The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 36 **December 2019 Issue** Number 10

# Careening into November

## Dugway Road Closed

The rain fell far faster and longer than predicted on October 31, 2019. The Huntington River, fed by fast-moving mountain streams, flooded in many sections of Huntington causing severe damage to residences and property, both personal and land, as it made its way to Jonesville and Richmond. Overall, damage to the town's infrastructure was minimal.

*Above and left: flood damage to Dugway Road near the Huntington Gorge in Richmond has caused officials to predict that the unstability will mean the road is closed to traffic for at least two months. Photos: Town of Richmond*

Compounding the flood levels of the Winooski River in Richmond, the Huntington River wreaked havoc on Dugway Road, which suffered a partial collapse above the Huntington Gorge. The washout took out approximately 60' x 10' of the north east-bound lane, approximately 1.5 miles from either end. There is a vertical drop from the roadway to the Gorge of about 60 feet.

The assessment is the site is unstable and more of the roadway may continue to fail at this location.

Said Richmond Town Administrator Josh Arneson, "Town officials are working on getting this repaired as quickly as possible, but do expect the road to be closed for at least two months while repairs are made."

Under two inches of rain had been predicted and the almost four inches of rain that fell through the night, caught many by surprise when it filled the Winooski River flood plain, killing farm poultry grazing in Richmond and closing Bridge Street. MMUUSD (formerly Chittenden East - CESU) schools were closed, as were most of the schools in the county.

The clean-up continues. Community organization of cleaning debris from farm fields, mud and silt from basements and living areas and repairing fences, walls and driveways has been generous.

The damage is long-term and has occured in places that have never seen flooding.

*Below, withstanding more than a century of heaving flooding around it, is the Bressor house, located on the high point near the Bridge Street bridge. The bridge spans the Winooski River in the middle of Richmond village. Photo: Elevated Vision, posted on Facebook by Greensea Systems, Inc. of Richmond.*

# Along for the Ride

*Jared Katz caught the first sledding on the Round Church hill just days after the flood waters receded.*

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Letters on local topics are encouraged. Please submit to news@timesinkvt.org . All submissions must have a signature and phone number for verification. Letters with an inflammatory tone, or prose likely to incite high blood pressure in some of the readers, will be reviewed and evaluated by The Times Ink! Board of Directors before printing.

The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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news@timesinkvt.org

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

**Meg Howard,** Advertising
**advertising@timesinkvt.org**

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

• **LJ Kopf,** Cartoon

**Meg Howard,** Distribution

**Reporters:** Diane Wester, Barrett Grimm, Greg Elias

**Regular Columns:** Demaris Tisdale, Peggy Curtis, Diane Reynolds

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

**Contributors:** Jane Vossler, Bob Low, Brad Elliott, Scott Funk, Jared Katz, Katelyn B. Macrae, Patty Baumann, Brenda Waters, Mary Keller-Butler

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**Next Issue/Deadline:** December 4
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# Letters

## Christmas Day Meals

In collaboration with Age Well, Burlington School Food Project, Michelle Charron, Elks Lodge, Penny Cluse Café, and Temple Sinai and many others, HANDS (Helping and Nurturing Diverse Seniors) is helping to provide both a delivered hot meal and a sitdown dinner on Christmas Day. HANDS anticipates providing at least 700 meals and giftbags this year.

Dinner will be held on Christmas Day from noon to 3 pm at the Elks Lodge, 925 North Avenue in Burlington. The event is free and open to the public, all ages are welcome. "There will be a special gathering at 1 pm for seniors, complete with live music by Roni Lesage and a really fun raffle," explained Elks organizer Michelle Charron. Adults 50 years or older needing transportation can call 864-7528 or email handsvt@gmail.com.

To reserve a free hot meal (ham dinner or vegetarian lasagna) delivered to a senior's home, 50 years and older, on Christmas Day in Chittenden County, call Age Well at 865-0360 from December 2-19. After December 19, call 864-7528 or email handsvt@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Age Well, Burlington School Food Project, Michelle Charron, Elks Club, HANDS, Penny Cluse Café, Temple Sinai, and so many generous people and businesses who contribute to this community effort. For more information or to donate, please check www.handsvt.org.

—*Megan Humphrey, Executive* Director of HANDS

## Thank You!

On behalf of the Huntington Energy Committee, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all who joined us for our solar celebration. This project has been in the minds of many energy committee members for many years and we are incredibly excited to see it as a reality.

We began formally working on this project during the early spring of 2018 when the Huntington Selectboard asked us to review a proposal from a solar vendor who wanted to build a large scale project that incorporated municipal electric needs and enough excess for an investor to sell. As a committee, we agreed this was the perfect opportunity to begin trying to bring this goal of municipal solar to reality. We decided to open up the playing field and interview a number of local solar vendors, reviewing their products, cost comparison, teams and ability to create a project that would fit Huntington's specific needs. Originally we were looking at using the south facing roofs of the town's Sand Shed, Fire Station, Town Garage; and entertained the idea of incorporating the Library and Town Hall as well. Our hope was to build a system large enough to produce enough solar excess beyond municipal needs that we could sell to the local school or individual residents as a way to promote renewable energy and cut their electric costs. However, due to a combination of cost logistics and building requirements, we scaled back to the current project; one that still covers all the town's municipal electric needs and provides a savings on our town's municipal electric bill.

To complete this project, we worked in partnership with Chris Granda and Jeff Forward of Vermont Independent Energy from Richmond. Building Energy, a highly qualified and local solar vendor was selected as the contractor to install panels and do necessary site work.

Today, on the roof of Huntington's Sand Shed, connected into our town's Green Mountain Power account, are 116 solar panels equalling a size of just under 40 kilowatts. The size of this project meets 100% of Huntington's municipal electric demands as of today, with a savings of 5% on our electric bill. In addition, there is enough projected energy created from these panels that our local store, Beaudry's, will be able to purchase the excess energy.

We had a tremendous amount of support from Barbara Elliot (Town Administrator), who was always on call to help us navigate municipal legal questions. A huge thank you to Huntington Road Foreman Yogi Alger for collaborating on final project details, and to his crew for being flexible with our construction schedule. And finally we'd like to thank the Huntington Selectboard for working with us many late evenings to help ensure this project would best meet the needs of Huntington's goals for today and set us up for the future.

As we keep in mind our hopes for minimizing our environmental footprint and providing the best possible future for our kids, Huntington Energy Committee has demonstrated that municipalities, private residents and businesses, can invest in local, renewable energy sources, such as solar, at a cost savings.

—*Miranda Keir,* Chair, Huntington Energy Committee

## Why support Neighbor Helping Neighbor?

The early morning of November 1 brought a lot of devastation to many of our friends and neighbors in Huntington. Because of our community's generosity, Neighbor Helping Neighbor was able to provide flood relief money to several families that were affected.

Please consider making your donation to Neighbor Helping Neighbor which also sponsors Edward Heyman's Soup's On and the Backpack Program. This fund needs continuous support to be available in times of need. Donations can be mailed to NHN, Box 24, Huntington, VT 05462 or through our website at: https://www.communitychurchofhuntington.org/donate.html

Helping those in need is how we take care of our neighbors.

—*Becky Cozzens*, Huntington

## OCCC Asks for Help

Last month we wrote to you about the transition of Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) – now for the sake of the children in our community, we are asking you to help.

We need your help to feed 400 kids next summer.

We need your help to serve the 90 campers who are at OCCC each day participating in enrichment activities like music, art, and sporting events, while creating lasting relationships with peers, counselors, and community members.

We need your help to support the 24 interns, who are at OCCC, learning job development skills, mentoring younger campers, and creating a safe and welcoming environment for our youth.

We need your help to support a Leadership Adventure Camp, where 30 seventh and eighth graders develop their personal strengths, establish healthy peer relationships, and are given opportunities to prepare for high school while building their self-esteem.

Ready to help? Here is how you can support our youth:

• Appeal to your town. We are requesting town funding to serve as bridge funding during this transitional time while we hire an Executive Director and much needed support staff. We have appealed to all of the Selectboards of the towns in the district. You can reach out to the folks below to tell them you support funding OCCC:

Richmond: Kathy Daub-Stearns; kdaubstearns@richmondvt.gov

Huntington Selectboard: townhunt@gmavt.net

• Donate. There is no getting around it - we need increased funds to keep OCCC around. It costs us $21 per day per child plus additional costs such as $1,800 for transportation for the summer. Donate through our website: ourcommunitycarescamp.org.

• Get others involved. Reach out to neighbors, friends, and families and let them know that they can make a difference by appealing to their town or donating. Write the same on Front Porch Forum or social media.

• Share your story. Have you or someone you know been positively affected by Our Community Cares Camp? Amazing! Let everyone know. Again, write about it on Front Porch Forum, share it on Facebook or Instagram, and talk about it in your community.

Please add your voice to this conversation and help us with this critical work.

