The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

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Day or Night?

Is nighttime is right time for Richmond's Town Meeting?

by Greg Elias

Richmond will vote on a proposal to shift its traditional daytime town meetings to nights. But can after-dark sessions reverse declining attendance and revive a centuries-old cornerstone of civic participation?

There's no definitive answer to that question. But other towns' experiences provide hints about how the change might impact declining participation.

Richmond Town Clerk Linda Parent is skeptical that night meetings will help.

"I don't think that a lot of people are going to come to a meeting in the dark, probably in the snow," she said. "My concern is that other towns have done it, and they say it hasn't made a difference."

The altered annual meeting schedule is one of several decisions Richmond residents will make on Town Meeting Day, March 3. The municipal budget will be debated and voted on during the annual meeting. Australian balloting will include votes on candidates for town offices, a one-cent property tax for conservation projects and a tax exemption for Richmond Rescue.

The proposed change to Richmond's town meeting, ironically, is not on the meeting agenda. It will instead be voted on using balloting. If approved, annual meetings will move to Monday nights, but balloting will continue to take place on the first Tuesday in March, Vermont's traditional Town Meeting Day.

The idea of changing to nighttime sessions had been discussed at previous annual meetings, leading the Selectboard to place the measure on this year's ballot.

Parent said meeting attendance has declined over the past several years. Last year's meeting initially included about 100 residents. By the time it ended in early afternoon, only about 20 people remained.

Last year's starting attendance represented just three percent of Richmond's 3,343 registered voters. It was also only a fraction of the roughly 900 people who cast Australian ballots on Town Meeting Day last year.

Richmond also follows tradition by voting on the municipal budget during the meeting. But deciding the budget during the annual town meeting gives a small fraction of residents the power over spending priorities—and property taxes—that affect everyone in the community.

Because of that, many Chittenden County towns have moved away from approving budgets during the annual meeting and instead use Australian ballot. Neighboring Williston made the change years ago. But doing so can have the downside of relegating the annual meeting, a bedrock tradition of Town Meeting Day, to an information-only session.

What's best? It all depends. Data on town meetings is hard to come

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Richmond's Conservation Fund Up for Renewal

In 2015, Richmond voters established a Conservation Reserve Fund so the Town could more quickly and effectively support local natural, historic and agricultural resource conservation projects. Since then, it has helped finance 14 conservation initiatives across town, among them creating Richmond's first town forest, protecting Willis Hill for sledding and science education, and restoring the Town Center's historic portico.

On March 3, voters will decide whether to renew the Fund by continuing to direct a penny on the property tax rate to it. That amounts to $10 for every $100,000 of a property's assessed value.

"The Conservation Reserve Fund has gained the Town an important seat at the table in helping guide and contribute to important conservation projects," says Judy Rosovsky, chair of the Richmond Conservation Commission.

"Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund played a critical role in the creation of the 428-acre Andrews Community Forest," notes Bob Heiser, Champlain Valley Regional Director for the Vermont Land Trust. "It also assisted in the previous conservation of 187 acres of the Andrews family's rich farmland, which enabled Maple Wind Farm to buy that land at its agricultural value.

"Not only do these local contributions bring much needed funding to make these projects possible, but they also signal to other funders that these are really important resources to the local community and worthy of their investment."

That signaling has attracted over $1.4 million in additional conservation funding to local projects from a variety of public and private sources – almost five dollars for every dollar invested from the Fund.

The Richmond Conservation Commission reviews project proposals and submits its recommendations to the Selectboard for the final say.

"Just knowing that the Town has the wherewithal to support qualified projects inspires people to bring prime conservation opportunities to us," says Rosovsky. "Otherwise those opportunities would probably go elsewhere, and once they're lost they're usually lost forever."

Projects supported to date include:

Natural Areas: Andrews Community Forest, Huntington Gorge, Willis Hill

Local Agriculture: Bombardier Meadow, Andrews Farmland

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Town Forests: A Core Part of Vermont's Rural Communities

Following the Past, Looking to the Future

Submitted by Ethan Tapper

Town Forests have been an important part of Vermont's rural fabric for over 100 years, since Vermont's first Municipal Forest Bill passed in 1915. This bill, which described town forests as "a tract of land primarily devoted to producing wood products, maintaining wildlife habitat, protecting water supplies, providing forest recreation and conservation education," gave municipalities the ability to obtain parcels of forested land, and promised financial assistance from the State for their acquisition and management. While this funding has flown the coop, Town Forests remain a core part of Vermont's communities and rural culture. This legacy will hopefully be carried forward with the acquisition of the Huntington Community Forest.

The first generation of Chittenden County's Town Forests are perhaps our most iconic; the Essex Junction Village Forest, now called "Saxon Hill," began supplying water to Essex Junction in 1905 and was once regarded nationally as an example of a well-managed forest. The Milton Town Forest (surrounding Milton Pond) began protecting Milton's water supply in 1923, and the Hinesburg Town Forest, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, started growing from abandoned hill farms in 1936, reaching its current 864 acres in the 1950s.

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Looking Up in Winter

Photo: John Hadden

Town Meeting Day is March 3

Richmond

CAMELS HUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 7 am to 7 pm

Town Meeting: 9 am

Doughnuts & Coffee: Coffee and homemade doughnuts available in the morning, beginning at 7 am.

Lunch: Pastries, sandwiches, soups, provided by Beacon Light Grange, after meeting. Nominal fee.

Huntington

BREWSTER-PIERCE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 6:30 am to 7 pm

Town Meeting: 9 am

Bake Sale: Sweet rolls and coffee in the morning. Bake sale beginning mid-morning to benefit Boy Scouts & Cub Pack 645. Girl Scout cookies.

Lunch: Traditional covered dish lunch with fresh bread to benefit Neighbor Helping Neighbor. $7 adults; $4 under 12 years.

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The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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Letters

Update: HERO Village to Village

The Huntington Elder Resource Organization (HERO), at its January 2020 meeting, suggested that further development of the Village To Village project occur outside the "umbrella" of HERO. HERO, in conjunction with the Senior Center. is taking on certain aspects of transportation and an expansion of Friendly Home Visits as well as expanding its efforts to have seniors be involved in community events.

During the past year, much discussion happened related to the current and future "in home" needs of people wanting to "age in place" (not have to move from their home unless they wanted to).

HERO agreed to have this follow-up with organizations that have shown interest in the results and with the Times Ink in order to share results that may be useful in planning for future in-home services to help people "age in place."

Many thanks to all those who have participated in the survey and expressed an interest in the effort. And, many thanks to the small advisory group that helped to distribute and analyze the survey and attempt a little bit of further development. The advisory group got tired and didn't have the "bandwidth" at this time to enter the development phase. The data is available in case anyone wants to pick up the effort or use it to plan in other ways.

Final 2019 HERO Summary Report: Community Surveys Regarding Interest in a Village To Village Approach to "Aging in Place" – in the Huntington Area.

Surveys were completed over a six-month period (December 2018 to June 1, 2019).

Background During the fall of 2018 and spring of 2019, The HERO (Huntington Elderly Resource Organization) committee sponsored an exploration project to look at interest in a Village To Village (or V2V, the local acronym) aging in place model. This exploration, using meetings and Community Surveys, helps HERO, the Senior Center, the Selectboards, Planning Commissions and other organizational efforts, figure out how to (and what the options are) support its elderly citizens in continuing to live healthy, safe lives in our homes, before having to - perhaps prematurely - move. The Village To Village model or approach does not involve building or buying housing, although it could provide information and referral to housing services.

This model began in a Boston neighborhood in 2001. Since then, more than 2000 community-based, diverse "villages" throughout the country have sprung into existence: urban, rural, suburban. Most organizations have as part of their goals the offering of waivers of fees in order to attract a diverse population. The "villages" are membership organizations composed of volunteers and recipients who have decided what services they need, how to provide them at costs people can afford, all while enhancing relationships and community connections. There are three models underway in Vermont with more in the pipeline! They are Lamoille Neighbors (Morristown and Hyde Park areas, Mount Mansfield Villages (Cambridge, Underhill and Jericho) and Montpelier.

Our Community Survey asked the Huntington area residents about the kinds of needs, priorities and interests respondents have or may have and their possible interest in a membership-type organization that provides volunteer, discounted or paid services. There were 26 responses, with 20 considered "useable."

Key Findings:

• It was difficult to reach the population in the numbers hoped for; however, the 20 (of 26, six were not complete enough to analyze in detail) completed responses were informative and indicated ongoing interest in developing V2V in the Huntington area. Suggestions include talking to neighbors in the future.

• Fourteen (of the 20 completed) said they were willing to pay a fee, seven said they didn't know (with two mentioning "it depends on services offered…").

• Of those saying yes, the fees ranged from 50/500 year, with nine saying "don't know."

• The most needed services (four or more surveys listed these) were needed now and included in order:

1. Snow shoveling
2. Handyperson
3. Wood stacking

• The most needed services for the future with 10 or more surveys indicating they would need these, in the following order:

1. Help following a hospital stay (17 respondents)
2. Someone to shop and run errands (15)
3. Rides (15)
4. Get-togethers with other village members (14)
5. Buddies for exercise or social outings (14)
6. Light gardening (14)
7. Light housecleaning (14)
8. Handyperson (14)
9. Snow shoveling (11)
10. Referrals to trustworthy trades people (11)
11. Friendly visits (10)

• 15 of 17 want to continue to be involved and gave their contact information.

For copies of the full Survey Report, contact HERO through the Huntington Town Offices or email hkeith@gmavt.net

—*Helen Keith*, Huntington

Town Meeting Day is March 3

Richmond Ballot Offers New Candidates, No Contests

by Greg Elias

Voters will find a mix of incumbents and first-ever candidates for town office on Richmond's Town Meeting Day ballot.

There are no contested races in this year's local election. In fact, there was concern that ballots would show blanks where candidate names should be listed.

Town Clerk Linda Parent told the Selectboard in January that with just weeks until the filing deadline, no one had even picked up the paperwork, never mind filed the petition signed by 30 residents that is required to get on the ballot.

Richmond residents Marshall Paulsen and Dave Thomas helped spread the word about the openings. Selectboard members David Sander and Katie Mather also encouraged those they encountered to consider running.

Filings finally started to flow in days before the deadline. Parent said she received some petitions on the January 27 deadline. In short, the town got just enough candidates just in time to complete the ballot.

"I think that people are just so busy in their everyday lives with their jobs and their kids and their kids' activities that they don't feel like they can take on another thing," Parent said.

The elected positions at the ballot include two seats on the Selectboard, a Richmond Free Library trustee, a cemetery trustee, the town moderator, the first constable and a school board member. Based on their written responses to emailed questions, here is the rundown on some of the candidates:

Selectboard Candidates for the town's five-member municipal governing board include **David Sander,** who is running for another three-year term, and newcomer **Christine Werneke**, who is seeking the two-year seat being vacated by Christy Witters.

Sander works as a case manager for Washington County Mental Health, helping adults with intellectual disabilities. He has lived in Richmond since 2001.

Sander has served on the Selectboard for six years. He has also served on the boards of various organizations.

Currently the Selectboard's chair, Sander said he "doesn't foresee any significant change if re-elected. My desire is to continue to serve the community I love by treating people with civility and respect and providing fair and transparent government."

Sander said he tried to recruit others to run for the Selectboard openings. But he said no one volunteered, although several people encouraged him to seek re-election.

"If there was interest in my open seat, I would have carefully considered the decision to run again, and I may well have stepped aside to allow someone else to serve by giving back to our wonderful town," he said.

Werneke is seeking her first elected office but brings high-level governmental and professional experience to the town's governing board. She has lived in Richmond for 14 years.

She is employed as the director of integration and strategy with the University of Vermont Health Network. She said the position was created last year to facilitate clinical integration among the six hospitals under the UVM Health Network umbrella.

Werneke previously worked in state government, appointed in 2005 by former Gov. Jim Douglas as Vermont's first chief marketing officer. The position was established to organize the state's marketing efforts under one umbrella. She served for five years, then was reappointed when Peter Shumlin replaced Douglas as governor.

Werneke said she hopes her experience and education—she has a master's degree in community development and applied economics from UVM—can help her hometown.

"I care deeply about the community I live in and will act to make people's lives better through whatever means I am able to influence," she said.

Mather, who is the middle of a two-year term on the Selectboard, told Werneke about the open seat.

"I was intrigued by the opportunity and I met her one cold morning (it was 1 degree) to do a hike on a local trail (Merritt Parkway) to discuss it further," Werneke said. "By the end of the hike, she had sparked my curiosity in the Selectboard role, and I was warm!"

Town Moderator and Cemetery Trustee Lifelong Richmond resident **Clint Buxton** is running for re-election as town moderator, the person who conducts the annual town meeting. He also seeks election as cemetery trustee, one of five members of the board that oversees municipal cemeteries on West Main Street, Bridge Street and Cemetery Road.

Buxton is a retired engineering manager at IBM, where he worked for 37 years. He works during the summer as camp director at Mt. Norris Scout Reservation in Eden.

Buxton continues a family tradition in both elected offices. He has been the town moderator for 10 years, succeeding his late father, Howard, who held the position for 40 years.

"So I guess Roberts Rules (of Order) are in my DNA," he said.

