The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 36 **November 2019 Issue** Number 9

Huntington Municipal Solar Installed

Miranda Keir took this photo of the view across the soccer field that shows the reflection of the sun on the new solar panels on the town sand shed. The panels were installed in early October. After exhaustive studies on all the Huntington municipal buildings, all of which have the south-facing roofs necessary for rooftop solar, the town sand shed – the newest town building – was chosen as the building most ready to support the panels in the timeframe necessary to complete the project. The Huntington Energy Committee initiated the project, working with Vermont Independent Energy, a Richmond company, to put the details together to meet the federal and state contracts. The company has a lease for the panels on the municipal property; net metering is with Green Mountain Power. Building Energy was the contractor. The Energy Committee will host a community celebration, with a BBQ with hamburgers and hotdogs (plus veggie option), on November 2 at the Rec Field. A ceremonial ribbon cutting will be held at 1 pm, when the theoretical switch will be thrown.

Richmond Vote on November 5

The Town of Richmond will hold a bond vote on November 5 on two waterline projects. The projects include Bridge Street bridge waterline crossing, upper Bridge Street waterline replacement and storm water drain replacement.

The storm water project is being paid for out of the storm water budget line and reserves. The two waterline projects were initially approved in a bond vote on March 6, 2018 for a total project cost of $415,000, with a bond of $400,000 to cover most of that cost. The cost of both waterline projects is now expected to be $650,000.

Approval of the November 5 bond for $250,000 and would allow for funding for both projects: initial approval for $400,000 plus the current bond vote of $250,000). As a Water and Sewer bond, it is a general obligation, secured by the Town of Richmond as the issuer. The entire Grand List stands as security for the payment of bond debt service. The actual source of payment will be revenues generated by the Water and Sewer utility.

Parts of the project, if completed by September 2020, will be eligible for a 50% subsidy off of the total cost of the projects through income sensitivity as calculated for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 (FFY18). No interest will be applied to this 40-year loan. If the project is not completed by the end of September 2020, the income data would no longer apply and the income-sensitivity subsidy would be lost.

See page 16 for more details on each section of the projects.

The polls are open 7 am to 7 pm at the Town Center. As this is a Bond Vote (paper ballot), absentee ballots are available from the Richmond Town Clerk.

Gov Signs at Ribbon Cutting

Above, Governor Phil Scott speaks before signing an Executive Order (08-19) on Brownfields Economic Revitalization Alliance (BERA). Photo, at right, shows the big scissors with Governor Phil Scott, center, and project developers Brendan O'Reilly and Josi Kytle. and other state and local officials at the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the first phase of the Creamery, a new environmentally sustainable commercial and residential development in Richmond village. Photos: courtesy Town of Richmond.

The first building of the proposed four-building Creamery project had a ceremonial ribbon cutting on October 9, at its address on Bridge Street. Governor Phil Scott came to Richmond and signed an Executive Order (08-19) on Brownfields Economic Revitalization Alliance (BERA). This set the stage for formalizing BERA as an effective tool in coordinating and prioritizing the deployment of state and federal resources to assist developers of properties facing environmental and permitting challenges. The Richmond Creamery site is a new BERA-designated pilot project on the former Richmond Cheese Company site . The project developer is Buttermilk, LLC of Waterbury Center.

Once home to a thriving creamery complex, employing upwards of 200 people at points in its 100-plus years of production, the property was abandoned in 1999. After years of neglect and environmental surveys, the property was deemed a brownfield and required over $1 million in clean-up funds. From 2015 to 2018, Buttermilk, LLC undertook the required environmental assessment, grant administration and clean up implementation to clean up the site in conjunction with local, regional, state and national partners.

In July 2018, Buttermilk LLC completed the environmental Corrective Action Plan and received the certificate of completion. The site is now deemed 'clean' by Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation and the Environmental Protection Agency.

According to the Buttermilk, LLC website, the second building will be launched for 2021, pending permit approval.

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Write to Us!

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

The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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news@timesinkvt.org

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

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• Submissions can be made electronically or to our PO Box.

• All political ads and ads intending to influence polling decisions must be accompanied by the name of the person responsible for managing the campaign's funds and the telephone number of a local contact person.

• All photographs, original artwork and feature stories are copy-righted and may not be reproduced without the permission of the originator or the editor.

• All photographs, original artwork and computer disks will be returned at some point. **Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope** for non electronic submissions.

Letters

Support Needed for OCCC

Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) is a vital resource to Huntington and Richmond. For the past 10 years, OCCC has provided a summer enrichment camp and food services to children, internship opportunities for youth, and job training and development for young adults. Marie Thomas, who has served as OCCC's pillar and guiding light during her time as founder and Executive Director, is retiring, as well as Linda Parent as OCCC's Treasurer. Marie's dedication to OCCC and the children in our community led to her taking a very modest stipend as the organization started, grew, and became the valuable service it is today. Linda donated her services at no cost. They both deserve thanks and appreciation for all they have done.

This leaves the organization with a financial challenge of hiring a year-round, part-time Executive Director. During this transitional year, we are requesting bridge funding from each of the towns that OCCC serves, including Richmond and Huntington, to allow OCCC to keep its doors open to our youth and continue to run as an organization.

We have grown as an organization and need to stabilize our year-round staff capacity, which is why we request that the towns fund the operational expenses needed to keep OCCC's doors open. We ask you, as taxpayers who would need to support this request, to consider our appeal to your town in light of the important benefits that OCCC provides.

In the next year, we will be hiring a new Executive Director and support staff to grow our fundraising efforts and capacity, while allowing OCCC to serve students during the summer. We have worked hard to keep our budget low through fundraising events, grants, support from local businesses and in-kind donations and will continue to do so in this time of transition.

Over the next two months, we will be asking each town Selectboard to consider this request. It is our hope that the Selectboard members, and the people they represent, will consider this request thoughtfully and decide how to support the ongoing presence of OCCC in our communities. Please add your voice to this conversation.

—*Alicia DiCocco*, President of OCCC
—*Karen Clark*, President Elect of OCCC
—*Connie van Eeghen*, Secretary of OCCC

Dignity & Respect

The Richmond Police Department should immediately remove Blue Lives Matter flags from their town-issued Police Cruisers because the flag is representative of a message of hate and intolerance and cannot be condoned much less promoted by the town of Richmond.

I first became aware that Richmond Police cruisers had Blue Lives Matter flags emblazoned on them when I was gassing up at the Cumberland Farms about four months ago and a cruiser passed me with a prominent Blue Lives Matter flag on its front quarter panel, just to the left of the Police Department logo. I did a double-take and pulled out to follow the cruiser to get a better look. When I got closer and made sure of what I was seeing, my heart sank. Then I simply had many questions: How could this have happened? Are the people of Richmond aware of the message that being promoted on their town-issued cruisers? How can I live in a community that promotes a message of intolerance and hate?

Richmond Police Cruiser with Blue Live Matter Flag parked in front of town office 10/16/19. Photo: Rosie Chase

The flag that I am referring to is a black and white American flag with a thin blue line replacing one of the stripes. Apparently, the symbol was traditionally used to express solidarity among law enforcement, but I only became aware of it after it was co-opted by the alt-right. The flag gained notoriety after white nationalists hoisted it at the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. The same rally in which a Neo Nazi deliberately drove his car into a group of protestors killing the young civil rights activist, Heather Heyer.

The Black Lives Matter movement began in 2013 and campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards African Americans. The movement speaks out against police killings of black people, and broader issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, and racial inequality in the United States criminal justice system. In contrast the Blue Lives Matter movement developed one year later. It was created as a counter movement to the Black Lives Matter and was started by a group of law enforcement in New York City to counter media reports that they determined to be anti-police. They have adopted the Thin Blue Line flag as the symbol of the Blue Lives Matter movement.

Of course law enforcement matters. Of course, we rely on their acts of heroism in Richmond and across the country every day. Of course we want to honor and protect law enforcement officers. The problem with the Blue Lives Matter movement and the flag it adopts as its symbol is that it is a counter movement to Black Lives Matter. It detracts from the message that the Black Lives Matter Movement has been attempting to spread to educate us – the white people of rural America – about the systemic racism that exists throughout our country. We live in the whitest state in the country and we proportionately have one of the highest rates of incarcerated African Americans in our state. When our law enforcement agency publicly pats itself on the back for instituting a Fair and Impartial Policing policy while publicly displaying a racist flag on its police cruisers, I believe there is a big disconnect that needs to be addressed.

In October, the Chief of Police of Richmond posted on the Richmond Police Facebook page a reference to the fact that the Richmond Police Department adopted a Fair and Impartial Policing Policy. Following the announcement, Chief Muldoon stated the following: "It is with pride I see the men and women of this department treat everyone with dignity and respect no matter their circumstances, just as the citizens of Richmond would expect."

How can the Richmond Police Department claim to treat everyone with dignity and respect no matter their circumstances when their town police cruisers currently display a racist flag that seeks to negate the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement?