—Karen Clark, President • Kyle Silliman-Smith, Vice President
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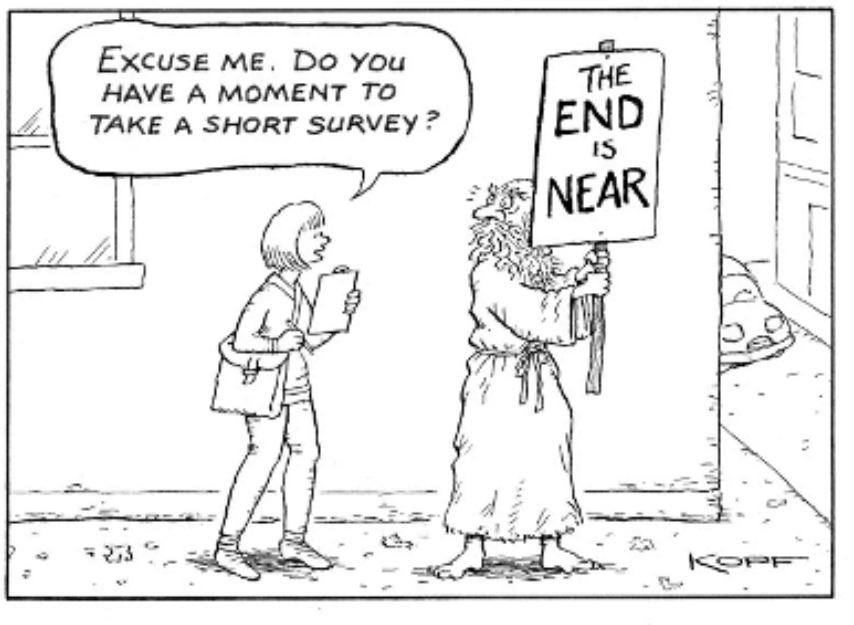

# Locally Made Treasures

*Friends gathered for gifts and conversation at the Gifts Galore event. Courtesy photo.*

Gifts Galore will celebrate its third art and craft event December 15, 2019, 10 am to 3 pm, at the Richmond Free Library. This year's event will feature fourteen artists who will be selling their high-quality handmade pieces of art.

This festival is the perfect holiday gift-buying opportunity, in a small and friendly setting with 14 local vendors. On the second floor of the Richmond Free Library, shoppers can enjoy finding a wide variety of gift ideas and price ranges that include table top decor, candles, jewelry, wood products, 2D art, leather goods, glass art, photo art, notecards and more. Event Chair Alyson Chase has curated and organized this event with perfect timing for the holidays. Chase reflected that buying local and supporting our local artists is a gift to everyone.

Refreshments will be offered by Cathy's Catering.

Information: orders@alysonchasestudio.com

# Holiday Boxes

Collection boxes will be placed around Huntington right after Thanksgiving to gather food and funds for the town's holiday food box effort. The delivery of the food will be on December 21.

If you would like to donate or participate (shop, pick up food, fill boxes, deliver food): heidiracht@gmavt.net or 434-2690 or sandyheyman@hotmail.com.

# Let Your Light Shine

Purchase a bulb in memory of a loved one for $3.50 per bulb and help light up the tree in front of the Community Church of Huntington during the holiday season. All donations will help support the Neighbor Helping Neighbor program. A booklet with those to be remembered and the donor will be distributed. All listings should be in by November 30. A tree lighting and carol sing will be held at the church annex on December 7 at 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.

Checks are payable to NHN. Send your donations and listings to: NHN, Box 24 Huntington, Vermont 05462

# Civil War: A High Price to Pay

On December 5 at 1:30 pm at Richmond Free Library, David Book portrays patriarch Abel Morrill Sr. as he recounts in authentic and accurate historical detail the trials the Morrill family endured in the years before and after America's greatest conflict.

Abel Morrill, Sr., an early settler of Cabot, Vermont, was a respected farmer and maple sugar producer for much of the 19th century. Like many Vermont families of the era, his suffered severe hardships, the greatest of which was the loss of two sons to the Civil War.

The heart of Book's monologue centers on the search for and dramatic recovery of the remains of Captain Edwin Morrill, who lost his life in an escape attempt from a Confederate prison train. Abel Morrill Jr., who also died in the war, was buried in an unknown gravesite.

An educator, historian and author, David Book's story defines the hardships endured by families throughout Vermont during the Civil War era. The Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by the Community Senior Center of Bolton, Richmond and Huntington is free and open to the public.

*David Book portrays Abel Morrill Sr. as he relates the search for the remains of his son, Civil War Captain Edwin Morrill, shown in the photograph.*

David Book holds an MA in History from the University of Kentucky, Lexington and an MDiv. in Theology from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. In 1986 he helped found the Good Samaritan Haven homeless shelter in central Vermont and taught at the Cabot School.

Recognized as an Outstanding Vermont Teacher by the University of Vermont, he was also awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for Independent Summer Study.

He has written and published two books on the lives of Civil War soldiers from Cabot and Worcester, and his article DEATH IS EVERYWHERE PRESENT recently appeared in Vermont History.

The event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Community Senior Center of Bolton, Richmond and Huntington. Information: Jane Vossler (janevossler@gmail.com).

# Local Blood Drive December 11

The Richmond Congregational Church will host the next local American Red Cross blood drive on December 11 from noon to 6 pm. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to redcrossblood.org for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Those with appointments are able to help minimize the time it takes to donate. Use RAPIDPASS (http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass), a pre-donation and health history questionnaire, to further reduce the wait time. Complete it on line on December 11 before you arrive to donate.

As you search for holiday gifts, keep donating blood in mind. It only costs a little time, yet it can save a life. Bring a friend and double the pleasure. It doesn't get any better!

**Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service**

Sunday
November 24
4 pm

Followed by
Soup & Sandwiches

**Hosted by Williston Federated Church**
44 North Williston Road, Williston
An offering will be received for the Richmond and Williston Food Shelves.

*Give thanks with the congregations of Richmond Congregational Church, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Wiliston Federated & the Immaculate Heart of Mary*



The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

**Annual Meeting**
Thursday, December 5
Business Meeting at 6 pm
with refreshments
**Huntington Public Library**
*Budget • Board Elections • Paper Content*
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**Join us for a Stone Corral Brewery tasting**
**November 22 from 4 pm to 6 pm**

Check out our Thanksgiving wine suggestions while you're here!

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# Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org

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1 - 6
Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 2
**434-3036**
rfl@gmavt.net

The Library will be closed on the following dates, November 28, 29, and 30.

During the Traveling Storytellers Puppet Show, a free, interactive holiday puppet show, children become a part of the story not mere observers. Holiday cheer comes alive in two puppet shows, A Wish to Be a Christmas Tree by Colleen Monroe and the traditional tale of The Gingerbread Boy. Songs and a craft will make this a fun morning program for young children and their adults. Join us on Saturday, December 21, at 10:30 am.

**Raffle Baskets** We will be holding a book basket raffle during the holiday season. Baskets are full of new and gently used books for readers of all ages as well as other assorted goodies. Tickets cost $1 or six for $5. This year's proceeds will support the purchase of new DVD movies for the collection.

**Cookbook Sale** We're getting a jump on our annual book sale (held every February) by throwing in an exclusive cookbook sale on the third floor of the Library during the Richmond Holiday Market. We have received an abundance of very nice donated cookbooks since our last sale and believe many of them could be of interest as gifts and/or inspiration for your holiday meals. Come take a look on Saturday, December 7, 9 am - 3 pm.

**LearningExpress** Now available on our website under the Online Services tab, LearningExpress is a highly acclaimed eLearning platform that provides support to students and professionals for academic skill-building, tutorials, occupational exploration, standardized test prep, career certification test prep and more. Patrons will create their own account where they can keep track of modules explored.

**November Art Show** For the month of November we will be showing work Judy Bush has created from paper pulp made from recycled colored papers. For most of the work, the paper is the painting. A few have printed (linocuts) on the handmade paper.

**Seeking Artists and Collectors** We are currently scheduling art shows for our walls and display case in 2020. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, contact us to choose your month. No professional experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your talent. We're also seeking interesting collections for our foyer display case. If you are a collector of Beanie Babies, bird nests, little cars, old books or anything else that would fit in our case that you would be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Call or email the Library.


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**Middle School Book Club** This fun and unique book club for kids in grades five through eight meets in the Community Room at the Library once a month, October through March. Kids will be invited to read any book they want related to the theme of the month and then to come to the meeting to talk about what they read and get other great book ideas. Each meeting will have snacks, book talks, read aloud time, activities and more. If you would like to join this bunch of energetic kids call or email the Library. The second book club meeting will focus on magic/fantasy books and will be held on Friday, November 22, 3:30 pm to 5 pm.

