



The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 38 February 2021 Issue Number 1

2021 Town Meeting by Australian Ballot

No In-Person Gathering or Amendments

Vermont local governments are individual. Each community considers itself to be unique. Nowhere is this more apparent than on Town Meeting Day. Meetings can be held on the first Tuesday of March, on the previous Saturday, or on the Monday evening before the first Tuesday. Some towns have an April, May or June meeting. Depending on the size of the town and the interest of the people in the town, voters may nominate candidates from the floor at Town Meeting and then vote for them right then and there, or go to the polls and choose candidates who have petitioned and consented to get on the ballot. Richmond and Huntington candidates for office have long been voted at the polls.

However, both towns have had a Town Meeting where voters can amend the budget up or down before the final vote. It is a big day in the community - a gathering of residents who discuss articles, sometimes amend them - multiple times - and then vote. A meal is shared, information tables are available for local groups to provide information, neighbors continue the conversations in the room and the parking lot long after the meeting has adjourned.

2021 This year, things are different. Last year, within two weeks of Town Meeting Day, the state had essentially shut down. Most government offices have remained closed to the public, although services have been provided in creative ways.

Two big elections in 2020 were mainly handled through the US Mail and at the polls on election day.

After almost a year, it was apparent that COVID was not going away any time soon. Much of the operations of the towns have continued to be improvised and what to do about the gathering of many people in a room for Town Meeting came before the Legislature.

The Vermont Legislature met in early September to discuss Act 162, and after a flurry of activity, passed the bill on September 25, 2020. Governor Scott received the bill on October 1 and signed it on October 5, 2020. Act 162, is an act relating to using Australian ballot for municipal meetings in the year 2021.

As is often the case when legislation is passed, the final decision is up to the towns. The governing bodies of each town - Selectboards - discussed the options for Town Meeting 2021 (remember, Act 162 only addresses events in 2021) and many factors were considered.

In both towns, because of COVID health restrictions, by vote of the Selectboard, all items for voting will be included on the Australian (paper ballot), including the Town Budget. Informational meetings will be held in Richmond for residents to learn the issues and ask questions. Please refer to the Richmond Web Site richmondvt.gov for more information. In Huntington, one informational meeting will be held on Saturday, February 27, and residents are encouraged to sit in on the Selectboard's Monday night meetings where Town Meeting will be discussed. All meetings are held remotely via Zoom.

Voting on all town business will be done by ballot and the polls will be open on Town Meeting during the usual hours and in the usual places (Richmond, 7 am to 7 pm, Camels Hump Middle School; Huntington, 6:30 am to 7 pm, Brewster-Pierce School). In addition to the town ballots, voters will receive the usual MMUUSD ballot. Voters will not automatically receive a ballot and, unlike the last two elections, postage for any ballots mailed to voters will not be paid by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office.

Richmond Town Clerk Linda Parent said, "To minimize the people going to CHMS on March 2, we are asking that everyone who wants to vote request an early ballot and return it before March 2 in the drop box. All who request a ballot be mailed to them will receive a town ballot and a school ballot in the same envelope. All returned votes will be counted."

Similarly to past Town Meeting elections, Huntington's ballots will be available for absentee voting and sent upon request and then can be mailed back or dropped through the slot next to the front door of the Town Clerk's Office. Huntington Town Clerk Heidi Racht noted that voters can also drop off ballots at the polls or simply come in to vote. She said, "The last two

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Cupola Moon



Richmond photographer Jared Katz caught the waxing crescent moon as it sits above the cupola of the Round Church in Richmond on Friday, December 18, 2020.

The Annual Weather Report

2020: Extremes Continue Hotter / Drier Still

by Robert Low

Hot, Dry and a storm or two: that summarizes the year. Overall precipitation was down some 25%, snowfall some 30%. Rain often came in downpours. Drought conditions existed throughout most of the year stressing wells and surface waters. Monthly temperatures were above average but for April. Noteworthy was the June into July record five-day heat wave with temperatures in the 90s. Wind and record-making snowstorms came at the end of the year.

January began messy, unusually warm overall with much less snow than usual. A major thaw its second week brought record highs to the area

but also a major ice storm throughout much of the Champlain Valley. Our immediate area was spared, much as occurred back in 1998. The month ended mild with rain resurfacing area ponds and providing for a solid icy base for later skating and XC skiing.

February was much the same, bringing the coldest temperature for the year at -15F but also temperatures in the 50s, the all-to-familiar yo-yoing of recent years. Outdoor winter sports were possible in between temperature extremes. March was blessedly normal. Sap ran early though was characterized by low sugar content for many.

April provided its usual vicissitudes, more like March with persistent cold.

Regionally, mid-month ice out on Joe's Pond was second earliest ever. May continued cold, memorable snows and cold weather unwelcome. Then, record high temperatures in the 90s. COVID-19 delayed May Green-Up Day to May 30.

June began cool but ended on a hot streak, temperatures in the 90s, 96 the season high for us. Cooling degree days were twice normal. Precipitation also was half normal, leaving many watering gardens, dried-up wells and ponds showing the strain.

The 90-degree temperatures that began in June continued into July resulting in the longest heat wave ever at five days, heat pumps working hard to cool our homes. Hot, dry weather

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Letters

Gratitude to Marcia Gardner

Many, many thanks to Marcia Gardner who has been our State Representative for the past four years and done an excellent job! She has worked tirelessly for Richmond and for all Vermonters and I want to thank her for stepping up and serving. Being a legislator is wonderful and challenging work. Many times the "behind the scenes" work on behalf of individuals is not known. We are so grateful for your service.

I am also grateful that Rep. Jana Brown is now taking the lead for Richmond as our new State Representative. As she is sworn in and taking the lead in a pandemic, I want to encourage all to participate in our democratic process and contact her. Having a representative one can call on for any issue related to personal interactions with state government agencies or input on a specific bill is one of the many gifts of living in a democratic society. Your voice matters. Let Jana know what you think about the topics being considered in Montpelier. Let her know how COVID is impacting your life at home and work. Let her know if you need assistance navigating some action with a state agency. Look for Jana's posting of community meetings on zoom.

We are so fortunate to live in this great state of Vermont.

Happy New Year!

—Anne O'Brien, Former Richmond State Representative (2008-2016)

T-Shirt Contest

The Huntington Community Forest Fundraising Committee is seeking designs for a T-shirt celebrating the (soon-to-be-acquired) Huntington Community Forest.

Send us an illustration, image, logo, or other design idea that you think represents the forest or reflects on what it means to you.

All ages encouraged to participate. Both electronic and hard copy formats accepted. The deadline is March 31.

Please submit your design to John Hadden at john@restinglion.com or mail to 1500 East Street Huntington or drop at Beaudry's Store.

Community members will be given an opportunity to vote for their favorite design.

The winning design will be printed on a T-shirt that will be offered for sale to benefit the Community Forest.

—Jennifer Esser at (434-5333) or John Hadden (434-4760)

Vermont Students Fostering Anti-Racist Schools

The Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network recently received a \$1,000 grant from the Vermont Community Foundation's Spark Connecting Community grant program. The grant will help further

the network's mission of promoting anti-racism in schools through student leadership.

"We envision a Vermont that acknowledges how racism is historically and institutionally embedded and takes seriously our ethical obligation to end racism."

— Kyle Mitchell, student member, Middlebury Union High School

The Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network was founded this summer to bring a diverse group of students together from around the state to advocate for anti-racist educations, with a goal to make an impact by undertaking projects in schools, such as encouraging curriculum changes and changes in statewide school policies..

One idea for the VCF grant money is to purchase racially inclusive and anti-racist books that amplify diverse voices for elementary schools around Vermont. Then, go into schools via Zoom for a powerful activity and discussion based around the books, led by students in the network. One student member sums up why it is so vital to start with the youngest Vermonters:

"Racism is driven by mindsets, unconscious biases, and how our brains are structured so if we can get young people into anti-racist habits early on, it is likely that these habits will stick with them into adulthood."
—Olivia Miller, student member, Champlain Valley Union High School

The high schools represented by the students in the Network are Middlebury High School, Woodstock Union High School, Mount Mansfield Union High School, Champlain Valley Union High School, South Burlington High School, Harwood Union High School, West Rutland High School, Leland And Gray, Vergennes High School, Proctor High School, White River Valley High School, Montpelier High School, Arlington Memorial High School, and Thetford Academy.

The Spark Connecting Community grant program puts building and nurturing community front and center. The Foundation aims to support the work happening throughout Vermont's 251 towns that builds social capital. These grants—where a small amount can make a big difference—are intended to light the spark that keeps Vermonters healthy and happy.

The Vermont Community Foundation inspires giving and brings people and resources together to make a difference in Vermont. A family of hundreds of funds and foundations, we provide the advice, investment vehicles, and back-office expertise that make it easy for the people who care about Vermont to find and fund the causes they love. The heart of the Vermont Community Foundation's work is closing the opportunity gap—the divide that leaves too many Vermonters struggling to get ahead, no matter how hard they work. Time, energy, and discretionary resources are being focused on efforts that provide access to early care and learning, pathways to college and career training, support for youth and families, and community and economic vitality.

Visit vermontcf.org or call 802-388-3355 for more information.

THE NEW DENIAL



Presentation on the Value of Old-Growth Forests



Joan Maloof, founder and director of the Old-Growth Forest Network, will share the benefits of ancient forests and "left-alone places" in a virtual program co-sponsored by the Huntington Conservation Commission and the Huntington Public Library. Maloof's journey began as an

ecologist, but she became a writer in order to share what she and other scientists had learned.

Maloof is now the author of four books about forests: *TEACHING THE TREES*, *AMONG THE ANCIENTS*, *NATURE'S TEMPLES*, and *THE LIVING FOREST*. (All of these are available at the Huntington Public Library.) In 2011, she founded a national organization dedicated to creating a network of forests across the U.S., with one in each county where wild forests can grow and are never logged, that are open for visitors, and have a network of people inspired to protect them.