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Candidates' Statements

Adam Miller (write in)
Planning Commission, Huntington, 3 yrs.

Please support my WRITE-IN campaign for another term on the Huntington Planning Commission, where I currently serve as the chair. The commission recently adopted a new Town Plan, is working to update the town Land Use Regulations, and is evaluating village water/wastewater capacity. I am an attorney, outdoor enthusiast, and father of two young children. Thank you.

Christine Werneke
Selectboard, Richmond, 2 yrs.

Fourteen years ago my husband and I chose Richmond as our home, to raise our family and set down roots. Today, I am asking for your support in my candidacy for a 2-year seat on the Selectboard. Serving on the Selectboard is an opportunity for me to give back to the community by sharing my time and skills to advance ideas and put them into action.

Born and raised in VT, I have an appreciation for our agricultural heritage, entrepreneurial mindset, and independent spirit. I received Bachelor's and Master's degrees from UVM in Community Development and Applied Economics. I've applied the skills learned in college in various roles to build programs, design products, improve customer experience, and change health behaviors to drive positive results. I am comfortable guiding change and enthusiastic about collaboration.

I served as Vermont's first Chief Marketing Officer for more than 5 years, a position created by the legislature to find efficiencies across state government and improve the effectiveness of state dollars through coordination and partnerships. Following this role, I returned to a position in healthcare and have worked to improve access to care for vulnerable adults and older Vermonters. I've achieved success by working with people at all levels of the organization and listening to a wide group of stakeholders.

In Richmond, I supported Richmond Rescue by reinvigorating a Friends group for a few years to raise money through the holiday Memory Tree and the July 4th Raffle. My family and I are also active supporters of Cochran's Ski Area.

I am confident I have the skills and experience to be a productive member of the Selectboard. While I am unopposed in my run, I would ask for your vote to indicate your confidence in me to serve the town for the next two years.

Richmond Conservation Fund

continued from page 1

Recreation: Willis Hill, Johnnie Brook Bridge, Andrews Community Forest, Huntington Gorge

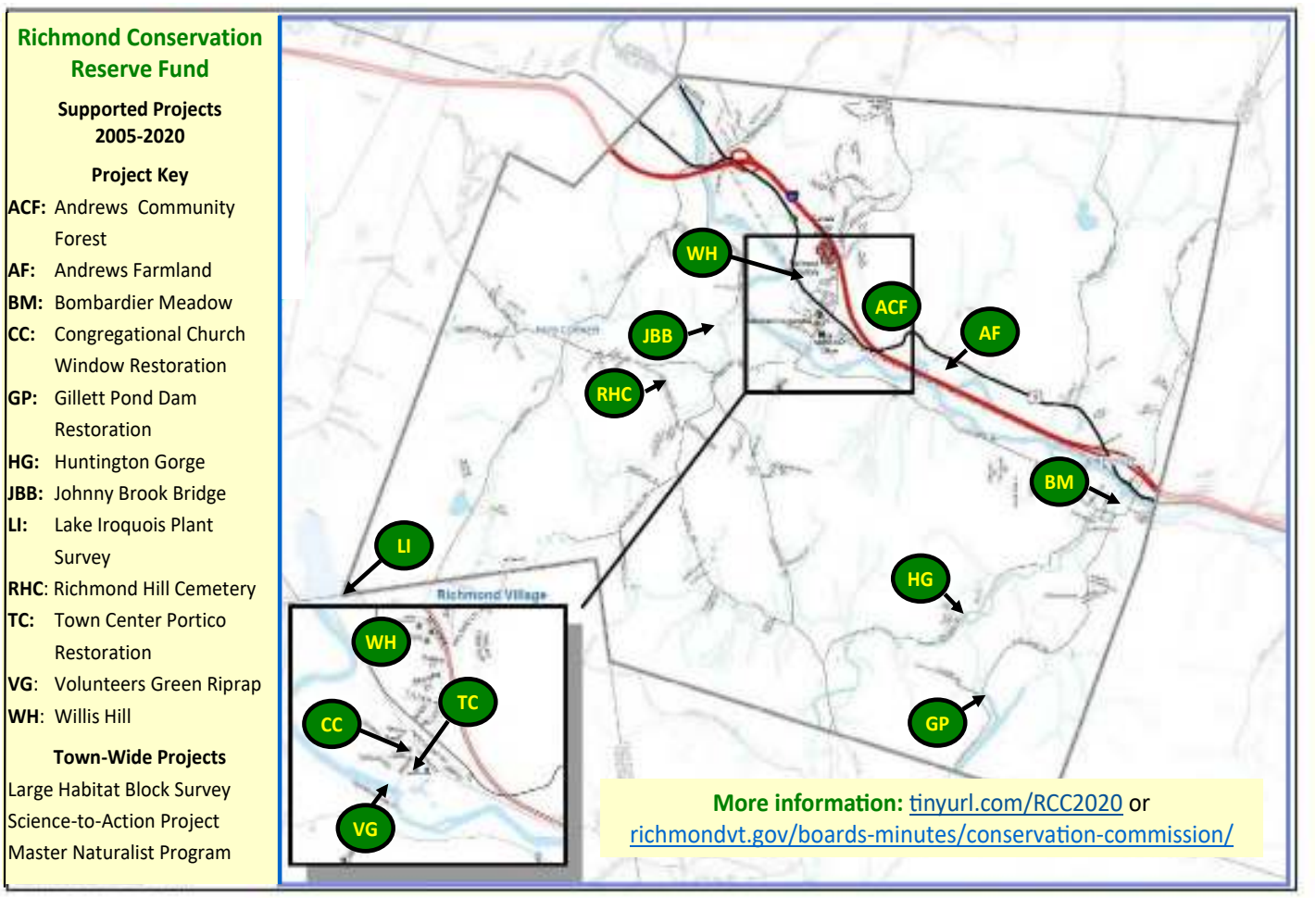
Historic Sites: Town Center Portico, Congregational Church Stained Glass Windows, Richmond Hill Cemetery, Huntington Gorge

Research and Education: Large Habitat Block Survey, Science-to-Action Report, Master Naturalist Program, Lake Iroquois Plant Survey, RES/CHMS natural science studies at Willis Hill

The Town has also earmarked $150,000 from the Fund for the $475,000 project to save Gillett Pond by replacing its aged, leaky dam with a new and stronger one.

The Conservation Reserve Fund will be one of the topics covered at the voter informational meeting to be held at Camels Hump Middle School on March 2. The Conservation Commission has posted more information on the Fund at tinyurl.com/RCC2020, or richmondvt.gov/boards-minutes/conservation-commission.

Voting will take place from 7 am to 7 pm on March 3, Town Meeting Day. Absentee ballots for this, the national primary and other matters are available from the Richmond Town Clerk at 434-2221, and are due back by March 3,



The Richmond Conservation Reserve Fund has been used for projects throughout the town.

RABIES CLINIC

WHEN? Saturday, March 28
WHERE? Huntington Fire House
FROM? 9 am to noon
PRICE? $20 per shot

ALL LEASHED DOGS AND CONTAINED CATS WELCOME.

HUNTINGTON & RICHMOND RESIDENTS CAN REGISTER THEIR DOGS ON THIS DAY.

REMEMBER: DOG REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 1

Microchipping available by appointment (sign up after March 3). $35 per animal.

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski & Bike Center
Huntington, Vermont
www.skisleepyhollow.com • (802) 434-2283

On March 3, please vote "YES" for conservation

Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund comes up for voter renewal on March 3 — and it needs a "YES" from you. So far it's helped:

- Protect local forests, streams, wetlands and farmland, including the Andrews Community Forest and Bombardier Meadow,
- Restore key historic landmarks, like the Town Center portico,
- Ensure public access to popular recreational and educational sites, like the Willis Hill sledding area and Huntington Gorge.

Every $1 spent from the Fund has generated $4.93 in matching funds - $1.4 million in total. And all for just 1¢ a year on the tax rate.

Please help continue conserving our town's many outstanding natural, agricultural, historic, educational and recreational assets by voting "YES" on Article 6. Voting is on Tuesday, March 3, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Camels Hump Middle School. For an early voting ballot call the Town Clerk at 434-2221. Thank you!

Dave and Fran Thomas
Andy Solomon and Rebecca Starks
Kathy and Lou Borie
Doug Racine
Bill and Sue Minard
John Hamerslough
Gary and Jean Bressor
Caitlin Littlefield
Nick Neverisky
Mollie Matteson
Kevin Cross
Ernie Buford
Erik and Otie Filkorn
The Aikman Family
Marcy Harding
Dan Martin
Judy Rosovsky
Virginia Clarke
Ted Lyman
Fritz Martin
The Malone-Wolfsun Family
Jared Katz
Jen Jewiss
Jeremy and Sarah Hoff
Cindy and Wright Preston
Jon Kart
Brad and Eileen Elliott
Cori Giroux
Jeff Forward
Jim Shallow
Marcia Gardner
Rick and Chichi
John Hiltebeitel
Demaris Tisdale
Keith Kasper
Fran Pomerantz

Help conserve what makes Richmond special.
Please help renew the Conservation Reserve Fund
by voting "YES" on Article 6.
Project list & more info: http://tinyurl.com/RCC2020

Huntington Public Library

HOURS:
Mon 10–6
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Fri 10-5 • Sun 12–5
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www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

Planet Huntington Visits Greece On February 16, 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 Jen and Eric 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, but they bet they are still plenty enjoyable. They look forward to sharing and seeing you at the library.

Backyard Composting Workshop with CSWD Sunday, February 23, at 5:30 pm. Learn the joy of home composting and digesting in a free workshop.

Discover the benefits of "closing the loop" with your own household food scraps in this interactive, hands-on demonstration of a healthy compost and digesting system. The CSWD compost guide will show you what type of bin is best for you, where to locate your bin, what to put in your bin – and what not to – troubleshooting common issues, harvesting your compost, and alternatives to your backyard bin.

Planet Huntington Visits Bolivia On March 15, at 5:30 pm, Planet Huntington will travel with Terry and Rebecca Ryan as they biked and toured in Bolivia. This colorful country claims several superlatives, including the world's largest salt flat, the highest capital at 11,795 feet above sea level and the highest percentage of indigenous people of any country. Highlights include visiting the railway and the last train that Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid robbed, cycling on miles and miles of salt, bombing down the infamous "Death Road" on bicycles, riding the cable car system in La Paz and hiking on the islands of Lake Titicaca.

Genealogy Group Mondays at 1:30 pm to 3 pm with Martha Nye. Your Community Senior Center and your Huntington Public Library is offering a weekly activity at the Huntington Public Library. Would you like to learn more about your ancestry? Martha will be leading us through the process of discovering our roots. Have some information about your family tree, but want to find out more? We are starting a beginners group, an introduction to using the internet to help you. Stop by if you have a question or just want to be with folks who love to find missing ancestors. Please bring your laptop or tablet. No charge.

New Adult Fiction Big Lies in a Small Town by Diane Chamberlain; The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict.

Adult Non-Fiction One Long River of Song by Brian Doyle; The Pollinator Victory Garden by Kim Eierman; American Wolf – A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West by Nate Blakeslee.

Picture Books A large assortment dedicated to Huntington babies born in 2019.

Junior Fiction The Land of Stories Series – Books 1 - 3 by Chris Colfer; Wings of Fire Series – Books 4 – 7 by Tui T. Sutherland Dragonwatch Series, Books 1, 2 by Brandon Mull.

Junior Non-Fiction Stonewall – A Building, An Uprising, A Revolution by Rob Sanders; Extreme Weather – National Geographic Kids by Thomas M. Kostigen.

Huntington Playgroup and Storytime Fridays, 10 am to noon. Join us to work on fine motor skills during crafts, and pre-literacy and math skills during Storytime at 10:45 am! The playgroup provides a safe and fun space for children and their caregivers to play, explore, and meet new friends.

Knitting Nights Mondays, February 24, and March 16, at 6:30pm – 8:30 pm. Come meet some new friends over a cup of tea and bring your projects to work on. Hosted by Maureen Ashley.

First Friday of the Month Movie Night Friday, March 6, at 7 pm. Join us for Abominable.

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

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

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

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

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

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Richmond Free Library

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Fri 10 - 6
Sat 10 - 2
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www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org rfl@gmavt.net

Library Closed on Town Meeting Day, Tuesday, March 3.

Sleepy Hollow Ski and Bike Center and Catamount Outdoor Family Center Passes We have new improved 2020 passes for Sleepy Hollow in Huntington and Catamount in Williston. The benefits to pass holder include free day or half-day entry for up to two adults and two children in the same family. A family can use the pass once a season. This is a great way to experience these local outdoor centers for perhaps the first time. Thanks go out to RiseVt for funding the passes and to Sleepy Hollow and Catamount for working with the library to provide this opportunity to get out and ski, snowshoe, hike, trail run or bike. Ask for the passes year-round at the circulation desk.

Thank You to all our Volunteers We would like to thank our dedicated and hard-working volunteers for their service to the library and the Richmond community. Volunteers work at the desk, reshelve books, spruce up the outdoor garden, dust the shelves, organize and run the annual book sale and so much more. We couldn't do what we do without all of you. Thank you.