**Fall Youth Programs** Details about our regularly scheduled programs appear below. Weekly children's programs at the Library run September through May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

**Baby Laptime** This short, active storytime is for our youngest little book lovers and their grownups. We'll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing and sometimes get out the shakers and scarves. Designed for infants and early toddlers. Join us on Mondays at 10:30 am.

**Playgroup with Stories and Songs** The good times kick off with songs and shakers around the colorful alphabet rug. Next up is storytime and snacks (bring your own). Then, the toys and art supplies come out for free play and crafts. Co-sponsored by the Lund Center. Kids from infant to age five and their caregivers are invited to join us in the community room on Wednesdays, 10 am - noon.

**Preschool Storytime** This special storytime is for children ages 3 - 5. We will share picture books, songs, and activities with a focus on the six pre-reading skills that form a child's early literacy experience and help set them up for a lifelong love of books and reading. Join us on Fridays at 10:30 am.

**Book Discussions** All are welcome to join monthly book groups at the Library. Books are available approximately one month before the discussion date.

**Mostly Fiction Book Group** The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore. "A perfect blend of the historical, the scientific, and the personal, this richly detailed book sheds a whole new light on this unique element and the role it played in changing workers' rights. The Radium Girls makes it impossible for you to ignore these women's incredible stories, and proves why, now more than ever, we can't afford to ignore science, either." - Bustle. Tuesday, December 10, 6 pm.

**Mystery Book Group** An Unkindness of Ravens by Ruth Rendell (Inspector Wexford #13). For London's Chief Inspector Reg Wexford, it wasn't an official call. He was just being neighborly when he agreed to talk to Joy Williams about her missing husband, Rodney. Apparently, he went to Ipswich on business and never came home. Wexford has an idea what happened: He most likely ran off with one of his girlfriends. Or did he? Thursday, January 16, 2020. (No mystery discussion in December)

**Free Coffee and Tea** Warm yourself with a hot cup of coffee or tea during the cold winter season. The beverage table is to the left of the circulation desk on the ground floor. Help yourself and sip while you browse, read, work or gather with friends.

# Huntington Public Library

HOURS:
Mon 10–6
Tues & Thurs 12–5
Fri 10-5 • Sun 12–5
**434-4583**
hpl@gmavt.net

www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

Please note that we will be closed on Thursday, November 28, and Friday, November 29, in observance of the holiday.

Vermont author, Judith Schwartz, will be speaking at the Huntington Public Library on Sunday, January 5, at 4 pm. Her presentation, Water, Soil, Forest, and the Climate Connection, will enlighten her audience regarding the interdependence and importance of the earth's bio-systems (ie: carbon/soil, soil/climate, water/climate), particularly the relationship among forests, water and climate. Her two books are Cows Save the Planet and Water in Plain Sight. Both books are available at the Library. To learn more about Schwartz, please see her website: judithdschwartz.com.

**Art at the Library** Art Exhibit featuring Deanna Allgaier. Drop in to see the beautiful, peaceful watercolors of nature, animals and plants.

**Thursday Yoga** Hatha Yoga with Tania Dornic returns to the Huntington Public Library. Please note the Thursday dates as follows: November 21, December 5 and 19. The time is 5:45 pm -6:45 pm. The fee has changed to $50 in advance for the five-class series, or $13 drop-in. The style will remain slow, mindful, and alignment-based, with yin and yoga nidra mixed in at the end. Please feel free to contact Tania directly to let her know to plan for you or with any questions at 802/355-4013 (call or text).

**Book Group** The group meets on the second Sunday of the month. The next meeting is Sunday, December 8, at 10am. We are reading "Lucky Boy" by Shanthi Sekaran. Light refreshments and great discussion!

**Planet Huntington – Save these Dates** It's been awhile, but given snow is in today's forecast, it's a good time to let you know Planet Huntington returns thi[1]s winter to the Huntington Public Library. The first show, originally planned for Sunday, November 17, has been postponed to February 16. Eric and Jenny O'Hora will take us all to Greece (including Crete and Santorini). With this change, Planet Huntington now kicks off on Sunday, January 19, at 5:30 pm with Mark Lubkowitz and his son Jax, having us on the edge of our seats with, Three Guys and a Grizzly: Tales from Biking the Tour Divide! More details to follow on both shows later this winter.

**Knit Nights** Bring your projects, meet some new friends, and share your skills! This is an informal, drop in gathering for knitters of all skills starting at 6:30 pm. The next scheduled Knit Night is Monday, December 2. If you are interested in hosting a regular Knit Night in the New Year, please contact the Library for more details.

**New Adult Fiction** The Guardian by John Grisham; Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout; The 19th Christmas by James Patterson; The Weight of Ink by Rachel Kadish; What Happens in Paradise by Elin Hilderbrand; Red at the Bone by Jacqueline Woodson; Land of Wolves by Craig Johnson; The Water Dancer by Ta-Nehisi Coates; The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott; The Last Train to London by Meg Waite Clayton; The Dutch House by Ann Patchett; To the Land of Long Lost Friends by Alexander McCall Smith; Agent Running in the Field by John LeCarre.

**Adult Non-Fiction** The Body – A Guide for Occupants by Bill Bryson; Sepp Holzer's Permaculture – A Practical Guide to Small-Scale Integrative Farming and Gardening by Sepp Holzer; Buzz, Sting, Bite – Why We Need Insects by Anne Sverdrup-Thygeson; The Fruit Forager's Companion – Ferments, Desserts, Main Dishes and More from Your Neighborhood and Beyond by Sara Bir; The Community Food Forest Handbook – How to Plan, Organize Nurture Edible Gathering Places by Catherine Bukowski; Integrated Forest Gardening – The Complete Guide to Polycultures and Plant Guilds in Permaculture Systems by Wayne Weisman, et al.; To Speak for the Trees – My Life's Journey from Ancient Celtic Wisdom to a Healing Vision of the Forest by Diana Beresford-Kroeger.

**Adult DVD** True Whispers – The Story of the Navajo Code Talkers; MonoVino – The Ultimate Series About Wine and Wine Culture; The Journey of Sacagawea.

**Children's Picture Books** Awarm Winter's Tale by Carrie A. Pearson; Puma Dreams by Tony Johnston; I Am Enough by Grace Byers; Kali's Story – An Orphaned Polar Bear Rescue by Jennifer Keats Curtis; Dear Boy by Paris and Jason Rosenthal; Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal.

**Junior Novels** The Power Down Mystery – Book # 153 of The Boxcar Children; Pettikin by Abby Smith.

**Junior Non-Fiction** Carolina's Story – Sea Turtles Get Sick Too! By Donna Rathmell; Animal Noses and Animal Skins by Mary Holland; Gardening Lab for Kids - 52 Fun Experiments by Renata Fossen Brown; Geology Lab for Kids – 2 Projects to Explore ocks, Gems, Geodes and Other Wonders of the Earth's Surface by Garret Romaine; Kitchen Science for Kids – Edible Edition – 52 Mouth-Watering Recipes and the Everyday Science That Makes Them Taste Great and Outdoor Science Lab for Kids – 52 Family-Friendly Experiments for the Yard, Garden, Playground and Park by Liz Lee Heinecke.

**Sponsor Needed** Consumer Reports Online subscription is in need of a sponsor. Please contact the Library if you are willing to donate this wonderful service to patrons.

**Programs for Younglings** Playgroup Fridays, 10 am – 12 pm and Story Time 10:45 am. Babies and toddlers learn early literacy skills by listening to stories, fingerplays, rhyming and singing songs. The playgroup provides a welcoming space to meet new friends.

**First Friday of the Month Movie Night** Friday, December 6, at 7pm. This month we will show Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. Wear your coziest pajamas and bring your best friends!

# Foot Clinics for Seniors

The 2019-2020 Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors continues on the following dates:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| January 7 | February 18 | March 31 |
| May 12 | June 23 | |

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

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


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# TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

## NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

### 4930 Main Road Huntington, Vermont 05462

The Huntington Development Review Board (DRB) will meet on December 10, 2019, at 7 pm at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office in Huntington Center to review the following application:

**Request for Subdivision Revision for Changes of Three Lots on Approved PUD / Recorded Mylar**

Mark and Marijke Smith, 1425 Bert White Road, Huntington, for a Conditional Use Review to change three lot lines on a 10-lot approved Planned Unit Development / recorded mylar: Lot 4 (1.26 acres to 1.45 acres), Lot 3 (1.27 acres to 1.34 acres), with corresponding reduction in common land (Lot 10, from 127.70 acres to 127 acres). Access to subject property (140 acres) is located at the end of Bert White Road (tax map 06-018.000) and is in the Rural Residential District (5-acre zoning). The hearing will be at 7:15 pm.

**Request for Variance Review and Site Plan Review**

Pursuant to the Huntington Zoning Regulations, the Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Variance Review and Site Plan Review on the application by Kristopher Tenney-Lawyer, 59 Roberts Park Road, for the construction of a 40'x50' commercial auto repair business in the the Village District. Said structure is proposed to be located 33 feet from the rear property line and is located in the 50-foot setback. Subject property is located at tax map 16-068.000. The hearing will be at 7:50 pm.

—Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk, November 19, 2019

# Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Barrett Grimm

At its October 7 meeting, the Selectboard announced its decisions regarding the classifications of Town Highways 9 (off Happy Hollow Road), 15 (Stagecoach Road), and 26 (Trapp Road). In each case the roads were officially reclassified as Class 4 Highways. For all three roads, the Selectboard concluded that bringing the roads to Class 3 standards and maintaining them as such "would place a significant economic burden on Huntington taxpayers" with a very limited return to the general public. Environmental factors were also cited regarding Stagecoach and Trapp Roads as both would have to be widened to meet Class 3 standards which would necessitate the removal of old growth trees and potentially increase sediment run-off. The Trapp Road decision also noted the negative impact to hunting and recreation, particularly winter recreation, and the potential economic losses that would result from winter maintenance of the road. Links to the full Findings and Conclusions are available on the Town website.

At the October 21 meeting, the Board read a letter from Remo and Donna Pizzagalli, whose family owns a camp on Trapp Road, thanking the Selectboard for the "good news" that the road had been reclassified and expressing appreciation for the hard work and time that went into the process. Duncan Keir, who was present at the meeting, echoed the sentiment calling the decisions "good conclusions."

Town Administrator Barbara Elliott reported contact from a resident who said she had twice been confronted by a resident of Stagecoach Road telling her she could not park along the side of the road. Elliott provided the resident a copy of the ordinance which states that parking is allowed in the Rights of Way of Town Highways between April 16 and October 31 and suggested keeping it in her car in the event she should be approached again.

**Municipal Solar Project** One of the reasons Keir was at the meeting was to issue an invitation on behalf of the Energy Committee to the Selectboard to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new solar array. At the October 7 meeting, Chris Granda of Vermont Independent Energy announced that work had been completed to bring the Sand Shed up to the original engineering specifications and that installation of the solar panels had begun that morning. Selectboard Chair Dori Barton attended the ceremony on November 1, thanking the Energy Committee for its work and declaring the Selectboard just wanted to "get out of the way" of the project.

**Roads** Another reason Keir attended the October 21 meeting was to report on increased beaver activity affecting Happy Hollow Road. Road Foreman Clinton Alger is investigating options to deal with the issue, including contacting the Department of Environmental Conservation for recommendations.

A September inspection of Bridge 32 on Camels Hump Road concluded the "structure should be closed or have temporary structure span over current structure until replacement can be installed." The bridge is slated for replacement but Project Manager Rob Young, in communication with Elliott, has indicated that the replacement schedule could not be moved up but he believes it would be possible to have the temporary bridge that is part of the replacement project, installed by spring. Several Camels Hump Road residents were on hand to express their concerns not only over the impact of a one-way bridge with traffic lights at either end being in place for more than two years, but also whether the bridge is safe to use currently! Further contact with VTrans indicated that action would need to be taken within 30 days and, at a special meeting on November 2, the limited options were discussed resulting in a decision to have Parent Construction install a Mabey temporary bridge over the existing structure as soon as possible. Bridge installation will require a two-day closure of the bridge but, once it's in place, all vehicles will be able to use the structure including first responder equipment and plows.

In response to a request to waive the winter parking ban on Town Highway 9, the Selectboard is considering revising the parking ordinance to allow granting waivers on a case-by-case basis. The current ordinance does not allow exceptions to the ban.

**Town Plan** At the October 7 meeting, the Selectboard approved the Town Plan approved by the Planning Commission with "non-substantive changes" resulting from public comments presented at the public hearing and in writing. Elliott announced at the October 21 meeting that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission had approved the plan on October 16.

Members of the Huntington Planning Commission were on hand for the October 7 meeting to discuss next priorities now that the Town Plan has been completed. The Selectboard and Commission determined that updating the Land Use Regulations is the top priority, followed by developing a process for tracking and reporting on progress on the steps laid out in the Town Plan, and examining municipal water/wastewater alternatives.

**Budget** Selectboard member Landel Cochran opened the October 7 discussion of Health, Education and Welfare requests by stating he feels using Town funds for donations to organizations not under municipal jurisdiction is a mis-use of taxes. Cochran stressed his statement is not a commentary on the organizations or the work they do, but rather he questions whether monies raised from people struggling to pay their taxes should be used for such purposes. Barton pointed out that the Town has indicated its support for such programs in the past and has set limits on the amount available for such programs.

Connie van Eeghen and Jana Brown, representing Our Community Cares Camp, whose request for an increase of $10,330 from last year's budget would exceed those limits, presented at the October 21 meeting to further explain the "bridge" funding they seek to hire a new part-time Executive Director who would, hopefully, optimize other funding sources going forward. All five towns in the school district are being asked to contribute on a pro rata basis based on services provided. The Selectboard discussed how the request might be presented to the Town but no decisions were made.

Library Trustee Karen Gonnet attended the October 21 meeting to inform the Selectboard that, while the Library furnaces are in the Capital Plan for replacement in fiscal year 2022-2023, they might not last that long as the latest repairs revealed rust in both boilers. Gonnet also alerted the Selectboard to a current Efficiency Vermont rebate which would bring the replacement cost down to $11,620. Keir pointed out that heating infrastructure in all Town buildings may be due for replacement soon.

At its special meeting on October 26, the Selectboard discussed all of the Town budgets in detail targeting issues needing follow-up with nearly every Town department.

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# October Moon

*A warm evening in early October. Photo: Jared Katz*

## TOWN OF RICHMOND

### *WINTER PARKING BAN NOW IN EFFECT*

**Richmond Town Traffic Ordinance**

There is no parking "On any TOWN HIGHWAY, or within any

TOWN HIGHWAY right-of-way this includes SIDEWALKS, between the hours of 12 o'clock midnight and 8 o'clock am during the period of November 1 of each year to April 1 of the following year in such a manner as to interfere with the prompt and orderly removal or plowing of snow, or the sanding and salting of the highways."

"In any municipal parking space between the hours of 12:00 am midnight and 6:00 am, during the period from Novemberl of each year to April 1 of the following year, in such a manner as to interfere with the prompt and orderly removal or plowing of snow, or the sanding and salting of the public parking space."

**Any Time During The Year**

No person shall park any vehicle:

"On any TOWN HIGHWAY within 15 feet of the curb line of another TOWN HIGHWAY or state highway. There will be no parking within any INTERSECTION."

"On the traveled portion of any TOWN HIGHWAY, or within the TOWN HIGHWAY right-of-way, or in any space hereinafter designated by the Selectboard as an area where there shall be no parking. Upon doing so, the Selectboard shall cause to be conspicuously placed a suitable sign prohibiting parking in and near the areas affected by the provisions of any regulation adopted pursuant to this section."

Any vehicles violating these ordinances will be towed at owner's expense.

*These ordinances are a portion of the Town of Richmond, Vermont Traffic Ordinance - Parking Regulations*

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**Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) Early Childhood Programs**

***Are you the parent of a three, four or five year old child? Do you have concerns about your child's development in the areas of…***

*Understanding & use of language?*
*Clarity of speech?*
*Balance, strength & coordination?*
*Using small muscles to eat, dress, & play with toys?*
*Play skills & social interactions?*
*Ability to cope & regulate emotions?*

The MMUUSD Early Childhood staff are available to address any concerns you may have regarding your child's development.

An individual appointment for you and your child can be scheduled by contacting:

***Richmond Families***
Richmond Elementary School
434-2461

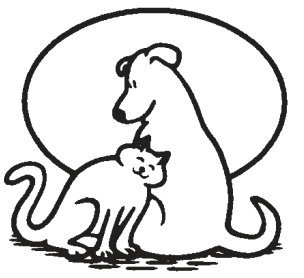
***Bolton Families***
Smilie Memorial School
434-2757

***Huntington Families***
Brewster Pierce Memorial School
434-2074

***Jericho & Underhill Families***
Underhill ID Elementary School
434-2962

RICHMOND
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL
richmondanimalhospitalvt.com

434-4935
233 East Main Street
Richmond
rah@gmavt.net
Please call for an
Appointment
Monday-Saturday



Drs. Virginia Clarke,
Daniel Hament & Cori Weiner

# MMUUSD

## CHILD FIND NOTICE 2019 - 20

Any individuals from birth through age 21 with disabilities currently residing within Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, or Underhill, and who are in need of special education and related services need to be identified, located and evaluated by Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD). This includes children: not enrolled in school, attending private or independent schools located within the afore mentioned towns, enrolled in home study programs, suspected of having a disability despite advancing from grade to grade, who are highly mobile (such as migrant children), and who are homeless or wards of the state. Any person with information about any disabled person fitting these descriptions should contact:

Special Services Director
10 River Road
Jericho, Vermont
Phone: 802-434-2128

In accordance with MMUUSD policies and with 34 CFR Part 99 (the Family Education Rights Privacy Act of 1974), this public notice informs all parents within their jurisdictions about how information is maintained when it is collected during identification, location and evaluation of all people with disabilities.

