

The Times Ink!

OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
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Weather 2018: The Year of the Well

by Robert Low

Memorable weather events once again. Many will remember 2018 as hot and dry. Others will remember our Thanksgiving January-like weather and the wintry weather thereafter that provided outstanding outdoor recreation. Our own 2018 weather experiences certainly brought to mind the continuing effects of climate change, as described in a recent National Weather Service Report on climatologic events for our region.

January 2018 began with a continuation of a December cold wave, 11 overnights with below zero temperature culminating with -24 on January 7. Despite this, a flock of robins was seen locally during its first week. Mid-month reversal brought temperatures into the 60s, local records broken by several degrees. February weather was characteristically unstable. More record high temperatures in the 60s late in the month contributed to a monthly average 9F above normal. Bluebirds were sighted up here on Wes White Hill on the February 28.

March brought us three feet of snow up here on Wes White Hill, double average snowfall in our region, highlighted by three Nor-Easters over a two-week period. Fickle April began with cold, March-like weather, a late warming trend that brought Irish-like greens to local fields, the month ending significantly colder than average. Sugaring season went well despite starting off with reduced sap sugar content.

May provided a harbinger of things to come, with early temperatures in the high 80s, ending with a monthly average some 6F above normal. Dry weather brought in half the normal monthly rainfall. June perpetuated dry conditions. The longest heat wave in over 100 years began the end of the month extending into July, with six straight days in the 90s, contributing to a July average temperature some six degrees above normal. Burlington came in with its hottest month on



Empty pond... Last summer, Gillett Pond was severely compromised by the longest heat wave in over 100 years combined with a three-month drought. The pond recovered by November. Photo: Bob Low

record, while Mount Mansfield set a new high temperature record. The combined drought and heat began seriously to compromise area wells. Up here on the Hill, Gillett Pond was in dire straits with lower and lower water levels. At the same time, location was everything: July brought inundation to the mid-Atlantic States: even close by... Springfield, Vermont witnessed major flooding.

Heat and drought persisted into August. Temperatures were in the 90s at beginning and end, with 21 straight days above 80, resulting in monthly average 6F above normal. By then NOAA was reporting moderate drought in our region, severe drought just north of us. Gillett Pond was no longer draining at all with water level below the base of the dam.

Fortunately, significant rain came toward the end of the month leading into September with rainfall above average, yet still featuring record high temperatures. Air conditioners and heat pumps certainly had been working overtime July-September, with cooling degree days some two times normal for the period. Even with severe household water conservation, our faithful 45-plus year-old surface spring hit new lows causing us to have a new well drilled.

October brought an end to high-temperature, dry conditions with

water problems continuing to resolve. Characteristic of recent years, the first killer frost occurred late, for us on the October 27. November began cloudy, cooler and wet, wells continuing to recover, lakes, ponds and streams filling, water table restoring. First measurable snow arrived its second week, followed shortly thereafter by January-like conditions. The most snow before and over Thanksgiving in extended memory led to an excellent winter sports scene, earliest skating ever on the Pond. Mount Mansfield recorded the most November snow ever: we recorded just over 30 inches here.

Record cold the last week of November led into December resulting in 46 days of continued snow cover in our yard despite an early thaw. Then came some 18 inches of heavy snow that brought widespread, extended power outages. Mid-month brought more below-zero days, again yielding excellent conditions for winter sports enthusiasts. Subsequent temperatures in the mid-50s led to snow melt causing TV and other forecasters to predict a snow-less Christmas. Nature thought otherwise, however, with some 3 inches of snow coming the afternoon and evening of December 24. December 25 dawned cold, sunny and white with moderate

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Gift Expands RLT's Gillett Pond Preserve



Members of the UVM hockey team recently enjoyed some time with locals on the ice on Gillett Pond. Photo: Lou Borie

A generous gift of land in December from long-time Huntington resident Delia Jackson has added 14.55 acres to the Richmond Land Trust's (RLT) Gillett Pond Preserve.

"The pond is an amazing place, with so many people in the community enjoying it year-round," Jackson said. "I was glad to do what I could to help preserve it for the future."

Her donation enables RLT to protect even more of the pond's shoreline and watershed.

RLT acquired Gillett Pond in 2014. Its previous owner, unable to afford to repair the pond's aged, deteriorated dam, was preparing to dismantle the structure and let the pond drain. The organization worked in partnership with Friends of Gillett Pond to raise

\$125,000 – enough to buy the pond and hire engineers to design the new dam it needs.

RLT is now developing a campaign to raise the \$475,000 still needed to ensure the pond's long-term survival and public access to its recreational opportunities.

"Delia's generous gift shows how much people treasure the pond," says Fritz Martin, RLT's chair. "Whether for skating, kayaking or just enjoying the beauty and wildlife of one of our area's few undeveloped shorelines, Gillett Pond is a huge asset to our community."

For updates on Gillett Pond and the efforts to save it, "like" it at www.facebook.com/GillettPond.

Thinking About Running for Local Office?

With petitions for local office due by 5 pm on Monday, January 28, there is still time to get your paperwork in order and run for a position on a Board or Commission on Town Meeting Day.

Potential candidates can get a petition from the Town Clerk and circulate it in the community to get signatures from 1% of the registered voters. (see page 16 for a list of offices up for election).

Once you've committed to have your name on the ballot, it's time to get the word out by letting our readers know all about you and why they should vote for you. Statements of 300 words

(or less) will be printed in the issue of THE TIMES INK which will be out in late February. Note the deadline on page 2. For additional information, email: news@timesinkvt.org

Candidates in both Richmond and Huntington are elected by Australian ballot and the polls are open on March 5 until 7 pm. You can also request an Absentee Ballot if you will not be around that day or vote. Ballots can be mailed, picked up, or voted in the Town Clerk's Office.

For additional information, contact your Town Clerk:
Linda Parent, Richmond, 434-3139
Heidi Racht, Huntington, 434-2032

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Write to Us!

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.



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news@timesinkvt.org

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Elected November 28, 2017.

Next Issue/Deadline: February 7
Date of Issue: February 21

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Letters

Thank You!

Words can only begin to express our gratitude to the innumerable friends, neighbors, and strangers who have responded to us following our major traffic collision of 12/14/2018. The “meal train” and gifts more than provided for our kids, who were busy making modifications for us to move out of the hospital. We still have a good distance to go to recovery, and are very grateful for your continued prayers and kind thoughts – these count for a great deal.

Many thanks.

—Joyce & Bill Menning and Family, Huntington

From Backyard Wildlife to Local Democracy at MMCTV

What the Wild Things Are is the name of a new backyard wildlife show in the works at MMCTV. The brainchild of volunteer producer Gregg Stevens (an MMCTV regular from NOFA-VT), the series is made up of

and volunteers produced over an hour a day of original programming, with over 500 volunteer editing hours and over 30 gear sign-outs. We held workshops at Richmond Free Library, the Deborah Rawson Memorial Library, Our Community Cares Camp and a week-long MMCTV TV Camp. We collaborated with over 16 local nonprofits, filmed in most of our area schools (not to mention covering CESU/MMMU meetings) and recorded two candidates forums (Richmond and Underhill).

Our New Year’s resolution is to get more people of all ages behind the camera and in the editing room. If you have ideas about a video project or an event you or your group would like gear/help recording, let us know!

— Angelike Contis, Executive Director
MMCTV (MtMansfieldCtv.org)

Pollinate This!

We wander in gardens, foster habitats, explore ecosystems. Life buzzes, entwines, fosters, interacts—one species to another and another and another. Birds and insects and plants thrive together. Can we pause, notice? Can we let the outside in, become as intimately connected to the world around as a pollinated plant is to its pollinators?

We seek artworks that explore, examine, and express pollination—metaphorical and otherwise—for our 2019 art exhibit, Pollinate This!

The art show runs from May 1 to October 31 at the Birds of Vermont Museum. Most art will be hung on walls. We also have shelf displays for smaller three-dimensional works, room outdoors for weather-impervious works, and some ceiling space. We are curious about multimedia works. You are welcome to visit to consider the spaces.



crowdsourced video footage. Mansfield Cooperative School students are involved, working on the script and hosting the program aimed at youngsters on-camera. If you have any great footage of wildlife you’d like to share, please send us an email (mmctv15@gmail.com) to find out how to take part!

On February 25-27, MMCTV and the Richmond Free Library are teaming up to offer a free video workshop for middle school students. This year’s inspiration is the Vermont Reads graphic novel *MARCH*, which tells the story of Civil Rights Movement leader John Lewis. For more info and to register your middle schooler, please contact Wendy at the library at 434-3036 or rfl@gmavt.net.

With heavy clouds moving over the U.S. public access television sky, due to cable company accounting changes, anticipated Federal Communications Commission regulation alterations to the 1984 Cable Act and cable cord-cutting, MMCTV has started the year by turning to our three towns to request support. As last year we already saw a 6% dip in cable revenues, which make up almost all of our budget, we have submitted requests to Underhill, Jericho and Richmond to help out with half of the labor costs involved in filming municipal meetings. Such meetings make up 50% of MMCTV’s annual programming. We were pleased that local selectboards have been extremely supportive and appreciative of the value we provide in recording, transmitting and archiving their local meetings.

Looking back at 2018, we were most proud of seamlessly adding a second, Government channel (17) to local Comcast cable viewer’s lineup, while improving the quality of both channels. In 2018, our staff

Art in any media, by new or returning artists, of any age, may be submitted. Artists are invited to submit up to 3 works by sending no more than three (3) .jpgs showing your work to museum@birdsofvermont.org. Please put “Submission for Pollinate This! art show” in the email subject. If you do not have email, you may send up to three prints to the Museum, attention Pollinate This! art show. Please include your contact information and a description of work (media, artwork size, when made, etc.).

Entries are due by Monday, March 18, 2019.

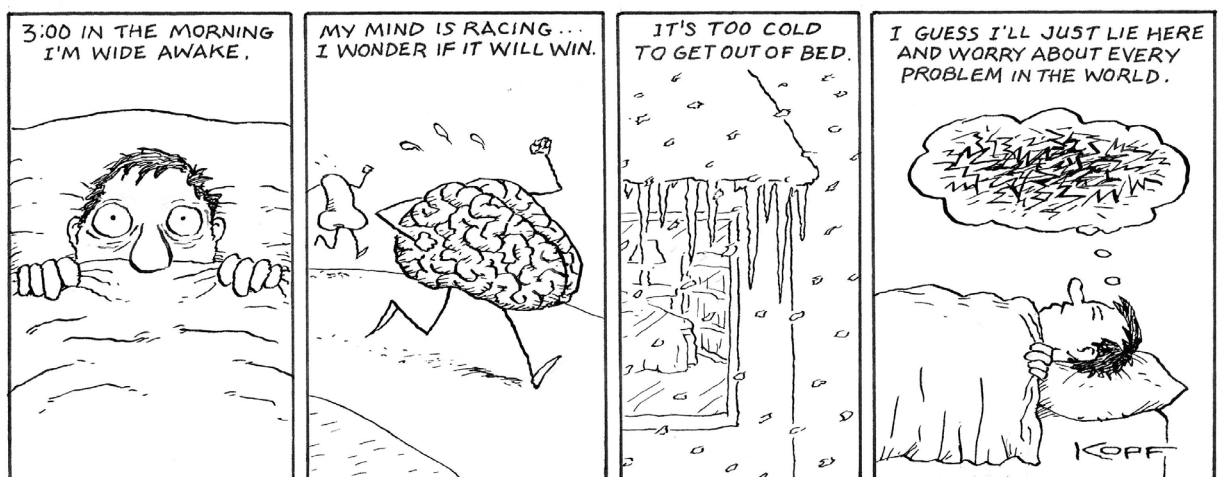
In choosing works for a show, we strive to weave diverse works into a cohesive exhibit that illustrates the year’s theme. Museum staff will select pieces by March 26 and will let artists know soon after by email. Accepted pieces should arrive at the Museum between March 26 and April 9 and be ready to display. Artists are responsible for shipping or drop-off/pick-up. Pick-up should occur by November 30, 2019.

The Museum asks for permission to reproduce images of the selected works in print and online as part of publicity for the exhibit; if you prefer partial or cropped images for this, or have preferred images, please tell us or supply them.