—*Rosie Chase, Franklin County Public Defender and Huntington resident*

Property Claims High at Fair

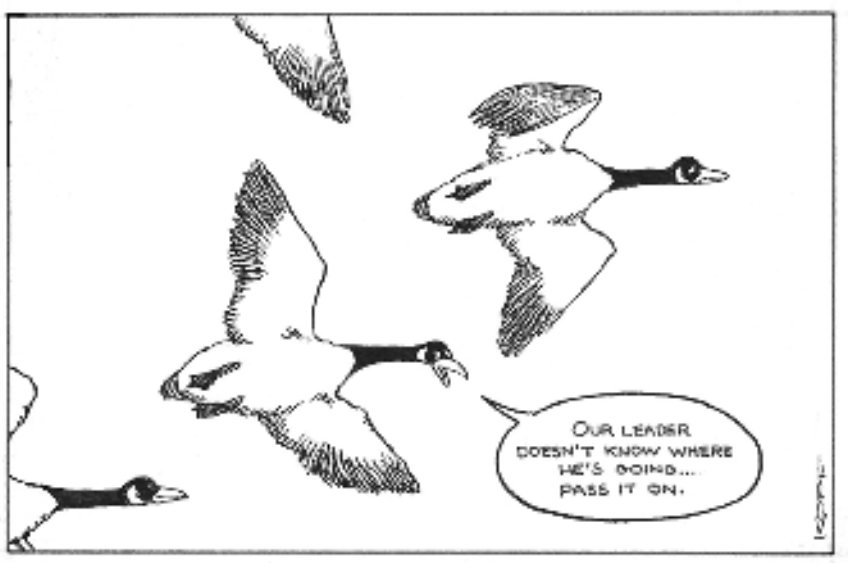
Vermont State Treasurer Beth Pearce reported that fairgoers who visited the Treasurer's Office's unclaimed property booth during the 98th Champlain Valley Fair claimed $94,844.07. Of this total, one lucky fairgoer who searched the State databases located an insurance policy worth more than $21,000, which has now been returned to them.

"The Treasurer's Office conducts outreach throughout the year to locate Vermonters who have missing paychecks, lost insurance policies, and other types of unclaimed property that are returned to our office for safekeeping," said Pearce. "Each August when we visit the Champlain Valley Fair, hundreds of Vermonters discover they have missing money that we want to return to them. We encourage all Vermonters to visit MissingMoney.Vermont.Gov to search our database and claim your funds."

During the ten-day period that the unclaimed property booth was open at the fair, visitors conducted 3,500 searches. 428 individual claims were generated, resulting in an average claim of $221.69. The single largest property claimed by a Vermonter was $21,257.79.

"Unclaimed property" includes assets like uncashed checks, lost valuables, forgotten security deposits, misplaced insurance policies, investments, or estates. Last year, the Treasurer's Office received $12.1 million of new property, raising the total amount on hand to $94.5 million.

There is never a charge to claim funds through the Treasurer's Office. Vermonters are cautioned to be wary of companies claiming to locate and recover property for a fee. You can search online at www.MissingMoney.Vermont.gov or call the Unclaimed Property Division at (802) 828-2407 or toll-free in Vermont at 1-800-642-3191.



Richmond Historical Society Annual Potluck

The Richmond Historical Society is hosting their Annual Potluck Dinner Meeting on Saturday, November 9, 2019, in the Richmond Congregational Church's fellowship hall. The hall is handicapped accessible.

The dinner will start at 6 pm. Bring a dish to share, and $2 to cover expenses. The Society will furnish salad, beverages, and desserts. Those who have served as Round Church volunteers need not pay.

The program will follow dinner. This year, David Blanchard is reading from the correspondence of a local lawyer, Seman H. Davis, who lived with his family on the corner of Pleasant and Bridge Streets, in the latter half of the 1800s. We will be able to see his correspondence diary from 1873 and marvel at how records were kept before carbon paper and typewriters. The readings will cover some of his more interesting cases as his work took him across the state.

The diary was donated to the Historical Society by the family of Theodore Bressor.

For more information, contact Connie Carpenter, (434-5581).

Open Mike Night and Kids Dance Classes

Are you an entertainer at heart? Then come to perform at Open Mike Night at Huntington Town Hall on Saturday, November 9, at 7 pm, sign-ups open at 6:30 pm. Open Mike Night is looking for all types of performing arts – music, spoken word, dance, comedy or whatever talent you may have. Not a performer? Then come to listen and discover what hidden talents your neighbors might have up their sleeves and at their fingertips! The event is open to all, donations at the door. More information about the event will be posted around town. Or be in contact with the host/organizer, Marie Claire Johnson at openmicnighthuntington@gmail.com .

Also coming to the Town Hall are children's dance classes taught by Rose Bedard (training the next generation for Open Mike Night at Huntington Town Hall). The sessions will vary from five to eight weeks and offer a chance for classes close to home without having to make a long-term time commitment. The first classes will be held November 2 -30, with two 45-minute sessions, one for kids ages 4-6 years at 10 am and one for kids 7-9 years at 11am. The price for each class is still being set, but will be $10 or slightly less with a sliding scale offered to make it affordable. Bedard is the creator and director of her own dance company and is also the twelfth year coach of the championship Mt. Mansfield Union dance team.

For more information, be in contact with Bedard at 2inspiredancevt@gmail.com.

Local Blood Drive December 11

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

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

Senior Foot Clinics

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

November 19	January 7	February 18
March 31	May 12	June 23

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

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

20 Years: A Celebration

Under a rising, nearly-full moon on Friday October 11, Beth Whiting and Bruce Hennessey of Maple Wind Farm, celebrated 20 years of farming together in the Huntington valley, with a special, all-you-can-eat fried chicken dinner. at the Andrews Farm in Richmond. The dinner, with sides of cornbread, beans, slaw, pulled pork, and beef chili - most everything right from the farm - and other local products, made for a very special celebration. Photo: Jared Katz

P.M. Sundays Concert

The Murphy Beds will make an appearance as a part of the P.M. SUNDAYS concert series on Sunday, November 24, at 4 pm.

Eamon O'Leary and Jefferson Hamer present traditional and original folk songs with close harmonies and deft instrumental arrangements on bouzouki, guitar and mandolin.

Hamer and O'Leary have been performing together for some years now, having first met at Irish Sessions in New York City. They shared an interest in collecting, arranging and performing songs from Irish, American, Scottish and English traditions. Whatever the source – songs of the Irish travelers, Arkansas spirituals, or their compositions – their arrangements feature the same carefully wrought interplay of voices and strings.

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

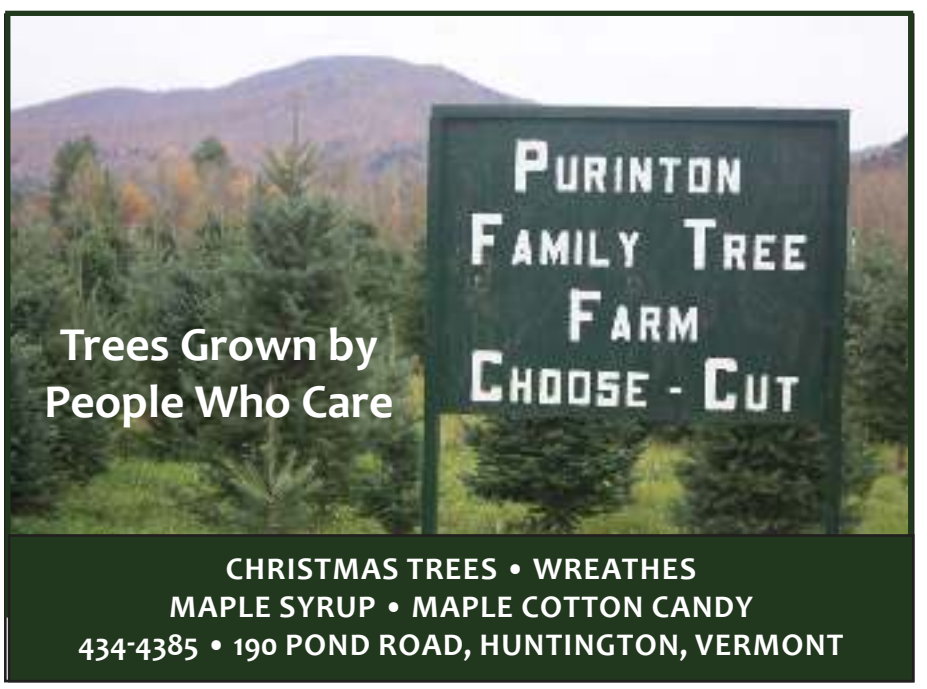
For more information about this concert and all Valley Stage events: www.valleystage.net or contact Don Sheldon at 434-4563 or don@valleystage.net

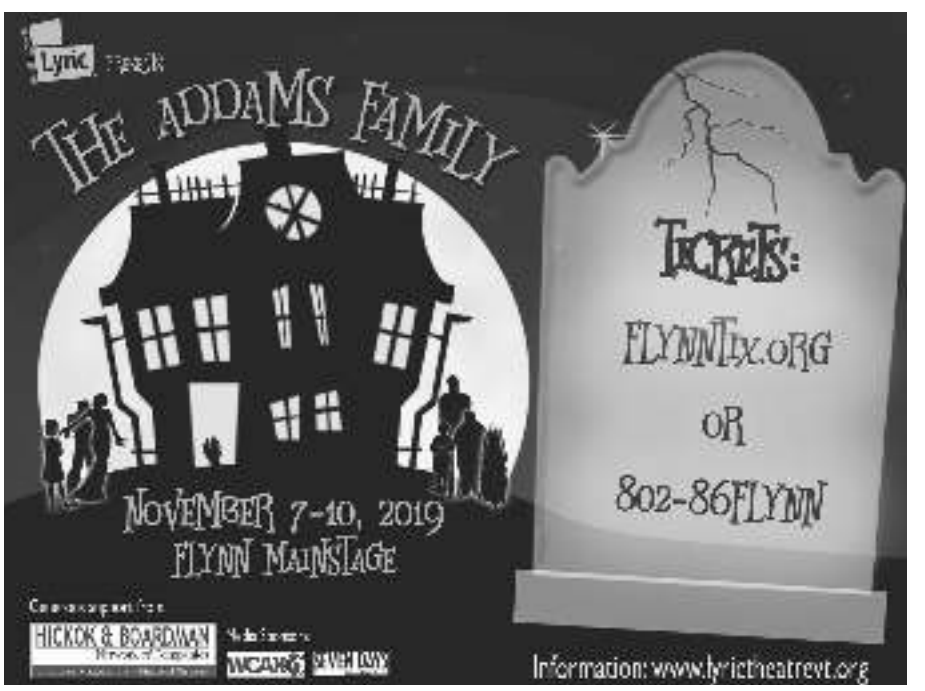
Let Your Light Shine

Huntington Memory Tree will support Neighbor helping Neighbor on December 7.

