The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

Volume 36 **May 2019 Issue** Number 4

Green Up on May 4

What can be better than a spring day for people to get out and clean up litter and enjoy the outdoors and each other!

Green Up Day is May 4.

In Huntington, call the Town Clerk's Office (434-2032) to sign up for a road or go to the town website (huntingtonvt.org) home page and click on the link. You can also show up at the Town Garage in the morning on May 4 and the Cub Scouts will give you snacks, an assignment and a couple of bags to collect garbage.

In Richmond this year, use the sign up sheet in the Town Offices or contact Judy Rosovsky (judy.rosovsky@jsc.edu or 434-4252). Pick up bags early at the Town Clerk's Office or in front of the Richmond Town Center on Saturday.

Remember... Please put safety first: wear bright clothes and/or reflective gear and keep an eye out for traffic. Don't handle any potentially hazardous material - let the coordinators know where and what it is; they will find the appropriate party to deal with it.

Tires and large objects can be left on the side of the road. In Huntington, bring as much as possible to the Town Garage by 1 pm. In Richmond, volunteers can leave bags by the side of the road for the town road crew to collect.

If you don't want to pick up trash in Huntington, there are painting and gardening projects at the Huntington Public Library (434-4583) or a variety of tasks at Brewster-Pierce School (434-2074). You can also go to huntingtonvt.org to see a list.

New Bridge Span Chosen for Camels Hump Road

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

AVTrans (Vermont Agency of Transportation) interactive presentation on replacement alternatives for Bridge #32 over Brush Brook on Town Highway #22 (Camels Hump Road) preceded the Selectboard meeting on April 1, 2019. A large turnout of mostly Camels Hump Road residents attended the presentation at the Community Church Annex. Fifty-six percent of attendees responded to the VTrans survey that they used this bridge daily. Laura Stone, VTrans scoping engineer, and Rob Young, project manager, provided an overview of project constraints, the project development process, recommended alternatives, schedule, and next steps.

Stone described the existing conditions of the 37-foot long, one-lane bridge as structurally deficient, with an approach that does not meet State standards. VTrans data reported average daily traffic of 260 vehicles per day on the dead end road.

Two full bridge replacement options were shown, each with a 75-year lifespan, one off alignment to improve the approach. Vtrans recommends a full bridge replacement on alignment, with two nine-foot travel lanes and two-foot shoulders, lengthened a bit for hydraulic purposes to a 45-foot length. The 22-foot width would widen approaches also. To maintain traffic during construction, a temporary one-lane bridge, signalized on either side, will be installed. The total cost of the bridge is $1.2 million. The Town's share is $176,000. The project is scheduled for 2022.

Bill Menning spoke about traffic calming by decreasing the width of the bridge. Selectboard Chair Dori Barton asked, "It is not possible to design a bridge with less than an 18-foot width, correct?", Stone responded, "Yes, correct." Board member Roman Livak asked why the State recommended an on-alignment design, rather than off-alignment. Stone said an on alignment bridge would reduce impact on property owners. Mary Taft asked the weight limit on the temporary bridge. Young said the weight limit would be 80 tons, more capacity than the existing bridge. An informal survey of the audience by a show of hands had nearly 100% voting for an 18-foot rather than a 22-foot bridge.

At its April 15 meeting, The Board proceeded with the selection of a Bridge #32 alternative. Livak made a motion to approve a 22-foot wide on-alignment bridge. No one seconded this motion. Larry Haskins Jr. moved for the option of an on alignment 18-foot wide bridge, citing public opinion which overwhelmingly supported opting for the narrower choice. Livak said, "For a 75-year investment, we should get a 22-foot bridge, a $15,000 difference for the Town."

Cochran asked, "What do we need a 22-foot bridge for?" Livak expressed safety concerns about turning onto a narrow bridge. Barton said VTRans did not bring that up as a safety concern. Camels Hump Road resident Helen Keith spoke about traffic calming and people currently speeding up to go over the bridge, "My primary thing is watching the speed. I really think you should honor the 18-foot, I wish it could be even narrower but it can't." Currently, the bridge is 14 feet wide and is considered a one-way bridge. Since it is a two-way road, State standards mandate the new bridge be a two-way bridge. Terry Boyle spoke in favor of the wider bridge. The motion carried to choose the 18-foot bridge. Additional pubic informational meetings will be held as the project progresses.

School Merger Vote Again, with a Twist

On April 15, the MMM School Board voted to hold a five-town merger vote to bring Huntington Town School into the merged district and eliminate the separate Board. Huntington has voted four times not to merge. Instead of Australian ballot, a meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, at the Mount Mansfield Union High School in Jericho. Voters must be present. It is a voice vote of those present; no absentee ballot will be issued. Details will be printed in the next issue of the Times Ink.

Last Events of Winter

Luciah Smith-Miodownik of Richmond. Photo: Dave Priganc

Cochran's Challenge

"This year's Cochran's Nordic X Challenge was epic!" reported Richmond resident Pennie Rand. The total number of registrants doubled from 130 last year to 240 this year. Participating were Junior and Sr. World Cup racers, NCAA champions, elite collegiate racers, club skiers from all over New England and New York State and recreational racers, many families with young kids as well as a number of very skilled masters racers. Many of the elite skiers are from Vermont. "It was thrilling and hilarious to spectate!" Rand enthused.

The course started at the top of the Cochran alpine trails and wound its way up and down the slope via jumps, rolls and banked turns eventually finishing at the bottom. Skiers were required to complete the challenging course on the same pair of skis on which they started. Skiers then enjoyed hot pancakes with fresh Slopeside Syrup.

Rand said, "It was wonderful fun for all. It will go down as one of the best Nordic X events ever!"

Olympian Visit

On Wednesday, March 20, Olympic Gold Medal winner Kikkan Randall visited Sleepy Hollow Nordic Ski Center in Huntington. Randall and Jessie Diggins brought home the gold medal in the Nordic Team Sprint last winter at the Pyeongchang Olympics. It was the first medal ever for a female Nordic Skier from the United States!

Shortly after the Olympics, Randall was diagnosed with Stage 2 Breast Cancer. An unbelievable diagnosis for someone at the peak of their career. She came to Sleepy Hollow to talk about her career and her fight against breast cancer. She is heavily involved with a program called AKTIV which encourages people fighting cancer to stay active. http://www.aktivagainstcancer.org/

Randall spent over an hour skiing with the group, giving them technique pointers and racing around the trails. She commented on the tough terrain at Sleepy Hollow, which made all the "regulars" from Sleepy Hollow feel great. She also showed off her Gold Medal and took pictures with everyone there. The evening culminated with a talk and autograph signing.

Molly Enman Peters, center, with daughter Mya, left, and Olympic Gold Medalist Kikkan Randall. Peters and brother Eli Enman, along with their parents, own and operate Sleepy Hollow Ski Center and Inn in Huntington

After her visit at Sleepy Hollow, Randall headed north to the World Cup races in Quebec City to cheer on her former teammates.

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OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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Letters

Richmond OM Teams to World Finals in East Lansing, Michigan

On March 16, 2019 over forty teams of students from elementary, middle and high schools across Vermont competed in the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) State Tournament. OM teams of five to seven students work more than five months to formulate and present a creative solution to an open-ended problem in the form of an eight-minute performance before a panel of judges.

Richmond OM team, winner of Vermont award for extraordinary creativity, will travel to World Finals in June

Teams also compete in a spontaneous problem at the tournament where they have to solve a problem on the fly using their creativity. The students must be the source of every aspect of the solution and its presentation. No outside help from coaches, family, friends, or other students is allowed.

This year Richmond Elementary School (RES) and Camels Hump Middle School (CHMS) sent a total of five teams representing three divisions: Primary (K-2nd grade), Division I (grades 2 to 5) and Division II (6th – 8th grade). The teams all did an outstanding job presenting their solutions to the judges and audiences at CVU. Two of the Division I teams placed first and second in Problem #5, qualifying the teams to go to World Finals this spring. The first-place team will be attending OM World Finals at Michigan State University this May.

The all-girl fourth grade team from RES was awarded first place in Problem #5 (the theatrical problem) entitled Opposites Distract. The team presented an outstanding solution involving seven characters, representing the six colors of the rainbow and white light, who learned how important it is to not be divided by sneaky characters. The girls achieved extraordinary scores in all aspects of the competition - with a close to perfect score in Style.

Not only did they wow the judges and audience but they were awarded an OMer award for the extraordinary creativity, powerful messages in their storytelling and outstanding theatrical performance. The solution these gals came up with this year far surpassed anyone's expectations. Not only did they have an incredible theatrical performance, their solution intertwined humor, science, extraordinary props and costume design, phenomenal acting, dancing and singing and perhaps most importantly a heartwarming and valuable social statement about seeing your "true colors" and knowing that you are beautiful like a rainbow.

This year, several of the team members are not able to make the trip to Worlds. However, two are working hard to turn the team's seven-person solution into a two person solution....bringing a new and interesting twist to their OMer journey!

OM is an international educational program whose mission is to provide creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Through solving open-ended problems, team members develop essential life skills such as "outside the box" thinking, teamwork and creative problem solving all while having fun. Teams from throughout the U.S. and more than 20 other countries participate in the program. ttps://www.odysseyofthemind.com/

Attending World Finals is truly a life-changing experience no matter if you've attended once or several times. Hunter Wasser, who will graduate from MMU this spring, is a veteran OMer, World Finalist four of his five years in the program, and this year's recipient of the Vermont Creativity Quest OM scholarship for graduating seniors. Upon reflecting on his experiences at World Finals, Wasser states "Seeing your peers, who are arguably some of the most creative people in the world, presenting solutions you never would have thought of gives you a new sense of perspective on the limits (or lack thereof) of human ingenuity."

No outside assistance is allowed for OM solutions; however, outside assistance is needed now to help send the team to Michigan to compete at World Finals. The team is now faced with the creative challenge of raising $4,000 in six weeks (a very short period of time) to fund their trip.

