The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
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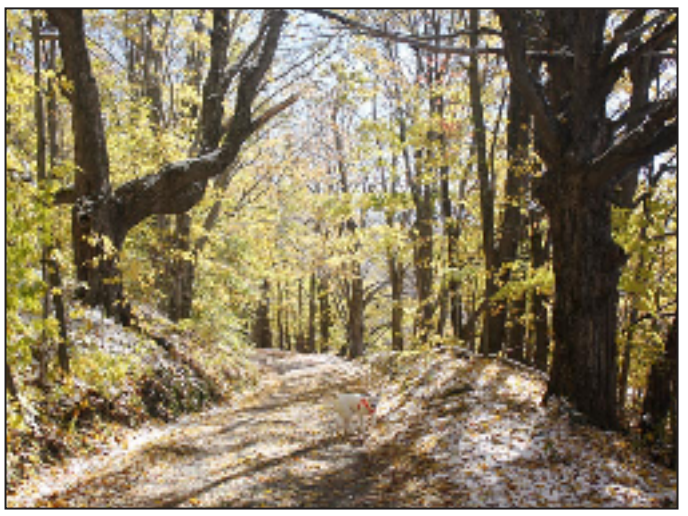
What is Fair?

Submitted by Heidi Racht

This question was raised at three Public Hearings, held by the Huntington Selectboard to take evidence on three town roads, which had been thought to be Class 4, but are, in reality, Class 3 unmaintained roads (May 14, 15 and 16 and public site visits to the three roads in question on May 11).



Dog walk on upper Trapp Road. Photo: Heidi Racht

What is the difference? Class 3 roads are unpaved public roads that are maintained year-round by a town or city so that a standard manufactured pleasure car can travel them; plus, stormwater erosion standards, are strictly overseen by the State, including drainage ditches, size of culverts and other seasonal control measures. A Class 4 road is an unpaved public road that is not maintained or is maintained minimally, and does not need to be kept open in the winter months.

Huntington has three roads, all thought to be Class 4 roads by town officials for over 20 years, which are shown by VTrans to be Class 3 NUTS (Not Up Too Standards). The matter was called to the attention of the town in June 2017 when, in the course of Lister Grievances, a discrepancy in the formal and assumed classifications of Town Highway 9 was noticed. Research was begun by the Town when two additional discrepancies were brought to light: VTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation) notified the Town about Stagecoach Road (Town Highway 15) and Melissa Hoffman and Shawn Smith, principals in the Foundation for a Sustainable Future which is the legal owner of almost 1300 acres in Huntington Center, came in to talk with the Selectboard about Town Highway 26 (Trapp Road).

Based on attendance at the Selectboard's recent Public Hearings and site visits, and a large crowd also in attendance at an informational meeting held by Smith and Hoffman at the town's library, the future of Trapp Road clearly seemed to be significant concern to townspeople.

The property owned by Smith and Hoffman has had a long history of transfers by a series of owners who have owned portions of it; it stretches from the school into the uplands that border the Camels Hump State Forest, owned by the State of Vermont. Further, the access to the property, also known as the Teal Farm, is accessed from lower Camels Hump Road and the owners maintain a one-mile long driveway put in by former owner John A. Teal. Hoffman has said that they would like to build a house on the other side of the property, which is accessed at the south end of Huntington Center through Trapp Road.

Trapp Road, which had formerly been called the Hoff Farm Road in the 1970s to mid 1990s, when it was owned by Phil Hoff, and previously Phillips Road when that family farmed there, is a steep road with three houses at bottom and one remaining farmhouse at the top, 1.1 miles from the Main Road. The road then continues, unmaintained for another 1.5 miles. The town plows the road to the 1.1 mile point as the farmhouse is a residence; the town trucks turn around here. Past that, the road goes into a field and then into the woods. It is narrow and bumpy, more like a trail on which a car or truck could drive. Large old maples and rock outcrops crowd the road in places. The VAST trail goes through here in the winter, the Catamount Trail uses it as an access and there is public access to the State land. It is officially described as "graded earth."

The end of Trapp Road after the Hoff Farm was long thought by the people living in the Upper Village and many others to be a Class 4 road. In fact, the town's certificate of mileage signed annually by the Selectboard has it listed as a Class 3 road since 1973 when the State, through Act 63, required official road reclassification; the town has received State funds for a Class 3 road. The Selectboard offered to return the money the Town received for upper Trapp Road (annual reimbursement 1995-2019 was $39,035 in total); the State declined the Town's offer.

In October 2018, the Town presented a plan that included looking at all the town's roads that are considered Class 4. In addition to upper Trapp Road, the State had Stagecoach Road (.33 miles) and Town Highway 9, a spur (.06 miles) to nowhere off Happy Hollow, "on the books" as Class 3. The Selectboard and town attorney looked at each road individually. The town administrator put together materials for each road that included deeds going back to the early 1900s, mileage certificates, Selectboard minutes at which any of these roads were discussed since

continue to page 13

June 6 Merger Vote

On June 6, the voters of the five towns that make up the Chittenden East Supervisory Union will vote on whether the Mt. Mansfield Modified Union School District will accept Huntington as a member of this school district. The process is a voice vote in a town meeting style. The process, although a change from past practice, is legal as the articles of incorporation of the MMMUSD did not specifically address the issue of a vote on a public question requiring an Australian ballot. Ergo, the vote will be a voice vote and anyone wishing to participate must be present at Mt. Mansfield Union High School in Jericho, where the meeting and vote will take place. There are no absentee ballots.

Parents of some students in the three towns that attend Camels Hump Middle School will need to make a choice as one of the teams has scheduled its annual spring event on June 6, 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. According to school administration, the date was set weeks ago. Browns River Middle School has no evening events on the calendar for that date and the school's calendar was flagged to avoid conflicting events.

It has been stated on social media by a representative of the MMMUSD Board (the Board Chair) that the vote will take place at 7:30 pm; the meeting begins at 6 pm.

Voters will have an opportunity to comment and a sign-up sheet will be available at the entrance to the room.

Voters will go to their Town Clerk and check in – as they do whenever there is a vote.

To see further comments and information on this June 6 vote, turn now to page 2.

Have Your Cake & Eat It, Too

Nora Sylvester, right, plays Peaches, the top mortuarial cosmetologist in Sweet Gum Texas, as she reveals some vital news to her cousin: Joya Corr, left, as Jimmy Wyvette, and Raina Carfaro, cente, as Gaynelle Verdeen Bodeen.

Have your cake and eat it, too, with a delicious Southern comedy! The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents The Red Velvet Cake War as the 11th annual Senior Theatre Production.

This ridiculously funny show follows three cousins – Gaynelle, Peaches and Jimmie Wyvette – as they attempt to throw a family reunion. Their outrageous antics have the whole town of Sweetgum, Texas talking. Things spin hilariously out-of-control when a neighbor's pet devours everything edible, a one-eyed suitor shows up to declare his love, and a shocking, high-stakes wager is made on who can bake the best red velvet cake. As this fast-paced uproarious romp barrels toward its surprising climax, you'll wish your own family reunion was this much fun!

The Senior Theatre Production is produced and performed by seniors, giving the seniors one last opportunity to perform on the MMU Stage or to work backstage on a crew. Many of those involved in the Senior Theatre Production have participated in the Theatre Department for their whole high school career. However, this year's show also includes 2 new actors, who realized this was going to be their final opportunity to act on the MMU stage, so why not take a chance!

Performances will be Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1, at 7:30 at MMU. Tickets are $5 for students and children, and $8 for general admission. Tickets will be available at the door on show nights.

In this Issue
Libraries, pp. 4 & 5 • **Selectboards,** pp. 6 & 7
Schools, pp. 2, 8, 9, 11

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OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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Letters

Vote Yes

As the elected school board members representing Richmond in the Mount Mansfield School District, we are urging all local voters to join us in attending the special MMU school meeting on June 6 to vote "yes" and accept the Huntington School District into MMU. This will be a Town Meeting style format and will begin at 6 PM at MMU High School. All MMU voters—comprising residents of Richmond, Huntington, Bolton, Underhill and Jericho—are eligible to vote.

There has been a lot of emotion and misinformation concerning this vote. Once voters understand the true facts, we believe they will support their students and pocketbooks by attending this critical meeting and voting yes.

The Mount Mansfield Modified School District was created by the voters of Richmond, Jericho, Underhill and Bolton in 2014. The goal was to improve education and save money through a unified governance structure. The MMU school district now governs all area schools (Mount Mansfield Union High School, Camels Hump and Browns River Middle schools, and the elementary schools in Richmond, Jericho, Underhill and Bolton) except for one—the Brewster Pierce Elementary School in Huntington. MMU already educates all of the children of Huntington, except for those in grades pre-K through 4.

The 2014 merger was an enormous success. We improved programming, eliminated bureaucracy, and saved substantial money for taxpayers. But this was only a partial success. Because the Huntington School District chose to not join the newly merged MMU, the law required us to maintain the Chittenden East Supervisory Union to supervise all of the MMU schools and the one remaining holdout in Huntington.

The only reason we have a supervisory union is because Huntington has not joined the MMU modified district

Supervisory unions are at best inefficient and at worst wasteful. When the Legislature enacted merger laws (Act 46 and Act 49), they specifically found that supervisory unions should be eliminated because of their waste. Because we have a supervisory union, we have nine separate budgets instead of one. (That is not a misprint.) The MMU Board is constantly juggling whether decisions have to be made by the supervisory union, with different voting rules. Our administrators are forced to waste precious resources on allocating money and decisions among different entities and complying with complex state regulations that only apply to supervisory unions. These are resources that could be better devoted to students.

All of this is beyond reasonable debate. It has been confirmed by the Secretary of Education and our own Superintendent.

Since 2014, these problems have been apparent to the MMU Board, but we hoped that Huntington would voluntarily join MMU. We took no action to force merger and waited for Huntington to comply with the merger requirements of Act 46 and Act 49, or at least file an alternative plan that would allow us to close the supervisory union.

When the Legislature enacted the merger laws, they gave communities the opportunity to file alternative plans if they wanted to avoid merger. The Huntington School Board did not file a plan. Instead, it waited until the State Board of Education ordered it to merge with MMU—and thereby eliminate the supervisory union—and sued not only the State Board but the MMU school district as well.

To make matters worse, Huntington's lawyers have made it clear that they will use every legal device to force MMU to maintain its current supervisory union—despite the negative impacts on taxpayers and students.

You may hear people say that MMU is forcing Huntington to merge. This is false. MMU never forced Huntington to vote on merger or take any other action. State law provides that because MMU already merged on a voluntary basis, the State can't force it to take any new members. The State ordered Huntington to merge, provided that the entire MMU electorate has to vote to accept Huntington as a new member. Your vote is on acceptance; the State Board ordered the merger.