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

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





Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

64 West Main Street
Richmond
434-2521

Lord's Day Masses:
Saturday, 4 pm • Sunday, 8:30 am
Weekday Masses:
Thursday & Friday, 8:30 am
Reconciliation:
Saturday, 3:15 - 3:45 pm
Thursday, 6 - 7 pm
Eucharistic Adoration:
Thursday, 6 - 8 pm

Rosary:
20 minutes
before all Masses

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

Spend Some Time in the Mediterranean Planet Huntington launches its season on Sunday, November 17, at 5:30 pm. Come visit Greece with then newlyweds Jen and Eric O'Hora from 2009. Their honeymoon took them to the dreamlike Mediterranean islands of Crete and Santorini and then a final stop for the ancient ruins and city life of Athens. This trip was 10 years and three kids ago, but they promise to do their best to recall all the incredible places they were fortunate enough to come across. You'll see snapshots of this culture which makes Greece one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. There's plenty of pics of local food, people, marketplaces, architecture, ancient ruins, and dreamlike ocean vistas of the Aegean sea. And maybe even a couple of Jen and Eric sprinkled in. All of these photos were also taken on a camera and without social media in mind.

Yoga is Back Hatha Yoga with Tania Dornic returns to the Huntington Public Library. Note the Thursday dates as follows: October 24, November 7 and 21, December 5 and 19. The time is 5:45 pm -6:45 pm. The fee is $50 in advance for the five-class series, or $13 drop-in. The style will remain slow, mindful, and alignment-based, with yin and yoga nidra mixed in at the end. Feel free to contact Tania directly to let her know to plan for you or with any questions at 802-355-4013 (call or text).

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

Knit Nights Bring your projects, meet some new friends, and share your skills. This is an informal, drop in gathering for knitters of all skills starting at 6:30 pm. Scheduled Knit Nights are Mondays: October 21, November 11, and December 2.

Donate a Subscription Sponsor Needed for Consumer Reports Online subscription. Contact the Library if you are willing to donate this wonderful service to patrons.

New Adult Fiction What Rose Forgot by Nevada Barr; The Testmants by Margaret Atwood; Bomber's Moon by Archer Mayor; A Single Thread by Tracey Chevalier; Inland by Tea Obreht; The Golden Hour by Beatriz Williams; The World That We Knew by Alice Hoffman; The Eight Quirke Mysteries by Benjamin Black.

Adult Non-Fiction We Are the Weather by Jonathoan Safran-Foer; Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell; Once More We Saw the Stars by Jayson Greene; Great Speeches by Native Americans; The Real Wolf – The Science, Politics and Economics of Coexisting with Wolves in Modern Times by Ted B. Lyon; Black Elk, Lakota Visionary – The oglala Holy Man and Sioux Tradition by Harry Oldmeadow.

Picture Books A Family is a Family is a Family by Sara O'Leary; Whispers of the Wolf by Pauline Ts'o; Being Edie is Hard Today by Ben Brashares and Elizabeth Bergeland; One Dark Bird by Liz Garton Scanlon; The Tale of the Tiger's Slippers by Jan Brett; The Word Pirates by Susan Cooper Bergeland; The Goodbye Book by Todd Parr.

Junior Fiction Stickdog – Dreams of Ice Cream, Crashes a Party, Tries to Take the Donuts, Slurps the Spaghetti, Gets the Tacos, and Craves the Candy by Tom Watson.

Junior Non-Fiction Click by Kayla Miller; Guts by Raina Telgemeier; Stargazing by Jen Wang; Crush by Svetlana Chmakova; Sunny Rolls the Dice by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm; Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code – A Navajo Code Talkers Story by Joseph Bruchac; The Giver – Graphic format by Lois Lowry; Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy – A Graphic Novel Retelling of Little Women.

Art Space at the Library Now featuring paintings created by Deana Allgaier. Drop by to see her colorful, graceful paintings. The space will again be available in January. Consider the beautiful gallery space for hanging all types of media, from unframed photographs to shadowboxes. Artists are welcome to sell their work and no percentage is taken by the Library. Please contact us with any questions.

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

First Friday of the Month Movie Night Friday, November 1, at 7 pm. Join us for a fabulous flashbook adventure movie – E.T.!

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HUNTINGTON

Sunday Worship Service – 9 am

We welcome you to join us in sharing our love for God and neighbor through worship and prayer

Reverend David Wood, Pastor

Children's Sunday School is at 9am
directly following their special message time with our pastor

4910 Main Road • 802-434-4854 • www.CommunityChurchOfHuntington.org

TAX NOTICE

Town of Richmond

Second Quarter 2019-2020 taxes payment due Fridayday, November 15, 2019.

The office is CLOSED on Monday, November 11 for Veterans Day.

The office is open until noon on Friday, November 15, to accept payments.

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

Postmarks on or before November 15th are accepted as on time.
(Note: Internet-generated checks do not have a postmark and therefore must reach our office by the 15th.)

Town of Huntington

Second Quarter 2019-2020 tax installment is due November 15, 2019.

Office Hours:
Monday, November 11: Closed Veterans Day Observance
Tuesday - Thursday, November 12, 13 & 14, 8 am – 3 pm
Friday, November 15, 8 am – 6 pm

Postmarks on or before November 15th are accepted as on time.
(Note: Internet-generated checks do not have a postmark and therefore must reach our office by the 15th.)

Payments placed through the wall slot at the Town Office are accepted until **midnight** on November 15.

In office payments are accepted by check or cash only.
Late payments are subject to a 1% per month interest charge on November 16.

The Crate Escape

- Daycare
- Lodging
- Training
- Grooming

Richmond, VT 802-434-6411
Williston, VT 802-865-3647

crateescapevt.com

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

Middle School Book Club This fun and unique book club for kids in grades five through eight will meet in the Community Room at the Library once a month, October through March. Kids will be invited to read any book they want related to the theme of the month and then to come to the meeting to talk about what they read and get other great book ideas. Each meeting will have snacks, book talks, read aloud time, activities and more. Themes for the year include: scary books, magic, holidays, DCF books, and graphic novels, old and new favorites. To sign up call or email the Library. The first book club meeting will be Friday, October 25, from 3:30 - 5:00 pm.

Poetry Reading with Rebecca Starks Richmond resident and writer, editor, and teacher Rebecca Starks released her first poetry collection this fall. Time Is Always Now unfolds against a backdrop of nature, often permeated in unexpected ways with the human dynamics of family, neighborhood, and nation. Please join us for a poetry reading with Rebecca on Monday, November 4, at 7 pm. Light refreshments served, and a book signing to follow the reading.

Justin Morgan's Horse: Making an American Myth All Morgan horses today trace their lineage back to a single horse: a mystery stallion named Figure, owned by singing teacher Justin Morgan in the late 18th century. But who was Figure, really? What stories have people told about him in the two centuries since he lived and worked in Vermont? Exploring the story of the first Morgan horse is complicated and fascinating, and is tied up with the idea of Vermont identity, the relationship between humans and animals, the creation of American myth, and much more. A Vermont Humanities Council event. Sunday, November 17, at 2 pm.

Friday Food Affair Richmond Free Library Trustees, Friends and Staff will be your chefs for the November 15 Friday Food Affair. This Harvest Fare Supper will feature hearty vegetarian soups, salad bar, bread and dessert. If you'd like to contribute to the effort by making soup in advance or helping in the kitchen on Friday, drop us a line! Please note that the Library will close at 2 pm that day so we can get busy in the kitchen!

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

October Art Show After teaching physics for 39 years and never taking an art class in high school or college, Richmond resident Larry Hills discovered a passion for landscape painting and a talent he never knew he possessed. Landscape painting is a natural fit with his lifelong interest in nature and spending time outdoors. For the past two summers, he has painted plein air, gradually overcoming his self-consciousness about other people seeing him work. Locals will recognize many of the scenes depicted in the pieces hanging at the library during the month of October.

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

New Playaways in the Collection We have a great selection of youth and adult Playaways. If you enjoy listening to books you might want to try one of these all-in-one devices. No changing disks in your car! If you have never seen a Playaway before and are curious about how they work, ask us for a demonstration.

Fall Youth Programs Our regularly scheduled programs are underway; details are below. Weekly children's programs at the Library run September through May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

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

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

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

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

Mostly Fiction Book Group will discuss Lucky Boy by Shanthi Sekaran. Lucky Boy presents two very different American stories, tied together by the fate of a child. When Soli Castro-Valdez leaves her small Mexican village for the United States, she endures the difficult journey but arrives pregnant and undocumented. Meanwhile, Kavya Reddy, whose parents immigrated to the US from India, is living a more peaceful life with her dot.com-employed husband in Berkeley. Unable to have a child, Kavya becomes a foster parent—and when Soli winds up in immigrant detention, her son Ignacio winds up with Kavya. But the story has just begun. Tuesday, November 12, 6 pm.

Mystery Book Group will discuss The Cut. Crime fiction writer George Pelecanos introduces Spero Lucas, an anti-hero making his place in the world one battle at a time. Thursday, November 21, 7 pm.

November Closings The Library will be closed on the following dates, November 11 (Veterans Day) and November 28-30.

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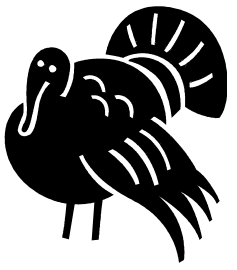

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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Selectboard member Roger Brown made a rare plead for openness before a closed-door meeting was held to consider health insurance provisions the police union contract.

"I am opposed," he said. "I think it is appropriate we open up the collective bargaining agreement, but I don't understand why we can't do this in open session. So I'm going to vote no."

