.

"One of my cornerstones," Lucas told the Board, "is I want our troopers to be involved in our schools, it should not be an anomaly to see our troopers in the schools." Lucas stressed keeping the lines of communication open. Board member Landel Cochran asked if the VSP ever left empty cruisers by the side of roads to discourage speeding. Lucas said Vermont has not embraced the use of “dummy cars," for various reasons.

Loader Funding The Board considered an alternative funding proposal for the highway loader. Anticipated funds in the General Fund Fund Balance will exceed the recommended amount kept in the Fund for operating expenses and indicated for Lower Village Engineering. The Highway Reserve Fund has a balance of $132, 97, designated for the purchase of Highway equipment. Elliott and Clark proposed to use funds from the Highway Reserve Fund in lieu of taking out a loan, to pay for the loader. A Motion to allow the Treasurer to approve using money from the Reserve Fund instead of taking out a loan passed. An article at Town meeting will ask voters to move money from the General Fund Fund balance back into Highway Reserve Fund.

Litter at Audubon Swimming Hole The Board considered correspondence from a resident about litter at the main Audubon parking lot, Horseshoe Bend and the Burrows Trail parking lot. The Audubon, which is private property, does not place trash receptacles at its parking lots. Elliott shared this correspondence with the Audubon and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Audubon staff responded that the areas had been cleaned up. Vermont Parks and Recreation staff reported picking up trash and installing No Littering signs. Board members authorized the Town Administrator to express gratitude to the Audubon and Vermont Parks and Recreation for their efforts to deal with trash left by visitors to these areas.

Road Classification Update Research of highway maps reveals that prior to 1982, maps only showed designated Town Roads or State Roads, not different classifications. After the State changed its maps to include Class 3, 4 or NUTS (not up to standards) classifications, Elliott found added confusion, due to contradictory symbols in the map legend. Research, as recommended by Town attorney, will continue into the classification of Town Highway 9, along with Economou, Trapp and Stagecoach Roads. In addition to reviewing maps, Elliott has been searching various Town and Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) records.

The Highway Department continues to work on a large Texas Hill project aimed to control erosion. The next job for the Road crew is culvert replacement.

Barton suggested a notice to residents to look at their own culverts and clear them out.

Town Hall Grant Proposal Committee member Barbara Fellitti came to the Board looking for permission to submit a grant to the Vermont Historic Preservation Grant program. The funds will help pay for interior work including paneling and wallpaper removal, plaster repair and painting. The grant will cover half the cost, said Felitti, with the rest of the money coming from the Town Hall Reserve Fund. A motion that the Selectboard approve the Town Hall Grant application as presented, and authorize Elliott as grant administrator, passed.

Library Grant Library Trustee Paula Kelley told the Board that Library Board of Trustees want to apply for a grant to cover roof repair costs. Barton responded that the Trustees will have to figure out details of grant requirements, and where to get matching funds. All grant applications need Selectboard approval. Barton told Kelley a library roof replacement project is part of the Building and Grounds plan, for FY 2021-22 Barton suggested Kelley follow up with Elliott on plans for grant submissions.

The Board moved to approve the May 2018 Energy Committee Charter as presented.

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Community space for local artists

Gordon Rowe # 8
239 Texas Hill Road, Huntington 881-3975
Ceramics both thrown and hand-built

Daryl V. Storrs Artworks #9
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Kevin Jenness Woodworking - Kevin Jenness # 10
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Lake Iroquois Milfoil Removal

Left: harvesting milfoil. Above: Rock Island in Lake Iroquois

On August 6, AB Aquatics, the company the Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) has contracted to do this work, began Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) of milfoil on Lake Iroquois. They are working to remove Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) from around the rock island in the center of the lake. This area was found to have a severe infestation of EWM in the Fall 2017 aquatic plant survey of the lake. Because it is located in the center of the lake, boats passing through it can create fragments which will spread the milfoil elsewhere. Once finished in this area they cleared the channel at the fishing access so that boats entering the lake will not break up the milfoil thereby spreading it further into the lake. Lastly, the DASH boat crew did cleanup work around the Lake Iroquois Recreation District(LIRD) beach, an area they also worked on in late June of 2018.

The three weeks of work by AB Aquatics is being funded by a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP). Each of these sites is important to the public uses of the lake.

If you are out on the lake, wave to the crew but please keep your distance. The crew asks that you not try to talk with them while they are working. They can't really hear you very well and for safety reasons, they need to stay focused on the work. Remember also that there is a diver submerged working near the boat so make sure to maintain a 200-foot distance.

This method will not completely solve the milfoil problem. Rather it is a part of a many-pronged effort to reduce and manage this invasive. Among the other activities aimed at enhancing and maintaining the health of Lake Iroquois are our Greeter Program in which boats entering and leaving the lake are checked for invasives and cleaned at our boat wash station, if necessary; reduction of nutrients entering the lake (which feeds the growth of milfoil) by mitigating runoff; education of lakeshore property owners and lake users in best management practices; creation of no-mow zones and riparian buffers to prevent nutrient runoff into the lake; monitoring and stream remediation to reduce sediment and nutrients carried into the lake via its tributaries; and regular sampling and data collection to support evidence-based water quality activities . Most of all, your help and support (financial and/or volunteering time) will make a difference in protecting and enhancing this wonderful resource.

For more information: www.lakeiroquois.org or email us at lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com

What is Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting?

Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) is an effective method of removal of invasives. A diver physically hand pulls the targeted plant, being careful to remove the entire root system and to minimize fragmentation (milfoil fragments can easily root and spread throughout a waterbody). They then place the plant into a suction hose that takes the plant to the surface. Once at the surface the plant is discharged into a straining basket (sort of like a colander) set into the deck so that sediment and water flows through and the milfoil is captured. One crew member on the boat then puts the plants into bags while the second crew member on the boat maps the area being cleared with an iPad and maintains voice communication with the submerged diver. At the end of the day the bags with the plants are emptied away from the lake where the material can be composted.

Letters

continued from page 2

the time, parents attend workshops on topics such as setting limits and computer/Internet safety, while the student group discusses topics such as saying no ,advocacy, and problem-solving. We are excited for our Pumpkin Chunkin' contest—and hope that you and your family will join in the fun!

Math and reading volunteers are needed to support math and literacy development skills. Math volunteers will help with basic calculation and computation skills. Literacy volunteers will assist with reading fluency and comprehension. Training is provided and schedules are flexible.

Please consider volunteering. For more information, please call 434-2188 or email: mark.carbone@cesuvt.org.

The next Mount Mansfield Modified Union School Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 1, 6:30 pm at Browns River Middle School. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

—*Mark Carbone*, Principal

Contributing to a Culture to Turn the Tide on Opioids

When I tell people about the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance's broad mission to reduce the impact of opioids on our communities, there is a predictable response: 'Gosh, that sounds overwhelming.'

It's repeated often that Vermont, and the country as a whole, is in the grips of an opioid epidemic, and while that is indeed the case – 64,000 Americans died of an overdose in 2016, with two-thirds attributable to opioids – the sheer magnitude can leave people feeling powerless to help.

I'm here to tell you nothing could be further from the truth. There is a simple but impactful way we can all contribute to turning the tide in this epidemic.

We'll do it by helping close the empathy gap that yawns like a chasm between people with substance abuse disorders and society. This gap is characterized by the stubborn and persistent view of addiction as a moral failing.

How can we do it? First, we can respectfully engage people who, through their words and actions, shame and stigmatize addiction – perpetuating the idea that people with substance abuse deserve what they get.

Brian Stevenson, the civil rights attorney who provides legal counsel to death row inmates, has said, "Each of us is more than the worst thing we've ever done."

This maxim of compassion must be applied to people with substance abuse disorder, who may ruin relationships and commit crimes in furtherance of their addiction. They are still deserving of love, respect and human dignity.

That doesn't mean we can't hold people accountable for their actions, but accountability doesn't always have to be punitive, as many prosecutors and criminal justice reformers are starting to show us.

Second, we can check our own impulse to turn away from, ignore – and thereby further isolate – people with substance abuse disorder. Addiction is discomforting to watch from afar, and achingly painful close up, and while it's important to have boundaries that preserve our own wellbeing, to the extent we are able, we must stay connected.

Connection is the inverse of loneliness, and in many ways addiction is an affliction of loneliness and isolation.

Addiction also correlates with a rigidity in thought patterns that can rob people of agency. In a sense, addiction is perpetuated through a lack of imagination – an inability to conceive a different life.