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The Fine Print:

- Postage is paid at Richmond, Vermont 05477.
- The Richmond Times, Inc. is not responsible beyond the cost of advertising purchased for any typographical errors which may occur.
- *Letters to the Editor* must be signed upon submission. Letters do not reflect the views of THE TIMES and are solely the opinions of the individual writers.
- Submissions can be made electronically or to our PO Box.
- All political ads and ads intending to influence polling decisions must be accompanied by the name of the person responsible for managing the campaign’s funds and the telephone number of a local contact person.
- All photographs, original artwork and feature stories are copy-righted and may not be reproduced without the permission of the originator or the editor.
- All photographs, original artwork and computer disks will be returned at some point. **Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope** for non electronic submissions.



Annual French Canadian Supper

The Richmond Knights of Columbus (Rosary Council 4684) will hold its annual unique and tasty Annual French Canadian Supper on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church.

tional French Canadian favorites as pea soup, meat pie (tourtiere), mashed potato, beverages, dessert, and more. Tourtiere is rich and delicious and is traditionally enjoyed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. This is a great opportunity

to taste some authentic French Canadian food without having to travel to north of the border.

The supper will be held in the Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church on West Main Street in Richmond beginning at 5 pm.

Admission is by a suggested donation of \$12. The evening's proceeds will benefit the various charities (scholarships, donations to the needy, and summer camps.) supported by the Knights of Columbus. For information call 872-8063 evenings or the Church secretary at

434-2521 Tuesday, Thursday or Friday during the day.



Marty Corbett, left, and Joe Bouchard serve a hungry eater at a recent Annual French Canadian Supper at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church. Photo: Chris Poirier

Featured food items, prepared by the Knights and other church members, include such tradi-

Make a Valentine to Benefit the Richmond Food Shelf



Show your good heart and talent by making a valentine at One Radish Eatery in Richmond on January 27, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, or January 28, 5:30 to 7:30. Then hang it on the wall and sell or take it home for a \$5 donation. All proceeds benefit the Richmond Food Shelf.

Richmond Geography



Richmond geographer Jane Dorney will give a slide presentation on how Richmond's cultural landscape has evolved through time on Sunday, February 10, at 3 pm in the Richmond Free Library Community Room. Using historic maps and photos, she will show how the village and rural landscapes developed, and the influence of geology and biology on that evolution. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome.

Richmond Senior Foot Clinics

Richmond Foot Clinics for Seniors are off and running for fall. Mark your calendar. Due to renovations being done at the Richmond Rescue Building, the foot clinic for January 8 and February 19 will be held at the Holy Rosary Church:

Next dates for 2018-2019:

February 19 April 2 May 14 June 25

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

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

Municipal Solar Project Meeting

With six municipal buildings having south facing roofs, community members wonder if it is an obvious move to supplying much of the town's power from energy generated by solar installations. The Huntington Energy Committee has initiated a discussion with the Selectboard and Town Boards and Committees to explore the options of a solar project on town buildings or as a ground mount on town property. The goal is to try to develop a comprehensive and efficient project for the municipality. Members of the Huntington Energy Committee, Library Board of Directors, Town Hall Committee and Selectboard will be meet on January 31, at 7 pm, at the Huntington Public Library. The meeting is open to the public. Come join the discussion.

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Photograph © Susan C. Morse

Bobcats, Wild Yet Wonderfully Near Us!

Thursday, March 21, 2019
6:30 pm

Smilie Memorial School
Route 2, Bolton

Free & open to the public

Power point presentation by Susan Morse, forester, wildlife ecologist and founder of Keeping Track focusing on bobcat and lynx is illustrated with her stunning, award-winning photography. Followed by a question and answer session.

Presented by the
Conservation Commissions
of Bolton and Richmond

For more information contact
Virginia Haviland, 434-5801.



2019 Schedule

January 10 deadline
January 24 issue

Town Meeting Preview

February 7 deadline
February 21 issue

March 14 deadline
March 28 issue

April 11 deadline
April 25 issue

May 9 deadline
May 23 issue

June 13 deadline
June 27 issue

August 1 deadline
August 15 issue

September 12 deadline
September 26 issue

October 10 deadline
October 24 issue

Holiday Issues

November 7 deadline
November 21 issue

December 5 deadline
December 19 issue



www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

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

Wiggle Room Pass The Library is looking for a donor to provide a \$50 donation to purchase a one year pass to offer our youngest patrons the opportunity to visit the wiggle Room in Williston for half price. The owner of the Wiggle Room is offering libraries a half price membership.

Annual Baby Brunch on January 27 Each year the Huntington Public Library welcomes babies born in the previous calendar year with a BABY BOOK DEDICATION bookplate which honors the baby's birth — and a delicious brunch. Each book is then entered into the Library collection. If you and your family are unable to attend, please let us know so we can arrange a time for you to browse through the baby books and make a choice for your son or daughter, born in 2018.

Planet Huntington Please join Susie Miller and Brad Stetler on Sunday, February 17, 5:30 pm at the Huntington Public Library as they share photos and stories from Nepal. Susie and Brad began their April 2018 Nepal trek with several days in Kathmandu, Nepal's capital. They escaped the city with a guide and porter and drove to the Annapurna region. There they hiked ten days on a modified Khopra Danda circuit route, staying in village and remote teahouses, mostly off the beaten path, and enjoying the grandeur of the Himalayas and the friendly Nepalese. The

hike was adventurous, but well within the ability of the seasoned Vermont hiker. They would love to share some photos and stories!

Citizen Science Forum On Sunday, March 10, 5:15 pm, our second Citizen Forum will feature four or five citizen scientists who work closely with our natural environment. They will each share their expertise and adventures through stories, slides and informational materials. We are grateful for the following Huntingdonians for sharing: Wally Jenkins - dragonflies, Cindy Sprague - herps (reptiles and amphibians), Michaela Stickney - shoreline and water, and yet more to come!

Yoga Hatha Yoga with Tania Dornic, Thursdays, 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm Invigorate your week with a slow yet empowering yoga class suitable for all levels of experience. We will focus on alignment in the postures, while being mindful of body, breath, and mind.

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

Story Time Performance Ethan Tischler will be performing at during Story Time on Friday, March 8, at 11am. Ethan is a musician, singer and music teacher at Bread and Butter Farm. Join us for some fun!

New Adult Fiction PROMISE by Minrose Gwin; ONCE UPON A RIVER by Diane Setterfield; THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR and LIAR LIAR by James Patterson.

Adult Non-Fiction Reed Brown's 1841 JOURNEY – AMERICA THROUGH THE EYES OF A VERMONT YANKEE by Richard Allen; THIS RADICAL LAND – A NATURAL HISTORY OF AMERICAN DISSENT by Daegan Miller; THE MEANING OF WILDERNESS, RUNES OF THE NORTH AND LISTENING POINT by Sigurd E. Olsen; FASTING AND FEASTING – THE LIFE OF VISIONARY FOOD WRITER PATIENCE GRAY by Adam Federman; THE GUIDE TO HUMANE CRITTER CONTROL by Theresa Rooney; CALL OF THE REED WARBLER – A NEW AGRICULTURE A NEW EARTH by Charles Massey; NATIVE PLANTS FOR NEW ENGLAND GARDENS by Mark Richardson and Dan Jaffee; ESSENTIAL NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS FOR THE EASTERN UNITED STATES by Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge; HOW TO MOVE LIKE A GARDENER by Deb Soule; LIFE WITHOUT PLASTIC by Chantal Plamondon; GIRL, WASH YOUR FACE by Rachel Hollis.

Picture Books Picture Books will be available at the end of the month following the Annual Baby Brunch.

Junior DVD MAGIC SCHOOL BUS – SEASON ONE; PLANE, TRAINS AND TRUCKS – PBS Kids.

Early Chapter Books THE KINGDOM OF WRENLY – BOOKS 1 - 11 by Jordan Quinn; BAD KITTY – KITTEN TROUBLE by Nick Bruel; GERONIMO ON ICE by Geronimo Stilton; MAGIC TREE HOUSE - #31 WARRIORS IN WINTER by Mary Pope Osborne.

Story Time and Playgroup Fridays, 10 am – noon. Birth through 5 years. Stories, songs, and counting during Story Time at 10:45 am. Playgroup creates an inviting place for babies and children with their caregivers to have fun playing with toys, doing crafts, and meeting new friends.

Movie Night Friday, February 1, at 7 pm. Wear your pajamas, bring your best friends and we will show INCREDIBLES 2!



Lawn & Grounds Service

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Garden edging, weeding & pruning
Excavation, drainage, tree work
Lawn/driveway installation & repair
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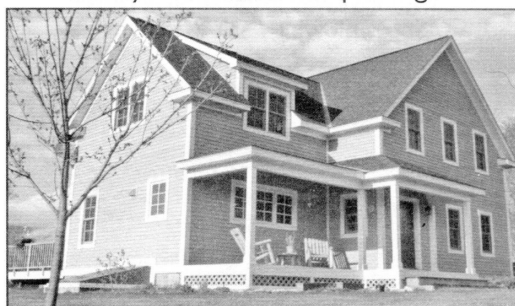
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The Real Eastern Coyote Learn the true story of the eastern coyote and how an understanding of its mind and ecology can help us live alongside this wild animal. Coyotes are rarely seen, but they live among us and contribute to keeping our forests and fields healthy. Despite the ecological benefits it brings, the coyote is the most persecuted carnivore in North America. Yet, it thrives despite efforts to eradicate it. Wild canid ecologist Chris Schadler will discuss coexistence strategies, whether you farm, hike or garden. She has 30 years of experience in wolf and coyote research, sheep farming, and teaching, and she is the Vermont and New Hampshire representative for Project Coyote. Join us for Schadler's talk, the final program in our Wild Nature Series, on Sunday, February 3, at 4 pm.

Trail Passes Working in partnership with the Richmond Trails Committee and Rise VT, we are pleased to offer Richmond library patrons discount passes for trail use at both Catamount Outdoor Family Center in Williston and at Sleepy Hollow in Huntington. When checked out from the Library, the passes provide a \$3 discount per person for up to two adults and two kids in the same family for a day or half day of skiing, snowshoeing, hiking or biking in season.

Save the Date Friends of the Richmond Free Library Annual Book Sale and Raffle will be Friday, February 15, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, and Saturday, February 16, 9 - 3. The Friends offer a wonderful selection of materials in a wonderful shopping venue. Please consider becoming a Friend and joining in the effort. Consider being a table mover, a cashier, a baker or an overall organizer. Do you like to play music or sing? The book sale features live music. For more information, contact Mary Keller-Butler at unnamedmtn@hotmail.com.

Nutcracker Collection in Display You can't miss the fabulous nutcracker collection in our foyer display case. There are big ones, small ones, old ones, hand-painted ones and oh so many! Jeff Southworth has been collecting them since he was a boy and now the whole family gets in on the hobby. Come see during the month of January.

February Display Case We will be featuring the work of Mansfield Cooperative School students under the direction of their teacher, Jessie Kochelyaev, and art teacher, Ariela Paulsen. Each student will exhibit one creative piece that they have done this year - a visual art piece or a writing project. Students will include a short artist's statement with their piece.

February Art Show During the month of February we will be showing some of the paintings of former Richmond resident and noted architect and artist Harold V. Walsh. His daughter Winifred Walsh Doane donated over 125 of his works to the Community Senior Center for a benefit auction last fall. The remaining pieces of beautiful original art--including many local landscapes and scenes--will be made available at very affordable prices.

Looking for Artists and Collectors We are currently scheduling our walls and display case for 2019 shows. 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 tea cups, feathers, 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.

Thank You to all our Volunteers We would like to thank our dedicated and hard-working volunteers for their service to the library and the Richmond community. Volunteers work at the desk, reshelve books, spruce up the outdoor garden, dust the shelves,

organize and run the annual book sale and so much more. We couldn't do what we do without all of you. Thank you.

AARP Tax Help Every year AARP volunteers help seniors prepare and submit their tax returns. If you are interested in meeting with a preparer at the Library, let us know and we'll schedule you for a session. Sessions will be on Monday mornings beginning February 4 and running through April 8. Call or email to schedule.

2019 Vermont Reads Every year the Vermont Humanities Council selects a book and then makes copies of that book available within Vermont communities that wish to participate. For the fourth year in a row, Richmond is in! This year's selection is the graphic novel MARCH, which is the first in a trilogy by John Lewis in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Ayden and graphic artist Nate Powell. It tells the story of Lewis's coming of age in rural Alabama and early life of civic activism. Lewis, greatly inspired and influenced by Martin Luther King Jr., is considered one of the big six leaders of the civil rights movement. Lewis has served in the US Congress since 1987. We are thrilled to be working with the Peace and Justice Center to bring three dynamic programs to the Richmond community, each of them designed to explore the themes in March and increase participants' working knowledge of nonviolent activism.