You may hear people say that MMU should defer to Huntington's votes against merger and not even hold a vote. But Huntington's lawyers have said if MMU does not hold a vote, or if there is a "no" vote, they will argue there is no obligation to merge--ever. This is despite the overwhelming votes in favor of merger by Richmond, Jericho, Underhill and Bolton—which comprise 90% of our district.

continue to page 11

Letter to a New Board Member

I appreciate that you took the time to read the Minority Report on the CESU school merger and your reaching out to me. I hope you saw the sincerity of my good intentions in that document... the "study committee's" rush to write the Articles of Agreement seemed to trump the due diligence and time it would have taken to conduct a more thorough "study" at that time (2014).

Unfortunately Huntington's valid questions were mostly answered with "trust us... it will allow for all kinds of possible benefits" and "it will save money." The absence of data was disconcerting; and the unwillingness to consider alternative merging configurations (ie, merge the elementary boards into one board and keep the 5-12 MMU Board; study ways to provide wider opportunities for high schoolers... shared access to speciality courses like Japanese or Chinese languages or higher level math, etc) frustrated the true spirit of the rationale for merger... better opportunities for all our students.

The state has created a crisis for our SU [Supervisory Union] by allowing districts to vote aye or nay, but then changing the legislation every subsequent year.... essentially telling us we that we must vote until we say "yes." But we have no option to change anything in the Articles, so we are simply voting again and again on the same question. This is not a democratic process.

Further polarizing the issue is MMMUSD's transition to Policy Governance. This is perceived by many as another step away from participatory engagement.

People are dismayed and frustrated, and patience has worn thin, and the differences of opinion have morphed into "sides" with distrust and exaggerated claims poisoning the discussion. The state legislature would have saved our CESU community all this time and trouble and expense if they had simply required merger in the first place...

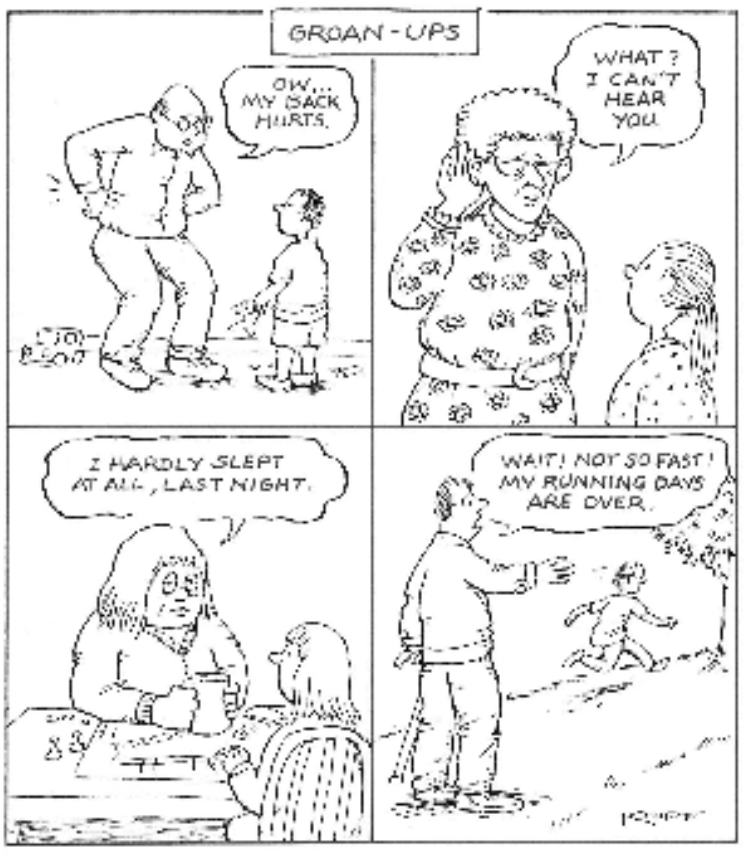
—*Megs Keir*, Huntington School Board chair (former)

School Merger Voting, Again

Act 46 is an important and worthwhile follow up to the Brigham Decision and Act 60 of many years ago. The citizens of Vermont owe many things to our children, one of which is a good education starting at an early age regardless of where one resides in the State. The purpose of Act 46, as described on the Vermont State website of the Agency of Education reads "To encourage and support local decisions and actions." This site goes on to elaborate the five basic goals of Act 46. To paraphrase, the goals are: 1- to provide educational equity, 2- help students achieve educational standards, 3- maximize efficiencies and share resources, 4- transparency and accountability, 5- taxpayers and parents review and approve the budget.

Here in Huntington, the majority of parents and taxpayers believe we have been meeting these goals at our pre-school through grade four Brewster-Pierce Elementary School. For several years, many of us have attended information meeting after information meeting touting the benefits of merger. For many schools in many places throughout the state, merger has clear benefits. In our own Chittenden East Su-

continue to page 11



Concert: Greenfield Piano Associates on May 29

The highly talented pianists of Greenfield Piano Associates return to Richmond Free Library on May 29 for their annual concert hosted by the Community Senior Center of Bolton, Richmond and Huntington.

Elaine Greenfield, the studio's internationally recognized pianist and instructor, promises an enjoyable springtime evening with works by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Brahms, Bizet, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff and Granados. The performance features pianists from around the northeast as far away as Baltimore, Maryland. Regular attendees will recognize several familiar artists who have performed at past concerts.

After the performance, Greenfield and the pianists will be on hand to talk with the audience and share complimentary refreshments provided by the Community Senior Center.

A $10 contribution at the door is suggested to benefit the Community Senior Center.

The same program will be performed at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Burlington at 7:30 pm on May 31 to benefit Greenfield Piano Associates' scholarship fund.

Richmond Farmers Market Opens May 31

More than a dozen new vendors will join the Richmond Farmers Market when it kicks off May 31, adding to an array of returning favorites.

"The vendors are so diverse this year and it's looking like a great lineup," said Leah LaRobardiere, the market's manager. "The RFM is a great place to grab a bite to eat and listen to music. The market has such charm and it's because of our vendors. They work so hard to provide the best products, and it shows."

The Richmond Farmers Market is held every Friday through October 11 from 3 pm to 7 pm on the Volunteers Green. Shoppers will find fresh local fruit and vegetables, delicious prepared food, baked goods, handmade crafts, local meat, cut flowers, and more.

Local bands and musicians will bring free live music to the market each evening, starting with local singer Erin CB on May 31. Musical highlights this year include "ukulele shenanigans" on July 19 and rock band Set Theory on August 30, LaRobardiere said.

LaRobardiere said she's also looking forward to two farm-to-table community dinners the market is planning as fundraisers. The dinners, which will be held at the Richmond Community Kitchen, feature a multi-course menu highlighting seasonal produce and other vendor products.

"It's so fun to get creative in the kitchen with local produce," LaRobardiere said.

New vendors will bring a variety of fresh products this season, including ice cream, cut flowers and plants, cheese, crafts, baked goods, and prepared food options.

In addition, the Richmond Farmers' Market will welcome back nearly 20 returning vendors, including farms, local meat and fish purveyors, food and drink vendors, distilleries, maple syrup, honey, baked goods and more.

For more information, visit www.richmondfarmersmarketvt.org

Tour Guides Needed for Richmond Round Church

The Richmond Historical Society is seeking volunteers to serve as guides at the Old Round Church this season. The church will be open to visitors on weekends beginning on May 25, and daily from June 17 to Labor Day as well as during the fall foliage season. Each guide serves a three-hour shift (10 am -1 pm or 1 pm -4 pm), typically once or twice a month.

Every year, visitors from around the U.S. and about two dozen other countries make their way to the Old Round Church. Guides share information about the church as well as supervise sales of postcards and other memorabilia.

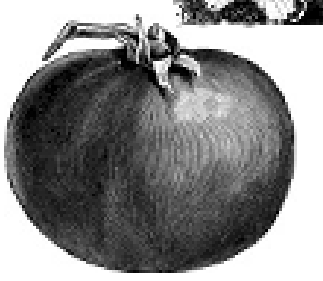
A one-hour training/orientation session will be held in late June. If you'd like to help keep this beautiful National Historic Landmark open throughout the season, contact guide coordinator Martha Turner at 434-6453 or rhs@oldroundchurch.com.

To prepare for the 2019 visitor and wedding season, there will be an Old Round Church window washing session on Thursday, May 9, at 4 pm. Please bring your own cleaning supplies. For more information about the cleaning session, contact Fran Thomas at 434-3654 or dtft5171@gmavt.net.

Our Community Cares Camp Coupon Fundraiser

May 25, 26 & 27 (Memorial Weekend)

Hours 9- 5



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Rudy Williams, First Place winner, 5-6 years. Photo: Susan Winter

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www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

Friends of the HPL A new Friends of the Huntington Public Library group is forming. We are in the process of establishing a non-profit organization. Our mission is to support the library's special programs and purchases through fundraising and advocacy. We hope to get the community involved, and we will need as much help as you are willing to give! Watch for updates on the library's website www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org and on Front Porch Forum. If you are interested in helping out, or would like some more information, feel free to email the Friends at vtfriendsofhpl@gmail.com.

Book Group Sunday, June 9, at 10 am. Light refreshements served. We are currently reading two books, Sonia Sotomayor's My Beloved World and Ruth Bader Ginsburg's My Own Words. Join us for discussion! New members always welcome!

Summer Reading Program The Summer Reading Program is quickly approaching! This year's theme is A Universe of Stories. We have all kinds of exciting programs and activities planned, so please keep posted to see what is happening! Make sure to check our website regularly at www.huntingtonlibvt.org.

New Adult Fiction Soon the Light Will Be Perfect by Dave Patterson; Daisy Jones & the Six by Taylor Jenkins Reid; A Question of Belief by Donna Leon; The Fifth Season by J.K. Jemisin; Miracle at St. Andrews and the 13-Minute Murder by James Patterson; Redemption by David Baldacci; The Department of Sensitive Crimes by Alexander McCall Smith.

Non-Fiction Code Girls by Lisa Mundy; Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds by the Wild Farm Alliance; Managing Your Woods with Birds in Mind – a Vermont Landowner's Guide; Healing Earth – An Ecologist's Journey of Innovation and Environmental Stewardship by John Todd.

Picture Books Happy Birthday Old Bear, Old Bear's Bedtimes Stories and Ruby, Blue and Blanket by Jane Hissey; Alpaca Lunch by John and Jennifer Churchman; Up in the Leaves – the True Story of the Central Park Treehouses by Shira Boss; Seeds Move by Robin Page; The Things that I Love About Trees by Chris Butterworth; The Boy Who Grew a Forest – the True Story of Jadav Payeng.

Juvenile Fiction Orphaned by Eliot Schrefer; Who is Carmen Sandiego? by Rebecca Tinker.

Junior Non-Fiction Nature All Around – Trees by Pamela Hickman; The Tree Book for Kids and Their Grown-Ups by Gina Ingoglia; The Magic and Mystery of Trees by Jen Green.