- Personally identifiable information will be protected by each school.
- Personally identifiable information about people eligible, referred or considered for special education services is maintained.
- Parents have the right to know what types of information have been designated as directory information (i.e. contained in a student's education record and is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed). This information includes the student's name (unless otherwise requested), address, phone number, date/place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities/sports, weight/height, membership in athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees/awards received, and the previous school attended.
- Parents have the right to know the types and locations of educational records kept by the school and the titles and addresses of officials responsible for the records.
- A list of the names and positions of employees within MMUUSD who have access to personally identifiable information shall be available for public inspection.
- If anyone other than an authorized MMUUSD employee looks at the educa tional record of a child, that person shall so indicate by signing his/her name, date and purpose for reviewing the record on a form to become part of the education record.
- Parental permission will be obtained prior to disclosing confidential information to anyone who is not an authorized employee of MMUUSD.
- Information relevant to a child's specific disability (such as: medical information, intelligence test results, social/developmental history, comprehensive evaluation report and the individualized education program) will be part of the education record.
- Personally identifiable information will be gathered from screenings, qualified diagnostic centers and other sources, as deemed necessary, to complete a comprehensive evaluation. Parents, or an eligible student, will be able to access personally identifiable information and inspect and review their education record(s) no later than 45 days after the request is made.
- Parents have the right to a response to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the educational records.
- Parents may obtain a copy of the educational record without a fee for copying, if a fee will be a financial burden and/or will prevent them from obtaining the records.
- Parents have the right to request the education record be amended. The school district will decide whether to amend the record within a reasonable time of the request. If the district refuses to amend the record, it shall inform the parent and advise the parent of the right to a hearing. If, as a result of the hearing, it is found the educational record must be amended, the school district will amend the record and inform the parent in writing. If, as a result of the hearing, it is found the disputed information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy right of the child, the school will inform the parent of his/her right to place in the educational record a written statement commenting on the information or stating any reasons for disagreeing with the results of the hearing. This written statement will become part of the educational record and will always be included whenever the contents of the education record is properly viewed or requested.
- Parents have the right to a hearing to challenge the educational records of their child.
- Parents will be notified prior to the school district's destruction of personally identifiable information about their child.
- The parent has the authority to inspect and review records relating to his/her child unless MMUUSD has been advised that the parent does not have the authority under applicable state law governing matters such as guardianship, separation and divorce.
- Parents have the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the MMUUSD to comply with this policy.

NOTE: If there are parents within the below mentioned schools who need this information interpreted, please notify your local school.

Brewster-Pierce Memorial School
434-2074
Smilie Memorial School
434-2757
Richmond Elementary
434-2461
Jericho Elementary
899-2272
Underhill Center School
899-4676
Underhill ID Pre-K
434-2962
Browns River Middle School
899-3711
Camels Hump Middle School
434-2188
Mt Mansfield Union High School
899-4690

# MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

## October/November 2019

After the unification vote, the Board queried if it is the right time to consider a large scope re-evaluation of the district as a whole, and asked Superintendent John Alberghini to "look at what the rest of the world is doing" in education. The unified district might be ready to embark in a new direction.

The Policy Governance model the district currently uses asks the "stakeholders" (students, families, teachers, community members and businesses) to develop the values of the community – and a vision of what education should look like. In the Policy Governance model this is done through the community engagement committee. Some of the initial meetings and surveys to gather comments from the "stakeholders" have been completed.

Community Engagement Committee chair Edye Graning thanked the various teams on the Board for the reports submitted on the initial community engagement meetings over the summer. Each team from the 15-member board should meet with three to five groups from both the north and south ends of the district once a year to get their ideas.

**Paid Consultants for District Vision Analysis** Meanwhile – some of the "rest of the world" is using vision consulting firms to develop the best plan for the future. These consultants do the research to determine the values of the community; establish the priorities of the community; assess the facilities currently in place; and (using an architect) make recommendations to modify the facilities to transform them into learning environments that reflect these values.

The district accomplished this without the benefit of a consultant in a small way with the "repurposing" of one building - the UID building. The community seems to be responding positively to the new child care/Pre-K facility there. This was presented as one example of reconfiguring a facility to meet the needs of a community and create a learning environment.

What other priorities could be determined if the community – with a totally open mind – were canvassed (by some totally open minds)?

Alberghini explained: at the present time, the existing buildings aren't nearly at capacity. "We are using the same grade configurations we've had for 30 years." We continue to use the agrarian calendar.

Does the community want a new STEM center (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) or, does the community want one of our schools to be a farm, to create agricultural entrepreneurs? The Spanish immersion program in the north end of the district has a waiting list – is this something the south end of the district wants too? What would these facilities/learning environments look like?

Alberghini will try to get a quote from the three consultants he researched for a district wide vision analysis. The studies are expensive ($100,000+). However, the cost of implementation/building reconfiguration might well be beyond the means of the district, even of the state. It was expressed that neither he nor the board want a beautiful, expensive 100 page plan to sit on the shelf for lack of implementation funds.

**Issues with Tech Center** Tangentially – Alberghini, Board member Chuck Lacey, and another person from the Tech Board are going to "try and revamp the governance system of the Technical Schools." It's a "broken system," said Lacey. There is no one heading up the Burlington Tech Center, and the Tech Board "didn't even know that." Lacey wants to look into the budget, and into the big construction changes announced at the Burlington Tech Center without community or employer participation in the decisions. For instance, he said, "they are planning to drop the welding classes."

**Test Scores** Standardized test scores in the district continue to be higher than the Vermont average. However, what is new is the math scores are creeping up to equal the language scores. Also, the perennial "achievement gap" between those students with the lowest family incomes (who qualify for FRL: Free/Reduced Lunch) and the highest incomes is closing – perhaps for the first time. In fact, the math scores for this group surpassed the language scores in 2018/2019.

A multitude of factors contribute to this: hiring, keeping, and professionally developing teachers, administrators AND the dedicated professionals of the support staff. Many support staff work one-on-one with students to help them in their area of need.

**Health Insurance Changes** Meanwhile, district personnel are facing major changes in their health insurance plans. The State has taken over the teacher's/administrator's/support staff's plans. The State is trying to come up with an equitable plan to accommodate all the disparate plans currently in existence. Some plans ask for 15% contribution (MMUUSD is at 9%). Some districts don't offer plans to employees who work less than 37.5 hours per week "That would make us less competitive" said Alberghini (many MMUUSD employees don't). Anton Kelsey, MMUHS teacher, Underhill resident, Green Mountain National Education Association representative, stated the Educational Support Personnel (the lowest earners) stand to see doubling in out-of-pocket costs. The situation is in arbitration. Graning commented "I think negotiations for this year are going to have to focus a lot on repair."

**Home School Clinician Position** The October 21 Finance Committee meeting invited the administrators from all schools to present their 2019/2020 Learning and Instruction Priorities. Both RES and BPMS list "increase the academic performance for FRL students" as a priority. Some increase in funding is needed at BPMS for a Home School Clinician position to increase to two days per week. A wall with two doors will be built in the rear of the gym to provide additional room for this clinician, and other specialists. Books on diversity will be purchased for this library, and for RES. The former Mansfield Academy is now housed at RES, renamed the Richmond Multi-Age Classroom. It has six students and three staff. Reintegration is the goal.

The CHMS Learning and Instruction Priorities also wish to increase academic performance for FRL students. Besides the FTE and literacy/math coaching ordinarily asked for in these situations, the report asked several times for OCCC (Our Community Cares Camp summer program) and afterschool programs to continue. There will be an increase in hands-on education including sustainability. Re-alignment of playing fields due to the donated Willis property land will be implemented.

**MMUHS Update: Academic Proficiency and Artificial Turf** The Class of 2020 will be the first to graduate by meeting Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR.) The courses have been embedded with this knowledge for the past five years, and the curriculum will continue to be redesigned as needed. Support for students who struggle with acquiring the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful upon completion of their time at MMUHS are supported through 504 plans, IEPs, and the Learning Lab. The final goal of the report is to create an artificial turf field at the HS.

The next Board meeting is December 2 at MMUHS, 6:30 pm. The school tour begins at 6 pm.

# Area Residents Honored

*Fun at the conference: MMUHS music educator Mary Bauer, recipient of the 2019 Vermont Music Educators Association Teacher of the year award, with former student Alex "Rusty" Charpentier, who is now a music teacher in St. Albans.*

## MMU's Bauer Awarded

Mt. Mansfield Union High School music educator **Mary Bauer** is the recipient of the 2019 Vermont Music Educators Association Teacher of the year award. This annual award is given to a Vermont music educator who exhibits outstanding professionalism and contributions to music education and children. A well deserved-honor - congratulations, Mary Bauer!

