

The Times Ink!

OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 38 **June 2021 Issue** Number 5

Repairing Dugway Road

Submitted by Jared Katz

The Dugway Road reconstruction project is well underway having begun on April 5, and is expected to be done around the first week of June. It has revealed to many archeological remains already well known to some (Harriet Riggs, for example, in her work on the history of Richmond identified a long mill history with the area under reconstruction). The University of Vermont completed an Archeological Resources Assessment through their Consulting Archeology Program (CAP), which cites multiple sources including Riggs in their detailed historic evaluation.

The Richmond Light and Power hydroelectric plant is shown in the photo below, taken from the UVM CAP report and sourced from Turner



The textured face of the form work for one of the main wall sections takes shape on the Dugway Road reconstruction project. Photos taken by Jared Katz.



An old, stone abutment shows itself from the vantage point created by the washout on Dugway Road.



Silver Lining: Local Printmaker Daryl Storrs Receives Award



Huntington printmaker Daryl Storrs, like all artists and performers, was especially hard hit by the COVID pandemic. As arts and crafts events all over the world were cancelled, Storrs, whose livelihood is dependent on the annual circuit, had no opportunity to present her work. However, she recently received notice of her first place award for the Art and Sculpture category for competition organized by the Paradise City Arts Festival, in which thousands of art lovers and fine craft connoisseurs participated by voting online. Read more on page 13.



and Low (circa 1905), courtesy of Ed Neuert. The stonework in the left portion of the photo is likely what is visible at the edge of the project area today. The stone abutment was likely a support for a penstock, the pipe used to bring water to the power plant in a controlled manner. Because the stonework is an historically sensitive representation of Richmond's past, it has been preserved.

With the relatively favorable weather (for construction) it seems this project is moving along very well.

A crew from Ireland Concrete uses a pumper truck to pour the base for the footing of a massive retaining wall that will eventually allow for the reinstallation of the roadbed on Dugway Road (left photo)

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Letters

Who is Richmond Racial Equity?

You may have seen postings on the Front Porch Forum, or in meeting minutes from the selectboard, about Richmond Racial Equity and wondered "What is this group and what are they up to?". Richmond Racial Equity(RRE) is simply a group of Richmond's citizens who came together after the murder of George Floyd to try to learn more about racial justice and equity and to do what we can to try to make Richmond a place where all people feel welcome and are treated fairly and equitably.

We meet every Tuesday via Zoom at 7 pm. Anyone interested in issues of justice and equity in our town is welcome to attend. We also welcome folks from Huntington or Bolton to joint our meetings. The zoom link to the meeting is posted every week on the RRE website at: <http://richmondraciaequity.org/>

RRE has been active in trying to educate folks in our town on different aspects of racial equity. We have hosted several educational sessions via Zoom including one in October called "Life as a VT Migrant Worker" which was attended by more than 100 people, one in January on Vermont's Abenaki Community: "An Evening with the Chief of Vermont's Nulhegan Band of the Abenaki Tribe", and One in March entitled "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man -Emmanuel Acho". We have plans for further educational sessions in the future.

We are proud of what we have accomplished in less than a year. In addition to educational offerings, we have been involved in interviews for the hiring of a new police chief and police officers in Richmond. We have been involved in discussions around the presence of police ("Safety Resource Officers") in schools in the Chittenden East School District. We are very proud to have worked on and advocated for the Select board to pass a resolution in support of a new Fair and Impartial Policing Policy which was approved by our interim Police Chief Kyle Kapitansky which closes loopholes that allowed police collaboration with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

While we are proud of what we have accomplished in a short time, we know that there is much still to be done in our community, our state, and our Country to advance racial equity. We invite you to come and join us in this important work. Look for the notices of our meetings on the Front Porch Forum. Check out our Facebook Page and our website: <http://richmondraciaequity.org/>

—Ann Greenan Naumann, Richmond
ann.gnaumann@gmail.com, 802-363-5311

Upcoming Summer Research

This summer, I will be conducting a research project here in Richmond. Before I get into the nature of the research, here's a bit about me: I'm an undergraduate student at Skidmore College (a sophomore) and, of course, a Richmond resident. I am a recently declared Political Science major and have secured funding from Skidmore to conduct an independent research project over the summer. To that end, I will be working with a group of volunteers in our town that have been investing time into learning about and working towards matters of social justice: Richmond Racial Equity (RRE). I will also be working with our town manager, Josh Arneson, and our police chief, Kyle Kapitanski, in the coming months as the research develops.

The project will focus on answering a few key questions about law enforcement in Richmond. Namely, we will seek to find out:

- What the community thinks police are doing
- What the community thinks ideal policing looks like
- What the Richmond Police Department's data tell us about their work with the community

At some point this summer, I will be conducting a short online survey in our community, and would love to have as many people participate as possible. The survey will be used in answering the first two questions by asking questions about how community members perceive the police and how they believe the police should spend their time. I intend to supplement the survey with an analysis of public police activity data currently available on our town's website and with more information from the Police Department, town manager, and Richmond's residents.

The intention of this project is to learn about how our community perceives our police department and whether the police department's activity matches up with what the community's self-identified needs are. Further, this project seeks to make information about how our police spend their time more accessible to our community. As with any research founded on

ethical principles, this study will not begin with any foregone conclusions about what we expect to find.

By the end of the summer, I plan to present the community with the results of the study via a paper, presentation, or any other channels to share this information with all. For any questions, comments, or concerns, you can reach me at hwasser@richmondraciaequity.org.

—Hunter Wasser, Richmond

Masks Off

I'm coaching Little League this year and it's been great to get back out there after a long break. To see the kids running around, diving, getting dirty, laughing, challenging themselves and interacting...like kids, has been the best thing for me (and for them).

The other day we were playing a game and both pitchers wouldn't take off their masks to pitch. For those that don't know, pitching is cardiovascularly demanding. Ask (or watch) any pro or college level pitcher and you will find that their days consist of throwing and running, that's about it. Throw and run because they need to be able to have strong stamina on the mound to throw and focus.

Our policy in the League is not to tell kids to take their masks off. We don't want to be the ones to say that, even though the State has now withdrawn the mandate on masking outside as long as you are distanced. We decided we wouldn't be yelling at kids to remove their masks the same way we've spent the last 400 days or so yelling at them to put their masks on.

But they're not doing it on their own.

At the pitcher's position wearing a mask is not helpful physically, and so over the course of the last few games coaches have made mention to pitchers that they can take off their mask if they want, some did, most did; but then it went back up. We left it alone and just observed.

I've noticed in the last few months, maybe the last four to six months, that my child and his friends have, consistently, worn masks in situations where masks were clearly not necessary. I've noticed my child wearing his mask in the car, with me. Only me. When I've mentioned it to him, he kind of looks a little lost and says, I hate this thing but it's a habit.

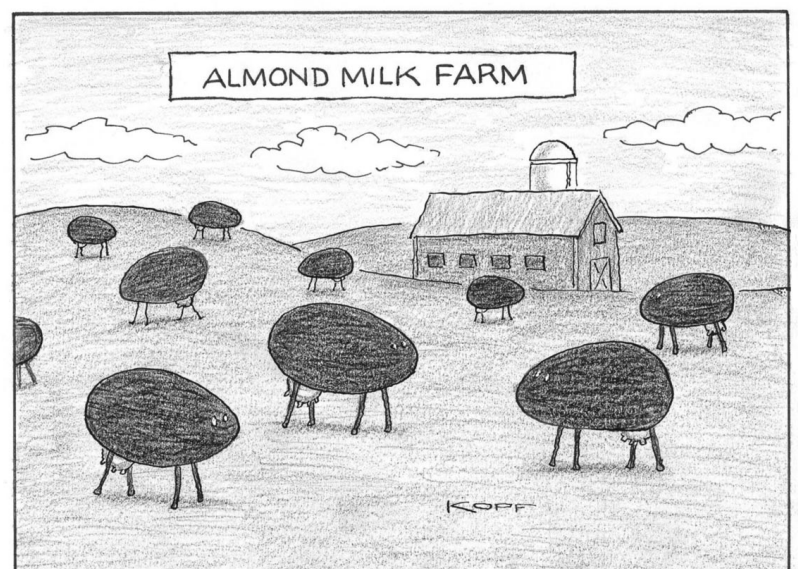
No matter what or how you believe about the pandemic, there are undeniable effects from the last year-plus of our collective response and one of those is the habitualization of masks and what they represent. I'm not making an argument against masking. I'm making a point that if we don't counter the narrative of masking as an emergency response (still being debated) that is to be stopped as soon as the "emergency" has ended, we are going to be left with a generation of kids who don't see masking and everything that goes with it, as an anomaly to human co-existence.

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Blood Drawing

The next Richmond Red Cross Blood Drawing is Wednesday, June 2, noon to 6 pm, at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Main Street. If you miss that one, a drawing in Hinesburg is scheduled for Friday, June 4, noon to 5 pm, at the United Church of Hinesburg on Route 116. Appointments are required.

To make an appointment for these or other nearby drawings: redcrossblood.org or 1-800-Red Cross.



MMU Senior Back on the Stage on June 4



*What's an actor's worst nightmare? You find yourself on stage in a strange theatre, you don't know your lines, or even what play you're doing...and you've got no pants on! All of that and more happens to George Spelvin (played by Ivy Buck) in the MMU Senior Theatre Production of *The Actor's Nightmare*. Courtesy photo*

At the end of each school year, the seniors of the Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department put on Senior Theatre Production. Last year, a show was not possible, due to the pandemic. But this year, the seniors will be presenting *THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE* by Christopher Durang. The theatre department, which has been creating virtual performances all school year, is thrilled to be doing its first LIVE performance in a long time.

THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE is a play in one act and will be performed in the Mills Riverside Park

Pavillion in Jericho. The show is appropriate for the whole family and will be performed on Friday, June 4, at 7 pm; Saturday, June 5, at 4:30 pm and 7 pm; and Sunday, June 6, at 4 pm.

Tickets will be on sale in the park. (Cash or check only please). Tickets are \$5 for students and children and \$7 for general admission. Bring a blanket or chair for seating. For some lighthearted fun, and some outdoor entertainment, come out and enjoy the MMU Theatre Department's senior theatre production of *THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE*.

Bridge Repairs to Close Main Road in Hanksville

Bridge #10, also known as the Beane bridge, located in south Huntington (Hanksville) at the intersection of Main and Beane Roads, will be closed July 5, 2021 through August 13, 2021, for critical repairs.

A pedestrian and bicycle foot bridge (5 feet x 80 feet) will be available, but no vehicular through traffic will be allowed.

Emergency services (fire, First Response and Rescue) will be provided to residents south of the bridge by Starksboro and Bristol.

In early September 2021, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) notified the Town

that holes along the upstream side of Bridge 10 had been identified by their bridge inspectors, who strongly recommended these be repaired as soon as possible to protect public safety. They also identified a number of other significant deficiencies in the condition of the bridge. The critical public safety concerns were fixed in mid-October at a cost of \$10,100. The work to address the other deficiencies was postponed until the 2021 construction season.

No one can predict for sure when the additional bridge problems will become so severe that

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What is the Future of Public Transportation

by John Ely

UVM Community News Service

Before the Coronavirus pandemic, Richmond's Park and Ride was nearly overflowing on weekday mornings. That's where commuters leave vehicles and catch buses to Burlington and Montpelier. But by May 2020, only a fraction of the parking spaces were full.