Young Storytellers Video Workshop We are working with the local television station MMCTV to offer the fourth annual video workshop for middle school students during the February school vacation. This year we will be using the Vermont Humanities Council 2019 Vermont Reads selection, the graphic novel MARCH, as our starting point. Workshop participants will be given a free copy of the book to read in advance. The workshop will cover the three basic techniques of video storytelling--animation, documentary and fiction--and will provide hours of hands-on filming and editing experience. We will be producing short videos promoting MARCH and some of the themes introduced within its pages. Students aged 10 - 14 are invited to register for this fun, free workshop, 9 am to noon on February 25, 26 and 27. Time will be split between the Library and the MMCTV studio. Space is limited.

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

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

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

Weekly children's programs at the Library run from September through May and follow the CESU school district schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church



Lord's Day Masses:

Saturday, 4 pm • Sunday, 8:30 am

Weekday Masses:

Thursday & Friday, 8:30 am

Reconciliation:

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Town of Richmond

Third Quarter 2018-2019 taxes payment due
 Friday, February 15, 2019.

The office is open until 4 pm on February 15, to accept payments.

A late fee of 1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 16.

Postmarks by the 15th will be accepted and there is a TOWN CENTER DROP BOX located by the side door across from the post office entrance.

Electronic checks have no postmark, must be received before February 15, 2019.

Town of Huntington

Third Quarter 2018-2019 tax installment is due
 Friday, February 15, 2019.

The office will be open:

Monday, 8 am – 7 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 8 am – 3 pm

Friday, 8 am – 6 pm

USPS Postmarks on or before February 15th are accepted.

Payments placed through the town office door slot are accepted up until midnight on February 15th.

In office payments accepted by check or cash only.

(Note: Internet-generated checks do not generally have postmarks and MUST arrive on or before February 15th.)

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

It was labelled “speed dating.” But instead of fine food and sweet talk, suitors from nonprofits and community groups wooed town officials with details about how they help Richmond residents.

The Selectboard, at its January 7 meeting, considered requests from 16 groups that sought funding ranging from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. The requests wrapped up the two-month process of developing the 2019-2020 municipal budget, which was approved later in the meeting.

Chair Bard Hill said because there were so many organizations, he would limit presentations to two minutes. He jokingly called the process “speed dating.” Vice Chair David Sander held up flashcards showing time remaining as each nonprofit representative made his or her pitch for the town’s financial affections.

Annual requests for municipal funding are a common feature of the municipal budget process around Vermont. Some of the organizations seeking money from Richmond, such as the Howard Center, are large regional or statewide nonprofits that supplement state and federal funding with municipal contributions. Others are small community groups that depend on donations.

One of the most compelling presentations came from Our Community Cares Camp. The nonprofit operates free summer camps for kids from families who might not otherwise be able to attend camp. OCCC asked for just \$200 in town funding.

Held at Camels Hump Middle School, the camp served 332 children last summer, 92 of them from Richmond, according to its funding application. OCCC focuses on providing healthy meals to campers and offers various activities.

Marie Thomas, OCCC’s Executive Director, told the Selectboard that the request would cover only a sliver of organization’s \$178,000 annual budget. She said most of the organization’s budget is covered by donations, in keeping with her fundraising philosophy of not seeking any more government money than absolutely necessary.

“I feel better when it comes from people’s hearts instead of from their taxes,” Thomas said.

Her presentation certainly won the Selectboard’s heart. Board member Christy Witters proposed quadrupling Thomas’s funding request to \$800, which was unanimously approved.

“Thank you,” Thomas said, an emotional hitch in her voice. “That’s very sweet.”

The largest funding request came from Richmond Rescue, which asked for \$74,984. The nonprofit provides ambulance service in Richmond, Huntington and Bolton.

Operations Director Michael Chiarella explained that the service has three full-time employees and about 40 volunteers. Richmond Rescue’s annual budget is about \$400,000, he said, roughly 50 percent of which is covered by billing to individuals and insurance companies and service subscriptions. Contributions from towns and donors account for the remainder.

Richmond residents comprise around half of all transports, Chiarella said. Patients or their insurance companies are typically billed between \$800 and \$1,200 for the service, depending on the level of patient care and mileage to the hospital.

The largest remaining funding requests came from the Visiting Nurse Association, which asked for \$9,693; Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations, which investigates sex crimes and requested \$7,505; Mount Mansfield Community Television, the local access channel,

which sought \$3,200; and the Hale and Hearty Senior Club, which requested \$4,100.

Mike Storrs explained that his organization serves about 60 members, holding monthly meetings that feature various activities for seniors and offering one or two bus tours annually to points of interest. Trips cost members just \$25 and yearly dues are only \$3. Town funding, Storrs said, helps cover the full cost of the trips, ensuring Hale and Hearty can serve everyone regardless of their ability to pay.

Later in the meeting, Selectboard members discussed the requests and rejected \$250 for the Howard Center and \$200 for the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation. All other requests were approved.

Budget wrapped Town Manager Josh Arneson and Finance Director Connie Bona presented the final draft of the 2019-2020 municipal budget. The Selectboard added a couple of tweaks to arrive at the \$3,969,013 spending plan it unanimously approved.

The changes included restoring earlier cuts of \$3,000 for stormwater and sidewalks, and \$1,000 for legal fees for the Planning and Zoning Department.

The budget talk also touched on using fund balance, sometimes referred to as a budget reserve and surplus. Hill said the budget should strike a balance between using reserves to reduce the tax rate while keeping a reasonable sum on hand for unexpected expenses.

“I think this is prudent, that we control the tax increase a bit, but we maintain a pretty healthy surplus,” he said.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to accept the budget after amending the nonprofit requests and making the other above-noted changes. As approved, the budget met the Selectboard goal of limiting the tax increase to less than 2.5 percent. The final budget raises the rate by 2 percent.

In dollar terms, the budget bumps up the estimated property tax rate by 1.4 cents to 70 cents. That will increase the annual bill for a \$300,000 home by about \$42.

The Selectboard’s approval ended a process that started in November. There were seven drafts of the budget, as spending was debated during several regular and special meetings.

Among the biggest new expenses that made the final budget was funding for a project to shore up eroding Winooski River banks near Volunteers Green. The budget includes about \$140,000 to make payments on a short-term loan for the project.

Another significant new expense is an effort to update and increase security of the town’s computer network. The new budget includes \$15,000 for technology support, up from just \$1,000 for that line item in the current budget year. That money will cover the cost of a contract with a new technology consulting firm.

Departmental spending changes vary in the new budget. The administration budget, which include the riverbank project, jumps by 22.7 percent. Planning and Zoning Department spending is up by 19.8 percent. The Highway Department’s budget, by far the largest, rises by 4.7 percent.

Now the municipal budget will be considered by voters on Town Meeting Day in March. Most Chittenden County municipalities simply place their budgets on a ballot and residents approve or reject them. But Richmond is an outlier, clinging to the old-school method of approving municipal budgets with a floor vote during the annual meeting. This allows residents to change individual line items.

Town Meeting Day this year takes place on Tuesday, March 5.

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The December 17, 2018 Huntington Selectboard meeting was preceded by a solar energy presentation. Erik Phaneuf and Nils Behn from Aegis Renewable Energy, a company based in Waitsfield focusing on community based, rather than residential, solar energy projects, showed project development scenarios for the Town of Huntington. Huntington Energy Committee (HEC) members were present. Municipal roofs being assessed for potential solar panel installation sites. HEC member Duncan Keir has been in discussion with a metal fabricator about fortifying some roofs in preparation for solar panel installation.

The Aegis representatives told the Board their company strives to build a relationship to make the best solution for a municipality, handling everything through the entire life of the project including feasibility studies and the permitting process. The presentation highlighted the 3 different financial options: ownership, leasing, or discounted net meter credits. Board Chair Dori Barton asked, "Towns that have gone with ownership, are they bigger towns with a bigger tax base?" The Aegis representative responded, "Colchester is in that category, yet Waitsfield and Warren are small towns that got a grant and a bond." The Board was shown hypothetical savings for owning vs. a net metering credit agreement and cost differences between ground mounting and roof top installation. Board member Lanel Cochran asked what grant Waitsfield and Warren received. Behn answered, "A one shot State grant, unfortunately no longer available." Barton concluded, "We are probably talking about a rooftop project at this point."

Professional Audit Lela McCaffrey from Fothergill, Segale & Valley (FS&V) CPAs led the discussion. "Audit is not finalized, yet went smoothly, your staff is really on it and do a very nice job," McCaffrey commented. No adjustments had to be made in the audit.

McCaffrey addressed questions from the Board, including, "What legal action should we be including as economic risk?" McCaffrey suggested the Board consider, "How likely is it that something is to come forth? How likely would the Town be liable for settlement of claims? It is very unknown at this point, so no need to disclose anything."

McCaffrey clarified what should be included in the MD&A, (Management Discussion and Analysis). Town Administrator Barbara Elliott asked, "How should the veteran tax exemption be handled?" McCaffrey said the adjustment should be shown as negative non-tax revenue. McCaffrey said that since the Town Treasurer does not do investing, she did not see the need of an investment policy. McCaffrey explained that bridges are considered depreciating assets and paving is a maintenance issue, so roads are not capitalized. Cochran asked, "Why are bridges assets? It is not something you could sell." McCaffrey clarified, "Just to give the Town an idea of how soon bridges would need replacing." Once the MD&A is finalized with edits, FS & V will issue the final document.

During Public Comment, HCC (Huntington Conservation Commission) member Barrett Grimm shared information about a \$2,000 grant opportunity to address emerald ash borer effects on Town owned trees, specifically the ash trees on the Town green. Tree Warden Nate Sands would be working on the grant, Grimm said. The Board showed support.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Pam Alexander came to talk about the Humane Society Intake Contract, which must be renewed each year. Alexander explained the Humane Society won't take an animal until the ACO has had it for five days, because once they take the animal they must keep it. Right now the ACO pays for taking care of animals at her own expense, until the owner can be found or a fostering situation is arranged. Barton told Alexander, "We should have some rate sheet to attempt to recoup costs [from pet owners]." Town Clerk Heidi Racht recommended dog registration be part of the deal for an animal being returned to its owner.

During Public Comment at the January 7, 2019 Selectboard Meeting, Brett Lindemuth came to the Board looking for information about research into road classification. The Selectboard expects to present an update at its January 21 meeting.

Elliott added that the state has put together new guidelines, clarifying what information must be submitted for the certificate of highway mileage, which needs to be submitted before February 2. Barton commented, "We don't know if there are any additions or deletions or modifications yet. We know there is a discrepancy on the certificate... and questions about Trapp and Stage Coach Roads."

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger reported there is one quarter left of the Highway Department's sand, and about one third left in the salt budget. "What's killing us is the rain and sleet," commented Alger, "Easy to go through sand, also going through chains which cost \$440 per set."

The Board reconsidered a driveway permit for the Aruzza and Wheeler properties on Main Road. A permit to widen a previously approved equipment access for the Arruzzas was issued on December 3. The permit approved on December 3, 2018 also said the formerly shared driveway for the two properties would be only used by the Wheeler property. The Aruzzas and Wheelers requested a change that allows access from the Wheeler property driveway for oil delivery at the Aruzza property. The Board passed a motion to rescind the permit issued on December 3, 2018. A new motion approving the driveway permit to expand the equipment access on the Aruzza property, with a 10-foot barrier between the road and parking, passed.

HCC Co-Chair Jeanette Segale shared the Commission's plans for 2019. Identifying and purchasing a new Town Forest property is the HCC's first priority, Segale stated. "We continue to reach out to experts to find out how this is done, we want the community involved, we are all learning together." HCC member Barrett Grimm is looking into preserving the existing Town Forest as an "ancient forest," a concept which leaves the forest alone, no logging, yet trails are encouraged. Livak responded, "Ancient' is a misnomer."

HCC member Rebecca Ryan spoke about salamander crossing signs. "We haven't had a system in place to get them put up in a timely manner," Ryan told the Board. She referred to highly reflective hinged signs, produced by the Vermont Department of Corrections costing \$36.50 apiece. Ryan has researched a Rise Vermont grant, proposing to use this project to get families participating in putting signs up, encouraging community involvement in nature. Ryan asked if the Town would consider supporting this grant, which would pay for the signs. The Selectboard suggested adding the cost of the signposts into the grant request and passed a motion to support the grant application.

A Motion to hire retiring Town Treasurer Kathleen Clark for up to 80 hours for additional training of new Town Treasurer Andrea Ogilvie, through June 30, 2019, passed.