Welcome New Babies We will be greeting our youngest residents at our annual baby brunch and book dedication on Sunday, March 22. We'll be sending out invitations soon to Richmond families who welcomed a new baby in 2019. If you are expecting an invitation but one does not arrive, do not despair. Call the Library.

Lego Club We'll supply the Legos, kids supply the ideas, the ingenuity and the dexterity. This four-week, after-school club is appropriate for kids age 4-12 and will run every Wednesday from 3 - 4 pm during the month of March. No registration is necessary.

The 1920s Style of Vermont's Mill Girls: A Costumed Presentation. The glitz and glam of the 1920s is a favorite theme for costume parties because it's the perfect excuse to break out feathers and fringe, but the decade was more than one big party. In 1920 women and girls went to work in Vermont's textile mills in much more practical attire, while still doing their best to remain stylish. This event is a chance to re-imagine what it means to "dress up like it's 1920" by exploring the wardrobes of female mill workers. Textile historian Eliza West will bring these women to life through a costumed presentation. Wednesday, March 25, 6:30 pm.

Mostly Fiction Book Group Garden Spells by Sarah Addison Allen. Two gifted sisters draw on their talents to belatedly forge a bond and find their ways in life in Allen's easygoing debut novel. Tuesday, March 10, 6 pm.

Mystery Book Group The Nightmare by Lars Kepler. Kepler delivers another nail-biting, hair-raising thriller--pulled straight from your darkest nightmares. Thursday, March 19, 7 pm.

Copies for book discussions are made available by the circulation desk. All are welcome.

AARP Volunteer Tax Preparers are returning! The program offers free tax preparation assistance at the library on Monday mornings through April 6. The program is designed to help low- and moderate-income taxpayers. You don't have to be an AARP member, and there's no age requirement to get tax help from IRS-certified volunteers. To make an appointment, call the library at 434-3036. Slots are filling fast, so don't delay.

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 create their own account where they can keep track of modules explored.

February Display Case Our foyer display currently features the art work of students from the Mansfield Cooperative School.

Women Speak: Resistance Art by Meta Strick, mixed media artist; India Tresselt, fiber artist; and Sarah Rosedahl, painter, illustrator and cartoonist. Resistance Art was created in response to recent political and cultural events and concerns. This show will be up March 2 through March 31.

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

Baby Laptime This short, active storytime is for our youngest little book lovers and their 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 - 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.

Reminder Emails Items due and overdue reminders are automatically generated by our library software. However, if you'd like to reply to these messages, they will come to our regular email box where we can see it. If you've returned something and are still getting messages, please let us know. Unfortunately, our software can't tell when a human messes up, so we won't know that you've returned something unless you let us know. If it's been returned, we should be able to find it and fix the problem.

Foot Clinics for Seniors

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

March 31, May 12, June 23

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

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

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TOWN OF RICHMOND

Community Volunteer Search 2020

The Richmond Selectboard is seeking volunteers to join their neighbors on the following Boards, Commissions and Committees, beginning in June. Further information is available via e-mail – jarneson@richmondvt.gov or by calling Josh Arneson, Town Manager at 434-5170. Letters of interest should be mailed to: Volunteer Search, P.O. Box 285, Richmond, VT 05477 or emailed by April 15, 2020. Water & Sewer Commission letters are due May 27, 2020.

***Andrews Community Forest Committee** - 1 meeting per month; (**THREE** 3 year terms) provides general goals, objectives and administrative details for the management of the parcel to the Selectboard.

***Conservation Commission** - 1 meeting per month; (**TWO** 4-year terms) Develop planning tools for local natural resources and working on proposals to utilize the conservation reserve fund.

***Development Review Board** - 1 or 2 meetings per month; (**TWO** 3-year terms, and **TWO** 1-year alternate positions). Conduct public hearings regarding most major land development and commercial projects and permit appeals.

***Parade & Fireworks Committee -** Meets May - July; All interested person please apply.

***Planning Commission** - 2 meetings per month; (**THREE** 4-year terms) Work includes the major revision of zoning and subdivision bylaws.

***Recreation Committee** - 1 meeting per month; The Town is trying to restart this Committee any interested parties please apply.

***Trails Committee** – 1 meeting per month; (**FOUR** 3-year terms) Develop and manage the trail and path network in Richmond, including making connections to neighborhoods.

***Water** & **Sewer Commission**– 2 meetings per month; (**TWO** 1-year terms). These positions are to be filled by people who are current customers of the Water and Sewer Department. See Town website for deadline details.

***Other Volunteer Openings:**
***One-year terms for the following positions:**
-Animal Control: 1 opening
-CCRCP -2 openings
-Energy Coordinator: 1 opening
-Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood: 1 opening
-Richmond Rescue Board of Directors - Liaison /Representative: 1 opening
-Town Fence Viewer: 2 openings
-Tree Warden: 1 opening
-Weigher of Coal: 1 opening

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The Times Ink! OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

2020 Schedule

January 9 deadline	January 23 issue
Town Meeting Preview	
February 6 deadline	February 20 issue
March 12 deadline	March 26 issue
April 9 deadline	April 23 issue
May 7 deadline	May 21 issue
June 11 deadline	June 26 issue
July 23 deadline	August 6 issue
September 5 deadline	September 19 issue
October 8 deadline	October 23 issue
Holiday Issues	
November 5 deadline	November 19 issue
December 3 deadline	December 17 issue

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Barrett Grimm

On January 6, the Selectboard began by holding its public meeting on use of $140,000 from the Huntington Conservation Fund for the potential purchase of a Community Forest. Kate Wanner from the Trust for Public Lands, assisted by the Conservation Commission, gave an overview of the entire project, Bob Heiser of the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) outlined the easements it would hold on the property, and Tom Brown from the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund explained how funding from that source would work. Members of the Selectboard and Conservation Commission, as well as Town Treasurer Andrea Oglivie expressed surprise at that explanation as it was substantially different from what Brown had described to Oglivie over the phone. Brown had learned from his supervisor in preparation for the meeting that day, that the Town would qualify for a different program than he had originally thought.

Wanner spelled out that $193,000 of the funding for the project would come from the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund in two parts: due to the water quality benefits of the property, at least $113,000 of the loan principle would be instantly forgiven, while the remaining not-more-than $80,000 would need to be repaid. The process Brown outlined for the potential loan repayment is four annual payments of $250 with a balloon payment for the balance in year five. Due to State regulations, the Town would need to pass a bond for the entire amount coming from the State and not just the amount to be repaid.

Over fifty members of the community were present at the meeting and most expressed strong support for the project. Duncan Keir voiced his concern that, in light of the fact that property values for properties in the vicinity of Community Forests tend to increase, existing owners of neighboring properties should not be burdened with higher assessments until properties change hands. Ross Oglivie mentioned that the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School could be a net zero site with the addition of two acres of solar panels and wondered if that would be possible under VLT easement, with Heiser promising to investigate. Tim Taft pointed out that deciding on uses for the proposed Community Forest could be a potential bees' nest. Jeannette Segale of the Conservation Commission, in expressing appreciation for Taft's comment, replied "It is a bees' nest but we also like honey!"

Ultimately, the Selectboard voted unanimously to approve use of $140,000 from the Conservation Fund for the project but during its deliberations, Selectboard members Roman Livak and Landel Cochran continued to express concerns with the appraisal and that the sale price was not in line with the Town's assessment of the property. Cochran also questioned whether the $20,000 management fund included in the budget was truly necessary and whether removing it would mean the Town would have to borrow less. Those discussions continued at the January 13 meeting with Wanner saying that the $20,000 could be removed but stressing that she would not recommend it as other projects of this nature have benefited greatly from having a management fund available. Wanner also more fully explained the appraisal process which includes a second, to-yellow book-standards appraisal by the original appraiser that will be reviewed by Federal regulators to assure compliance with grant guidelines.

Also at the January 13 meeting, the Selectboard made some slight adjustments to the language for the proposed State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund ballot question and approved the same by a four-to-one margin. Livak opposed the measure, stating that he foresees long-term negative impacts to Town assessments from the property being purchased at too high a value. Statute requires the Selectboard host a public informational meeting on any proposed bond within 10 days of the bond vote. The date for that meeting was set for February 25.

Investment Policy At the January 6 meeting, Town Administrator Barbara Elliott conveyed that the Town had received checks totaling just over $240,000 from Ken Pillsbury's estate to be used for construction of senior housing in Huntington. At the January 13 meeting, Town Treasurer Andrea Oglivie was requested to invest those funds in a short-term certificate of deposit pending approval of the Town's Investment Policy which was presented by Livak and Vice Chair Nancy Mead at the January 20 meeting. The policy would limit investments to money markets and certificates of deposit in accord with the policy's stated priorities of safety, liquidity, yield, and local investment. Several refinements were suggested by Selectboard members, Oglivie, and Town Clerk Heidi Racht. Mead will incorporate changes and an updated policy will be presented in February. The Selectboard also approved a motion to include an article in the Town Meeting warning for re-establishing the Elder Housing Reserve Fund.

Other Business The grant for repair of the library roof was denied. Library Trustees Paula Kelley and Heidi Racht said that the roof repair would be put off while they investigate other grant opportunities. The Selectboard opted to keep the line item for matching funds for the roof repair in the budget for the next fiscal year as the money will be needed at some point.

Temporary Bridge Concerns On January 20, Helen Keith appeared before the Selectboard to express concerns regarding the temporary bridge on Camels Hump Road. The temporary bridge was originally slotted to be a 14-foot Mabey bridge but none were in inventory within the timeframe for installation so a 12-foot bridge was installed instead. Keith received reassurance that the Town's largest emergency vehicle has already successfully crossed the bridge and, while it has been a challenge, the Road Crew is able to cross the bridge with the plow trucks.

Other Business Also in January, the Selectboard assigned members to introduce the various articles for Town Meeting, voted to continue using Fothergill Segale & Valley as the Town's professional audit firm, approved the annual Certificate of Highway Mileage reflecting the road reclassifications from 2019, and renewed the Animal Control Intake Contract with the Humane Society of Chittenden County.

Apply for 2020 Gov's Institutes

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) summer applications opened February 1. Vermont teens passionate about learning are invited to apply for GIV's ten fun, intensive, residential summer opportunities on college campuses statewide.

At GIV, rising 10th-12th graders spend one to two weeks diving deep into academics or the arts, making new friends and gaining new skills and confidence while having the time of their lives. Topics include Arts (visual, performing and technical), Astronomy, Environmental Science and Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Health & Medicine, Entrepreneurship, Global Issues/Youth Action, or Technology, Design and Coding. More than 10,000 students have participated in Governor's Institutes since it was cofounded by the Agency of Education 36 years ago. GIV strives to be accessible for all students by providing tuition reductions and scholarships for every student who needs them. GIV will continue its special discounts for girls attending STEM and Entrepreneurship Institutes and will add similar incentive pricing for boys enrolling in the Arts and Global Issues/Youth Action Institutes. A full list of Institute opportunities can be obtained by visiting www.giv.org or emailing info@giv.org. Students can apply at www.giv.org/apply.

The Governor's Institutes of Vermont is a 501(c)3 that welcomes business sponsorships and individual scholarship donations to help disadvantaged students participate. To give, call 802-865-4448 or visit giv.org/support.

Proposed Richmond Town Meeting Change

continued from page 1

by, said Maura Carroll, executive director of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, a nonprofit serving the state's 246 municipalities. She said her organization does not track how and when meetings are held, but it is looking at ways to compile that data in the future.

Carroll instead pointed to information shared during the recent yearly gathering of Town Moderators, who are tasked with conducting the annual meetings. This year's session included representatives from 78 Vermont municipalities.

"They talked about whether changing the time and day of town meeting really had any effect on attendance," Carroll said. "And a few Moderators talked about having done that, but they didn't see any marked change in attendance. So I think it's dependent on the community and the agenda."

Carroll said a town's size and demographics also can affect participation.

"Some of the small communities have huge turnouts," she said. "Some don't. And some have gone to the alternative form, which is the Australian ballot for pretty much everything."

Bolton, Richmond's neighbor to the east, holds its annual meetings on Monday nights. Measured just by turnout rate, Bolton's way seems to work better than Richmond's daytime meetings.

Bolton Town Clerk Amy Grover said attendance has ranged from 100-145 people in the seven years she has held her post, similar to Richmond's turnout. But Bolton, with about 1,200 residents, is much smaller than Richmond, which has a population of roughly 4,000.

Grover noted that Bolton residents don't have to take the day off from work to attend town meetings. "Bolton is a working town," she said. "I think it would be a hardship for people to attend a meeting during the day."

Like Richmond, Bolton votes on its municipal budget during the annual meetings. But Grover echoed Carroll's caveat that every town is different.

"We are a small rural community on the eastern edge of Chittenden County," Grover said. "What we do here might not work in a bigger community."

Town meetings mark state's history ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, a 2005 book co-written by Frank Bryan, political science professor emeritus at the University of Vermont, and Middlesex resident Susan Clark, offers a full-throated defense of Vermont's traditional town meetings while warning of pitfalls that kill participation.

Town meetings work best in towns with less than 1,000 people, with attendance rates averaging more than 30 percent, the authors note. Turnout rates drop in mid-size towns like Richmond. On average, 5 percent of voters in those towns attend annual meetings.