Joan Maloof will give an online presentation, with plenty of time for questions and answers, via Zoom on Tuesday, January 26, at 7 pm.

This event is free and all are welcome. Link and registration information will be posted on the Conservation Commission webpage of the huntingtonvt.org, the Huntington Public Library website, and on Front Porch Forum.

Spend an Evening with the Chief of the Abenaki Tribe



Don Stevens, Chief of the Abenaki Nulhegan Band. Photos: Diane Stevens

Chief in 2010. An outspoken and respected advocate for his people at the state level, he led the effort to secure Vermont's official recognition for the Nulhegan as a tribe in 2011, and helped restore its territorial boundaries and permanent hunting and fishing rights.

Unlike many federally recognized tribes, however, the Nulhegan Abenaki had no land they could define as their own. Stevens helped change that. Through his work with the Sierra Club and land preservation organizations in Vermont, he secured grants to purchase 68 forested acres in the Northeast Kingdom. According to Stevens, "We have a place where we can go to do prayers and gather as a group. We can pick up the soil and know that our ancestors walked on that land."

Don Stevens, Chief of Vermont's Nulhegan Band of the Abenaki, is well-versed in the difficulties, prejudices and land losses that are recorded in his people's history as far back as 1712. He has also been instrumental in changing things for the better over the past

Another of his priorities is to broaden awareness of Abenaki traditions and history. Nulheganaki, held annually since 2011, now brings together families from great distances for a weekend long celebration of Abenaki culture. Also through his work, the Abenaki Nation Cultural and Historical Exhibit has been in place at the



Some of the artifacts in the Abenaki exhibit at Burlington Airport

two decades.

Hosted by the Community Senior Center, Stevens discusses the history, art and traditions of the Nulhegan Abenaki of northern Vermont in a special online program on January 27 at 7 pm. He will also show examples of Abenaki crafts, and provide ample time for viewers' questions.

Indigenous to the Northeast Kingdom, the Nulhegan Abenaki Band selected Stevens as

Burlington International Airport since 2019. Stevens also helped organize the Abenaki Land Link Program, working with UVM, NOFA-VT, Rooted in Vermont, and private landowners to establish a seed bank to grow rare indigenous crops.

For the internet link to the online session with Chief Don Stevens on January 27 at 7 pm, email Martha Nye at martha@cscvt.org. Those new to joining on-line meetings can request phone

Local Extra Blood Drive on January 25

An extra local ARC Blood drawing will be held at the Richmond Congregational Church on Monday, January 25, from noon to 5 pm. For donors who were not able to donate on the recent drive; or for regular eligible donors who donate elsewhere and would like to donate locally; or for new donors, here is your chance to make an appointment in Richmond.

This area has been really supportive in helping to fill the extremely high demand for blood products. Here is another chance to show your community give-back spirit while receiving the personal reward of helping save a life or treat a serious health situation.

In response to those concerned about safety, health and sanitation, it is said that a blood drive is the safest place you can be these days.

the Red Cross has run over 1000 blood drives in Vermont since March and have had zero issues. Due to strict social distancing practices, constant sanitizing and training of staff, the Red Cross has all but eliminated any donor concerns.

If you are healthy and feel well, donate blood on January 25. First-time donors are always welcome and needed.

Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to redcross-blood.org and enter RICHMONDCC for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Use RAPIDPASS (<http://www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass>), a pre-donation & health history questionnaire, to reduce the wait time. Complete it online on January 25 before you arrive to donate.

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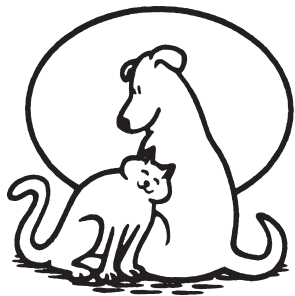
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The Annual Baby Brunch on Sunday, January 24, 2021 welcomes the newest residents of Huntington born in 2020. In honor of each new baby, a new picture book with a Baby Book Dedication bookplate will have the child's name and birthday and be added to the Library's collection. This year, we will go virtual in place of the usual gathering and brunch.

Check out the list of children's books from which you can choose one to have dedicated to your new family member at the Library's website (above). Please email the Library or call us, with your first and second choices. If you didn't receive an invitation in the mail with additional details, please let us know.

This exciting event is sponsored by the Friends of the Huntington Public Library.

Periodicals Thanks to generous patrons who have purchased subscriptions for the community, periodicals are available through Books To Go in addition to books, DVDs and audio books. The collection includes: NORTHERN WOODLANDS, BACKYARD POULTRY, ORION MAGAZINE, NATIVE SEED - RETURNING NATIVE PLANTS TO LOCAL LANDSCAPES, ACRES USA - THE VOICE OF ECO-AGRICULTURE, SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE. We also have an online subscription to CONSUMER REPORTS.

Four Seasons of Our Favorite Tree: A Multi-Media Art Exhibit will open in January 2022 at the Huntington Public Library. Let's celebrate our beautiful environment and the trees that gift us everyday with air, moisture, beauty and life. Choose your favorite tree and express your interaction and creativity with one representation for each season. Start now - it's winter. All ages and most media are encouraged and welcome. Keep it reasonably sized. There is wall space, bulletin board space (for unframed 2-D work), bookshelf surfaces and limited free-standing areas. This is a collaborative project between the Huntington Public Library and the Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC). Believing that nature and art naturally champion one another, several years ago the HCC used grant monies to create exhibit spaces in the Library with appropriate lighting and hanging strips. Inquire through email.

Thanks to Our Donors The Friends of the Huntington Public Library, trustees, and staff wish to thank everyone who has so generously donated during our Annual Appeal. We are so thankful for your support.

Books To Go Curbside pickup service is available on Monday and Friday afternoons. All books, DVDs, and audiobooks can be requested as well as a custom made topic bag. Please have all book requests in by 3 pm.

Here is how it works: go to the website to connect to KOHA and browse through the catalog, then email or call to arrange checkout and pickup of your materials. We also welcome suggestions and try our best to accommodate. Books can be borrowed through Inter-Library Loans from other libraries if you can't find them in our the catalog.

Materials can be returned in the book drop at any time. Please note that all items that are returned will be placed in a box for seven days in a separate room before being checked in. Please feel free to ignore any overdue notices. The website will also keep you notified about our latest updates.

Please let us know if you need to have a bag of materials delivered to you, for whatever reason, no questions asked. The Library is a resource for everyone. Your information will always be kept confidential and deliveries all under that category as well. Deliveries and pickups can be scheduled regularly or as needed.

Listen Up Vermont (Overdrive App/LIBBY App) Our Library subscribes to an online library lending service that enables our patrons to download ebooks and audiobooks to everyone with a valid library card regardless of age! All you need is an active Huntington Library card and your password. Visit our website at huntingtonlibraryvt.org, LISTEN UP VERMONT, or LIBBY to directly access the site.

New Adult Fiction THE ONCE AND FUTURE WITCHES by Alix E. Harrow; HOW TO RAISE AN ELEPHANT by Alexander McCall Smith; DEADLY CROSS by James Patterson; THE BOOK WOMAN of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson; THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES and THE WINE-MAKER'S WIFE by Kristin Harmel; THE LIONS OF FIFTH AVENUE and THE MASTERPIECE by Fiona Davis; IN A GILDED CAGE, TELL ME, PRETTY MAIDEN and THE LAST ILLUSION by Rhys Bowen; THE WONDERBOY OF WHISTLESTOP by Fannie Flag; THE MISFORTUNES OF FAMILY by Meg Little Reilly; A PIECE OF THE WORLD by Christina Baker Kline; MONOGAMY by Sue Miller.

Adult Non-Fiction TREE STORY- A HISTORY OF THE WORLD WRITTEN IN RINGS by Valerie Trouet; MONTESSORI TODDLER DISCIPLINE - PARENTING TODDLERS IN THE DIGITAL AGE by Nicola Davies; ABUNDANTLY WELL - THE WISE WOMAN WAY by Susun Weed; YOUR BRAIN ON PLANTS - IMPROVE THE WAY YOU THINK AND FELL WITH SAFE AND PROVEN; MEDICINAL PLANTS AND HERBS by Nicolette Perry; SALMON AND ACORNS FEED OUR PEOPLE - COLONIALISM, NATURE AND SOCIAL ACTION by Kari Marie Norgaard; STAMPED - RACISM, ANTI-RACISM AND YOU by Jasyn Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi; STAMPED FROM THE BEGINNING - THE DEFINITIVE HISTORY OF RACISM IN AMERICA by Ibram X. Kendi; RIDGE RUNNER - ONE HUNDRED POEMS FROM RURAL VERMONT by Kristina Stykos; NAVIGATE YOUR STARS by Jesmyn Ward; OWN YOUR SELF - THE SURPRISING PATH BEYOND DEPRESSION, ANXIETY AND FATIGUE TO RECLAIMING YOUR AUTHENTICITY, VITALITY AND FREEDOM by Dr. Kelly Brogan; NATURALLY CURIOUS - A PHOTOGRAPHIC FIELD GUIDE AND MONTH BY MONTH JOURNEY; THROUGH THE FIELDS, WOODS AND MARSHES OF NEW ENGLAND by Mary Holland; THE TRUTHS WE HOLD - AN AMERICAN JOURNEY by Kamala Harris; SPOOK - SCIENCE TACKLES THE AFTERLIFE by Mary Roach; THE BEAUTY IN THE BREAKING - A MEMOIR by Michele Harper.

Picture Books MARGARET'S UNICORN by Briony May Smith. We are setting aside many, many others for the Baby Brunch dedications until the end of January.

Junior Fiction LAST KIDS ON EARTH - BOOKS ONE THROUGH SIX by Max Brallier; THE ICKABOG by J.K.Rowling.