Board Chair David Sander nonetheless called for a motion to hold the so-called Executive Session at the beginning of the Selectboard's October 7 meeting, carefully citing state statute that allows municipal boards to meet in private to discuss contractual matters. That didn't mollify Brown.

"I don't understand why we can't talk about health care stuff in open session," he said. "I think talking about it in closed session promotes the idea that it is confrontational, that it's unnecessarily cloak-and-dagger. We're not going to gain an advantage over anybody by holding an Executive Session. We're just talking about trying to put together a budget and what health care expenses are."

Sander explained that he didn't want "to give the impression that this is all something secret." Rather, he said, the closed session would allow Board members to review information before discussing it during a public meeting.

With that, the Selectboard voted 4-1, with Brown dissenting, to hold the closed session. Board members filed out of the public meeting room at Town Center and into a back office, leaving the handful of people in the audience behind.

Board members returned an hour later. With little explanation, they voted to approve $4,200 for an insurance broker to help the town with health insurance issues. Brown and fellow Selectboard member Bard Hill volunteered to serve on an ad-hoc committee to consider the contract.

Brown's protest was an extraordinary instance of a Selectboard member objecting to a closed-door meeting. Over the past several years, executive sessions have frequently been held, with only an occasional objection from someone in the audience.

Vermont's Open Meeting Law guarantees that the public has the right to attend meetings of state and municipal boards. But several exceptions are permitted. Boards are allowed — not required — to hold closed sessions to talk about personnel issues, legal matters or contracts when advance knowledge of a board's position would put it at a negotiating disadvantage.

Critics of Vermont's meeting and public records laws complain that they are riddled with loopholes. In 2015, the Center for Public Integrity gave Vermont an "F" rating for access to public information.

The Selectboard's closed-door meeting left unanswered questions: Why talk about the police contract, which runs two more years? Will the town try to reduce pay or ask officers to cover a bigger share of their health insurance costs? How will rising premiums for municipal workers impact the new budget for the fiscal year starting next July?

During a brief discussion preceding the closed session, Brown mentioned that health insurance costs had risen more than 10 percent. In an email exchange after the meeting, Town Manager Josh Arneson said the police contract contains a clause that allows the town to renegotiate if health care costs rise by more than 10 percent, and premiums are shooting up by 14.4 percent. The contract runs through June 30, 2021.

More information about how the town will respond to rising health care costs may be forthcoming as the Selectboard formulates the new budget over the next two months. Richmond residents will get the final say when they vote on the spending plan on Town Meeting Day.

Transportation Talk Two members of a new committee that will explore ways to improve driving, biking and walking around Richmond discussed development of a transportation plan. Chris Cole, former secretary of the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and Cathleen Gent, Richmond's previous town planner, outlined various grants that could fund improvements. Cole noted that three others will serve on the committee: residents Erik Filkorn and Jon Kart, along with a yet-to-be-named member of the Western Slopes Business Association. Also joining the committee could be two members of the Richmond Planning Commission.

Aside from seeking grants, the scope of the committee's work remains uncertain. But just forming a group to explore funding for transportation improvements is a step forward, said Selectboard member Christy Witters.

Hill said one issue that needs attention is improving access to Richmond's popular Park-and-Ride, located two miles west of Bridge Street at the Interstate 89 interchange. With narrow shoulders along Route 2, there's no safe way to walk or bike to it.

Resident Jeff Forward said exploring alternate ways to get to the Park and Ride along Route 2 is important, but the committee should also remember that the Riverview Commons mobile home park is Richmond's biggest neighborhood. Those residents also need better transportation options, Forward noted.

Hill said he envisioned a transportation plan that extends beyond Richmond, from Riverview Commons to the Bolton Valley Ski Area. "It's not just the Park and Ride," he said. "It's bigger than that."

The Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint the proposed members to the Transportation Committee.

Town Facilities Update The Selectboard took a small step toward solving Richmond Free Library's heating problem while leaving unanswered the question of how to fill the soon-to-be-vacated upper floor of Town Center.

The Board unanimously approved using Middlebury-based Bread Loaf Inc. to provide design and build services for a new heating and air-conditioning system for the Library. The existing heating system has reached the end of its life, said Library Trustee Laurie Dana, noting the heat pump has been replaced six times. Central air conditioning will replace the window units that had been used to cool the building.

Bread Loaf's services will not include only design, not the cost of installing the new heating and air-conditioning systems, Arneson said. The town still needs to seek bids for that work.

The Selectboard also discussed what to do when the Chittenden East Supervisory Union moves out of offices it occupies on the top floor of Town Center at year's end. The school district had been paying $45,000 annually to lease the space.

Witters said "wildly varied" community groups have expressed interest in using the space. She said an advisory committee will draft an interim use policy and present the proposal to the Selectboard at an upcoming meeting.

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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Barrett Grimm

The September 9 Selectboard meeting opened with a presentation by Erik Alling of Stantec engineers, and Jason Charest of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission of three alternatives for the Lower Village traffic reconfiguration based on previously gathered public input and studies.

The first alternative included a "channelized" East Street with the lower portion an alternating one-way lane requiring motorists to yield to one another. An island would separate the Main Road from East Street, and sidewalks coming down East Street, crossing the current Village Green, continuing to Beaudry's Store, and then crossing the Main Road terminating at the Library. The second alternative called for the same traffic flow but with additional parking on the Main Road side.

The third alternative presented is a "double mini-roundabout" concept that would place small traffic circles at the current Village Green and at the Main Road/East Street junction with similar parking and sidewalk configurations to the other plans.

Those in attendance expressed concerns regarding school bus transfers that take place at the Green, traffic approaching the Lower Village from the south at excessive speeds, and a lack of safe pedestrian approaches to the Lower Village coming north on the Main Road. No-one expressed full support for any of the alternatives presented, but several people did offer ideas for improvements.

Possible Municipal Property The Lower Village Reconfiguration presentation led Knox Cummin to present an idea to the Conservation Commission regarding transferring the property adjacent to his Village Hill development. The property between the planned Village Hill development and the Raven Ridge development is in the Stone Engineering report as a possible site for a municipal septic or water system. Cummin presented the idea now because if the roads in the Lower Village are going to be torn up anyway, that would be the time to install infrastructure for such systems. The 25 acres behind the Village Hill development, including the exposed rock face of Raven Ridge visible from the Main Road, could also be transferred for a town park.

At its September 23 meeting, the Selectboard received the presentation from Cummin and members of the Conservation Commission, and commented that there are many questions to be answered regarding such a project, especially regarding who should pay for it and how. The Selectboard asked the Conservation Commission to continue exploring the possibility of a park, and will research how towns approach municipal services projects.

CCRPC The Selectboard had the opportunity to begin that research at the same meeting as Charlie Baker, Executive Director of the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission presented a report on activities from the past year and what is being planned for the coming year. Selectboard chair Dori Barton, referring to municipal septic and water systems, asked "How do towns make these things work?" Baker responded that no towns in Chittenden County have done so yet but it's possible some templates from towns in other counties may exist that could be useful, and his office will be as helpful as possible.

Culvert Also, at the September 9 meeting, the Selectboard presented its conclusions regarding a request for reconsideration of a previous ruling that a culvert was outside of the Town's right-of-way and the Town was, therefore, not responsible for the replacement cost. Town Administrator Barbara Elliott had met with a member of the Ancient Roads Committee who indicated that any research performed by this committee was for informational purposes and should not be considered legally binding. Elliott also found a survey plat for the subject property that clearly indicated Bert White Road as being three-rods. The Selectboard ruled that the information presented from the ancient roads research indicating Bert White Road could be a four-rod road was not sufficient to cause it to reverse the original decision. The landowner indicated he would take the matter to court.

Invasives Heidi Racht reported that some illegal dumping at the turn-around on Pond Road has sprouted Japanese Knotweed. The Town Road Crew will excavate the knotweed and Conservation Commission Co-Chair Jeannette Segale agreed to reach out to the Richmond Land Trust to see if it would take the lead on keeping the site clear of invasive species in the future.

Conservation Commission The Selectboard approved changes to the Conservation Fund criteria to place a greater emphasis on recreational opportunities and public access, approved changes to the process for Fund requests to include an initial public hearing to be held by the Conservation Commission on any requests before proposals are presented to the Selectboard, and appointed Jennifer Esser to the Conservation Commission.

Library Roof Grant Paula Kelley of the Library Trustees reported that the Trustees had reviewed three bids for replacement of the roof of the Union Meeting House, and that the best value was a bid for $39,800. A Vermont Historic Preservation grant would pay for only half of a project, therefore, a grant proposal for $19,900 had been prepared. The Selectboard voted unanimously to proceed with the grant proposal.

Town Auditors Town Auditors Patty Bauman and Marilyn Hinsdale reported they have been unable to find a candidate to replace the late Lucinda Hill as auditor. They are planning to manage the Town Report between the two of them until a suitable replacement can be found.

Other Business The Selectboard received a letter from the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association that Town Clerk Heidi Racht was recognized by the Association for her work initiating and developing a program for Advanced Certification modeled after the Roads Scholar Program.

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MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

Items of interest concerning the merged school district taken from the school board meetings of September 16 and October 7; Superintendent John Alberghini's reports of September 16 and October 7, MMUUSD Finance Committee Meeting of September 26, and MMUUSD Community Engagement Committee Meetings of August 29 and September 24.

Thirty new employees joined the school district this year – both teachers and educational support professionals. There is a video at the cesuvt.org website introducing all of them.

Employee Contract Negotiations and Health Care The Board unanimously approved the tentative agreement reached with the Support Staff. Net 3.3% salary increase, two additional holidays, and the bus drivers have a new salary schedule.

Technical Specialists have petitioned to join the Green Mountain National Education Association as the educational staff has done. The Board voted unanimously for these Technical Specialists to" take a vote" of their members to further this process.