Bryan and Clark examined historical records and found that attendance had eroded over the 200-plus-year history of Vermont's town meetings. In the 1700s and 1800s, half or more of eligible voters typically showed up. A study the book cites surveyed annual meeting attendance in 210 towns from 1970-1998: the average turnout was 20.5 percent.

The authors acknowledge that town meeting participation in modern Vermont pales in comparison to 50 percent typical turnout for presidential elections or even the average turnout for local elections. Between 28-30 percent of voters cast ballots on Town Meeting Day in Richmond, according to Parent, slightly higher than the average the book cites for all Vermont towns.

As for scheduled meeting days and times, Bryan and Clark say there is no clear answer about what is best. State law allows for meetings to be conducted on the first Tuesday in March or any one of the three preceding days.

Data show that most towns found that attendance fell when they shifted to night meeting, the book notes, though it's unclear if the lower attendance was driven solely by the time change. But the data were clear that night meetings reduce attendance by women, presumably because they are caring for children. And turnout falls even further when there is bad weather at night than it does for day meetings.

Separating school and town annual meetings hurts attendance, the authors say. And removing municipal and school budgets from the agenda and deciding them via Australian ballot cripples town meetings.

"We are told it will save town meeting while in reality it poisons it and lets it die slowly, sparing the executioner the movement of death and the acceptance of responsibility," they wrote.

Richmond is not now considering following the lead of other area towns and moving the town budget to the ballot. Parent rejected the notion that using balloting for budget approval would be the logical next change after shifting to night meetings. Doing so would eliminate residents' chance to change the spending plan, she said, relegating the decision to just a yes or no vote.

Budget still drives debate Indeed, the municipal budget has been vigorously debated and often amended at past town meetings in Richmond. The proposed budget this year mostly maintains existing services and avoids big spending hikes.

The $3,961,149 spending plan would produce an estimated property tax rate of 71.6 cents per hundred dollars in valuation, a 3.2 percent increase over the current tax rate. The budget would increase the annual tax bill by $66 for the owner of a $300,000 home.

The Selectboard and town staff spent months formulating the spending plan, starting with a goal of increasing the tax rate no more than two percent.

They didn't quite meet that target. But they got closer thanks to level health insurance costs, which had been rising by double-digit percentages each year. Town Manager Josh Arneson said BlueCross BlueShield planned a 14 percent increase in premiums, so Richmond changed its insurer to MVP Health Care, allowing it to keep the cost stable.

Another issue impacting the budget: a one-cent addition to the tax rate that provides money for the Conservation Fund. Lawyers advised that that the fund, which pays for conservation-related projects and land purchases, and had been voted on every five years, actually needed annual voter approval.

The measure was placed on this year's Australian ballot. But that meant it could not be included in the proposed municipal budget, Arneson said. So the tax increase percentage could be understated because the current budget includes the fund while the new budget does not.

ALL THOSE IN FAVOR asserts that town meetings are more than just a forum for debating budgets and taxes. The authors say the annual gatherings build a sense of community and provide a face-to-face encounter with democracy not found in a voting booth.

"They bring politics to life. Here laughter is heard. Here, we get to meet neighbors we haven't seen in ages. Here, most of all, we get to see ourselves in the full light of real democracy. Here, for one shining moment, we can be Socrates."

An informational meeting about the municipal budget and ballot measures is scheduled for Monday, March 2, at 7 pm at CHMS.

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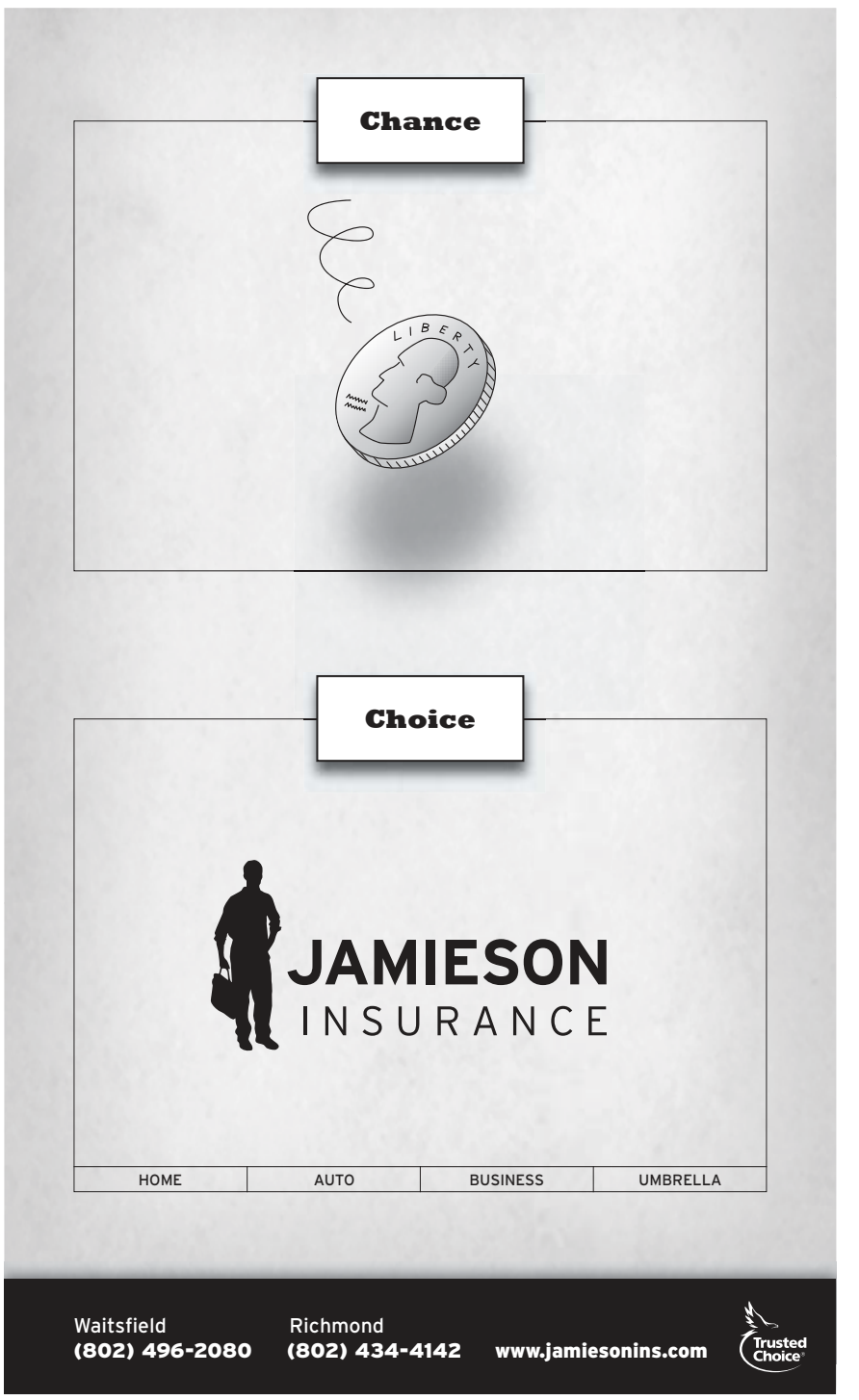

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MMMUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

Nothin' But Good News Here...

Name Change Moves Forward A motion for the March 9 meeting will be drafted to use a d/b/a of Mount Mansfield School District to get rid of the ungainly Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District title. CESU is also being considered.

Outstanding Teachers Jeff Davis, MMUHS Math Teacher, and Ileen Gilbar, Richmond Elementary School Kindergarten Teacher received Outstanding Teacher Awards from a consortium that includes UVM, Vermont Supervisory Unions and School Districts, the VT NEA and AOE.

MMUUSD received the 2020 Governor's Excellence in Worksite Wellness Gold Level Award to recognize the district's commitment to health and wellness.

Spanish Immersion The Spanish Immersion Program at Jericho Elementary School has been the focus of local and national media attention recently. A decision on implementing a Spanish Immersion program in the "south end" (Richmond, Bolton, and Huntington) will be announced by the end of February. At the February School Board Meeting community member Molly Yanis, (Jericho) said this immersion program is "providing a fantastic life opportunity to be bi-lingual… really changing (the students) brain development… we're encouraging play-based learning" and strongly supports expansion of the program.

Preschool Program at Underhill ID Plans are moving forward to award space for a Birth-to-3-years program at the UID building. One potential preschool that replied to the Request for Proposal may be interviewed soon.

Huntington Town Forest Community Member Ethan Mauer (H) updated the Board on the option for the town to buy a 250-acre parcel adjacent to BPMS to enable it to continue its outdoor programming. This effort would be financed by federal, state and local dollars. Essential details (like parking, etc.) are being discussed.

Color Bias Discussed MMUHS Student Representative Finn Abbey that "months of kitchen table conversations in Advisory" provided the educational opportunities to discuss "systemic bias against people of color in our country. It would take a class every year for four years to scratch the surface." This culminated in MMUHS joining other high schools in the county and flying the Black Lives Matter flag for one week during Black History Month.

Moneymoneymoney The warrant was signed for a combined schools budget of $50,126,558: equalized pupil spending of $16,219 – an increase of 2.54% over the current year. Voting on the school budget will be by Australian ballot on Town Meeting Day, March 3, 2020. The last informational meeting about the budget is February 20, 6 pm CHMS.

Health Insurance Money The state has mandated statewide health care benefits to be put into all collective bargaining agreements beginning this year. The following excerpt is taken directly from Superintendent John Alberghini's School Board Report of January 6, 2020. This plan is the result of binding arbitration:

"Healthcare will remain status quo for all districts from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Beginning January 1, 2021, the new provisions will go into effect with the contract terms expiring on December 31, 2022.

Specific impacts to the MMUUSD include:

• Support staff employees who work 17.5 hours per week will now be eligible to buy into the district's health insurance plan. The current eligibility is 20 hours per week.

• Employers will pay the first dollar out-of-pocket expenses. Currently our employees pay the first dollar out-of-pocket expenses.

• The employer contribution to the health reimbursement account (HRA) for support staff will increase to $2200 for single coverage and $4400 for family, two person and employee+child(ren) coverage. The current employer contribution is $2100 and $4200, respectively. Teacher and administrator contributions will remain unchanged with $2100 for single coverage and $4200 for family, two person and employee+child(ren) coverage.

• Districts will continue to select the Third Party Administer for the HRA and pay all associated administrative expenses.

• The premium share for teachers, administrators and support staff will remain unchanged with this transition.

Legal Money Huntington School District's complaint that the public meeting to vote to consolidate BPMS into MMMU did not follow Robert's Rules of Order was dismissed by the judge. He did allow Huntington to refile an Open Meeting Law Claim. The Vermont Supreme Court will hear oral arguments from both the Huntington SD and MMUUSD on February 19.

Policy Governance Approximately half the February meeting was devoted to reacting to dissatisfaction with the current Policy Governance model. Ultimately it was decided an ad hoc committee will meet to discuss the current model in depth, make suggestions, and create an interim proposal. "Policy Governance is a theory with a model… but there's nothing that says we can't (re)write it (in a way) that's going to work for this board…" said Diane Kirson-Glitman (J).

The next School Board meeting is the Annual Meeting, February 27, 2020 - 6 pm, MMUHS.

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Annual Baked Fish Dinner

The Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in Richmond invite you to partake in their Annual Baked Fish Dinner on Friday March 20th. The dinner begins at 5:30 PM until all are served. The menu consists of baked haddock, baked red potatoes, coleslaw, beverages and assorted desserts. It is a great way to give the cook in your home a night off.

There is a suggested donation of $10 for the dinner which will be held in the church hall on West Main Street. Any profits realized from the dinner will towards the charitable missions of the K of C. For more information 434-2521 or olhr@gmavt.net.

Area Residents Honored

GeoBee Superstars

Above, CHMS Geobee winner Elise Cournoyer. Left, RES Principal Jeremy Rector, Hudson Brown, Maya Guilmette, Myah Gingras, Teacher Portia Senning.

Richmond Elementary School and Camels Hump Middle School held their annual National Geographic GeoBees the last week of January, 2020. In hotly contested races, Maya Guilmette won at RES, and Elise Cournoyer (last year's champion at RES) was the CHMS winner.

Runners up at RES were Myah Gingras (second place) and Hudson Brown (third place). At CHMS, where students have participated in GeoBee practice sessions since early December, Jack Rice took silver, and Zeb Marciel brought home the bronze.

The National Geographic GeoBee is an annual competition designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. The winners have taken a qualifying test to become one of 100 state qualifiers to head to the Vermont state championship, which will be held on March 27.

Colin Hart, age 9, and Molly Hart, age 7, from Huntington and train in Hinesburg both received First Degree Black Belts in 2019

Blackbelts

Reaching black belt is a major accomplishment which requires years of training, dedication, hard work and focus. Statistically out of a hundred students whostart a martial art, only ten make it to black belt. During 2019, Master Kellie Thomas (Sixth Degree black belt) owner and head instructor of TaeKwon Do KICKS promoted 39 students from seven year to adults to different black belt ranks.