When we connect with someone isolated by their addiction, it helps to break the narrowly focused drug seeking behavior by centering their humanity, and reminding them that they are loved.

In practice this can take many forms, something as simple as smiling when we see a person on the street who appears to be struggling, or asking how they're doing.

It also means that when you hear of a friend or relative who has an addiction, don't just say 'Oh, that's a shame,' and move on. Reach out. You don't need to bring up substance abuse, and you don't need to assume responsibility for their life. You could simply ask if they'd like to grab lunch – or even just let them know you're thinking about them.

Calling out stigma and staying connected are small acts, and on their own they won't end the opioid epidemic.

However, it's something we can all do every day, and in conjunction with smart policy measures, it will contribute to a healthier culture – one in which opioid addiction is less likely to be a life sentence or a death sentence.

—*Christine Johnson*, Executive Director
Chittenden County Opioid Alliance

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Area Residents Honored

Michael Kenney of Richmond, a nurse working in hematology and medical oncology at The University of Vermont Medical Center, has received a DAISY Award, which recognizes nurses who provide care to patients and their families with great clinical skill and extraordinary compassion.

DAISY Award recipient Michael Kenney of Richmond with the UVM Medical Center's Chief Nursing Officer Kate FitzPatrick.

Kenney, 26, joined the hematology and medical oncology inpatient staff as a registered nurse in February. He had worked as a licensed nursing assistant on the same unit for more than three years before getting his bachelor's degree in nursing science. The patient who nominated Kenney for the award had just started chemotherapy and was feeling overwhelmed, according to the nomination letter.

"I am used to being the caretaker in the world, and it's hard to have roles reversed, but Michael made me feel safe and like I was in good hands," the patient wrote. "The first night I was there without my family and was all alone and woke up at 4:30 am full of questions and anxiety, he talked with me and answered my questions and helped me understand how I could best be a good partner in my own care by just taking care of myself and not being afraid to ask for what I need."

Good nursing requires not only technical skills but compassion – a combination of the head and the heart, Kenney says. Whenever he can, he tries to drop-in and connect with patients. "I feel it really improves care when we can have that time to sit and explain," he says.

The DAISY Award is a nationwide program that started in 1999 to honor nurses at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance who cared for a young father named Patrick Barnes. DAISY stands for diseases attacking the immune system, which was the cause of Barnes' death. Today, more than 3,300 healthcare facilities and nursing schools in all 50 states and 18 other countries honor nurses with the DAISY Award.

Patients can nominate a nurse any time by visiting https://www.uvmhealth.org/medcenterdaisy or sending an email to DaisyAward@UVMhealth.org. An honoree is chosen from the nominations every two months.

The National Audubon Society and Audubon Vermont announced the appointment of **David Mears** as Executive Director of Audubon Vermont and Vice President of the National Audubon Society. David comes to Audubon from Vermont Law School, where he most recently served as the Associate Dean for Environmental Programs.

"The work of protecting our wild places, from our mountains to our rivers, while ensuring the continued ecological health and vitality of our working forests and fields has never been more important, for birds and all species, including humans," said Mears. "I am excited to join the talented team of scientists, educators and advocates at Audubon Vermont and honored to be part of the National Audubon Society network of organizations committed to this mission."

As head of Audubon Vermont, Mears will oversee conservation strategies focused on climate, working lands, water, endangered species, and bird-friendly communities. He will also focus on educational and outreach programs based out of the Green Mountain Audubon Center in Huntington, Vt. In the coming months, Mears will meet with partners, donors, funders and chapter members to strengthen community connections and lay the groundwork for Audubon Vermont to address new conservation challenges facing the state.

At the Vermont Law School, Mears directed the Environmental Law Center and oversaw academic programs associated with the law school's environmental law and policy curriculum, as well as taught and wrote in the area of environmental law. Prior directing the Environmental Law Center, Mears served as the Commissioner to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, where he led major initiatives to conserve and protect Vermont's environment and public health, including: a cleanup and restoration plan for the Lake Champlain watershed; a new brownfields development initiative; and implementation of new laws relating to shorelands protection and mandatory recycling.

David Mears, Executive Director of Audubon Vermont and Vice President of the National Audubon Society.

In addition to his career-long commitment to environmental protection, Mears also serves on the boards of the Connecticut River Conservancy and the High Meadows Fund.

Mears holds a juris doctoral degree from Vermont Law School, a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering Technology from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

The following local residents were among students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) who recently completed intense, hands-on research projects.

Eli Frank of Huntington, a member of the class of 2019 majoring in mechanical engineering, was a member of a student team that completed a project through the WPI project center in Denmark. The project was titled Creating Conversations: Innovation through a Digital Healthcare Scenario Tool. In their project summary, the students wrote, "To promote discussion on these issues, the Danish Design Center created four physical scenarios to show what the healthcare system may look like anno 2050. Following an existing game development process, this project translated the physical scenarios to a virtual format to reach a larger audience."

Daniel Champlin of Jericho, a member of the class of 2019 majoring in bioinformatics and computational biology, was a member of a student team that completed a project through the WPI project center in Thessaloniki, Greece. The project was titled Exploring the Possibilities for an Open-Air Museum at the American Farm School in Thessaloniki, Greece. In their project summary, the students wrote, "The AFS is considering developing an open-air museum on its campus to publicize its long history and continued innovations. We collected and analyzed data from observations, archival data on existing school tour programs, and interviews with staff, administration, and anticipated museum visitors."

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology to address an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 40-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

"The WPI project-based curriculum's focus on global studies brings students out of the classroom and their comfort zones and into the global community to apply their knowledge to solve real problems," said Professor Kent Rissmiller, interim dean of the WPI Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division. "Students are immersed in all aspects of a different culture, from the way people live and work to the values they hold to the foods they eat - all valuable perspectives for surviving and thriving in today's global marketplace. They also learn the meaning and magic of teamwork; make a real and meaningful difference in their host community; and gain a competitive edge for any resume, or graduate or professional school application."

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Land Conservation: A Different Fuel for Our Economic Engine

Richmond's former Town Manager Geoff Urbanik spoke at a September 4 press conference to announce the results of a study focused on the value of land conservation in Vermont.

Richmond came under a statewide spotlight earlier this month when the Trust for Public Lands and Vermont Land Trust chose it as the location for a press conference to unveil a report detailing the monetary value Vermonters receive from investments in land conservation.

According to the report, every dollar directed to land conservation returns nine dollars worth of natural goods and services such as water quality protection, flood prevention, food production, wildlife habitat, and air pollution removal – all of which were cited as important to Vermont's economy and jobs.

Conserved lands help sustain working forests that support some 10,600 jobs across the state and generate $1.48 billion in economic output. Vermont's farms produce $786 million in agricultural commodities, and the state leads the country in farm stands, direct-to-consumer sales, farmers' markets per capita, and maple syrup production.

According to Shelby Semmes, the Vermont and New Hampshire director for The Trust for Public Land, "The findings of our report show that conservation is key to maintaining our state's character while supporting jobs, boosting water quality, strengthening our forest products and farm sectors, enhancing economic development, and improving public health."

Semmes and others spoke outdoors at the West Monitor Barn, headquarters for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, on East Main Street. Behind the podium were hundreds of acres of farmland and forest protected as part of Chittenden County Uplands Conservation Project.

Richmond's outgoing Town Manager Geoff Urbanik stepped up to talk about the project's latest addition – Richmond's new Town Forest. He noted how the forest is "strategically placed in a larger forest block that offers conservation and recreation opportunities that add a value to the property that would not have been achieved through traditional development.

"A few homes here would have provided some modest growth of the taxable value of the property and a handful of new residents. Instead, we're foregoing the traditional bedroom community growth mode and focusing on growth of opportunities that provide a different fuel for our economic engine."

Urbanik also described the educational opportunities conserved lands offer for "growing students into leaders who see the real value within the forest not just in quantitative ways but also in the quality of living in harmony with native flora and fauna."

The entire report can be viewed at tpl.org/vermont-roi.

—Submitted by Brad Elliott

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Into the Woods

The Recreation Compromise

Submitted by Ethan Tapper

In Vermont, we are blessed to have amazing forests and many people that value them. For most Vermonters, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, rock climbing and other forms of recreation are the primary way that they appreciate these resources. While our forests can support these uses, the interactions between them and forest ecology can sometimes get complicated.