If you are able to help this group of creative OMer gals get to Michigan State University, the team will accept donations of any amount which it would greatly appreciate. You may donate on the team's GoFundMe site https://www.gofundme.com/Richmond-OM-Worlds or send a check (payable to Denise Noble – "OM" in memo) to the following address: OM Worlds c/o Denise Noble, 561 Cemetery Rd., Richmond VT 05477. All donations will go directly to funding the team's trip to World Finals.

The team will also be having some fundraising events in the next month-and-a-half:

Bottle Drive: Ongoing – you may drop your bottles behind CHMS (follow the signs) in the OM bottle bin or you may take them to Lucky Spot. You must notify the clerk at the bottle redemption window that the bottles are for the OM fundraiser.

Mother's Day Gift Baskets: Sunday, May 12, delivery– A wonderful gift basket to be delivered to her on mother's day morning with a fresh carnation. The bag will be filled with Vermont treats: Lake Champlain Chocolates, tea, homemade scones, local maple syrup, chocolate covered strawberries, cheese and more. $20/gift bag.

The team is also looking into holding the Father/Daughter Dance sometime in May or June.

—*Denise Noble*, vtis4us@sover.net, 434-8440 or 318-2211.

Vermont Senate Update

Last week, the Senate passed legislation to protect Vermont's men and women who serve in the National Guard from exposure to burn pits. Vermonters are suffering due to this exposure and the federal government is not stepping up to help them.

During overseas deployments, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq, the military frequently eliminates waste by digging massive pits (think several football fields) and burning all the contents in them.

What gets burned in these pits? According to the Veterans Administration, the waste products in burn pits include "chemicals, paint, medical and human waste, metal/aluminum cans, munitions and other unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, rubber, wood, and discarded food."

The smoke and airborne debris from these pits are often inhaled by our service men and women who are housed in close proximity to them.

The VA provides contradictory information about the health impacts on soldiers of exposure to burn pits.

On the one hand, the Department's website says, "At this time, research does not show evidence of long-term health problems from exposure to burn pits. VA continues to study the health of deployed Veterans."

On the other hand, under the heading "Health effects from burn pit

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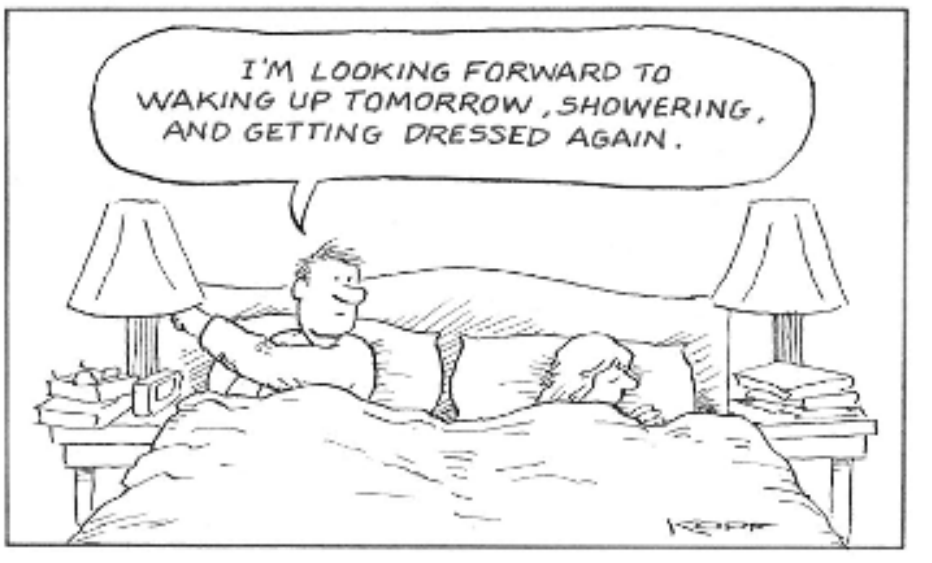

Grow a Classic English Country Garden in Vermont

Learn how to grow an English cottage garden in your own back yard when nationally-recognized gardening writer and speaker Charlie Nardozzi comes to Richmond Free Library on May 16.

As the award-winning author and radio and TV personality highlights in his presentation, Vermonters are fortunate to have a climate conducive to growing the beautiful flowers and plants typical in classic English garden settings. Nardozzi also talks about how to maintain these gardens, and allows ample time for the audience's questions.

Charlie Nardozzi has worked for more than 30 years sharing his expertise with home gardeners through radio, television, talks, tours, on-line media and in print. He focuses on making gardening techniques and practices simple, enjoyable and accessible to everyone.

He hosts several radio programs including a weekly call-in show on Burlington's WJOY and the award-winning Vermont Garden Journal on Vermont Public Radio. Charlie has also been a featured speaker at major flower shows across the country, and has written and contributed to several books and magazine articles on gardening.

Nationally-recognized gardening expert Charlie Nardozzi

Grow a Classic English Cottage Garden with Charlie Nardozzi is hosted by the Community Senior Center of Bolton, Richmond and Huntington. Admission is free and open to all.

Turning Tragedy: Fourth Annual Richard's Ride

On May 18, 2019, the Richard Tom Foundation will host its Fourth annual Richard's Ride. This ride differs from other organized rides by welcoming kids and families as well as bringing together road riders, mountain bikers and hand cyclists. In the spirit of Richard's connection to cyclists of all ages and abilities, there will be several ride options.

Richard's Children's Ride (road and trail): 4.4 miles; free of charge under age 17.

Richard's Beginners and Family Ride: A 13.5-mile ride, including some rolling hills.

Richard's Road 30: A 30-mile loop for teens and adults over rolling terrain.

Richard's Road 70: A 67-mile loop, with climbs and descents for advanced cyclists.

Richard's MTB Ride: A technically challenging trail ride for experienced mountain bikers.

All rides will be staged from the Cochran Ski Area in Richmond. This festive spring event will include lots of free fun, including: face painting for kids, a bouncy house, free food, free t-shirts (for all who preregister) and more!

Richard's Story On April 26, 2015, Richard Tom, a beloved and avid cyclist from Hinesburg, lost his life when he was struck by a speeding and impaired driver near his home. Tom's genuine warmth, thoughtfulness, passion and capacity to inspire cyclists of all abilities, ages and disciplines was celebrated by many in the Vermont cycling community.

Tom, would have turned 51 this year. It is comforting to all who loved him that his legacy continues to benefit his local community.

The Richard Tom Foundation (RTF) The Richard Tom Foundation was created to honor Richard Tom who dedicated his life to sharing his passion for "all things bicycle."

The RTF is committed to providing resources and activities so that all ages may safely experience the sense of joy, adventure, discovery, camaraderie, well-being and other benefits of cycling Vermont roads and trails.

The Foundation also supports educational and advocacy programs to advance the cause of safe roads for all who use them; including scholarships and gear for local kids and collaboration with local organizations like Local Motion and Little Bellas.

The RTF continues to create momentum to maintain and enhance Richard Tom's positive influence on the community.

In a press release, it was stated, "As Richard's powerful legs reliably spun his pedals on routes of all kinds, we will continue to spin his legacy forward, powered by the inspiration he infused in each of us. The Richard Tom Foundation profoundly thanks our many individual donors who have helped the Richard Tom Foundation grow this year."

To register for Richard's Ride please go to www.bikereg.com/rtfoundation.

Learn more about the Richard Tom Foundation at www.richardtomfoundation.com.

Why Does the Salamander Cross the Road?

Spotted Salamanders are large (up to about 8" long), have a blue black body with two rows of yellow spots on their back. They can live for 20 years or more. They are considered common in Vermont, but are not often seen except when they are migrating in the spring to pools to lay spermatophores and eggs. They often cross roads to get there and a group of volunteers in Huntington makes a point of helping them in their travels on wet spring nights. Photo: Cindy Sprague

Parade of Music

Put on your parade-float thinking caps.

The July 4 Committee has announced that the parade theme this year will be PARADE OF MUSIC.

Said Town Clerk Linda Parent, encouragingly, "Bet there are lots of interesting ideas out there!!!!!!"

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.

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Huntington Historical and Community Trust

Huntington Charter Day Event at Maplewood Cemetery

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.

Saturday June 8th, 1-3pm.

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

Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org

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

2019 Vermont Reads The Richmond Free Library has participated in the Vermont Humanities Council program Vermont Reads for the past three years with great success, bringing people of all ages together to read, discuss, learn and create. The 2019 book is the graphic novel March: Book One, the first in a trilogy by civil rights icon John Lewis in collaboration with co-writer Andrew Ayden and graphic artist Nate Powell. It tells the story of Lewis's coming of age in rural Alabama and early life of civic activism. Lewis, who was greatly inspired and influenced by Martin Luther King Jr., is considered one of the big six leaders of the civil rights movement and an early adopter of the nonviolent protest tactics that were instrumental in the desegregation of the South. Lewis has served in the US Congress since 1987.

Free Copies of March Thanks to a grant from the Vermont Humanities Council we have many copies of the graphic novel March: Book One on hand available to the community. Stop by and check out a copy.

Soup to Nuts: An Eccentric History of Food Why are turkeys called turkeys? And what are sugarplums anyway? The history of what and how we eat encompasses everything from the prehistoric mammoth luau to the medieval banquet to the modern three squares a day. Presented by writer Rebecca Rupp, this talk lets attendees find out about the rocky evolution of table manners, the not-so-welcome invention of the fork, the awful advent of portable soup, and the surprising benefits of family dinners - plus some catchy info on seasonal foods. What's the story of chocolate? Why do the Irish eat corned beef and cabbage on St. Patrick's Day? Who invented lemonade? Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 pm. A Vermont Humanities presentation. Free.