All martial arts black belt requirements are different and most people do not realize that there are different degrees of black belt. In TaeKwon Do, it takes a student training an average of twice a week, every week, for three to four years to receive first degree black belt. It takes a student training an average of twice a week, every week, for two years to be promoted from first degree to second degree black belt and to receive third degree black belt the student has to train another three years. For every degree it takes that many more years to obtain that level.

Besides the training time in class, the actual black belt testing is six to seven hours long regardless of the age of the student. During this testing students must perform nine to fifteen patterns, do three different board breaks, demonstrate self defense with and without weapons, sparring, prepare a personal demonstration, write an essay, and many other skills.

President's List Fall 2019

Sarah Miksek, Richmond, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire, achieving an academic grade point average (GPA) of 3.7-4.0 and earn 12 credits for the semester.

Clara Marie Noble, Jericho, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, majoring in English, achieving a 4.0 (all As) grade-point average.

Matthew Estes, Richmond, College of Charleston, South Carolina. Estes is a Marine Biology major, achieving a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours.

Champlain College

Martina Monroe, Richmond

Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 4.0 or higher grade-point average.

Dean's List - Fall 2019

Elizabeth Siminitus, Starksboro, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have carried throughout the semester a course load of four or more graded credits with an average of 3.5 or above.

Allison Charland, Richmond, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut. She is a freshman and the daughter of Jerry and Kim Charland.

Jay L. Chandler, Huntington, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, Class of 202 1, 3.800 GPA. To qualify for the Dean's List undergraduate students must receive a term GPA of 3.5 or higher for 12.0 or more graded credit hours.

Abigail Carter, Richmond, Endicott College, Beverly, Massachusetts Carter is majoring in Nursing and is the daughter of Michael Carter and Michelle Carter.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI Dean's List differs from most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average (GPA). Instead, WPI defines the Dean's List by the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and projects.

Natalie Mohn, Huntington, Class of 2022, majoring in management information systems.

Colleen Wyatt, Jericho, Class of 2021, majoring in chemical engineering and environmental engineering.

Benjamin Slattery, Richmond, Class of 2021, majoring in computer science, and humanities and arts.

Arden Carling, Buels Gore, Class of 2022, majoring in electrical and computer engineering.

Vermont Technical College

Degree students carrying 12 or more letter-graded credit hours who achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Christopher Cummings, Jericho
Casey Gianfagna, Huntington

University of New Hampshire

Brynne Russom, Huntington, Highest Honors, majoring in Nursing

Althea Devereux, Jericho, majoring in Nursing

Molly Finn, Jericho, High Honors, majoring in Business Administration:Finance

Kira Nolan, Richmond, Undeclared major

Fashions of the Early Twentieth Century

Submitted by Maurice Humphrey

Some of the strangest things I've seen lately are what the 'younger' people are wearing. Their choice in clothing is vastly different from the way I was brought up, and that makes me wonder. Will what was fashionable for our generation become outdated by the time our children and grandchildren become adults? If we were to look back at how our parents and grandparents dressed, what would we see? If only we could look into the past.

But we can see into the past, through the magic of photography. Although the images we have are black and white, color was a large part of our ancestor's wardrobe. There were many types of patterns and materials, in a wide range of color. As you look through these images from long ago, you can almost imagine the rich colors and patterns used in the clothing of that era.

A look through any Sears Roebuck & Company or Montgomery Ward mail-order catalog and you could find most any article of men's, women's or children's clothing you might need. Many people could only afford to own regular everyday clothing and a set of 'Sunday Best' for special occasions.

Women that wished to save money would make their own clothes from patterns using fabrics available either through mail order catalogs or a local millinery store. Those that could afford it relied on a seamstress. Men's clothing, suits, shirts, collars and ties, were also available through a store, catalog, or custom made by a tailor.

Men's clothing tended toward dark suits with white shirts with either a bow or long tie. Often the shirt collar was a separate article of clothing as it was easier to wash just the collar than the whole shirt. The collar was bleached white and starched stiff; in some cases, annoyingly stiff. The popularity of detachable starched white collars faded in the 1920s.

This woman sports a large hand warmer called a hand muff. They were made from various types of animal fur such as mink, fox, or rabbit. The inner liner could be fabric such as wool, or fur. This image dates between 1900 and 1920. Although they are no longer 'in fashion', muffs can still be found in specialty stores.

This next image was dated by identifying all four women and their babies. This is a family picture of two sisters, the two in the middle, with a sister-in-law on each end. Each holds her baby born in 1915, oldest baby on the left, youngest on the right. As the youngest was born in late summer this image is from late in the year of 1915 or early 1916.

During the early 1900s women wore long dark-colored dresses that reached the floor. They also wore their hair bound. Babies wore slips or long white gowns called long clothes until they started to crawl. The older three wear short clothes which allow them to move around on their own. It's not clear why they used so much material on the long clothes other than a fashion statement.

This first image is from a 4" X 5" glass plate negative dating somewhere between 1890 and 1910. This middle-aged woman wears a long dark colored heavy woolen coat that nearly reaches the ground; very stylish for the times no doubt.

Girls wore this style of clothing with colorful bows in their hair until the age of 13 or 14 when they would graduate to more adult clothing.

Wide-brimmed hats remained fashionable throughout the 1910s and 1920s. Hat styles varied widely as you can see in this next image.

Boys would graduate to knickers, short for knickerbockers, about the age of 4. The young boy on the left wears short clothes while his older brother wears knickers.

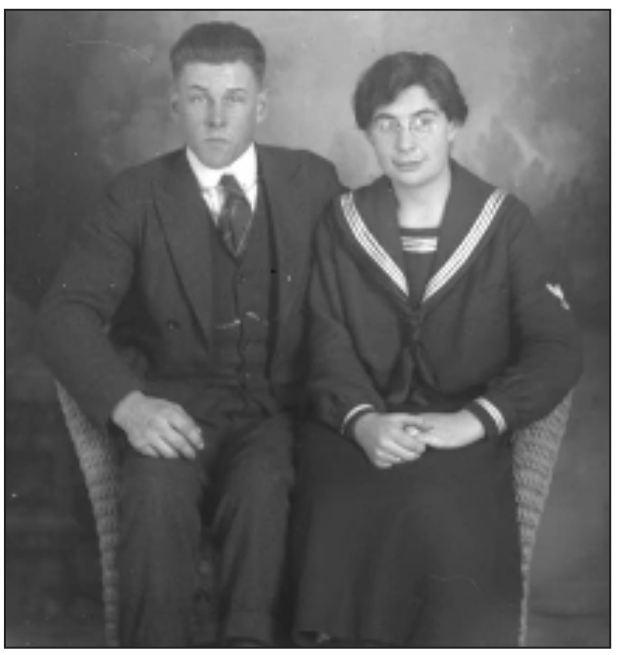
The age of breeching for boys was around 12 years of age and considered an important rite of passage. It symbolized leaving childhood behind and entering the world of adulthood. At that age they would wear more adult style clothes.

This next dress was made from plain woven cotton. They call the alternating colored and white cross-striped pattern gingham. The main colors used for gingham were red, blue, green or yellow over a white background.

In this image it is difficult to tell which colors they used as the floor length under-skirt looks darker than the upper part. My guess would be blue gingham on the bottom and red gingham on top. The top portion buttons from waist down and has long sleeves with white cuffs while the tunic is fashioned from a shiny fabric with a sailor styled collar of white cotton trimmed or backed with the same color gingham. A shiny black belt rides high above the waist.

Here we have a young couple wearing the latest in style. Her husband wears the traditional dark 3-piece suit, striped white shirt with a starched white collar, and a long dark striped tie. The gold chain on his vest would attach to a pocket watch.

For his wife, the latest in Navy style, even down to the rank and rate 'crow' on the left sleeve. It may be a relative's old Navy dress blue jumper although the neckerchief isn't tied to Navy regulation. Her long navy blue dress has the



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same white piping trim at the collar as the jumper.

The boy and the younger girl in the right image, wear the semblance of an older style of naval uniform known as the Crackerjack. This style of uniform got its name from the snack food that featured a sailor on the box. However, the image on the box was typically an all blue uniform.

Crackerjack was known as the “Candy-coated popcorn, peanuts, and a prize." The crunchy treat of molasses covered peanuts and popcorn has been around since the Chicago World’s Fair in 1893. The name of the Swabbie, another name for a Navy sailor shown on the front of a Cracker Jack box, was Jack; and his dog’s name was Bingo.

This next dress appears an interesting collection of colors. Not only is the dress made with alternating colored vertical stripes, but within the top panel the stripes are horizontal. The sleeves are of a translucent material such as chiffon while the cuffs match the dress.

The shawl style collar is white with pointed ends extending toward the waistband. As to the length of her dress, when standing it would be above her ankles, enough to cover the tops of her calf-high dark brown laced leather shoes.

As for the colors, I would guess blues and greens mixed with white with maybe a red stripe in the center part. You can use your own imagination on this one.

This next gentleman seems to buck the trend with his wavy hair combed back on the top and sides. He wears a large gold ring with a light-colored stone in the center on his right hand.

He wears a suit jacket over striped overalls with a pocket watch on a ribbon tucked into a bib pocket over a gray wool shirt. However, this could be more a mark of his trade than a fashion statement.

These bib overalls were made of heavy denim cotton, or duck cloth, and available in white, black or blue with thin white stripes. Farmers, oilmen, miners, ranchers, manufacturing, and construction workers would wear this classic denim overall. The man above may have worked for the railroad.

However, he cleans up nicely. In this image the denims are replaced with a medium gray 3-button wool suit, white shirt with a detachable collar, and medium colored long tie. Here is a

partially colorized version with his wife wearing the same dress (blue) from a previous image.

During this period in time, men’s fashions seem limited to dark suits over white shirts with either a bow tie or long dark-colored tie, and black leather shoes.

Some men appear uncomfortable or out-of-place wearing a suit. These two men, although physically quite different from each other, appear quite comfortable in their suits.

In all of these images, men appear clean shaven with short hair and clipped fingernails. The main hair style appears cut short on the sides and longer on top. Nowadays that’s called the ‘fade’ haircut style. That doesn’t mean that all men dressed that way; men’s fashions varied as much as the women’s.

Many people, young or old, scowl at the camera. The young girl on the left seems impassive. Almost like she’s saying, “OK, I’m here, let’s get this over with. Ho hum.”

Young children would often fidget resulting in a blurry image while those that held still acted like it was pure torture to do so. Working with babies, when not sleeping, could be difficult, but their reactions could be so entertaining. The young woman on the right is smiling. Makes you wonder what she’s thinking.

It was common fashion for young girls of this time period to wear one or two bows in their hair. Though of different ages, both girl’s dresses and bows appear to be white with the wide cummerbund a slightly different shade or contrasting color. The younger girl’s shoes and socks are also white while the older girls are black.

The following image is of a mother and daughter. Unlike many of the older women the hem of her dress is well above her ankles. As time moved on, so did the height of the hem. This alone would date the image to the 1920s or 1930s.

Time moves on and so did the styles; fashion never stops changing. My first thought about this dress was that it should be white with green stripes. The wide lace collar allows the stripes to show through and a matching sash circles her waist, the ends hanging down by her left arm.

Around her neck she wears a round locket suspended from a string of pearls and another heart-shaped one hangs beneath her collar. Her shoes and stockings are a brighter white than the dress.

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Fashion Parade

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Styles varied wildly as did the colors and patterns. Is this next image perhaps an expression of cultural heritage? This one speaks to me of mustard yellow with green or blue wavy lines. The hat? Well, use your own imagination on that one. It looks more like a basket for holding wildflowers.

Here we have a two-piece outfit made from plain material in a light pastel color, possibly pink. Her pointed black shoes are covered with black spats which button up the outside.

Spats, shortened from spatterdash, were to protect legs and shoes from mud spatters, but were more often worn by men. They were a sign of status during the 1930s and became associated with gangsters. They went out of fashion by the 1940s.

Her top has a wide rounded white lace collar with lace trim on the elbow-length sleeves. There are dark-colored buttons up the front with matching buttons down the left side of her long skirt covering over her spats. A dark-colored fabric belt is tied with a bow at the waist. Also note the height of the hem.

No article on fashion would be complete without the semblance of a wedding dress as seen in these next two images. Although the long skirt is made from a plain material, the top is made from Chantilly lace with a V neckline and just a hint of a lace collar.