## Jon Jamieson

Jon Jamieson, of Jamieson Insurance, received the Central Vermont Economic Development Leo Laferriere Community Service Award at the CVDEC annual meeting on October 24 in Montpelier. Presenting the award was current Chair of CVEDC, Candace White, a Waitsfield resident and former exec at Sugarbush.

Jamieson was recognized for decades of involvement in organizations and initiatives ranging from Selectboard, Development Review Board, planning district, recreation district, Board of Civil Authority, Rotary (not active), two capital campaigns, the Governor's commission on the Taxation and Regulation of Cannabis, Vermont Independent Insurance Agents Association (chair), Spring Hill School Board, Mad River Valley Community Fund (prior chair), and various local corporate boards including the Northfield Savings Bank (mutual), Neville Cos, Mount Family and Puro Clean Vermont.

Jamieson stated, " It really is an honor to be recognized, although the motivation to be involved in my community isn't the recognition. What makes this award so special to me is that it's named in honor of one of my role models, Leo Laferriere. Ironically, Leo has and continues to serve our communities in a wise, significant and quiet way but he's the consummate sand bagger when it comes to taking recognition. I just hope I can still be as relevant and contributory as he is when I'm at that point in my career!"

*Jon Jamieson of Jamieson Insurance with Candace White, chair of the Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation.*

The Central Vermont Economic Development Corp also awarded Cabot and Norwich University for 100 and 200 year anniversaries respectively at the event.

## Michael Kenney Inducted

**Michael Kenney** of Richmond was recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Kenney was initiated at MCPHS University.

Membership into Phi Kappa Phi is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 with a mission "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others."

# Times Needs Board Member

The Times Ink, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, has an immediate opening on its Board of Directors. Long-time Board member Jane Vossler has recently stepped down.

The five-member Board meets at least once in a calendar year and reviews the finances, content and direction of the paper. The Board approves the calendar of publications, the budget and advertising rates and develops a solicitation for necessary donations to supplement the advertising income that enables the paper to be printed and delivered to all mailboxes served by the Richmond, Huntington and Jonesville Post Offices.

For more information, call or email a current member of the Board (names on page 2) or come to the annual meeting on December 5, 6 pm, Huntington Public Library.

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# Vermont 2-1-1: A Valuable Free Resource

Beth Burgess from Vermont 2-1-1 attended at a recent HERO (Huntington Elder Resource Organization) meeting in Huntington to update the group about the 2-1-1 program.

Vermont 2-1-1 is an Information and Referral program of the United Ways of Vermont. By dialing the simple 2-1-1 or texting your zip code to 898211, you will receive up-to-date information and referrals on health and human services across the state. Vermonters have access to community, faith and state-based services to help them with everyday needs and in difficult times.

2-1-1 is a free local call and provides confidential community information and referrals. When you contact Vermont 2-1-1, you will receive person-to-person assistance: Monday-Friday, 8 am-8 pm. Language translation services are also available.

Vermont 2-1-1 is the entry point for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the Vermont Agency of Human Services Afterhours Emergency Housing and information, as well as serving as the Public Inquiry Line for Vermont Emergency Management during an incident or emergency, such as the recent Halloween flooding. Vermont 2-1-1 staff will assist callers with evacuation routes, shelters, commodity points of distribution locations, property damage information collection, federal reimbursement procedures and more.

Vermont 2-1-1 collects town, county and statewide data and feeds it back to communities to help with needs assessment. Of 22 referrals to Huntington residents between January 1 to October 24, 2019, the majority (eight) were about tax preparation assistance. Three were for utility assistance, two for legal counseling, two for public assistance programs (general relief, 3SquaresVT), two about lead testing, and one each regarding Area Agencies on Aging, homeless intake, specialized information and referral, bankruptcy assistance, and temporary financial assistance.

You can also visit www.vermont211.org and use the Community Resource Directory, which lists a large number of services. Want to subscribe to the monthly newsletter? The e-newsletter shares monthly statistics on the needs of Vermonters, highlights resources and keeps you up-to-date on new initiatives. Information: http://www.vermont211.org/news/monthly-newsletter.

*—Contributed by Debbie Worthley*

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# Fall Harvest Lunch

*Members of the local community filled the house at the Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, enjoying a great meal, topped off with an assortment of desserts and coffee, on October 31. Photo, courtesy of Richmond Congregational Church.*


## Our Community Cares Camp

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD), including the towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill intends to destroy the ***special education record*** of all students who completed high school on or before June, 2014.

Any student, or former student, who has reached 18 years of age, may review and/or receive these records upon request. Also, any parent of a student who is 18 years of age or older, who has retained parental rights, may obtain these records.

In accordance with federal and state laws, ***special education records*** are maintained for five years after the student exits the special education program. A permanent record of the student's name, address, phone numbers, grades, attendance record and year completed is maintained without time limitation.

Please contact the Special Services Administrative Office at 802-434-2128 by **December 21, 2019**. If no student, parent or guardian responds to this public notice prior to or by December 21, 2019, the school district will assume consent to destroy the entire record specific to the student. Destruction of these records will begin on January 1, 2020.


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

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Richmond
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before all Masses

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# News from Area Churches

## Richmond Congregational Church

### Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

My wife, Carolyn, and I have been coming to Richmond from our home in Ohio for five years, ever since my daughter-in-law, Rev. Katelyn Macrae, was called to be Pastor of Richmond Congregational Church (UCC). We have truly enjoyed our brief visits. Richmond is blessed with an idyllic location. Views of Camel's Hump and Mt. Mansfield pop up frequently with occasional sightings of Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks on the higher ridges. Passing through the middle of town, the Winooski River is a delight (except when it floods as on Halloween night). Outdoor recreational activities surround the town – skiing, hiking, biking, backpacking, kayaking. The cultural treasures in Burlington are nearby, as are brewpubs, restaurants, art galleries, craft shops, beautiful farms and much more in numerous Vermont towns just a short drive away. We have always looked forward to our visits to Richmond, not just to see family but to enjoy the Vermont experience.

This fall Carolyn and I have had an extended time to enjoy the Richmond area. Katelyn gave birth to our first grandchild, Anna. Being a retired Congregational and United Church of Christ pastor, I was asked to serve Richmond Congregational while Katelyn was on parental leave. What a wonderful opportunity to be in the area and watch our granddaughter grow!

Serving Richmond Congregational Church provides me with a wonderful window onto Richmond. The church is a central part of the community. In addition to church-related ministries, many folks in town gather here in our historic building for an abundance of programs and events. Several groups use our facilities on an ongoing basis. In the last few weeks I have gotten to meet the community through events such as the Round Church Pilgrimage, Chicken Pie Supper, Rummage Sale, Richmond Art Crawl, Halloween Trick or Treat, Valley Stage Productions, Senior Harvest Luncheon and Friday Food Affair.

What I have discovered during this time is that Richmond is not only a lovely place to visit but an even lovelier place to live. This unpretentious looking town on Route 2 is filled with exceptional people – caring, creative, generous, imaginative, intelligent, hard-working, and thoughtful. The folks here cooperate to create a community where all are welcomed and cared for. They team up to offer an incredible abundance of opportunities for persons of all ages, skills, interests and backgrounds. They are respectful and supportive of one another and good stewards of God's creation. They intentionally seek to create a community that honors the contributions of each person. It has been a joy for me to be a part of this community this fall by serving as Pastor of Richmond Congregational.

During future visits back to Richmond, I will be looking forward not just to the places to go and the things to do, but also to re-connecting with the great people of this community.

Blessings,
Rev. Neal Sadler, Parental Supply Pastor

## Community Church of Huntington

### Submitted by Becky Cozzens

*"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever."* (1 Chronicles 16:34)

Being thankful. As a kindergarten teacher for many years, I think of all of the times around Thanksgiving I asked the children, "What are you thankful for?" Most five year old children would say my toys, TV, my pet dog or cat. As we mature what we give thanks for changes. What am I thankful for?

I am thankful for my family, my health, the loving community that I live in, and for a God that loves me. I am also thankful for the Community Church of Huntington and Neighbor Helping Neighbor, both are always willing to reach out to those in need. I am thankful for the Huntington firefighters who knocked on doors in the middle of the night the first day of November to alert residents of the rising waters of the Huntington River. I am also thankful for our very dedicated road crew that worked many hours after the flood to make safe travel for all of us. If we can just take a minute, we will find so much to be thankful for.

Sunday worship service at the Community Church of Huntington is at 9 am. Please come and join us. Sunday school is offered for children during the service.

May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving celebrating with friends and family. We all have so much to be thankful for!

## Subscribe & Support The Times Ink!

The cost of distributing The Times Ink to every household and post office box in the Towns of Richmond & Huntington is $15 per year per mailbox.

We are fortunate to have the income from many loyal advertisers, which pays our bills. The size of the paper each month is determined by the number of advertisers, although there is usually much more copy than the ads can support each month.