Recreation is incredibly important. Vermont's forested lands are about 80% privately owned. People own forested land for many reasons --- usually some combination of recreation, conservation, hunting access, and income from forest products. Many forest landowners place value on just knowing that their land exists, providing wildlife habitat, clean air, clean water, carbon sequestration and other benefits, but some form of recreation is almost always how landowners interact and connect with their land; whether it is a short walking loop or a system of mountain bike trails, recreation fuels a conservation ethic that helps protect forests and promote good forest stewardship. On public lands, recreation is part of how we enjoy our public resources, and how those without access to their own land can get out and spend time in the woods.

Recreation has an impact. While recreation is an important part of the conservation and protection of forestland, it is also important that we recognize that it is not without adverse impacts; poorly planned and/or executed recreation can negatively affect soils, water quality, forest health and wildlife.

Poorly constructed and/or maintained trails can cause erosion (the loss of soil), which pollutes our waterways. Additionally, trails cause localized soil compaction, impacting tree roots and vegetation. Finally, trail construction can impact sensitive sites, such as wetlands, lowering their health and functionality. While these issues, in my experience, are not prominent in Chittenden County, they are serious. The good news is that they can be mitigated by thoughtful trail construction; making sure that trails are built with water diversion structures like water bars, identifying and avoiding sensitive sites, keeping users "on-trail" to concentrate impacts on as small an area as possible, staying off trails when they are wet or unstable, and actively monitoring and maintaining trails.

The effect of recreation on wildlife is harder to mitigate. Research has made it clear that wildlife are impacted by recreation. There are essentially two results of recreation on wildlife: habituation (wildlife becoming accustomed to recreation) and avoidance (wildlife fleeing from recreation), both of which are problematic. Research suggests that larger animals are more likely to show avoidance behavior, which heightens their stress levels, taxes energy reserves and can change their habitat use and forage patterns, sometimes forcing them to utilize inferior habitat.

So, what can we do? We need to balance recreating in our forests with protecting their ecology and function. I think about this as "sustainable recreation," protecting the health of our forests holistically, rather than focusing for a single resource (like recreation) as we so commonly do. We need to recognize that recreation in our forests is dependent on responsible forest stewardship and does not exist in a vacuum. Broadening our perspective in this way will help to ensure that future generations can have the same positive recreational experience, in healthy, productive forests, as us.

Thinking carefully about the construction and location of trails goes a long way towards this goal. Before building a trail, look at Biofinder, a map service provided by Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources, to see if there are any sensitive sites or Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE) species present. Consider dividing your land into "zones," where management goals ---- harvesting forest products, maximizing wildlife habitat, creating a network of trails, protection of an ecologically sensitive site ---- determine the primary use. Each zone can have different rules; a simple balance is allowing more trails near developed areas and allowing more remote areas, which connect to larger habitat blocks, to feature less or no trails. This allows us to have our trails and allows wildlife a large area where they can move freely without being disturbed. Finally, for tips on trail construction, you can look at Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR)'s "Recommended Trail Standards" on the FPR website.

As is often the case in the woods, humans' biggest challenge is managing ourselves --- and it starts with compromise. Forest recreation is vital to Vermont's forests, and it is worth the effort of thinking a little bit harder about how we manage it.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at (802)-585-9099, at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov, or at his office at 111 West Street, Essex Junction.

Vermont Wing of the Civil Air Patrol at Technology Center

Lt. Scott Lowe (right) of Richmond and Lt. Peter Steinerman (left), both of the Vermont Wing of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) brought some "real world" expertise on volunteer and other opportunities in Vermont aviation recently to a few elementary school students participating in a science and technology summer camp at the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center in Hyde Park. The students used their balsa wood gliders for demonstrations of how airplanes stay aloft, turn and descend.

The 60,000 members of the CAP, the longtime all-volunteer U.S. Air Force auxiliary, perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. CAP plays a leading role in aerospace/STEM education, and volunteer members serve as mentors to over 25,000 young people participating in CAP's Cadet Programs. The Vermont Wing has squadron locations throughout the State, providing critical services and volunteer opportunities for all Vermonters including youth. Visit vtcap.org to learn more.

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Huntington School

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a state mandated merger. The costs for retaining Gillies will be the responsibility of private donors. It was further agreed that Tara Fowler would join Paul Susen in the meeting Friday morning August 31 with Gillies."

This is very complicated—the author's opinion—and, if you want to see the details that underlie this article, please review the following resources: the minutes and videos of all 3 boards' meetings (HSB, MMUSD/CESU, AOE conversations meeting, SBE meeting, the April "conversation" with the AOE staff on alternative governance structure issues, the AOE June 1st Proposed Statewide Plan for School District Governance. The time period covered runs from Winter of 2018 through September 20th, 2018. The choice of issue highlighting is the author's and at times includes some bias in selection especially when it comes to bringing forth the words used by the AOE it its report showing a lack of regard for the practice of voting on issues.

The AOE, State Board of Education phase of merger moves in preparation for the State Board's Final Statewide Plan for School District Governance:

By the end of November 2018, the State Board of Education will have held three regional meetings to hear from un-merged districts about their reactions to the June 1 AOE recommendations to the Board on the 43 Act 46 Section 9 proposals for alternative governance structures. The State Board's final Statewide Plan for School District Governance under Section 10 of Act 46, will be based on the AOE recommendations made in their June 1 report and the testimony and related materials submitted by the 43 unmerged districts. The final Statewide Plan is to be issued on November 30, 2018 with an implementation date, for districts that are directed to merge, of July 2019 (FY 20).

The August 15 State Board of Education meeting included 10 minutes or so for the HESD (Huntington Elementary School District, language used by the AOE in its report – synonymous, locally, with HSD, Brewster-Pierce Memorial School) Board to present its reactions to the AOE recommendations, which, in a nutshell, recommend that HESD merge with the MMMUSD, allowing MMMUSD to become the Act 46 preferred governance structure, a Unified Union School District (UUSD). (Author's note: when not directly quoted, there is use of paraphrasing of the AOE Proposed Plan.)

In the 189-page (not counting appendices) Agency of Education's (AOE) June 1 Proposed Statewide Plan for School District Governance the AOE staff reports on 43 "conversations" they held with each district that was proposing to operate their unmerged district using an "Alternative Structure." This information from these meetings held in early spring was used as background for the AOE proposed recommendations to the State Board for their review in the next several months.

Taken from the AOE report, "the 43 districts or groups of districts that discussed their proposed Alternative Structures:

• The Secretary recommends merger with respect to 18

• The Secretary proposes no action with respect to three, so that each community's ongoing voluntary merger process can proceed

• The Secretary does not recommend merger with respect to 12, because merger is not practicable at this time and it would not advance the goals of Act 46

• The Secretary does not recommend merger with respect to 10, because it is not legally possible due to differing operating/tuitioning structures within the region (AOE report page 8)"

Huntington falls in the group of 18 – those districts where the Secretary recommends merger.

In the report the AOE staff, in summary stated:

Accordingly, the Secretary believes that the best means of meeting the Act 46 Goals – for both the district individually and for the region – is for the State Board of Education to merge the Huntington Elementary School District and the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District into a single UUSD by requesting the MMMUSD to accept the Huntington District as a full PreK – 12 member (page 78 of AOE Proposed Statewide Plan).

Huntington Board members spoke at both the AOE meeting (April of 2018) and the State Board meeting (August of 2018) focusing on the facts that merger votes during the last 6 years have resulted in predominately "no" to merger votes. Among other things written and discussed: the PreK-4 elementary school is remotely located and the community has expressed multiple times it doesn't want its youngest children to have to have long bus rides, for health, employment and recreational opportunities, the community is involved with many communities in the region other than Jericho and Underhill (AOE report, page 75), the school and its student outcomes are very good, the land was bequeathed by a resident for the school years ago, the form of governance is participatory and responsive, there is a lot of family and community involvement in all aspects of the school and the expenses have been kept under control.

On page 20 of the AOE report it stated in the section on "other observations:

In districts that had unsuccessful unification votes, a variety of explanations were offered for the 'no' result. Some cited lack of information, bad information, or misinformation while others cited timing of the vote leading to low turnout. On the whole, the proffered explanations may or may not be a good indicator of a community's feelings about what would really occur in a merger and, for the reasons explained more fully below (note author could not locate any further elaboration on the meaning of voting) are not given great weight in this proposed plan."