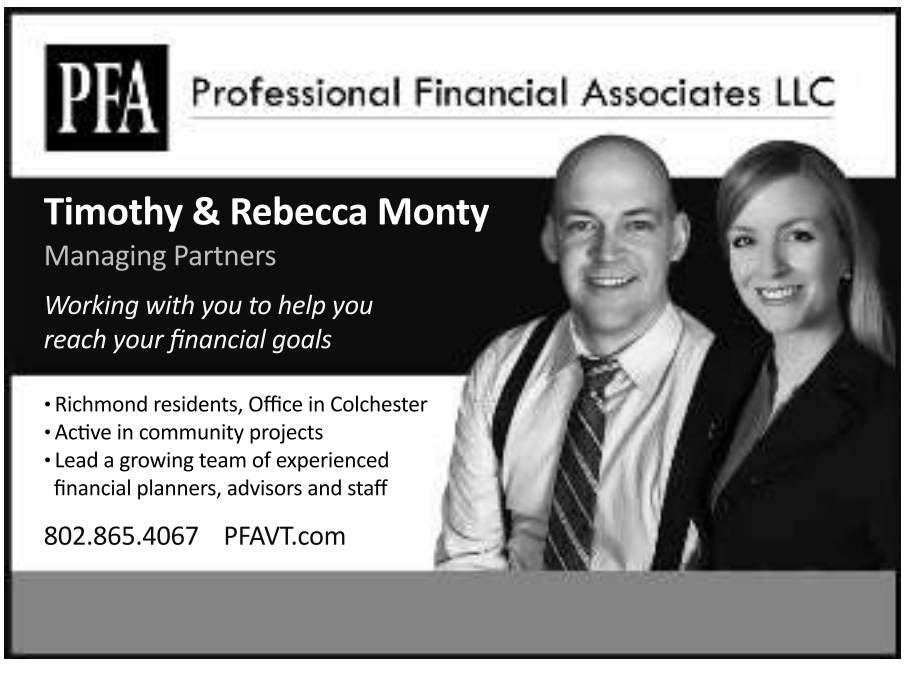
The lace sleeves are elbow length while the waist shows the outline of a vest before descending below the hips. It is not known what she is wearing on her head in the left image, a hat or a hair net.

After seeing how things have changed over the last hundred years, I wonder what we'll be wearing after the next hundred years. Who knows; maybe animal skins, again?

References:

All images shown were taken by local photographers and are courtesy of the Richmond Historical Society, Richmond, Vermont. Cover photo is of the Beehive House, 151 Tilden Ave., one of the boarding houses for the young women that worked in the Underwear factory. This image is from early 1903, photographer is unknown. The studio portraits were taken by Joseph Emilian Levesque, also known as Pete Bishop.

The following list gives the Glass Plate Negative ID number for that image.



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12	GPN-A138
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14	GPN-A126
15	GPN-A235
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17	GPN-A041
18	GPN-A251
19	GPH-B120
20	GPH-B121
21	GPN-A139
22	GPN-A447, GPN-A446

Community Ceili - Participatory Afternoon of Irish Dances

On Sunday, March 1, 1 pm to 3 pm, the second annual Community Ceili will be held at the Richmond Community Library.

An afternoon of live traditional Irish music and dance, this ceili (community celebration) will feature the traditional social dances of Ireland, along with a few special performances and live music by Denise Dean and friends. Dances will be taught on the day and all are welcome to participate. No experience and no partner needed. Hosted by the Garrett School of Irish Dance in partnership with the Burlington Irish Heritage Festival, it is an afternoon of dancing, music, food, and fun for all ages.

Suggested donation: $8 Individual, $5 Student/Senior, $20 Family

Gerlisa Garrett demonstrates the welcome ceremony dance.

Huntington Open Mic

On January 25, despite the snow, ice and rain, 40 hearty souls and 9 acts showed up for Open Mic Night at the Huntington Town Hall. The night started off with a moving rendition of The House of the Rising Sun by Izzy Grae and ended with an audience inspired poem about the Town Hall.

Attendees were given the opportunity to write a line pertaining to the Town Hall on a slip of paper. The slips were drawn at random and actually fit together to make a touching, funny, sweet poem:

Huntington Town Hall

Pounding feet, laughing
Brings us together
I wish this place was a Palace.

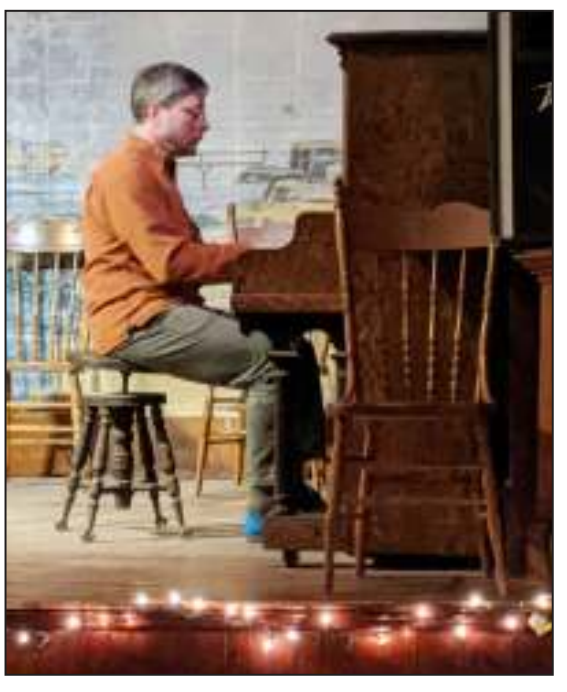
Creaky, warm, sweetness
The traveling Henry family takes the stage in the early days
Huntington nights are cold, but the Town Hall is cozy
Hiking in a squall, greeted by the warmth of the community
The old wood, the hidden painting, the long forgotten words.

If ceilings were skies, as high as these are, the songs in our hearts will fly far
All together here under one roof, community is awesome
Reaching between past and present to sing, perform, laugh and enjoy
An elevator and stage? This place is the Rage!

Kids dancing, floors creaking
Stalwart reminder of the community's past
Gathering with friends
Huntington walls, neighbors on the dance floor, come join the party
Dance, and have fun!

I love you wood paneling!
Sweet, sweet nordic skiing
A vessel for togetherness,
Cornhole graced by the dust of the Woodsmen.

Izzy Grae on vocals and Connor Hamilton on guitar perform House of the Rising Sun. Below, David Feurzig shows that the old Town Hall piano still plays! Photos: Barbara Felitti



Generous donations at the door raised $143 for Edward Heyman's Soups On program. Save the date for the next Open Mic Night at Huntington Town Hall on Saturday, February 29 - Leap Night! Donations will benefit Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC). For more information, contact Marie Claire (the host) at openmicnighthuntington@gmail.com.

—Contributed by Barbara Felitti

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Wednesday & Friday, 8:30 am
Reconciliation:
After Weekday Masses
Saturday, 3:15 - 3:45 pm
3rd Thursday of each month, 6 - 7 pm
Eucharistic Adoration:
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Rosary:
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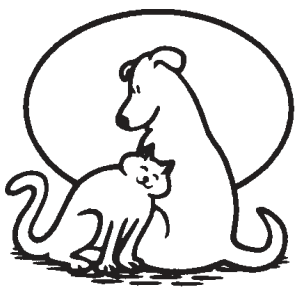


Drs. Virginia Clarke,
Daniel Hament & Cori Weiner

The Times Ink
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

2020 Schedule

January 9 deadline
January 23 issue

Town Meeting Preview

February 6 deadline
February 20 issue

March 12 deadline
March 26 issue

April 9 deadline
April 23 issue

May 7 deadline
May 21 issue

June 11 deadline
June 26 issue

July 23 deadline
August 6 issue

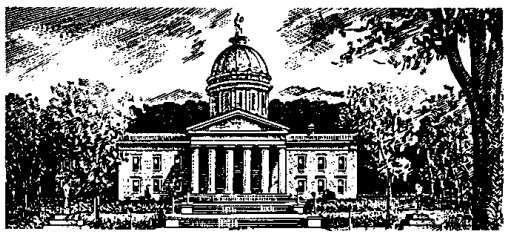
September 5 deadline
September 19 issue

October 8 deadline
October 23 issue

Holiday Issues

November 5 deadline
November 19 issue

December 3 deadline
December 17 issue



State House News

Rep. Tom Stevens

The first month of the session proved to be a whirlwind of activity — we were picking up where we left off last May and receiving, as a whole, another 400 bills to consider. In our committee, we received a number of bills with respect to alcohol law that may affect our wineries and breweries, bills relating to our public sector unions and labor practices with respect to teachers and school districts, and, as is common in my committee under the heading of "General," a bill relating to the decomposition of human remains, or composting, and one to end the lottery. Our committee wall now has 95 bills. Not all of them will become law, of course, but they will receive an introduction.

The main focus of our work has been the passage of H.107, regarding Paid Family Medical Leave Insurance, and S.23, Minimum Wage. The bills passed by the House and Senate reflect a yearlong process of negotiating final versions of the bills and passing them to the Governor for his action. Both bills reflected the compromises needed to get across the finish line, and, especially with respect to Paid Family Medical Leave, broke new ground with respect to the definition of family by acknowledging that in this day and age, taking care of one's family means taking care of family members from birth to death, meaning children and parents, grandparents and grandchildren, siblings and foster children. As written, the bill would have provided up to 12 weeks of wage replacement for bonding for new parents, 8 weeks to take care of family, and an option to purchase insurance for six weeks of wages of personal medical leave, all for a cost of two cents to six cents for every $10 earned by the employee.

Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill (as expected), and the House was unable to overturn the veto by a vote of 51-99. We needed 100 votes, and we went into the veto vote with those 100 votes. One member of our caucus flipped their vote in the end, preventing this essential program from becoming available to Vermonters for at least two more years.

As of this writing, the Minimum Wage bill is on his desk, and if he vetoes it, we will consider overriding it in the coming weeks.

What is truly sad is that this particular Administration has denied regular working Vermonters access to programs and policies that will make their lives easier in the face of an economy and budget choices that are destroying the social safety net for those that need it most. Those of us in the middle are dealing with rising health insurance costs that are crippling our personal budgets, as well as child care, mortgages, and college loans, never mind our base expenses of telephones, cable, broadband (where available). And the Vermonters with the highest incomes (over $300,000) have reaped annual tax benefits that would pay for our budget gap three times over.

And over in the corner sits the result of underfunding pensions to our state workers and teachers — a decision made over 30 years ago and a cancer we've been dealing with for over 10 years — $140 million off the top of the General Fund to pay into funds that we promised would be there.

It makes for a difficult discussion, when the Administration sends a budget that proposes to cut millions of dollars to programs for the youngest, oldest and most vulnerable — proposals made possible by the decisions made at the federal level by the Trump Administration and a do-nothing US Senate.

It can be a frustrating time in the Legislature, but I am surrounded by people who are dedicated to working hard — sometimes against a brutal headwind — to get the work done that needs to get done. One of them is my district mate, Rep. Theresa Wood, who was recently recognized by two different organizations for her work to secure increased funding for child care and for her continuing advocacy work for those with developmental disabilities — those with the softest voices and some of the deepest needs. Our district is lucky to have her representing us in the State House.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your thoughts and concerns at tstevens@leg.state.vt.us

Rep. Theresa Wood

We are still early in the legislative session, but there has been a great deal of activity already. This often happens in the second year of a biennium. Just as a reminder, our legislature operates on a two year cycle – this cycle is called a biennium. It means that all the bills introduced last year are still active, including those that were left in conference committees when the Legislature adjourned last year. In addition, new bills have been introduced—in fact a record number of bills for the biennium have been introduced, and only a handful will ever make it across the finish line.

Reps. Theresa Wood, Tom Stevens, Marcia Lawrence Gardner

In the House Human Services Committee, we have been working on a number of areas and in this report, I'll focus on efforts to reduce unintended pregnancies. We have two bills under consideration – H.663 – Expanding access to contraceptives; and H.752 – Authorizing pharmacists to dispense hormonal contraceptives without a prescription.

In an effort to reduce unintended pregnancies and the need for abortions, some lawmakers in the Human Services Committee expressed interest last session in expanding access to contraception. Our committee is working on several tri-partisan bills to do just that. According to data from the Vermont Department of Health, 56% of pregnancies were "intended" in 2018, and those rates of "intendedness" have increased over the past five years in Vermont from 50%. (Keep in mind that "unintended" pregnancies include those who were "okay either way," in addition to those experiencing "unwanted" pregnancies.)

H.663 requires health insurance plans to cover – without cost-sharing – at least one drug, device or product within each method of contraception for women as prescribed by a health care provider. If the health care provider determines a particular name-brand method of contraception is medically necessary for their patient, then the health insurance plan must cover it with no cost-sharing. This legislation expands coverage for voluntary sterilization procedures for men and women without cost-sharing requirements in most cases.

H.663 would also require school districts to make free over-the-counter contraceptives available to all secondary school students and would direct the Department of Health to coordinate with stakeholders to make free over-the-counter contraceptives available in a variety of settings statewide. The 2019 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) indicates that 40% of all high school students have engaged in sexual intercourse, matching the national average. Nearly one-third of Vermont high school students report being sexually active; of those who were sexually active, only 32% used a condom during sexual intercourse. We have learned that implementation and adoption of policy guidance and curriculum requirements for schools is inconsistent across the state. To this end, we have asked the Agency of Education and the Department of Health to collaborate in this area.

H.752 is a bill that proposes to authorize a licensed pharmacist to dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptives to a patient without a prescription, provided the pharmacist has received appropriate training and follows procedures specified by the Board of Pharmacy by rule. The bill would require health insurance plans to provide the same coverage for self-administered hormonal contraceptives when dispensed by a pharmacist without a prescription as they do when the contraceptives are dispensed pursuant to a prescription. Testimony from pharmacists on this concept indicated significant support for this idea.

Rep. Marcia L. Gardner

H.619 passed the Vermont House on a roll call vote of 121 in favor and 21 against, after receiving unanimous support from the House Committee on Government Operations (the committee on which I serve). H.619 is a bill that would make it explicit in law that a candidate may spend campaign funds to cover expenses for the care of dependent family members which are incurred as a direct result of campaign activity . Women, working parents, and caregivers face many barriers in running for public office, including meeting child and other dependent care obligations during campaigns that often require frequent travel and attendance at evening and weekend events.