Award Winning Juvenile Books The Huntington Public Library is proud to be able to offer children the opportunity to read the Dorothy Canfield Fisher books each summer. We have purchased the full list of 30 books! If you would like to sponsor an author or book for this year's DCF we would appreciate it!

Story Walks StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults! — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children's book are attached to wooden stakes, which are installed along an outdoor path. As you stroll down the trail, you're directed to the next page in the story. StoryWalks® have been installed in 50 states and 12 countries including, Germany, Canada, England, Bermuda, Russia, Malaysia, Pakistan and South Korea! They are always received with appreciation. StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier and has developed with the help of Rachel Senechal, Kellogg-Hubbard Library, Montpelier. We are looking for a volunteer or two to collaborate with the Library to implement this wonderful, creative concept in our community. Please contact Anne or Stacey if you are interested.

Art Exhibit The Celebrate Arbor Day Exhibit fills the Library's gallery walls with a colorful diversity of art forms. Be sure to stop in during open hours and enjoy the creativity of your fellow community members. There are also many tree and forest books for children and adults and other information materials available for check-out.

EAB Find out about the Emerald Ash Borer and the Huntington Ash Tree Inventory project. Information and materials are at the Library.

ListenUp!Vermont/LIBBY Electronic books and audiobooks are available online with your library card at www.listenupvermont.org or meet.libbyapp.com. Thousands of digital titles are supported through this website. All you need is a valid Huntington Library card! Ask your librarian if you have any questions.

*Please note that as of June 5, 2019 all patrons will need an active library account with the nine-digit barcode number and their personal password to use ListenUp!Vermont/LIBBY. Stop in, call, or email with any questions.

Library Playgroup and Story Time Fridays, 10 am – noon. The playgroup aims to provide a welcoming, fun, and social environment for babies and toddlers with their caregivers. Join for pre-literacy skills with books, singing, rhyming, counting, and crafts at 10:45 am!

First Friday Movie Night The next movie we will be showing is How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World, at 7 pm on June 7, at 7 pm. Please join us!

Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org

Mon & Wed
10 - 8
Tues & Thurs
1 - 6
Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 2
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The Weapons of Fraud: Con-artists, Fraud and Scams AARP Fraud Watch Network provides resources to help spot and avoid identity theft and fraud so you can protect yourself and your family. Come learn how to get watchdog alerts and stay up to date on con artists' latests tricks. Open to all ages. Join us on Thursday, May 23, at 7 pm.

Woof! What's the Dog Saying? Is a yawn always just a yawn? Why does a dog shake off even when it's not wet? Why is a growl a good thing? Is a tail wag always friendly? This popular, long-running dog communication and safety lecture is a multimedia extravaganza of fun where the audience also gets to test their "dog reading" skills. Deb Helfrich of Gold Star Dog Training will demystify dog communication, reveal some common dog-human misunderstandings, and explore how we can all live safely and happily together. At the end of the presentation, the audience engages in several fun, interactive exercises to practice reading dog body language. (Shhhh… this is for humans only; please leave the pups comfortably at home!) For ages 12 and over. Join us on Thursday, May 30, at 6:30 pm.

Storywalk The Library in collaboration with RiseVT and the Richmond Trails Committee will be setting up a Storywalk along the river trail at the Volunteers Green this coming June. Visitors to the trail will encounter the delightful picture book Round by Joyce Sidman page by page as they travel the length of the trail. The book invites readers to look for and appreciate all of nature's round things.

Programs for Young Children Our Weekly Children's Programs will run through the end of May and then we'll take a break for the summer months. We will resume Baby Laptime, Storytime and Playgroup in September.

Summer Reading Program Once again we will be joining libraries all over the country in offering a fun and encouraging reading program for youth ages four to twelve. Registration for the program will begin on the final day of school. Kids will learn all the details at school in early June and will go home with a flyer detailing all of the special programs and events happening at the Library this summer. Middle-school-age youth and those who are homeschooled can pick up a flyer at the library in mid-June. Below are a few of the first special programs of the summer.

VINS – Owls and their Calls Did you know that not all owls hoot? This first-hand encounter includes live owls, and will present the defining characteristics and life adaptations of a nocturnal predator on the wing. Join us and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science on Friday, June 21, at 10:30 am.

The Flea Circus! Ed Popielarczyk's flea circus is a great show from days gone by. It is an entire big top circus in miniature! The audience will be thrilled and amazed with Ed's trained fleas. A few of the circus feats they do are the trapeze, high wire, high dive into a pool of water, and getting shot out of a cannon! This fun and unique event will be on Monday, June 24, at 10:30 am.

Poetry to Trail Project We will create some wonderful community art in this collaborative art program with Radiate Art Studio. We will collectively write or choose a poem to express with word and original art on slices of tree ring, which will hang along the river trail at the Volunteers Green Park during the month of September. Ages 6-12 should register in advance for this program on Wednesday, June 26 at 1 pm.

Summer Breakout – Save the Moon! Work with others in the group to follow directions, think critically and creatively in order to solve puzzles, and open locked boxes to release the moon and save the day. Ages 5-10 should register in advance for this action-packed program on Friday, June 28, at 1 pm.

Dorothy's List Winner Vermont students in grades four through seven have voted and the 2019 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award winner is Refugee by Alan Gratz. The list of 2020 book nominees is out and we have a brand new copy of each ready to be checked out and enjoyed. This will be the last year that this popular award for middle grades will be known by its current name. After 62 years, the Vermont Department of Libraries has decided it's time to rename the award and will soon be inviting students, teachers, librarians and other interested people to submit suggestions for a new name.

May Foyer We are showing Richmond resident Jane Vossler's collection of Little Golden Books from the late '40s and early '50s. All are gifts from relatives or were purchased by her mother who read them to her as a little girl, many times each. Little Golden Books were first published in 1942 and are still being published today.

May Art Show The Library's walls feature the paintings of Richmond resident Bruce Lee. His work draws on nature for inspiration and the work of Impressionists from all over the world, as well as American artists such as Edward Hopper and Richard Schmid.

June Foyer The display will be a celebration of the American flag. Richmond resident Nancy Dutil will share items from a collection of flag memorabilia including framed flags, photos of flags, flag pins and more.

June Art Show The Library's walls will feature the work of area seniors attending the Community Senior Center's art exercise class under the direction of Judy Bush.

In-House Book Exhibit All About Mom Our current book display features titles having to do with mothers and motherhood.

Book Discussions (copies available at the circulation desk) Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking by Susan Cain. In Quiet, Cain argues that we dramatically undervalue introverts and shows how much we lose in doing so. She charts the rise of the Extrovert Ideal throughout the twentieth century and explores how deeply it has come to permeate our culture. Quiet has the power to permanently change how we see introverts and, equally important, how they see themselves. Join us on Tuesday, June 11, at 6 pm.

Naked in Death by J.D. Robb (In Death #1). It is 2058, New York City. Technology now completely rules the world, and Eve Dallas is a New York police lieutenant hunting for a ruthless killer. Join us on Thursday, June 20, at 7 pm.

Recent Acquisitions: Nonfiction Breaking and Entering: The Extraordinary Story of a Hacker Called "Alien" by Jeremy Smith, Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger by Soraya Chemaly, Living Serendipitously: Keeping the Wonder Alive by Madeleine Kay, Women Rowing North: Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age by Mary Pipher, The Age of Surveillance Capitalism by Shjoshana Zuboff.

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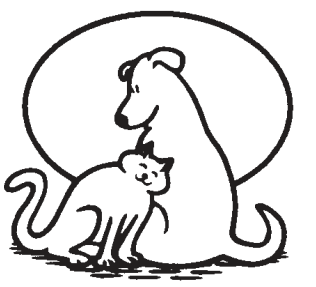

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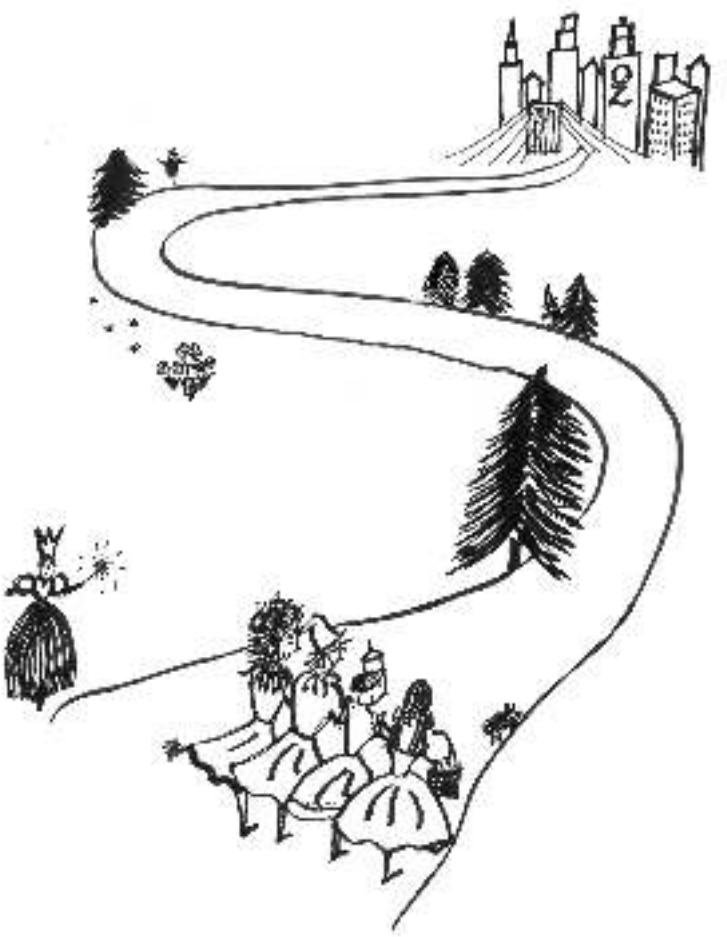
Arabesque etc. Dance Proudly Presents



No Place Like Home

June 8, 12:30PM & 6PM
Colchester High School

Tickets available online at arabesqueetc.com

Celebrate Harriet's 100th

The Riggs Family welcomes friends from the Richmond Community
to participate in the celebration of
Harriet Riggs' 100th Birthday Celebration
June 8, 2019, 1 pm to 4 pm
at the Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
Light fare and cake will be served

Special Note: At Harriet's request, no cards or gifts please. Instead, donations may be made to one of the following Richmond organizations:

- The Richmond Historical Society: Preservation of Historical Documents and Artifacts, PO Box 453, Richmond,VT 05477
- The Richmond Congregational Church, UCC: Capital Campaign/ New Roof , PO Box 302, Richmond, VT 05477

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

4930 Main Road Huntington, Vermont 05462

Request for Minor Subdivision Review

The Huntington Development Review Board (DRB) will meet on June 11, 2019, at 7:15 pm at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office in Huntington Center to review the following application:

Pursuant to the Huntington Subdivision Regulations, the Huntington Planning Commission will hold a Minor Subdivision Review on the application by Peter and Carla Purinton to subdivide one 2-acre parcel of land from a parcel of 355.5 acres. Subject property is located on tax map 02-061.000. Access to subject property is located on Maple Ridge Lane in Huntington, off Bridge Street.