Junior Non-Fiction THERE'S A MAP ON MY LAP by Trish Rabe; ME ON THE MAP by Joan Sweeney; HAZARDOUS TALES: BLADES OF FREEDOM by Nathan Hale; OCEAN SPEAKS - HOW MARIE THARPE REVEALED THE OCEAN'S BIGGEST SECRET by Jess Keating; COMMUNITY HELPERS FROM A TO Z by Bobbie Kalman.



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The Vermont Golden Dome Book Award (formerly the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award) was created to honor excellence in children's literature. Each year since 1957, Vermont students in grades four through eight have selected their favorite book from a list of 30 nominees carefully chosen from among hundreds of new books by a team of Vermont librarians and teachers. It is recommended that students read at least five of the year's nominated titles before voting for their favorite. Voting takes place in the spring, generally beginning in April.

Every year we acquire each of the titles on the Golden Dome list, and these books are among the most circulated youth books in the Library. The list is an excellent place to start if you are trying to help your middle-grade reader find something great to read. Encourage them to check out this year's list and get cracking so that they can vote for their favorite. It won't be long before a brand new list is before us.

Borrow a Moisture Meter The meter was provided to the Library via a new program from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Air Quality and Climate Division and the Vermont Department of Libraries. Use the hand-held meter to make sure your wood is dry enough to burn safely and efficiently. See our webpage for more information.

Valentine Take and Make Craft Valentine take and make craft bags include all the supplies necessary for kids to make a cheerful Valentine puppet. Stop by the library foyer during pick up hours to get a free bag for your little person between February 1 through February 13 while supplies last. The craft is most appropriate for kids ages 4 - 8. You will also find themed coloring sheets and mazes in the foyer. Help yourself whenever the library foyer is open.

Winter Reading We have many winter-themed picture books in the collection that are eager to be read before the flowers bloom this spring. Browse our online catalog and put specific items on hold through your library account or ask us to pick out a few for you. We love putting together book bundles and kids love surprises!

New Adult Books ETCHED IN BONE by Anne Bishop, MURDER IN BEL-AIR by Cara Black, A PREY TO MURDER, and HARBOUR STREET, both Ann Cleeves, MIDNIGHT IN CHERNOBYL by Adam Higginbotham, BIRD IN HAND by Christina Baker Kline, GIDEON THE NINTH by Tamsyn Muir, OWLS OF THE EASTERN ICE by Jonathan Slaght, and BREAKFAST AT THE HONEY CREEK CAFE by Jodi Thomas.

On December 21, Jane Vossler of the Community Senior Center held a virtual meeting to discover favorite titles of 2020. Readers' favorite books were: ON PLUTO: INSIDE THE MIND OF ALZHEIMERS by Greg O'Brien, TWO OLD WOMEN by Velma Wallis, NIGHT WOODS by Charles Frazier, ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL by James Herriot, A PLACE FOR US by Fatima Farheen Mirza, THE OVERSTORY by Richard Powers, THE PULL OF THE STARS by Emma Donoghue, ENTANGLED LIFE: HOW FUNGI MAKE OUR WORLD, CHANGE OUR MINDS AND SHAPE OUR FUTURES by Merlin Sheldrake, THE GREAT INFLUENZA: THE STORY OF THE DEADLIEST PANDEMIC IN HISTORY by John M. Barry, BEFORE AND AFTER: THE INCREDIBLE REAL-LIFE STORIES OF ORPHANS WHO SURVIVED THE TENNESSEE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY by Lisa Wingate and Judy Christie, READING WITH PATRICK by Michelle Kuo, THE

SPLENDID AND THE VILE: A SAGA OF CHURCHILL, FAMILY AND DEFIANCE DURING THE BLITZ by Eric Larson, THE OPTIMIST'S DAUGHTER by Eudora Welty, HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD INSIDE THE MIND OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY by Robert Kolker, THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS IS by Laurie Frankel, SUMMERS by Elin Hildebrand, THE YEAR OF NECESSARY LIES by Chris Radish, DEACON KING KONG by James McBride, DAVID COPPERFIELD by Charles Dickens, GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER by Bernadine Evaristo, SHORT NIGHTS OF THE SHADOW CATCHER: THE EPIC LIFE AND IMMORTAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF EDWARD CURTIS by Timothy Egan, THE DAUGHTERS OF YALTA by Catherine Grace Katz, FRONT DESK by Kelly Yang, THE GREAT ALONE by Kristin Hannah, THE MIRROR AND THE LIGHT by Hillary Mantel, THE OWLS OF THE EASTERN ICE by Jonathan Slaght, DOING JUSTICE: A PROSECUTOR'S THOUGHTS ON CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND THE RULE OF LAW by Prett Bahara, and DISAPPEARING EARTH by Julia Phillips. Most of these titles are owned by the Library.

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Remember that our collection is not limited to physical items in the building or book downloads. Additional resources found on our website include the following:

Learning Express is an eLearning platform that provides support to students and professionals for academic skill-building, tutorials, occupational exploration, standardized test prep, career certification test prep and more. Patrons will create their own account where they can keep track of modules explored. Brush up on your math, science or writing skills, study for the GED, SAT, ACT, GRE, LSAT, MCAT, a variety of Allied Health Certifications, Firefighting, Plumbing and more. Explore the possibilities at Learning Express.

The Vermont Online Library offers a wide range electronic information databases on a variety of topics for all age levels, for generalists as well as specialists. Its information is from well-known and trusted publishers and licensed by the State of Vermont from the Gale Group and H.W. Wilson. These resources are available 24 hours a day from any computer with internet access, not just your library. A few of the resources include the Chilton Library (automotive repair), Health and Wellness, PowerSpeak (foreign languages), Newsstand (full-text newspapers), Career Transitions (career advice, including job search strategies) and many more.

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VEC Offers Range of Energy Transformation 2021 Incentives

Vermont Electric Co-op (VEC) is continuing to offer a wide variety of bill credits this year for members who purchase certain electricity-powered devices for their homes or businesses to transition away from fossil fuels. Incentives are designed to help members choose technologies for heating and cooling their homes, for transportation, that are more modern, cleaner and less expensive over the long term.

This year, VEC and Efficiency Vermont are working to offer a single point of purchase incentive for ductless heat pumps. The result is that members will get VEC's incentive, combined with the Efficiency Vermont incentive, at the time they buy the heat pump instead of applying for the credit post-purchase.

2021 bill credits are available for heat pumps, pellet stoves, heat pump water heaters, electric vehicles, electric vehicle charging equipment, including home Level II chargers and for publicly-available charging stations, other machinery including residential lawn mowers and for commercial-scale mowers and electric forklifts, Zero Energy Modular Homes.

Custom opportunities: VEC's Clean Air Program (CAP) can help replace fossil fuel usage, and reduce carbon emissions, through electric service upgrades or line-extensions. Each project is customized to meet the needs of the member and the co-op. Contact VEC if you think you might have a suitable project for the CAP program.

VEC's bill credit program benefits the entire co-op membership – not just those who take advantage of the program – because the incentives pay for themselves through additional electric sales. Over the past three years, VEC helped eliminate the consumption of over five million gallons of fossil fuel. That's the equivalent of taking over 14,000 cars off the road for one year.

Some of the VEC incentives are in addition to other qualified incentives or rebates, including Efficiency Vermont incentives and new statewide electric vehicle incentives, as well as potential tax incentives.

Learn more by calling 1-800-832-2667.

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Barrett Grimm

After touching on the subject in relation to the Town Budget at multiple meetings, the Selectboard formally warned a discussion of how to hold the 2021 Town Meeting on the agenda for its December 28 meeting. Three options were under consideration: hold the in-person meeting as usual in a space large enough to follow public health guidelines; wait until warmer weather and hold the meeting in an outside setting or possibly the Sand Shed; or vote for all articles by Australian ballot with a required informational hearing via Zoom.

Two emails were received on the subject, both of which favored an in-person meeting at a warmer date to promote a sense of community and, as Duncan Keir put it “Gathering in one meeting place allows for the most comprehensive consideration of the articles by the voters.” Keir also stressed that “logistics and safety are the primary concerns” and after thoughtful consideration, the Selectboard chose not to bank on rosy projections for vaccine distribution. For 2021 only, all Town Meeting articles will be voted on by Australian ballot.

Also under discussion was how best to inform people concerning items on the ballot. By statute, the Selectboard would be required to hold an informational hearing sometime in the ten days leading up to the election. The Selectboard scheduled that hearing to occur by Zoom on February 27. The Selectboard also has preliminarily planned to hold less formal informational sessions in conjunction with its regular meetings. To the suggestion that written information could be included in any early ballot requests, Town Clerk Heidi Racht countered that “that’s what the Town Report is for.” One of the Town Auditors, Patricia Baumann, who was in attendance, agreed that a full 11" x 17" page of the report could be dedicated to Selectboard explanations of articles, including the budget article.

Budget The Selectboard has striven to limit the 2021-2022 budget to a one percent increase. Some difficult decisions were necessary to do so. Several capital projects have been pushed out to respond to the extraordinary financial situation the Town is facing. One of the hardest choices was not including a replacement for Town Truck 3. The equipment replacement schedule and Capital Plan called for its replacement this year but it would mean a significant budget increase. Road Foreman Clinton “Yogi” Alger said that if the truck isn’t replaced this year, estimated repairs would increase that budget by \$10,000 and the trade-in value would be reduced by \$15,000 or more. The Selectboard is considering a contingency to ask the voters to pass an article to use General Fund Fund Balance monies to purchase the truck if a sufficient amount is available. The GFF Balance is dollars left over from past budgets caused by greater than projected non-tax revenues. The first priority for use of those funds, however, must be covering any shortfalls in tax revenues for the current fiscal year. If, by the close of the budget year, collected tax dollars are sufficient, it may be possible to purchase the truck as scheduled.