Despite efforts by public transit authorities, many buses were navigating Vermont's roads nearly empty. "We saw a pretty significant dip in our ridership," said Jamie Smith, director of marketing and planning for Green Mountain Transit. "Overall, it reached about 50% lower than our normal ridership."

That's a major problem for Richmond's carbon footprint, said Richmond Climate Action Committee member Ian Stokes. "Globally, we face this existential threat [of climate change]," said Stokes, who is a retired biomechanics researcher. Transportation, he said, accounts for at least 40% of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions.

In a recent social media post, Stokes calculated the energy use of a one-way, 12-mile trip from Richmond to Burlington. A gasoline-powered car that gets 27 miles per gallon, for example, requires 16 kilowatt hours for the journey. Buses when used to capacity can be a great alternative; their efficiency, however, plummets when there are just a few passengers onboard.

Buses are not the only public transit fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to lockdowns, ride-sharing initiative The Hitching Post — which combines carpooling and hitchhiking — was planning a broad expansion in Vermont. Some Richmond residents were enthusiastic about the idea, with hopes for a hitching post in the village center. Because of COVID-19, any new posts have been postponed to 2022.

As infections slow in Vermont, however, efforts to boost public transit are returning to center stage. In late April, Mount Mansfield Unified School District was selected as a participant in a new Future of Rural Transit pilot project. The project brings together the Vermont Clean Cities Coalition at UVM's Transportation Research Center, the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, and other local partners.

Small, electric buses purchased as part of the project will serve public, Medicaid and school transportation needs. The Vermont Agency of Transportation contributed a \$15,549.75 grant



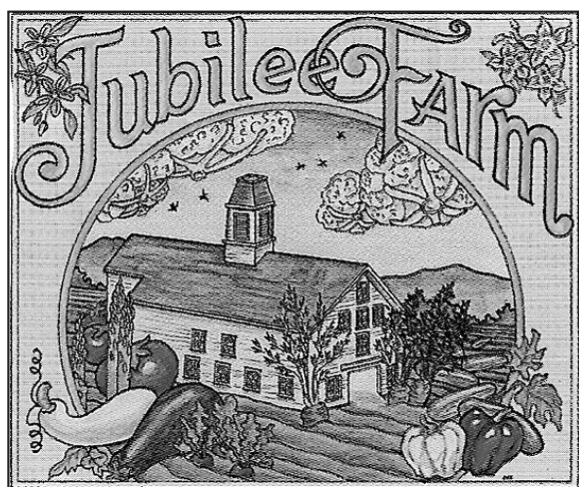
Plenty of free parking: Richmond's Park and Ride shows a dearth of users as a result of the COVID pandemic. User of public transportation has plummeted. Photo: Jen Rose Smith

to support the project design.

The Richmond Transportation committee, Richmond Climate Action Committee, and Community Senior Center expressed their support in letters to the Future of Rural Transit Pilot Project Partners.

"In Richmond, even if one lives in the village, it is very difficult to travel to Burlington or even Williston if one doesn't own a car," wrote Jane Vossler, chair of the Community Senior Center, in her letter. A letter from the Richmond Transportation Committee noted that the town's transportation implementation plan has goals of transportation equity and a reduction of single-occupancy vehicle traffic, which the new project could aid.

"We developed this mindset of if you want to get to someplace, you get in your car and you drive the car to your destination," said the Richmond Climate Committee's Ian Stokes. "We have a huge opportunity here."



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Hurray! The Huntington Public Library will be reopening its doors by appointment to patrons in the next couple of weeks. The opportunity to safely visit the Library and choose books from the shelves will be a welcome activity for so many of our residents.

At its meeting on May 18, the HPL Board of Trustees approved a plan to open the doors by appointment, starting June 21 - the first day of summer! The Trustees have determined that we will gradually move into being open again since the restrictions in Vermont have been modified due to our high vaccination rate - we hope that our doors can continue to open wider and that we will be able to stay open as everyone remains well.

The Library will have that days will be available to adult patrons only. Appointments will be 15-minutes long (you can sign up for two) and are required to get into the building. Masks will be required.

The link for the sign-up is on the HPL website and you can also call the Library for an appointment. We so look forward to seeing everyone again as we make our way out of this long pandemic tunnel!

In the meantime, the Library will continue to offer Books to Go! This service will continue all summer and into the fall.

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

Here is how Books to Go! works: go to the website huntingtonlibraryvt.org 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! Don't forget that books can be borrowed through Inter-Library Loans from other libraries if you can't find it our the catalog.

Materials can be returned in the book drop at any time. Please feel free to ignore any overdue notices. The website will also keep you notified about our latest updates!

The Library Catalog can be found on the HPL website - scroll down the right side until you reach KOHA. Type in subject, author or title to find an eclectic selection of engaging and useful materials.

We have periodicals that can be checked out as well: ACRES USA - Voice of Eco-agriculture, NORTHERN WOODLANDS, SMITHSONIAN, ORION, WILD SEED, BACKYARD POULTRY, and an online subscription to CONSUMER REPORTS.

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.

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VOL Vermont Online Library is available to all Huntington residents with a valid library card. This service offers a wide array of electronic information databases on a wide variety of topics for all ages and interests. Use the password "student" for the GALE database and for the "Heritage" databases your password is the barcode on your library card (HomeCard). Call or email for further assistance.

New Adult THE MYSTERY OF MRS. CHRISTIE by Marie Benedict; TRANSIENT DESIRES by Donna Leon; THE GIRL FROM THE CHANNEL ISLANDS by Jenny Lecoat; KLARA AND THE SUN by Kazuo Ishiguro; TENTH OF DECEMBER - STORIES by George Saunders; LATER by Stephen King; THE INVISIBLE LIFE OF ADDIE LARUE by V.E. Schwab; THE PARIS LIBRARY by Janet Skeslien Charles; THE KITCHEN FRONT by Jennifer Ryan; THE CONSEQUENCES OF FEAR by Jacqueline Winspear; OF WOMEN AND SALT by Gabriela Garcia; SUNFLOWER SISTERS by Martha Hall Kelly; THE RED BOOK by James Patterson; THE NIGHT GATE by Melissa Broder.

Adult Non-Fiction MOON TIME - HARNESS THE EVER-CHANGING ENERGY OF YOUR MENSTRUAL CYCLE by Lucy H. Pearce; HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD - INSIDE THE MIND OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY by Robert Kolker; GHOSTWAYS - TWO JOURNEYS IN UNIQUE PLACES by Robert MacFarlane; THE SECRET LIFE OF GROCERIES - THE DARK MIRACLE OF THE AMERICAN SUPERMARKET by Benjamin Lort; DAWNLAND VOICES - AN ANTHOLOGY OF INDIGENOUS WRITING FROM NEW ENGLAND LAND - HOW THE HUNGER FOR OWNERSHIP SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD by Simon Winchester; BIRDS IN WINTER SURVIVING THE MOST CHALLENGING SEASON by Roger F Pasquier; WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BIRD FROM FLYING TO NESTING, EATING TO SINGING by David Allen Sibley; A SWIM IN A POND IN THE RAIN by George Saunders; UNWORTHY REPUBLIC - THE DISPOSSESSION OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND THE ROAD TO INDIAN TERRITORY by Claudio Saunt.

Adult Biography WHERE THE A LIGHT ENTERS - BUILDING A FAMILY, DISCOVERING MYSELF by Jill Biden; SPILT MILK - MEMOIRS by Courtney Zoffness; THIS TIME NEXT YEAR WE'LL BE LAUGHING - A MEMOIR by Jacqueline Winspear.

Picture Books TEN WAYS TO HEAR SNOW by Cathy Camper; LITTLE BLUE TRUCK'S VALENTINE by Alice Schertle (Board Book); LLAMA LLAMA LOVES TO READ and LLAMA LLAMA MESS MESS by Anna Dewdney; GRUMPY MONKEY UP ALL NIGHT by Suzanne Lang; THE BLUE HOUSE by Phoebe Wahl; SLOTH WASN'T SLEEPY and OVER AND UNDER THE RAINFOREST by Kate Messner.

Picture Books THE BIG UMBRELLA by Amy June Bates; AMY WU AND THE PATCHWORK DRAGON by Kat Zhang; LADYBUG GIRL AND THE RESCUE DOGS by David Soman; SWASHBY AND THE SEA by Beth Ferry; D IS FOR DRAGON DANCE by Ying Chang Compestine; BEARS AND TREES TO MUSHROOMS AND BEES by David Marshall and Paul Stamets.



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Youth Summer Reading Program It's going to be great! Like last year, we'll be set up downstairs just inside the door and there will be reading records, stickers, "charms", guessing jars, prizes and more. Instructions, self-serve activities and information about in person programs and activities await you in the Library foyer. Please visit as often as you can this summer.

Here is how the Summer Reading Program will work this year: Visit the library foyer to pick up your Summer Reading Record. Upon your visit you will find clear instructions for self-serve registration. You will be invited to take a charm necklace or keychain and your first charm. You may request library books by putting them on hold through your RFL account (rfl.kohavt.org), by emailing or calling or by filling out a Book Bundlerequest slip (available in the Library foyer) and leaving it in the box provided. When books are ready for pickup they will be placed in the foyer book bin corresponding to your last name, and you will be notified. As you read books (and they don't need to be library books), add their titles to your reading record and bring this with you when you next come to the Library. Come back each week to add stickers to your Summer Reading Record, to get the week's charm for your necklace or keychain AND of course to pick up new books. Check the Library's website regularly to learn about any updated policies regarding hours and protocols.

Concert and Picnic with the Swing Peepers Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on and bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy while we usher in the first day of summer and celebrate Make Music Day with the Swing Peepers in full throttle. Described as "Vermont made music and storytelling for kids and families," we're certain that kids of all ages will delight in these homegrown entertainers. No registration is required to attend this awesome event on the library lawn on Monday, June 21 at 12:30.

Outdoor Storytime We will gather on the library lawn behind the building and observe whatever current safety protocols are being recommended. Families should bring their own blanket or chairs and are welcome to bring snacks and/or a picnic lunch. No registration is necessary. Storytime includes books with big, bold pictures, rhymes, songs, and the opportunity to pick out some picture books to take home. Join us on Mondays at 11 am during the months of June and July (No Storytime on July 5).

Youth Open Air Arts and Crafts Join Library staff for some fun crafting in the backyard this summer. We will be using natural and recycled materials as well as other craft supplies to create one of a kind masterpieces. A full schedule of programs appears on our website under the youth services tab. Please call ahead to reserve your spot each week as supplies are limited and will go first to those who register.

Science Under the Sun This summer we will be offering four different science programs for youth between the ages of three and thirteen. Topics will include worms, birds, the color wheel and bats and will include stories, experiments and hands-on learning. Check out our website for dates and times and for more information about each program. Please call ahead to reserve your spot.

StoryWalk® A StoryWalk is an outdoor reading experience that reveals a story page by

page as the reader follows the StoryWalk route. There will be a new StoryWalk set up around the library grounds each month this summer. For the month of June come enjoy a story with the happiest of endings, *SAM WHO NEVER FORGETS* BY EVE RICE.

VOX Audio/Picture Books for Young Children Thanks to a generous donation we were recently able to expand our collection of VOX Books! VOX Books are slim audio devices that live in beautiful full-size picture books. The permanently attached VOX Reader transforms an ordinary picture book into an all-in-one read-along. There's no need for computers, tablets, or CDs. Children simply push a button to listen and read. From what we have seen and heard so far, kids love them. Request one today for your favorite little person.