Page 77 of the AOE report begins with this:

"The Board noted that the community has consistently voted against proposals to join the unified district as a full PreK-12 member. Merger is not 'impossible' or 'impractical' (Act 46 allows for alternative structures if districts claim or prove this) because a community wishes to maintain its current governance structure and decision-making authority. The Legislature determined that a UUSD (unified union school district, a category or legal status MMMUSD would like to become) that is its own SD (legal category of supervisory district) is the governing structure most likely to meet the educational and fiscal goals of Act 46 in a sustainable manner. The Legislature requires the State Board to merge districts into this structure where necessary to create a sustainable entity. The law does not contemplate a departure from this goal based on community sentiment. Community sentiment does not make merger 'impossible' or 'impracticable,' although it is important in any merged district for both the unified board and the townspeople to take time to build trust, develop new habits for working together, and embrace and develop a shared and coherent vision."

It appears there is a theme throughout of not giving community voting on merger much if any weight in the AOE's decision making. This is the author's assessment.

The report in its discussion section, highlighted (author choice of what to highlight here) several interesting things:

continue to page 14

Village to Village Staying in Place Model Explored in Huntington

Submitted by Helen Keith

The Huntington Elder Resources Organization, a Town Committee known locally as HERO, is exploring something called a Village To Village model of aging in place. This is not an exploration of building or buying housing for the elderly (tried a couple of times in Huntington). It is a project that will explore whether enough interest exists in the Huntington community (and maybe other interested communities) to develop a membership organization in which services that are needed for elders to remain in their homes which could be provided through the organization by either volunteers and/or paid staff, and/or are discounted or bartered or some combination of all of these methods.

The Village To Village model was initiated in the early 2000s in the Boston area, and was known as the Beacon Hill model. It evolved into its own non-profit independent organization and shared its successes with many other efforts that were beginning and have come to fruition in rural and urban areas in the last 18 years. Eventually these membership organizations that provide services to help people live safely and well in their own homes and communities formed a national organization called the Village To Village Network, linking each area to technical assistance on how to develop and support over 2000 villages that are now in operation. HERO has taken on this project through an exploratory phase and perhaps a development phase. The only other "Village" in Vermont is in the Cambridge-Jeffersonville area and has created and just received its Federal IRS non-profit status to take further steps in its aging in place membership model. It is called the Mount Mansfield Villages. Several other Vermont communities are discussing the possibilities of developing a Village model.

Are there are enough people in the Huntington area who would like to pursue developing a membership model of discounted, volunteer or paid (or some combination) services and deciding what people need for services? The highly popular programs and activities of the Senior Center and its extensive offerings to help people to continue to be independent and involved. The Village model would be complimentary to programs offered by the Senior Center.

For example, some of the services offered by other rural and urban Villages include such things as: deliveries such as groceries, prescriptions; house cleaning; yard and garden work, light carpentry, roof/snow removal, home safety reviews and modifications, pet sitting, computer assistance, non-health or medical related transportation, telephone check-ins on well-being, emergency call system.

A survey of needs will be coming out in November–December, where services will be proposed that people would find helpful and for which people might be willing to pay some kind of monthly membership fee. The fee would be determined by affordability as well as what services are going to cost and which services would come in the first several years. The survey will focus on the needs of those 50 years and older.

Another goal is that this group will include volunteers in this age population to help develop the organization as well as to provide some services (either paid or discounted or donated) as well as recipients who are in need of the services to age in place/to live healthy and fulfilling lives without having to move until they wish to.

An analysis of population recently and found the following based on the American Community Survey of 2016:

• of the 1928 people in Huntington, 603 are aged 55 or older (31%) and 56 are 75 and older

• of the 1255 people in Bolton, 272 are aged 55 or older (22%) and 24 are 75 and older

• of the 4114 people in Richmond, 1080 are aged 55 or older (26%) and 127 are 75 or older.

Building on what exists in neighborhoods and through other organizations, in November and December we will be attempting to see if the exploration of this Huntington Village To Village model has enough interested people to make a "go" of it!

Watch for information updates.

If you would like to volunteer in getting this effort off the ground and help determine the initial level and cost of services, contact:

Helen Keith, Village To Village Coordinator, HERO, hkeith@gmavt.net or leave message at 434 2741.

Vermont Writers' Prize Deadline is November 1

Green Mountain Power and Vermont Magazine are encouraging writers to enter to win one of the state's great literary honors: The Vermont Writers' Prize. Winning entries are published in Vermont Magazine's March/April 2019 Issue.

The prize is a collaboration between GMP and Vermont Magazine and is a chance for writers in Vermont to share their creativity, perspective and love for Vermont. The award was created as a way to honor Ralph Nading Hill, Jr. who was a Vermont historian, author, and long-time GMP Board member.

"It is always so fascinating to read the winning entries each year," said Dotty Schnure, who spearheads the contest for GMP. "Local authors have so much talent, and their work always highlights the best of the spirit of Vermont."

The contest is open to all Vermont residents, including seasonal residents and students enrolled in Vermont colleges. You can be a professional or amateur writer. Frederic Martin of Richmond, Vermont, won the 2018 Vermont Writers' Prize with his piece Maybe Lake Carmi.

The deadline for this year's Vermont Writers' Prize is November 1, 2018.

Entries can be submitted here: https://www.greenmountainpower.com/2018/05/31/vermont-writers-prize/

Submissions need to be essays, short stories or poems on the themes of "Vermont—Its People, Its Places, Its History or Its Values." Entries must be unpublished and less than 1,500 words long. More detailed submission instructions are available at www.greenmountainpower.com.

The winning entry will be selected by an independent panel of judges and will be published in a special section of the March/April 2019 edition of Vermont Magazine. The author will receive a cash prize of $1,500.

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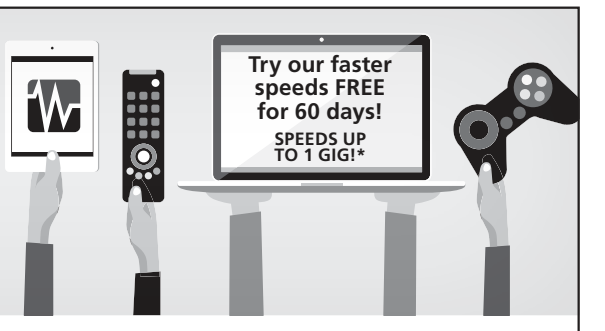

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Webworms

continued from page 1

Grant suggests the use of dormant oil. She explains, "The best way to kill webworms with dormant oil is in the early spring while the tree is dormant. Dormant oil is preferable due to its low toxicity and easy availability; any local garden supply store will have it. Dormant oil attacks and kills the overwintering eggs."

Wildlife ecologist Scott Shalaway proposes a course of inaction in a recent article in Farm and Dairy, stating, "If you just have a few webs, simply prune the tented branches and destroy them. Because webworms usually don't cause permanent damage, I recommend a laissez-faire approach." But, if you feel the need to do something, he recommends, "opening webs with a stick to give predators such as cuckoos, orioles, tanagers and vireos access to the caterpillars. These birds are among the few that eat hairy caterpillars."

Not the Tent Caterpillar The fall webworm web is often mistaken as the work of Eastern Tent Caterpillars. According to Leonard Perry, UVM Horticulture Professor Emeritus, Eastern Tent Caterpillars are recognized by many from their white webbed "tents" in branch crotches, teaming with black caterpillars. These insects hatch from eggs in early spring as buds open on apples, crabapples, cherries, and their relatives They emerge from the nests on warm days to feed on leaves, at which time they can be controlled with sprays such as insecticidal soap. Nests can be pruned out in early summer and destroyed, as can the shiny black egg masses (about one inch long) found on twigs in winter.

Fall webworms are similar in that they make web nests, but these are on branch tips and appear in mid to late summer. Often a plant will have several nests, compared to one for tent caterpillars. And the larvae of fall webworm feed from within their silky nest to protect themselves from hungry birds and other predators, expanding the nest down the plant as they feed.

This is another difference between webworms and tent caterpillars — tent caterpillars leave their tents to eat fresh leafy growth. Tent caterpillars eat young vigorous leaves, while webworms eat leaves that have already done most of their work for the tree. As summer winds down, plant growth slows, and leaf loss is much less serious than when it occurs in spring or early summer.

So, if your favorite tree has one or more fall webworm nests in it, there's no cause for alarm. These caterpillars may defoliate a tree occasionally, but rarely kill it, and usually only build tents on a handful of branches, if that. The larvae have more than 50 natural predators and 36 parasites that help control them. Fall webworms do not eat the buds of next year's leaves and the leaves they are feeding on will soon to drop to the ground. Next year leaves will appear on the currently affected branches with no sign of last year's damage.