The Board picked February 4, which includes a legislative round table, as the first meeting to be videotaped as a test. There will be no cost for this test. Livak and Board member Andrew Hendrickson pointed out the inconsistency of videotaping Selectboard meetings but not other committee meetings. The Planning Commission could also arrange to test video taping a meeting. The Board pointed out that Richmond does not have to pay for videotaping through Mount Mansfield Community Television (MMCTV), but since Huntington is not MMCTV territory, the Town will have to pay Northeast Addison Television (NEAT). "If it isn't free," Hendrickson commented, "I can't see paying for something if there is not a burning demand for, it seems irresponsible."

Hendrickson announced he would not be running for Selectboard after his term expires this year, due to work commitments. The Board lamented this decision and thanked Hendrickson for his service.

The Board held a special meeting January 14 to grant final approval to the General Fund Budget, the Capital Plan and Town Meeting Articles.

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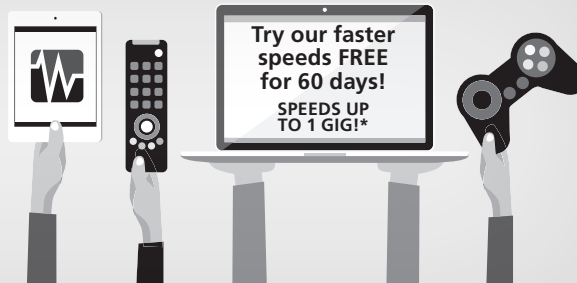
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MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

**Meetings December 17,
2018 & January 7, 2019**

The annual budget process ground forward. The pre-K through 12 student populations (excluding Brewster-Pierce School - BPMS) remain flat.

Closing the achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students remains a goal. Some additional personnel have been added to achieve this goal, offset by the staff reductions at UID. The initial grant for full day pre-K is exhausted, so the costs are added to this year's budget. Maintaining the 50-year-old buildings in the district continues to be a challenge: water lines at Browns River Middle School (BRMS) and work in the Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMUHS) auditorium has priority. Energy efficiency improvements to all buildings is a goal. Health care costs have increased 11%-plus. The negotiated increase in salaries are 3%. Based on the numbers provided by the State of Vermont on Equalized Pupil rates, the tax rate for next year will be flat. This is the last year of the merger incentive - \$0.02. The Town Meeting Warning was approved and signed.

Act 46 On November 28, 2018 the State Board of Education designated Huntington School district part of the Mount Mansfield Modified Unified School District (provided a majority of the MMMUSD voters accept BPMS as a member). The Huntington School district is suing the State and MMMUSD to retain its independence, saying a forced merger will do irreparable harm to the Huntington community.

MMMUSD has increased the budget by \$16,000 in the FY 19/20 for additional legal fees. The Board met with its lawyer by phone in Executive Session on January 7. On advice of counsel, Chair Andrew Pond asked the Huntington members not to participate in this portion of the meeting, or in the phone call. The Huntington Board member expressed extreme displeasure at this. Michael Marks (R) suggested he consult with his own attorney in regards to the fiduciary obligations of a member of a Board supporting a lawsuit against same board.

Before the meeting, Pond explained his reasons for his belief in a merged district for the newer members of the Board citing parity amongst the elementary schools. At Pond's request, Superintendent John Alberghini added there is more equity now than there was four years ago in resources, instruction, technology, art, and music. Principals are more focused on teaching

and learning, rather than administration. Also, the additional paperwork at Central Office involved in keeping records for the Supervisory Union, MMUSD, and Huntington "takes time and money away from students."

Marks believes it would be in the best interests of students and taxpayers to be one district - always extending the invitation to Huntington to join the district. "We should defend this lawsuit," and if Huntington still chooses to remain independent, "we should ask the State Board of Education...(if we could become) a supervisory district for Mount Mansfield." Marks does not wish their (Huntington's) choice to superimpose an organization on MMMU's governance. He made a lengthy motion detailing this idea, which was seconded, and tabled to be discussed further at a future meeting. (See detail, column 2 of Huntington Board Report, page 9.)

North End Transition Interim Underhill Independent District (UID) principal Jennifer Cote has been chosen to be the new Principal of Underhill Central School (UCS). An intensive schedule of programs to educate/ice-break/integrate the students and families of the three elementary schools involved (including Jericho Elementary School) has been published. Field Day and a Field Trip to Mills Riverside Park, Book Events and the Cardboard Challenge are some of the events planned. How and when to apply for school choice (by February 15), transportation options, Spanish immersion classes, etc., are all being explained to all families in the North End.

In a related manner, Greg Tatro has purchased the former sawmill (Villeneuve property) across from BRMS and hopes to build commercial and residential units there. He has submitted a proposal to build and lease community septic fields in back of BRMS and storm water fields in the front. He would be responsible for all permitting and development costs. There are many variables/opportunities to be explored: potential improvements to playing fields, additional storm water capacity for the school campuses, waterline projects for the middle school, etc. A presentation to the full board of the situation will be made in February.

Richmond Elementary Center Principal Benjamin White was named the 2019 Director of Curriculum, Communication and Innovation.

Pond acknowledged the loss of a MMUHS Student in December. Student Representative Finn Abbey told the Board that counselors were available to the student body, and small groups with counselors were available in Advisory to help them with their grief for their classmate.

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Huntington School Report

Reported by Helen Keith

Merger “Ordered” for Huntington Elementary School District... a different kind of vote may be coming up soon.

On November 28, 2018 the State Board of Education (SBE) released its anticipated report called FINAL REPORT OF DECISIONS AND ORDER ON STATEWIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGER DECISIONS PURSUANT TO ACT 46, SECTIONS 8(B) AND 10. This SBE report affirmed most of the Secretary of the Agency of Education’s (AOE) written recommendations outlined in the Agency’s June 1, 2018 Proposed Statewide Plan (reported in September TIMES INK!) on school governance – consolidation - merger. The Board did affirm the Secretary’s recommendation that Huntington Elementary School District merge with the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District. This action, if taken, turns the MMMUSD (Mount Mansfield Modified Unified Union School District) into an Act 46 “preferred” governance structure, a single Unified Union School District, making it its own Supervisory District. This preferred structure result is pending approval by vote of the MMMUSD residents to accept Huntington into its consolidated governance structure.

The following article consists mostly of key resources, annotated by the author, to assist readers in understanding the current situation regarding the merger that was ordered by the State Board of Education at the end of November 2018. The report referenced as the Final Report and Order directed that a vote (before the outcome of any law suits that have been filed is known) be held by the Mount Mansfield Modified Union District (MMMUSD) to accept the Huntington School District into the MMMUSD thus allowing it to become a preferred structure under Act 46, a single, unified, Supervisory District. And dissolving the Huntington School District, transferring its assets and debts and dropping the Huntington School Board as a governance structure. Annotated resources follow with links to reports, minutes, videos, legal challenges and proposed movements to attain the MMMUSD goal of becoming a single Supervisory District with or without Huntington.

A North East Addison Television (NEAT) Video of the Huntington School Board (HSB) meeting January 9, 2019 depicts the significant public comment time and 16 people packed into the art room with 20 or so others commenting on Act 46 merger issues, the law suit and other issues. The regular agenda included discussion of the FY 20 (2019-2020) Draft 4 of the Budget (see draft minutes for a written record of the budget discussion and final approval). The video can be found at (public comments are at the beginning and last for a little more than an hour; the budget comments and actions begin at about minute 1:07:

<https://www.cesvut.org/school-board/huntingtonboard>

The draft written minutes of this and prior meetings of the HSB can be seen at the same link, but scroll down past the video and click on the dates of the meeting minutes and read there or download. Much of the hour long public comment period in the video related to a letter signed

by most of the teaching staff at Brewster Pierce that had been submitted to Front Porch Forum describing their opinions on why they support a merger now. Both the minutes and video recount the comments and discussion.

The Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) and Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District (MMMUSD) particularly relevant most-recent-records of meetings regarding Act 46, merger, lawsuits filed by HSB and responses by MMMUSD or under consideration by MMMUSD and can be found at:

<https://www.cesvut.org/school-board/mmmusd>
The whole video of the 1/7/2019 meeting is about an hour and almost all of it touches on HSB legal challenges and the MMMUSD proposed responses to the legal challenges. In addition, the CESU’s focus on becoming a single district entity or a “Supervisory District” and their plans to petition the State Board to become that with or without Huntington are outlined in the proposed motion that was tabled until the next meeting on 1/29/19.

Once on the cesvut.org web site (see link above) one can scroll down after viewing the video into the Agenda and Minutes section and click on 1/7/19 and read the agenda for this meeting and the written draft of the minutes in one document. There is a link in the document to the motion that was tabled for discussion until the next meeting which has been changed to January 28th at Camels Hump Middle School at 6:30 pm to accommodate Michael Marks’ schedule and to make it easier for people from Huntington to attend. The tabled motion includes a pre-amble and a list of items for inclusion in a petition to become/operated as a “unified governance structure.”

The tabled motion to be discussed at the January 28, 2019 meeting includes a preamble, in this reporter’s opinion - well worth reading and the following:

Motion Based on the foregoing, the Board of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District hereby adopts the following:

1. Mount Mansfield opposes the lawsuit filed by the Huntington School District and authorizes its legal counsel to take all prudent steps in opposition to that lawsuit.
2. Mount Mansfield authorizes its legal counsel to take all steps allowed under current law so that Mount Mansfield may become a supervisory district under Act 46 and Act 49 with a unified governance structure, regardless of the inclusion of the Huntington School District. This should include the filing of a formal request with the State Board of Education for all approvals required so that Mount Mansfield may have a unified governance structure.
3. The Huntington School District should continue to have the opportunity to merge with the Mount Mansfield Modified School District.
4. Mount Mansfield shall request the support of its representatives in the Vermont Legislature for any legislative changes that would minimize the potential for legal challenge to Mount Mansfield achieving a unified governance structure.”

There are links in the CESU/MMUSD agenda

and minutes to the Finance Committee which includes the discussion of the increase in the SU budget of 16,000 dollars to cover expected legal costs.

The Huntington School Board’s (the “Plaintiff”) legal documents include a SUMMONS which is directed to the Vermont State Board of Education, the Vermont Agency of Education and the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District (the “Defendants”) and begins with “1. YOU ARE BEING SUED...” and is followed by 6 instructions about what all three “defendant” organizations must do. The summons is followed in the same document by the 22-page COMPLAINT and PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT which includes the claims the HSB is making. The CLAIMS section includes background to current status. Then there are sections challenging the constitutionality of actions taken under Act 46 (State and Federal).

The RELIEF sought through the complaint are as follows (pp 20-21 of the complaint:

“... Plaintiff (HSB) seeks:

A. A determination that Section 10 of Act 46, as amended by Act 49, does not apply to Huntington or Mount Mansfield and therefore the Final Report and Order cannot require Huntington to merge with Mount Mansfield;

B. ..., a determination that Acts 46 and 49 are unconstitutional as applied to Huntington and that the relevant provisions are therefore void and have no effect on Huntington;

C. ..., a determination that the Final Report and Order is unconstitutional as applied to Huntington and that the relevant portions of the Final Report and Order are therefore void and have no effect on Huntington;

D. ..., a determination that the execution of the Acts 46 and 49, culminating in the Final Report and Order, violates Due Process and the VAPA as it relates to Huntington, and that the Final Report and Order as it relates to Huntington is void;

E. A permanent injunction preventing the State Board of Education, Agency of Education, and Mount Mansfield from forcing the merger of Huntington, taking or affecting any assets of Huntington, and exercising any authority purportedly under Acts 46 or 49 in relation to Huntington; ...”

The CESU-MMUSD Board approved a \$16,000 increase to the budget to cover estimated legal costs to defend against the HSB law suits (2) and to petition the State Board of Education to directly become a Supervisory District with or without Huntington.

Since Huntington is not represented by the same representatives as the rest of the towns in the MMMUSD, determining who represents whom for what reasons can be complicated (reporter opinion).

The HSB also submitted a MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION and MOTION FOR STAY, the document directly impacting the operations of MMMUSD now. The MOTION asks that MMUSD be prevented from holding a vote (directed in the

State Board of Education’s Final Report and Order) to accept (or not) the Huntington School District into the planned unified district, thus allowing the modified union to become a single district, a Supervisory District.

As of press time, there are three bills that have been introduced in this Legislative session: H. 39 to extend the deadline for merging; H. 41 to require the Agency of Education to evaluate the successes and failures of Act 46; and H. 42 calling for a moratorium on school district mergers ordered by the State Board of Education until legal issues are adjudicated (taken from wording of H.42). All three bills have the same 13 sponsors, most of whom represent districts that are legally contesting the State Board “orders” to merge.