As the new round of teacher contract negotiations begins, they must include the new State of Vermont Health Insurance mandates. If "negotiators are unable to come to an agreement through Fact Finding and Mediation in October, and arbitrator will determine terms by December 31.2019.*

At the October 7 board meeting, Eric Krull MMUHS teacher and GMNEA Rep, urged the district to work towards a settlement without going into arbitration. The mandated shift to high-deductible plans has been difficult for employees. There could be a 200% increase in out-of-pocket expenses, and Support Staff face a 20% contribution on all expenses. The lowest district earners face the greatest increases.**

UID "Repurpose" Update The Central Office construction in this new location in the former school is moving forward and on schedule. All demolition work for the office spaces has been completed and new electrical and mechanical facilities are being installed. The new wall separating the library, conference room, and potential birth-to-three-years area is built, sheet-rocked and painted. Painting has been completed in most areas and new ceiling grid and ceiling tiles are being installed.*

The remaining work includes lighting, a few new doors, new windows to be installed at the front two offices, carpeting, and mechanical equipment installation. The time frame for occupying the space in winter 2019/2020 is on schedule. Special Services moved its personnel and operations to UID in August.*

The YMCA had planned to offer preschool services at UID for the 2019-2020 school year. Unfortunately, the enrollment was not high enough to maintain a program. However, Saxon Hill Preschool has the student enrollment and need for additional space. Thus, Saxon Hill will be renting the classroom designated for the YMCA this school year.*

There is a critical need for quality child care from birth to age three years in Vermont. The UID building has room to accommodate this need. Many regulations and conditions concerning both the facility and the personnel are attendant to this end. The Superintendent has made this his #1 Project Goal for 2019/2020. He hopes to have the license and an operator in place sometime in the first quarter, 2020.

Other Capital Improvement Projects MMUUSD had a few major projects completed this summer. Camels Hump and Browns River Middle Schools had new water mains installed. The new eight-inch lines replace the old 4 inch lines for increased volume and pressure. Sidewalk upgrades were completed at Underhill Central School, Jericho Elementary School, and Smilie Memorial School. This is a vast improvement to safety and appearance.*

Brewster-Pierce Memorial School installed a new gym floor. MMU had work completed on the gym floor, the cafeteria floor, the removal of the remaining 1970s wood paneling in the 400 wing and significant renovations and upgrades to the auditorium.* The parking lot behind CHMS is newly paved.

Huntington Merger The Board voted to validate the resolution and subsequent vote of June 6, 2019 accepting the Huntington school district into MMMUSD. Only Gail Conley voted against the resolution. The courts have upheld this vote as valid. There are other litigations brought by Huntington against CESU pending. Richmond Representative Michael Marks believes the allegations in the lawsuit are without merit – but they will be costly to litigate.

Budget All targets for the last fiscal year were met, leaving the district with FY 20 surplus of $1,000,000 to apply to the FY 21 tax year or other purposes. The Huntington School District deficit will be paid from this. Marks noted this surplus raises again the need for a five year financial plan. All the tax incentives from the merger are complete. The student population is stable. No bond issues are in the immediate future. Now that the merged district paperwork has been "streamlined," there will be more time to pay attention to this. The next budget meeting is October 24, 6 pm CHMS. All are invited to attend.

Extensive explanations about how the tax rate is calculated are on the cesuvt.org website. Choose School Board from the header, and scroll down to School Board Updates.

Vermont Youth Project Stephanie Hartsfield of Richmond explained the Vermont Youth Project to the Board. It offers the town an opportunity to survey and analyze the needs of local youth (grades 5-12). Once the data is collected, planning can begin on new opportunities and support, increasing activities and programs which serve youth in the community. This project has been tremendously successful in Iceland, with the percentage of smoking, drinking, and cannabis usage amongst teens dropping down into the single digits. The Project would involve schools, families, towns, local businesses and local governments in developing and implementing the program. Training for program leaders has already been done. The Town of Richmond has contributed $2,500 for the initial year of a five year plan. Most services are funded by Vermont After School public-private partnership.

Spanish Immersion In its third year, with Grades K, 1, and 2 up and running - it continues to be the only program of this kind in Vermont. The lottery for placement in kindergarten this year was 33 applicants for 18 places. By second grade, immersion students are reading, writing, and responding in Spanish. The goal is for students to be bilingual by Grade 5. Based on this success, a survey has been sent to preschool parents in the south end of the district. Richmond Elementary School has room for this program.

Community Engagement Committee A variety of Board members sat in a booth at the Richmond Fourth of July celebration, and attended all the open houses in the fall to engage with the public.

The Committee is also looking at changing the name of the district to something shorter.

**Taken from Superintendent's report.*
*** Taken from published meeting minutes.*

Area Residents Honored

Musicians To Play in National Ensembles

During the 2018–19 school year, along with other accomplished music students across the United States and overseas in military base schools, **Jayme Billings** (Sophomore-Alto Saxophone) and **Ethan Hall** (Senior-Trombone) from Mount Mansfield Union High School (MMUsic) practiced with dedication to gain a chair or part in their local, district, and state music honor ensembles.

And now the two high school students will join the "best of the best" for the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) 2019 All-National Honor Ensembles November 7–10, 2019, at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

Jayme Billings is a sophomore and performs in the Marching Band and Wind Ensemble. Her passion is the alto saxophone. Playing classical and jazz music with various groups in and outside of school. She plays music to inspire others and to make herself happy. During her Freshman year she won the district scholarship performing in front of a large crowd and this past summer she attended a two week saxophone workshop at the Tanglewood Institute. Billings takes private lessons with Steve Klimowski with University of Vermont and Kenneth Radnofsky with New England Conservatory. She hopes to have a career in music

Ethan Hall is a senior, performs in the Marching Band and Wind Ensemble and is a committed musician. He hopes to spend time traveling after high school before becoming a music teacher and conductor. Hall takes private trombone lessons with Dale Long. He spends his time performing in the Vermont Youth Orchestra and many festival ensembles, he enjoys singing and leads the MMU acapella group The Bad Bananas. He also enjoys playing piano and songwriting.

MMU instrumental Instructor

Town Clerk Honored

by Jane Vossler

In 2006 Heidi Racht was elected Town Clerk of Huntington. Thirteen years later, she continues to serve the community in this post and many others, including library trustee, cemetery trustee, and editor of the Times Ink, all of which she has done for decades. You may know Racht from seeing her at the Town Clerk's office, at local elections, or at committee meetings. However, you may not know that her service extends well beyond Huntington.

In September, Racht won the newly-created Award of Appreciation at the 83rd annual banquet of the Vermont Municipal Clerks' and Treasurers' Association (VMCTA). It was given for her work in bettering the VMCTA by initiating and developing a program for advanced certification of clerks and treasurers. Racht said of the award, "It was a total surprise, especially since I had nominated someone else."

Racht got the idea for an advanced certification program "when our road foreman got a certificate from the local Roads Scholar group and had his picture taken with our Selectboard chair. I thought that advanced certification for clerks and treasurers would encourage them to set professional goals and provide an opportunity to get recognition for their community service and all the continuing education courses they take. Reaching advanced certification, said Racht, "represents a lot of service and hard work."

Racht said, "It is empowering to put out an idea that people like and are willing to work on. It took a few years to work through the details, but the program has been successful." Her idea made a "significant contribution to the VMCTA," which was one of the criteria for winning the award.

Georgette Wolf-Ludwig, Fairlee Town Clerk and President of VMCTA, said, "In addition to being a model of professional excellence, Heidi has been involved in her profession in a number of ways including participation on committees both locally and for the VMCTA. She is a Certified Vermont Clerk and a Certified Municipal Clerk, a graduate of the three year New England Municipal Clerks' Institute, and is now enrolled in the Athenian Dialogue program which is administered through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She is well deserving of this award and the very first recipient!"

Is this a big deal? Yes! To encourage advanced learning in any profession is a way to make things better. The Award of Appreciation recognizes Heidi Racht's excellent work and dedication to raising the bar for clerks and treasurers throughout Vermont.

Huntington Town Clerk Heidi Racht, center, with Fairlee Town Clerk and VMCTA President Georgette Wolf-Ludwig and Past President and South Burlington City Clerk Donna Kinville. Photo: Jim Condos

Fall Events

Oct. 31 - Fall Luncheon - 11:30 a.m.

The Community Senior Center and the Richmond Congregational Church invite all local Seniors to a free delicious Harvest Lunch.
Menu: Homemade soups, bread and dessert. **Location:** Richmond Congregational Church. Parking available at the Richmond Free Library and Town Center.

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Nov. 21 - The Crones Vocal Ensemble - 1:30 Richmond Library

A program of spoken word and song for fall. Enjoy arrangements of familiar tunes, humorous songs, unusual rounds plus seasonal poetry and historical trivia.