Learning Nonviolence: Activism 101 Participants in this workshop olled by staff from the Peace and Justice Center will learn aspects of Kingian Nonviolence, build knowledge of successful nonviolent campaigns, explore how their own identities impact this work, and engage in role play. This workshop is appropriate for age fourteen through adult. Join us on Tuesday, May 7, 7- 9 pm in the Community Room.

Apprenticeships in Vermont Allison Richards, of the Vermont Department of Library, will offer an informational program describing the many different apprentice programs available via the Department of Labor and employer sponsors. This is an excellent way to learn about beginning a career or changing direction. The Apprenticeship Department currently has over 800 Vermonters registered in more than 30 trades. All are employed in the crafts of their choice and, when they complete the program, enjoy continued employment at a higher, skilled rate of pay. These programs include electrical, plumbing, surveying, sheet metal, HVAC and others. Wednesday, May 22, 6:30 pm.

The Weapons of Fraud In conjunction with AARP Vermont's Fraud Watch Network, we will host a timely presentation on scams, fraud and con artists. The program will identify the current scams and tactics being used today and provide helpful tips on staying out of the grip of con artists. Free and appropriate for 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? This popular, long-running dog communication and safety lecture by staff at Gold Star Dog Training is a multimedia extravaganza of fun with audience prticipation. We'll demystify dog communication, reveal some common dog-human misunderstandings, and explore how we can all live safely and happily together. Thursday, May 30, at 6:30 pm.

May Foyer Display Richmond resident, Jane Vossler's collection of Little Golden Books from the late '40s and early '50s; all gifts from relatives or 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 During the month of May we will be showing 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.

Storywalk The Library in collaboration with RiseVT and the Richmond Trails Committee will once again be setting up a Storywalk along the river trail at the Volunteers Green this coming June. Watch for details.

Book Discussions
Home for Unwanted Girls by Joanna Goodman. Tuesday, May 14, 6 pm.

In the Woods by Tana French (Dublin Murder Squad #1). Thursday, May 16, 7 pm.

Other Events
New Passes: Biking, Hiking, History, More! In addition to the popular passes offering discounts or free entry to ECHO, Shelburne Museum, and more, we now have some new passes available to Richmond patrons! Just stop by the Library to check out a pass for a two-day loan period.

Sleepy Hollow Inn Ski & Bike Center Passholder receives a $3 discount for each family member (up to two adults and two children) on any day or half-day pass.

Catamount Outdoor Family Center Passholder receives a $3 discount for each family member (up to two adults and two children) on any day or half-day pass.

Vermont History Museum and Vermont History Center Pass admits one person or family to either the Vermont History Museum in downtown Montpelier or the Vermont Heritage Galleries in Barre.

Weekly Children's Programs We offer three weekly programs for young children. While the programs are planned with the ages listed in mind, older and younger children are always welcome. No registration is required. Programs run September through May, following the CESU school district schedule.

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

Playgroup with Stories and Music The morning begins at 10 am with songs, stories and a simple snack (bring your own) on the alphabet rug. Around 10:30 am we'll get out the toys for free play with friends in the Library's sunny and spacious Community Room. Join us on Wednesdays for storytime and playgroup.

Movers and Shakers Storytime Toddlers and preschoolers and their caregivers are welcome on Fridays at 10:30 am.

Huntington Public Library

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

www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

Celebrate Arbor Day, Saturday, April 27, at the Huntington Public Library

Children's Activities, 9:30 am – 11:30 am: Exploring Trees, Bugs & Birds

• Children must be accompanied by an older person.

• Indoor and outdoor craft and exploratory activities – dress for outdoor activities and for the weather.

• Come and go as you please.

• Every child will be offered a coupon for a tree sapling.

• Light healthy snacks will be provided by the Friends of Library.

Adult Activities 9 am – 2 pm
Walks
9 am– 1 pm A strenuous hike to the Huntington Town Forest with guide, Aaron Worthley.

9:30 am – 11:30 am A moderate walk to observe active, ecological forest management at the Hinesburg Town Forest with guide, Forester Ethan Tapper.

9:30 am – 10:30 am A moderately gentle walk to listen, watch and learn what birds choose to inhabit what landscapes with guide, Erin Talmage, at the Birds of Vermont Museum.

Powerpoint Talks with Q&A
12:30 pm to 1:15 pm: Forest Management - Management vs. No Management, Ethan Tapper.

1:15 pm to 2 pm: Elm Tree Restoration in Vermont, Megan Gordon, the Nature Conservancy.

Exhibits
9:30 am to 12:30 pm: Celebrate Arbor Day Art Exhibit – Opening Day - All about trees and forests!

9:30 am to 2 pm: Ash Trees and EAB – Information and introduction to a citizen science project to inventory ash trees on Huntington's public property. Sign up to participate.

Huntington's Arbor Day Celebration is a collaboration between the Huntington Public Library and the Huntington Conservation Commission.

Please register. More information on the HPL website.

New Adult Fiction The First Lady and Miracles at St. Andrews by James Patterson; As Long as We Both Shall Live by Joanne Chaney; Tin Man by Sarah Winman; Rag and Bone and Blue Madonna – Billy Boyle World War II Mysteries by James R. Benn; Turbulence by Stuart Woods; About Face, The Girl of His Dreams, Blood From a Stone and Sea of Troubles by Donna Leon; American Duchess by Karen Harper; The Lost Girls of Paris by Pam Jenoff; The Night Tiger by Yangsze Choo; The Cornwalls are Gone by David Patterson and Brendan Dubois; The Parade by Dave Eggers.

Adult Non-Fiction The Power of Eight by Lynne McTaggart; The Outside Story – Writers Explore the Nature of the Northeast; Women Rowing North – Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age by Mary Pipher; American Primitive and Long Life by Mary Oliver; Genesis – The Deep Origin of Societies by E.O. Wilson; 101 Ways to Go Zero Waste by Kathryn Kellogg; The Secret Wisdom of Nature – Trees, Animals and the Extraordinary Balance of All Living Things by Peter Wohlleben; Save Me the Plums – My Gourmet Memoir by Ruth Reichl.

Adult Audiobook Astrophysics for People in a Hurry; The American Agent by Jacqueline Winspear.

Adult DVD The Miniaturist; My Mother and Other Strangers; Jamestown; Wyeth – American Masters – The Life of Andrew Wyeth in Bold Strokes.

Picture Books Vernon on His Way and Music for Mr. Moon by Philip C. Stead; Sugar on Snow by Nan Parson Rossiter; P is for Pterodactyl by Raj and Chris Carpenter; Because by Mo Willems; Why should I Walk? I Can Fly! by Ann Ingalls; Tomie dePaola's Cats and Kittens; Not Quite Narwahl and Love, Z by Jessie Sima; The King of Bees by Lester L. Laminack; Zen Happiness by Jon J. Muth; Right This Very Minute, A Table-to-Farm book about food and farming by Lisl H. Detlefson.

Juvenile Fiction Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly; Sunny by Jason Reynolds.

Juvenile Audiobooks James Herriot's Favorite Dog Stories; James Herriot's Cat Stories.

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 Public Library card! Ask your librarian if you have any questions.

Huntington 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!

Friday Movie Night May 10, at 7 pm. Join us for The Lego Movie 2 – The Second Part.

University of Huntington (U of H)

At its April 16 meeting, the Huntington Public Library Board of Trustees heard from Paula Kelley about a new initiative for library programming: a "pop-up university." Taking the Bethel University (BU) example, the HPL Board enthusiastically endorsed the concept and set in motion a plan to have the Library offer opportunities for residents and FOH (friends of Huntingtonians) to offer classes and single-session workshops in the community.

Bethel University is now in its fourth year and offered 77 classes during the month of March. BU attracted more than 1,000 registrations this March, drawing people from more than 57 towns and five states to the town of 2,000 people. Irasburg has its similar program in April.

The Huntington Trustees agreed that some of the opportunities could not be held in the Union Meeting House, but would need to be in venues where the large open space or other amenities would be in place. The Board agreed that it would collaborate with other groups in the community and that goals similar to Bethel would be part of the process: attract visitors, meet neighbors and find common interests, share skills and learn new ones, support local businesses and spark the creative economy. Stay tuned.

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TAX NOTICE

Town of Richmond

Fourth and FINAL 2018-2019 tax payment is due Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

The Richmond Town Office will be open until 4 pm on May 15th to accept payments. **In office payment are cash or checks only.**

A penalty of 8% and a late fee of 1% interest will be applied to late payments on May 16, after which the account will be turned over to the Collector of Delinquent Taxes.

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

Please see online payment options at richmondvt.gov

Town of Huntington

The 4th & FINAL installment of 2018-2019 taxes is due on Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

*** This is the final payment of the year. All unpaid balances after May 15th are delinquent and will be charged an 8% penalty plus a 1% interest fee ***

US Postal Service Postmarks on or before May 15th are accepted.
(Internet generated checks do not carry post marks and must arrive by the 16th)

The Huntington Town Office will be open to accept payments:

- Monday, May 13, 8 am – 7 pm
- Tuesday, May 14, 8 am – 3 pm
- Wednesday, May 15, 8 am – 6 pm

In office payments are accepted by check or cash only.

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

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The Mansfield Cooperative School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, and other school-administered programs.

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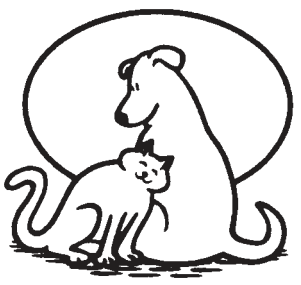

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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

During Public comment at the April 1 meeting, Barrett Grimm reported that Duncan Keir came to the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) with concerns about the future use of the school parking lot and surrounding 7.5 acres which the Town currently owns if a merged school district takes the property. The Selectboard will discuss issues related to use of the school building and grounds if Huntington becomes part of a larger school district, at a future meeting.