Sources:

https://www.farmanddairy.com/columns/scott-shalaway/fall-webworms-arent-really-cause-for-alarm

https://www..gov/sites/fpr/files/Forest_and_Forestry/Forest_Health/Library/2016/Forest/Health/August/Observations.

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http://www.forestpests.org/northeast/fallwebworm.html

https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/pests/insects/controlling-fall-webworms.htm

http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/insects/fall_webworm.htm

Huntington School

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"If…Huntington is too remote from the other elementary school buildings to benefit from intra-district sharing and school choice, then that distance plus the schools relatively robust ADM would minimize any likelihood that the school will be closed. As a result, even if merged, a young child will be able to be educated in Huntington and avoid long bus rides unless the child's family wishes to take advantage of intra-district elementary school choice. In addition, given this unlikelihood that the school would be closed, parental volunteerism and using the school to embrace new young families into the community would similarly be unaffected" (page 76).

"The Huntington District contends that the PreK-4 merger would provide no benefits to Huntington students and taxpayer. Even assuming that this contention is true, it cannot be said that the merger would have no benefit for the region…. Thus, the addition of Huntington as a full PreK-12 member of the unified district has the potential to benefit students and taxpayers in the other member towns of the district (AOE report, page 77).

Again, from the AOE report on page 78,

"The Huntington District's argument that maintaining its current structure is the 'best' means for Huntington to create a sustainable structure capable of meeting the Act 46 Goals is not convincing enough to overturn the Legislature's presumption that a UUSD (Unified Union School District) is the "preferred" means of doing so.

Absent compelling evidence to the contrary in this particular instance, the Secretary defers to the Legislature's determination that a unified district is the structure most likely to meet or exceed the education and fiscal goals of Act 46 in a sustainable manner."

Assuming the merger is accepted by the Modified Union District, the Unified School District would become effective July 1 and there would be no annual meeting of the Huntington School Board in March at Town Meeting. All to do with education from then on would be approved by Australian ballot each year with votes not designated by town boundaries, but by all district boundaries.

Legal and related letters following up on Act 46 issues:

There have been, hot off the press, several letters submitted to Krista Huling, the Chair of the State Board of Education contesting several Act 46 issues: the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School Districts' anticipated draft warning of a vote prematurely on merger; the constitutionality of the role of the State Board (rather than the Legislature) to make decisions forcing merger on communities that have repeatedly voted "no" to merger and that have presented either in writing or verbally plans for alternative governance structures. (Note: the MMMUSD tabled the warning at its 9/17/18 meeting following and executive session.)

One letter, dated September 11 from Paul Gillies, the attorney hired through private funds by the Huntington School Board, opens with:

"The Huntington School District has voted four times not to merge with the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District for its Grades PK-4. Recently, the Modified District has announced that it may hold a vote on whether Huntington should merge, comingling the votes of all five towns (including Huntington), apparently believing that this will override, replace, or constitute the decision of the Huntington School District on this critical question. There is also a belief that in October the State Board might decide to merge Huntington with the rest of the towns by fiat. Neither of these scenarios respects the wishes of the voters of the Huntington School District and neither has the sanction of constitutionality about them."

State Representative Theresa Wood (Huntington's State Representative, Washington-Chittenden District) email to Krista Huling on September 18 ends with:

"As you know, voters in Huntington have turned down the merger question four times. Part of the Democratic process involves abiding by the will of the voters. I do recognize, however, that the Board of Education has the full authority to require a merger. It is rare that forced relationships result in successful results. I hope that the Board seriously considers the will of the voters in Huntington and works toward a solution that is not forced from the State."

Excerpts here are taken from attorney David Kelly's four-page letter to Chair Huling and Agency of Education General Counsel, Molly Bachman, on August 31st representing groups of school districts:

"As you know, a number of groups are opposed to the forced merger of local School Board Members Inc., on these efforts. These groups were happy to hear the discussion among State Board members at the end of the August 15, 2018 meeting, where some Board members expressed skepticism about accepting the forced mergers that have been recommended by the Acting Secretary of Education. When you issue your final plan by November 30, 2018, I would encourage you to reject all forced mergers, and I am hopeful that you will pursue that course. That said, given the Agency's proposed Statewide Plan, and the statements of Chair Huling and others that they expect that the State Board will force merger on at least some unwilling school districts, we are forced to consider all of our options, including litigation seeking injunctive relief in state or federal court. We believe there is a strong case to be made that it is illegal to force mergers on unwilling districts for a number of reasons, including (selections are below):

(4) The State Board cannot ignore the clearly stated legislative intent that town votes matter and that these votes represent more than mere "community sentiment." (Author's note: this is the phrase used in the AOE June 1st report of their recommendations to the State Board of Education as discussed earlier in this article.)

(5) A forced merger is arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with law, for many other reasons, including:

(a) It would directly contravene duly warned and properly held democratic votes of districts opposed to merger. Some of these towns voted multiple times against merger. For instance, Huntington held 4 separate votes and each time voted "No" to merger. The town of Franklin held a vote in which its citizens unanimously opposed merger.

(b) It would treat similarly situated actors differently. For instance, if districts such as Stowe and Elmore-Morristown are not forced to merge, then similarly situated districts, which provided similar explanations as Stowe and Elmore-Morristown for why merger would not work, cannot be forced to merge. The disparate treatment of these communities raises substantial "Common Benefits" and "Equal Protection" clause questions."

The letter ends with two more pages outlining the documents and related materials requested to be held for the purposes of future litigation, as needed.

Next Steps…

Stay tuned to see what happens with the "Accordingly" statement above in italics – the recommendation of the AOE staff for the SBE to require the HESD to join the MMMUSD allowing the MMMUSD to become the Act 46 preferred governance structure, a Unified School District.

Should you still have any comments on the AOE recommendations you may still submit materials to Krista Huling, Chair, Vermont State Board of Education, 219 North Main Street, Suite 402 Barre, Vermont 05641 or via email: Krista.huling@vermont.gov

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Composting Basics

Submitted by Bea Cole

Vermont's Act 148 states that no more food waste will be allowed in trash by 2020. The most logical solution is to compost that waste, which for some people is a natural process but for others raises concerns.

Cat Buxton, a Windsor County University of Vermont (UVM) Extension Master Composter from Sharon, says that creating compost is an important step in reducing emissions that contribute to a decline in air quality, water quality and accumulating greenhouse gas in our atmosphere.

"It's a great way to build healthy soil for lawns and gardens that can create conditions for diverse soil biological systems to thrive and cycle nutrients without using synthetic fertilizers," she explains.

According to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, backyard composting can divert 30 percent of household trash from the landfill. This means that if three families participated in composting, we could keep about a ton of material from the landfill each year. Landfills produce more greenhouse gases than composting, so composting can improve air quality.

Some of the concerns people have with composting are the fear of attracting pests and creating odor. However, when you build a pile with the right ingredients that includes the right balance of carbon and nitrogen, pests are not attracted to the pile because there is no odor.

Carbon refers to "brown" materials such as newspaper, shavings, hay, straw, leaves, cardboard, paper or plant stalks to name a few. Nitrogen refers to "green" materials including kitchen scraps, vegetative garden debris, raw manure and weeds, among other materials. Add these ingredients to your pile in a three-to-one ratio of brown to green.

Buxton recommends a bio-filter of about an inch or two of carbon-rich materials around the perimeter of the pile to draw in air, hold moisture and hold heat. She refers to it as a doughnut with the hole in the middle left for your nitrogen materials.

Once you put in your green materials, then add your browns or carbon to this and cover the pile with a few inches of loose carbon-rich materials. Buxton says, "If you follow the right recipe to create aerobic compost and give attention to the pile structure ensuring that the pile remains aerobic and at 50-60 percent moisture, compost will not emit odors."

If you don't have the space or desire to build your own compost bin, most landfill sites now have places you can leave your food scraps either for free or a nominal fee. These bins are then hauled away to a larger facility.

Composting is a common sense solution to the problem of food scraps that most households produce every day. For more information on composting or other gardening questions, call the UVM Extension Master Gardener Helpline toll-free at (800) 639-2230 or 656-5421.

Bea Cole a UVM Extension Master Gardener from South Royalton.