Delaying capital projects necessarily impacted the Projected Capital Spending schedule. While neither the budget nor the Capital Plan has been finalized as of this writing, the current projection is for a 0.3 percent tax rate reduction in the 2021-2022 budget. That reduction results in an average annual tax rate increase of 7.1 percent over the following five years, up from the projection from the 2019 Town Report of an average 4.6 tax increase during that same period. It will take some years to fully recover from the current financial situation.

Plowing On December 21, Alger reviewed the rationale for the Town contracting for clearing snow for municipal buildings parking lots and walkways such as the Town Office, Town Hall,

and Library. It is more efficacious to hire that service out than to have the Road Crew do it as it’s important that the lots be plowed before the buildings open, both for the convenience of those using the buildings but also so the plows don’t have to work around cars, and the priority for the Town trucks at that hour must be clearing the roads.

Proposed Community Forest For the past several months, the Community Forest Stewardship Committee (CFSC) has been gathering public comments to inform the drafting of a Stewardship Plan for the proposed Huntington Community Forest (HCF). Concurrent with that activity, the CFSC had been preparing an Interim Management Plan, as required by the United States Forest Service grant, and presented it to the Selectboard for its consideration on December 7. CFSC Chair Aaron Worthley clarified some definitions regarding trails and promised to reinsert the statement disallowing foraging that was inadvertently omitted. Selectboard member Everett Lewis, Jr. questioned whether the Town had any liability issues regarding use of the HCF, to which Kate Wanner of the Trust for Public Land responded that Vermont Statute protects municipalities from liability claims if access fees are not being charged. The Selectboard also listened to concerns regarding the possible expansion of hunting on the property during the interim period but, with the final Stewardship Plan expected to be in place before the next deer season, approved the plan without further addressing hunting.

After review by the Town Attorney and conferences with attorneys for the Vermont Land Trust to iron out some details, the Selectboard also approved the Conservation Easement for the HCF. A permanent easement was also approved for the path across Amethyst Peaslee’s property that connects the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School grounds to the Town Complex including the Recreation Field and the portion of the HCF along the Huntington River. Contracts of Sale and Warranty Deed, and Notification of Appraised Value were also approved during December, and the State confirmed receipt of the application for Clean Water Revolving Loan funds. The projected closing date has been pushed out to February but everything is on track for the property acquisition.

Other Business The Planning Commission (HPC) made an offer to a qualified candidate for the open Zoning Administrative Officer (ZOA) position that was ultimately declined. The HPC is exploring the possibility of a shared ZOA with the Town of Richmond which, between the two towns, would be a full-time post.

The Road Crew removed fencing that had been put up to block Town Highway 9 off of Happy Hollow Road. Alger was instructed to keep the Selectboard informed of any additional activity and Elliott was designated to draft a courtesy letter to the person likely responsible for installing the fence informing him that blocking access to a Town roadway is a violation of State statute subject to civil action and a fine.

Reporter Needed

Becoming the Times Ink reporter covering the Huntington Selectboard meetings may be just the job for you.

The paper is looking for an independent reporter to cover the meetings. The position has a stipend.

Qualifications:

1. write an objective, interesting report;
2. meet the deadline;
3. computer and internet access.

During COVID, the meetings are held remotely on Zoom and can be attended from home.

Please email your interest: news@timesinkvt.org



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Who Controls Policing Policy in Richmond? It's Complicated

by John Ely

On Monday, January 4, the Richmond Selectboard logged on to its first meeting of the year. Dominating the agenda was a discussion of Vermont's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy, a contentious issue that swelled the virtual gathering to the platform's maximum capacity of 100 people.

It was among the highest turnouts the Selectboard has ever seen, said Town Manager Josh Arneson. That's due, in part, to members of local group Richmond Racial Equity (RRE), which formed in spring, 2020, following the death of George Floyd.

Promoting racial justice in law enforcement is one of the group's priorities, and at the Selectboard meeting, RRE argued for a town ordinance prohibiting local police from cooperating with federal agencies on issues of immigration status. Supporting them, and adding personal testimonials about challenges faced by immigrants in Vermont, were members of Burlington-based advocacy organization Migrant Justice.

"We've had to live with the fear of being arrested, that we could be separated from our families, fear to go out to the store," said dairy worker and Migrant Justice leader Rossy Alfaro. She described how some migrant workers are leery of approaching the police for help, "because of that same fear that they could then call immigration."

The ordinance that RRE and Migrant Justice support would close a loophole in Vermont's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy, the groups said. Current policies mandate that law enforcement officers do not single out individuals based on suspected immigration status, but some communities across the state, including Winooski, have chosen to implement more stringent limits on police.

It's has been the subject of ongoing talks between RRE, Arneson, a Selectboard representative, and Acting Police Chief Kyle Kapitanski. "We

were not getting anywhere in terms of coming to consensus so we decided to bring it back to the Selectboard," wrote RRE founding member Ann Naumann via email. But at the meeting, a different point of contention emerged: Who controls Richmond Police Department policy?

The police do, the Selectboard asserted at the meeting. "[Our lawyer's] finding is that it is the police chief and not the Selectboard who would adopt the policy," Arneson said.

That contradicts a position held by RRE and the Vermont chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, whose chair, Kira Kelley, also attended the meeting.

"I'm a little bit baffled, to be quite honest, at the thought that the police department could have unfettered discretion... on policies," Kelley said, countering that the Selectboard itself holds that power.

The tension reflects broader struggles—both in Vermont and nationwide—over who controls policing. Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger recently vetoed a Burlington City Council proposal to create a community control board overseeing the police department, for example, arguing that it would compromise public safety.

For now, the Selectboard plans to draft a resolution for adoption by its January 19 meeting, in support of the enhanced policy on Fair and Impartial Policing Policy. Acting Chief of Police Kyle Kapitanski said he was prepared to sign the resolution when it is presented to him.

Representatives of Richmond Racial Equity expressed concern that a resolution, rather than an ordinance, would leave Richmond's future police leadership the leeway to set their own policies. But Selectboard member Katie Mather assured the group that a tighter version of Vermont's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy would indeed be implemented.

"We support the updated FIPP," Mather said.

"We don't have to worry about whose lawyer says what. We found a way to move forward."

Richmond Installs Electric Vehicle Charging Station

The Town of Richmond has installed a Charge-Point Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Richmond Village, at the Town Center parking lot, providing level-2 charging for up to two vehicles. The station is close to various restaurants and shops, Volunteers' Green park and playground, the historic Round Church, and extensive hiking and biking trails.

The new station provides the first publicly-available EV charging close to I-89 Exit 11, serving travelers on the Montpelier-Burlington corridor as well as regular visitors and local residents. The charging station will help new visitors discover all that the Richmond village has to offer.

Greenhouse gas emissions for an electric vehicle in New England are equivalent to a car getting about 100 miles per gallon, due to the relatively clean electric power supply - making EVs one of the best options in Vermont for lowering our climate impact. Electric vehicle registrations have been increasing in Vermont by about 40% each year, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project aligned with Richmond's Town

Plan, including the commitment to the State's energy goal of 90% renewable energy across all sectors by 2050, and to "support the installation of private and public electric vehicle charging stations in convenient locations."

The EV Charging Station was funded in large part with grant funds from the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Mitigation Trust



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MMUUSD Board Report

Muller is New CHMS Principal

Reported by Diane Wester
December 2020 meetings

Budget Bad News Under Act 46 the State of Vermont has mandated a universal budget form for all school districts. Therefore, those familiar with last year's system will find it difficult to follow the new spread sheets. The MMUUSDs annual public budget information meeting (virtual) will be February 18, 2020. The link to this meeting can be found on the School Board Home Page at www.mmuusd.org.

Information not yet available from the Vermont Agency of Education includes: revenue projection, special education funding, the state of the Education Fund, and the approved Property Yield (formerly base education amount) number. The Tax Commissioner sent a memorandum to Vermont's legislative leadership on December 1 forecasting a 9% average increase to taxpayers. "A lot can happen between now and May," said Superintendent John Alberghini.

For those elements within the control of the school district, the proposed budget increase at the time of this writing is 2.95%. Increases are scheduled for IT hardware and support, and vocational education.

The position of School Resource Officer (SRO) – generally a Richmond Police officer shared between the elementary and middle schools part time) is still being discussed. Some residents would like to see any money allocated to more student support. The overall budget can be approved without specific line-item expense for

an SRO. "We had more than a half-dozen people at the last budget meeting speaking against hiring an SRO," said Edye Graning, School Board Chair. Information is being gathered concerning this position, and will be presented in a January meeting.

The Board will need to approve the budget the first meeting in January, 2021.

Give Us Some Good News! The post-merger budget has created more spending equity amongst schools. The COVID crisis has sped up the process of providing one computer per student to facilitate virtual learning. Because of this, weaknesses in the virtual infrastructure have been discovered and are being addressed. The District is studying how the creation of new outdoor learning spaces at some schools can be integrated into post-COVID curriculum.

Projection of K-4 enrollment post pandemic is for an increase in students. Home schooling families have been contacted, and there will be a "rebound" post-COVID, said Alberghini.

Union Contracts Contract agreements for the current year have been reached with both the teachers and the support personnel and approved (they have been working without one). This is a one-year agreement due to COVID, and any changes at this time will not be considered precedent. Too much uncertainty concerning future revenue stream exists. The 3% of new money in the budget includes the "step" increase for employees. Accommodations have been made for the Governor's mandated orders

(agreed to by the Union), and for the varying schedule of canceled school days, etc.

COVID Stats As of December 14, only six staff and/or students tested positive for Covid 19. It is unlikely the transmission occurred at school. A grant for up to \$500,000 has been acquired to upgrade HVAC systems in the schools, making for cleaner, healthier air.

Anti-Racism Statement The Anti-Racism Statement was read aloud and approved unanimously. In part, it states that the School District not only promises to be anti-racist in word and deed, but will strive in an active, educational way to combat racism in the future. It also acknowledges that racism exists in the School District. The one page document can be viewed on-line at www.mmuusd.org.