Paving Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger reported meeting with a paver from ECI (Engineers Construction), looking at blacktop areas on the Main Road in good shape. "I'd like to make the blacktop look nice again," said Alger. He also met with VTrans District 5 manager Ashley Bishop about a grant to do a one-inch overlay for 7.6 miles of road. Bishop supported Alger's idea. Barton asked, "How does this work in areas with big cracks? Is this a measure to buy us time?" Board member Nancy Mead continued, "We're not just pushing out what we need to do?" Alger, responded, "No, we would reclaim bad areas after."

Barton asked, "Looking at the Capital Plan, will we be putting off shim and overlay work?" It would be a change to the Capital Plan." The overlay would allow the Town to schedule cyclical shim and overlay work, with roadway reclamation every 35 years. Barton commented, "I have to be convinced that we haven't abandoned planning."

Livak expressed, "I don't think putting an inch overlay down will solve the problem, I think it's putting paint on rotten wood. We paid to have a [paving] study and they said if you cover a crack it will come back." Alger replied, "I want to save what I do have." Barton asked about East Street paving. Alger proposed putting it off for another year or two. Mead stated, "We have to relook at our Capital Plan for paving, I have a hard time thinking of the implications."

This discussion continued at the April 8 meeting, with Alger presenting two paving proposals for work beginning July 1. Alger's preferred alternative is the one-inch overlay, followed by a section-by-section schedule of reclaiming and shim/overlay. The Board passed a motion to authorize the submission of a Class 2 Roadway Grant for $175,00 for 7.6 miles of one-inch overlay on the Main Road.

Alger talked about paving again at the April 15 meeting. Livak commented, "Regardless if we get the grant, we will expend as much of the Paving Reserve Fund for as many miles as we can afford." Barton pointed out that there was money in the budget for pavement crack sealing that would not need to be spent if the Town has the one-inch overlay done. The Board passed a motion for Alger to contract with Pike industries for a one-inch pavement overlay.

At the April 1 meeting, Library Board chair Paula Kelley read a letter to be entered into public record regarding remarks made at the February 4 Selectboard meeting about the cost of $750,000 to the Town for the Union Meeting House. Kelley's letter referenced minutes of Town Meetings, where voters approved the article that the Town of Huntington locate the library in the Union Meeting House (1999); approved paying $1 for the building (2000); and passed a bond for $150,000 in renovation funds for the Library (2001). Kelley also read from annual reports, which explained volunteer contributions to the Union Meeting House renovation project.

Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) member Guthrie Smith came to talk about a "tiny grant" opportunity through the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions. HCC would use the funds to print and enlarge Science to Action maps. The maps are, "useful for meetings, each map has so much information, [including] wildlife corridors. We want to get maps, and keep them on the library walls. The maps can be rolled up and brought different places," Smith explained. The Board approved the grant application for up to $350.

Members of the HEC (Huntington Energy Committee) reported on its meeting about a proposal submitted by Building Energy for Huntington Municipal Solar. HEC had financing agreement questions, said HEC Vice Chair Nick Allagier, Building Energy did not want to do remediation, said Allagier, but was now looking at tax breaks for remediation costs. Allagier proposed the Selectboard interview Building Energy, with the HEC members also presenting questions.

This interview took place at the April 8 meeting. Algaier and HEC Chair Miranda Keir led the discussion with Nik Pnzio of Building Energy. The project under consideration proposes roof top solar panels be installed on the Town Hall and Town Sand Shed. Keir emphasized that Huntington is looking for a solution that would not burden taxpayers. Building Energy proposed a financing package that would require town financing. HEC is researching other funding options. Building Energy said it would be willing to work with a different funding source. The Seletctboard supported the HEC in its investigation into alternative funding for the solar project.

The Board passed a motion at the April 8 meeting to have Alger, Livak and Board member Larry Haskins, Jr. conduct interviews for a Road Crew position as soon as possible. The Selectboard Meeting April 15 began with an Executive Session for a human resources matter concerning Highway Department staffing. Following the Executive Session, a motion to hire, as recommended by the Road Foreman passed.

Delinquent Tax Collector Brent Lamoureaux presented a list of potential tax sale properties on April 8. The Board authorized the Town Clerk and/or Town Treasurer to bid on any of the parcels with a delinquent amount of $1,000 or more, for which there are no other bidders.

Limited Parking On April 15, the Board addressed Fire Station parking in response to a comment from Fire Chief Tate Jeffrey about a heavily attended Selectboard meeting on April 8 when the number of cars parked at the Fire Station limited firefighter parking in the lot for their Department meeting. The Fire Department would like the lot at the Fire Station be restricted to Fire Department parking only, since parked cars could get in the way during an emergency. Jeffrey recommended signs indicating cars parked in the Fire Station lot would be towed. Alger has proposed opening up another area behind the Town Office for additional parking for Town Committee and Board meetings.

The Road Foreman proposed increasing plowing rates for State Parking Lot, Gore Road from Town line to Route 17, and a section of Starksboro road past Beane Road. The Board approved the motion for this increase.

A newly formed subcommittee of the HHCT (Huntington Historical and Community Trust) dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the old Firehouse, visited the Board. The committee would like the Town to maintain ownership of the building, which could be used by the HHCT to house historical archives including artifacts related to the history of the Huntington Fire Department and the Freewill Baptist Church. Another proposed use for the building could be an art gallery. Barton commented, "This is what we were hoping for, a group of people coming together." There is money in Recreation Committee budget for some immediate repairs to the building. The Recreation Committee has used the building for storage.

HCC members Barrett Grimm and Jeanette Segale brought a Conservation Fund application from Justin Rich and Lindsey Lyman -Clarke to share with the Board. The application asks for funds towards permanently conserving pastureland including a fifty-foot riparian buffer zone on property purchased from Ken Pillsbury's estate. Rich and Lyman-Clarke reside in Huntington and own Burnt Rock Farm, a Certified Organic vegetable farm. Grimm outlined criteria in the application, which were met by the proposal, including preserving natural resources and views. The Conservation Fund money requested would leverage funds from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), which will allow the Vermont Land Trust to conserve this agricultural

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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Richmond has renewed efforts to install an electric vehicle charging station at Town Center.

The Selectboard, at its April 1 meeting, reviewed details of a second grant application for the project. The town is seeking state funding to cover most of the nearly $25,000 cost.

Steven Bower of the Richmond Climate Action Committee outlined work on the proposal, which dates back to last year. He explained that the town failed to win funding during the first round, but most of the more than $2 million in grant money for new charging stations had yet to be allocated.

Bower reviewed details of the new application and asked the Selectboard to consider changes that might increase the town's odds of receiving the grant this time around. He said Richmond could offer free charging during the first year of operation. The town could also increase its match from 10 to 25 percent. Each of these provisions could produce more points in the scoring system used to judge grant applications, Bower said.

Board member Christy Witters asked about the charging station's location in the Town Center parking lot. The proposal calls for using three spaces closest to the lot entrance, one space for the charging station and the others reserved for a pair of vehicles using the two-port system.

Bower said other locations were considered, such as spaces closer to Richmond Free Library, which shares the lot. But that would have impacted spaces used for library pick-ups and drop-offs, he explained. And one of the spaces must be accessible for handicapped people, so placing the charging station close to the Bridge Street entrance made the most sense.

Board member Roger Brown asked how long vehicles would be allowed to stay parked at the charging station. Bower replied that the so-called "dwell time" is generally capped at four hours at other charging stations. But he said that seemed too long. Brown noted that if the town pays the charging costs, a more reasonable time limit would be one hour.

Bower said no matter the time limit chosen, it is important that Richmond discloses it in the grant application and sticks with that number because the charging station will be inspected after it is up and running.

Another issue discussed was signs directing motorists to the charging station. Email between Bower and the state Agency of Transportation indicated the town could have a sign installed along Interstate 89 and a second on the Richmond exit's off-ramp. A sign could also be placed at the intersection of Route 2 and Bridge Street.

Usage fees consumed much of the discussion. The town might win grant points by allowing free use during the first year of the charging station's operation. Bower said he didn't have a strong opinion on the provision but acknowledged that it might drive more motorists to try it out. He also noted that most free charging stations are located in out-of-the-way rural areas, while those in busy downtowns usually are not free.

Board member Bard Hill said he was "conflicted about free charging." He explained that people with more expensive electric vehicles tend to have higher incomes, so using municipal money to pay for free charging would mean lower-income people who can't afford electric cars are subsiding those motorists.

Bower said he could forgo the free charging in the revised grant application, then add that provision to gain more points in a subsequent round of applications should the town fail to get the grant this time. He said it was likely there would be at least three rounds, given that the program started with $2.4 million and awarded only $400,000 in the first round.

People Power Two bike-riding events that involved requests to close Cochran Road were considered by the Selectboard.

Board members first discussed the fourth annual Richard's Ride, a benefit for the Richard Tom Foundation. The foundation was founded in honor of the prominent cyclist, who died in 2015 when his bike was struck by speeding car.

Karin Ward, representing the foundation, requested Cochran Road be closed between Dugway Road and Cochran's Ski Area from 11 .m to 1 pm on Saturday, May 18. She said the foundation has already contacted police to direct traffic during the event.

An email from Ward to the town noted that there are several ride options. In boldface, the email said, "to keep the Children's Ride as safe as possible," the road closure was needed. It noted that no road closures would be needed for other riders, and volunteers will help manage riders and assist at intersections.

There were no questions or concerns from the Selectboard, which unanimously approved the road closure.

The second closure request also involved a bicycle ride. But perhaps because it is a new event with an as many as 400 riders, the event prompted a lengthy discussion.

An organization called Rooted Vermont founded by Richmond residents Ted and Laura King is running a race over gravel roads through the Green Mountains. It will take place on Sunday, August 4, starting at 8:30 am.

The ride will offer two course lengths, 45 and 85 miles, each leaving from Cochran's Ski Area and heading toward the town of Ripton. It will feature experienced riders who organizers say will obey all road rules and traffic signs.