Playaways For older children we have a large collection of audio devices called Playaways. Full, unabridged Juvenile and Young Adult titles come packaged in these tiny little devices that are perfect for long car rides.

Curbside Hours The Library has extended curbside pick-up hours. New hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 10-5, Wednesday 10-8, and Saturday 10-2.

Bookchat Join us for the next Discover Between the Covers Bookchat with librarians Stacey Symanowicz and Rebecca Mueller on Wednesday, June 16, at 1:30 pm. Join via zoom

Meeting ID: 847 5233 7630 Passcode: 009642 or, dial by your location +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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Spice Up Your Garden with Asian Flavors

by Andrea Knepper

Are you interested in trying some new recipes from around the world? Have you looked at an Indian, Thai or Japanese recipe and not known where to find the ingredients? Many of the herbs, spices and vegetables, such as hot peppers, used in these culinary traditions can easily be grown in your home garden.



Hot peppers are a staple in many cultures, and there are many varieties from which to choose. They can be included whole or chopped while cooking to infuse heat. Hot peppers can be added to sauces and fermented. You also can dry them and grind them into chili powder.

Cayenne peppers are a versatile choice. For even more spice, try Thai bird's eye peppers. To accent your noodle and rice dishes, thinly slice any of these hot peppers, and soak in soy sauce. Spoon the soy sauce over your meal for a spicy, savory flavor.

You often can find ready-to-plant starts at your local garden center. Or next year, as with other peppers, you can start seeds indoors about 8-10 weeks before your last spring frost date.

To find that date, visit the National Gardening Association's website at <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates>. Many garden and seed company websites also have online calculators where you can enter your zip code to determine the average date of the first and last frost in your area.

For a nice addition to salads, grow cumin (*Cuminum cyminum*). Both the leaves and foliage are edible. This spice prefers direct seeding but requires a long growing season to fully form seeds. So, in future years, you may want to start the seeds indoors eight weeks before your spring frost date and then transplant the seedlings.

Bridge Closure

continued from page 3

the town will be required to make additional emergency repairs, close the bridge to one-lane traffic, or perhaps close the bridge all together.

Based on this, the budget and capital plan proposed by the Selectboard in the Town Report included \$275,000 to make additional repairs to Bridge 10 in July 2021 in order for it to last for the next 10-15 years. It is hoped that Bridge 10 will advance on the state-wide priority list by then so that State and Federal dollars will be allocated to offset the replacement cost.

The Selectboard proposed the 2021 bridge repair to include removing the existing deck pavement, overhangs, and curbs; repairing the outside upstream T-beam; and installing new fascia mounted guardrails and approach rails. These repairs are expected to extend the life of the bridge for another 10-15 years. The Town has been unable to secure State assistance for the repairs, so the full cost of the work needed now will be paid from property tax revenue. During construction, the existing bridge can-

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) is the seed of the common herb, cilantro. You can sow this directly in the garden after your frost date.

Let your cilantro form flowers and mature to seed. Harvest the seeds once dry and use whole or grind into coriander powder. If you don't use all the seed you harvested before the next growing season, you can plant them for another crop.

One plant that can be grown as a vegetable or for seed is fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*). You can eat the shoots and leaves fresh or dried. Fenugreek seed can be harvested from the pods and is essential for many Indian recipes. To temper the bitterness of the seed, soak overnight.

Lemongrass (*Cymbopogon citratus*) is a fun tropical grass that thrives as an annual if you have a hot, sunny spot. It also does well when grown in a container.

When the base of the stalk has filled out, pick the whole stalk and remove the tough exterior to expose the tender heart. Use it fresh or frozen, whole or sliced. Fresh or dried leaves also make a nice tea.

If you like Asian cuisine, consider planting Shiso (*Perilla frutescens*). This is another herb that can be sown directly the garden although it is slow to germinate. For best results, plant in full sun. Shiso, the Japanese name for an annual herb called perilla, can be eaten raw, cooked or pickled.

Be aware that this herb readily self seeds and can become invasive. You can prevent this by removing flowers before they form seeds.

Nigella sativa is a relative of the popular flower love-in-a-mist (*Nigella damascena*) with similar, attractive flowers and seeds essential to Indian cooking. Harvest the seeds before the dry seed pods open. The subtle, herb, onion flavor is delicious as a garnish on baked goods, vegetables, fish, salads or just about everything.

All of these are easy to grow and are becoming more available at local garden centers and through online seed suppliers. Save a sunny spot in your garden and try something new this year!

Andrea Knepper is a UVM Extension Master Gardener Intern from Bolton.

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BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Greg Elias

Richmond officials envision a stretch of Route 2 that allows pedestrians and cyclists an easy way to travel from the middle of town to the park and ride next to Interstate 89. But newly released plans for repaving that two-mile-long thoroughfare seem to show the state doesn't share that vision.

At its May 3 meeting, the Selectboard approved a letter to Vermont Agency of Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn that outlines efforts to add sidewalks and wide shoulders along the segment of Route 2 between Bridge Street and I-89 called West Main Street. Other town requests for the project include restriped lanes and parking spots, new curbs and a left turn signal at Bridge Street.

It seemed progress was being made in getting the town and state to agree on those upgrades during years of talks about the project, the letter says. But an updated Agency of Transportation plan limits what had been a complete road reconstruction to a simple paving job that omits the town-requested improvements.

"For the last decade, we, the Town of Richmond, have been waiting for the Route 2 Repaving Project," states the letter. "We have upgraded our infrastructure and policies to anticipate the outcomes of your Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) project." The letter goes on to say that the town was "disappointed" to find that none of its requests were honored in the latest plan.

Selectboard Chair Christine Werneke said fellow board member Bard Hill could best summarize the situation.

"Come on, Bard, we want our wide Route 2," she said. "You've been our champion for this."

Hill recapped the long and winding history of the project, saying that it had been planned as a major reconstruction of Route 2, not just a fresh coat of asphalt. He noted the concrete roadbed dates back to 1927.

Both VTrans and the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission have been talking with the town about reconstructing Route 2 for years, Hill said. But the state recently started calling the work a paving project. He noted that the shifting definition would allow the state to say that the town's requests are outside the scope of the work.

Another problem is that there's been a push by state environmental officials to reduce stormwater runoff into streams and rivers, Hill said. But VTrans is telling the town that it doesn't want to deal with the stormwater pipes under Route 2 as part of the project.

"It is patently obvious to me that if the last time they did substantial work on Route 2 was 1927, then they're probably not going to come back real soon and do a lot of other work underneath our redone Route 2," he said.

Past experience shows that going over the head of mid-level managers can sometimes work, Hill said. Pete Gosselin, Richmond's road foreman, told Hill that several years ago an appeal to the transportation commissioner got the state to change course on another project.

"Sometimes escalating those (requests) to a higher level is not only prudent but necessary," Hill said.

Werneke said she strongly supported the idea of escalating the town's requests with a letter to the transportation secretary.

The Selectboard unanimously voted to approve the letter has written. The project is scheduled to begin in fall 2022.

Reappraisal to Start Soon A proposal to delay a town-wide property reappraisal generated a

lengthy debate that changed one Selectboard member's mind and found no support among the others.

The town's original plan was to start in July a two-year effort to reassess the value of every property in Richmond. Such reappraisals are required by the state when the value of all property in a municipality, called the common level of appraisal, falls below 85 percent of the market value. The latest CLA calculation pegs Richmond at 85.6 percent.

So the town is near but not at that threshold, raising the possibility of delaying the effort for a year. Concerns about the current booming real estate market driving up house values to artificially high levels had some wondering if the town should wait until prices stabilize.

Board member June Heston had previously asked the Selectboard to consider delaying the reappraisal because of the overheated market. At the May 3 session, she noted a common fear of reappraisals: that they cause property taxes to skyrocket.

In fact, that will not be the case for all or even most property owners. Individual tax bills are based on both the tax rate and the value of each property. Municipal tax rates are set each year at the level necessary to fund the town budget.

So a rise in the value of given house or business may not cause a tax hike because the rate generally decreases as the total value of all property increases. That means that an individual property owner could see taxes rise, fall or remain the same depending on how much valuation changes relative to all other properties. Further complicating property tax bills are education taxes that are calculated using state rules around rate-setting that are adjusted to account for each town's common level of appraisal.

Ed Clodfelter of New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC), who serves as the town assessor, offered an evaluation of the town's current situation and outlined the pros and cons for waiting to reassess valuations.

Town Manager Josh Arneson said delaying the reappraisal would increase NEMRC's original \$174,960 price tag for the work to just over \$180,000.

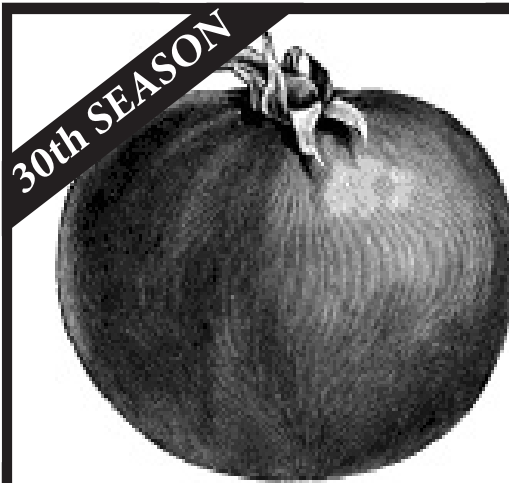
Hill argued that delaying the reappraisal would prolong inequities among properties, in particular with mobile homes, which tend to decrease in value over time. He noted that the last time Richmond reassessed all property values was 2008.

Town Clerk Linda Parent agreed that the town should proceed as planned to ensure all property owners pay their fair share of taxes. She said the last time a reappraisal was done that involved interior inspection of homes, which would reveal renovations and upgrades, was in 1998.

But resident Cara LaBounty wanted the town to wait until the market cools off. She asserted that the current rapidly rising house prices will produce unrealistic long-term values.

LaBounty noted that property owners have the right to appeal their values and asked how many appeals were requested last year. When Clodfelter said just five property owners appealed in 2020, LaBounty said that proved that most current values were fair and equitable.

Heston said after hearing all the arguments and learning more about the reappraisal process she changed her mind and no longer wanted to delay the reappraisal. When Werneke called for a motion on the proposal to wait another year, no Selectboard member spoke, effectively nixing a delay and giving a green light for the reappraisal to start on schedule this summer.



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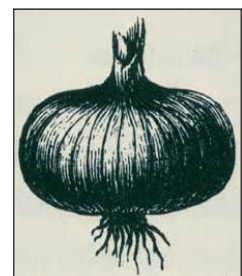
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MMUUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester
April 12 and May 20, 2021 meetings

Cool and Unusual Senator and Mrs. Leahy visited the outdoor classrooms of Richmond Elementary Center in early April.

UVM Medical Center has a new helicopter, and is practicing landings at various sites throughout the area. On May 1 it visited Underhill Central School. The fields behind the elementary center are ideal for training in conjunction with the Underhill Fire Department. No damage was done to the fields.

People The District welcomes Andrew Jones, Director of Curriculum and Innovation. He is currently the Director of Curriculum at Mill River Unified Union SD and the President of the Vermont Curriculum Leaders Association.