Also, as of press time, the MMMUSD has responded to the summons and complaint by submitting a memorandum of law to the court, asking the court to dismiss it from the case, relying mostly on making the case that none of the issues in the complaint are “ripe.” It appears (quick reporter, not researched opinion) that ripe may mean not relevant as MMMUSD has not been ordered to do anything, the order should be attributed to the two other defendants (the State Board of Education and the Agency of Education).

These legal documents are available for public review, if the reader would like copies, please contact the HSB care of Tara Fowler, Vice Chair of the Huntington School Board, or for the MMMUSD document contact that Board, Andrew Pond, Chair.

The Huntington Education Coalition, Incorporated is the business name for the state non-profit business corporation taking donations to pay for the Huntington School Board’s legal costs related to the Act 46 — Paul Gillies, the attorney who was hired to represent the HSB and prepare legal challenges to Act 46.



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Into the Woods

Town Forests

Submitted by Ethan Tapper

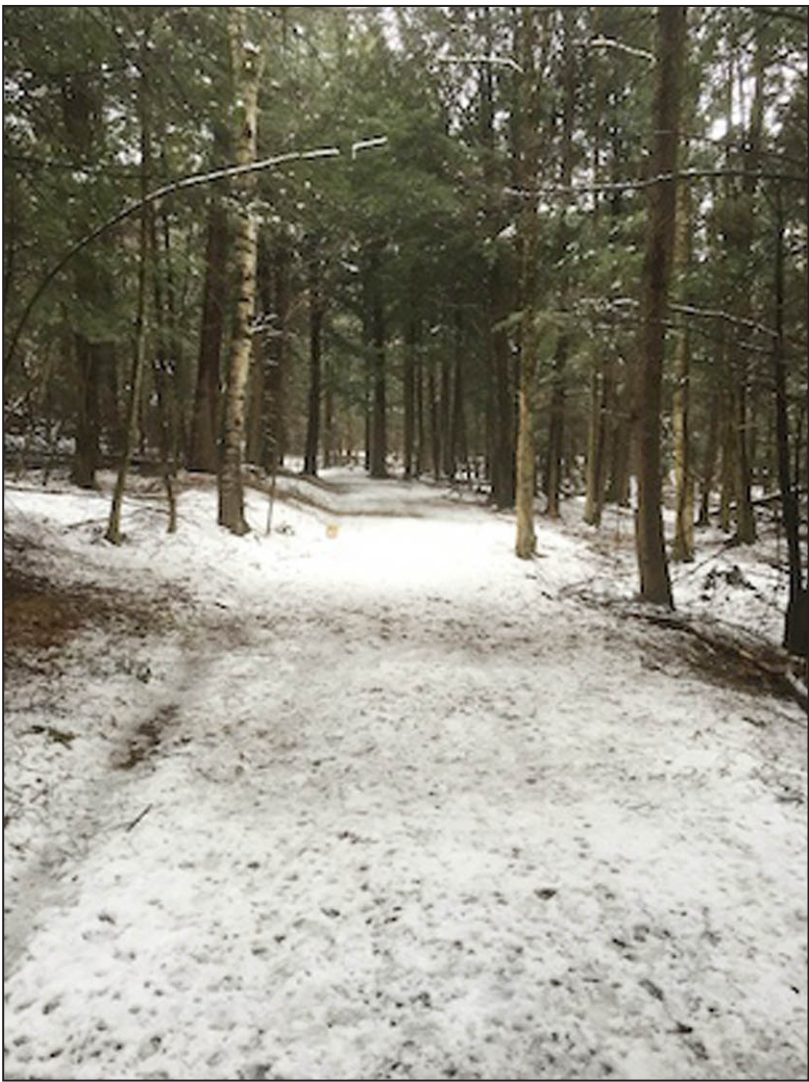
If you live in Vermont, chances are that you live near a town forest. Whether they are called a Town Forest, Natural Area, Country Park, Conservation Area, Community Forest, or Municipal Forest, town forests can be simply defined as a primarily forested property owned by a municipality. In Chittenden County, we have about a dozen town forests, and one of my roles as County Forester is help communities manage these resources.

Vermont’s first Municipal Forest Bill passed in 1915. This bill, which described town forests as “a tract of land primarily devoted to producing wood products, maintaining wildlife habitat, protecting water supplies, providing forest recreation and conservation education,” gave municipalities the ability to acquire forested land. Town forests were eligible for assistance from the State: as much as half of the cost of their acquisition and reforestation, up to \$600 per biennium in 1946. This bill was well-timed, as much of the 75% of Vermont that was deforested in the previous two centuries was beginning to revert back to forest in the early 1900s. This trend was bolstered by the Great Depression and westward expansion, among other factors, which forced many farmers to move out, give up on farming, and/or give up their land. Some towns capitalized on this trend to acquire future town forests, modeling responsible forest, and public land, management in an increasingly forested landscape. The 840-acre Hinesburg Town Forest, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is an example of this, comprised of tax-derelict hill farms acquired by the town between the 1930s and 1950s.

As restoration and reforestation projects, town forests (in addition to private land), were

widely planted with conifer plantations, particularly red, white and Scotch pine, and Norway spruce. These plantations were established with the European idea of the “regulated forest” in mind, the philosophy that humans should control every variable in a forest to grow timber as efficiently as possible. These plantations sometimes grew timber quickly, but they were generally not what we now understand to be “healthy” forests: forests that are diverse, resilient to disturbance and provide high-quality habitat and other ecosystem services.

The first generation of town forests in Chittenden County are some of our most iconic. In addition to the Hinesburg Town Forest, the Essex Junction Village Forest, now called Saxon Hill, was regarded nationally as an example of a well-managed (plantation) forest. This property, at one time over 800 acres in size, supplied water to Essex Junction beginning in 1905. It was joined by the 501-acre Indian Brook Reservoir property, acquired by Essex Junction in 1955 for the same purpose. The Milton Town Forest, which surrounds Milton Pond, secured Milton’s water supply starting in 1923.



A peaceful walk on a logging trail leading into the woods. Photo: Knox Cummin

New strategies are being used to acquire a new generation of town forests today. The LaPlatte Headwaters Town Forest in Hinesburg, Andrews Town Forest in Richmond, Preston Pond Conservation Area in Bolton and Maple Shade Town Forest in Westford are examples of town forests acquired using conservation funds,

among other state, federal, and private funding sources. These, and most new town forests, are conserved, meaning they can never be subdivided or developed, ensuring that they will remain a valuable resource for generations to come.

Town forests usually support a diverse variety of uses, including recreation (walking and running, sometimes mountain biking, Nordic skiing and horseback riding), hunting, forest management, and education. I am particularly excited about town forests as places to demonstrate responsible forest management and show how this can interact positively with some of these other uses. The coexistence of these uses is not always harmonious; when conflicts inevitably arise it is up to the Town (usually in the form of a Conservation Commission or Town Forest Committee) to chart a path forward. This is done through a combination of management planning, community engagement and tough decision-making, and it is done by those who know the town best – its citizens. While having a say in how State or Federally-owned public lands are managed may be challenging, getting involved in the management of your town

forest is usually as simple as showing up to a public meeting at the town hall once a month. Get out and enjoy these public resources, and get involved in their management. The shape that these lands take is, ultimately, up to you.

You can find a map of Vermont’s town forests at <https://vtcommunityforestry.org/YourVT-TownForest>.

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

Towns of Richmond & Huntington

Positions Open for March 5, 2019 Town Meeting Vote by Australian Ballot

RICHMOND

Position	Length of Term
Moderator	1 year
Town Clerk	3 years
Town Treasurer	3 years
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Constable	1 year
Cemetery Trustee	5 years
Cemetery Trustee (remainder of 5-year term)	1 year
Library Trustee	5 years
MMMU School Director 2 positions	3 years

Petitions must contain 1% of the eligible voters from the Town of Richmond (30 names) and must be submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 28, 2019.

HUNTINGTON

Position	Length of Term
Auditor	3 years
Brewster-Pierce School Director	3 years
Brewster-Pierce School Director	2 years
Cemetery Trustee	5 years
Library Trustee (2 positions)	3 years
Lister	3 years
Moderator, Town / School	1 year
Planning Commission (2 positions)	3 years
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Town Agent	1 year
Town Grand Juror	1 year

In order to run for any office, you must pick up a petition at the Town Clerk’s Office and obtain signatures from 1% of the registered voters in Huntington (16 people) and fill out a consent of candidate form. These forms are also available at www.huntingtonvt.org

The petition must be returned to the Huntington Town Clerk’s Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 28, 2019.

A consent of candidate form is due at the same time. Petitions consent forms are available at the Town Clerk’s Office.

17 V.S.A. §2681(b), 2681(a)(3). The nominating petition, accompanied by a consent of candidate form, must be filed with the municipal clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day of the election.

CESU Pre-K Opportunities

The Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District (MMUSD) and Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) announce Pre-K opportunities for the 2019-2020 school year. These opportunities are available to residents of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond and Underhill. Under the Universal Pre-K bill (Act 166) all 3, 4, and 5- year-olds (not yet eligible for kindergarten) may receive 10 hours per week of publicly-funded Pre-K for 35 weeks. This education can be in any pre-qualified Center or Home-based program with a tuition of \$3356 paid to the provider by the school district. If a child attends a public school-based Pre-K, the program is free of charge.

Current Families in the Program Families already in the program can go to the Power-School Parent Portal and fill out the enrollment form at: <https://cesu.powerschool.com/public>. Once logged in click on the Quick Links” - “Powerteacher Portal Home - then click on eCollect forms February 12, 2019. If you have any difficulty with this process contact data@cesuvt.org (Note that Private Partners also have separate enrollments).

If you have any additional questions, contact PreK Coordinator Kathi Apgar at 434-2128 or kathi.apgar@cesuvt.org.

Area Residents Honored



The 2018 Jury of Fellows from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) elevated 152 member-architects to the prestigious College of Fellows, an honor awarded to members who have made significant contributions to the architecture profession. Among those selected was **Brian Mac**, FAIA, a resident of Waterbury and a principal in the firm Birdseye of Richmond.

The AIA Fellowship program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. Election to fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of architects as individuals, but also their significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level.

Of this honor, Mac said, “I am humbled and honored to be listed amongst my architectural heroes. The College of Fellows reflects a diversity of contribution, at the highest level, to the profession of architecture. My gratitude toward those who contributed to my application is beyond words. My colleagues at Birdseye and those who wrote letters of recommendation on my behalf all contributed in a positive way that really moved me. Their narrative reflected a spirit of professionalism and authenticity that embodied why I love practicing architecture in Vermont.”

Out of a total AIA membership of over 90,000, approximately three percent are distinguished with the honor of fellowship. The elevation to fellowship is conferred on architects with at least 10 years of membership in the AIA in one or more of four nomination categories:

- 1) promoting the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession;
- 2) advancing the science and art of planning and building via improved architectural education;
- 3) leadership in the AIA and other related organizations; or
- 4) advancing the living standards of people through an improved environment.

Mac has received an astounding 12 AIAVT and AIANE awards in a 14-year period for design excellence in collaboration with the Birdseye

team. In addition, Birdseye received three additional AIAVT awards this year, which were presented at the Annual Design Awards event in December. He has also received several international design awards.

Brian Mac’s winning projects will be exhibited along with the 33 other entries to the 2018 AIAVT Annual Design Awards throughout 2019 at various locations around the state. Details and images for all of the winning projects can be found at: <https://www.aiavt.org/awards/18awards/>

AIA Vermont, the Vermont Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, is an organization of architectural design professionals dedicated to enhancing the quality of our built environment, and thereby the quality of life. The Chapter endeavors to bring together and serve all who are interested in the art and science of architecture. AIA Vermont aspires to increase the public’s knowledge and understanding of the architectural profession, expand the knowledge of all participating in the architectural process and improve the quality of services provided by architectural professionals.

President's List Fall 2018

Jacob Peet, Richmond, Castleton University, Castleton.

To qualify for this highest academic honor, the student must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 4.0.

Castleton University is small enough to be a community where every student matters, yet offers more than 75 programs of study for undergraduate and graduate students, 28 varsity sports, and over 50 clubs and organizations. The university stresses experiential learning through internships, community service and research opportunities provided by more than 400 community partnerships.