A Site Visit will be conducted on June 11 at 6:30 pm.

Materials are available for viewing at the Town Clerk's Office during business hours.

—Heidi Racht, Clerk
May 20, 2019

WARNING

MOUNT MANSFIELD MODIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING

June 6, 2019

The legal voters of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District from the Towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond and Underhill are hereby warned and notified to meet at Mt. Mansfield Union High School in the Town of Jericho on June 6, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. to transact the following business from the floor:

Article 1

Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District approve the addition of the Huntington School District as a part of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District under the terms of the Vermont State Board of Education's November [illegible], 2018 Final Report of Decisions and Orders on Statewide School District Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46, Sections [illegible] of [illegible]

Dated this 15th day of April, 2019 in Richmond, Vermont.

Kevin Campbell — Elyse Gearing — Dorij Munkowsik
[illegible] — Diane [illegible] — [illegible]
[illegible] — Chuck Lacy — Andrew Pond
Angelike Contis — Michael Marks — [illegible]
Eric Olkenmeiser — Ethan Mazer — Beth Racine

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Received for record this 15th day of April, 2019

[illegible], Clerk Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District

The legal voters of Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification and registration shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51, and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

A plan to control riverbank erosion provoked a lively debate about funding at the Richmond Selectboard's May 6 meeting.

Judy Rosovsky, chair of the town's Conservation Commission, offered an update on installation of rip-rap to stem erosion along the Winooski River near Volunteers Green. The effort involves using rocks and other material to armor the banks.

In September, the Selectboard approved a $179,000 plan for the work. To defray the cost, the Selectboard proposed drawing $35,000 from the Conservation Fund to help pay off a loan used to finance the project.

But the Conservation Commission, an advisory panel appointed by the Selectboard, instead wanted the town to use just $20,000 from the fund. Rosovsky said the Conservation Commission offering the smaller amount as a compromise. She noted that there are other conservation-related projects in the pipeline.

When the fiscal year began on July 1, the Conservation Fund's balance was $119,418, according to Richmond Finance Director Connie Bona. That number does not include $150,000 designated for work at Gillette Pond.

Selectboard member Roger Brown said he thought the Conservation Commission's "input" was just a recommendation and the Selectboard had the last call on all budget expenditures.

Rosovsky protested that there were spending criteria for the fund. But Brown said there was no legal reason the Selectboard couldn't spend the money regardless of the Conservation Commission's wishes.

"No," Selectboard member Katie Mather retorted, "it's just rude."

Board member Christy Witters said the Selectboard "should be respectful of the Conservation Commission."

Rosovsky said she had never seen the Selectboard reject the Conservation Commission's recommendation on a fund expenditure. Brown said the Selectboard could do so in this instance without setting a precedent.

"It would appear it's not a legal precedent per se, but it would be unprecedented," said Selectboard member Bard Hill.

Following the pointed exchange, Selectboard Chair David Sander quickly called for a motion. Witters moved to accept the Conservation Commission's recommended $20,000 expenditure from the fund, which was unanimously approved. Board members then voted to cover the remaining $15,000 be moving money from one part of the municipal budget to another.

The erosion control work is just the latest attempt to tame the unruly river, which winds through Richmond and has on many occasions caused flooding around town. Notes from a June 2009 site visit that included state and local officials, for example, said erosion was threatening to alter the river's course, causing it to run around instead of under the Bridge Street bridge and undermine the structure.

Forest Upgrades Geoffrey Urbanik, Richmond's former Town Manager, returned to Town Center to request funding approval for improvements at Andrews Town Forest.

The town last year acquired the 428 acres of land about two miles east of Bridge Street along Route 2. Urbanik, who resigned last year to take a position as deputy town manager in Colchester but still lives in Richmond, chairs a committee that manages the forest. Urbanik said the committee seeks approval of the use of money from the Andrews Community Forest Fund. The fund, established with grants and donations and currently totaling about $25,000, is being used to improve and maintain trails and preserve wildlife habitat.

The requested expenditures included the purchase of two trail cameras, which will record wildlife activity; materials to build a footbridge along a trail that crosses an intermittent stream; and an amount not to exceed $500 for road signs that alert Route 2 motorists of entrances and exits from the forest. The expenditure total $1,032, Urbanik said.

Urbanik said the purpose of the video cameras is to see how wildlife is using the forest and employ that information to decide where to place trails, thus minimizing the impact of human activity. Board member Bard Hill asked if the video could be shared with the general public in some way. Urbanik said that was a good idea, but there was no plan yet to do so.

The Selectboard unanimously voted to approve the expenditures.

Urbanik said there are larger and more expensive projects on the horizon at Andrews Town Forest. One is professional trail assessment that would identify how to balance public access with maintaining the ecosystem. The study, for example, could help minimize erosion when new trails are built. He estimated the study could cost $10,000.

Another future need is expansion of the parking lot. The existing lot is not large enough to allow school bus turnarounds and offers limited spaces for other vehicles. Urbanik did not say how much the larger lot would cost but suggested municipal workers might provide help with the expansion, which could reduce the price.

Chiefly Speaking New Richmond Police Chief Larry Muldoon updated the Selectboard on training for taser use and filling a part-time officer position.

Maldoon said officers completed de-escalation training. Last September, the Selectboard approved a policy that required such training before an officer can use a taser. State law mandates that police departments develop policies regulating tasers before they can be used.

Richmond's policy goes beyond a model developed by a state board because it requires de-escalation techniques "whenever possible" before an officer uses a taser. Maldoon pointed to situations when no law has been broken but police presence is still requested, such as someone with a gun threatening suicide, as times when officers should show restraint when using tasers.

Last August, "Paco" Aumand, interim police director, proposed buying used tasers from the University of Vermont, which was upgrading equipment for its security personnel.

That prompted pushback from some Selectboard members, particularly Wittters. She said de-escalating a tense situation would be better than using tasers to subdue suspects. Aumand responded with the taser use policy.

Muldoon also spoke about how the department planned to fill a part-time officer position. He said a trained officer willing to work 20 hours a week, including Friday and Saturday nights, "is a bit of a unicorn." So he came up with a creative solution for the hard-to-fill position, looking for three people who may already hold law enforcement positions elsewhere and would work alternating weekends.

Selectboard members had questions. Would the officers feel attached to the community? Would a new police cruiser be needed? What about de-escalation training? Muldoon said yes, they would receive the same training as other officers. They would share an older cruiser, perhaps a vehicle that would have otherwise been sold under the department's replacement schedule. As for community ties, he said one of the job candidates lives in Richmond.

"I know it's not an ideal solution, but it's the best one I've been able to come up with right now," Muldoon said.

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard meeting on May 6 began with decisions regarding parking at the Huntington Fire Station. The Board passed a motion to restrict parking in the lot to Fire Department members only, except for two or three spaces reserved for seniors attending events at the Town Office and Church Annex. Public parking spaces will be available on the east side of the Town Garage lot. Signs will be erected in the Fire Department lot directing people toward public parking at the Recreation Field and Garage. The signs will not indicate repercussions for unauthorized use of the Fire Station parking lot.

Burning Permits The Board will be reviewing the municipal burning ordinance to align with State requirements. Currently, many other towns allow campfires of 30"-36" in diameter without a permit. Currently, Huntington's ordinance is more restrictive, as all campfires require a permit. Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey will attend the May 20 meeting to consider State statutes, and to assure residents can receive a burn permit in a timely manner.

During the discussion of Highway issues, Elliott reported the Town did not receive Municipal Grants from VTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation) for Main Road paving or Bridge 10 (Main Road at Beane Road) repairs.

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger will work with the Town Administrator to develop a paving funding plan to present to the Board.

The Board authorized payment of unused vacation time allocated to Les Tracy, as recommended by the Road Foreman.

Municipal Solar HEC (Huntington energy Committee) Chair Miranda Keir presented an update on the committee's work to secure funding for rooftop solar on the sand shed. Keir introduced Chris Granda of Richmond as a potential funder. Granda will work with Building Energy to finalize a feasible proposal. Granda plans to submit a Memorandum of Understanding and a roof-lease agreement for the Selectboard and the Town Attorney to review.

Appointments The Board appointed Aaron Loomis to the HEC, as requested by that committee.

The following appointments were made to the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) boards and committees for two year terms: Barbara Elliott, Board of Commissioners Representative, Transportation Advisory Representative, and Clean Water Advisory Committee Representative; Darlene Palola, Clean Water Advisory Committee Representative; Nancy Mead, Board of Commissioners Alternate and Transportation Advisory Committee Alternate.

The Board approved the 2019 Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). This document, maintained by the Town Administrator, is continually updated as needed.

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:
Saturday, 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Thursday, 6 - 7 pm
Eucharistic Adoration:
Thursday, 6 - 8 pm

64 West Main Street
Richmond
434-2521

Rosary:
20 minutes
before all Masses

RACE 4 SUNDAES
SATURDAY, JUNE 29th
HUNTINGTON
1 Mile Fun Run / 5K & 10K

For more information or to register:
www.huntingtonrace4sundaes.weebly.com

	Pre-registration	Race Day Registration
5 K Race	$25	$30
10 K Race	$30	$35
1 Mile Fun Run (or Walk)	$8 (ages 6-17) $10 (18+)	$10 (ages 6-17) $12 (18+)
UNDER 5-- $6 (covers cost of t-shirt) *Register by Friday, 6/14 to guarantee a t-shirt! – Online registration ends Wednesday, 6/26*		

Parking available at the Huntington Center Rec Field or Brewster-Pierce Memorial School

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Camp Out at MMCTV in July

MMCTV will hold two TV camps for middle schoolers (ages 10-14), the weeks of July 15th and 22nd (10 am-3 pm Mon-Fri).

Workshop participants create short video projects, in small collaborative groups.

The weekly fee is $130 for Jericho/Underhill/Richmond residents and $155 for non-residents. The registration form is online at MtMansfieldCtv.org. Registration deadline: June 1st. Contact us for more details at 434-2550 or mmctv15@gmail.com

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MMMUSD Board Meetings

Reported by Diane Wester

April 16 & May 6, 2019

Merger Floor Vote, Thursday June 6, 2019, 6 pm, Mt. Mansfield High School, Jericho. You must be present to vote.

In accordance with Acts 46 and 49, the Vermont Board of Education (BOE) is forcing another vote concerning merging all 5 (remaining) elementary schools into one "preferred" structure.