The High School Resource Officer will no longer be at the front door of the high school greeting students and faculty each day, nor will he/she be at the school every day. This is in response to vomments from the community, the general student body, and students of color.

The University of Vermont has named Janette Roberts (Browns River Middle School) and Lily Henault (Jericho Elementary Center) as Outstanding Teachers in 2020.

The search continues for the new Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This will be a permanent position covered by the approved budget, state, and ESSR* funds.

The Board approved six candidates were approved for the Golden Apple Awards. The award recognizes those community members who assist the district in an extraordinary way.

As if that weren't enough... Another Award!

MMUUSD has received the 2021 Governor's Excellence in Worksite Wellness Award. Dr. Mark Levine thanked the District for its effort during the pandemic for making wellness a priority.

Speaking of Health... Every member of the school district staff that has chosen to receive the vaccine has been vaccinated. The schools are no longer taking students' temperatures before they enter; it should be done at home. Staff COVID testing has been terminated. Students 16-18 are eligible for the vaccine. Parent/guardian consent is needed for students ages 16-17. Appointments can be made at CVS, Walgreens or Kinney Drugs.

Due to various measures, like rate of infection, success of contact tracing, etc., seventh and eighth grades have been back to in-person instruction since April 29. They will follow the preK-6 schedule of an early release on Wednesday for rest of the year.

The high school needs to continue in the Hybrid Learning schedule. (in-person and remote). This is because the students attend different classes, and don't have one homeroom as the younger students do. One high school student who falls ill could potentially infect 25-100 persons, versus just one classroom in an elementary school. As of May 10, no new COVID cases have been reported. In general, student absences for 10 days or more have gone down to 14% versus 24% in previous years.

Teachers have identified those high school students who would most benefit from in-person instruction, and they will attend in-person on Wednesday. Additionally, some MMU students choose to come to school on Wednesdays, and are assigned a place to work. This plan was implemented May 3.

High School lunches are now eaten in small

groups as part of an extended Advisory period. MMU Principal Mike Weston reports this has been community-building. Three hundred three students were identified for in-school counseling. School Social Worker referrals have increased by 9%.

The State Agency of Education has provided Recovery Planning that must be followed. MMUUSD has completed the first two phases: Organization, and, Needs Assessment successfully. Phase 3: Recovery Planning, a multi-year plan, will be completed by May 15, and if approved, will be followed by Phase 4: Implementation, including a plan for summer programming

Beyond whatever additional counseling support the students' needs, they also need academic support. The drops in proficiency in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) are most dramatic in grades 9-12 (10% each). Drops in grades 5-8 are 7% in ELA, but up 7% in Math. ELA rose 1% in grades K-4, but dropped by 6% in Math.

"This is far from a lost year," said Superintendent John Alberghini.

There will be extensive summer remediation for those most in need. Summer Camps are also being offered. Breakfast, lunch, and transportation will be provided. Local and Federal funds are being used for these efforts.

Looking Forward... The successful experiences of virtual learning and outdoor classrooms will be incorporated into future planning.

Technical Center Changes Chuck Lacy is the new Co-Chair of the Regional Advisory Board (Technical Centers). The Burlington Tech Center, as part of the Burlington High School, will be demolished. This affords a tremendous opportunity to redesign the program, as well as the facility. There is enormous potential to create a center in Burlington where schools from outlying areas, not just the city, would send their students.

Future of Rural Transit project is a concept for combining public and school bus transit in Vermont. MMUUSD submitted an application to participate in the feasibility study. One could see how this might benefit a new tech center.

A Monkey's Fist of Funding Although the Administration of MMUUSD acknowledges the "weighting" formula for calculating the money given to individual schools has not changed in 20 years, the new proposals from AOE would result in a cost increase in the tax rate of 35 cents. Alberghini, School Board Chair Edye Graning, Richmond Representative Jana Brown and Jericho Representative George Till explained the differences in federal funding between MMUUSD and other school districts and encouraged the AOE committee to ensure federal revenue from Title I and other grants was added as a component in the study and decision making process.

The Senate also is working on legislation to provide universal school breakfast with \$6-\$10 million in new costs paid out of the Education Fund. If enacted, this would result in about a one cent increase in education property taxes.

**The title of the federal Covid relief funding is "Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief" ESSR. Allocations vary from district to district, based on the poverty rate, amongst other things. This might explain why MMUUSD is getting \$1.5MM, while North Country SU is getting over \$16MM. However, South Burlington is getting about \$5MM. The Administration is investigating the allocation calculations.*

As new grants are made available for HVAC and special education (IDEA) with scant details available - the school district is considering hiring a specialist to pursue public funding.

Area Residents Honored

Theresa Christiana in USA Brain Bee Championship

Both 2020 Vermont Brain Bee (VBB) winner Theresa Christiansen, a senior at Mount Mans-

clinical neurosciences to help treat and find cures for brain disorders. We build better brains to fight brain disorders.”
For more information, visit vermontbrainbee.com and TheBrainBee.org



Amid applause, MMU Senior Theresa Christiansen is recently congratulated for winning the 2020 Vermont Brain Bee Competition. Christiansen attended Brewster-Pierce School in Huntington and CHMS before MMU.

field Union High School, and 2021 VBB winner Anita Surmacz, a senior at Saint Johnsbury Academy, participated in the USA Brain Bee Championships, a neuroscience competition for teenagers from 13 to 19 years of age, April 10 - 11, 2021.

The 2020 competition was postponed due to the onset of the pandemic. The event was hosted by the Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown, Ohio, and streamed live via Zoom with a live award ceremony on April 11.

Christiansen and Surmacz were two of 67 first-place Brain Bee chapter winners from 30 states who competed in the USA event. Contestants were tested on their knowledge of such topics as intelligence, emotions, memory, sleep, vision, hearing, sensations, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, schizophrenia, addiction, and brain research. The competition features five subtests: a neuroanatomy practical exam; a brain imaging exam; a patient diagnosis exam; a clinical applications exam; and a written exam.

Christiansen and Surmacz each said they enjoyed being able to compete in this challenging experience and are looking forward to further exploring the field of neuroscience in college.

Norbert Myslinski, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Maryland who founded the Regional and International Brain Bee 23 years ago, says “Its purpose is to motivate young students to learn about the human brain and inspire them to seek careers in the basic and

Honor Societies

William Smialek of Richmond, was recently initiated into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. He was initiated at Clarkson University.

Smialek is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.

Vermont Technical College Honors Celebration recognized these students:

Peter Cousino, Huntington, Electrical Engineering Technology Faculty Award for Excellence (Associate Degree), Phi Theta Kappa and Tau Alpha Pi Honor Society

Elizabeth Buckley, Starksboro, Alpha Delta Nu

Brittany Rudacille, Jericho, Alpha Delta Nu

Gribbin Loring, Bolton Valley, Alpha Delta Nu

Casey Gianfagna, Huntington, Alpha Delta Nu

Orin Goss, Jericho, Phi Theta Kappa and Tau Alpha Pi Honor Society



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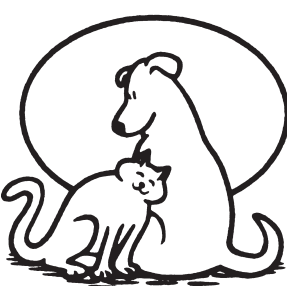
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CSC Grant Award: No-Cost Laptop Computers to Seniors

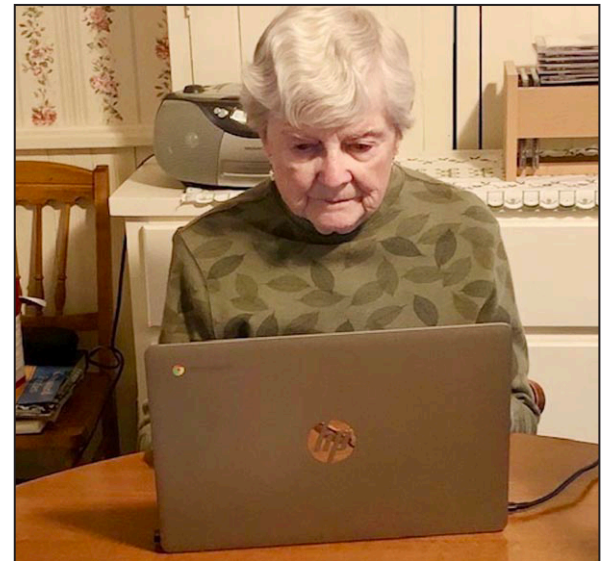
Thanks to a grant awarded by the Vermont Department of Health to the Community Senior Center of Bolton, Huntington and Richmond, laptop computers are now available free of charge to area seniors who do not have access to a working computer.

Designated Chromebook Connect, the initiative follows the CSC's mission to provide its on-line wellness, learning and social programs and activities to all seniors, including those who cannot travel regularly to physical venues. It also affords seniors the opportunity for more frequent contact with friends and family, and access to many on-line resources such as video medical visits and informative programs offered by other support organizations.

RiseVT! supported the CSC in developing the grant request. Its purpose is to help seniors avoid the stress and harmful effects of social isolation. In the three-month pilot program, 25 area seniors took advantage of the Chromebook Connect and the CSC's volunteer training with very positive results.

Sylvia Peet of Richmond, one of the recipients, had this to report: "I'm not completely comfortable with it yet, but I'm beginning to see how nice it is to use email to connect with my family, and to stay in touch with my church through email and watching services online. I have many grandchildren and great grands. Because of COVID, I am not able to get or give hugs, and that is what I miss most. Now I can at least see them and how they are growing. Also, it is

easier to keep in touch with friends and my only sibling in Florida. Thanks again."



Sylvia Peet connects on-line with friends, family and church on one of the Chromebook laptops now available to seniors through the Community Senior Center.

Several dozen of the small, lightweight units are available on a first-come-first served basis to seniors of Bolton, Huntington and Richmond who do not have a functioning laptop or tablet, with priority given to those 65 and up. To help or update seniors unfamiliar with the new computers or internet access, CSC volunteers also provide instruction by phone, or in person when health guidelines allow.

For more information, seniors or their family members can contact Chromebook Connect Program Coordinator Nancy Mead (802) 434-2048; nmead@cscvt.org; or CSC Development Director Martha Nye (802) 503-8155; martha@cscvt.org.

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Masks

continued from page 2

economic and social effects. I would say, for most kids, they believe this already and we will either step up with something different and change the narrative as abruptly as it was changed on us in March of 2020 or this is how the future will be.

Do you see the Government and media backing down from crisis mode or do you see them gearing up to find the next crises? I know what I see and I hope I'm wrong. Have you addressed the trauma and fear of the last 400 days? Have you processed it with your kids, with your community? The biggest disruption in human life just happened. We just lived through it. Our kids just lived through it. Are we really going to be driven into the next crisis and the one after that and the one after that? As I write this I feel my

anger at our leadership growing. But it's really not them, it's not for me to blame anyone before I step up to do something myself, same goes for you. So what are we going to do because it's really up to us?

I don't know – but what I do know is we've created a world of fear and we've brought it right down to the most basic structure, our families and now our families are connected to this fear and this response and if we, our families, don't address this, then what? We just lay ourselves open to the narrative from the top? The narrative that we must live in fear, the narrative that there is nothing more important than safety? This is not about blaming anyone for any response. This is about where we are now, and next steps about how to get back to a place where childhood is not about fear, masks, distance, disease and dying. Otherwise what is there to live for?