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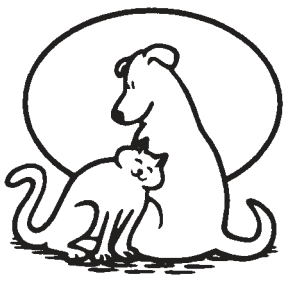

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Thursday, 6 - 7 pm
Eucharistic Adoration:
Thursday, 6 - 8 pm

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Rosary:
20 minutes
before all Masses

News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

At RCC the change of seasons signals the start of our church program year. We're off to an energizing start! In late August, as the kids returned to school, we blessed backpacks and briefcases. On Labor Day weekend we worshiped at the Old Round Church for the 93rd annual Pilgrimage Sunday. This tradition began in 1925, and has only skipped one year since. On September 8, we joined with UCC churches in the greater Burlington area to march together in the Burlington Pride Parade. Over the course of the parade, I handed out 800 rainbow heart stickers and wore a shirt offering Free Pastor Hugs. It was an important event to reflect our church's open and affirming welcome, and proclaim that God's love is for all people.

On September 9, we held worship outside for the Blessing of the Animals. Many dogs, and even a hedgehog, came for a special blessing. We also took a moment to remember those beloved pets who have died in the past year. In conjuction with the service, our Sunday School kids are collecting donations for the Chittenden Humane Society throughout September.

Sunday School began on September 16.

Looking ahead, preparations have commenced for the 71st Annual Chicken Pie Supper on Wednesday, October 3. Tickets are available at www.rccucc.org or by calling the church office.

World Communion Sunday is October 7. We celebrate this global sacred meal with a range of breads from around the world, as well as songs and prayers in different languages.

The Fall Rummage Sale is October 12-13.

Mission Trip 2019 – We're returning to Nosara, Costa Rica during the school winter break (February 23-March 4) to build a house for a local family in need with Mercy Home Ministries. If you are interested in being a part of this group, we still have some spaces open. More info about the trip including costs, accommodations, and pictures from last year's trip are up on our website.

Open Studio Weekend

Combine fall foliage viewing and harvest activities with purchases from local artists across Vermont.

Bright yellow signs compete with oranges and reds of October along Vermont's roads enticing visitors to the studios of craftspeople and fine artists across Vermont during the 2018 Fall Open Studio Tour over October 13 and 14. The Vermont Crafts Council is coordinating their event with American Craft Week, a national celebration of craftwork, taking place from October 5 through October 14.

Open Studio Weekend is a statewide celebration of the visual arts and creative process, offering a unique opportunity for visitors to meet a wide variety of local artists and craftspeople in their studios, and purchase high quality, hand made artwork.

The self-guided Open Studio tour features the work of glassblowers, jewelers, printmakers, potters, furniture makers, weavers, ironworkers, painters, sculptors, quilt makers and wood carvers. Many participating galleries will host gallery talks and feature special exhibits in conjunction with this event.

The Vermont Crafts Council publishes a free map with directions to participating sites. See ad on page 7 for a list and locations of local participants. The Fall Open Studio Map is available throughout the state at Tourist Information Centers, galleries and studios. It will also available on the VCC website starting mid September 2018, http://www.vermontcrafts.com/OSW/fallmaps-directions.html or by calling 802-223-3380.

Vermont's First Diaper Bank

The Junior League of Champlain Valley has established Vermont's first diaper bank with a generous donation of over 46,000 diapers from Seventh Generation — just in time for Diaper Need Awareness Week (September 24 - 30). The Junior League of Champlain Valley Diaper Bank will begin distributing diapers to area food shelves from its South Burlington headquarters on November 16. The Diaper Bank will partner with The Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf and town food shelf programs in Williston, Richmond, Milton and Hinesburg. The Junior League of Champlain Valley Diaper Bank plans to distribute close to 100,000 diapers annually. "Diaper need" impacts one in three U.S. families, and the well-being of our country's infants and toddlers. Diaper Need Awareness Week, September 24-30, helps spread the word about this important cause.

"Imagine having to choose between diapering or feeding your child," said Amanda Herzberger, Chair of the Diaper Bank Committee. "Imagine not being able to go to work or school because you don't have diapers to send with your child to daycare or an early education program. Imagine you don't have the money to buy the 6-10 diapers your child needs in a day, so he or she has to spend all day and night in the same diaper." Early this year, the Junior League of Champlain Valley operated a diaper drive as a test run for launching a diaper bank. Over 18,000 diapers were gathered and distributed to the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, which reported that 6-10 people per day request diapers. It can cost over $100 per month to diaper a child, and no state or federal safety-net program allocates dollars specifically for the purchase of diapers; in fact, many prevent spending money on them.

Donations of diapers can be made to the Junior League Diaper Bank via drop-off bins at Healthy Living in South Burlington and Kismet Place in Williston, or through the Junior League Diaper Bank's amazon wishlist. Donated diaper packages may be of any type, size, or brand. Hosting a diaper drive in your office or school is another great way to be involved. Diaper Drive resources can be found on the Junior League Diaper Bank website. Later this fall, outside volunteers will be welcomed to help repackage diapers for distribution.

For more information, visit the Junior League of Champlain Valley Diaper Bank's website at http://www.jlcv.org/diaper-bank or email jlcvdiaperbank@gmail.com.

National Diaper Bank Website: Vermont Statistics Page on Diaper Need and Affordability:

www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016_State_Baby_Facts_4_2017_Vermont.pdf

Founded in 1985, the Junior League of the Champlain Valley strives to improve the quality of life for children, women and families at risk in the community through increased awareness, community partnerships and providing a legacy of trained volunteers. We are part of the Association of Junior Leagues International, which is made up of 291 Junior Leagues in four countries.

Calendar of Events

FIRST & THIRD TUESDAY: Free car seat inspections, Richmond Rescue, 216 Railroad St., 9 am to noon. Call Mike Chiarella: 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.

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

FRIDAYS TO OCTOBER 12: Richmond Farmers Market. Rain or shine, 3 pm to 6:30 pm, Volunteers Green. Local produce, delicious prepared food, handmade crafts, baked goods, local meat, live music and more. info@richmondfarmersmarketvt.org

SUNDAYS: KarmaYoga class time has changed. 10:30 am to 11:30 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, 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: Cub Scout Pack 645, Sundays, Brewster-Pierce School, Matt Plumer (chewiecbr@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

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

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

LAST SATURDAYS, EVERY MONTH (September 29): Monthly Bird Monitoring Walk, 7:30 am to 9 am, Birds of Vermont Museum. All birders welcome on the monthly monitoring walk outdoors on the Museum's trails in forest and meadow. Often coffee afterwards, indoors at the viewing window. Most fun for adults, older children. Please bring your own binoculars, dress for weather. The ticks are out already. Pre-registration is nice but not required (museum@birdsofvermont.org or 434-2167) Free, donations welcome.

SEPTEMBER 28: Hops Workshop, Champlain Valley Hops in Starksboro (5459 Rte. 116), free workshop to share on growing and processing quality hop products for Vermont brewers. Peter Briggs and Julian Post will discuss how they established their hopyard including building trellises, planting hops and strategies for weed management and irrigation. Held in conjunction with the University of Vermont Extension Northwest Crops and Soils Program, 10 am to noon. To register online go to https://champlainvalleyhops.eventbrite.com. Or call (802) 524-6501, ext. 432. Northwest Crops and Soils Program staff Heather Darby, John Bruce and Scott Lewins will be on hand to answer questions about hops production and their hops research. Participants will have an opportunity to tour the farm, which currently has 26 trellised acres and 18 acres planted with several hop varieties.

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, Huntington Town Hall.

LIBRARY

Richmond: Trustees, 1st Thursday in January, March, April, June, September & November, 6:30 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, 7 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.

SEPTEMBER 28-30: 30th Annual Manchester Fall Crafts Fair, Riley Rink on Route 7A (410 Hunter Park Rd.), a mile and a half north of downtown Manchester. Features 150 artists and artisans displaying and selling traditional and contemporary crafts and original art as well as a specialty food section. Food, music, and Vermont craft beers. 10-5 daily, Admission is $10; $7 on Friday. Children are free. Rain or shine-inside building and outdoors. Free parking. No pets. Complete information is available at http://craftproducers.com/festivals/28th-annual-manchester-f.

SEPTEMBER 29: Plein Air, 10 am to 3 pm, 4787 Ethan Allen Highway, St. Albans. Rain or Shine. The Milton Artist Guild is sponsoring a Plein Air workshop to be hosted by Claire Payne Studios, located on the historic Solomon Goodrich Homestead located in Georgia. This property provides a stunning outdoor venue surrounded by a local organic dairy farm supplying endless Plein Air project opportunities. $20 MAG Member/$25 Non-member. Register: miltonartistsguild@gmail.com

OCTOBER 3: Factory Girls: How Women First Came to the Workplace (in association with Vermont Reads - Bread and Roses, Too), 7 pm, Brownell Library, Essex Junction. St. Michael's College Professor Susan Ouellette will lead a discussion of the experiences of young women who helped to create the new industrial workplace at the turn of the 19th century. Free.