Emilie Coffin, Richmond, Hudson Valley Community College, Troy, New York, Individual Studies academic program

Each fall and spring term, the college's President's List names those full-time students

and part-time students registered for at least six college credits who have a term average of between 3.5 and 4.0 and who received no grade of "D," "F," "I," "Z," or "W" on their record for that term. Students must have completed at least 12 college credits successfully.

Vermont Technical College

Students received a GPA of 4.0 or higher.

Aaron Hogan, Jericho, Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Matthew Eells, Jericho, Electrical Engineering Technology (BS).

Molly Friedeborn, Richmond, Veterinary Technology.

Clarkson University

Rylee LeBourveau, Jericho, business studies major

William Martin, Starksboro, mechanical engineering

Rachel Rackliff, Jericho, environmental engineering

Dean's List

Jay L. Chandler, Huntington, Class of 2021, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, 3.850 GPA. To qualify for the Dean’s List undergraduate students must receive a term GPA of 3.5 or higher for 12.0 or more graded credit hours.

Kathryn Devlin, Bolton, Class of 2019, Studio Art major, Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire. To qualify for the Dean's List students must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours in graded courses.

Peter Christiana, Huntington, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. To qualify for this academic honor, the student must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5.

Castleton University, Castleton

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

Erik Andersen, Richmond

Derek Lautenschlager, Jericho

Cole Preavy-Carrier, of Richmond

Austin Purinton, Huntington

Kaitlin Scherber, Richmond

Erin Sulva, Jericho

Kurtis Swahn, Jericho

University of Vermont, Burlington

Brandon Aguiar, Jericho

Andrea Barton, Jericho

Ella Bergin, Jericho

Brianna Borch, Jericho

Grace Butler, Huntington

Thomas Chivers, Jericho

Alison Chivers, Jericho

Anna Coffin, Richmond

Jacob Crawford, Jericho

Katherine Cyr, Richmond

Maria Dewey-Barski, Richmond

Sara Domas, Richmond

Clara Douglas, Jericho

Steven Garcia, Jericho

Amanda Grzywna, Richmond

Nicole Grzywna, Richmond

Connor Hamilton, Huntington

Maia Hendrickson, Huntington

Lauren Johnson, Jericho

Dyani Jones, Jericho

Nicole Lawrence, Jericho

Kira Mincar, Richmond

Zoey November, Huntington

Jack Parker, Richmond

Maeve Poleman, Richmond

Cory Raymond, Richmond

Jackson Rettew, Jericho

Allyson Rigutto, Huntington

Oliver Waite, Richmond

Area Graduates

The following students recently graduated from Castleton University and will be recognized during the 232nd Commencement on Saturday, May 18 at the Castleton Pavilion.

Erik Andersen, Richmond

Erin Barch, Richmond

Vermont Tech nounced that the following students have all graduated during the Fall 2018 semester.

Tyler Berliner, Richmond, Business Technology and Management (BS) program.

Brandon Mansfield, Starksboro, Agribusiness Management Technology (AAS) program.

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Neither Snow, Nor Sleet

Huntington's Search and Rescue team took advantage of the exceptional early winter snowstorm on November 28th to go through the steps of a typical call to assist an injured hiker on Camels Hump. The team assembled at the Huntington Volunteer Fire Department station to organize, plan, and coordinate with neighboring teams. A Hasty Team composed of an EMT and another team member went out

first as the Hasty Team to make contact with the hiker while the rest of the team set up a control point at the Burrows parking lot, then followed up the trail with a litter rigged for use as a sled. With deep unconsolidated fresh snow, the sled worked well for the move down the trail to the parking lot and a simulated transfer to an ambulance. Opportunities for realistic hands-on training are always welcome.



Miles Jenness and Ira Gray prepare the litter for movement uptrail. Photos: Bill Menning



Above, snowshoes and fresh snow can make for good sledding! Below, Ira Gray acting as Incident Commander keeps track of activities from HSAR command post.



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Letters

continued from page 2

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Please call or email Kir Talmage or Allison Gergely with any questions. We can be reached at 802 434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org.

We look forward to seeing your works.

Birds of Vermont Museum

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Cost of Vermont College

My name is Adriana, and I'm a first-generation college student from a low-income household. Because of this I was not only encouraged to go to college, I was expected to. My parents had seen the struggles associated with not having a degree first-hand. They taught me that through hard work and dedication, I could achieve a post-high school education. When it came time to review my financial aid packages and choose a college, however, it became clear that earning good grades would not be the determining factor in whether or not I would go to college. It would be cost.

Secondary education is essential to succeed in this society. A college degree today is what a high school diploma was a few decades ago. Higher education is no longer optional; it's necessary. Yet more than half - 63% - of Vermont's high school graduates from low-income families do not continue to college. The story is not much better for those from higher income

brackets, with 42% of all Vermont high school graduates not continuing to college. They simply cannot afford it.

Why? Vermont ranks last in the nation for state funding per student. That means that our tuition is higher here than other state college systems. It is time for our elected officials to better fund our state colleges and help make college affordable for Vermonters.

I have made it work, just barely. I am in my junior year at Northern Vermont University, Johnson, and am double majoring in Studio Arts and Journalism. While I have been able to stay above water, I have seen many of my fellow students drop out because their financial aid bill couldn't cover all of their tuition expenses. I've seen people create go-fund-me campaigns on social media to try and cover expenses. I've seen students fail because they couldn't buy the textbook or the supplies needed for their class. I've had friends, full of potential and promise, with the drive to continue their education, drop out because they simply couldn't afford college any longer.

My college degree will translate into a better career in my adulthood. Vermont is hemorrhaging intelligent, working-age adults because it has created an environment where education is highly valued but unaffordable to access. The fact that Vermont ranks 50th in the nation for higher education funding per student should be unacceptable to every single person in this state. Our lawmakers who head back to Montpelier this month should also find this reality unacceptable and should find it a priority to right this wrong.

While I cannot speak for every college student in the Vermont State College system, I know we all have this in common: we want to be successful, we want to graduate and we want to find good paying jobs. Your sons and daughters. Your grandchildren. And most of us want to do that right here in Vermont. These goals shouldn't be out of reach for Vermonters because our state chooses not to meaningfully invest in our state college system. Increase funding in our state college system, and you will receive generations of hard working, successful citizens.

Holiday Boxes Show Great Community Effort



David Martini, Henry R. Carse and Jane Rice at the end of their efforts to prepare produce bags to go out for delivery. Photo: Heidi Rach

Two weekends before Christmas, a group of Huntington volunteers assembled, filled and delivered boxes of food to 29 families and gift bags of fruit and homemade treats to 21 people in the community.

It was a great effort that started about six weeks before the delivery date. Wrapping paper and tape were purchased, the list of recipients was reviewed, the checkbook was ready to go. Colorful collection boxes were placed in hot spots around the town for people to place nonperishable food.

Clean, flat boxes, donated by Rhino Foods in Burlington, were covered by the Huntington Girl Scouts at an evening meeting and finished by a small group of volunteers the night before delivery. They did a great job and we used every one. Thanks to Jessica Barrett Grimm for picking up the boxes and bringing them to the school.

A food list was given to Linda Pecor at Beaudry's Store, Kathy Kort for in-town shopping and Brice Busier at Lantman's Market in Hinesburg.

On the Friday afternoon before the big push, Gary and Jonathan Riggs and Anthony Purington brought cases and cases of food from Lantman's, Justin Rich of Burnt Rock Farm in Huntington brought big bags of beautiful potatoes, onions, and carrots - all donated.

On Friday, a small group met at the school after supper. They covered more boxes with colorful wrapping paper and set up the tables with the boxes and then took the food out of the cases. Everything was ready for Saturday morning.

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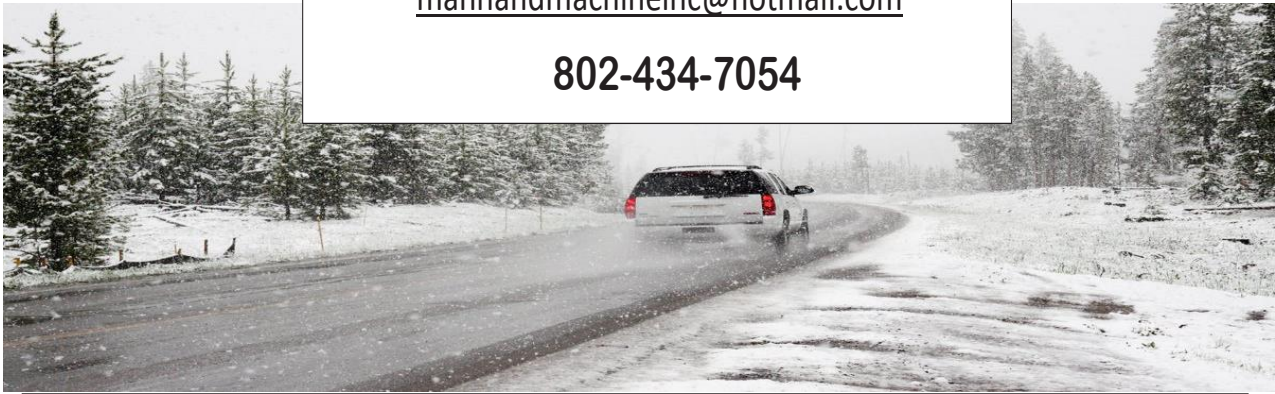
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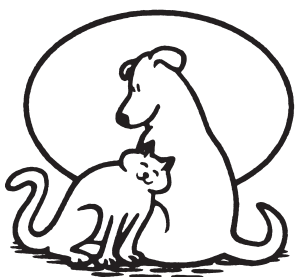
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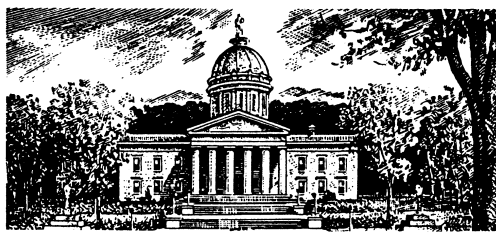
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State House News

Rep. Theresa Wood

The 2019 Legislative Session started with all of the pomp and circumstance befitting an inauguration. Governor Phil Scott was sworn into office along with all of the other elected officials. As representatives, we all took the oath of office, promising to uphold the Vermont and United States Constitutions. Representative Mitzi Johnson was elected Speaker of the House for her 2nd term – notably nominated by representatives of both the Democratic and Republican parties.

We received our committee assignments and many faces have changed seats, along with 40 new representatives, so committees have many new members. I was fortunate among all of those changes, to have regained my appointment to the House Human Services Committee and at our first committee meeting, I was again elected Clerk. No bills have been introduced or assigned to our committee in the first three days of the session, but that will change very soon. Our committee is guided by the following principles:

- Ensuring that vulnerable Vermonters are safe and protected
- Ensuring systems are maintained to assist Vermonters to move out of poverty
- Ensuring that we address problems and remove barriers that can lead to even greater costs to the State
- Ensuring that all Vermonters have access to services and supports that will enable them to attain their highest level of independence and realize their potential.

I will keep residents informed through weekly Front Porch Forum postings and monthly articles in THE TIMES INK. As always, you can reach me either by phone or email.

Rep. Tom Stevens

And we're off!

Opening day of the 2019-2020 Biennium was Wednesday, January 9, and the pomp and circumstance continued through the next day, with the inauguration of Governor Scott. I always have to remind myself that patience is needed at the beginning of the biennium — there are no bills yet to consider, there are brand new legislators who need to be assigned to committees and learn the elements of their subject matter, and everyone is settling in for what will be sure to be an interesting ride over the next two years.

Looking back first, though, I would like to thank you for your support, especially over the last two years. I have not been as physically present in your community as I would have liked, and I apologize for that. I don't usually like to mix my personal life with my professional, but I'm human and things happen. I have been dealing with the failing health and death of my mother, and planning for the future care of a brother who has Down Syndrome. Much of my free time was taken by trips out of state and will again this year, but much less frequently. Quite a bit of local presence has been covered by Rep. Wood, for which I am grateful. Nevertheless, I

remain accessible to you and encourage you to reach out to me on any issue.

On the first day of session, I was appointed Chair of the General, Housing and Military Affairs Committee. I have served my entire legislative career on this committee and was vice chair the last four years. During that time, our committee, under the leadership of Rep. Helen Head of South Burlington, passed bills that increased the minimum wage, instituted paid sick days, gender free bathrooms, provided state recognition of local Abenaki bands, outlawed discrimination against pregnant women and protected the employment of Vermonters who were victims of crimes and needed time to seek justice in court. We have worked on legislation that has provided improvement in mobile home parks and increased the number of affordable housing units across the state, as well as developing a mechanism to provide help



Reps. Theresa Wood, Tom Stevens, Marcia Lawrence Gardner

for first time home buyers. We passed legislation that created the Veteran's check off on your tax form, where you can donate a portion of your tax return to organizations that help our vets. And we have passed legislation that allows our burgeoning craft beer, wine and liquor industries to mature responsibly.