—Damon Brink, Morrisville
Grown in Jericho, CHMS, MMU and UVM



Sunday Worship Service will now be held in person and via Facebook.

Live at 9 am Sundays. on the Home Page of the website listed below.

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Area Residents Honored



Daryl Storrs at work on a large block print. Her studio is located in an old carriage barn on Bridge Street in Huntington. Storrs is an active participant in the Open Studio Weekend, held two times each year by the Vermont Crafts Council. The event will be held on June 19 and 20 and Storrs and other local artists will open their studios to the public - and also have work for sale.

Daryl Storrs Chosen First Prize Winner

Daryl Storrs is a renowned landscape artist who works in both pastels and printmaking. Her studio is located in Huntington. Recently, she received notice that she had received a First Place Award for her work.

The lush mountains, meadows and lakes of Vermont are the source of her art, especially locations close to her home. A blueberry farm, a hilltop dairy farm and The Mount Philo Inn overlooking the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain are all places where she can relax, draw, and reflect. When the weather is good, the pastels are loosely sketched outside on location, but she refers to the actual landscape less often as the picture gains a life of its own.

Storrs's woodcuts and linocuts are often printed from five or six separate blocks and use up to ten colors, each cut from shina plywood or linoleum. Each color is individually transferred onto a block, then cut away with carving tools. After cutting, the interlocking color blocks are printed in successive layers onto Japanese paper using highly pigmented, environmentally safe inks. Every print is a bit different from the next as each one is pulled by hand.

In 2018, Storrs was invited to carve and print a giant woodblock at the Museum of Fine Arts BIG INK event in Boston, Massachusetts. Her work was featured in YANKEE WEATHER PROVERBS, a book of 125 proverbs and 35 color illustrations by Storrs, published by YANKEE MAGAZINE.

In 2016, the Vermont Historical Society chose

a pastel landscape by Storrs, as its signature artwork to be used on posters, postcards, programs and other printed material for the Vermont History Expo. This well-tended and popular event is held biennially at the Tunbridge Fairgrounds, home of Vermont's famous World's Fair. This event brings together Vermont historians, museum staff members, musicians, genealogists and others to enjoy and discuss the history of Vermont.

In 2016, her lovely print of white birches was the cover of the Huntington Annual Report, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. And, when Town Moderator Britt Cummings retired after 25 years of capably managing the business of the March Huntington Town and School Meetings, the Huntington Selectboard presented him with an original print by Daryl Storrs. This work of art was made even more special as it was exquisitely crafted in her studio in Huntington.

Storrs holds an MFA in printmaking from UMass Amherst and was awarded a residency in printmaking at the MacDowell Colony. She apprenticed with renowned Vermont printmaker Sabra Field in the early 1980s, after graduating from Middlebury College.

In addition to her studies, Storrs taught figure drawing, woodcut, typography and monoprinting at Hampshire College. She received two Vermont Council on the Arts grants to teach printmaking to school students, has been accepted into national print shows and was a resident in printmaking at the MacDowell Colony.

Open Studio Weekend is back!

New dates!
June 19 & 20
Open 10-5

Come visit local artists!



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

Maps and more information are available at the Vt Crafts Council website: www.vermontcrafts.com. Maps will be available around town or from participants

Local participants:

Gordon Rowe
Hand built and thrown ceramics
functional sculpture

239 Texas Hill Road, Huntington 881-3975
bignose@gmavt.net

Daryl Storrs, Daryl V. Storrs Artworks
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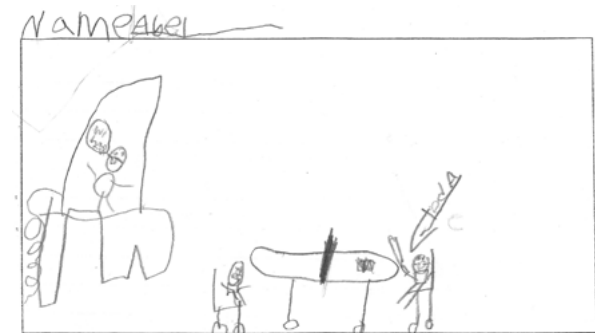
Students Create a COVID Time Capsule

The first and second graders of Ms. Motta at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in Huntington, Vermont created writing and drawings to put into a time capsule. Here is some of their work.

First Grade

Walker Marchelewicz: Hi, my name is Walker. You cannot go places unless you wear a mask.

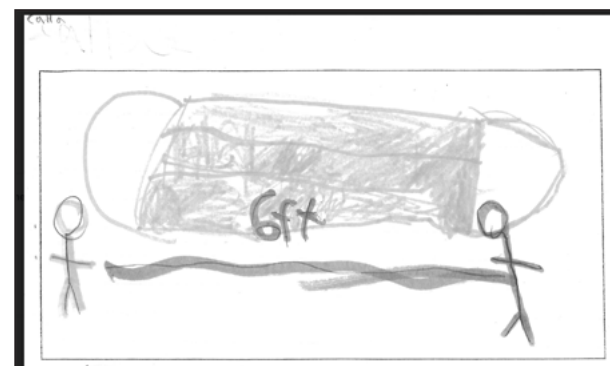
Abel Kinkel: I have to have plexiglass. I have to wear a mask. I can't see my family.



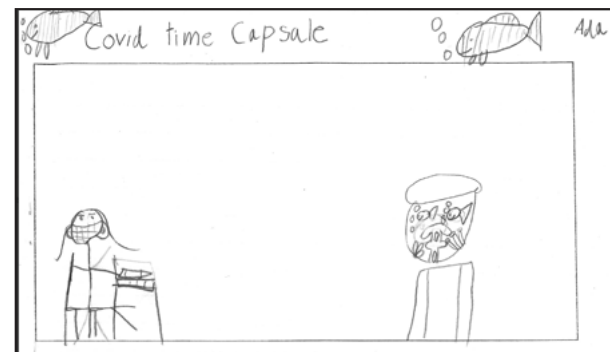
Willa Loomis: We have to wear a mask and be 6 feet apart and at our desk we have plexiglass windows. It's hard in the Pandemic. If you go out you have to quarantine for 14 days. We can't see our friends. I live in Vermont, in Huntington.



Calla Jewett: We are in a Pandemic. It is super hard. You need to stay six feet apart so you are safe. Boo Hoo!



Ada Schwartzkopf: We have to wear a mask on our face.

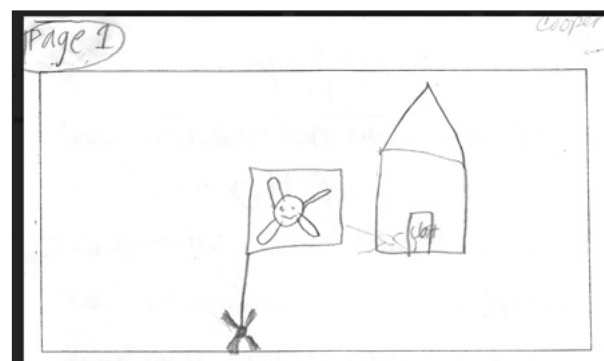


Second Grade

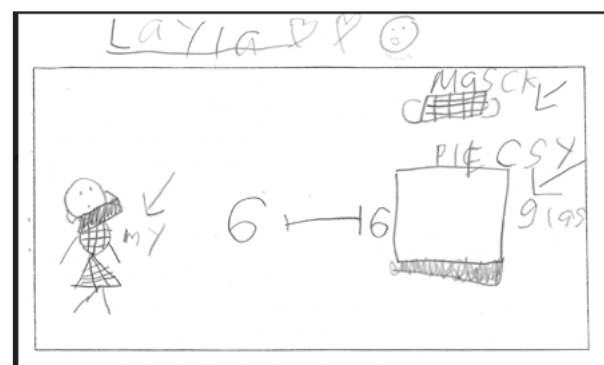
Savanna Holland: You need a mask and you need to stay six feet apart from each other. Does it make you sad? It makes me sad. But, you might have a playdate with your friends. If you go elsewhere you have to quarantine for 14 days. You can basically only see your family! When it started we did home school.



Cooper Strite: Imagine that you are having a normal life and then suddenly a pandemic breaks out! A pandemic is a sickness that started in one place and then spread from there to the rest of the world. This virus is called COVID 19. Well, anyway, you could not go anywhere. The schools were closed and you could only get groceries every three or so weeks and some people could even die. Oh, and you cannot visit anybody in your family if they are out of state without quarantining for 14 days. Quarantining is when you have to stay away from everything including grocery stores. And also I forgot to mention that you have to wear a mask everywhere you go outside of your house. And at the beginning of COVID you had to do school virtually. Virtual means that you have to do something over a computer. In the middle of COVID you could go to school.

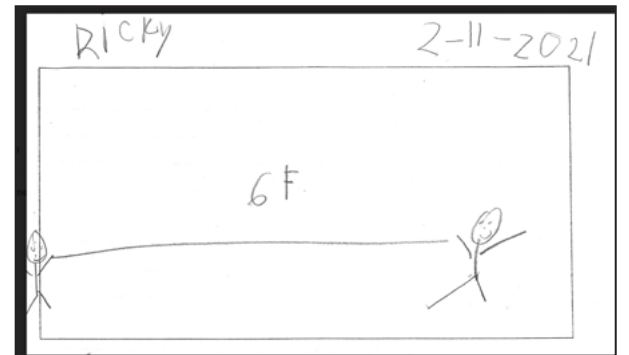


Layla Poland: Living in a Pandemic was very hard. We had to wear face masks and stay six feet apart. My family can only be in our home. It was hard but I still do not like it!

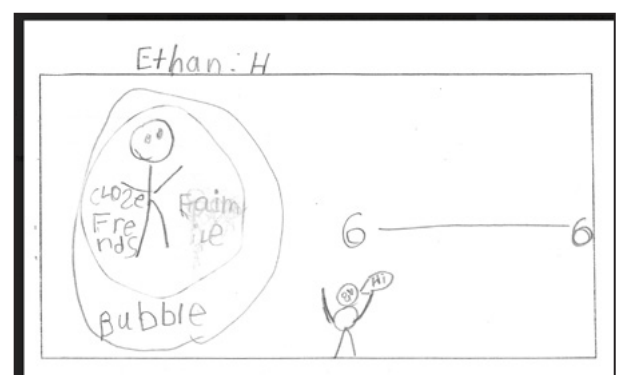


Carson Van Horn: Hi, my name is Carson. A pandemic is happening. I am 7. I am in Vermont. I have to wear a mask on my face all the time.

Ricky Rayta: Hi, My name is Ricky. I hate COVID. It is dumb and we have to wear a mask all the time. We have to stay 6 feet apart all the time. The End.



Ethan Hemme: Hi my name is Ethan. We are in a Pandemic. You have to wear a mask. It's not fun. We don't know when it is going to end. In three days it will be Valentine's day. It's February. COVID started in March last year.



Ansel Enman: I live in Huntington, Vermont. It is not the best time because there is a new sickness called COVID 19. And we have to wear a mask. I had to quarantine myself. And my cousin did too. But in your time, corona probably isn't a thing. If I am right, you are safe. You have to stay 6 feet apart and it started in March and we started virtual school on Leprechaun Day. The End.



Emilia Conforti: What is it like? I can't see my family. You have to quarantine.