Worship

Community Church of Huntington: Sunday morning Worship 9 am. Communion:1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155). Pastor Larry Detweiler (revdets@gmail.com or 989-2679).

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: 20 Church Street., 434-2053. Sunday Worship with Sunday School, 9:30 am.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

Speaking French Together

This is a social group with a difference. Sponsored by the Community Seniors, the class began in early 2017 with students of French both experienced and novice, shy and loquacious. Many had studied French in school, long ago, and needed to renew their abilities or had never mastered the art of conversation. Some had grown up in French speaking households and regretted their abandonment of the language. Some had travel plans to French speaking countries. Word went out from the activities committee that the Community Seniors wanted someone to teach a French conversation group. Cathy Plas, a French teacher at the Green Mountain Valley School in Waitsfield accepted the assignment.

A young woman with a serious love of the language and the opportunity to help, Cathy has become the group's link to both speaking French and delighting in French culture. She has spent several summers at Dartmouth working in the intensive French school there and uses some of the drills she administered there with the group. This summer she received a scholarship to spend two weeks in Nice in an intensive program designed for teachers of French.She brings an arsenal of fun activities using games and film that she's developed for adolescent students and the group spends an hour and a half a week challenging their brains and exercising their sense of humor.

When asked what they like about the class, students reflected that they appreciate the positive attitude, encouragement and patience of their instructor. One said, "I've come to corrupt the class with Quebecois." Cathy rejoined, "No, you enrich the class with an extra layer of language." In fact, her advanced French students in Waitsfield study Quebec history and make field trips there.

Last spring several members of the group accepted the invitation to have breakfast and meet with her class at the GMV School. Over quiche and coffee they discussed winter sports, family, and pets, no English allowed. Cathy moved the guests around the table to keep the conversations flowing. Several remarked later how valuable that hour had been for them.

The weekly class allows for everyone to share something. Favorite topics include travel and food. Cathy has a passion for both and the class benefits from her descriptions and photos. Several students have presented slide shows of travels in France, Switzerland, and Africa.

The class has sampled some Quebecois cuisine including: tourtiere, beignets, and tarte au sucre.

The group welcomes new members and as one of them said, "This is the most unintimidating language class I could ever imagine. And the most fun."

—Peggy Curtis

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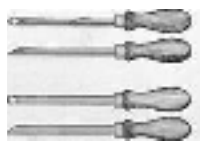

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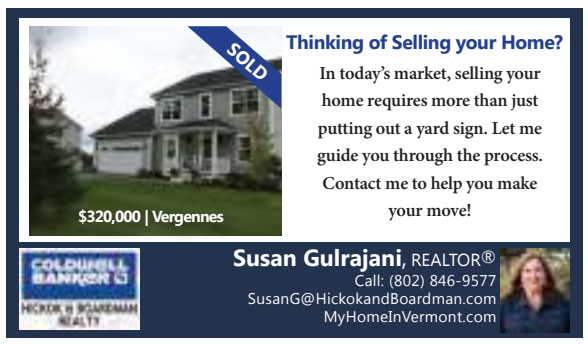

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Classified

SMALL TREE & SHRUB PRUNING. Local master gardener with 20 years experience. Dave, 802-238-9696 [5/18]

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3 mos minimum / prepaid

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Documentary Film 100 Sones Cubanos on MMCTV

Contributed by Toni Basanta

Host Edesio Alejandro is a Cuban singer, songwriter, producer of groundbreaking projects like Violente, the first Rock Opera written in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Violente was played and filmed by Monte de Espumas Rock Group featuring Edesio and actress Cristina Rebull on lead vocals in 1986.

His song, Blen Blen, tribute to Cuban conga king Luciano "Chano" Pozo for the album Black Angel, sky rocketed the Hit Parades for several weeks reaching # 1 in the Dance Floor Charts of MTV in Europe, selling 600, 000 copies and singles in 1999.

Black Angel and Orisha Dreams were selected among the Best 180 World Music albums in Europe in 1999.

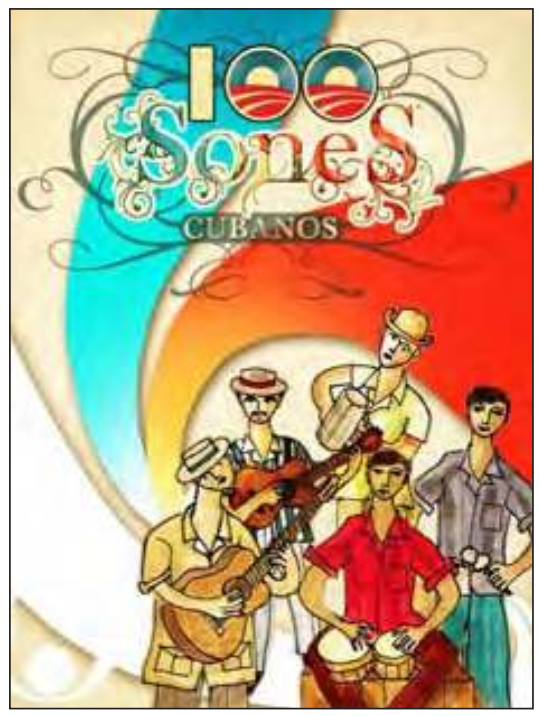
In 1998, Rodriguez Salva composed and produced for the album Take Your Time, featuring singer Scatman John.

During the celebration of Bridge to Havana, a project led by American producer Allan Roy Scott, Edesio joins forces with American Soul Diva Gladys Knight to compose Vacilon Feelin' Good.

This Smooth Chachacha occupied the Top 50 US Smooth Jazz charts and reached # 7, and several weeks later, rose 3rd place among World Jazz Singles in 2004.

Alejandro produced and wrote music for a new album with some favorite lyrics by Pope John Paul II which were recorded by several Top Pop and Rock American artists like N'Sync, Steven Tyler (Aerosmith) and Britney Spears in 2011.

Back to his native and never denied roots, Alejandro wrote and records El Sopon de Yuya (Yuyas's Suculent Soup) for Bruce Willis's film The Whole Ten Yards in 2004.



As a film soundtrack composer, he has written more than 85 - being the most outstanding and successful the chart for the film Suite Habana. Together with film maker Juan Carlos Tabio (Guantanamera), Alejandro was inducted to ASCAP (the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences of the United States of America) in 2017. Edesio Alejandro Rodriguez Salva is a member of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences of Spain; and also a member of Grammy and Latin Grammy Academy.

About Edesio Alejandro, American Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame Inducted bandleader Bon Jovi affirmed, "Edesio is a very unique and creative musician, who has produced a very innovative and soulful musical catalogue."

And Obbie Obrien producer of the album Black Angel stated, "Edesio displays in himself, the virtues and the charismatic talents of three giants; Elvis Presley, Miles Davis and James Dean." Like any seasoned multi-trackman; guitarist, composer, producer Edesio Alejandro has covered a lot of ground musically.

The Cuban Bridge airs Tuesday to Saturday at different times on MMCTV Channel 15 in Richmond. If you cannot catch our productions live on your TV set, please feel welcomed to find them all online through http://www.vimeo.com/mmctv

Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Krin's Bakery: Making the World a Sweeter Place

Huntington resident Krin Barberi has been providing her delicious baked goods to local grocery stores and co-ops since 2005. A 1996 graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., she trained in both baking and culinary skills. Her professional background includes baking at O'Bread in Shelburne as well as Fresh Market and Mirabelle's in Burlington. After she completed the Woman's Small Business program, administered by the Mercy Connection, she began to operate her own business doing some wholesale and also selling through various Farmer's Markets. Eventually, she made the decision to put all her efforts into the wholesale market. What began as a solo in-home bakery is now a bustling operation with five employees which Barberi proudly notes are all Huntington residents. " I feel that in addition to making a quality product, it's important to support my community by providing employment opportunities."

Macaroons hot out of the oven.