Graning will be the facilitator for Anti-Bias, Anti-Racism (ABAR) training for the Board – which will be held off-camera. The ABAR audit of physical spaces took longer than anticipated, and was to have been completed by January 8.

New Principals The new Principal for Camels Hump Middle School will be Gretchen Muller. The new Principal for Jericho Elementary School will be Darik Williams.

Tam Smith, Richmond resident, spoke at the December 21 meeting, expressed disappointment that a current MMUUSD employee Galen Perkins was not chosen as new principal of Jericho Elementary Center. A discussion of the selection process was evaluated in Executive Session.



Gretchen Muller will step into the leadership role on July 1, 2021 as the Principal for Camels Hump Middle School, the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District administration recently announced.

Muller will succeed Mark Carbone, who announced this retirement at the end of this school year, after 15 years CHMS Principal.

Muller has a Master of Science in Education from Mount Saint Mary College and a Bachelor of Science from Plymouth State College. She also has a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Leadership from Saint Michael's College. Currently the Principal at Stowe High School where she has worked for the last 1.5 years. Prior to this position, she was a Rowland Fellow, Co-Coordinator of the YES Program and Teacher-Leader and Science Educator with the Burlington School District.

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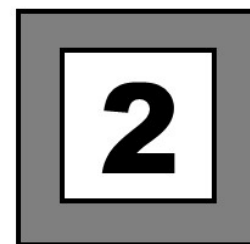
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Huntington Student Stories and Poetry

The Animal Show

One day Auntie Kerr and Unc came to my house. They talked to my Mommy. She nodded. “Eli and Benji do you want to come with us for a surprise?” said Unc. “Yes!” Benji and I said at the same time. We ran outside and jumped into Unc’s car. “Whoa! Not so fast!” Unc yelled after us. We buckled our seat belts. “Yay!” Benji screamed. “Too loud!” I wailed. “Benji. Quiet!” Unc snapped back. “Okay,” whimpered Benji in a high-pitched voice. A half hour later we stopped. “Are we there yet?” Benji asked. “No,” Unc explained. “We are just dropping off Auntie Kerr.” “Okay,” sighed Benji. I stayed quiet.

We went around the block. When we came back, Auntie Kerr was waiting for us. We stopped and she got in. Then we stopped at a very big building. “Unc, are we there yet?” I asked. “Yes!” Unc yelled excitedly. We walked inside. We walked to a check out table. Unc signed us in. Then we walked into a big room with a stage. We sat down in the front row. People were on the stage. They were showing animals and talking about them. All the animals they were talking about were mammals. Then the people got off of the stage.

One person got on the stage. Then he took his hat off. He asked for someone to put on the hat. A girl put her hand up. The man on the stage said, “You,” and he pointed at her. She came onto the stage. He put his hat on her head. Then he started to talk about cockroaches. Then he asked her to look inside the hat. She looked inside the hat. “COCKROACHES!” she screeched scaredly. “It is okay,” said the man. “Okay,” the girl responded, still a bit shaking. Then he gestured to one more person to come on the stage. One teenager raised his hand. The man pointed at him, he came onto the stage. He put two cockroaches in his hands. “YUCK IT POOPED ON ME!” yelled the teenager. “Here is some hand sanitizer.” Then they walked off the stage.

Then he got a VERY, VERY BIG BOX! He pulled out a COBRA! “Who would like to HOLD IT?” I raised my hand instantly. “You,” he said, pointing at me. I walked up on the stage. He put the big snake on my shoulders. It was at least 18 FEET LONG. It was dry and heavy. Unc took a few photos. The man took the cobra off my back. I ran back to my spot. He asked a few people to come onto the stage. They agreed. They came onto the stage.

Then the man pulled out a...PYTHON! “No no!” Part 2 coming soon! Yay!
—Eli Detweiler, Second Grade

Free Verse Poems

Trampoline

I love my trampoline. Boing!
I love playing on it a lot of times.
My trampoline you can flip on it.
I can’t backflip on it yet.

My Lizard

My lizard travels around my bedroom.
He tries to run away from me.
I catch him.
I take him out for Christmas.
He is fun, really fun.
I have lots of time with him.
His bites are sharp as a pricker.
—Savanna Holland, Second Grade

Bear

Bear is fuzzy and funny (ha, ha, ha)
And hibernates all winter
And lives in a cave with funny bunny
(What do you get when you toss a book
into the ocean? A title wave!)

And eats berries in the summer.
—Ansel Enman, Second Grade

It’s Christmas

It’s Christmas
It’s Christmas
Birds flying high
A box just arrives outside my door
I wonder what’s inside.
—Calla Jewett, First Grade

My Cat

My cat
She’s soft
She’s playful
She’s fun
She’s smooth
I love her
My family loves her
She was my cat.
—Willa Loomis, First Grade

Acrostic Poems

DAD

D onuts
A wesome
D andy

CARSON

C ook
A wesome
R unner
S mart
O nly son
N ature Lover
—Carson Van Horn, Second Grade

BODE

B est
O melet
D etective
E ver

BENJAMIN

B enjamin
Extraordinary
N aughty
J iggley
A wesome
M ega
I nstantly
N aughty
—Eli Detweiler, Second Grade

ETHAN

E than
T errific
H elpful
A rtistic
N ever on time

MATT

M erry
A nd
T all he likes
T o hunt
—Ethan Hemme, Second Grade

After School

After school, I went home and got out my bottle rocket launcher. But it did not work, so my dad helped me. The first time he tried something on it, it did not work, so he found some special tape. He put the tape on the nozzle on the bottle rocket launcher then he slid a little cap on it. I put a bolt on it, then my dad started pumping the pump that connected to the bottle rocket launcher. The bottle started to fill up with air. Then at 60 PSI, I pulled the rope that would release the bottle. BOOM! The bottle shot into the air. It went high, it went higher than the tallest tree you can see. Then it started to come down. “Yay!” I shouted as it streaked toward the ground. I ran to get it then we did it again. I love launching bottle rockets.
—Cooper Strite, Second Grade

Stories and Poetry are the work of the First and Second Graders of Ms. Motta’s Class at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School.

Town Meeting Day

continued from page 1

elections were safe and all COVID precautions were in place. It all went rather well." In both towns, voters entering the schools will be required to wear a mask.

She noted that in addition to the six articles currently under consideration (deadline for the Town Meeting warning is after the publication of this issue), the Huntington ballot will have 14 positions up for election.

Candidates for Office Another area addressed by Act 162 is the elimination for the 2021 elections for the need of candidates to circulate petitions to run "for a local election that is held at a 2021 municipal meeting."

Instead, anyone wishing to get on the ballot, needs to submit the Consent of Candidate form to the Town Clerk by 5 pm on Monday, January 25. For a list of offices up for election in both towns on March 2, see page 12.

The sample ballots will be posted in the community, will be printed in the Town Report, and available for viewing on the towns' websites.

A ballot can be requested by calling the Richmond Town Office at 434-2221 or Lparent@richmondvt.gov. They will be mailed as soon as they are printed.

Huntington's information for voting: huntingtonelections@gmavt.net or 434-2032.

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Weather Report

continued from page 1

continued through the month, the season's third and fourth heat waves contributing to the hottest month ever recorded, average temperature some 6F above normal. A total of 11 days in the 90s for the year, many also surely noting abnormally high overnight temperatures.

wind and rain then came, leaving Christmas Day green and rainy with record temperatures in the mid-60s. Colder weather ended the month: skating returned.

On a wider scale, the 2019-2020 winter season was the second warmest ever nationally, with December and January the warmest on record for the USA going back at least to 1895. One explanation given was an unusually strong Arctic Polar Vortex that kept cold weather fenced



Summer drought empties Gillett Pond in 2020. Inset, the pond in a non-drought year.

More of the same for much of August, though we were blessed with remnant rains from Hurricane Isaias. Fall-like temperatures were appreciated at its end, fall clearly on the way with September. Many will recall the milky skies caused by raging forest fires out west. Frost came mid-month, early by recent standards. Month-ending rains were welcomed, still leaving overall drought conditions. By now vegetable gardens were yielding bumper crops for many.

October rains began the slow recovery from drought conditions. Fall colors were strong though short-lived. Early November then brought delightful, extended Indian Summer, with temperatures in the 60s and record-breaking 70s. The first real snow fell on Mt. Mansfield mid-month, our first snow up on Wes White Hill shortly thereafter. A major storm at the end of the month brought temperatures in the 60s together wind-driven power outages throughout the area, leaving generators humming. By month's end, we were further than ever before into the Greek alphabet in the Tropical Storm / Hurricane name-game.

Pond Skating Begins, Ends, Begins Again December began with storm leftover cleanup. Local ponds nearly emptied by the previous lengthy dry spell continued to refill. Mid-month brought a major Nor-Easter that EYE ON THE SKY assured us was one of the greatest storms of all-time, certain to be in the next edition of PERLEY'S HISTORIC STORMS OF NEW ENGLAND. In excess of four feet of snow mid-state, though we in Richmond were barely brushed. This was followed by cold temperatures allowing near perfect skating and skiing on local ponds much of the week before Christmas. However,

in. Above average temperatures then continued for the 48 contiguous states for the first half of the year, Vermont by some 3.5F.

Warmest Temperatures Ever The warmest June-August period ever was recorded with July the hottest ever worldwide. Hot-spot examples: Alaska broke its all-time high temperature record by 5F; locations in Siberia topped 100F for the first time ever; a new all-time high temperature record of 130F was set in Death Valley. In sum, 2020 may end up being the hottest ever, at worst a close second to 2016, data still coming in at this writing. Interestingly, 2020 overall was a La Nina year which normally causes a reduction in world temperatures.

Accompanying the warm weather in many areas beyond our own was drought. Forests took a beating due to catastrophic fires, most noted in the News in Australia and on our own West Coast, millions of acres, uncountable wildlife lost as well. As reported in Science human-driven warming worsens drought conditions.