Ted King told the Selectboard that he is a professional cyclist who raced in the Tour de France and other events before retiring and moving from California to Vermont. A press release explained that Rooted Vermont's goal is to promote backroad cycling.

The Selectboard's discussion revolved around how long to close Cochran Road and where cyclists would park their cars.

Town Manager Josh Arneson said because there are so many riders, Cochran Road would need to be closed for perhaps an hour when the race starts. Riders will quickly veer off the paved road and will return late in the day individually or in small groups, so Arneson and Selectboard members thought that no additional road closures would be necessary.

Parking could be a challenge. Cochran's lot will accommodate many of the riders' vehicles, but overflow parking may have to be spread out over two or three nearby lots, Hill said. Laura King said she wanted to avoid offering parking in too many different lots, which could lead to "madness."

After further discussion, the Selectboard voted to approve closure of Cochran Road 8 am to 9 am on August 4. Board members said with the event still several months away, parking details could be settled in the future.

Huntington

continued from previous page

land in perpetuity. Segale said the Conservation Commission asked the applicants to consider a trail easement, which was declined. After HCC wrote a reply, which asked again for a trail easement, Rich said he would consider future trail discussion. Segale emphasized the value to the Town to have a trail towards the recreation field along the riparian buffer. A Public Hearing on the application will be held.

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MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester-

Meeting April 1, 2019

The main purpose of the MMM School Board meeting on April 1 meeting was to reconnect with Vermont School Boards Association Policy Governance consultant Val Gardner. She worked the Policy Governance model with the Board so they could check for themselves their progress after a few years practice with PG.

She began by asking the members to "describe to a community member what Policy Governance is."

Some of their responses were as follows:

• Set the limitations and expectations for the Superintendent and the Board on what their responsibilities are;

• Set the destination: the Ends – ideas and goals gathered from the community while the Superintendent does the day to day;

• Provide evaluation or monitoring reports on how well the Policies generated from the Ends are in compliance.

Gardner emphasized the Executive Limitations of the Superintendent should be a priority. He must know what is expected from him, how to report it, and what evidence is needed to connote compliance. Gardner noted that the Superintendent should delegate some time-consuming collection of evidence to staff.

A three-year work plan which outlines which Policies will be reviewed on a rotating basis was tabled. Community engagement meetings will also be scheduled on this work plan. Executive Limitations and the Ends will be reviewed each year.

Definitions:

Stakeholders - All persons and institutions that have an interest in seeing a venture or project succeed.

Who - the people who benefit

What - the concepts that provide direction for a project to create a reult

stakeholder input - advice or opinions that help someone make a decision

ends - the result or goal

The Ongoing Community Engagement Plan, available online at www.cesuvt.org, outlines the goals and plans for engagement of community members (sometimes also known as "stakeholders"). The Community Engagement Committee (CEC) seeks comments regarding values on issues of Ends and ethics; educate; and report on PG performance.

It also wishes to ensure "owners" and other "stakeholders" that bring non-governing issues to the Board understand the process for getting issues addressed by the system in a courteous and respectful manner. Gardner noted in the April 1 meeting, that the Board controls the direction of public comments or criticism through the Ends policies.

The Board members are required to establish and maintain connections with constituent groups and collect feedback. Each member should visit three to five groups per year – one of which should not be in their own district.

Some comments the Board members hope to obtain are: the "stakeholder" hopes and dreams; priorities; questions/concerns; and highlights/successes.

Some subjects the Board wishes to share with the "stakeholders" include: the Ends policy; Policy Governance; significant initiatives and meeting schedules.

A few of the organizations the Board wishes to meet with, at least annually, include: PTOs, Selectboards, library boards, DRB (Development Review Board), religious congregations, Lions, etc., schools, and the administrative teams from said schools. Some of the organizations the Board chooses to meet with less periodically are: private schools and preschools; condo/homeowner associations; Fire and Rescue departments; recreations departments; National Guard and Friday Food Affair.

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Letters

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smoke" the VA states that "Toxins in burn pit smoke may affect the skin, eyes, respiratory and cardiovascular systems, gastrointestinal tract and internal organs."

Like with Agent Orange or what's called Gulf War Syndrome, the Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration are not stepping up and acknowledging that soldiers are becoming sick due to burn pit exposure. This is very distressing.

We encourage every member of the Vermont Guard who has been stationed overseas to contact the VA to enroll in the VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry so that when the federal government finally admits to the harms from exposure these men and women will receive all the care and benefits they deserve for having put their lives on the line for us all.

—*Tim Ashe*, State Senator Chittenden County

Vermont Values

Everyday, I walk past the giant plaque in the state house hallway with a famous quote from U.S. President and native Vermonter Calvin Coolidge. "If the spirit of liberty should vanish in other parts of the Union and support of our institutions should languish, it could all be replenished from the generous store held by the people of the brave little state of Vermont."

It's all too easy to forget that for centuries Vermont has been counted on to lead the nation in protecting and ensuring equal rights for all – from the radical notion in the 18th century of banning slavery in its a constitution to being the first state in the nation to allow gay and lesbian neighbors to declare their lifelong commitment through a civil union.

Now Vermont is once again poised to lead our nation by becoming the first state in America to amend its constitution to protect a person's right to reproductive liberty.

Deciding whether and when to become a parent is one of the most personal and important decisions a person can make.

Vermont women should be able to make their own choices about sexual and reproductive health care free from political and government influence, in private with their doctors.

This is why I am a champion for the passage of a Constitutional Amendment that will guarantee the long held value of reproductive liberty. The Vermont Senate has begun the process to bring the proposal to the voters.

In the United States, a woman's ability to define her own life's course is continually threatened by the intrusion of court decisions and legislative actions. Today, threats at the federal level are ominous.

Access to contraception, reproductive health care, and family planning – the basics of reproductive liberty – are facing an unprecedented wave of attack nationally. Women at the pharmacy counter and at doctors' offices feel negative consequences of these attacks. Women seeking emergency contraception get turned away if they can't show proof of age. Women are unable to pay for birth control if employers refuse to provide insurance coverage. Women are forced into waiting periods and medically unnecessary ultrasounds.

Things are different in Vermont. Our state policy for nearly 50 years is to trust women and health care providers to make appropriate and very personal reproductive decisions free from the compulsion by the state. This includes when a woman makes the very difficult decision about abortion.

Personal reproductive liberty, including family planning, benefits the health of mothers, families, and communities. The ability to delay and space childbearing is crucial to women's social and economic progress. Women's ability to access reproductive health care has positive implications for their education, economic security, family stability, mental health, happiness, and their children's well being.

The Vermont Constitution's equal protection clause (Ch 1 Art. 7) guarantees the state's authority to provide for the welfare of its citizens. Proposition 5 is a proposed constitutional amendment consistent with this authority. It creates a fundamental right to personal reproductive liberty. Enshrining this right in the constitution is critical to ensuring equal protection and treatment under the law and upholding the right of all people to health, dignity, independence and freedom.

Clearly reproductive health care, including abortion, is a state's rights issue. We Vermonters have the power to choose, to be clear, to reassure, and to remove doubt. We, not the federal government establish state's rights.

In Vermont, abortion is a health care decision. A woman should never have to feel ashamed for believing that she has the power to make her own choices.

The Vermont Constitution is the highest declaration of the rights and liberties of our citizens. It states the overarching values of our society. In Proposition 5 people will have a chance to cast a ballot that moves personal reproductive liberty from a well-established Vermont value to a fundamental right.

—*Ginny Lyons*, State Senator Chittenden County

Above, community members of different generations came to CHMS to meet with teams to talk about former schooling, upbringing, lives and hobbies. Below, a scene from A Journey Through Middle School, the CHMS spring production.

Camels Hump Middle School Engineering Club members competed in the Vermont State Bridge Building competition at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, creating a bridge one meter in length and holding almost 800 lbs. made with popsicle sticks and glue. Courtesy photos

News from CHMS

Camels Hump Middle School Engineering Club members recently competed in the Vermont State Bridge Building competition at Vermont Technical College in Randolph. Using nothing more than popsicle sticks and Elmer's Glue, teams were tasked with creating bridges that cleared a one meter span. Bridges were assessed on a number of attributes but the most noteworthy was the ability to hold up under stress, ie, how much weight can they hold? Going into the competition, our school record was a respectable 180 pounds. Since last year's competition, CHMS young engineers researched their new designs, incorporating a new style of glue-laminated beam construction and several other (top secret) processes. And then the moment came...the bridge was ready to be tested: 100 pounds, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, are you kidding? 700 pounds, 750, 775, and then the inevitable structural failure finally came at a whopping 798.9 pounds. This year's results were indicative of these young engineers' hard work and ongoing commitment to bettering their work through iteration. Any guesses on what they'll do next year?

Weekly on Wednesday afternoons at CHMS, students break into Camels Hump Collective (CHC) groups. CHC's are small (8 to 9 students), multi-age groups consisting of students from different teams. Through the CHC activities, students and staff are working toward the goal of building a community where everyone has value and responsibility. Recently our school welcomed community residents of different generations to their CHC groups. Students had been discussing intergenerational friendships and were interested in hearing about their guests' former schooling, upbringing, lives and hobbies. Students were intrigued at the adventures that their guest had had and how different some of their lives had been compared to the students. It was an event enjoyed by all. Thanks to the many residents who joined us.

A Journey Through Middle School, the CHMS spring production, was just that. This year's show was a little different than previous productions. Instead of being a straight play or musical, the drama team took on a series of one acts, musical numbers, and skits to tell the story of the rumors and the gossip, the friendship and the school spirit, the academics and the athletics, the crushes and the letdowns, the painfully awkward moments and the graceful surprises, the best and worst of the Internet, and the magic of Duct Tape--all encompassing the hilarious and the heartwarming. The three one act plays were The Rocky Junction Rumor, Gray Area and The 10 Best/Worst Things About Middle School. Each play took on an issue faced by middle school students: rumors, social media, and the horrors of gym class. Thank you to our cast and crew for all of their hard work in putting this together. Students worked under the direction of Alex Bacheller, with assistance from Nora Sylvester, Hunter Wasser, and Peggy Bonesteel. Jill Danilich managed backstage sets, costumes, and scene changes as the technical director. Heather Schoppmann joined the crew with musical direction. Thanks to the parents, friends, and community members who support the CHMS drama program in so many ways!