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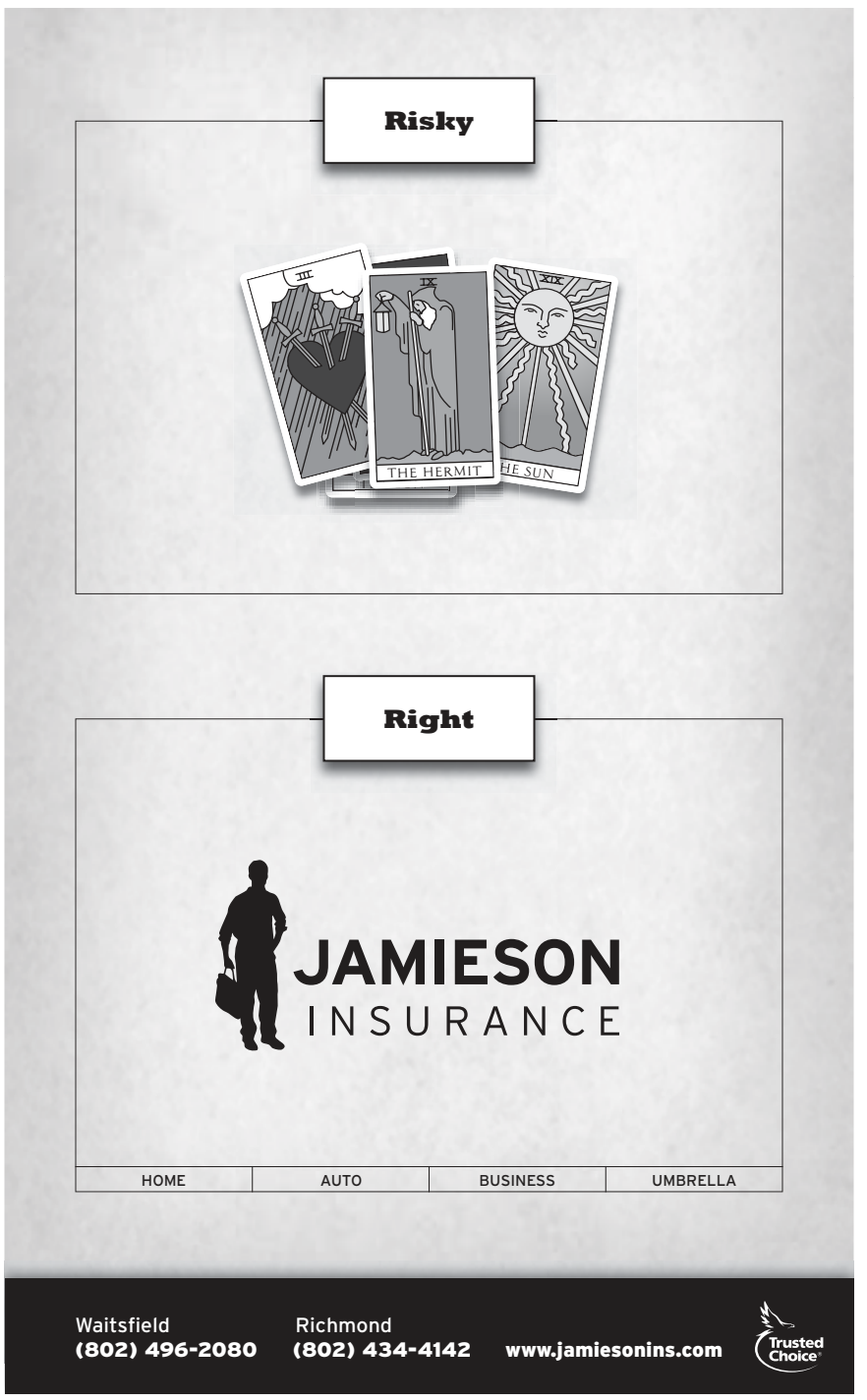

Lyric's Addams Family

Local talent Maria Morse and Isaiah Gilbert in Lyric's November production, The Addams Family, who are performing in the ensemble as Addams Family Ancestors. Courtesy photo

On Thursday, November 7, Lyric Theatre Company kicks off its 46th season – the Season of Mischief – with The Addams Family, a fresh and original musical about an unconventional family with a penchant for all things macabre.

The Addams Family is based on the iconic characters created by legendary cartoonist Charles Addams in the late 1930s. The musical features an original story which shines the spotlight on Wednesday Addams, the ultimate "princess of darkness" who falls in love with a "normal" boy — a shocking development that turns the Addams' household upside-down when the two families meet for the first time.

Members of the cast with ties to the Richmond and Huntington communities include Maria Morse and Isaiah Gilbert who are performing in the ensemble as Addams Family Ancestors.

Members of the Production Team with community ties include House Co-Chair and Costume Ghoul Heidi Racht; Special Effects Co-Chair Belinda Emerson; Costume Ghoul Laurie Dana; and Construction Volunteer Liz Dana.

The Addams Family will be presented on the Flynn MainStage November 7 through 10, 2019, with matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm and evening performances Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 pm. The Sunday matinee will be audio-described for patrons who are blind or visually impaired. For tickets, call 86FLYNN, purchase online at flynntix.org or visit the Flynn Box Office in downtown Burlington. Generous support is provided by the Hickok & Boardman Network of Companies with WCAX and Seven Days as media partners.

Arts Fest a Huge Success

Huntington photographer Barbara Felitti documented the day at the Huntington Arts Festival at the old Town Hall on October 5. From top: watercolorist Terry Boyle, Will Keyworth with his shibori creations, wide view of the Town Hall downstairs.

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News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington

Submitted by Becky Cozzens

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

As summer has passed, I think of the nights my husband and I have sat at our campfire and watched fireflies light up the meadow. It reminds us when our sons were young and how they would capture the fireflies in an empty jar and were fascinated by their luminescence, and how those fireflies would light up the jar.

Just as God made fireflies to light up summer nights, we also have the ability to "light up". When we do so, we become a blessing to everyone around us, those in our families, in our community, and in our world.

Jesus cautioned his disciples about hiding their light under a bushel basket. We too shouldn't hide our light from others. Let it shine!

A line from my son's favorite camp song was "It only takes a spark to get a fire going." Let us all be that spark and show love to those around us, near or far. Everyone is welcome to worship with us Sundays at the Community Church here in Huntington. Sunday school is also available to all children during the worship service. Let's all be a light today!

Death Notice

Keith Hunter Frantz

Keith Hunter Frantz, 67, died with grace Tuesday September 10, 2019 at home on our back porch surrounded by green mountain views, late summer birds and his loving family in Richmond

Keith was born in Syracuse, New York on December 4, 1951 to John and Vivien Rowan Frantz. He has revered memories of his childhood spent in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Hyattsville, Maryland; and Forrest Hills, New York.

After attending American University in Washington, D.C., his hippy tendencies and a strong desire to live mortgage free brought him to Saranac, New York, where he built a log cabin with his brother, Jay. The Adirondacks became a favorite backdrop for his love of outdoor adventuring; hiking, pond hopping and cultivating friendships with his like minded "cabin boys" and "poker buddies."

Keith pursued a career that brought him 40 years of professional fulfillment, treasured relationships and independence - he traded in his ponytail for a CPA certificate, opening his own practice in Plattsburgh, New York. He never overcame his aversion to neckties but his loyal clients didn't seem to mind and he was forever grateful for their continued support of his financial advice (which he loved giving, solicited or not).

Keith was a lifelong seeker of spirituality; practicing meditation, yoga, mindfulness and gratitude far before it became mainstream. His unwavering belief in the law of attraction, acceptance of what is, and universal love brought peace to him and many others who had the privilege of listening to his musings. He was a born teacher and conversationalist, he enjoyed sharing his perspectives on philosophy, politics, sports and tax law.

Keith was an avid reader, he loved books and sharing them. To honor his father who was a Librarian, he was elected and served as Library Trustee in Richmond.

He will be deeply missed by his beloved wife and soulmate, Anne O'Brien, and daughters, Robin Frantz (Zachary Hunter), Hannah Gillian (Eli Gillian) and Molly Frantz as well as his cherished grandchildren, Jorah and Sullivan Hunter and Lila Gillian.He will be missed dearly by his step children, Rebecca Bergeron and Jon O'Connor, Josiah and Luke Bergeron. He also leaves his brother Jay and sister Sheila and their families who live in California. Keith will remain in the hearts of countless other friends and family on both sides of Lake Champlain.

To honor Keith's life and support ALS research contributions may be made to the Northern New England ALS Association www.alsa.org. team Sippin' Sunshine.

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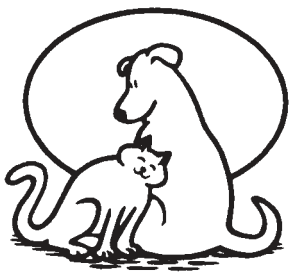

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Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOVEMBER 2: Chicken Pie Supper, two seatings (5:30 and 6:15), St. Pius X Church, Essex Center. Benefit Knights of Columbus Scholarship Funds. Adults $10 / under 12 years $6. Take out available. Tickets or reservations: Ron Rice, 879-6989.

NOVEMBER 2: Extension Master Gardener Conference, Pizzagalli Center for Art and Education, Shelburne Museum, 8 am to 4 pm. Keynote Gary Oppenheimer, founder of AmpleHarvest.org. Also, Julie Moir Messervy, a Bellows Falls landscape designer; Matthew Benson, New York photographer, writer and organic farmer; Ann Hazelrigg and Victor Izzo, UVM Plant and Soil Science Department; Charlie Nardozzi, nationally-recognized horticultural consultant. Registration to attend in person is $70 ($60 for Master Gardeners) and includes a light breakfast, lunch and Museum access. Or watch the conference online for a $58 fee ($48 for Master Gardeners). Registration deadline: Oct. 25; or Nov. 1 for online option. Info or register: http://go.uvm.edu/emgconference.

NOVEMBER 3: Celebrate your right to vote just before Election Day this year: join Vermont Suffrage Centennial Alliance (VSCA) at Moments of Reckoning in the Campaign for Women's Rights, 4:30 pm, The Classroom on the second floor of Main Street Landing Performing Arts Ce,60 Lake Street in Burlington. Event to commemorate next year's 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution presented by the Alliance, a statewide group of volunteers lead by the League of Women Voters.Free and open to the public. RSVP: vtsuffrage2020.org.

NOVEMBER 10: Chittenden County Historical Society Program, 2 pm. Filmmaker, author and society member James R. "Jim" Jones presents a colorful, meticulously researched powerpoint program on the life and times of Lake Champlain navigation, the "Grand Canyon of the East," Adirondack hotels and industry, two railroads- KAC&LC and D&H, and the region's highway development. Bobbin Mill Community Room, 234 South Champlain Street, Burlington. Information: Ann Gray, grayann8@aol.com or 878-4088

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

Regular Meetings

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

Richmond: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm, Town Center

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

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

PLANNING COMMISSION
Huntington: 2nd & 4th Mon., 7 pm, Town Clerk's Office.