Eli Detweiler: My name is Eli, and I'm going to tell you about the COVID 19 Pandemic. You have to stay 6 feet part; so like the length of an alligator. You also have to wear a mask. Oh yeah, my teacher said to tell a bit about myself. I am 8 years old and I go to BPMS. I'm in the second grade, although I should be in third. I live in Huntington, VT. You can't go out to dinner. I'm in a pod with a guy named Copper. We've almost had the pandemic for a year, it started in March. A pandemic is like an epidemic for the whole world! That's right, the whole world is going through what I'm going through. SO THIS WHOLE THING IS LIKE A BOO HOO!!!!

LAURA E. GORSKY PLLC Attorney at Law

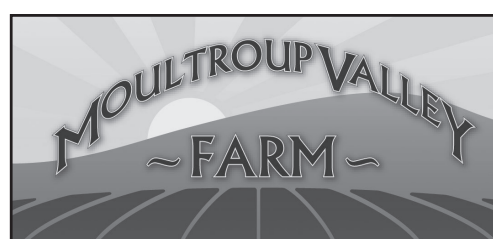
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Parking or Dining on the Street? No Pandemic Parklets on Richmond's Busy Bridge Street

Written by Emily Shedd,
UVM Community News

Warming weather and an ongoing pandemic have sparked a conversation about outdoor dining in Richmond, where some residents proposed replacing a few Bridge Street parking spots with a compact “parklet.”

“I’m excited to dine outdoors again,” wrote resident Dan Ryan in a March social media post. “I envision our vibrant downtown busting at the seams this summer.”

It is a vision that’s on-trend. Parklets and other creative outdoor dining options have been popping up throughout the pandemic in towns and cities from Salem, Massachusetts to Ljubljana, Slovenia. They’re designed to take advantage of the plentiful fresh air that lowers risk of Covid-19 transmission.

“If there was anybody who wasn’t feeling comfortable coming indoors then maybe that would satisfy that,” said Lisa Curtis, owner of Sweet Simone’s. The idea of parklets, she said, “came from a place of just wanting to bring a little bit of happiness and smiling to people’s faces; to get them to be able to interact again in a comfortable spot.”

Not everyone was on board. “People do like to sit outside to eat, socialize, and I like that,” said Richmond’s Ian Stokes, “but at the same time, I don’t think that particular spot is really very well suited, you know, it is on a busy thoroughfare.”

While some were concerned about safety, other commenters focused on the possible loss of four Bridge Street parking places. “There seems to



Outdoor dining on busy Bridge Street is limited to a section of the sidewalk in front of the eateries on the north side of the street.

be inadequate parking on Bridge Street as it is now,” wrote Ike Patch on social media. “To take away three or four spaces would only compound the problem.”

Former Selectboard member Kathie Mather said she is in support of preserving the current parking spots on Bridge Street, but added that Richmond has a walking problem — not a parking problem.

“I know folks (myself included) like to park directly in front of businesses, but there are

typically a ton of spots available within very easy walking distance of the village downtown,” Mather wrote. “We don’t necessarily need more parking, we need more walking,” Mather said in an interview.

The focus and interest in these four parking spots, Ian Stokes noted, reflects a very specific set of priorities. It “raises a really fundamental question I think for the town, which is what kind of town that we want?” he said.

Amid the pandemic, towns including Montpelier have used interim zoning bylaws to temporarily extend outdoor seating, a strategy Richmond could have pursued, said Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman. Both Acting Police Chief Kyle Kapitanski and Highway Foreman Pete Gosselin, “were okay with it,” Venkataraman said.

But there’s no clear permitting pathway for a parklet on Bridge Street to take over parking spaces or partial roadway, a problem outlined in a March 22 Select Board meeting. The Board decided “this wasn’t something that they wanted to pursue at this time, that maybe they’ll look at it in the future,” Venkataraman said.

“What I know is that the concept of parklets — especially to spur economic activity and to bring people out to the streets — works, but it might not work in all contexts,” said Venkataraman.

He concluded, “In Richmond right now it seems like it’s something that the community neither wants nor needs.”

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Rep. Tom Stevens

It's hard to write an update when we are in the middle of the session endgame. Bills are flying around in the ether (it is Zoom after all), going back and forth between the House and Senate, and many of the bills our committee has been working on remain in flux. We expect to be done by May 22, but one hiccup on an important bill and we will have to come back the following week.

We are still working on S.79, a bill that would create a rental registry and an enforcement mechanism for towns that do not already have a rental registry for health and safety. This fee-based program would relieve town health officers — mostly volunteers — from the burden of following up on health and safety complaints from either tenants or landlords about unsafe conditions in apartments. This element is supported by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and would create a new baseline for enforcement of habitability concerns in rental properties.

We consider this important because of the dire shortage of rental units in Vermont. Rents are skyrocketing, the number of short term rentals are taking units off the long term market, and we know that there are many subpar dwelling units out there. We also know we need them to be code compliant, safe and affordable.

S.79 also offers a rehabilitation program for owners of rental units who want to bring those they may have that are not currently code compliant back online. This program offers up to \$30,000 per unit with a 20% match, and would require the landlord to either seek to rent to families coming out of homelessness, or in the lower economic bracket of 80% of area median income. We are at crisis levels with apartments at this price point, and rehabilitating units will be less expensive and faster than building new (which will happen over the next several years with the influx of relief dollars from the federal government).

S.79 also proposes a new revolving loan fund for lower income first time home buyers with an income of up to 120% of the area median income. This program would offer up to \$50,000 zero percent loan payable at the sale or refinancing of the home in the future. A portion of the funds would be used to ensure that communities that have been marginalized by restrictive loan and home buying policies of the past — Black, Indigenous and people of color — have the opportunity to buy a home and build equity, which is the most direct way to build wealth in this country.

Finally, S.79 proposes to adjust the eviction moratorium to allow landlords several options to file for ejectment proceedings during the emergency period that they did not have before. We've heard of the difficulties some landlords have had with tenants who have chosen not to participate in the very generous back rent programs we have instituted, which can include payments to cover first, last and security, as well as any rental arrearages and, possibly, rent moving forward through 2021. We have seen great success with the 2020 back rent program, but there are always difficult cases that present themselves. We hope the changes we are proposing are accepted for the duration of the emergency period, and that relationships between landlords and tenants — especially these difficult ones — find resolution.

One other resolution we have worked on this year, JRH 2, has passed both the House and Senate once, and the bill is currently in the Senate for one last adjustment. When it is done, JRH 2, which apologizes for the policies and practices of eugenics made by the General Assembly to the disabled, the poor, French Canadians, French Indians, and the descendants of the Abenaki. It is a first step, an important one, and it is up to us to continue our work to make amends for the damages we caused because of our actions. Look for a public event in the spring or early summer, when we are allowed to meet together in a safe and respectful way.

Rep. Jana Brown

At the time of this update, the legislature is heading into the final week of our regular session this year. It has been an honor to serve on the House Education Committee and to work on issues that impact schools, students, teachers, and staff across Vermont as we seek to move all Vermont

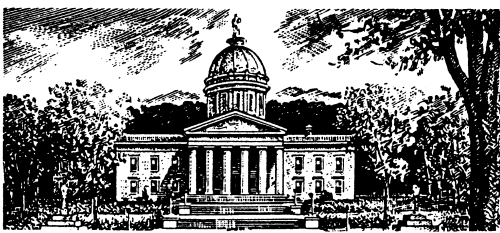
students forward into the pandemic recovery and learning re-engagement phase. The House Education Committee worked on several key bills and topic areas this session with the goal of better serving economically disadvantaged students, increasing equity for historically marginalized students, addressing our school infrastructure needs, and directing our resources in a targeted way to assist struggling students.



One important piece of our work this year concerned school facilities. Built decades ago, it's no surprise that many of Vermont's school buildings are aging and in urgent need of repair. H.426 (An act relating to addressing the needs and conditions of public school facilities in the State) assists school districts in utilizing the federal relief money to schools (ES-SER funding) in order to improve health and safety conditions for students and staff. The work begins with an update of the school facility standards and a statewide conditions assessment and inventory for all school buildings. Improving the physical learning space yields healthy and energy-efficient facilities and better educational outcomes. The bill also establishes a renewable and efficiency heating systems grant program administered by Efficiency Vermont and implements a requirement that each public and independent school in the state perform radon measurements by June 2023 on any school facility that has not performed this testing within the past five years. Additional time for testing is granted to schools in the process of implementing indoor air quality improvement projects. With the influx of federal funding to improve the health and safety of school facilities, this is an incredible opportunity to leverage federal funds to begin this critical work. We hope to send this bill to the governor before adjournment.

After focusing significant attention on literacy this session, our efforts culminated in Governor Scott signing S.114, an act relating to improving literacy within the State. Learning to read is critical to success in school and beyond and is an important focal point in learning re-engagement and recovery for schools. Widespread consensus around the need to improve literacy test scores for Vermont students, and the necessary focus on preK through grade 3 literacy as part of COVID-19 learning recovery, guided our efforts to provide additional resources for literacy instruction across the state. Recent assessment scores indicated that only 37% of our 4th graders were proficient on national measures of reading. In addition, the data showed disparities in literacy proficiency based on student gender, race, ethnicity, free/reduced lunch eligibility, English learner and special education status, and among students from historically marginalized groups.

S.114 continues the ongoing work to improve reading proficiency and uses our federal pandemic relief funding for learning recovery to bolster these efforts. Approximately \$3 million dollars of funding in this bill will assist supervisory unions and districts in these efforts. The Agency of Education will also retain additional support to advise supervisory unions and districts on how best to leverage their federal pandemic relief funds to assist students in need of additional literacy support. This legislation also creates an Advisory Council on Literacy to engage in innovative thinking around sustainable improvement in literacy outcomes on a statewide level.



State House News

Many important bills are still working their way through the legislative process and this final week will certainly bring additional developments. I will publish an end of session report with legislative highlights from this session, and I look forward to chatting about all we accomplished at a community meeting in the coming weeks. Scheduling information will be posted via social media and Front Porch Forum or you can email me for details.

Rep. Theresa Wood

You can tell when legislators sense the end of the session is just a few weeks away because the pace of work in the virtual halls of the Legislature definitely picks up as many bills come to the floor for a vote and key "money" bills pass the House and are now being worked on in the Senate.

Recently the House passed S.20, an act relating to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other chemicals of concern in consumer products. You may have heard of these chemicals more often referred to as PFAS, particularly when referencing the contamination of ground water supplies in Bennington from a chemical plant. The cost to human health and property as a result of that contamination has been great and the effects are still being felt. However, exposure to these toxic chemicals is not just a Bennington issue. PFAS chemicals have been shown to have adverse effects on the liver, endocrine system, and immune system. They also have been shown to have adverse health effects on developing embryos, or fetuses and they increase the risk of cancer. We now know that PFAS have been found in levels, above our safe drinking water standard, across the state, from the Winooski River to the mountains of Killington, and in more than 100 public water supplies, private drinking water wells, ground waters, and surface waters. We have found high levels of PFAS in the runoff (or leachate) from our landfills, both active and abandoned. And within the water of our wastewater treatment plants, regardless of whether or not they accept this leachate. This issue is not limited to Vermont, as PFAS can be found in the blood of almost every person in the United States.