The next meeting of the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School Board is at 6:30 pm on Monday, May 6 at Brewster Pierce Elementary School. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

—*Mark Carbone*, CHMS Principal

12th in State GeoBee

After winning the Richmond Elementary School Geography Bee and studying for two and a half months, Elise Cournoyer of Richmond had the honor of participating in the Vermont State GeoBee in Bennington on March 29, 2019. Elise shared, "I was really nervous at first, but I knew I had studied hard, so I gained the confidence I needed!"

In the preliminary round, students split up into four rooms. Elise got the best score out of her group, six out of eight! Each time she was asked a question her friend Abby Hussey, who she had brought for moral support, "would wiggle her fingers with love, like we do in our classroom".

Even though Elise was a fourth grader going up against fourth through eighth graders from across the state, she came in 12th out of 75 kids! Her classmates celebrated her hard work and success with a party! Elise continues to study geography and hopes to participate in future state Geography Bees!

—*Katie LeFrancois,* RES student

Birds of Vermont Museum
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Open by appointment, Nov 1–April 30
museum@birdsofvermont.org • http://www.birdsofvermont.org

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State House News

Rep. Theresa Wood

Amending the Vermont Constitution is a big deal. A constitution is a group of fundamental principles by which we determine how we are governed. It shouldn't be easy to amend such an important document and it isn't. It takes years. Proposing an amendment to the Vermont Constitution is only allowed every four years and there are a number of procedures that are involved in the process.

First, a constitutional amendment must originate in the Senate. It is assigned to the committee of jurisdiction and if voted out of committee, the proposal is printed in the Notice Calendar for five legislative days (this is longer than normal bills). In order to move a proposed amendment to the House, it must be approved by two-thirds of the members of the Senate. Therefore, 20 senators must approve the proposal.

Reps. Theresa Wood, Tom Stevens, Marcia Lawrence Gardner

The proposed amendment is then sent to the House and assigned to the committee of jurisdiction.

House rules require a public hearing to be held prior to voting on the proposed amendment. The committee of jurisdiction may take testimony and then vote on whether to move the proposal out of committee for a full House vote. An important point is that, unlike other bills that come from the Senate, the House is not able to make any changes to the language of the proposal. It must either be voted up or down. Similar to the Senate, the proposal must appear on the Notice Calendar for the House for four legislative days, again this is longer than other bills. In the House, the proposal must be approved by a majority (not two-thirds as in the Senate) of the members of the House, that is 76 House members must vote to approve.

If these steps are completed during the biennium, then the Secretary of State must publish the proposed amendment with a summary in at least two newspapers at least once per week for three consecutive weeks. The proposal must also be published on the websites of the Legislature and the Secretary of State.

And that's the first part of the process.

The proposed amendment must be voted on again in the next biennium. This is important because between the first biennium when the proposed amendment is initially approved and when a second vote is taken in the subsequent biennium, there is a general election in which new representatives and senators are elected. There is, then, the possibility that different legislators are voting on the proposal. In the second biennium, a majority of senators must approve; this is 16 senators.

Again, if the proposed amendment moves to the House, a public hearing is conducted. If the committee of jurisdiction passes the proposal out of committee, the full House votes and a majority of those present and constituting a quorum must approve. In the first vote 76 members (a majority of the total of the 150 member House) must approve. In the second biennium a majority of members that constitute a quorum must approve. This could be as few as 39 members because a quorum is a simple majority (76 of the 150 members of the House).

If the proposed amendment makes it through two bienniums, the Governor must provide public notice through a proclamation and again the Secretary of State must provide proper notice to the public as well. The proposed amendment is then submitted to the voters of the state for ratification at a general election. A majority of the voters must vote in the affirmative to ratify the amendment.

Currently there are 21 different Articles and 76 sections, making Vermont's Constitution one of the shortest in the country. The Vermont Constitution was last amended in 2010 where 17-year-olds were allowed to vote in the Primary as long as they would turn 18 by the General Election. We have long held Vermont up as the first state to abolish slavery and we did, well at least for men age 21 and older. Yes, the Vermont Constitution technically allows slavery for children under 21.

Currently, there are six constitutional amendments under consideration — ranging from changing the Governor's and Senators' terms to four years, to eliminating all references to slavery, to insuring the right to privacy and personal reproductive liberty. To date, only one of the proposals — ensuring the right to personal reproductive liberty — has made it through the Senate and is in the House for consideration. The deadline for the initial approval of any constitutional amendment proposal currently proposed is the end of the 2020 legislative session. If any of the 6 proposals have not made it through both the Senate and the House according to the above rules by that time, they have failed. It is unlikely that all six will make it through the process; however, one or two proposals are likely to at least make it to the second part of the process.

It takes years to amend the Vermont Constitution, and for good reason.

Rep. Tom Stevens

The last several weeks have seen the passage through the House of bills that can be considered our priorities. These include the annual money bills — appropriations, revenue, capital investment and transportation — and policy bills including child care and, from our committee, family and medical leave insurance.

I have heard from a lot of small business owners who worry about the cost of a family and medical leave insurance plan, and what the impacts would be on them. We feel we have crafted a bill that achieves a balance between their needs — in fact, we received testimony from small and medium sized businesses that asked for such a policy in order to keep valued employees. Without a benefit like this, they felt they would never get ahead in keeping folks with them for any length of time. Some larger businesses already offer a paid leave benefit, but cannot offer one generous enough to have it used by their employees. H.107, as it passed the House, is a responsible reaction to those concerns.

Employees have long lacked access to this benefit. The US is one of two countries across the globe that do not offer a standard paid leave benefit — Papua New Guinea is the other. Papua New Guinea! Only 15% of Vermont workers have access to such a plan, and so we are excited to be able to propose and pass a bill that provides financial support for employees who have a medical crisis, or need to take care of family members, or need bonding time with their newborns or newly adopted children. A program like this is a stress reducer — as all insurance programs are, in concept — in that it will provide more time for a family to bond after birth in a way recommended by public health officials across the world. It will reduce the stress of finding acceptable child care, and will reduce the cost both for the family and the state. And we know that employees who are able to take the time they need to bond, or to take care of themselves, or to take care of their family, is a loyal employee, and will produce as effectively or better upon a return from a lengthy absence, in no small part out of the gratitude of having the opportunity to bond or heal without the penalty of poverty.

This proposal is most generous to those who make the least. Over 144,000 working Vermonters — taxpayers — make less than $27,000 a year. This is equivalent to making $15 an hour for 35 hours of work a week. Another 75,000 working Vermonters make less than $47,000 a year. These could be retail and service workers, ski lift operators, farm workers, secretaries, store owners, paraprofessionals in the schools, and more.

The bill passed by the House would provide up to 12 weeks of leave if bonding time for new familys is used, or up to eight weeks of personal medical and family leave if not, in any combination. In any case, the state paid leave program allows for a maximum of twelve weeks.

H.107 proposes to provide a 90% wage replacement for all income up to $27,000 and 50% for all income thereafter, with a benefit cap of $1,334, which is approximately a 60% wage replacement at an income of $116,000. An employee wouldn't receive a benefit greater than their average weekly income for a predetermined period, and wouldn't be allowed to double dip. If an employer had to hire a temporary worker and had to lay them off when the employee on leave returned, their unemployment experience rating would not receive a ding against it. The proposed cost for this contribution to the premium of this benefit is only .55% of an employees income, or 5.5 cents per $10 of income, and this can be paid by the employer, split between the employer and employee or collected from the employee alone. We find this cost very affordable for all involved.

The bill proposes that the administration attempt to find an insurance company to run the program, reducing upfront costs, at a cost that is less or equal to the expense if the state were to run the program. If they cannot, the state is required to run the program. Further, employers who offer an equivalent or better program may apply to opt out of the statewide program if they can prove that they do.

If you are interested in reading more, you can visit my website, www.stevensvermont.com, or email me.

A lot is happening as we gear up for the end of session, and H.107 is one of the major bills working its way through the system. We're proud of our work, and hope the Senate welcomes this bill as we did.

Rep. Marcia L. Gardner

Town charters, comparable to a constitution for a municipality, determine how the municipality is organized, how it functions, and all related procedures. Many determine how town offices are filled, such as whether to elect or appoint a town clerk or treasurer, or what type of government the municipality has. In Vermont, all charter changes must be approved by the Legislature, however, H.207, an amendment to the charter of the City of Montpelier, proposes something quite different. If passed, it would allow non-citizen voting in city elections.

The first question often is whether this is legal under the State's constitution, and legal experts answer yes. After close examination of Vermont's constitution and case law, they have determined that voter qualifications for municipal elections are not necessarily the same as for state elections. This may seem unusual, but in the field of state constitutional law, courts have long drawn a distinction between voting in state versus municipal elections, and have consistently held that the constitutional requirements for voting in state elections do not limit legislative discretion in setting the qualifications for voting in purely local elections.

Supporting case-law goes back to 1789 in State vs. Marsh, where the Vermont Supreme Court decided that whenever the term "elections" appeared in the Vermont Constitution, it did not apply to local town elections. In 1863, the Vermont Supreme Court determined whether the Legislature could authorize non-U.S. citizens to vote or be elected to local office in Woodcock vs. Bolster, when a town resident who was not a U.S. citizen was elected as a school district tax collector. The court held that, despite the constitutional requirement for U.S. citizenship for voting eligibility in state elections, the legislature had discretion in authorizing non-U.S. citizens to vote and to be elected to office in local elections. These differences remained in place until 1977, when a general revision in Vermont election law made the two uniform.