No informational meeting is necessary for a special meeting floor vote. Board Chair Andrew Pond says "There have been 32 public forums on merger issues over the past decade." HSB Chair Paul Susen said it would probably hold its own informational meeting for Huntington.

The BOE ordered Huntington to merge its elementary school, Brewster-Pierce Memorial School (BPMS) with MMMUSD on November 28, 2018 – taking effect July 1, 2019. Susen states the BOE rejected every plan submitted by Huntington for an alternative organizational structure. Because MMMUSD is an existing, merged district without BPMS, the co-mingled district must vote to accept BPMS into the fold by law. There are several lawsuits pending, to be ruled on by the Vermont Supreme Court concerning this issue. This floor vote will take place before the Court's rulings have been made. The MMMUSD school board insists that BPMS students are not receiving the educational benefits of a merged district. Furthermore, it is costing a great deal of administration time and money (whether back-charged to Huntington or not) that would be better spent on education of students. Community Outreach Chair Edye Graning (J) opined the amount of "at least $100,000." One community member said these various costs accounting problems could be solved adequate software and automation. (Susen commented some of these costs are already paid by Huntington.)

The BOE has not as yet described any penalties to be imposed on either school district should the merger not be approved. BPMS would remain an independent school with local control. Board member Michael Marks (R) "Huntington's lawyers will impose the current structure upon us without our wishes." He stated it is time for all members of the CESU community to think of each other's wishes, and that Huntington's 10% of the CESU general population (5% of the student population) should take into consideration the current successes of the merged district (and join up).

Susen noted the two of the Articles of Agreement concerning school closure and geographical attendance have expired. Alberghini addressed these concerns: no school closure of BPMS, and no forced attendance to Richmond for BPMS students. However, if merged, Huntington families living in the northern part of the town would have school choice of Richmond Elementary School offered to them. (Susen noted Huntington already pays tuition for school choice.)

The budgets will be merged. Although legal opinions for clarification will be sought, Finance Chair Kevin Campbell said we will "turn seven spreadsheets into one."

A community member commented this vote on June 6 is just an intermediary step towards the State's goal of creating four districts (which she said might not be a bad thing.)

Another decried the disintegration in the value of a vote – a local and national problem. He also noted he lived had in a gold town when Act 60 passed (which he wholly supported) and experienced 11 years of "a strong outcry" from his neighbors. He noticed a "sea change" in the ethos of the Vermont legislature whereby economies of scale (consolidation) were the new goal, yet the old revenue model of property taxes for education was never modified or improved. In conclusion, he referred to Sally Hayes reporting on the opiate addiction problem hitting the families of pre-K and Kindergarten children and noted a smaller district might serve these families better. "Family experience is critical to their learning ability… moving to a less local decision making body where families feel disenfranchised. We need to "strengthen our democracy" and "strengthen the families these kids are coming out of."

Diane Kirson Glitman (J) noted the Board meets often with PTOs in each district and "people are getting their things done" and do not feel disconnected from their schools in the larger system.

Marks answered the question about the real estate (Brewster-Pierce building) ownership. He stated, in the legal sense, the local districts only own their buildings "nominally" as the state courts have ruled that as Vermont is responsible for education – therefore the state owns all the educational buildings and various school districts are considered "trustees" of these buildings. If the merger goes through, the MMMUSD assumes all the assets and liabilities of BPMS.

The special meeting moderator will be Dave Clark (H) using Roberts Rules of Order. The Town Clerks will be there, using a checklist to make sure the voters are registered. The vote could be voice, show of hands, or – if called for – paper ballot. "We do not have the option of Australian ballot," said Marks because of the Articles of Agreement under which the MMM district was created does not allow an Australian ballot vote. Pond then admitted a way voting by Australian ballot may have been pursued months ago, using yet another, separate warning and vote.) There will be only one motion considered (it cannot be amended from the floor). It reads: "Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District approve the addition of the Huntington School District as part of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District under the terms of the Vermont State Board of Education's November 28, 2018 Final Report of Decisions and Order on Statewide School District Merger Decisions Pursuant to Act 46 Sections 8 (b) and 10?" Public comments will be heard after the motion is made.

A community member commented this vote on June 6 is just an intermediary step towards the State's goal of creating four districts, which she said "might not be a bad thing."

In Other Business, the 2019-2020 School Calendar has been approved with 178 student days and eight professional development days.

The 2019-2020 teacher contracts to full and part time licensed staff have been delivered at the same rate of pay as this school year while negotiations continue.

The construction on River Road in front of BRMS and UID is for the Synergy Center for Dance and the Performing Arts that will open next school year. Robert and Mia Groff are keeping the school district apprised of progress.

Alberghini and Pond met with the Bolton Select Board in April. The Vermont River Conservancy has purchased the property adjacent to Smilie that includes the potholes. It plans toilets, signs, stone steps, and a part-time steward to educate visitors on the Town property behind the school. Both Alberghini and Pond shared their concerns about safety and traffic at the Smilie parking lot during the summer months. The Bolton Selectboard continues to work with the VRC to resolve these concerns.

The above three items are taken from the Superintendent's report of April 15, 2019.

RES Principal Ben White Oral Report On April 15, White reported on the success of the readers/writers workshop it shared with Jericho. A three year plan to introduce "equity literature" to the library was described. When selecting new books for the library, he explained, they choose books to represent different cultures and races.

The school has a new guidance counselor, social worker, nurse and first grade teacher this year. This tea is implementing "wrap around" services for students. The social worker can visit a student's home in addition to offering services in school. Behavioral referrals have dropped.

When asked if/how his move to Central Office next year will impact the programs he has put in place White answered he has created all the plans to work without him, and that implementation is really done by the individual teachers.

BPMS Principal Sally Hayes Oral Report On May 6, Hayes echoed the Richmond report in that the Huntington elementary students also needed support past academics due to the opioid crisis in families with young children. They also use teachers, parents and specialists working as a team to help the child with adverse childhood experiences (ACE).

The readers/writers workshop is enjoying its fourth year of success, aligning BPMS students with all others in the district. It will add word study to the program this year.

Unique to BPMS, the outdoor learning program also enjoys its fourth year of success in its own, backyard, community-built outdoor classroom. It incorporates science and social studies and allows for teachable moments in place-based learning.

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Girls on the Green-Up Run

Girls on the Run group from Brewster-Pierce Memorial School Greening up the grounds of the school. Photo: Stacey Anthony

Brewster-Pierce Young Writers

Horses

Hi! My name is Plum. I love horses. I go to a horse camp in Hinesburg Vermont. I live in Huntington. At my horse camp we groomed horses and we got to ride horses. Do you like horses? Well if you do like horses then read on to hear more about horses.

I know how to ride a horse safely, do you? First, you get your helmet on. Next you go get on your boots. Then you go out into the ring. And finally, you get onto the horse and put your feet in the place where your feet go and pull yourself on.

Do you know how to brush your horse? I do. First, you get all of the brushes you need. Next, you take your first brush and gently brush. Then you keep brushing until you have to use a different brush. And finally, you repeat until you are done brushing the horse.

You probably know how to feed a horse. But if you don't or need to learn more than listen up. First, when you get your horse you want to buy a couple of kinds of horse food. Next, you buy one bag of each and give the horse some of each kind of food. Then, you see which food the horse likes best and give the horse more that it likes best. Then buy more food.

If you learned enough about horses that you want to go to a horse camp then go to the Hinesburg Horse Camp. It's awesome! Anyway, I hope you liked my book. So get online and go to Hinesburg Horse Camp. Bye bye!

—*Plum Lindemuth,* Grade 2

Cochran's

Hey Skiers, do you want to ace the slopes? Have you ever skied on something so soft like whipped cream? Do you like to ski?

Well then Cochran's is the place for you because they have snacks and bathrooms and it is also the home for the races on Friday when there are Friday night lights. They make dinner and there's lots of fun skiing. Oh!!! The skiing is so so good compared to Boltons because they don't have high lifts. At Cochran's there are no high lifts.

I like Cochran's and you should go! Goodbye!

—*Nina Dransfield*, Grade 1

Pizza!

Hey!! Families get in the car to go to Zachary's Pizza. It is worth it. Hey! Pizza lovers! You like pizza? Then Zachary's is the place for you. Zachary's also has games and they are fun.

Time to get in the car and go to the best place for Pizza!

—*Lowell Marchelewicz*, Grade 1

Cats

Cats are great and are great pets. They may scratch but they are still good pets. Cats are mammals because they are warm blooded. I have a cat. They are cute and you can pet them.

Cats have fur but some don't have fur. If you did know that then pat your back! A girl cat is a queen and a boy cat is a tom. There are so many types of cats and some beg for food and get very fat from eating. They can jump high but if they get too fat then they don't jump high.

Don't feed your cat too much as they can get diabetes. Diabetes is a sickness that all animals can get including people.

Oh!!! It's time for food! Cats eat food and there are two types of food to feed them: dry food and wet food. But cats cannot eat dog food as it can make them sick.

Thank you for reading this super cat book! I hope you liked it.

—*Phoebe Levine*, Grade 2

(Student writing submitted by Aimee Motta, BPMS 1/2 teacher).

Senior Foot Clinic

The last 2018-2019 Richmond Foot Clinic for Seniors is coming up on June 25 . Mark your calendar. Call to see where the clinic will be held.

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.

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Planning Commission Notice of Public Hearing

The Huntington Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Huntington Public Library, on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 7pm, to receive public comment on the draft 2019 Huntington Town Plan. All interested persons may appear and be heard. The geographic areas affected include all of Huntington.

Copies of the entire text and accompanying Planning Commission Report are available for review at the Huntington Town Office at 4930 Main Road, and on the Town of Huntington website (www.huntingtonvt.org). For more information, contact the Huntington Town Office at 434-2032.

Plan Section Headings

- Introduction
- Relationship to Surrounding Towns and Region
- Demographic, Economic and Energy Data Profile
- Economy
- Housing
- Energy
- Education
- Facilities, Services and Utilities
- Historic Features
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Natural Resources
- Land Use
- Implementation Section
- Maps
- Appendix 1: Detailed Energy Data and Long-Term Actions

—Heidi Racht, Clerk
May 14, 2019

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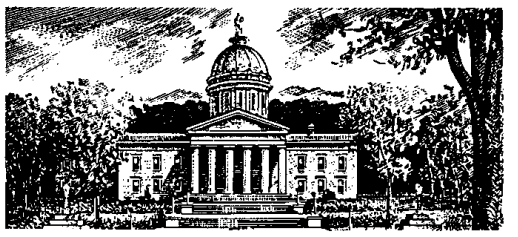
Huntington Charter Day Event at Maplewood Cemetery

Hosted By
Huntington Historical and Community Trust

Saturday June 8th, 1-3pm

Maplewood Cemetery walking program. Hear stories of ancestors of and notable Huntington residents from years past. Appropriate for families. Lemonade and bake sale to benefit HHCT.