While on the subject of anthropomorphic effects, global human-made mass (think plastics, metals, concrete...) now exceeds all living biomass, as reported in Nature: on averaged over the world, each person every week produces human-made mass exceeding body weight.

Glacial Retreat Our poles continue to take the biggest hit in all of this. Chunks of ice covering over 100 square kilometers broke off from just one Greenland glacier. As reported by the BBC, not only high temperatures but also more clear blue skies caused glacier and snow-cover reduction, reducing snowfall by billions of tons. Reduced snow cover also exposes bare,

continue to page 11

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New Years Skating. Photos: Bob Low

dark surfaces to absorb more heat, a positive feedback loop for which no end is in sight. The cause for the sunny weather may have been an unusual "waviness" in the jet stream which caused persistent high pressure in the north.

At the opposite pole, the UN's World Meteorological Organization reported temperatures on the Antarctic continent have risen by almost 3C over the past 50 years, causing major glacier retreat. The demise of one glacier in particular, Thwaites, the "most important" / "riskiest" / "doomsday" glacier, roughly the size of Britain, already accounts for some 4% of world sea level rise each year. There is enough water in Thwaites to raise world sea level by more than half a meter. Indeed, glaciers have been the biggest contributor to sea-level rise over the 20th Century.

Finally, examples of extreme weather abounded. As discussed, this year gave us a record setting number of tropical storms, hurricanes with

names reaching well into the Greek alphabet to Iota; and with record ferocity. There were several consecutive hits for our coast and especially for meso-America which was hit by Category 5 storms a few days apart.

Here, the strong La Nina may have played an important role by reducing, wind shear, increasing hurricane growth and intensity. By hurricane season end, eleven had visited our shores compared with a normal of six. Other weather extremes included the August derecho-caused line of devastation in our Midwest; massive floods devastating Japan and China; and, of course, prolonged heat and drought.

The turn of the year brought calm weather with moderate temperatures. Splendid skating on Gillett Pond New Year's Eve, Day and following. A year full of promise ahead!

(Bob Low: 434-3132 / bob.low@uvm.edu)

Area Residents Honored

Vermont Excellence in Architecture Awards

The American Institute of Architects, Vermont Chapter (AIAVT) announced the recipients of its 2020 Excellence in Architecture Design Awards program at its annual meeting, held virtually on December 10, 2020. Six projects were chosen for demonstrating an "extraordinary level of competence" from twenty six entries submitted by AIAVT member architects. The jurors were all members of AIA Canada Society. The jury was asked to consider granting awards based on design excellence and sustainable design principles at three levels: Honor (first), Merit (second), and Citation (third). The jury convened virtually.



Lathhouse Architect: Birdseye. Photo: Michael Moran

Birdseye of Richmond received two Merit Awards. One for Lathhouse, a single family home located in Sagaponack, New York, and another for Field House, a single family home located in South Kingston, Rhode Island.

The architecture of Lathhouse is conceptually inspired by the eponymous lath house; a tradi-

tional gabled farm structure made primarily of wood laths or slats spaced to reduce sunlight while permitting ventilation. At Lathhouse, the slats are both contextual and purposeful, reimagined as siding that functions to provide privacy screening, to limit interior light emittance, and used as solar shading. The singular exterior material of weathered wood cladding, made from decades-old corral board fencing, reflects a timeless patina reminiscent of the barns and outbuildings in rural landscapes.

Field House is composed of two separate gable volumes: a two-story main house and a one-story garage, knitted together with a perpendicular exterior walkway and an intermittent full-height sitewall. The residence is designed to create an engaged relationship with the landscape. The architectural massing extends the composition into a large meadow to the west while integrating views that promote engagement with the outdoors. Contrasting tones of black stain and clear western red cedar layer onto the architectural elements to reinforce the visual relationships of the forms.

Details and images for all of the projects can be found at: <https://www.aiavt.org/awards/20awards>. New this year, AIA Vermont has published a booklet featuring the six winning projects, as well as images of all of the entries received. The booklet will be available in both digital and print format, and can be viewed here: https://issuu.com/aiavt/docs/201211_aiavt_design_award_book

continue to page 15

**Richmond
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Church**
United Church of Christ



*Love God,
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Sunday Worship
10 am

Livestream on our Facebook:
www.facebook.com/rccucc

February 14 RCC Annual Meeting
after church (via Zoom)
February 17 Ash Wednesday service
7 pm (via Zoom)

Contact us for login information
by email at church@rccucc.org
Pastor Katelyn B. Macrae
434-2053
website: www.rccucc.org



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News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington
Rev. David Wood, Interim Pastor
(revdrwvt@gmavt.net) 989-6030

Greetings to all of you from HCC! It is a new year... 2021. I hope everyone had a safe, and joyful holiday season. It was certainly different for the church. As I held my candle in the church, I imagined the light of candles lit in many homes on Christmas Eve. That made it special. And New Year's Eve, well, it was quiet!

But writing this on January 8, our nation has gone through a trying time as once more we would be transferring power from one administration to another. On the heels of Christmastide, and in fact, on the Day of Epiphany, when the church celebrates the wise men from the East coming to bring gifts to Jesus, I was driving through Huntington and listened to the radio. The events of the siege of the Capitol were just unfolding. It was distressing and all sorts of emotions began to rise in me: sorrow, anger, disbelief and disillusionment and yes, anger that this could happen in our country. But as I reflected on it, I was forced to consider what my response should be as a Christian... and a leader in the church of Jesus Christ.

I wanted to lay blame, and it would be easy to do. It seems folks in the country have been trading insults and placing blame on 'the other side' for years now. I think we had forgotten that 'those others' were brothers and sisters, neighbors and community members just like us. Somehow in our country we had drawn lines in the sand and those 'on the other side of the line' were discounted. I believe some in the Christian Church were drawn into this dichotomy and forgot their common identity before the God we worship.

But as I place our current events within the context of the Christian story and ask myself 'what Jesus would have me do?' ...well, compassion, forgiveness, and caring for the least among us and others before self, come to mind. If indeed, Epiphany is the church season when we realize God's Good News of love and acceptance is for everyone, then perhaps this season, (what I call the Aha! Season) of new understandings, is our time to think about what we can do for one another as well as try and see a new reality we might strive for that includes others and cares for others. May we live the words of hope and love, compassion and forgiveness

Locally, I've seen this new reality played out as folks here find ways to express care and love. I've appreciated how so many have found ways to stay connected and encourage hospitality and kindness. I find hope and promise in this and think the Christ I have come to know and follow, is pleased. The world will always have troubles, discord and divisions. I pray that we, as the church of Jesus Christ, might stand as a witness to something greater; an unquenchable joy and a peace surpassing all understanding!

The Psalmist writes: "...that His glory may dwell in our land.... Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring from the ground and righteousness look down from the sky. The Lord will offer what is good and our land will yield its increase." (Ps. 85:9b-12)

I know, this is a bit different than my usual column but folks, I see an opportunity before us as we strive to live out the New Understandings of Epiphany. Blessings, Pastor Dave

Towns of Richmond & Huntington

Positions Open for March 2, 2021
Town Meeting Vote by Australian Ballot

RICHMOND	
Position	Length of Term
Moderator	1 year
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Constable	1 year
Cemetery Trustee	5 years
Library Trustee	5 years
MMUU School Director	3 years

To run for one of the positions on the ballot, your completed Consent of Candidate form must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 25, 2021. Consent forms to be completed to get on the ballot are available from the town clerk at Lparent@richmond-vt.gov or at SOS.vermont.gov

HUNTINGTON	
Position	Length of Term
Auditor	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	5 years
Delinquent Tax Collector	3 years
Library Trustee (2 positions)	3 years
Lister	3 years
Lister - remainder of 3-year term	2 years
Moderator	1 year
Planning Commission (2 positions)	3 years
Selectboard	3 years
Selectboard	2 years
Town Clerk	3 years
MMUU School Director	3 years

In order to run for any office, you must request of Consent of Candidate form from the Town Clerk's Office. These forms are also available at www.huntingtonvt.org

The completed and signed Consent of Candidate form must be returned to the Huntington Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Act No. 162 (\$354). Elections; local elections; Australian ballot; municipal legislative bodies; local candidate petitions; year 2021 An act relating to using Australian ballot for municipal meetings in the year 2021.

This act applies to municipal meetings in the year 2021. It notwithstands current law to allow a municipality to apply the Australian ballot system to any or all of its municipal meetings held in the year 2021 by vote of its legislative body. It also notwithstands current law to eliminate the requirement for a person to collect voter signatures in order to have the person's name placed on the ballot as a candidate for a local election that is held at a 2021 municipal meeting.

—Effective Date: October 5, 2020



2021 Schedule

January 7 deadline
January 21 issue

Town Meeting Preview

February 4 deadline
February 18 issue

March 11 deadline
March 25 issue

April 8 deadline
April 22 issue

May 13 deadline
May 27 issue

June 17 deadline
July 1 issue

July 29 deadline
August 12 issue

September 9 deadline
September 23 issue

October 7 deadline
October 21 issue

Holiday Issues

November 4 deadline
November 18 issue

December 2 deadline
December 16 issue

Calendar of Events

Please note: Due to the changing meeting venues and cancellation of events, this section has been suspended and will resume when appropriate.

Regular Meetings Held Remotely during COVID

Go to the town's website for the meeting link.

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 among the MMMUSD schools. Check the website for specifics: www.cesu.k12.vt.us.

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

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

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

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: as needed, 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).

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, Huntington Public Library, 434-4583

HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Town Office (downstairs)

COMMUNITY GROUPS:
May Not be Meeting. Call for information.

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

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

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.



GIVE BLOOD IN RICHMOND January 25



CSC Appoints New Board Members

The Community Senior Center announces the appointments of Robin Pecor-Brunell of Bolton and Kathie Templin of Richmond to its board of directors. They replace Doris Wheelock of Bolton and Betsy Emerson of Richmond who left the board after many years of service.