Now, the City of Montpelier is asking the Legislature to uphold their decision to allow non-citizen residents to vote on local issues. It was unanimously approved by the city council, and the public voted two-to-one in favor of the measure. In a letter to the Legislature, Montpelier Mayor Anne Watson explained, "We, the city of Montpelier, would like to extend this privilege to our legally-documented, non-citizen, tax-paying, permanent-resident, green-card-holding neighbors. This is reminiscent of the sentiment 'taxation without representation' because indeed, these green-card holders are paying taxes."

Globally, more than forty-five countries from nearly every continent permit voting by resident immigrants. In the U.S. eleven local governments allow noncitizens to vote in their local elections, and Chicago and San Francisco allow all residents to vote in school board elections.

H.207 has not yet come to the House floor for a vote. It will be interesting to see if Vermont continues its long history of allowing non-citizen voting in local elections.

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Area Residents Honored

Huntington resident **Shelly McSweeney**, a Home Visitor and Family Educator at Lund, was celebrated with the Outstanding Professional Award at the 30th Annual KidSafe Collaborative luncheon on April 4. McSweeney has been

an unrelenting advocate for children and their parents for over 20 years. The majority of her work takes place in the Chittenden East School district and includes a weekly playgroup at the Richmond Free Library.

McSweeney's work as a community organizer to meet unmet needs in her community predates her work at Lund. Initially she focused her work on rural areas, identifying families who were struggling in ways that had a significant impact on their ability to parent their young children. Her compassion and skills were, and still are, deployed to serve parents who often live with generational poverty, social isolation, mental health and substance use challenges. Working within this domain, McSweeney has long embodied the qualities of leadership most needed and valued by clients - genuine kindness and compassion, unwavering integrity, deep intellect, positive regard for others and a dogged determination to take on any task necessary to assist others.

McSweeney has often spoken about the inherent risk children face when their families are marginalized, isolated and living in turmoil. She has frequently stated that the most impactful way those circumstances are improved is by building a network of community support and security for every child and family in need. In order to build these networks, Shelly regularly works with other family educators at Lund and affiliated agencies, child care providers, DCF social workers, lawyers, guardians ad litem, medical, psychological and substance use professionals, case managers, housing authorities, and other social service agencies. In working with these community partners, Shelly actively brings parents into the collaborative process, coaching and encouraging skill development in advocacy on behalf of their children and themselves.

In countless ways, McSweeney has worked tirelessly to strengthen parent-child relationships, increase security and well-being for children at home and in their community, and improve the overall quality of life for families in Vermont. Without judgment or hesitation, she meets each family where they are and builds from there. Not infrequently, she has worked under daunting conditions including risks to her own security, initial rejection from clients, community bias and negativity toward her clients' families, and occasional resistance or lack of response from community providers. These obstacles and many others have seemingly stood to only toughen Shelly's resolve and further expand her amazing heart.

Shelly McSweeney's work has strengthened, empowered, and returned hope to families. She has changed the lives of children, families and communities and the legacy of her work will endure.

Natalie Mohn was one of 13 WPI (Worcester Polytechnic Institute) field hockey student-athletes to earn academic honors from the NFHCA. Mohn achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 3.9 or higher through the first semester of the 2018-19 academic year.

The Division III National Academic Squad program honors student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 3.3 or higher through the first semester of the 2018-19 academic year while the Division III National Academic Team Award recognizes programs that earned a team grade-point average of 3.0 or higher during the fall semester of the 2018-19 school year.

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Sunday Worship 10 am
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May 3 & 4
Spring Rummage Sale

May 5 2 pm
COTS Walk – Burlington

May 11 9 am-noon
Spring Cleaning Day

Pastor Katelyn B. Macrae
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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

"Let the sea resound, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the LORD"

– Psalm 98: 7-9

It feels like spring is finally, finally, here! In this Eastertide (the season between Easter on April 21 and Pentecost on June 9), we take time to notice how new life springs forth all around us through our worship, fellowship and service together. This year, Easter and Earth Day coincide, and so it is important to especially celebrate and give thanks that God is our Creator and has made these beautiful mountains, streams, lakes and forests and all of the creatures that make their home there. We also recognize that climate change is affecting our environment and we have a responsibility to care for creation and make sure it is here for future generations to enjoy. Earlier in April, RCC hosted the 350.org Pilgrimage walkers overnight on their way to Montpelier to raise consciousness about climate change. They were also hosted by the Richmond Climate Action Committee at the Library with a wonderful pot luck dinner and more than 100 people in attendance. Whether we are of deep faith, no faith, or somewhere in between, we can all agree on the importance of caring for our environment and not taking it for granted.

Upcoming Events

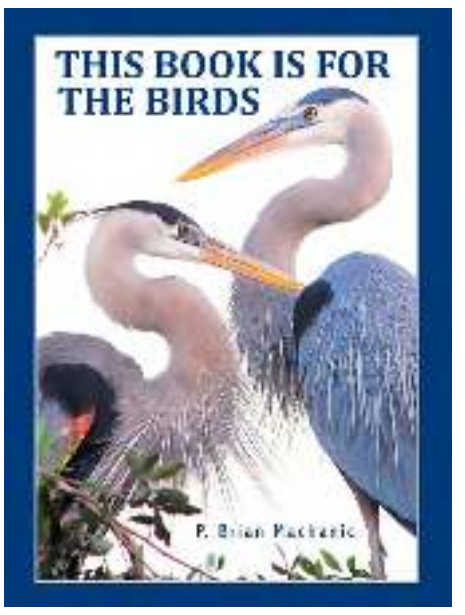
May 3 & 4: Spring Rummage Sale

May 5 – 2 pm: COTS Walk – Burlington

May 11 – 9 am-noon: Spring Cleaning Day

June 9, 2019 – 10 am
Celebration Sunday – Celebrating the end of Sunday School and recognizing HS & College graduates

The Art in Birding



Honoring Earth Day, the return of spring, and our imminent open-daily season, the Birds of Vermont Museum is hosting P. Brian Machanic, a Charlotte-based author/photographer/lecturer, and his excellent The Art In Birding presentation. Thursday at 1:30 pm, April 25, at the Birds of Vermont Museum in Huntington, discover birds, tales of birding, and more, with Machanic's many lovely wild bird photographs and a narrative that is both informative and jocular. Bird sightings are guaranteed, and no binoculars or insect repellents are needed.

Machanic has recently authored This Book Is For The Birds, which is a tribute to the beauty and grace of the avian world that surrounds us. Tom Slayton, Editor Emeritus of Vermont Life magazine, offered the following: "Brian's remarkable photographs reflect his lifelong love of nature and his special affinity for wild birds." Machanic's lecture draws in part from his book, copies of which will be on sale at the time of his presentation.

A native Vermonter, Machanic developed a passion for nature and its wildlife during his youth, while roaming the fields, wetlands and forests of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. His ongoing keen interest in nature fueled the inception of Nature's Eye Studio in 1990. This studio has served as a compendium for Machanic's wildlife and scenic images, which are sold in retail and online outlets. Machanic's photography has received regional and national awards, and has been featured in a number of publications, including Vermont Life, Birders' World, Vermont Woodland, Natural New England, Livin' the Vermont Way, Tourist News (Maine), Vermont Outdoorsman, Ranger Rick, and Turkey Call (NWTF). He has also been an exhibiting artist/photographer at the Birds of Vermont Museum.

Extend your experience: The Museum's trails are open (although sometimes muddy) and attendees are encouraged to explore outdoors before or after Machanic's talk.

Suggested donation: $5. The Birds of Vermont Museum is at 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington.

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL 27: Celebrate Arbor Day, Saturday, at the Huntington Public Library. Children's Activities, 9:30 am – 11:30 am. Come and go as you please. Light healthy snacks will be provided by the Friends of Library. Adult Activities 9 am – 2 pm, Walks to Huntington Town Forest or Hinesburg Town Forest. Talks. Exhibits. More information, page 5.

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 4: Green-Up Day. See details on page 1.

MAY 9: God Knows Why I'm Here, a documentary film on mental health followed by a panel discussion moderated by Sandra Steingard, MD, 6 pm to 9 pm, Main Street Landing Film House, 60 Lake Street, Burlington. Howard Center Community Education Series.

MAY 18-19: The Second Annual Vermont Hemp and Cannabis Convention, part of New England's largest cannabis convention series NECANN, Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction. Two full days of exhibitions, educational seminars, and speakers related to medical marijuana, industrial hemp, CBD wellness products, and the ever-growing New England cannabis industry. Keynote address on Saturday from Larisa Bolivar, M.A., founder and CEO of Colorado-based Bolivar Hemp Company, a hemp-based line of topical and skincare products. Keynote Sunday Vermont Lt. Gov David Zuckerman, a longtime progressive and a champion of cannabis reform in the Green Mountain State. Programming on numerous aspects of cannabis business, medicine, and cultivation, including startup lessons from legal states, extraction and processing methods, launching and marketing your legal cannabis brand, and using cannabis for medical and therapeutic purposes. Over 100 exhibitors and vendors from across New England and the country, including equipment manufacturers, medical cannabis dispensaries, home cultivation suppliers, advocacy groups, CBD products and a wide range of ancillary businesses related to the cannabis plant and industry.Food trucks and vendors serving up a wide range of locally sourced dishes for hungry convention-goers. Learn more: https://bit.ly/NECANN19VT and https://www.headyvermont.com/vtcann2019.

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). Pastor Larry Detweiler (revdets@gmail.com or 989-2679).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

Where Exactly Is...?

When people hear about the burgeoning activities and programs of the Community Seniors of Bolton, Huntington, and Richmond, they often ask, "Where is the Senior Center?" The answer often given is that it is a "virtual" center. A definition of "virtual" as used here means "almost as described , but not completely." This is accurate because the organization does not reside in a building of its own. Where then? Further explanation is necessary.