Contact HHCTVT@gmail.com or 434-3584 for more information.



State House News

Rep. Marcia L. Gardner

Early in the session, Representative John Gannon from Wilmington and I sponsored H. 334, an act relating to temporary State employees. The bill was passed by the House Government Operations Committee (HGO) on which both Rep. Gannon and I serve, then remanded to the House Appropriations Committee due to financial implications in the bill. H.334 never made it out of Appropriations, however they had numerous discussions regarding the bill, and both committees agreed that much of what was contained in it needed to be implemented as soon as possible. Therefore, when S.134, a bill concerning background checks for State employees, came to HGO a few weeks ago, we decided to attach language from H.334 to the Senate bill. This will speed up the process and hopefully guarantee the bill's passage before we adjourn in mid-May.

There are many moving parts to S.134. Initially, it brings Vermont into compliance with IRS requirements for employees with access to federal tax information (FTI), expanding the authorizing of background investigations to State employees within the Department of Buildings and General Services and the Agency of Digital Services.

Then, much of the focus of this bill is on temporary employees, how they are employed, their rights and benefits, or lack thereof. In CY2018, the State employed 1,990 individuals on a temporary basis. Many work seasonally, such as the folks who work in our parks, historic sites or assist with tax returns. Often these people are retired or only want part-time work, but there are others who are trying to get their foot in the door, with the hope that they will eventually be hired full-time into a job that provides benefits for themselves and their families. Unfortunately, the temporary positions are sometimes reauthorized many times over because the Department cannot create a full-time permanent position.

This bill would have us take a closer look at temporary positions in State government with two studies: one in the executive branch, and one in the judicial branch. It creates a definition for seasonal employee (a request from several departments) which will not require them to constantly ask for extensions on the employment of their temporary staff to cover an entire season. It extends whistleblower rights to temporary and seasonal employees, giving them the same rights as permanent employees. It calls for 30 new positions at the Department of Corrections, a department which relies heavily on temporary workers to cover the long hours at our correctional facilities. And it would allow department and agency heads to staff within the limits of their budget, giving them the freedom to decide if a position is needed on a full-time or temporary basis.

Temporary employees have no benefits, other than the sick days required by State law for all employees. They receive no health insurance, vacation or holiday leave. And because they are less expensive to employ than full-time permanent employees, state agencies are using them to keep budget costs down and fill necessary positions, sometimes on an on-going basis. This bill will shed light on how temporary employees are being employed in State government and discourage the use of temporary employees to fill what should be permanent positions.

Reps. Theresa Wood, Tom Stevens, Marcia Lawrence Gardner

Rep. Theresa Wood

As we wrap up the legislative session, the House Human Services Committee continues to work on several key bills, including S.55 and H. 146 and Proposition 5, a Constitutional Amendment regarding reproductive liberty.

S.55 is an act relating to toxic substances and hazardous materials. Our committee was asked to specifically review this bill with regard to the potential health impact on children. The bill largely makes changes to a bill passed several years ago implementing a program where manufactures must notify the Health Department of the presence of certain chemicals in children's products that have been found to be potentially harmful to children. A similar bill was passed last year, but was vetoed by the Governor. The changes to program require notification by the manufacturers to the Health Department each year, and looks to make better use of an advisory committee with specific expertise in toxic substances.

S.146 consolidates several existing advisory councils, including the Governor's Opioid Coordinating Council and creates the Substance Misuse Prevention Advisory Council. This important council is intended to guide investments in substance misuse prevention and to advise the Health Department, Agency of Education and community partners regarding important prevention programs across state government, schools and local agencies. It also sets the stage for prevention activities with the potential legalization of a tax and regulate cannabis system at some point.

Proposition 5 was voted out of my committee after several days of testimony and a public hearing. This is a Constitutional Amendment stating: " Article 22. [Personal reproductive liberty]

That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means." The full House voted to move this amendment to the next step of the process by a vote of 106 in favor and 38 opposed. The amendment will sit next year and then will be voted on again by the full Senate and full House in either 2021 or 2022 and if successful, will appear on the ballot in the November 2022 general election for all Vermont voters to have their say.

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OPEN STUDIO WEEKEND

May 25 & 26
Open 10-5

Come visit local artists!

Look for the yellow signs.
To download a map, go to
www.vermontcrafts.com

Open Studio Weekend is a statewide celebration of the visual arts and creative process, offering a unique opportunity for visitors to meet a wide variety of artists and craftspeople in their studios, some of which are only open to the public during this event.

Please join these local participants:

Meinhardt Design #21
202 Murray Drive, Richmond 434-2409
Hand-thrown porcelain pottery, microcrystalline glazes

Birds of Vermont Muesum #22
900 Sherman Hollow Rd, Huntington 434-2167
Wildlife, sculpture, dioramas, wood-carved birds

Gordon Rowe # 23
239 Texas Hill Road, Huntington 881-3975
Ceramics both thrown and hand-built

Huntington Valley Arts #24
2209 Main Rd. Huntington 434-4235
Huntington Valley Arts Group Show at the Fuller House: hand-sewn clothes and accessories, weaving, knitwear, printed tee shirts, scarves, photography, cards

Voting, Again

continued from page 2

pervisory Union, benefits for some of the elementary schools was, and is, evident and worthwhile. Trying hard to understand the benefits of merger, the promoters at the meetings were asked over and over to give us substantial reasons for Huntington to merge with the other towns of CESU to form one district.

No doubt by now you have heard the pros and cons put forth by those for and against this particular merger. Those in favor say it will reduce taxes. When asked to be specific, other than a very small savings in secretarial staff, no budget cutting examples can be given. The one exception is by closing a school to save costs. Also, the initial tax reduction incentive was emphasized as another example that taxes would go down. To many of us, this was clearly an "incentive" that would be paid for by raising other taxes for the State Education Fund to cover costs of those incentives. Other benefits cited were enrichment programs, such as a language program (at another elementary school nearly 20 miles and a half hour drive on a good day from Huntington). Also cited was the benefit of having one large budget that would not be highly reviewed by local taxpayers so funding for desired items would be easier to slip in.

Among other issues, those against merger will say it is over 10 miles along sometimes tough roads to the nearest school in our 30-plus mile long Supervisory Union. We believe we have a talented and dedicated staff at all levels who provide a high quality education for our students. We have a school built with local tax dollars and volunteers' sweat equity and fund raising. We have 10 acres of prime land generously donated to the Town by one of our former residents. We believe resources, training, and enrichment opportunities are, and should be, shared with other members of our Supervisory Union. Parents and taxpayers know our Elementary School Board members, see them in the community, and can readily communicate with them. Our School Board meetings encourage engagement from the community. At Town Meeting, we scrutinize the budget line by line and strive to not raise taxes while maintaining a safe place for our kids with high educational standards.

There are those who strongly promote this merger. Most because they believe it is in the best interests of the students, the teachers, and the taxpayers. Some because of ego. Others because it is in the best interest of their Town. In Huntington, most parents, taxpayers, and voters believe we already meet the five basic goals of Act 46. We do not recognize the benefits of merger outweighing the negative consequences, and have demonstrated this with four different votes against merger. We appreciate our local School Board members and our open and public democratic process.

This next voting exercise on school merger scheduled for June 6 is another futile attempt at fulfilling the democratic guidelines originally set forth by the State Legislature. Calling for a vote to be taken from the floor at a public meeting of the nearly 13,000 registered voters of our 30-mile-long, five-town Supervisory Union is discouraging, unwieldly, and close to being considered a sham. If anyone really cared for a democratic vote, yet again, on the merger issue, then it would have been done through the Australian Ballot process so at least more people could have the opportunity to cast their ballot at the usual polling places within their town. If forced mergers are to be mandated, and Supervisory Unions dissolved through State Legislation, then why disguise the process by asking voters to cast ballots? Or have a voice vote?

Folks in Huntington are proud to be members of CESU so when our kids are a little older they will move up to larger schools and have broader experiences, first the middle school with Richmond and Bolton, and then on to Mount Mansfield Union High School with the other towns of CESU, Jericho and Underhill. Go Cougars!

Perhaps what we all can agree on is that it is well past time to move on. The Agency of Education and the State Board has spent hundreds if not thousands of hours on this issue. Millions of dollars have been spent on salaries, legal fees and "tax incentives." Here in Huntington, our teachers and administrators are tired and frustrated with the protracted debates, as is our own School Board that has been distracted from other important issues because the merger proposal keeps re-surfacing and needs their attention. During the fourth vote on merger here in Huntington, the voters seemed angry thinking their votes don't really matter.

And still the kids come to school, socializing, playing and learning. Learning from each other, from the teachers, from other adults. Learning about life's lessons. Learning about good citizenship and democracy.

—*Duncan Keir,* Huntington
Parent of 2 K-12 CESU graduates

Yes

continued from page 2

You may hear that this vote should be by Australian ballot instead of a Town Meeting format. The MMU Board would have preferred an Australian ballot, but the law is clear—we have to hold a special meeting of all voters and cannot legally use an Australian ballot.

You may hear that the State's order requiring Huntington to merge is illegal. To date, all of these arguments have been rejected in court. We would be happy to share the decisions with anyone who is interested.

You may hear that MMU is not prepared to merge as ordered by the State Board of Education on July 1. This is not true. Our administration is fully prepared to implement a merger.

You may hear that MMU should vote "no" and then move to dissolve the supervisory union. The MMU Board is committed to dissolving the supervisory union if there is a "no" vote on June 6. However, Huntington's lawyers have made it clear they will then oppose any attempt by MMU to dissolve the supervisory union. More litigation awaits if there is a "no" vote.

What everyone needs to hear is the input of the dedicated women and men who serve in our administration, teach our students and staff our schools. As Board members, we have heard from them. Talk to them and make up your own minds as to whether a yes vote would serve students and taxpayers. We are confident they will tell you that students and taxpayers in all of our communities—including Huntington—would be best served by a unified district.

Here is what is at stake on June 6—can MMU have unified governance or must it continue fragmented governance that hurts students and taxpayers? As Board members, we know that students and taxpayers deserve better.

We hope there is a strong yes vote to accept Huntington as a full member of the MMU school district as ordered by the State Board of Education and thereby end the costly supervisory union.

—Michael Marks, Derek Miodownik, Chip Noonan, Cindy Preston
MMU Board members from Richmond

Vote Yes

My name is Ethan Maurer and I am one of the representatives from Huntington on the MMU School Board. I think it is important that I am transparent and let you know that I am in support of Huntington fully merging with the towns of Richmond, Bolton, Underhill, and Jericho. I am also in support people's voice/vote being heard. As we head towards the June 6 town meeting style merger vote I know there are a lot of conversations and questions being posed and recognize that the time, location, and setting make this style vote difficult. The MMU board is working to mitigate possible roadblocks to ensure everyone who wants to participate is able.