Richmond: 1st & 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Town Center

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD
Huntington: 2nd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office

Richmond: 2nd & 4th Wed., 7 pm, Town Center.

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

SCOUTS
Richmond: Cub Scout Pack 646 meets 7-8 pm, last Wednesday of the month, CHMS music room pit.

Huntington: Cub Scout Pack 645, Sundays, Brewster-Pierce School, Matt Plumer (chewiecbr@gmail.com).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr

Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Public Library.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Worship

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BOLTON • RICHMOND • HUNTINGTON
Community Senior Center

Kayaking and More Fun

The Community Senior Center of Richmond, Huntington and Bolton (CSC) facilitates nearly 50 activities for over 500 seniors, averaging about 22 per week each season. We chatted with Richmond resident Rachel Towers about her experiences with the CSC.

How did you learn about the CSC? Probably through the TIMES INK or maybe someone invited me. I think I started with Nordic walking. I like to walk so I joined with Martha Nye and Peggy Curtis on Friday mornings. I had never been out in the fields. It was fun to explore. Of course, now the newsletter that Martha puts out is very informative.

What did you try next? I think I did Bone Builders. I try to go at least once week. It's a good incentive to do exercises. I'm much better at exercise when I do it with a group. They are good leaders and it's at a good pace for people like us. I've noticed more strength in my arms and legs and better balance. And I've met some new people in town that I'd never met before.

That's amazing because you've been in Richmond… 54 years.

54 Years! And there's some people you haven't met! Any other things you've tried? I've been kayaking. The Lamoille river was a long trip. I'd done part of that river before. It was fun and a gorgeous day and it was a safe body of water. I went on the trips to Colchester Pond, Ferrisburgh and up to the islands.

Had you and Ralph paddled before? We'd kayaked from our camp on Lake Iroquois.

You're pretty intrepid driving in that truck strapped with your kayak. Any more sedentary activities? I did do a bit with the knitting group. Others have more expertise. I may get back into it.

I think you've played croquet? Yes, croquet and bocce ball a couple of times this summer outdoors but I hope to join them this winter at Richmond Elementary. I think they use the hallway. And I do the cornhole It's good exercise.

And have you played cards too? No, but I did join the Mexican Train dominoes group. Last winter we met a few times. That was fun. Maybe they'll do it again this year.

Anything else? I don't know…do they offer snowshoeing? It's good to get out in the winter otherwise you mind the cold so much more.

Overall, what would you say to people who might be thinking of doing something with the CSC? I think there's a good variety of things and you can partake of different ones and pick which ones are right for you. Some people like the indoor, the bridge and the games, and some want to get exercise and explore some of the new places in the area. And there's a coffee hour to just talk, especially in the winter.

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

—Diane Reynolds

VTeen 4-H Science Summit Cafe

The second of two VTeen 4-H Science Pathways Cafés will be offered this fall to give Grade 7-12 students an insight into the science behind medical diagnoses and infectious diseases.

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H will sponsor the cafés, which are planned and run by a teen leadership committee. There is no charge to attend although preregistration is required.

The November 9 café will explore infectious diseases. It will be held in the Mansfield Dining Room at the Dudley Davis Center on the UVM campus in Burlington from 5 pm to 7 pm. Free pizza and drinks will be served.

Teens interested in attending the November café (Infectious Diseases—How Do We Combat Them?) have until November 6 to register at https://nov2019cafe.eventbrite.com.

Under the guidance of Huy Tu, a UVM microbiology and molecular genetics doctoral student, participants will take a hands-on approach to discover how medical researchers and other health care experts work together to combat pathogens that cause infectious diseases. They also will try their hand at altering the genetics of microbes and discuss what is being done to eradicate these diseases.

To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Lauren Traister, UVM Extension 4-H Teen and Leadership Program coordinator at (866) 260-5603 by October 7 for the biomedical science café and October 28 for the session on infectious diseases.

To learn more about the teen science cafés and other youth programs and opportunities, go to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements.

What's Your Ash Tree Story

Do you know of a special ash tree worth celebrating? Perhaps it's the largest in your town or a backyard tree that you planted when your youngest, now a college student, was born.

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Vermont Land Trust are working in partnership to gather stories and photos from Vermonters about ash trees. Many of these will be posted on the land trust's website at www.vlt.org/ash.

If you have stories, photos, drawings, maps, poems or anything else to share, you can send by email to ash@vlt.org or mail to Allaire Diamond, Vermont Land Trust, P.O. Box 850, Richmond, VT 05477. The project is ongoing with November 15 as the next deadline for submissions.

Ash trees are an important part of woodlands, wetlands, towns and cities as they provide habitat for wildlife, stabilize soils of floodplains and shade town greens, streets and yards. However, the state's 150 million ash trees are now threatened by the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect.

The project also will help raise awareness of this destructive forest pest, which was first detected in northern Orange County in 2018 and has now been reported in several other counties. Once infested, an ash tree is likely to die within five years.

For more on the ash stories project, to see previous submissions and learn about the work of the Vermont Land Trust, go to www.vlt.org or contact Allaire Diamond at allaire@vlt.org.

Visit www.vtcommunityforestry.org or call 651-8343 for information about the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program,.

Service Directory

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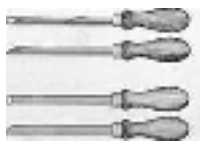

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Weddings

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Pizza

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Gardening Update

Save Your Garden for Winter

by Bonnie Kirn Donahue

It's happened again. Leaves are getting crispy, flowers are going to seed and the air is beginning to cool. As hard frosts become a reality, it is almost time to start thinking about cutting back our perennials and putting our gardens to bed.

I'd like to propose that we think about this time of year a little differently. In fact, leaving some perennials and grasses up throughout the winter can be beneficial for many reasons.

One reason not to cut back your plants for the winter is aesthetics. Although it might be hard to watch your plants dry out, turn brown and go to seed (it is for me), when we are deep into the winter season the forms and textures of your plants against the snowy backdrop will look far more appealing.

Piet Oudolf, a world-renowned garden designer from the Netherlands, designs gardens that are meant to be striking through every season including winter. Oudolf accomplishes this not by using shrubs or evergreens alone, but by using a naturalistic palette of perennials and grasses.

Oudolf selects plants that have characteristics in the winter that most of us never get the chance to experience because we cut

Goldfinches feast on the seed pods of perennial plants left in the garden overwinter. (photo: Bonnie Kirn Donahue)

them back so early. False indigo (Baptisia spp.), for example, has great winter structure and its seedpods turn a lovely grey-black in the winter, creating an attractive ornamental contrast to the stark winter landscape.

When picking plants to leave, look for stems and seed heads that are sturdy and persist such as globe thistle (Echinops ritro), Siberian iris (Iris sibirica), bee balm (Monarda didyma), showy stonecrop (Sedum spectabile) and Culver's root (Veronicastrum spp.).

Or choose plants with interesting textures such as feather reed grass (Calamagrostis acutiflora), tufted hair grass (Deschampsia cespitosa) and silvergrass (Miscanthus spp.). Experiment with your own plants and take notes so that you can remember what looks best from year to year.

However, before deciding to wait until spring to cutback your plants, consider whether or not the plants are diseased or will reseed and become a maintenance headache. In these cases it might be better for the health of your garden and your maintenance plan to cut back these plants in the fall. The same is true if you are concerned about voles or mice overwintering in your beds and causing damage to bulbs and other plants.

In addition to enjoying a winter garden from your window, leaving perennials like purple coneflower (Echinacea purpurea) or black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia spp.) provides seeds for goldfinches and other winter birds. I have experimented with this in my garden, and it is so satisfying to see the lively birds perched on tiny perennial stems enthusiastically picking seeds from the spiky flower heads.

Leaving perennials and grasses through the winter also offers important protection for insects and pollinators who use the plants and leaf litter as overwintering habitat to help survive the long months of winter.

This fall I encourage you to test this theory out in your garden. Leave a patch of purple coneflowers or black-eyed Susans, and see what you think come January. When the world is blanketed in white snow, the texture from your rich black and brown landscape might be just what you need to get you through to spring. And it will definitely help birds and insects survive, too.

(Bonnie Kirn Donahue is a UVM Extension Master Gardener and landscape designer from central Vermont.)

Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Integrative Acupuncture Expands Services

Integrative Acupuncture, a full-service acupuncture provider, recently opened a new office in Williston at 373 Blair Park Road. Owner Kerry Boyle has been providing services through the Montpelier office for ten years but with the increase in client demand, the time seemed right to expand her business to a second location. Boyle's vision is to integrate acupuncture and Chinese medicine with western health modalities in a complementary way. Although acupuncture is considered part of traditional Chinese medicine and been used for over 4,000 years, it is now being incorporated more into western medicine as an effective pain management treatment.

The Integrative Acupuncture team. Courtesy photos

What happens during a treatment? Acupuncture consists of inserting very thin sterile needles into various parts of the body at strategic points where nerves and muscles are densely bundled. The reaction created by this process promotes blood flow and stimulates the immune system. For some people the fear of needles can be a barrier to seeking out this treatment, however, the procedure is generally painless and, in fact, can be extremely relaxing.

Over the years Boyle has honed her "acupuncture elevator speech" to help people better understand how acupuncture works. Boyle explained the concept of acupuncture to the Business Beat using a visual image. Imagine that you have a splinter in your skin that is hurting you. Once that splinter is released from your skin, the blood begins to flow again, the muscles relax and the healing process starts. The needles that are used in acupuncture help to stimulate this kind of healing. Acupuncture has been known to relieve pain, reduce inflammation and restore balance to the body.

Boyle's professional credentials are impressive as well as fascinating. She earned her Masters of Science degree in Acupuncture and the title of Licensed Acupuncturist in the states of Vermont and Washington. Boyle completed additional post-graduate work in London, England where she studied with some of the most renowned fertility specialists. She has worked in diverse health care settings such as rehab clinics, pain management clinics, and numerous hospitals where she has seen first-hand the effects of integrated medicine. During her career, she managed to introduce literally thousands of people to the benefits of acupuncture for the first time by providing services on hundreds of cruise ships. "I found that people were very open to trying a session while on a cruise because vacation time provides a safe and relaxing environment to explore something new."