Today, for instance, a grey Monday morning in April. Is it winter or spring? Thirty some degrees, rainy with a piercing southwest wind. This is the kind of day that tempts one to stay home, curse the weather and thinks gloomy thoughts about the state of the world. However, in the fellowship hall of Richmond Congregational Church and the Huntington Town Hall more than 30 people gathered to do bone building exercise, talk about upcoming events, and make plans for the Fourth of July parade. On Thursday morning a group will gather at the Holy Rosary Church Hall just to talk, drink coffee, eat pastries and relax together.

It is not just churches and town buildings that provide a place for the seniors to meet. Here is a list: Richmond and Huntington libraries and town centers, Huntington pickle ball court, Bolton Firehouse, Smilie and Richmond Elementary Schools, Camel's Hump basketball court, Richmond Terrace, a few living rooms, Radiate! Art Space, Richmond Family Medicine, Volunteers Green, Brown's Court, Richmond Trails, Bolton Valley Resort, and West Bolton Golf Club. This list continues to expand!

These are the locations. More important are the people who work in these places who welcome and support the community seniors. These include town clerks, librarians, school administrators, church leaders and the staffs that work with them. They coordinate the calendars, spread the word, procure pastries for coffee hours, and make the seniors feel at home in their space. The enterprise requires give and take from all involved.

So where is the senior center? The center is in the communities of the three towns. They are what makes success possible and enhance the lives of many people. The seniors are planted now like a big tree in the fertile soil provided by the the community. The roots have spread and the tree is thriving. The grateful Community Seniors have a virtual Senior Center supported by the people of Bolton, Huntington, and Richmond.

—Peggy Curtis

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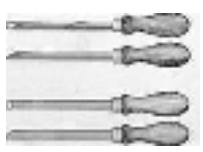

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Pizza

Arts Update

Garden of the Muses on May 5

The Living Woods Ensemble has an upcoming concert program, Garden of the Muses which will be presented twice in central Vermont. Performances are Friday, May 3. at 7 pm, at Christ Church, Montpelier and Sunday, May 5, at 4 pm, at the Richmond Free Library. Music will include delightful works by Herr Bach, Mr. Handel, Signore Corelli, and Mssr. Couperin.

The Living Woods Ensemble brings the joys of Baroque chamber music to life on instruments it was meant for, including wood flutes, violin, harpsichord, and cello. The group's repertoire includes music of Bach, Handel, Telemann and Corelli in a variety of instrumental combinations. From stirring allegros to elegant dances to masterful fugues, this music can delight and inspire the listener.

Werner John (recorders and Baroque flute) was a founder of the Early Light Music recording label and has specialized in wood flute performance, teaching and handcrafting for 35 years. Elizabeth Reid (viola and violin) is a widely accomplished instrumentalist of the Vermont classical scene, performing with many orchestras and chamber groups as well as in solo concerts in Canada and in the United States. Lynnette Combs (harpsichord) is Organist and Choirmaster at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier. She is the host of the annual Bach Organ Marathon and performs on early keyboards with many central Vermont ensembles. Michael Close (cello) teaches composition, chamber music, and cello at his home studio and at the Monteverdi Music School. His compositions have been performed nationally. He is also the music teacher at Doty Elementary School in Worcester.

Information: http://www.flutewalker.com/baroque-ensemble.html

The Living Woods Ensemble performs Garden of the Muses on Friday, May 3, at 7 pm at Christ Church in Montpelier and Sunday, May 5, at 4 pm at the Richmond Free Library in Richmond. Donations are accepted at the door for both concerts.

Ordinary Elephant on May 3

International Folk Music Awards 2017 Artist of the Year Ordinary Elephant will perform a special concert on Friday, May 3, at the Huntington Public Library. The performance will begin at 7 pm. Doors are open at 6:30. A $15 donation is requested.

The collaboration of husband and wife Pete and Crystal Damore, their connection, and their influences (such as Gillian Welch, Guy Clark, Anais Mitchell) all meet on stage.

Ordinary Elephant's potent new album, Honest, is both filled with kindness and worthy of praise.

This is the last stop before the duo before hits the road this Spring and Summer for major folk festivals and folk clubs throughout the country.

For more information about this concert and all Valley Stage events, visit www.valleystage.net or contact Don Sheldon at434-4563 or don@valleystage.net

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Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Improve Your Property with Vermont Land

Now that winter has passed, many of us are looking forward to enjoying the outdoors and our beautiful Vermont summer. But once all that snow melts, a spring cleaning can be just the thing we need. Enter Vermont Land Maintenance.

Brian Washburn, owner of Vermont Land Maintenance, has been in operation since 2015. Brian is a familiar face to many Richmond and Huntington residents because for 23 years he was part of the Washburn family auto repair business which now houses Mann and Machine. After the Washburn family closed shop in 2014, Brian Washburn took the summer off to do some thinking about his next career path. "I knew I wanted to work with equipment and be outdoors, "Washburn told the Beat. After doing more research, he realized that there was a niche market for his type of service. "I didn't want to do mainly hole digging or lawn maintenance, although I can help in these areas, but I was more interested in working with clients to bring their properties back to their natural beauty and solve their land problems in a cost efficient manner."

Taking care of property can be an overwhelming and labor intensive job but Vermont Land Maintenance can help to make the whole process go smoothly. One common client complaint is dealing with invasive plants like Buckthorn that can't be controlled using a chain saw and can quickly take over an area. Often clients will call because their land falls under a right of way and a power company has done some cutting and they now need help in clearing away debris. Pond edging, Clearing driveways from encroaching trees, installing drainage ditches and brush pile clean up are other ways that Washburn has served clients. Vermont Land Maintenance can also be an excellent resource for site clearing so that a homeowner can lay a slab foundation for a future shed or garage.

Washburn's garage is a dream come true for anyone who is an equipment enthusiast. To get the job done, he uses three main pieces of heavy equipment which also have various attachments that can help to solve a variety of land problems.

The Forestry Mulcher is a land clearing tool that is a single machine that can cut, grind and mow down vegetation up to eight inches thick. It has a rotary drum equipped with steel chipper tools referred to as "teeth" to shred the vegetation. This machine is often used for controlling invasive species, right of way clearing and wildlife restoration. It is an excellent way to deal with hilly terrain. The Flail Mower is similar to the Forestry Mulcher but instead of "teeth", it has "knives" or blades that are attached to a rotating horizontal drum. This machine is often used for heavier grass that a traditional lawn mower cannot handle. Along with being able to mow up four inch thick woody material, it can also reach over banks making it a good choice when working with pond edging or river banks. The Ventrac Slope Mower provides a safe solution to slope mowing. This eight wheel, low to the ground "mountain goat" can handle up to 30 degree slopes (58% grade) so it can safely clear out areas that aren't easily accessible. A large flatbed trailer transports his equipment to each work site.

Although most of Washburn's clients are residential (about 70%) and reside in Chittenden County, he also does commercial work. Locally he does land maintenance for Owls' Head Blueberry Farm and he also maintains the land around the airstrip and the steep banks around Burlington International Airport on a year-round basis. On a snowy winter day, you might even catch Brian grooming the trails at Sugar Bush in one of those giant snow cats.

When asked for some words of wisdom to pass onto to landowners, Washburn smiled and said, "Don't procrastinate! It doesn't take long for a number of invasive plants to overrun a property." If you are looking to spruce up your proeprty, you can contact Brian Washburn to discuss your project and get an estimate. He can be reached at 434-4533 or vtlandmaintenance@gmail.com. Check out his website at www.vtlandmaintenance.com. Welcome Spring!

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Connected to Nature

"We are so educated that it is practically impossible ever to get to wisdom."

—Wilfred Bion,
The Italian Seminars, 1977

Spring is here. After an extended winter, which began November 13 of last year, many of us didn't see bare ground for just short of six months. Some folks will declare that this means the planet is not getting warmer.

Though this past winter was longer, and we had some significant snowfall, the evidence is clear that winters are milder and temperatures are more moderate. The science of climate change predicts not just warmer weather but also extremes of weather patterns, and this winter was a good example of that.

Suburbanization is also having a clear impact on nature. As a result many scientists have a major concern about increasing habitat loss, loss that may be disproportionately affecting insects. We could likely do well without mosquitoes and garden pests. But our world of food, flowers and shrubs will be greatly diminished if we lose our bees.

Fortunately, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is aware of the plight of these insects and is tracking the numbers of invertebrate fauna. They have conducted a three-year study of our 17 different bumble bees and are comparing recent observations with past collections. They found that "several species have drastically declined or even disappeared from Vermont." Using "citizen scientists" to help collect data in the field, they are able to obtain large amounts of information. They can thus offer suggestions on planning gardens and improving property to encourage support for beneficial insects.

Living in rural Vermont, many of us are privileged to be connected to nature. Here in Richmond, we are indeed fortunate to have access to a number of special areas such as the Beeken River Shore Preserve, the River Shore Trail along the Winooski and the Andrews Community Forest just outside the Village, to name a few.

A number of recent wellness books extol the virtues and even the necessity of green spaces, woods, parks, and natural lands to maintain emotional balance and good mental health. According to an article in Social Work Advocates, movement such as walking stimulates the bilateral brain. When we are encouraged by writers to "visit a park and touch a tree," in Vermont we don't have to go far to experience the peace and quiet that our bodies and our minds need.

Humans, like many other animals, have a basic need to feel part of the greater world. Entering the natural world, we gain awareness of nature's order and the way the plants and animals are interconnected, all according to some greater plan that is necessary for the survival of the various species. Nature evidences a systematic arrangement, offering a condition that is essential for human mental health.

It is said, "We are what we love." If we focus our attention and energies primarily on artificial things and man-made goods, we are in danger of losing our humanity. When we stay connected to nature we can't help but become aware of the alarming state of the environment. When technology becomes the major focus of our lives, we may be depriving ourselves of what our bodies and brains need most. With the passing of winter and the arrival of spring we have new opportunities to protect both nature's health and human wellness.

Guess

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