It is incredibly challenging when an issue divides a community especially when it drags on over the course of several years. Through legislative intent and judicial proceedings, the five towns have to take this difficult step to meet the obligations of Act 46 and 49. Unfortunately, the process is muddy, unclear, and there are a lot of questions to be answered. I will do my best to answer any questions so please feel free to reach out to me.

I also want to thank everyone who has been engaged in this process and wish for for all of the towns on the western slopes to come together, support the school board merger and continue to provide the best educational opportunity for our community.

—*Ethan Maurer,* Huntington

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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

One of the joys of serving as a pastor is getting to know members of my faith community and the wider community across the age span. There are few places like a faith community where young and old interact together. On Saturday, June 8 we will celebrate Harriet Riggs's 100th birthday from 1 pm to 4 pm, with a party in the Fellowship Hall. This party is a community celebration of one of our beloved Richmond residents, who literally wrote the town's history book (along with other members of the Historical Society). Harriet's love of local history is no surprise for any of you who have met her as a guide at the Old Round Church or talked with her at the Post Office or Richmond Market. Living the span of one century is an impressive feat within itself, but to do so with a quick wit and a sound mind is even more so. I have found Harriet to be an invaluable resource when I put together our worship service at the Round Church each fall. She has extensively researched the church's history and always has an idea or tidbit to share.

I hope you'll join us in the birthday celebration! Harriet asks not for cards or presents. But if you would like to make a donation in celebration of this milestone, they can be made to the Richmond Historical Society or the Capital Campaign/New Roof fund at Richmond Congregational Church.

The day after Harriet's birthday party, on Sunday, June 9, at 10 am, we will celebrate some milestones for our younger church members as we recognize High School and College Graduates, celebrate the end of the church school year and thank Sunday School Teachers. It's also Pentecost, so remember to wear red, the color of the Holy Spirit!

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Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAYS, MAY 31 TO OCTOBER 11: Richmond Farmers Market, 3 pm to 7 pm, on the Volunteers Green in Richmond. Discover local produce, delicious prepared food, handmade crafts, baked goods, local meat, live music and more. info@richmondfarmersmarketvt.org

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.

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

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

SUNDAYS: KarmaYoga class time has changed. 10:30 am to 11:30 am, Balance Yoga. $5 plus a non-perishable, non-expired item or two for Richmond Food Shelf (or $10 without food item). www.balanceyoga.com

MAY 1 - OCTOBER 31: Pollinate This!, art inspiring seeds of conservation, Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington. Artworks that explore, examine, and express pollination, Information: Kir Talmage or Allison Gergely: 434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org.

MAY 30: The Feast of Venus III, Manchester Center. A community-wide celebration, bringing Vermonters together to help end hunger and malnutrition. Delicious, locally inspired refreshments, engaging conversation, and the opportunity to learn about the statewide and local work of Hunger Free Vermont. All proceeds from the Feast of Venus III support the work of Hunger Free Vermont. Tickets online: feastofvenus3.eventbrite.com or 802-265-0023.

MAY 30: Vermont Botanical and Bird Club Annual Meeting Presentation, 7:30 pm: Jason Hill presents Flights in the Dark: illuminating the contrasting migration strategies of two grassland bird species, Upland Sandpipers and Grasshopper Sparrows, Pine Valley/Quechee KOA, Pavillion Building.

JUNE 8: Huntington Charter Day Event at Maplewood Cemetery, 1 pm to 3 pm. Huntington Historical and Community Trust (HHCT) to host Maplewood Cemetery walking program to hear stories of notable residents and ancestors of Huntington from years past. Appropriate for families. Lemonade and bake sale to benefit HHCT. Information: HHCTVT@gmail.com or 434-3584.

JUNE 16: Father's Day Fishing Derby, 8 am-11 am, Chittenden County Fish & Game Club's Annual "Free" Derby for Youth 14 years & under. Trophies in age groups 5-14 years. Lunch available. 1397 Wes White Hill Road. Information: http://ccfgclub.org.

JUNE 26 - 28: Loon Lakes and Summer Songbirds with Vermont Center for Ecostudies in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom town of Averill. Three days of exploring loon lakes, birding boreal forests, and simply enjoying this remote, special place. Your home base will be Quimby Country, and your guides - VCE's Eric Hanson, Roz Renfrew, and Susan Hindinger - will lead daily birding walks, paddling excursions to observe and monitor loon activity, and natural history rambles. Informal talks and programs over dessert each evening. Information: https://vtecostudies.org/enews/

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:
Huntington: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs).
Richmond: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm, Town Center

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION
Huntington: 2nd & 4th Mon., 7 pm, Town Clerk's Office.
Richmond: 1st & 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Town Center

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
Huntington: 2nd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office
Richmond: 2nd & 4th Wed., 7 pm, Town Center.

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

SCOUTS
Richmond: Cub Scout Pack 646 meets 7-8 pm, last Wednesday of the month, CHMS music room pit.
Huntington: Cub Scout Pack 645, Sundays, Brewster-Pierce School, Matt Plumer (chewiecbr@gmail.com).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr
Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Public Library.

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

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

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

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

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

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE
Huntington: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Town Hall.

LIBRARY
Richmond: Trustees, 1st Thursday in January, March, April, June, September & November, 6:30 pm. 434-3036.

Huntington: Library Board, 4th Tues, 6:30 pm, Huntington Public Library, 434-4583

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

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

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

HHCT (Huntington Historic and Community Trust): 1st Thurs, Huntington Public Library, 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

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

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

Worship

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

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

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

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

Meeting Ted Sargeant

The Community Senior Center of Richmond, Huntington and Bolton (CSC) facilitates nearly 40 activities for over 400 seniors, averaging about 20 per week each season. We chatted with Huntington resident Ted Sargeant about his experiences with the CSC.

How did you learn about the CSC and its activities? I read the Times Ink. And I go to the Catholic Church on Thursday morning for coffee hour. I met Martha Nye there.

And from the coffee hour you branched into other things? Well, I go to Bone Builders twice a week up at Huntington Center. Somebody always picks me up to go. Usually Debbie Worthley.

What you like about Bone Builders? A lot of the exercises are difficult. But I try them. I think it's helping me. That's what I have to work on…. my balance. My balance isn't as good as it used to be. We use weights. They're not heavy. You have weights in your hands and you cross your arms and stand up. I can't do that. But my doctor says take your weights out front of you and then, yes, I can stand up great.

Are the people at Bone Builders welcoming? Oh, yeah, they're nice. It's mostly ladies. David Worthley is usually there. He's the only other man.

Are you are gardener? Have been over the years. I'm one of the original vendors at the Richmond Farmers Market. I sold vegetables and flowers and maple candy. My wife used to make quick bread. Every week she'd make about 20 loaves. I have flower gardens near the door here and more out back. A lot of daffy's blooming now.

(He shows me an arrangement he's made of daffodils and greens) Joan always arranged flowers for church. Sometimes she'd pick them early. Sometimes she'd wait until Sunday morning. She always had a bouquet of flowers for the church.

Joan was your wife? Sixty years.

When did you lose her? October 11 last year. This year I had at least two people call me up and wanted to know if I wanted a ride to Town Meeting. I didn't know what they wanted..but…(holding out a plaque).. they presented this to Joan on town meeting day and I had to get up and accept it. Fifty years of service: Huntington school board, MMU school board and as a lister. It's the Olga Hallock civic award. They give it every year to some person.

I bet Joan knows that she got it. I know she does.

See all CSC events and activities at cscvt.org and click on Calendar or sign up to receive them in our Weekly Activities Newsletter.

—Diane Reynolds

Class 3 or Class 4

continued from page 1

1973, documents to the state, estimates for upgrade and annual maintenance to bring them up to of Class 3 standards or maintaining them at Class 4 going forward. It not an exaggeration to say that hundreds of hours have been put into this research.

It is complicated, to say the least, as now the State is requiring the towns to address stormwater mitigation on all Class 3 roads, which everyone agrees is necessary but none the less expensive. The terms used by the town attorney is "more stringent" standards. The stormwater standards are greatly reduced for Class 4 roads since they are unmaintained and do not have a lot of gravel added and removal of vegetation, nor the traffic to warrant. Additionally, the standards change, so the estimated costs could change. No one expects a reduction in costs.

Presently, the additional costs to the Town, in round numbers, to upgrade these road sections to Class 3 would be:

Town Road 26, .6 miles
$227, 000 / Annual maintenance: $15,300
Town Road 15, .33 miles
$88,000 / Annual maintenance: $11,100
Town Road 9, 0.06 miles
$33,100 / Annual maintenance: $2813

This isn't to say that the three roads have fallen into ruin. Town Road 26 (Trapp Road) has a property owner at the 2.3-mile location, who regularly fills the low spots with gravel and has replaced culverts to make it passable to his hunting camp and the State Forest. He is opposed to any upgrade of the road. Town Road 15 (Stagecoach Road) has a permanent residence at .33 miles who had maintained the road for 10 years, a condition of the subdivision permit as the road was thought to be Class 4; Town Road 9 has not been maintained and, since it leads up to a big ravine, the result of a washout in 2013, it does not have traffic, although property owners have parked on it to hike into their property beyond the ravine.

At the Trapp Road hearing on May 16, it was evident that the public sentiment was in favor of leaving upper Trapp Road after the Hoff Farm as Class 3 NUTS or reducing it to Class 4. However, Class 3 NUTS is not an official option; it was explained that the term is descriptive, used by VTrans, and not an actual category of road. Hoffman says that the purchase of the property on Trapp Road (the FSF owns land on a portion of both sides of upper Trapp Road), was made 15 years ago with the understanding that this was a Class 3 road and there would be access to the property. It was presented as such by the seller who had himself started to take steps to have the town upgrade the road in the 1990s before he abruptly sold the property and built a house in another town.

Hoffman said she would like to find a solution to "work together" on upgrading the road to Class 3 and would grant an easement to the public through the private portion that goes to the State land and other properties. Smith and Hoffman have also said that, should the section of the road that is Class 3 NUTS not be upgraded to Class 3, they will put a gate across the road where it is no longer a town road. A representative of the Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation Department read a letter at the hearing stating that public access to the State Forest cannot be gated. And, should a gate go up, legal action will be taken.

All three hearings have been continued to 6:30 pm on Monday, June 17.

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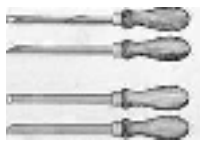

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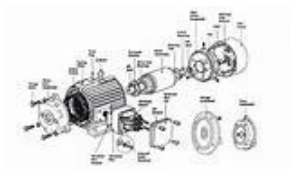

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Arts Update

The Cuban Connection

Contributed by Toni Basanta

George Voland & Friends

Who is George Voland? A jazz musician and educator who earned a Bachelor's Degree from Middlebury College and a Master of Education from the University of Vermont.