Kerry Boyle greets clients at Integrative Acupuncture

Part of Boyle's personal mission is to make acupuncture an option for as many people as possible. She does this by working hard to make treatment affordable. Although acupuncture is not broadly covered by all health insurance at this point, Integrative Acupuncture accepts all insurance for those plans who do cover this service. Military veterans and their families, might be interested in knowing that they can have acupuncture covered through the Veteran's Choice Act. On Thursday evenings Integrative Acupuncture offers $10 sessions in the Montpelier office located at 156 Main Street and during the summer practitioners offered $10 sample sessions at the Farmer's Market. Boyle is also past Vermont Acupuncture Association (VTAA) president and has advocated for broader insurance coverage of complementary medical treatments through the Vermont Legislature.

Boyle works with a team of four acupuncturists who have helped to treat conditions such as headaches, knee pain, lower back pain, post-surgery recovering, pregnancy issues, stress, arthritis, general pain management and more. Although each staff member is qualified to treat a variety of ailments, they also have some specific areas of expertise. Boyle, along with ZiZi Zolten-Chandler, have done a lot of work on women's health issues, particularly around pregnancy and fertility. Jonathan Fleming has developed an expertise in sports medicine and has helped many athletes to recover from sports related injuries. Marcia Leon has done extensive work with children and acupuncture and Jennifer Etheridge has expertise in dermatology. The staff meets on a regular basis to share findings and learn from one another and they maintain a strong continuing education program to stay up to date in the field. Licensed acupuncturists must complete a rigorous 3.5 year program with 3,000 hours of training. In addition to their expertise in acupuncture, each provider is licensed by the state of Vermont to provide herbal medicines. Two massage therapists are also on staff, Robin Greenwood and Nate Peyman, who are skilled in deep tissue Swedish massage, Reiki, prenatal and sports massage.

If you are interested in learning more about a treatment plan, you can schedule a complimentary meeting. In general a typical series of treatments would consist of one session per week for about six weeks with a few longer term follow up treatments. Each person's needs are different, however, so you would discuss your personal plan with your provider.

Integrative Acupuncture can be reached at 876-7187 and more information can be found of the website at www.acupunctureinvermont.com.

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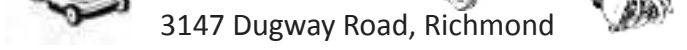

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TOWN OF RICHMOND

Information Relating to the Bond Vote for the Bridge Crossing and Upper Bridge St. Projects:

The Town of Richmond, Vermont is interested in commencing work on the following three projects in the summer of 2020

1. Bridge St. bridge waterline crossing
2. Upper Bridge St. waterline replacement
3. Upper Bridge St. storm water drain replacement

The storm water project is being paid for out of the storm water budget line and reserves.

The two waterline projects were initially approved in a bond vote on March 6, 2018 for a total project cost of $415,000, with a bond of $400,000 to cover most of that cost. The cost of both waterline projects is now expected to be $650,000.

The bond vote being held on November 5, 2019 is for $250,000 and would allow for funding for both projects. (Total project cost of $650,000 equals the initial approval for $400,000 plus the current bond vote of $250,000)

This is a Water and Sewer bond and as such it is a general obligation, secured by a pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Richmond as the issuer. The entire Grand List stands as security for the payment of bond debt service. However, the actual source of payment will be revenues generated by the Water and Sewer utility.

The bridge crossing project consists of replacing the existing waterline that runs underneath the Bridge St. bridge with a more durable material and re-positioning it to a more protected location under the bridge. This is to prevent damage that may occur when the river runs high and debris could damage the line.

The upper Bridge St. project has been in the planning phase since 2007. The project is necessary to replace failing infrastructure, the failure of which would create a catastrophic situation. The total project consists of two projects 1) replacing the 50 year old asbestos cement water main 2) replacing the storm water drain which has mostly failed at this point. The upper Bridge St. section runs from the traffic light down to just below the railroad tracks for the waterline and just above the railroad tracks for the storm water drain.

If the Town completes the waterline projects by September of 2020, there will be a 50% subsidy off of the total cost of the projects through income sensitivity as calculated for Federal Fiscal Year 2018 (FFY18). There will be no interest on this loan and it will be a 40 year term. If the project is not completed by the end of Sept. of 2020 the FFY18 income data would no longer apply and the income sensitivity subsidy would be lost. Thus, the project would then be more expensive.

On upper Bridge Street, portions of the existing water line are under the proposed storm water line, so it makes sense to do both projects at the same time. There will be savings on the excavation since they will only have to disturb the area once to complete both projects. The Town will hold meetings prior to the construction to work with residents and business owners to develop a plan for traffic and parking during the construction phase.

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Psychosomatic Disorders

"In these disorders the patient reacts to stress, tension and anxiety with direct physiological malfunction, which may lead to irreversible organ or tissue damage."

Personality Development and Psychopathology, Norman Cameron

Phil, 54, is a self-employed accountant. He is used to dealing with numbers and people, and at times has to deal with complex situations, all of which he does well. Outside of work, Phil engages in several seasonal activities and physical pursuits, some of which he does alone and some of which he does with a group. He has an active social life and is involved in local civic affairs.

Lately Phil has reported sleep disturbances and complaints of a number of physical ailments, the most recent being a pain in his shoulder and back aches. The physician has been unable to identify any physical cause for the aches and pains. Phil acknowledges that he has allowed his business to grow to where he feels overwhelmed and stressed. This strongly suggests Phil is dealing with a psychosomatic illness. "I'm surprised," he said. "I never knew stress could have such a strong effect."

Recognition that emotional disturbances are connected with physiological overactivity has been known since early times. What the ancients wrote has been confirmed as medical science has made advances in understanding how our mental aspects affect our physical being. The concept of psychosomatic disorders recognizes that many physiological problems have a psychological etiology. Although there is wide acceptance of this, there still seems to be some medical confusion, and we will occasionally hear a doctor declare that the particular malady is "all in his head." The suggestion is that the pain is not real. This is not accurate. The pain is not imaginary but is, in fact, very real. It appears we lack a full understanding of the body-mind connection.

There are manifold ways that our mental processes deal with unwelcome thoughts. Though many thoughts, feelings, memories and fantasies of our early life cease to be part of our consciousness, they are not lost. They may show up in our dreams, slips of the tongue, memory lapses or distorted recollections. When there is forgotten emotional pain or repressed awareness, they may be represented by a physical ailment or weakness.

Often the person has no conscious awareness of the origin of the ailment. The early wound may be a manifestation of internal conflict which the person has repressed. When I was 12 years old I was diagnosed with a skin rash on my legs which was explained to me as some kind of "unknown disease in many forms." What I know now is that the body pantomimes the mental distress. My skin was the manifestation of emotional conflict. I also know now that it could have been a lot worse -- I might have developed a more serious condition such as asthma or internal organ distress.

Every individual has the potential to develop somatic manifestations in reaction to psychological distress. The psychological reaction may cause the dispersal of the feelings as the psyche attempts to avoid becoming aware of the painful feelings. This effort may succeed, but the effort may also involve a physiological symptom, and the situation may be so stressful that it overwhelms the psyche and the body reacts with a psychosomatic episode.

Often the person has no recognition of these underlying psychodynamics and is unaware of the internal process of somatization. Honest self-reflection and self-awareness are challenging endeavors and we are all quite capable of fooling ourselves. Developing insight and understanding the unconscious is best achieved with the help of a psychodynamic therapist who can assist the person in the safety of the supportive therapeutic relationship.

Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Patches

You've certainly experienced it, too -- holes in the knees of a favorite pair of pants, signs of wear that spell doom to old jeans, shorts, shirts, and jackets. Just as they got fully broken in, after only a decade or so of trusty service.

Recently, it was our favorite pair of hiking shorts. No problem with the knees, because there aren't any. It was everywhere else. Threadbare spots on the seat and indiscreetly along the front. So, we took a deep breath and tossed them into the trash, only to have our lovely wife rescue them with a shocking offer: "a couple of patches and you could wear 'em a few more years".

Oh, happy day! Save them with patches, sure. That's better than paying $40 for another pair. Besides, the new ones won't be nearly as nice as these. "Patch away," was our reply. A few days later, the shorts were back with contrasting patches done in upholstery fabric, plus some fancy stitching that looked like Frankenstein scars across the fabric. They looked excellent, not unlike the last time we wore patches, in middle school.

Remember back when moms patched everything? There was no discussion or embarrassment, as everyone had patches. It was a rare kid who appeared without some evidence of mending before summer was over. Not that we wore clothes so long they needed it. No, we earned the patches by falling off our bikes or tumbling down hills and ripping our jeans. We then improved the holes over the course of the day until they needed urgent repair by the time we got home again.

But over time, homemade patches were replaced by those iron-on fake denim ones that would come loose at the corners. Then came designer ones and eventually we went to distressed jeans with knee holes as a fashion statement. Somehow along the way classic patches disappeared and were forgotten. Until now, when we wear our new patched hiking shorts.

What a reaction the first time they were displayed in public. We were out yard-saling and the guy at the first place was very excited about our patches. Out came his patch-memory stories and on we talked about the joy of extending the life of favorite clothes. At the next house, it was a lady fondly remembering going through the rag bag with her mom to find just the right material for patching each of her siblings' pants. "Oh, we were all very different. One liked bright colors, I hated prints, and you couldn't make the patches loud enough for the youngest."

We laughed and reminisced about those days of stretching things and not worrying about looking out of place. We were all in the same boat, making the best we could with what we had. Patching this, mending that, and generally working to make everything last as long as possible. Hmmm, maybe thrifty homemaking is making a coming back.

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