Creating an in-home business takes a lot of hard work and commitment but a good dose of creativity also helps as well as exceptional leadership skills. To make their home functional as a business, Barberi and her husband Dan Carhart, not only built a state of the art commercial kitchen but they literally gutted their living room to accommodate multiple freezers, shelving and storage for all the confections that get delivered to the 40 stores around Vermont each week. "We use 1,400 square feet of our home for the business", Krin told the Beat. "Most of our living space is upstairs". Carhart's professional background in construction has proved to be invaluable. For example, the average person might not have ever thought to add additional basement supports when installing the gigantic 60-quart mixer and double convection oven in order to deal with the weight of the machines. The loyal crew added to the atmosphere of fun and creativity by coming up with a unique way to identify where each baked good is stored. By giving each freezer its own name, all the bakers can easily identify where product has been placed. So a tray of cupcakes might get stored in Bessie and the quick breads get stored in Agnes. Thor, The Silver Bullet, Tommy Tootall and MacAttack"are the names of the freezer brigade that add to the sense of whimsy in this unique operation.

All the baking happens in a four day cycle each week. Barberi and her baking staff Liz Smith, Emma Tinkel, Nat Grant, Jane Oliver and Lisanne Hegman start each Monday by baking the week's orders for cookies, quick breads and cupcakes. Monday afternoon is also a delivery day. Then on Tuesday it's chocolate dipping day for those delicious macaroons along with labeling products, Wednesday is frosting day followed by packing up products for delivery pick-up by Killam Sales. Thursday Barberi hits the road to personally deliver a number of local orders to her clients.

Cupcakes ready for delivery. Photo: Bill Haddock

While there is a lot of baking going on, it's clear that it is all done with a spirit of friendship and comradery. "We work and care for another like a family. I want to be sure that all my employees have a good work/life balance," Barberi told the Beat. It's clear that this guiding principal has paid off with a long-term dedicated crew focused on making an awesome product. In order to accommodate school and work schedules, a number of the baker's children take the school bus to Krin's Bakery in the afternoon and help out with a few chores while waiting for mom to finish work. "I believe sharing in a common purpose, helping one another and taking pride in a job well done are important life lessons and kids learn that here." Barberi told the Beat.

Bakery owner Krin Barberi, second from left, and some of her crew

Every business has its challenges and for the food industry, one on-going challenge is consistent quality. "We are committed to using only the best local products. Our eggs come from Maple Wind Farm in Huntington, zucchini and carrots are purchased from Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg; we use Cabot butter and organic Quebec Milanaise flour, honey from Pedro Salas of Bee Happy in Starksboro and all our flavoring and coloring is natural. We don't use any preservatives."

The correct product inventory in stores can also be a challenge for a business but Barberi seems to have mastered this one just fine. As she explained, "Our business is quite predicable. Since I take the financial risk on our sales, I make the determination on how much we sell to each store so that I know the shelves will stay stocked with just enough product each week. There can be some seasonal highs like Valentine's Day but in general we are pretty consistent with what we bake each week".

Readers may have seen and tasted some of Krin's most popular treats which include chocolate dipped macaroons, pecan sandie and linzer cookies, and the charming array of cupcakes frosted and decorated like little jewels. Krin's strategy on determining which baked products to create and sell is based on what is not out there in the marketplace. "Most stores don't need another chocolate chip cookie in their inventory but not that many people make cupcakes so we focus on the products that are not widely available."

Barberi's long-term goal is to be able to move the bakery off site close to her home. "Space is the biggest issue affecting our business growth. Right now I am maxed out on what we can produce so if I want my business to grow, I need to move the bakery out of my home into a larger space. Doing this would allow me to reach out to more markets around the state and possibly the Boston area as well." And it would also help Barberi to focus on her commitment to provide even more employment to the local community – a goal near and dear to her heart. Barberi and Carhart are actively working on making this transition happen.

Meanwhile, Barberi and her crew will continue to bring baked goods made with care from locally sourced products "baking" the world a better place… one cupcake at a time! Krin's baked goods are sold locally at the Richmond Market and Beaudry's Store in Huntington. For a more information visit www. Krinsbakery.com.

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale, MSW

Considering Civilization

"The true test of civilization is not the census, nor the size of the cities, nor the crops -- no, but the kind of man the country turns out."
—Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Often credited with being the cradle for several early civilizations, Mesopotamia, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in southwest Asia, provides evidence of the process of transition from precivilized to civilized humanity. Development of social norms and culture, as well as technology, enabled people to deal with environmental necessities. Over the centuries further discoveries of science and advances in technology provided multiple conveniences and increased communication.

Now modern science and technology increasingly separate humans from the natural world, deepening our estrangement from nature. When we lack contact with open fields and woods, rivers and lakes, we are deprived of the experience of feeling part of nature. When we never see or hear a wild animal -- the coyote calling her pups, the fox prancing across the field-- we miss the chance to feel part of something greater than ourselves. Already threatened by technological applications, modern humans feel more and more alienated and lonely. The sense of being part of the natural world is replaced with an existential despair and lack of identity and direction. We hear people complain of a "free-floating anxiety."

As these trends increase and modern man struggles with feelings of alienation, it is as if there is a thin veil covering our humanity. There may be a veneer of civilization which disguises the forces underneath. But if we peer beneath the veneer, we likely find archaic states of mind, including an instinctual aggression. We may discover archaic thoughts and primitive patterns of behavior. If we dare to look we may see rage, despair, and anxiety. These feelings likely manifest in the violence and suicide rates in our country and the widespread addiction and use of drugs.

In Civilization and Its Discontents, Freud noted that a country has "attained a high level of civilization when we find that everything in it that can be helpful in exploiting the earth for man's benefit and in protecting him against nature--everything, in short, that is useful to him -- is cultivated and effectively protected." We are there. We aggressively assault the natural world and deplete our resources, having effectively reached the point where everything in nature is viewed as being there to be exploited for humankind's benefit.

Wild and dangerous animals have been exterminated. Dams and levees control water, soil is fertilized and cultivated, natural resources are pumped up from in the ground, i.e., everything is cultivated and effectively controlled. We are now protected against nature, with the exception of increasingly frequent hurricanes, floods and fires.

The "innate, independent, instinctual disposition in man…constitutes the most powerful obstacle to culture…The natural instinct of aggressiveness in man, the hostility of each one against all and of all against each one, opposes this programme of civilization….so the evolution of civilization may be simply described as the struggle of the human species for existence." (Freud)

Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Hey, I'm an Old Guy

As kids playing in the canyons near home, we would hide whenever we saw big kids walking through. Then a day came when I recognized the big kids were my friends from school and realized I wasn't a little kid anymore. Same sort of thing happened when I was a teenager, young adult, and real adult. At each stage, there was a realization I'd passed over to an older group.

It has happened again. At 69, I'm no longer a grown up; I'm an old guy. People naturally offer me a seat in subways or buses. I get the senior discount without asking. My choice in clothes is determined more by what I'm familiar with than by fashion. Buying two 20-pound bags of birdseed is wiser than one 50-pounder, even though it is slightly more expensive. I can complement ladies on their beautiful dresses without being threatening. All indicators I've passed middle age.

Yes, I know "we are only as old as we feel." That is my point: I now actually feel older. Still in the game, but not quite up to my old game. Learning takes longer, goals are more practical, expectations have adjusted down somewhat. Best of all, for the first time in my life, I have enough.

Appreciating I have enough is what tipped me off that things had changed. It began at a library book sale. At a dollar a book, I'm pretty extravagant in the reading risks I take. Yet, this time, as I looked through the history books, they reminded me of all the books I'd already purchased, many still unread. So, I left the sale empty-handed and puzzled.

What had happened? At a buck a book, what was the harm of picking up a few more? Back home, in my library, I perused the shelves, taking note of how many I'd like to read again or haven't read at all. There were enough to keep me reading for the rest of my life.

Wow! Not a thought I'd had before. Enough for the rest of my life. What else did I have enough of? Well, everything, it turns out. Shirts, suits, shoes, pants, (okay, underwear and socks will need replacing), ties, belts, tools, CD's . . . just about everything I considered was enough for the rest of my life.

That's when it hit me: the rest of my life, meant the rest of my life wasn't all that long. Not a lot of time remains and none of it needs to be wasted acquiring more than I need. I've reached the place of enjoying what is, rather than chasing what might be. Just in time, too, because I'm not moving as fast as I used to.

Then came my 69th birthday and very few presents. Which was great. The cards and sentiments were enough. 69, content with enough, enjoying a slower pace? Wait a minute, I have gotten older! Wham, that's when it hit me: I've become an older person. And, you know, it isn't such a bad thing to be, now that I've realized it.

(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk is writes and speaks around the state on issues of concern to retirees and their families. His Boomer Funk columns are available at www.VermontFunk.com, as are his blogs and archived Aging in Place columns.)