Your donation of the cost of the free subscription you receive will help offset costs of producing our community newspaper and help keep us financially strong as we look to increase the number of pages.

The Times Ink is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
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Please make a check payable to
**The Times Ink!** PO Box 532, Richmond, VT 05477.

# Calendar of Events

**MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS:** Tech Help with Clif - Offering one on one technology help, noon & 1pm, Brownell Library, Essex Junction. Reservation required. call 878-6955 at least 24 hours in advance.

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

**TUESDAYS:** Men's yoga basics. Lengthen, strengthen and breathe. No experience necessary, 7:15 pm. www. balanceyogavt.com

**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

**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 8 pm www.balanceyogavt.com

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

**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

**OCTOBER 28 - MARCH 1:** The magic and mystery of the forest and beauty of nature are captured in Jericho artist Marcia Congdon Rosberg's paintings, on display at Mt. Mansfield Community Television's Richmond studio (35 W. Main Street). Exhibit is open during MMCTV office hours and by appointment: (434-2550) mtmansfieldctv.org

**NOVEMBER 30 & DECEMBER 1:** 30th Annual Women's Festival of Crafts, on all 3 floors of Burlington City Hall at 149 Church Street. Saturday, 10-5, and Sunday, 10-4. Over 55 artisans' booths to find just the right handmade jewelry, artwork, pottery, greeting cards, clothing, recycled and upcycled art, housewares, herbal products, and more. Information: www.womensfestivalofcrafts.com. Free and open to the public.

**DECEMBER 6 & 8:** Vermont Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus presents Handel's Messiah, conducted by Lisa Jablow. Friday, 7:30 pm, St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Montpelier; Sunday, 2 pm, Barre Opera House. The Vermont Philharmonic is celebrating its 61st Anniversary Season this year. The featured soloists, with international reputations, include soprano Helen Lyons, countertenor Andrew Darling, tenor George Johnson III, and baritone Tim Wilfong. Arthur Zorn is the assistant choral director. The entire first part of Messiah, with arias and choral numbers and two numbers from Part II, including the Hallelujah chorus, and seven numbers from Part III will be performed. Tickets: ($20/adults, $15/seniors, $5/students) available at the door and online. Information iand online tickets: vermontphilharmonic.com.

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## 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 Clerk's 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, Huntington Public Library.

**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).

### 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, Huntington Public Library, 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, 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

**Huntington Playgroup** Fridays, 10 am, newborn through preschool (with older siblings welcome) Residents from any town are welcome.

## Worship

**Community Church of Huntington:** Sunday morning Worship & Sunday School, 9 am. Communion:1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155).

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

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

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

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

**Jericho Congregational Church:** on the green in Jericho Center. Pastor David Coons. 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.

**South Starksboro Friends Meeting** (Society of Friends: Quakers) Dan Sargent Road (call 388-0134) Worship and First Day School, 9:30 am every Sunday, preceded by singing at 9 am.

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
**Community Senior Center**

## Testimony of a Bone Builder

I didn't take on the job lightly when approached to be a Bone Builder leader three years ago. First of all, I was not even sure of the value of the exercise. We started out using no weights at all and I couldn"t understand how sitting in a big circle counting out loud in trance like conformity was doing us any good. My conversion began when the weights arrived and we settled into a routine using them.The group soon became faithful advocates testifying to improved balance on the stairs and regained strength to shovel the driveway. Beyond the physical improvements to myself and the women and occasional man who joined the group we started to get to know each other. Maybe some were already acquainted but the bi-weekly meet up built relationships.

When Danielle Williams from RSVP needed to enlist volunteers to be trained and then lead the group I considered it. Did I want to be tied to a schedule two mornings a week? Or stand in front of my peers and lead them? Or, the biggest consideration, did I want to follow in my father's footsteps and admit that he was right? He was a phys ed teacher for 40 years, and after President Kennedy's and Kenneth Cooper's campaigns to make America fit, he was an enthusiastic advocate for adult fitness. I remember him keeping track of his pulse, leading a weekly men's fitness group in town, and preaching to anyone who would listen like a new religious convert. His commitment served him well but he was my father and I was suspect until I reached aged 50 myself.

Along with two others, I said yes to Damielle's request. I like to think of the three of us as the Tripod, helping to hold each other up in order to keep the program going without interruption. We had the training and eventually I got over my self consciousness in leading a group of 30 peers. It helps that they are a forgiving lot, know the routine as well as me, and don't hesitate to laugh in sympathy when I forget what exercise is next, lose count, or totally forget what I'm doing.

During the course of our three years, we have sat and stood together for two hours a week sharing exercise and the dramas life brings: births, deaths, romance, and moving among them. News gets passed, books reviewed, eggs and garden produce exchanged.

In 1972, after a year of post-college wandering, I decided to come back to Vermont and make a life. I wanted to belong to a community. I look back with the old adage in mind about being careful what you wish for. I was careful and now more than ever I've seen my wish has come true in Richmond, Vermont. The word community gets thrown around in all directions but I feel like I've caught it here. It seems that sitting in a circle for two hours a week counting out loud has brought it home to me. All without working up much of a sweat.

*—Peggy Curtis*

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# Service Directory

## Automotive

## Beef

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## Builders & Suppliers

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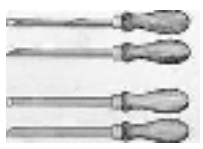
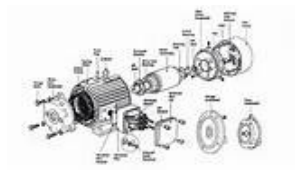


## Cleaning

## Sewing

**LILA JOHNSON** Alterations, repairs, zippers, men's suits a specialty. 382-7096, 850 Texas Hill Circle, Huntington. [08/20]



## Equipment Repair

**TREETOP EQUIPMENT REPAIR.** Husqvarna sales and service. Tractor and equipment repair. 434-6134, 598-8375 cell. [10/19]

## Excavating / Mowing

**BILL ATWOOD EXCAVATING LLC** & Forestry Access Work, 244-7495 Bolton VT [5/19]

**DRIVEWAY/DITCHING REPAIRS** Light Excavating and Hauling. Call Pete at 434-2931. [6/19]

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

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## Weddings

**ROUND CHURCH WEDDING?** Visit the Richmond Historical Society website or contact Mary Ann Barnes 434-3220. 2019 dates available!

**HAVE YOUR DREAM WEDDING** at the Sleepy Hollow Round Barn in Huntington. A beautiful 17-sided barn that can seat up to 165. Let your family and friends enjoy over 800 acres of true Vermont. Two nights in our Eight bedroom Inn is included. Dates still available for next summer and fall. Please visit www.skisleepyhollow.com for more information or call 434-2283. [12/19]

**FLOWERS FOR YOUR WEDDING** Natural-looking, graceful wedding flowers: bouquets, table arrangements; planted arrangements in urns and pots. Colorful Vermont-grown flowers also used in season. Pleasant Mount Farm, Huntington. 434-2690 [11/19]

## Pizza

## Wellness

**ADVANCEDWELLNESSVT.COM** to schedule: Medical, shiatsu and therapeutic massage, craniosacral,acupressure, chinese medicine, cupping. Heather Chadwick and Kate Bentley. 65 Huntington Rd., Richmond. 318-1423

**INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** with a certified spiritual director. Enjoy the benefits of a deepened connection between faith and everyday life. Sliding scale. Call Tess Starecheski, 434-7005, or e-mail at tessstar@gmavt.net to arrange free introductory session.

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## Classified

### FREE, FREE!

..Is there something you are looking for? Here's your chance! For 10 words or less you can try for your FREE item in this column. Include a phone number.

**FREE TO A GOOD HOME...**Do you have something that you just don't need, but don't want to throw away? For 10 words or less you can put your FREE item in this column. Include a phone number.

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# Arts Update

## P.M. Sundays

Contributed by Don Sheldon

### Ethan Setiawan Band

The Ethan Setiawan Band will make an appearance as a part of the P.M. Sundays concert series on Sunday, December 15, at 4 pm.

Ethan Setiawan was the 2014 National Mandolin Champion as well as receiving a "free ride" (no tuition required) at the Berklee College of Music the same year. He is a master player who also a member of the Mudskippers, Corner House and The Harmolodic String Band. Occasionally he'll be heard sitting in with established musicians such as Darol Anger and Tony Trischka.

Guitarist Sam Leslie was 2017 RockyGrass Flat-Pick Guitar and 2018 Mandolin Champion as well. Dan Klingsberg on bass is well versed in jazz and classical bass but has found a deep passion for old time fiddle music. Julian Pinelli is a free-spirited violinist who spins deep tone with modern ease.

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: www.valleystage.net, 434-4563 or don@valleystage.net.

## Call to Artists

The Climate Crisis: A community art exhibit to draw attention to the reality of the climate crisis will be shown at the Richmond Public Library and Richmond Town Center for the month of April 2020.