Pecor-Brunell has lived in Bolton most of her life, and her family has lived in the area for generations. Her career with the state spanned 35 years, mainly as the Adoption Clerk for all of Vermont. She had more than 1500 children on her caseload. Pecor-Brunell also started Girl Scouts for Bolton Smile School in 1993 and had over 30 girls in the troop when she retired after seven years. She also had a farm and sold a variety of products to area restaurants and stores. Robin's longstanding ties to Bolton add

to the CSC's ability to bring its many programs and activities to seniors in her town.

A retired social worker and business manager, Kathie Templin has a special interest in developing a transportation program to ensure all seniors can attend the CSC's programs they enjoy. Her assisting families with transportation as a social worker in UVM's dialysis units has given her a great deal of experience in this area. She also serves as a Richmond Library Trustee, delivers Meals on Wheels, and is on the Homeowner Selection Committee for Central Vermont Habitat for Humanity.

"We welcome Robin and Kathie as our new board members, and look forward to their help in bringing the opportunities we offer to all seniors," declared CSC Board Chair Jane Vossler. "We also express our sincere gratitude to Betsy Emerson and Doris Wheelock, whose contributions over the past decade helped establish a solid foundation for our future."

Worship

May be Meeting Remotely. Call for information.

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) 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.

All Things Human

continued from page 16

Experiencing increased anger and fear, we are scared and isolated. We feel detached. It's a vicious cycle. Ben Sasse of Nebraska believes that many people are joining the tribes for the sense of belonging that they no longer have in their neighborhoods. We have lost a sense of community and connection. "Alienated from each other ... we're reduced to shrieking," he wrote.

In our current world of stress and anxiety, we especially need to be heard. The purpose of analytically-oriented therapy is to listen and the "talking cure," so-named by "Anna O," was Freud's first psychoanalytic case study. Now, with improved health benefits, most people have coverage for psychotherapy which is commensurate with coverage for physical problems.

Humans need human connection and the chance to experience compassion, which society is incapable of offering. Many are feeling the deficit of empathy and an absence of respect for the rights of others. Neighbors and friends are important, but we want to feel acknowledged. We need to feel that someone is truly compassionate and empathic. We need to be able to put thoughts and feelings into words knowing we are heard.



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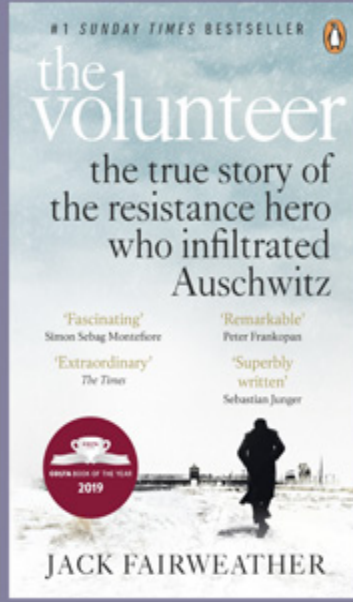
Jack Fairweather

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Pre-register at bethjacobvt.org for the zoom invite





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2021 Schedule

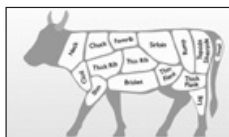
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Service Directory

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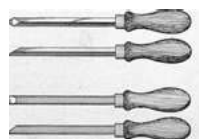


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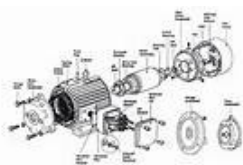
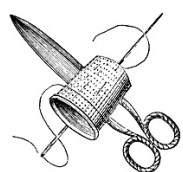
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Gardening Journal

Winterberry: A Native of Lasting Beauty

by Nadie VanZandt

Dominated by shades of gray, the landscape appears bleak in winter. Look closer and you may glimpse muted mauves in the distant mountains or the warm glow that envelopes the land at the golden hour.

If that doesn't satisfy your yearning for color, consider planting winterberry shrubs. Their allure is in the brilliant red berries that add a welcome splash of color to the winter landscape.

A native woody shrub of North America, the winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) is one of 30 species of deciduous holly hardy in U.S. plant hardiness zones 3 through 9. Commonly referred to as black alder or winterberry holly, it grows erect to a height of 5 to 12 feet with a similar spread.

In spring its slender branches are covered with small green leaves followed by clusters of tiny white flowers, about one-quarter inch wide, that grow in the leaves' axils (near the stem). In the fall, after shedding its leaves, the shrub reveals an impressive mass of berries of brilliant color varying from bright red to deep orange to golden yellow, depending on the cultivar.

Laden with brilliant berries, this shrub is even more striking in winter against a backdrop of snow and bare trees.

In addition to aesthetic year-round appeal, winterberries do not mind wet feet. They are ideal for boggy areas or rain gardens. In their natural habitat they grow in water-logged sites, swamps and near streams and ponds. In such wet environments they tend to form thickets and develop suckers, yet they are not invasive.

As is typical of the genus, the winterberry is dioecious, which means that each plant is either male or female. The gender is identified by the characteristic of its blossoms.

The male winterberry produces staminate flowers (with stamens) while the female produces pistillate flowers (with pistils). Since only pistillate flowers produce fruit, winterberries require a strategic planting of male and female plants to maximize pollination by insects for an abundance of berries.

Planting one male plant for every four or five female plants will optimize pollination and fruit production. Botanists recommend locating a male plant within 40 feet of a female plant. It is important to select male and female plants of the same flowering period for proper pollination by bees and butterflies.

Planting enough shrubs to share with wildlife could enhance the berry show in fall and winter. Many species of birds use this shrub for their nests and eat the berries. Although not a favorite of deer and moose, these mammals occasionally

browse on winterberry stems and leaves.

The best time to plant winterberries is in the spring. They are sold as bare rootstock, in containers or balled and burlapped. Be sure to take a soil sample to check the pH of the planting site, and amend the soil accordingly.

Winterberries look best planted "en masse" as a backdrop to other plants or at the forest edge. They grow well in full sun to part shade and



The winterberry, a native woody shrub with bright red berries, is an attractive addition to any garden. Photo: Kelsey VanZandt

thrive in moist soil, rich in humus, with a pH of 4.5-6.5.

Space them three to five feet apart, measuring from center to center. For best results, follow the planting guidelines recommended by the nursery where you purchase your plants.

Once established after two to three years in the ground, you can trim suckers and prune them to shape before growth emerges in early spring. As a bonus, winterberry branches with scarlet berries make attractive floral arrangements both indoor and outdoor during fall and winter.



The scarlet berries of the winterberry shrub add a pop of color to the winter landscape. Photo: Nadie VanZandt

This winter as you map out the plants you would like to add this year, consider giving this lovely native the place it deserves in your garden.

[Nadie VanZandt is a UVM Extension Master Gardener Intern from Panton.]

Area Residents Honored

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Fall 2020 President's List & Presidential Scholars

Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York: students must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Jonathan Thomas Aselin, Jericho, sophomore, Mechanical Engineering.

Rylee LeBourveau, Jericho, Senior, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

William J Smialek, Richmond, Sophomore, Computer Science / Mathematics.

Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.7 or better and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Isabel Thon, Richmond

Elizabeth Werner, Richmond

Darren Gravel, Richmond

Mason Combs and **Connor Philbrick**, Jericho

Charlotte Doyle, Starksboro, Castleton, Students must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 4.0.

Vermont Technical College, Randolph. Degree students carrying 12 or more letter-graded credit hours who achieve a GPA of 4.0 or higher.

Patrick Melvin, Starksboro, Electrical Engineering Technology

Brittany Rudacille, Jericho, Nursing

Fall 2020 Dean's List

Samuel Theron Hayden, Richmond, Freshman, Mechanical Engineering., Clarkson University.

Rachel Rackliff, Jericho, Junior, Civil Engineering, Clarkson University.

Students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours, Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York.

Allison Charland, Richmond, sophomore, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut

Jake Underwood, Huntington, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock Pennsylvania. Students earn 3.5 or higher, based on a schedule of at least 12 newly attempted and earned credits.

Mark Howland, Richmond, Castleton University

Robert Kelley, Starksboro, Castleton University

Students must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5. Castleton University, Castleton.

Andrew Champlin, Jericho, Class of 2021, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. Students must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition.

Jay L. Chandler, Huntington, Class of 2021, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, majoring in Business Administration/Finance. Students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

University of Vermont

Students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school.

Gina Airoidi, Jericho

Ella Bergin, Jericho

Alexa Bourbonnais, Richmond

Luke Bursell, Richmond

Grace Butler, Huntington

Kimberly Buzzell, Huntington

Emma Campbell, Starksboro

Virginia Churchill, Richmond

Eleanor Churchill, Richmond

Finley Clark, Richmond

Jacob Crawford, Jericho

Hannah Ducharme, Richmond

Aislynn Farr, Richmond

Steven Garcia, Jericho

Amanda Grzywna, Richmond

Hagen Harris, Richmond

Maia Hendrickson, Huntington

Eamonn Heney, Richmond

Joshua Hyder, Jericho

Logan Kenny, Jericho

Jonathan Knakal, Richmond

Isabella Mosca, Jericho

Letizia Mosca, Jericho

Alexander Naumann, Richmond

Zoey November, Huntington

Olivia Palmer, Jericho

Emma Parent, Richmond

Jack Parker, Richmond

Matthew Pawlowski, Richmond

Cory Raymond, Richmond

Allyson Rigutto, Huntington

Sean Sander, Richmond

Evan Spaulding, Jericho

Sawyer Thompson, Richmond

Rory Ulmer, Richmond

Olivia Vita, Jericho

William Wright, Starksboro

Vermont Technical College

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

Peter Cousino, Huntington, Electrical Engineering Technology

Shane Riddell, Jericho, Electromechanical Engineering Technology

Aidan Luther, Jericho, Electromechanical Engineering Technology

Emilie Coffin, Richmond, Radiologic Science

Ellen Crary, Richmond, Certificate in Practical Nursing

Area Graduates

Danielle Petralia and **Ashley Hanlon** of Richmond have graduated from the Vermont School Leadership Project at the Snelling Center for Government. Hanlon is currently the Director of Addison Wayfinder Experience in Addison.