The defining feature of PFAS chemicals, a carbon chain surrounded by fluorine, is found to be resistant to any kind of break-down. Known as "forever chemicals" they do not biodegrade, but instead remain in contaminated areas for decades. They also can accumulate within our bodies over time, impacting various organs as they circulate through our blood. In fact, it is rare to find an emerging environmental health issue that is so universal, that contaminates both the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat. It is rare to find a substance that is so ubiquitous, so persistent, and yet so unknown to the general public. Meanwhile, PFAS chemicals continue to be manufactured in our country every day.

A recent study published in the Journal of Environmental Science found over 1,400 different kinds of PFAS chemicals in over 200 consumer products. You do not need to live in a contaminated area to be exposed to PFAS. You can consume PFAS by simply eating a meal, or coming into contact with the furniture in your home. That being said, some Vermonters are at a higher risk of exposure than others, including our firefighters, our infants, and even our skiers.

In an effort to protect human health, this bill targets four consumer products: Fire extinguisher foam and firefighting personal protective equipment; food packaging; rugs and carpets, and ski wax. It also adds PFAS chemicals to the state's list of Chemicals of High Concern to Children. It is difficult to comprehend how our exposure to these chemicals of concern impact both our healthcare system and human well-being. Rather than limiting our actions and efforts to these problems downstream, S.20 addresses this issue upstream, at the manufacturer. This legislation prevents these toxins from further contaminating our environment and accumulating within our bodies. My committee received testimony from the President of the Professional Firefighters of Vermont, an organization representing 250 paid union firefighters, EMT's and paramedics in our state. They stated their support and appreciation for S.20, acknowledging that firefighters are at a significantly higher risk for cancer than the general population. Testimony cited a 2020 report from The International Association of Fire Fighters that since 2002 61% of deaths from actively working firefighters were caused by cancer, and that in the year 2016, 70% of firefighter deaths were cancer-related.

The bill also touches on two other chemicals of concern besides PFAS within food packaging, bisphenols and phthalates. A manufacturer, supplier, or distributor shall not manufacture, sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or distribute for use in this State a food package to which PFAS have been intentionally added and are present in any amount. While Vermont banned use of certain bisphenols (BPA) in baby food and bottles in 2010, it is still widely used as an epoxy resin in food packaging manufacturing. Studies of BPA have shown changes in the endocrine and brain development in animals. Epidemiology studies have found positive association with levels of BPA and levels of obesity.

The bill also covers aftermarket stain and water resistant treatments to rugs and carpets. The definition for "aftermarket stain and water resistant treatments" means treatments for textile and leather consumer products used in residential settings that have been treated during the manufacturing process for stain, oil, and water resistance. The bill bans the manufacture or sale in Vermont of new residential rugs or carpets containing PFAS. Why is it important that we address the use of PFAS in rugs and carpets? Simply, they are the highest risk exposure pathways for infants and toddlers, who crawl and play on rugs and carpets in the home. It is especially at these early developmental stages that we need to protect our children's health and safety from toxins. Additionally, a Waste Source Testing Report within the state of Vermont found that carpets were one of the products with the highest concentrations of PFAS found within our waste stream. Not only does this suggest that rugs and carpets are of high concern for our infants, but also means they are one of the worst offenders for PFAS chemicals leaching from our landfills.

The use of fluorinated ski wax poses an exposure risk to skiers. Our committee heard in testimony that proper safe application of any ski wax requires a respirator, due to the ironing, scraping, and brushing of ski wax which can create smoke or other particulates in the air. In addition, multiple studies, including one published in the JOURNAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, indicate that PFAS enter the snow and surrounding environment at significant levels through runoff from fluorinated ski wax. Both the international ski federation and the US Ski and Snowboard Association are scheduled to ban PFAS wax.

Finally, the bill adds three PFAS chemicals to the Department of Health's list of Chemicals of High Concern for Children. This is a list of chemicals which manufacturers must report use of in children's products to the Department of Health.

This bill passed both the House and Senate on unanimous roll call votes and as of May 14 is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Rep. Theresa Wood Washington-Chittenden Vice-Chair, House Human Services Committee 1461 Perry Hill Road Waterbury, VT 05676 (802) 585-5202 twood@leg.state.vt.us	Rep. Tom Stevens Washington-Chittenden Chair, General, Housing and Military Affairs 12 Winooski Street Waterbury, VT 05676 595-0429 (cell) tom@stevensvermont.com tstevens@leg.state.vt.us	Rep. Jana Brown Chittenden 1 Member, House Education Committee PO Box 66 Richmond, VT 05477 434-2854 / 999-4333 jbrown@leg.state.vt.us janabrownforvt.com
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Refinding Historical Treasures: Sustainable Approach in Jonesville

by Emily Shedd,
UVM Community News Service

Richmond resident JoAnn Yurchesyn is breathing fresh life into the old Jonesville Country Store on Route 2, location of her new ReFind Boutique, an “upcycled” furniture shop scheduled to open in May. A former teacher from “long line of handy people,” Yurchesyn loves fixing up well-used furniture.

“My big thing is, do not buy new,” Yurchesyn said. “Go out and find treasures that are spectacular.” It’s “the process of re-finding” that Yurchesyn loves most, she explained. “Looking at the quality and realizing the refinement in the product. And where it’s come from, and the life, and the history of it.” Yurchesyn seeks objects that have “lots of thought and process involved in their creation,” she said.

A space in the back of the store will be Yurchesyn’s furniture workshop. For sale alongside her refurbished pieces will be glassware, china, rugs, vintage clothing, and collectible books.

All will be second-hand. It’s an approach she sees as a sustainable alternative to business as usual. “We live in the richest country on the planet ... we don’t need more stuff ... we only recycle less than 2% of the products that we manufacture,” Yurchesyn said. “I am very, very much into the reuse market. I love not shopping retail.”



“Go out and find treasures that are spectacular,” says JoAnn Yurchesyn, who loves the process of restoring used furniture. Courtesy photos: JoAnn Yurchesyn

Yurchesyn, who is from Canada, was a science teacher for 12 years, lived in a Canadian Arctic Inuit community for two years, and also spent a couple years teaching in Bangalore, India. Those experiences shaped her perspective, she explained. “I see the impact that our consumerism has on the globe,” Yurchesyn said. “98% of the fabric that we manufacture in the world comes from the developing world,” she said. “They’re getting paid pennies and we buy, you know, a T shirt for \$67.50 down at the mall.”

Yurchesyn brings her fit-it-up mentality to her store’s location, a Route 2 landmark that’s more than a century old. It was once the Jonesville Country Store, which closed in 2004. The space has changed occupants several times, serving

most notably as a cooperative art center with bright red ceilings, electric green floors, and canary yellow walls, which Yurchesyn joked left colorful traces behind.



JoAnn Yurchesyn’s 15-year-old daughter Katherine Hashem designed the ReFind logo, which draws on Native Canadian traditions and the work of Haida artist Bill Reid.

The building was first owned by Plant and Griffith Lumber Company, said Fran Thomas, President of the Richmond Historical Society. The Quinn family moved the Jonesville Country Store there after their original location burned down in December of 1980.

Just like the neglected furniture Yurchesyn works on, the store had “seen a better day,” she said. The location’s back story, for her, is an inspiration. In the dwindling days before the grand opening in mid-May, Yurchesyn is finishing a major rehabilitation of the historic building.

“I’m doing it pretty much single-handedly and I have been down there 10 hours a day for four months,” Yurchesyn said. That work includes the tedious process of installing solid white pine flooring from a Vermont mill, which Yurchesyn stained by hand. Jute fills any gaps and cracks. It’s “the way they would have done in the old farmsteads 100 years ago,” she said.

The work has been intensive, but also creative. Yurchesyn’s 15-year-old daughter Katherine Hashem designed the ReFind logo, which draws on Native Canadian traditions and the work of Haida artist Bill Reid. The images is now a bold, black-and-white wall mural alongside walls that incorporate repurposed pallets and old fences.

“We have quite literally touched every square inch of this space,” Yurchesyn said.

ReFind Boutique is located at 3176 East Main Street in Jonesville. Learn more about ReFind Boutique on Facebook.

Now that the Snow Has Melted... Can Baseball be Far Behind?



Local Photographer Pennie Rand captured this labor of love: preparing the fields in Richmond for the spring baseball program.



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News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington

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

As I write this my time as Interim Pastor here in Huntington is drawing to a close. It has been a pleasure to meet many delightful folks in town and certainly to get to know the wonderful congregation at the Community Church! During a trying year or more with the COVID pandemic, I've watched the church step up and be a vehicle to help the community come together. With willing hands and hearts help was given to those most in need and social contact over the phone and on public media such as Facebook and U-Tube was offered. Worship Services were able to be continued remotely thanks to the efforts of Scott Detweiler and with 'hard-copies' being distributed by Becky Cozzens. I'm happy to say we are now once again meeting in person (with masks) offering the chance to personally greet and converse!

I am writing a week before the third major holy day for Christians. Pentecost is called the birthday of the Church! (Acts 2). I was just reading a quote from Benjamin Dueholm about this: "...Pentecost is charged with surpassing drama and significance. While the moment in the manger is delicately hushed and the morning of the empty tomb is marked with confusion and disbelief, Pentecost comes in with a bang. With a rushing noise and a mighty wind, tongues as of flame and an outpouring of the languages of the whole Roman world by unlearned Galilean laborers and then an impromptu sermon by their head fisherman, Peter."

And so begins the Season of the Spirit, which celebrates the spreading of God's Good News and a challenge to live according to the teachings of Jesus. Caring for one another, recognizing the real worth of everyone, challenging ourselves to live out love and proclaiming the renewing hope and wonder of faith is our calling as the church. Personally, I feel the Community Church is doing this very well!

Bill Schubart did a column some years back (perhaps in VTDigger or in a radio piece) speaking about what makes for vital communities. He spoke of the importance of local schools, libraries, general stores and community churches. I believe Huntington, like my own community of Lincoln, is blessed to have all these and more! Each 'institution' offers something unique, and in my opinion, something quite important for the well-being of children and adults alike. Together they cover the spectrum of our human experience allowing us to grow, question and celebrate as nurturing communities.

Now, not everyone in the church is the same... our understandings vary but we try and allow ourselves to be open to the Spirit. And what the church offers is the opportunity to see life and personal vocational calling in light of a larger more holistic understanding... a spiritual perspective. I wonder how many today see themselves as 'spiritual beings'... a question we each answer for ourselves...

I believe Huntington's vitality is indeed in part due to the presence of the community church. And with that in mind, even as I will be leaving at the end of May, I would invite you to be a part of this wonderfully inter-generational and friendly bunch!

As always, Neighbor Helping Neighbor assistance is available as is the Little Free Pantry. Be looking for notice of community meals or other special gatherings as things begin to open up once more! Blessings for a wonderful Summer!

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn Macrae, 434-2053
(www.rccucc.org)

Moving Forward with Vermont Forward @ Richmond Congregational Church United Church of Christ.

We will begin hybrid outdoor worship at RCC with livestreaming starting Sunday, June 20, at 10 am. Until then we will continue to hold remote worship as we have been doing since March 2020.

We will hold outdoor worship on June 20, 27, July 4 and July 11 at 10 am on the church's side lawn outside the Fellowship Hall. We will follow Universal Guidance which includes social distancing and mask wearing.

Outdoor Worship is BYOC Bring your own chair (and bring your own communion on July 4). In the event of rain, we will be inside the Fellowship Hall with the windows and doors open. We are committed to livestreaming outdoor and indoor worship for the foreseeable future so that folks who want to attend online can still do so.