In May 2018, the Federal Election Commission ruled that Liuba Grechen Shirley, a congressional candidate from New York, could use campaign funds to cover her campaign-related childcare expenses. With a record number of women running for office, the Shirley ruling spurred several candidates for office to seek clarity on the rules regarding campaign funds and childcare expenses at the state level.

Seventeen states have language allowing some type of dependent care – mostly childcare - as a legitimate campaign expense. Six states have put this into law, including neighboring New Hampshire and New York, and another five states have pending legislation.

Presently, the Vermont Secretary of State's office allows dependent care as a campaign expense, if in the candidate's analysis, they are incurred in order to support the candidate's campaign and would not have been incurred otherwise. But if not clearly defined in statute, this could be subject to change, if a new Secretary of State was of a different opinion. In 2000, Louisiana allowed childcare costs as a legitimate campaign expense, but more recently denied a candidate, after the governing board changed members. The Federal Election Commission recommends clarifying dependent care as a legitimate campaign expense in legislation to remove any ambiguity and to provide consistency.

On the federal level, the Help America Run Act proposes to amend the Federal Campaign Election Act to allow childcare, elder care, and other personal services. It passed the U.S. House with bipartisan support and is now in the U.S. Senate.

H.619 also elaborates on the definition of permissible candidate expenditures as, "those expenses that are necessary to allow a candidate to campaign." Another way to assess a valid candidate expense is to judge whether the expense would exist if not for the campaign. So, expenses for haircuts or clothing would probably not pass this test, because they are expenses the candidate would normally incur.

In order to ensure that all citizens who want to participate in our political system can do so, it is important to eliminate barriers to entry. If passed, H.619 would remove one such barrier. The bill is currently up for review in the state Senate Committee on Government Operations.

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Town Forests

continued from page 1

Chittenden County's early Town Forests have been joined by many others, going by many different names. Called Town Forests, Natural Areas, Country Parks, Conservation Areas, or Community Forests, they can be simply defined: forested properties owned by a municipality.

Many newer Town Forests are acquired through partnerships between towns, conservation organizations and State and Federal funding sources and are often protected with a "conservation easement." This means that they can never be subdivided or developed, ensuring that they will remain a valuable resource for generations to come.

In the case of the proposed Huntington Community Forest, the property would be protected by a conservation easement jointly held by the Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) and monitored annually by VLT. While the conservation easement limits development and ensures that natural resources are being protected, there is substantial leeway for Huntington to decide what other uses are permitted. Hunting? Recreation (hiking, biking, horseback riding)? A community orchard or other agricultural use? Partnerships with non-profits and educational institutions for scientific research? Demonstrating responsible forest and wildlife habitat management? The Huntington community has the power to decide which of these uses will be allowed and encouraged in the property's Management Plan.

While many Town Forests are managed with input from their communities, Community Forests, such as the one Huntington is proposing, are defined by this; they are governed and managed by their community in an open, transparent way. Community Forests especially rely on community participation in the development of their Management Plan, which will define goals, objectives and rules for the proposed Huntington Community Forest. If you have thoughts about how this property should be managed, there will be many opportunities to provide input and participate in this process in different ways. After the Management Plan is developed and adopted by a Town, Community Forests continue to seek input from the public, and constantly aspire to be the most robust community resource possible. This is perhaps where the contrast stands out most clearly between Huntington's State-owned forests and the proposed Community Forest: this land would be owned and governed by the Huntington Community alone, making its management much more of a direct and inclusive process for Huntington residents. While having a say in the management of State or Federal lands may be challenging, getting involved in the management of your town forest is usually as simple as showing up to periodic public meetings.

Former upper meadow behind Brewster-Pierce School. Photo: John Hadden

As far as the proposed Huntington Community Forest itself, there are a lot of opportunities for education, recreation and management. The property features valuable wildlife habitat, with forests in a wide range of successional stages (very young to somewhat old). It is part of a 50,000+ acre block of contiguous wildlife habitat, connecting to Camels Hump State Forest and beyond. The property is a treasured educational resource for the Brewster-Pierce school, a recreational resource for VAST and others, and there is great access to the property from several points in Huntington Center. In increasingly developed Chittenden County, it is important to remember the ways in which undeveloped, "wild" space, especially wild public space, enriches our lives and our communities. Protecting this land permanently would ensure that those benefits are conferred to countless generations to come.

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

Richmond Candidates

continued from page 3

Buxton's mother, Eileen, was serving as Cemetery Trustee when she died in 2018. He was appointed to serve the balance of her term and now seeks election to the position.

Buxton said he brings experience to the position, having worked long ago at Gifford Funeral Home under the supervision of George Gifford, the funeral director.

"My first job as a teenager was working for Mr. Gifford mowing cemeteries. He taught me not only what a good work ethic was but imparted the importance of ensuring the upkeep and care of the town's cemeteries. For how we take care of those who have gone before us is a reflection of who we are as a town and a society."

Library Trustee A two-year resident of Richmond. **Kathleen Templin** is running for an open-seat on the five-member panel that oversees Richmond Free Library.

Templin said she is "mostly retired" but continues to help manage out-of-state family businesses. For most of her professional career, she was employed as a social worker at the University of Vermont Medical Center and Children's Hospital in Ohio.

She moved to Richmond in 2018, relocating from North Carolina. She previously lived in Hinesburg from 2000-2012.

Templin has no prior experience in elected or appointed offices. But she met with the Library Director and an outgoing trustee to learn about the library's mission, which, as she quoted, is to "provide resources and experiences that inspire, inform and entertain and connect members of the community throughout their lives."

"I would be proud to have an opportunity to assist in the ongoing support of this mission," she said.

26th Annual Huntington Sugarmakers Tour

But first... pancakes!

On March 21, start your day with a filling breakfast of all-you-can-eat-pancakes with fresh fruit or bacon. Coffee, juice, tea and milk - pick a beverage. The meal will feature fresh maple syrup from local producers.

This annual breakfast, held at the Community Church of Huntington, is an good effort by Huntington Cub Scout Pack 645. Serving is from 8 am to 11 am, when you can then continue your sugar intake by touring Huntington's local sugarhouses.

Breakfast is $7 adults; $5 kids 6 to 12 years; preschoolers and under $3. It benefits the scouts' activities, which include community service like Green Up Day, camping and other fun outdoor adventures and summer camp.

Join your neighbors and friends for sweet treats during Huntington's Annual Sugar Makers' Tour. On Saturday, March 21, 11 am to 3 pm, many Huntington sugar making operations will be open to the public (regardless of the weather) and invite visitors to check out their facilities, sample this year's crop, and enjoy a variety of free maple treats. Weather permitting, sugarmakers from one end of town to the other will be boiling that day. A variety of delicious maple products will also be available for purchase.

The event is free and for all ages.

Maps with directions to participating sugar makers will be available after the pancake breakfast earlier in the day and at Beaudry's Store. Earlier, you can pick one up at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office, Brewster-Pierce School and the Huntington Public Library.

The tour is sponsored by the Huntington Conservation Commission. It is intended to raise awareness and appreciation for local agricultural enterprises in our town. The approximate 30,000 taps in Huntington are found in a mix of retail and private operations ranging in size from 600 taps to 16,000 taps.

Watch for a Huntington Sugarmakers Tour brochure with the list of participating sugarmakers, including a location map on the Conservation Commission information table at Town Meeting. Maps will be available on March 21 at the scouts' breakfast and at local businesses.

RHS Annual Meeting and Program

In 1880s Vermont, a new invention that generated widespread curiosity when it arrived here. During the 1890s, enthusiasm exploded statewide as bicycles became safer, women took to the wheel, roads improved, and retailers developed novel advertising techniques to draw in buyers.

By 1920, popular interest in bicycles had waned, but it had not just been a fad: the bicycle was tied to important changes in industrial production, consumerism, new road policies and regulations, gender relations, and new cultural ideas about automobility and effortless speed.

On March 29, the Richmond Historical Society will present Of Wheelmen, The New Woman, and Good Roads: Bicycling in Vermont, 1880-1920. In this Vermont Humanities Council program, Luis Vivanco explores the early history of the bicycle in Vermont, tied to important changes in industrial production, consumerism, and new cultural ideas about auto-mobility and effortless speed.

The program is open to all and will be presented at 2 pm in the Community Room of the Richmond Free Library and is open to all. The event is free. The Library is handicapped accessible.

A brief Richmond Historical Society business meeting and election of officers will precede the program. Information: 434-3654 or 434-5587.

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News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington

Submitted by Rev. David Wood, Interim Pastor

It has been written that there are organizational pillars that make for a strong community. A local school, a general store, a library and a local church. You have all four and they are all active and constructive in building the kind of community where folks enjoy living. Each has quite an impact beyond their walls. Certainly, the spirit of helping one another and enjoying get-togethers is alive and well here!

A bit belated, I want to introduce myself to folks here. Having been pastor in Lincoln, Vermont for four decades (sounds more impressive saying it that way), in retirement it has been my joy to serve this community church. A warm, joyful and intergenerational church family, I have been impressed with how integrated into the community it is. With Neighbor Helping Neighbor, HERO, organizing the Hunters Breakfast and the Race4Sundaes, as well as the Senior Meals, it has been indeed part of the vitality of this community. And through these events, as well as Sunday mornings, I've enjoyed getting to meet many folks.

We, at the church, are in the Season of Epiphany which is the time between Christmas and Lent that celebrates 'announcing the Good News' that there is no division: "neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female for all are one in Christ." (in the words of Paul to the Galatians). It is the season of the "Wise Men," a season of seeking and finding a greater truth, a more inclusive community, and learning of the things that make for peace. The church is hardly perfect, but the goal of our gathering is to become more of who God knows we can be. And we find this truth as we gather together as seekers recognizing that the Good News of Jesus is for all of us!

I rather feel that in times like we live in today with so much division, anxiety and yes, even fear, there needs to be the opportunity to experience community. This happens best at the local level where we interact with neighbors. I've found this is real and vital here in Huntington.

The Church Season changes on February 26, Ash Wednesday, when we enter another phase of Awakening – the inner understanding of our own need. During Lent (which runs through March right up to Easter's morning on April 12), we have time to consider our shortcomings as individuals and as a church (you might even add, as a community). This season of preparation allows us to 'Spring' into the joy of New Life!

As we travel through these weeks, know that you are invited, and certainly welcome to join the fellowship as we gather each Sunday at 9am. Blessing to all. – Pastor Dave

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053

It is lovely to be returning to the pages of the Times Ink after my parental leave this fall. Here at Richmond Congregational Church late winter brings us the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. This year I'll be offering the Imposition of Ashes in front of the Richmond Market from 4 pm to 5:30 pm, as well as at our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm at the church.

During Lent, we will be reading Barbara Brown Taylor's book Holy Envy on Fridays at 10 am, starting on February 28. Taylor writes about teaching a World Religions 101 at Piedmont College. As she took her students on field trips to mosques, synagogues and Buddhist temples, she developed a "holy envy" of aspects of other religions, which then strengthened and informed her own faith. Please contact the church office or church@rccucc.org if you would like to join us for this book group.

Richmond Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

Love God,
Seek Peace,
Build Community,
Welcome All.

Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10 am

February 22 - March 2
Mission trip to Costa Rica.

February 26 Ash Wednesday
"Ashes to Go" at Richmond Market
4 pm -5:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm

One Great Hour of Sharing® is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. We will be collecting this special offering on March 22,2020.

Pastor Katelyn B. Macrae
434-2053 • church@rccucc.org • website: www.rccucc.org

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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 8 pm www.balanceyogavt.com

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

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

Until 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

MARCH 3: Town Meeting Day.

MARCH 12: Times Ink Deadline for March 27 issue.

MARCH 14: South Burlington Rotary Club in collaboration with Howard Center 11th Annual Curling Challenge fundraiser, Cairns Arena, South Burlington. Portion of the funds raised from the 'bonspiel' to support the essential Howard Center programs that help individuals and families with mental health, substance use, and developmental disabilities. Information: www.southburlingtonrotary.org

MARCH 29: History of the German Community in Burlington, sponsored by the Chittenden County Historical Society, 2 pm, at the old German Club (now Champlain Club), 20 Crowley Street, Burlington. Stories of growing up in this Burlington community. Note: only slippers or indoor shoes are allowed in the meeting room – exceptions will be made for anyone who can't manage this "wardrobe" change. Information: Ann Gray, grayann8@aol.com or 878-4088.

Regular Meetings

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

SCHOOL BOARD:
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).

Climate Art Workshops

Join a free workshop at Radiate Art Space and express your ideas and feelings about the climate crisis in your artwork. All materials are provided. All workshops are free but registration is required. Reserve your space by emailing radiate.art.space@gmail.com

February 25, Tuesday, 6:30-8:30. Printmaking with Judy Bush. We will incorporate our ideas and feelings about global warming into colorful images using a variety of simple printmaking methods. For teens and adults.

March 5, Thursday, 7-8:30. Turning your Ideas into Cartoons with LJ Kopf. Participants will look at ways to translate concepts into images and explore some techniques for making accessible cartoons.