And now, I have the opportunity of chairing this committee, and I am humbled by the faith shown in me by Speaker Mitzi Johnson. I am proud of the work this committee does, because it keeps me in touch with my constituents — you — by dealing with the everyday issues that affect us all.

Looking ahead, and while there are no bills of note posted as of yet, I am sure we will be contemplating bills that will increase the minimum wage and institute a paid leave policy that will be meaningful for Vermonters needing time to take care of their families — young and old — and themselves. It is expensive to live in Vermont — really, everywhere — and the main reason is because wages have stagnated for the lower and middle classes. We are being paid the same, but the prices of food, housing, health insurance and the costs of taking care of

the least fortunate among us keep increasing. A minimum wage is a start for those who must work at that level of pay, and it won't solve the "livability" problem many Vermonters have. But we must reduce the stress that comes with poverty and the shame that comes from not being able to pay your bills, even if you have a good job, by developing policies that create the tools Vermonters can use to achieve that baseline.

I look forward to working with and for you in the coming months. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at anytime.

Rep. Marcia L. Gardner

As of this writing, the 2019-20 legislative session has just begun. I have been reassigned to the House Committee on Government Operations, the same committee on which I served last session.

With my 19 years of experience in state government, this committee is a good fit for me, and I am pleased with my assignment.

The first few days have been spent on trainings and formalities. Nominating and voting in the Speaker of the House was one of the first orders of business. Representative Mitzi Johnson from South Hero was reelected for the second session in a row. Statewide officers, including the Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, and Attorney General, were confirmed and sworn in, as were the Lieutenant Governor and Governor. Training in preventing and identifying

sexual harassment was received by the General Assembly from our Legislative Council, and security measures, both for the building in general and personal safety, were presented by the Capitol Police.

People have asked me what issues will come to the Legislature this session, but that is difficult to say. Speaker Johnson laid out some of her priorities for the session in her acceptance speech. She spoke of paid leave for workers and increased wages. Paid family leave and increasing the minimum wage were both included in bills that passed the House and Senate last session, but were vetoed by the Governor. She also spoke about education, diversity and economic equity, expanding broadband service, and strengthening agriculture, especially the dairy industry. And Johnson warned of climate change, and how it impacts the Vermont environment and economy.

In his inaugural address, the Governor spoke of reinforcing what is good in our state, such as low crime, good health care and education. He also spoke of the high cost of living in Vermont, needing to lower the tax burden, lowering health insurance rates, and attracting more workers to the state. And he listed a paid family leave program, education, and expanding broadband as priorities. So, in the first days of the session, the legislative and administrative agendas have many similarities and common goals. If we can all keep in mind our common goals, perhaps we can work together in determining how best to reach them.

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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 February 12, 2019, at 7:15 pm at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office in Huntington Center to review the following application:

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

Mark and Marijke Smith, 1425 Bert White Road, Huntington, for a Conditional Use Review to change four lot lines on a 10-lot approved Planned Unit Development / recorded mylar: Lot 6 (1.07 acres to 1.26 acres), Lot 7 (.41 acres to 2.77 acres), Lot 8 (.44 acres to .84 acres) and Lot 9 (.51 acres to 2.13 acres) with corresponding reduction in common land (Lot 10, from 131.82 acres to 127.70 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).

—Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk, January 21, 2019

News from Area Churches



Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

Have you ever experienced something in nature that stopped you in your tracks and called you to pay attention? On the Winter Solstice, December 21, 2018 this rainbow briefly appeared after afternoon rain showers. I pulled over and snapped this photo over Gifford's Funeral Home in downtown Richmond. For those of a Jewish and Christian orientation, the rainbow is believed to be a symbol of God's

covenant promise to always care for God's people and creation. It seemed an important reminder on the day of the year with the least daylight, over a funeral home, nonetheless. Perhaps this rainbow is also a reminder of our human responsibility to care for God's creation. As we begin 2019, may we take moments to stop and appreciate the everyday beauty that is all around us!

Upcoming Events at RCC
Annual Meeting and Brunch, February 10

Letters

continued from page 13



Winter Projects... Stay Warm Inside ... and Outside.





Richmond Home Supply
99 Railroad Street • Richmond
434-2887
MON-FRI 7-5:30 • SAT 8-4:30 • SUN 8:30-1:30

BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
True Value



Some of the group who worked on the Huntington Holiday Food Boxes before Christmas. Photo: Alison Forrest

On Friday, Barrett Grimm drove to Shelburne Farms to pick up the cheese donation. Tom Brown picked up the food from Beaudry's Store and the Brown family picked up the rest of the food from various points in town.

It was a wonderful year all around – lots of donated food, plenty of donated money to purchase fresh fruit, vegetables, bread and other items, a great crew of volunteers made the deliveries, (and a perfect day – clear and not too cold).

The generous donations made by many residents enabled us to buy extra turkeys and put roasting

chickens in some boxes. And, this also helped to fund gift certificates for food at two stores, which can be used for gas and healthy food (Beaudry's) and healthy food (Lantman's).

Key to the success of the entire operation are Lucinda Hill, who handles the cash donations and balances the checkbook (among many other things), and Sandy Heyman, who works closely on developing the list of recipients and is a key organizer on the day of the box delivery. Paula Kelley has capably taken on filling the gift bags, which have fresh homemade bread from Amy Seidl and the Goodyear girls, plus holiday cookies from Julia Ginorio and Alison Forrest, and sparkling cider from Citizen Cider. What a great treat! Each box and bag had a handmade card from Huntington Cub Pack 645. Jane Rice and David Martini coordinate the assembly of over 60 bags of produce that go out with each box and gift bag.

Many people of all ages come in to fill boxes and deliver them. We have many of the same volunteers who are so dedicated to this project and always have new volunteers, including high schoolers doing community service. It is great to see families with young children taking out food to neighbors - such holiday spirit! And such a nice family tradition! Thanks to all!

—Heidi Racht, Huntington



Loon Song Healing

Local Reiki Master
Jackie Pichette

802-734-2479
loonsonghealing@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 among 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 (chewiebr@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).

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

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

National Pet Dental Health Month

The VVMA (Vermont Veterinary Medical Association) reminds all pet owners that February is National Pet Dental Health Month. Sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), National Pet Dental Health Month message reminds pet owners that dental health is a very important part of your pet's overall health. Your pet's teeth and gums should be checked at least once a year by your veterinarian to check for early signs of a problem and to keep your pet's mouth healthy.

Veterinary dentistry includes the scaling, polishing, extraction, or repair of your pet's teeth and all other aspects of oral health care. These procedures must be performed by a veterinarian and begins with an oral exam of your pet's mouth. If there is dental disease present, dental work will be recommended. Most dental disease occurs below the gumline, where you can't see it, so dental work is all performed under anesthesia in order to be safe and effective. Signs of dental disease include bad breath, broken or loose teeth, abnormal chewing or drooling. One may also notice bleeding from the mouth, reduced appetite, and swelling around the mouth. If you

FEBRUARY 4: Vermont Astronomical Society: Astro-imaging with a Portable Telescope by Steve Grimsley. Discussion will include telescope resolution, optical speed, sensor sampling, and camera efficiency and how these parameters play into a quality image capture; a series of astronomy photos will show the advantages of efficient image acquisition; the telescope, assembled and on displays. 7:30 pm to 9pm, Brownell Library, Essex Junction.

notice any of these signs, schedule an exam for your pet.

Periodontal disease is the most common dental condition in dogs and cats, in fact by the time your pet is 3 years old there is an estimated 70 percent chance they will have periodontal disease. The earlier it is detected, the faster treatment can be recommended, which is important as advanced periodontal disease can cause severe problems and pain for your pet. Periodontal disease is an inflammatory condition of the gum and bone support (periodontal tissues) surrounding the teeth. It starts with plaque that hardens into calculus. Calculus above the gumline can often easily be seen and removed, but below the gumline it is damaging and can cause infections and damage to the tissues or bone. This can cause loose teeth, bone loss, pain around the tooth, and fractured teeth.

Daily brushing is best, but it's not always possible and brushing several times a week can be effective.

Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Learn Something New in 2019, Part 2

This column continues where last month's left off with more ways you can learn something new this year.

1. **CVU's Access Program** offers a huge array of courses on intriguing topics that fall into these categories: awesome arts, all things edible, language and music, dance, fitness and yoga, computer, technology and photography, living it up, and one night university. You can learn about bird-watching hot spots in our area, Smartphone photography, Middle Eastern cuisine, Italian for travelers, and how to play the ukulele. The list goes on and on.

2. Check out **OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute)** at UVM. (<https://learn.uvm.edu/program/osher-life-long-learning/>) It's a community of adult learners who enjoy diverse courses and interesting events year round. Courses coming up include Drawing in the Greenhouse, Musical "isms": An Introduction to Music in the 20th Century, Ancient Teachings on Mindfulness, classes on yoga, pilates, cooking, and local field trips to the Fleming Museum, Shelburne Vineyards, and an historical walking tour of Burlington. These are only a few of the fascinating courses being offered.

3. **Education and Enrichment for Everyone** offer lectures by experts, mostly on current affairs, that occur on Fridays from February to April at the Faith United Methodist Church in South Burlington. Topics coming up in 2019 include Immigration Debates in the Contemporary World, Modernist Architecture in Vermont, and

Owls of Vermont. You can see the other topics and the schedule at eevermont.org.

4. **Field trips** are another way of learning. Have you been to the Vermont History Museum in Montpelier? Their award-winning Freedom and Unity exhibit presents a compelling history of the state from the first inhabitants to the present. Visitors walk through time and experience a full-sized Abenaki wigwam, a re-creation of the Catamount Tavern where Ethan Allen's Green Mountain Boys gathered, a railroad station complete with a working telegraph and a World War II era living room furnished with period music and magazines.

The State House next door offers informative tours. In neighboring Barre, the Vermont History Center has rotating exhibits with "Anything for Speed: Automobile Racing in Vermont" currently on view through March. Perkins Geology Museum at the University of Vermont is another interesting place to visit. Featured exhibits include the Charlotte Whale and a triceratops skull. The Vermont National Guard Museum in Colchester is a small museum featuring a new WWII exhibit. If you google Vermont Museums, you'll find many more places to visit.

5. If you can't find a topic that interests you at any of these sites, then you can choose your own subject and create a plan for learning more about it. **Read books, watch videos, and search the internet.** Perhaps you can find others interested in the same subject and form a study group through the Community Senior Center.

Wishing you happy learning in 2019.

There is no limit to what you can learn.

—Jane Vossler

Audubon Exhibit Photography Awards

Visit the Audubon Photography Awards exhibit at The Gallery at Main Street Landing and walk among the winning bird photographs from this year's contest. Learn more about your local birdlife and Audubon Vermont's conservation, education, and policy work.

The Audubon Photography Awards Exhibit runs until Tuesday, January 29.

Photographs were selected from more than 8,000 entries submitted by photographers from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 10 Canadian provinces. This year's photographs celebrate the splendor of many bird species protected under the 100-year-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act

(MBTA), the most important bird conservation law, which is currently under siege in Congress and by the Department of the Interior.

Photographers submitted images in three categories: professional, amateur, and youth. A panel of five judges sifted through the stunning images and grading them based on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit. All photographers must follow AUDUBON'S GUIDE TO ETHICAL BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY.

The Gallery at Main Street Landing is located in the CornerStone building street level at 3 Main Street. The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 8 am-8 pm; Saturday and Sunday, 10 am-8 pm.

Ag Career Day at UVM

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H and the UVM Department of Animal and Veterinary Sciences will sponsor a free Agriculture Career Day, February 8, for high school and college students interested in exploring career opportunities involving agriculture, animals or nutrition.

It will take place at the Dudley H. Davis Center on the UVM campus in Burlington from 9 am to noon. The program includes a series of lightning-round presentations followed by more in-depth round-table discussions on careers in animal care, nutrition education, agronomy, vineyard and orchard management and diversified agriculture, among others.

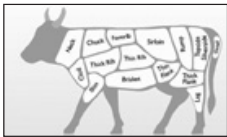
Speakers represent several state agencies including the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets—Animal Health Division. Staff from the Humane Society of Chittenden County, the UVM Office of Animal Care Management and ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain also will be on hand to share information on career possibilities.