What is climate change? What are greenhouse gases? What are the results and outcomes of global warming? What can we do to reverse or slow this phenomenon? Art to express, communicate and illustrate; feelings, emotions, concerns and ideas. Sponsored by the Richmond Climate Action Committee and Radiate Art Space.

If space is limited, priority is given to local participants and to to those who registered earliest. If space allows, artists may exhibit more than one piece. Most work must be two dimensional or in low relief (to hang on wall). There will be some room for 3D work. For possibilities and limitations on 3D work contact Judy Bush.

Register your interest at judybbush@gmail.com. Include your name, contact info, town, and (when it becomes possible) size and brief description of work. Artists must support their work citing a source for their inspiration (quote, news article, magazine, book, etc.) Artists may accompany their work with a short paragraph or statement.

Free Workshops coming soon in January and February (details will be out in December).

If you think you are not an artist but want to make a statement,
or if you like to work with a group,
or if you need a space to work,
or if you need help finding materials or tools,
then join a free workshop with local artists at Radiate Art Space, materials are rovided. There is no cost for the workshops but you will need to register to reserve your space: judybbush@gmail.com

# Christmas Trees and Maple Sugaring Bring the Return of an Old Farm

Written by Sonya Klinger

Since it was first built as a family farm around 1890, there have only been two families living in the homestead at 2370 Dugway Road.* Andy Aldrich's family was the second. Though his parents did not use the property for farming, in recent years, Aldrich has brought the land back into use for Christmas tree farming and Maple Sugaring, under the farm name Aldrich Maple Farm.

*Andy Aldrich and environs at Aldrich Maple Farm on Dugway Road in Richmond. Photos: Sonya and Amy Klinger*

"The farm is reaching a point where it's becoming productive again," Aldrich said in a recent interview. He's also in the process of restoring the original barn for housing equipment. The barn's outstanding unique historic feature is that it is a "drive-under" barn, by which you can drive right in on the back side—a rare feature for the time period in which it was built.

About eight years ago, though Aldrich was ready to retire from building houses, it wasn't financially feasible. He still had the family's land and wanted to find a way to use it for income without selling off to a developer for subdivision. Because he doesn't reside at the family home, the crop he developed would need to be relatively self-sufficient. That's when the idea came to tap the maples on the hillside and turn the more open, level areas into a Christmas tree farm.

"Christmas trees have lots of needs and I am still learning," he said. "They don't need as much help as other crops, like tomatoes, which can be very high maintenance. But you still have to worry about things like bugs and blight."

Still, Aldrich has worked hard to use minimal herbicides and pesticides when dealing with these issues. Thankfully, he hasn't had to use pesticides yet, but he does like to keep his farm as close to a garden as possible—that means no weeds in the area under the tree. "When people come in to choose and cut their trees, and they are sawing them down, we don't want tall grasses and other plants making it difficult," Aldrich said.

Over the years, Aldrich has planted six to seven acres of different varieties of Christmas trees. Now seven years into the effort, he's finally ready for the first year of offering choose and cut. "I could've started last year, but I was worried that two or three years down the road, I wouldn't have enough. So I would rather have too many for the first year."

Sadly, just days after our interview, a large portion of younger trees closest to the Huntington River were inundated with water when the river rose during the flood on November 1. Though many of the 800+ of trees will survive, a large number will not be sellable due to the damage they sustained.

The larger trees that are ready for purchase were unharmed, and the farm will open November 29 for visitors to choose and cut their Christmas trees. Also for sale will be wreaths and maple syrup produced right there on the farm.

The syrup is gathered from the farm's nearly 30 acres of sugarbush, featuring about 2,700 taps. In an average year, he'll produce roughly 1,300 gallons of maple syrup. Though the vast majority of the crop is sold in bulk to packers, this will be the first year about 2% of the product will be available for retail. In future seasons, he'll also be selling firewood and kindling.

Aldrich Maple Farm will be open for choose and cut from November 29 - December 24, Monday - Friday noon to dusk, and Saturday and Sunday from 9 am to dusk. For more information about the farm, please visit www.aldrichmaplefarm.com.

Andy Aldrich is a proud supporter of Trees for Troops, a program of the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, which provides free, farm-grown Christmas Trees to United States armed forces members in all branches of the military and their families, through donations, sponsorships, grants and the work of many volunteers. Learn more at,www.treesfortroops.org and www.christmasspiritfoundation.org.

** Editor's Note: This season, Aldrich Maple Farm is only accessible from Huntington Road, near the Moultroup Family Farm, as the road east of the farm has been closed to all traffic.*

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# All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

## Trauma

Trauma is defined as the emotional reaction to a stressful event that the person is unable to respond adequately to. The emotional upheaval and long-lasting effects disrupt the individual's psychological organization and their ability to tolerate and control the excitations. Unable to master the excitations the person can't work through them emotionally. They may experience repeated flashbacks of the event, nightmares, or a long-term neurosis.

People can be traumatized in a variety of ways, including a physical wound or injury, a physical shock, an environmental disaster, or an emotionally harmful or threatening event. A person may be traumatized by a sudden change in their health, social situation, marital status or parental status.

It is widely acknowledged that the health of a person is determined long before birth. Studies reveal links between maternal health and the development of the fetus. What the mother eats, drinks, or is exposed to in the environment affects not only her, but her baby as well.

What may be less well understood is the lasting effect of a trauma. If the mother experiences a serious trauma, the unborn child may be seriously affected. When the parents, especially the mother, are traumatized, the consequences can disrupt the normal developmental process, even though the child does not directly experience the traumatic event.

A book entitled Lives Interrupted, edited by three professors at Adelphi University, Michael O'Loughlin, Secil Arac-Orhun, and Montana Queler, explains how cultures can also pass on buried memories that have continued to influence the descendants of that culture.

Our society's struggle with gun violence, drug addiction, and poverty is the backdrop to on-going emotional and mental distress for huge segments of our population. Even for those of us who may not be personally affected, the news is disturbing and often distressing.

Social workers and nurses in schools and medical offices are often in the best position to recognize those who are experiencing distress resulting from trauma. The trauma may be a single incident or a series of circumstances with a cumulative effect that is harmful or threatening -- physically, emotionally, or mentally. Early intervention, if possible, can provide the needed recognition and offer therapy to interrupt what is often a family cycle of trauma resulting from abuse, neglect, or severe deprivation.

Trauma isn't just a childhood issue. When an older adult loses her life partner, the grief can be a deeply distressing experience, especially if the loss occurs suddenly. The surviving spouse may well feel traumatized.

In my work over the years, I have heard people say, "Well, what happened was a long time ago. I should be over it by now." But the very fact that what happened was traumatic means by definition that the person doesn't just, "get over it." Painful cultural experiences don't just fade away. The fact is that we have memory and particularly painful events take up residence in the psyche. It's the consequence of having memory.

# Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

## Buckets of Rocks

"How much for this?"

The collection started back in the middle of the 20th century. A little girl liked to gather shells, small rocks, and whatever else caught her eye as she played along the edge of the shore. The treasures were carried in a small, bright yellow tin pail, back to the house where the contents would be left outside on the lawn. After a washing and a few days airing all was placed carefully in the five-gallon plastic bucket reserved for this honor in the garage. Both the collection and the girl grew.

"It's a bucket of rocks."

Somewhere over time, they parted ways -- the young woman off to college and the bucket forgotten in a crowded corner of her parents' garage.

"Yeah, I know. How much?" Both of us were smiling as we looked down at the five-gallon plastic bucket filled with beach debris. He shrugged his shoulders.

"I dunno. It's a bucket of rocks." He scratched his chin, figuring the going rate for a bucket of rocks. "Gimme a buck." A dollar was dug out and handed over.

"What's the deal with it?"

"Don't know the story for sure on this. Think a little girl collected these on the Maine shore. She grew up to be my wife. This is her parents' house we're clearing out.

"Perfect," I replied, smiling. "You can tell her that her treasure went to another grown up little girl who still collects rocks and treasures along the shore."

When I lifted the bucket of rocks out of the car in our garage my wife was joyous. "This is great. Where'd it come from?"

"It is the collection of things a little girl gathered half a century ago. It seemed perfect for you, a grown person who does the same," and I retold the brief story.

So, into our garden the rocks and shells went, joining others gathered along dirt roads, riverbeds and shores we've walked. They form a 1½-foot border around the peony garden. In it, you can find seashells and not-sea shells, small rocks and pebbles, beach glass, little lost toys, a rock from France and another from Yosemite, a few ancient metal bits, fat concrete birds, an antique flat iron, croquet balls, miniature pool balls, a baseball found on a beach in Mexico, a large crystal 'diamond' award, and miscellaneous treasures surrendered in garage and moving sales.

It isn't possible to visit the garden without seeing something new along the border created by two women, one very young and one not so very young, who together built something special though they worked 40 years apart with a bucket of rocks.

*(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk 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. )*

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