Petralia is currently an Algebra Teacher at Essex Middle School in Essex.

As participants in the Vermont School Leadership Project (VSLP), they joined 21 other educators from across the state in a unique program that offers intensive professional development for superintendents, principals, curriculum and special education directors, as



well as other education professionals who have proven leadership abilities and seriously aspire to leadership roles.

The VSLP Class of 2020 is the 14th graduating class. It faced unique challenges with the pandemic shutdown and resulting changes to program delivery, in addition to the pervasive and everchanging landscape of the school environment. After pausing in March, charting a course forward via Zoom in April and resuming in-person, distanced meetings over the summer and fall, the cohort celebrated its 17-month journey in a final session and culminating celebration on November 14, 2020 at Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee.

Through theoretical discussions, experiential activities and personal reflection, associates considered and applied concepts related to leadership, education systems, organizational change and community.

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

4930 Main Road Huntington, Vermont 05462

The Huntington Development Review Board (DRB) will meet via Zoom on **February 9, 2021** to conduct the following business, pursuant to the Huntington Zoning and Subdivision Regulations:

Continuation: Request for Conditional Use Review Change to PUD Map Building Envelope

7:15 pm Continuation of hearing to consider an application for Conditional Use Review from Matthew and Jennifer Conforti, 30 Stone Bridge Lane, to expand the building envelope in a Planned Unit Development. Subject property is located on tax map #06-018.59.

Continuation: Request for Conditional Use Review & Site Plan Review

Change of Building Use: Barn to Woodshop

7:30 pm Continuation to consider an application for Conditional Use Review from John and Florence Miles, owners, and Miles Jenness, applicant, 315 Shaker Mountain Road, for a change of use from dairy barn to woodshop. Subject property is located on tax map #08-019.100.

Continuation of Conditional Use & Site Plan Review Cottage Industry & Contractors' Yard

8 pm continuation of Conditional Use Review by Nils Smith, 1125 Bert White Road, for a permit to operate a Cottage Industry for a fabrication shop to build forestry equipment and a Contractors' Yard in conjunction with this business and existing heavy equipment. Subject property is located on tax map 06-018.200. A Site Visit will be conducted before the hearing.

Participation in the hearing process is required to appeal a decision of the DRB. Application materials may be viewed at <http://www.huntingtonvt.org> one week before meeting. Link to Zoom access is available on the home page.

—Heidi Racht, DRB Clerk, January 18, 2021



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BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
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Have Fun, Meet Friends and Learn a Few New Things!

Activities and new programs for you to enjoy on-line:*

Mondays: Meditation; Needle Arts

Tuesdays: Senior Learning Network Presentation - Topics Vary

Wednesdays: Bolton Coffee & Chat; Bone Builders Chat

Thursdays: State of the World Discussion; Richmond Coffee & Chat

Fridays: French Conversation; Story Circle - *Sharing Our Stories*

Special Presentations: Mark Your Calendar!

Wed 1/27 7:00pm: The Abenaki in VT - *Chief Don Stevens*

Wed 2/3 1:30pm: Life on the *Other* Border: Farmworkers & Food Justice in Vermont - *Teresa Mares, UVM Anthropology Dept.*

Wed 2/10 1:30pm: The Stowe Mountain Rescue Team

Tue 2/16 1:30pm: Discovery: Murals at Ohavi Zedek Synagogue

Wed 2/17 1:30pm: Book Chat - *Huntington & Richmond Librarians*

Mon 2/22 1:30pm: Wildness of Vermont - *VT Nature Conservancy*

Details, links: See Activities Calendar in our Weekly Newsletter or click "Newsletter" tab at www.cscvt.org
-- or call Martha Nye at (802) 503-8155.

*New to on-line programs?

Volunteer coaches available! Email jane@cscvt.org



**Community
Senior Center**

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Why Talk Therapy

"Our inner experience, as individuals or groups, on the left or the right, is that there is something very damaged about everything that makes us American. We're shattered."

— Thomas Singer, MD

In the early 1900s, Freud presented his GENERAL THEORY OF THE NEUROSES (1916-1917). He explained that human beings have suffered three narcissistic wounds.

The first was when Galileo said that the earth is not the center of the universe. The second was when Darwin presented his THEORY OF EVOLUTION. Both of these discoveries were viewed as heresy because they were contrary to orthodox religion, especially the Christian doctrine. The third was Freud's discovery of the unconscious.

Sigmund Freud explained that people are not masters of themselves. Rather, our behavior is guided by our feelings, both conscious and unconscious. This is a difficult fact for people to believe, and critics have gone to great lengths to disprove it.

After years of denial and mocking, ignoring reality became increasingly difficult. SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, whose editors had been particularly critical and sarcastic, finally acknowledged that "Freud was right." NEWSWEEK's cover of their March 27, 2006, issue, declared in bold letters, "Freud is NOT Dead ... Science is Taking a New Look at His Theories." For several decades now, a group of neuroscientists with modern methods of discovery have proven that Freud's early explanations of how the brain works were correct. Karen Kaplan-Solms and Mark Solms published CLINICAL STUDIES IN NEURO-PSYCHOANALYSIS in 2000 and I'm told they have an active website.

Attacks on analytically-oriented psychotherapy continue. Basically these attacks are attempts to ignore reality. The discovery of psychotropic drugs may be helpful to some patients

who suffer severe psychosis, but for many they are attempts to circumvent a process of self-awareness and the hard work of self-examination. Many of us— more likely most of us— experience stress, anxiety, depression, and loneliness. Struggling to accept the hard reality of our stressful world is not easy and we don't like it. We have come to expect things to be easy. Technology promises to make things easy. Reading a book is hard. Stacking up Facebook friends is easy. Real conversation with another human in person is hard.

Perhaps this time of limited real social, (i.e., in person) connection is an opportunity for us to learn to sit with ourselves, quietly, with the news turned off. We could even go for a walk alone and, without the distraction of conversation, be with our own thoughts and feelings. We might better serve ourselves if we take advantage of this opportunity to explore our own deeper feelings. What we are experiencing are normal reactions to the frightening conditions which threaten our health and safety. Of course we want relief, but perhaps we could reframe the situation as an opportunity to become more aware of our inner feelings. We might try to learn how to manage deeper psychological feelings. Many of these feelings have been festering below the surface for a long time, and we may have become adept at ignoring them. But witnessing the recent discord and riots urges us to face the reality. The violence is frightening and stirs up feelings of anxiety, depression, prejudice and hypocrisy, forcing us to face reality, both our own internal reality and the external social-cultural reality.

Naturally people are afraid of COVID-19, and fear is the only rational reaction. Unfortunately, the situation has devolved into a lot worse than polarized politics. As I write this, the news is reporting riots and people are breaking into the Capitol in Washington.

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TAX NOTICE

Town of Richmond

Third Quarter 2020-2021 tax payment due
Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Town Office hours:

The Town Office remains closed to the public
due to the COVID-19 pandemic

A late fee of 1% interest will be applied to late payments
on February 17.

Postmark of February 16 will be accepted and there is a TOWN CENTER DROP BOX located by the side door across from the post office entrance.

Town of Huntington

Third Quarter 2020-2021 tax payment due
Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Town Office hours:

The Town Office remains closed to the public
due to the COVID-19 pandemic

USPS Postmarks on or before February 16th are accepted.

Payments placed through the town office door slot are
accepted up until midnight on February 16th.

A late fee of 1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 17.

(Note: Internet-generated checks do not generally have postmarks and MUST arrive on or before February 16th. In office payments are accepted by check or cash only.)

Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Television

Over the holidays, I really missed television. You know, three channels, or even 12, if you went through VHF. It was all so simple then. If you wanted to watch CHEERS it came on just once a week, at exactly the same time, day, and network. Yes, now there are a hundred-eleventy choices, but it's not the blessing one would expect. I (really we, as my lovely wife suffered through this, too) learned this while trying to watch NETFLIX® during the trial period.

The plan was to see everything we liked quickly, then cancel before we had to pay for the subscription. Sounds simple. Of course, not having been on NETFLIX® before, we really weren't aware of the breadth of the task we had taken on. It wasn't a fair match-up.

The first night, we set up for dinner in front of the big screen and I got out the remote control. Looked easy; they had suggestions all set up for us. So, I started clicking, one, two, three, . . . ninety-nine, one hundred. Finally, I took a break and ate my meal which was cold by then.

Learning from experience, I switched to genres. That had to be simpler. Family, action, sci-fi, drama, mystery, documentaries, comedy, comedians, comedians in comedies, comedies about comedians . . . how many kinds can there be?

TV GUIDE®! That's what I needed. Except I can't remember seeing it among the check-out magazines this century. So, I went online for help. "On-line for help" has got to be one of the saddest oxymorons there are. Limitless options and opinions do not constitute not help — they are more of a compass that points in every direction. A little shaken, I went back to the remote.

Westerns, I'm a big western fan. I've probably seen every one made since Hop-a-Long Cassidy. I'll be on familiar ground. No. The first couple of hundred I'd never heard of: Cowboys of New York City, Cowboys at Sea, Space Cowboys, The Quick and the Irresponsible, Tokyo Gun-slinger, Rancho. It took an hour to find the first John Wayne, but that guy was certainly not the Duke! Kept on clicking, kept on searching. Just couldn't stop.

Until my wife stopped me. It was one in the morning. She came down and turned off the set because my screams of anguish kept waking her up. (I hadn't even noticed she'd gone to bed hours before.)

By the time I woke up, our test subscription had been canceled, the batteries on the remote were dead, and I decided to spend the day reading a good book, THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION.

(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.)