Preregistration is required. To register, or if requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Wendy Sorrell, UVM Extension 4-H livestock educator, by January 25 at 651-8343, ext. 513, or toll-free at (800) 571-0668, ext. 513. Or email her at wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu.

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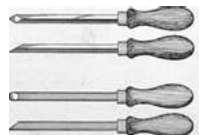
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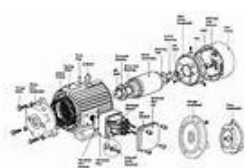
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OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

2019 Schedule

January 10 deadline

January 24 issue

Town Meeting Preview

February 7 deadline

February 21 issue

March 14 deadline

March 28 issue

April 11 deadline

April 25 issue

May 9 deadline

May 23 issue

June 13 deadline

June 27 issue

August 1 deadline

August 15 issue

September 12 deadline

September 26 issue

October 10 deadline

October 24 issue

Holiday Issues

November 7 deadline

November 21 issue

December 5 deadline

December 19 issue

2018 Weather continued



Investment in peace of mind. Drought in the summer 2018 caused many local residents to lose water, despite conservation efforts. Contributor Bob Low was one resident who was forced to drill a well when his surface spring ran dry after 45 years.

temperatures. By month’s end, 40-plus inches of snow had fallen for us during November and December, 116 inches for the calendar year.

We were not alone, extreme weather events of all sorts occurred world-wide. Phoenix had record heat and major fires in California and Arizona were harbingers of the deadly fires to come later to California. Massive flooding occurred in our Mid-West. Extreme winter cold characterized Europe, witness the snowball fights at the Vatican in Rome early in the year. July brought the highest temperature ever to Japan and Korea while Europe and the United Kingdom were in the midst of a record-breaking heat wave. 2018 brought the highest ocean temperatures ever recorded. Temperatures in the 80s were recorded above the Arctic circle, the warmest Arctic winter on record. At the other pole, massive loss of ice in the Antarctic brought the total loss to some 3 trillion tons of ice since 1992. These and other events such as Gulf and Mid-Atlantic Hurricanes, and devastating Far East Typhoons, are taking the word “natural” out of natural weather events disasters.

The Fourth National Climate Assessment describes how climate change has affected the ecological playing field. Economic loss, interconnected impacts on social systems, human health, water quality, disrupted ecosystems, native populations that live close to the land illustrate the affected. The proposed Paris Accord goal of limiting temperature increase to 2C already is a pipe dream, with greenhouse gases emissions at record high. Indeed, CO2 emissions in the US rose some 3.4% in 2018, the largest in 8 years and after 3 years of decline. Culprits include prolonged cold spells and heat waves, transportation, the economy, residential / commercial buildings (alone, a 10% increase) and Federal policy changes.

There are many examples close to home of how ecosystems are bearing the brunt of environmental change. Thus, warming temperature is impacting the composition of our forests. Increases in the beech tree population are occurring at the expense of sugar and red maple and birch, species economically preferred by loggers and many forest owners, also affecting sugar-makers as well as ultimately affecting wildlife. Declines in certain Vermont forest birds are reported. This includes aerial insectivores, such as in the flycatcher family, due partly to changes in insect population. Plant and vertebrate species likewise have been affected. Similar threats are emerging in our surrounding waters, with record warmth adversely affecting many aspects, from lobster fishing to the endangered right whale.

The evidence for human involvement is overwhelming with Science Magazine naming

climate control the lead breakdown of the year. Evolving temperature patterns at the global, local and seasonal levels precisely fit models and absolute events over the past 40 years based on anthropogenic forces alone, natural forces excluded. The alternative reality in Washington DC continues to lead to no or counterproductive actions worsening the situation. Tribalism has led to political fights over differences between the Democratic and Republican parties that either do not exist or are hugely exaggerated. Thus, many Republicans as well as Democrats believe climate change is real. However, the one party is skeptical of anything offered by the other. In a revealing study, Republicans often favor proposed climate legislation when they believe it is sponsored by a Republican but not when sponsored by a Democrat; and vice versa.

We do, however, have some control over our climate fate. There is scientific evidence that perceived risk of extreme climate events induces behavioral changes that reduce human-driven greenhouse gas production. Indeed, that reflects what we see around here with the proliferation of solar panels, installation of heat pumps and development of other energy-saving initiatives such as State Act-174. Local action is becoming all so important.

Years end and beginning of the New brought moderate winter weather featuring a spectrum of recreational opportunity. A thaw just before the end of the year followed by cold temperatures resurfaced Gillett Pond in preparation for excellent year transition skating, skiing and animal tracking, reminding us of its recreational and natural values.

The interested reader should contact the author for links to the references behind this article: Bob Low, 434-3132 or bob.low@uvm.edu

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What Goes Where???
Recycling and Composting
Refresher by CSWD.

When: Thursday Feb. 21
Where: Richmond Public Library
When: 1:30pm

Do you need a refresher on what is -- and what isn't -- recyclable in the blue containers? Is moldy pizza compostable? Ever wonder how your empty bottles & cans get sorted and sold to make new products? What is Act 148 about?

Learn the answers to those questions and much more in a presentation on recycling, composting and of course, trash, by Lauren Layn, Community Outreach Coordinator for CSWD. Figuring out “what goes where” might seem difficult, but CSWD will be here to help you!



**Community
Senior Center**

For more activities check our website:
www.cscvt.org

Neat, but biologically dead.



Insect populations reduced by 45%.
Insects: base of the terrestrial food chain.
Make the connection.
Make a change.

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OFFICIAL WARNING
MOUNT MANSFIELD MODIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 28, 2019 & March 5, 2019

The legal voters of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District comprising the voters of the town school districts of Huntington (Grades 5-12), and Bolton, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill, (all Grades PK-12) are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Mount Mansfield Union High School on **Thursday, February 28, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.** to transact any of the following business not involving Australian Ballot, the meeting is to be adjourned and reconvened in the respective polling places hereinafter named for each of the above-referenced town school districts on **Tuesday, March 5, 2019** at 7:00 a.m. (Huntington at 6:30 am) at which time the polls will open, until 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close, to transact any business involving voting by Australian Ballot.

- Article 1: To elect the following officers:
a Moderator for one year,
a Clerk for one year,
a Treasurer for one year.
- Article 2: To hear and act upon the written reports of the District Officers.
- Article 3: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?
- Article 4: This time serves as a public information hearing for public review of the 2019-20 proposed budget--for discussion purposes only.
- Article 5: To transact any other school business thought proper when met.

March 5, 2019 -- Australian Ballot Question

- Article 6: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District approve the School Board to expend **\$39,196,230**, which is the amount the School Board has determined to be necessary for the 2019-20 fiscal year?

It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of **\$15,780** per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **2.20%** higher than spending for the current year.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed, re-opened at Camels Hump Middle School in the Town of Richmond, the ballots commingled and publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill under the supervision of the Clerk of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District.

The legal voters of Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District are further warned and notified that an informational meeting will be held at Browns River Middle School in the Town of Jericho on **February 21, 2019** commencing at 6:00 pm and Mt. Mansfield Union High School in the Town of Jericho on **February 28, 2019** commencing at 6:00 pm, for the purpose of explaining the 2019-20 proposed budget.

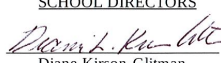
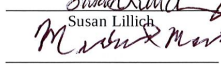
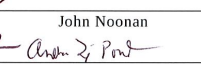
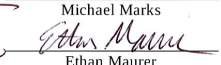
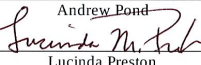
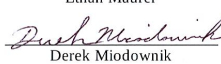
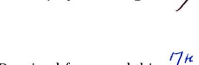
Polling Places

The voters residing in each member district will cast their ballots in the polling places designated for their town as follows:

Bolton	*	Smilie Memorial School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Huntington	*	Brewster-Pierce Memorial School	*	6:30 am - 7 pm
Jericho	*	Mt. Mansfield Union High School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Richmond	*	Camels Hump Middle School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Underhill	*	Browns River Middle School	*	7 am - 7 pm

Dated this 7th day of January, 2019.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS

 Kevin Campbell	 Diane Kirson-Glitman	 Kurt Muller
 Gail Conley	 Susan Lillich	 John Noonan
 Angelike Contis	 Michael Marks	 Andrew Pond
 Eric Gildemeister	 Ethan Maurer	 Lucinda Preston
 Edye Graning	 Derek Miodownik	 Beth Racine

Received for record this 7th day of January 2019, A.D.


Clerk, Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Rudyard Kipling

*“Eye to eye and head to head
This shall end when one is dead
Turn for turn and twist for twist
Hah! The hooded Death has missed.”*

RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI,
— Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

He may be out of favor now, but is certainly not forgotten. Rudyard Kipling continues to be one of my favorite authors and poets. I frequently pick up from my end table my beautifully illustrated copy of THE JUNGLE BOOK, which opens to RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI. It is the story of the brave little mongoose who single-handedly fought off the cobras and saved his family from the deadly snakes.

The mongoose is “rather like a little cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and his habits.” Rikk-tikki-tavi is a composite of positive traits. He is devoted, curious, brave, fearless, and quick-witted. When he was washed out of his burrow in a high summer flood, he clung to a wisp of grass till he lost his senses. A small boy found him lying in the hot sun, and, thinking he was dead, proposed to his mother they have a funeral. His mother took him into their house, dried him off and warmed him near the fire. When the little creature revived, his family fed him. The care and feeding triggered the animal’s natural curiosity and he roamed the house, spending nights awake on the

boy’s pillow. The tale tells how the brave little creature heard the dangerous snake sneak into the bathroom andwell, you know the story.

Children are inspired by the loyalty and courage of the creature.

Rudyard Kipling was born in India. He adored his talented and accomplished mother, but his parents left their children, and he did not see either of them for over five years. The boy sustained a period of acute suffering and mistreatment in an unsympathetic Calvinist household.

In recent years Kipling has been recognized as “an important poet in his own right“ by THE FOLIO SOCIETY (2004). His writings matured as he aged and his work moved from looking at the external world and more towards the internal. As a student of his time he gave voice to a wide-range of people and feelings, often using creatures to express and describe.

Tackling a broad range of material he used ballads, hymns, sonnets, odes, old songs and free verse. George Moore commented in 1904 that Kipling “writes with the whole language... No one has written as well as this since the Elizabethans, since the Bible.”

Kipling the poet did not view himself as a poet. He stated that he was “only getting things ready for the real poet who will appear about the first quarter of the next century,” he told the editor of the SPECTATOR in January of 1899. Over 120 years later, Kipling’s unique and rhythmic language have stood the test of time.

Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Bacon Vegetarian

A little over a year ago, I stopped eating meat. Since then, I have stuck to a vegetable diet, lost around 15 pounds, and feel both healthier and more energetic. However, I have not really become what most people think of as a vegetarian.

My lovely wife, Kelly, is a real vegetarian. When she looks at a cow in the field, she thinks of it with compassion and caring. I see of a food truck with hooves. If veggies had a church, she would be in the choir; I’d be in the back row, surfing my cell phone for sales on chops. There is no question I have not become what you would call a convert.

The smell of bacon cooking or meat on someone’s grill is still heavenly to me. It makes my mouth water and fills me with meaty thoughts of ribs, fried chicken, and pulled pork sandwiches. The other morning, I woke up from one of my carnivore dreams with the taste of a BLT in my mouth, a scent of bacon still lingering in the air of the bedroom. Wiping my mouth, I sat there looking around, confused but full. Those are not the dreams of a true vegetarian.

I still find myself automatically pulling up to

burger joints, drawn in by the smell of meat frying on the griddle. “What am I doing here?” I ask myself. The other day when this happened, I thought, “I could chew the cheeseburger, but not swallow it.” Great idea! Out of the car in a flash, I was almost seated when it came to me: I don’t have that much will power. It would be chew and swallow without a doubt. So, back into my car and down the road.

Don’t get me wrong. I’m enjoying great meals. I don’t feel deprived at all. If anything, I’ve discovered a whole new world of flavor. Eating continues to be a pleasure and is more diverse and interesting when compared to my old stand-by: steak, potatoes, gravy, and green peas. It is not a matter of having less, I have much more. But that doesn’t make the craving for meat go away.

Did you know they can infuse gin with bacon? That would be a great alcohol burp! Bacon now flavors almost anything : toothpaste, jelly, peanut butter, ice cream, gum, candy. Wow, bacon is everywhere. The world and I are moving in opposite directions.

That may be true, but at night in my sleep, I enjoy all the bacon I can eat.

(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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