March 15, Sunday, 3-5. Create a collage with Kathryn Wysockey-Johnson. Transform your Climate Message into a Collage using the many materials provided. Work on a bigger group piece, or make a collage of your own with support and encouragement! Add a poem, drawing, or materials you bring in. For teens and adults.

March 26, Thursday, 6:30 – 8:00. Banner Painting Workshop with Emily Mitchell. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and get ready to make group banners that speak to the issues of the Climate Crisis. Have fun and get messy using acrylic paint, oil pastels, and stamps, so wear old clothes! All ages welcome.

These workshops are sponsored by the Richmond Climate Action Committee and Radiate Art Space.

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 Wed, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Worship

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

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

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

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

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

Jericho Congregational Church: 3 Jericho Center Circle; Jericho; Pastor Dave Coons; Winter/ Spring schedule 8:30- Sunday School (adults & children); 9:30 - Fellowship time; 10 am- Worship Service. Summer Schedule changes in June. All are Welcome!

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

State of the World

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

Bolton resident Jack Lazarowski serves weekly coffee.

How did you connect with the CSC? My wife Linda and I moved to Bolton five years ago. We'd lived in Charlotte for 30 years in a big barn and raised two kids. We weren't in Bolton 24 hours when Linde Emerson came to the door "Hi! I'm your neighbor." Having had careers as park hosts, Linde's and Rae's DNA was to be neighborly. Linde invited us to the senior dinner at the fire station. That was the beginning. My wife brought home current events stories from the "State of the World" activity so I decided I had to get my oar in that water too. I went to the Richmond seniors coffee right before State of the World. The Bolton coffee came from that. Now Martha and I were bumping into each other. She asked me "would you be willing to host the Bolton coffee?"

You seem like a "host" kind of person. Are you gregarious in your regular life? I think that's a fair statement. So, it was an easy set of clothes to put on. Bolton coffee runs from 9:30 am until 11 am but people dribble in as soon as they smell the coffee. It's a fun group around a large oval table. It's homey. The paraphernalia of being a town volunteer is everywhere including the snapshots on the wall. When it's more men than women, fishing tales are in the mix. Other days the females shift the conversations a bit. With multiple-generation Boltonites we often talk local history and economics. Recently it was the lumber industry and the five sawmills up and down Joiner Brook. Yesterday we talked local politics and one-room schoolhouses. People have opinions about the mergers. That table at the firehouse is a beehive of ideas. My role is to keep the coffee cups filled.

What about all this sustains you? I love a good story and I have my own stories. I like feeling connected to my community. My connection to Charlotte from the get-go was my children. So, coming to Bolton I was a newbie. Time for new connections. I resurrected the community garden. My father was a gardener. Next to the fence of our Cleveland, Ohio garden was a path to the transportation hub. He sent a significant portion of garden surplus over the fence. It all connects together. I can bring gardening questions to the oval table and all the surplus zucchini.

Any other activities you'd like to see? Well, if someday we were able to find ourselves an indoor heated swimming pool I'd love to participate. But really, under Martha's leadership the range of possible activities is wonderful.

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

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Times Board Needs a Member

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

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

For more information, call or email a current member of the Board (names on page 2).

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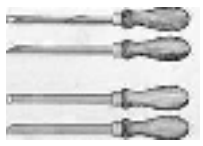

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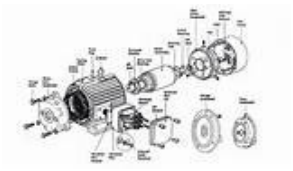

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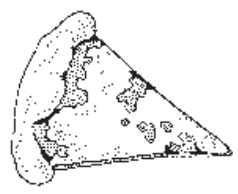
Weddings

ROUND CHURCH WEDDING? Visit the Richmond Historical Society website or contact Mary Ann Barnes 434-3220. 2020 dates available!

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

FLOWERS FOR YOUR WEDDING Natural-looking, graceful wedding flowers: bouquets, table arrangements; planted arrangements in urns and pots. Colorful Vermont-grown flowers also used in season. Pleasant Mount Farm, Huntington. 434-2690 [11/20]

Pizza



Wellness

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

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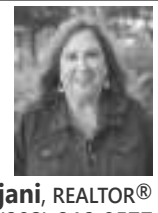
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Arts Update

P.M. Sundays & More

Contributed by Don Sheldon

Three Concerts at the Richmond Congregational Church

Richmond Congregational Church will host three Valley Stage concerts over a three-week period, beginning on Thursday, February 27, with the Bee Eaters. Former Nickel Creek founding member Sean Watkins will be performing with the California based trio (cello, violin and hammered dulcimer): bluegrass, Celtic, jazz and old time traditions. Doors open are at 7 pm; the concert starts at 7:30 pm.

On March 8, the monthly P.M. Sundays concert series continues with Michigan-based May Erlewine and her trio, at 4 pm. Erlewine previously performed at the Valley Stage Music Festival in 2009.

On Thursday, March 12, the Canadian string quartet, The Fretless, will perform beginning at 7:30 p.m. This talented group won the Instrumental Album Group of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards in 2012 and a Juno for Best Instrumental Album of the Year in 2016.

The concerts will take place at the Richmond Congregational Church. 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.

More arts updates on page 15.

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Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Crimson Poppy Flower Shop Reopens Under New Ownership

The **Crimson Poppy Flower Shop** has been undergoing a transformation this winter and has reopened under new ownership. Elysse Parente and her husband, Adam Wood, are local Richmond residents and the proud new owners. Both are native Vermonters who met when working together at Green Mountain Coffee.

Parente has been doing floral centerpieces since taking floral design workshops five years ago. This passion for flowers inspired the couple to consider planning a little flower business by developing gardens and a green house on a piece of land where they were building a home on Route 2. But when they got word that Christina (Ladensack) Ritchie, the original owner, had decided to sell the business and move to northern Vermont, a new idea took hold. Maybe a real bricks and mortar business like the flower shop was the way to go rather than the original plan. Parente was able to shadow Ladensack on the job to get a feel for the business and to see if the idea of becoming a local business owner appealed to her. Turns out she loved it and a new business plan began to take shape.

The structural set up has changed. The space which was where Ladensack had the original Crimson Poppy Flower shop, is being rented out to another business which will sell stationery and offer custom letterpress printing. The new flower shop will now be in the portion of the building which originally housed Poppy's Rustique, which was where Ladensack had her gift shop. Parente has combined the flower business with the gift shop into one space. This larger space also makes it possible to have a small office and a private consulting area for customers who are purchasing for weddings and special events.

Parente will have a selection of wreaths, premade floral arrangements as well as fresh flowers which can be custom made into bouquets, centerpieces and arrangements. Her new flower shop will showcase a lovely selection of small succulents and other larger plants. Customers will also be able to purchase beautiful pots for the plants or buy as a stand-alone. In the summertime she plans to use a local Vermont flower-growing business for her supplies.

Patrons will be able to purchase from a unique array of gift items such as whimsical cards, candles, jewelry, honey, maple syrup, hats, soaps and more. " I'm excited to be able to showcase local Vermont artists and craft makers at the store. It's great to have a way to promote other small businesses. I'm still investigating various businesses and would be open to talking to local artists to see if their work is a match for the store. I also hope to showcase special artists at various times of the year," Parente told the Beat.

Sometimes life events seem to come full circle. When Parente and Wood were planning their wedding, they bought their wedding flowers at the Crimson Poppy. Now as the new store owners, they are looking forward to helping to create many happy memories for other couples.

For the present time, the shop has reopened under the Crimson Poppy name, but it's possible the name may eventually change. A soft opening takes place in February just in time for Valentine's Day with a grand opening in the works for the March or April timeframe.

Crimson Poppy is located at 56 Bridge Street in Richmond. Phone is 434-5143 and email is crimsonpoppyvt@gmail.com. The store will be open Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10-6 and Saturday and Sunday from 10-4. Delivery service is available every day as well as 24 hour on-line ordering. For more information visit the website at www.crimsonpoppyvt.com.

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

4930 Main Road Huntington, Vermont 05462

The Huntington Development Review Board (DRB) will meet on March 11, 2020, at the Huntington Town Clerk's Office in Huntington Center to review the following applications:

Request for Conditional Use Review
Boundary Line Adjustment

Daniel Goodyear and Amy Seidl Goodyear, 1400 Happy Hollow Road, to deed .78 acres from 13.5 acres to a neighboring property owner as a boundary line adjustment. The hearing will be at 7:15 pm.

—Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk, February 20, 2020

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Creating Cacophony

"Know thyself."

—Inscription of the Delphi Oracle

Almost three thousand years ago, the Greeks began organizing competitive athletics. Nothing stood in the way of the games. They began at Olympia in the Peloponnese in 776 BCE, and were so popular that even battles were interrupted so the games could be performed and watched. Rooted in particular places which didn't change, the four different game sites were Olympia, Delphi, Isthmia, and Nemea. Spectators came from every level of society. Everyone wanted to attend the unforgettable spectacle at least once before dying.

Scholars have long discussed and debated the origin and purpose of the ancient sport. It appears that this formalized competition among equals is a uniquely Greek institution. Much of our knowledge of the games comes from Homer's epic poems. A funeral was often the impetus and the games were a way of reaffirming life in the face of death. Though religiously based, they served as an expression of life and the stamina and vigor of youthful competition. The games provided a break from the daily routine of work or war, with people participating in rituals, ceremonies, public feasts, and sacred sightseeing.

Athletics and colonization developed at the same time as the city-state. The evolution of the Greek national character included the belief in equality before the law. The players voluntarily submitted to flogging as the punishment for a foul.

Honor and glory for the individual were highly valued by the Greeks. The emphasis was on the individual and focus on human qualities was greatly esteemed. Leading an excellent and virtuous life was valued. This included concepts of valor, nobility and virtue. These qualities were, to some degree, present in every Greek citizen and were aspired to by every member of Greek society It was a philosophy of life not limited to the athlete.

How far we have come. Individual honor seems to have lost any value, having given way to vindictiveness, hostility and vengeful behavior. Character used to mean being able to tolerate discomfort and not being derailed by the ups and downs of life. That has gone the way of the dinosaur.

Truth is no longer the goal and the cacophony is so loud we can't even hear the truth. Denial of perception is rampant, having reached the point where we are unable to distinguish between what we want to be true and the reality of what is true. The lines between fantasy and fact are blurred, between what we want to believe and what is actually true. We accept lies, tolerate a cultural divide, ignore the breakdown of our institutions and the destruction of social norms, all the while pretending that the war on truth doesn't matter. There is no penalty for lying or lack of respect for truth.

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Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Stretching (sort of)

I only recently took up stretching. Not voluntarily, of course, but because a lifetime of never stretching caught up with me. It is truly remarkable how much difference it is making, to my mobility and even blood circulation. Now, it turns out, I need to stretch even more. On top of that, I need to stretch differently. To put it bluntly, I have to do it correctly, every day.

Well, first of all, how remarkable that even doing it wrong can provide so much benefit. Next comes how can I know if I'm doing it right? Reluctantly, I tap into my wife's knowledge. She is a lifelong stretcher, as well as a yoga practitioner. See my problem? It was trying to avoid taking her advice that originally led me to stretch alone (and wrong). She has this irritating habit of being right, a lot.

So, I finally did what any man would do: after trying every other possibility, I did the right thing and asked my wife to guide me in stretching. She graciously agreed and now we stretch together nearly every morning.

Why the morning? Because if I don't do it early, I don't do it. Unfortunately, that means getting up early enough to have the time. It also means waiting to eat breakfast until after stretching. See why I wasn't doing it this way before? Anyway, back to the stretching.

The worst part was the humiliation. No, my wife wasn't being mean to me; she's far too sweet for that. It was how little I was able to do. "Bend down slowly and touch your toes." No. There is a reason I sit down to tie my shoes: I can't reach my feet any other way. "OK, let's do it in stages. First, just ease down to your knees and inch your arms further as you descend." Over I bent, hanging above my feet at the halfway mark. "Good. Take a deep breath and sink lower as you exhale." Nothing happened, except I got a little dizzy from the deep breathing. "That's great, Honey. It will get easier."

Then, "Turn your head to the left . . . Honey, turn your head to the left." I was turning my head to the left. "OK, now look straight ahead and bend you head towards your right shoulder . . . Don't raise your right shoulder, just relax and let your right ear slowly fall toward that shoulder." When I lowered my shoulder, my head went back up again. Standing there waiting for my ear to make its way south felt ridiculous.

Eventually there was progress. However, each day's improvement results in new and deeper stretches. I didn't see that coming!

Little things like bending over, using the right form, feel like exercise because you are doing new things with your muscles. You don't build up a sweat, but it feels like a workout. Kind of counter-intuitive really -- it isn't a sport, it invigorates you instead of making you tired. The truth is, I am feeling more agile and have more energy since stretching regularly and correctly. That's what keeps me doing it. Let's face it, getting older isn't for sissies. You have to be in shape and that means working at it every day. Hey, don't blame me. It's not my idea, but it turns out to be true.

(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk lives, works, and writes (and gardens) in central Vermont. His Boomer Funk columns are available at www.VermontFunk.com, as are his blogs and archived Aging in Place columns.)