Trombonist George Voland shares his time playing with the Vermont Jazz Ensemble, Pine St. Jazz and his own trios, quartets and quintets all over the Green Mountain State.

It is mandatory to mention his roles as musical matchmaker, talent scout and mentor to several generations of jazz artists in South Burlington High School, Gailer School, Interplay Jazz Camp in Hartland, Community College of Vermont, the Flynn Arts Faculty and the IAJE (International Association of Jazz Educators) which is an itinerant Festival celebrated in different countries.

It's been a pleasure to have George Voland and Steve Weinert in our Richmond Tuesdays celebrating the International Day of Jazz on April 29, which was also his birthday, and that of renowned musicians as Mario Bauzá, Dámaso Pérez Prado, Willy Colón, and Duke Ellington in the same week.

The International Day of Jazz is an initiative established in 2011 by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and sponsored by the Thelonious Monk Jazz Institute, and our Channel has been at the forefront of this celebration since its inception.

More about George Voland and Friends in our blog:cubanbridge.wordpress.com

Composer & Trumpeter David Ellis

David Ellis (aka Dave Ellis) was greatly influenced by his father, Richard Ellis, the band director and music store founder

Growing up in the business, David developed a strong passion for music both as a retailer and as a player. Mr. Ellis is an acclaimed lead trumpet player who has been on the road as a professional trumpeter making music with different bands. His composition Miles' Adventure is dedicated to his son Miles and his idol Miles Davis.

Using this original composition of a Vermont artist, we aim at raising the bar as high as we can in our area and out of it.

While teaching and playing, David Ellis works alongside his two sisters in the store, Ellis Music Company, LLC), which is located in Bethel, Vermont.

Personal Opinion

A Place Dear to My Heart

Dear Reader,

Our Community Cares Camp, or OCCC for short; is a place that is very dear to my heart. It's a place that I go to every summer, and always puts a smile on my face. This camp has been a place for me that I could go to when I felt like I had no place to go. It's a place that has made me feel like I belong to something. This camp is such a magical place and it helps kids like me, know what it means to be a part of a community, and in a community that loves you.

OCCC is a non-profit food service day camp, that's run sixteen days during the summer. In my opinion, those sixteen days are the best days of my summer vacation. As a food service program we're providing two meals for kids who may be suffering from food insecurity in our local community, but we are also a place for kids who may just not have a place to go in the summer. I was one of those kids. While all of my friends were off going to sleepaway camps, or other day camps, I unfortunately couldn't go, because we couldn't afford it. That's why I'm so grateful for Our Community Cares Camp, it gave me a place to go in the summer, and it was through this camp I have made lasting friendships.

I am a very shy person. Even though I'm now off at college, my shyness has not disappeared. I remember the first time I ever went to camp. I was extremely nervous about going. I thought I wouldn't know anyone there, and it was hard for me to leave all of my friends who were going to the YMCA camp. Then I got to the camp, and I met one of the most amazing woman in my life. Her name is Wendy, and at the time she was the head of the seniors group, and is now our program director. She could tell just how nervous I was getting off the bus, and took me

under her wing and made sure I had a terrific first day. In the end she did an amazing job, all the fears I had about coming to a new camp, disappeared once the camp day was done.

Through the camp, I have met some of the most amazing people. I met my friend, and neighbor Elizabeth Morris, who has been like a big sister to me over the years. She's someone I know I can turn to when I need someone to talk too. I also met Kiki, our foster grandparent, who is a one of a kind person with such a big heart. I also got to make a lot of friends, some are a few years older than me, but have been there to help me through the ups and downs of high school, and getting ready for college. Thank you Elizabeth, Ali and Paige, I really appreciate all that you have done for me. I also got to connect with someone who is an adopted cousin to me, her name is Lauren Alexander, and I'm so grateful we worked together this past summer and have had the opportunity to connect.

Finally, there's one more person I want to recognize before I go back to talking about the importance of the camp. Marie Thomas, our Camp Director, works throughout the entire year to fundraise for the camp, and to make sure people know who we are. She is an extremely hard worker, and has a huge love and passion working in her community, and also working with kids. Marie, I want to take this moment to thank you for all that you have done, and still continue to do for this camp. If it wasn't for you, this camp wouldn't be here. Myself and many other people wouldn't know how amazing this camp is, and would be lost without it. Without you and this camp, my summers wouldn't be as fun, and I know I wouldn't have all the memories I cherish in my heart, or the knowledge of the love this community has for our kids. Thank you, Marie, for all that you do. Without you, I wouldn't have my camp family, or an amazing camp that I can call home.

Our Community Cares camp is a place where kids come to be a kid. It's a place where for just a few hours, we do arts and crafts, play group games, sing songs, and learn how to play some instruments. It's a place where kids from different parts of Richmond, Huntington, Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill come to have fun, and be an extended family. At OCCC you won't just find kids and counselors having a ton of fun; but you will find friendship, and the love a community has for their kids. You will find people who love being there, and being a part of this community. I'm so grateful to have been a part of this camp for so many years. This summer will be my fourth year as a counselor there, and I'm so excited for another camp season.

OCCC is more than just a food service program, and were more than just a summer camp too. It's also a place that teaches leadership among our youth and the teens and college students who return in the summer to work here. It's a place that has allowed me to follow my love and passion for working with kids, and inspired me to go study Elementary Education at Castleton University. To top it off, this camp has also inspired me to study and get the special ed endorsement. If it wasn't for this camp I don't know where I would be. This camp has been like a family to me, and they're a family I wouldn't trade anything for. I love this camp very much, just like many other people do too.

Sincerely,

Kaitlin Scherber

(Kaitlin Scherber wrote this essay for a college English course. Speech of Choice: Travel Letter, April 25, 2019.)

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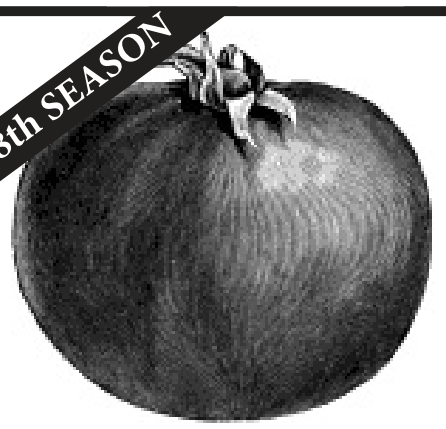

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

My Town Library

"To provide resources and experiences that inspire, inform, entertain, and connect members of the community throughout their lives."

—Mission Statement of the Richmond Free Library

Despite living in a small town in a rural setting, Richmond residents have demonstrated commitment to education and learning from the beginning. According to the Burlington Free Press, the March 1885 Town Meeting approved $75 for the free public library.

Located in the lower part of the Masonic Building on Depot Street, the new library contained 165 volumes of first class books. Although the space was tiny, the Library's location in the center of town was an inviting space. I have fond memories of joining other parents of preschoolers with my two children for story times and reading groups.

Since we lived in a rural part of town, the Library provided socialization for the boys and established their early love of books and reading, habits which continue through their adult years.

Today, the Library has over 26,000 items including books, magazines, DVDs, and audio books. The friendly and helpful staff do a great job acquiring current publications. They also offer story times, host speakers and lectures, and coordinate activities in the large community room upstairs. With the grand piano, they offer recitals and concerts. I am a member of the Greenfield Piano Associates and enjoy assisting with the annual recital the group offers each spring.

The current library building was the former Universalist Church built in 1879-1880. It was the desire of some residents several decades ago to bulldoze the building which they believed was an ugly albatross. Despite this opposition, some dedicated citizens worked to rescue the dilapidated space, at first renovating it for the elementary school lunchroom downstairs and the children's gym upstairs.

Opening July 8, 1991, the Library has become an essential part of Richmond's social and educational infrastructure. It is accessible to all citizens regardless of income and assets. Libraries are one of the strongest elements of society. Nondiscriminatory, they provide equal opportunities for all our residents to engage in educational and social events. Libraries strengthen the sense of community and belonging, feelings that seem increasingly weakened in our fractured modern culture.

As a Richmond resident for more than 43 years, I have witnessed many changes in my own neighborhood and in the larger community. There was a time when neighborhoods were more cohesive, in both villages and rural areas. Now it's more common for people not to know each other. We value our privacy, but have lost a sense of community. Granted, the four-party line we had when we first moved here was a bit annoying, especially when one of the parties would get calls all hours of the night — it turned out they were drug dealers! Now we have more privacy but a decreased sense of shared belonging to a community. The Richmond Free Library is a shining example of what a town can offer and the rewards experienced by so many people and families.

A personal recommendation is Eric Klinenberg's Palaces for the People.

I'll be returning it to the Library soon.

Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Empty Bucket List

We all have our bucket lists. When we were younger, the lists were long. Gigantic really, ideas swirling in our heads. So many places to go, things to do, and plenty of time. The possibilities were limitless.

As we get older, the bucket list gets shorter for two reasons. Much we've accomplished and taken off. We've also reconsidered and taken things off. We are to the point so much has been taken off that the list is more like a post-it. The bucket is nearly empty.

No, we haven't taken that trans-Atlantic cruise on the Queen Elizabeth, gone to Australia, toured Europe or Alaska. Probably never will. They all involve flying great distances. That's enough to cross them out. Flying just isn't fun anymore. Between delays, pat downs, crowded planes, it just isn't worth it. Maybe our attitude would be more tolerant if we hadn't flown during the days when flying was a luxury, back when passengers were fed and pampered, and arrived on time. Imagine, people used to reach their destinations relaxed and refreshed.

Then there are the crazy things that have been on the list forever, like bungy jumping off a bridge into a deep gorge or parachuting out of an airplane. These were deleted, and with good reason. Bungy jumping? No. Anyone who would let us do that at our ages isn't responsible enough to be trusted. Leaping out of an airplane that doesn't have anything wrong with it has always been the hurdle to parachuting. Still is, so off the list.

A camping trip across the country visiting National Parks is still on the list. The great American road trip. Traveling Old Route 66. Seeing the U. S. A. through the windshield. Fulfilling the dream of all those old Chevrolet commercials we grew up with.

Exploring our area is a new item on the list -- Upstate New York, New England, and the Canadian Maritime Provinces. People come from all over the nation and the world to see this area. It is rich in beauty and history and has wonderful backroads to explore. Yes, driving again. Best of all, a lot of this we can do as mini trips and long weekends. A few nights away and we are back home again.

That's the real obstacle to our traveling: nowhere is better than being home. Spending more time at home and in our garden is permanently #1 on our list. Creating a habitat for the birds, bugs, bees, and butterflies in our yard. Laying around in the hammock when it gets too hot to weed. Enjoying those few blessed days of spring and summer and autumn in Vermont. Nowhere could be better. What of winter? Good books read by the fireplace can take us anywhere we want to go.

(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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