How can you help?

• **Musicians:** If you are a community member interested in offering live music for outdoor worship on any of these dates, please contact the church office. The current health guidance discourages group singing, so we need some enthusiastic musicians to help enliven our worship! We promise to clap along!

Additionally, the Trustees and our Office Administrator have revised the building use agreement for rental groups based upon the Vermont Forward Guidance. If you have questions about using the church building, please contact the church office.

One closing note, hybrid outdoor worship is yet one more experiment in our worship life together during Covid times. The Deacons will evaluate our worship plan for the rest of the summer based upon state health guidance and the worship experience with an eye towards meeting inside the Sanctuary in Fall 2021. We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we seek to faithfully navigate the pandemic, keep everyone healthy, and worship God!

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Calendar of Events

FRIDAYS, JUNE 4 THROUGH OCTOBER 15: Richmond Farmers' Market is held every Friday June 4-October 15 from 3 pm to 6:30 pm on the Volunteer's Green on Bridge Street in Richmond. Fruit and vegetables, berries, prepared food, live music, crafts, ice cream, cheese, bread, honey, soap and more. www.richmondfarmersmarketvt.org

SEPTEMBER 18: Milton Artists' Guild's First Annual Outdoor Art Fair: Vendors needed. Registration and contract are available. Book your spot soon!

Register online: <https://miltonartistsguild.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7944787745c746a979ba19a2c&id=73aae8b0fb&e=52ec650f11> Milton Artists' Guild Gallery & Art Center

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.

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: on the green in Jericho Center Circle; Senior Pastor Dave Coons; Youth Pastor Pete Anderson; Sunday services 10 am livestream on our Facebook page. Sunday Youth Group: 6:15 pm. 899-4911 / www.jccvt.org

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.goodshepherd-jericho.org

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.

Regular Meetings, Held Remotely during COVID, will begin again soon

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

SELECTBOARD:

Huntington: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 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.

Richmond Farmers' Market Opens June 4

The Richmond Farmers' Market is returning strong this year with more than a dozen new vendors, plus returning crowd favorites.

The market opens June 4, from 3 pm to 6:30 pm, on the Volunteer's Green in Richmond and runs through October 15. Shoppers can find local produce, prepared food, baked goods, cheese, artisanal crafts, wellness products, fine liquors, soap, honey, and more.

This year's market will host 20 full season vendors, plus a rotating roster of half season and day vendors.

Four new farmers will join longtime cornerstone Last Resort Farm. Richmond-based New Tradition Farm will focus on seasonal salad and braising greens mixes, along with homemade dressings. Prima Materia will bring wild and cultivated mushrooms; Rocky Hill Farm will provide organic vegetables, eggs, and rabbit; and Valhalla Farm will offer a variety of produce.

Shoppers looking for a meal can find savory treats. Vendors will also offer fresh handmade

pasta, cookies and baked goods, honey, cheese, handcrafted marshmallows, Alaskan-caught seafood, ice cream and more.

Other vendors will offer CBD products, pottery, artwork, herbal skincare and makeup products, soap, plant and flower arrangements, and more.

EBT customers can double their money at the market with Crop Cash, a NOFA-VT program intended to increase food security, boost nutrition, and put extra dollars into the hands of dedicated farmers. Anyone who swipes an EBT card at the market receives an additional \$1 in Crop Cash coupons for every \$1 redeemed from an EBT card, up to \$10. Crop Cash coupons can be spent on fresh fruits and vegetables.

While Covid-19 regulations are loosening, the market asks that shoppers continue to wear masks and stay at least six feet apart while shopping.

For more information and to see the full lineup of 2021 vendors, visit www.richmondfarmersmarketvt.org

In Memoriam

Janet Cressy Stensrud Bonneau

Janet Cressy Stensrud Bonneau of Richmond passed away unexpectedly December 3, 2020. Born in Beverly, Massachusetts, to Gordon and Elizabeth Stensrud, Janet attended Richmond schools and graduated from Mt. Mansfield Union High School in 1972. She traveled throughout Europe after graduation and returned to be with the love of her life, Richard Bonneau. She attended Vermont Technical College and UVM studying agriculture. She joined Rick in proudly running the family business, Winooski Press, side-by-side for almost 50 years.

Janet grew up on the Stensrud family farm and kept a herd of colorful horses well fed in the bountiful meadow she adored. You could hear Janet's laugh long before you saw her on her favorite horse, Dakota, as she shared trail riding with friends.

Her love of her horses, cats and the Richmond community made her big smile a welcome sight. Instrumental in starting the Richmond Holiday Market, Janet also sat as a Trustee for the Richmond Free Library where she was a key player in helping the library expand into the upstairs. Whether Meals on Wheels, the Lion's Club, pies for the church supper or 4-H - you could always count on Janet to readily volunteer!

Janet is survived by her beloved husband, Richard Bonneau with whom she shared almost 50 years of her life. She was greatly loved by her siblings Anne and Richard Steadman of Marblehead, Massachusetts,

Susan Stensrud and Ricardo Bessin of Lexington, Kentucky, Matthew and Cyndi Stensrud of Viera, Florida, brother-in-law Robert and Cheryl Bonneau



of Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, her cousin and best friends Sarah Killam and Gary Thomas of Beverly, Massachusetts, and many nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and nephews. She will be deeply missed by all her many friends and business associates in the area.

A memorial service for the celebration of Janet's life will be held June 5, 2021, at 11 am in the lower meadow of the Stensrud Family Farm at the corner of Hillview Rd. and Williams Hill Road. All are invited to attend.

Summer of Science for Youth

The ever-popular Summer of Science series is back, offering kids a chance to delve into a number of scientific fields from herpetology to microbiology with the help of experts in their fields.

University of Vermont Extension 4-H is sponsoring this free learning opportunity for students entering Grades 7-12 in the fall. The series also includes one workshop for Grade 9-12 students on rocketry and another for Grades 2-5 on bees.

Space is limited for these hands-on, in-person sessions, so early registration is advised. Registration for each workshop closes one week in advance to allow organizers time to send required paperwork, directions and additional information.

Dates, topics and locations for workshops include: Rockin' around Champlain (geology of lakeshore); Snakes! Lizards! Amphibians! Oh My! (herpetology focusing on Vermont reptiles and amphibians); Plant Biology Series; Build-A-Rocket!; Natural Resources Management Academy; Biology Series, Microbes in the World Around You (exploration and experiments with microbes); Busy Bees! (close-up look at bees).

For full workshop descriptions or to sign up, go to <https://go.uvm.edu/4h-sos>. If a program is full, contact Lauren Traister at lauren.traister@uvm.edu to be placed on a waiting list. If requiring a disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact her three weeks prior to the workshop date.



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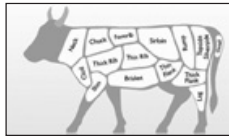
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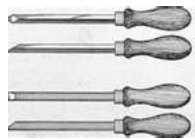
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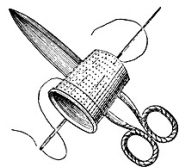
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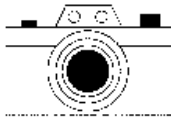
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Into the Woods

Managing Forests for Pollinators

by Ethan Tapper

In recent years, there has been an increase in interest in managing our yards and meadows for pollinators. Simply put, pollinators are the creatures that help our flowering plants reproduce by carrying pollen between flowers. 60-80% of Vermont's plants, including many of our food crops, require the assistance of pollinators. While many people think of pollinators as critters of wildflower meadows, most require healthy forests to thrive.

Many different species pollinate plants – bats are a pollinator of bananas, for instance – but when we talk about pollinators we're usually talking about bugs. In scientific terms, "bugs" are invertebrates, animals without spines, a category that includes everything from crayfish to spiders, insects and snails. About 90%-97% of all the species on Earth are invertebrates; 1.25 million known invertebrate species (as many as 30 million may actually exist), compared to 60,000 species of vertebrates (what most of us would call "animals"). Vermont is home to about 21,000 species of invertebrates, compared to 58 species of mammals; "bugs" represent a massive share of our local and global biodiversity.

While perhaps our most-celebrated pollinator, the Eurasian honeybee, is not native to North America, Vermont is home to about 300 species of native bees, many of which are important pollinators of both wild and domestic plants. Vermont's bees and butterflies get the lion's share of the credit, but equally important pollinators are flies, beetles, slugs and moths.

In fields and yards, we can improve pollinator habitat by encouraging a diversity of plant species; mowing less and planting or encouraging native annual and perennial plants. We can introduce more complexity by planting native shrubs like dogwoods and Viburnums, which provide habitat for pollinators in addition to other wildlife species like songbirds. Excellent resources about managing for pollinators in open areas abound, but a good place to start is with the Xerces Society (xerces.org).

In focusing on yards and meadows, most people don't realize the profound importance that forests play in maintaining pollinators on our landscape. While some pollinators, like the monarch butterfly, spend most of their life in the open, most of Vermont's pollinators are completely reliant on, and adapted to, forests. These pollinators may visit your yard, but they live in the woods. Many species of bees, for instance, nest in tree cavities, rotten wood and in leaf litter, and a huge number of moths and butterflies rely on native trees to complete various parts of their life cycle. Forests also need bugs; in addition to helping plants reproduce, pollinators perform other critical ecosystem roles like acting as decomposers and feeding larger species like songbirds.

To protect and enhance pollinator habitat in the woods, the answer is a mix of good forest stewardship and addressing biodiversity threats. Vermont's dynamic forests support a wide variety of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants that occur on different sites at different stages in forest development. Managing Vermont's relatively young, simple forests to be more diverse and complex provides opportunities for a wider range of flora to thrive, in turn providing a more diverse array of niches and habitat opportunities for pollinators. We need to recognize the importance of tree mortality in providing growing space for diverse plant and shrub communities, in addition to creating features like dead wood, critical habitat for pollinators like our wood-boring bees. Managing forests for complexity can also help make them more adaptive and resilient in a changing climate, ensuring that there is habitat for pollinators into the future.

Providing habitat for pollinators involves much more than the flowers in your yard; any threat

to forests is an existential threat to pollinators. Protecting forests from fragmentation and development is critical to pollinators, not to mention to forests' ability to clean our air and our water, provide habitat for wildlife, and to sequester and store carbon. When we think about protecting pollinators, we need to expand our efforts to include things like controlling the invasive exotic plants and addressing deer overpopulations, both of which can have a massive negative influence on diversity in our forests.

In providing habitat for pollinators, as with many other things, forests are behind the scenes, subtly and unpretentiously making the world work. They are what allow us to enjoy beautiful native wildflowers and the food in our gardens and farmer's markets. To protect pollinators we need to think beyond the meadow.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or at (802) 585-9099



Wild for Pollinators

Wild for Pollinators is a new Vermont initiative raising awareness about the need for pollinator conservation, and encouraging communities to create more pollinator habitat.

Pollinators are essential for a healthy ecosystem and vibrant food system — both of which are important to Vermonters and our local economy. Plants depend on pollinators, and we depend on plants.

It's estimated that more than three-quarters of the world's crops benefit from animal pollination, the bees and other creatures whose help we need to be able to produce many of the foods we eat.

Sixty to 80 percent of wild plants in Vermont are also dependent on pollinators, according to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

Wild for Pollinators provides an easy way for Vermonters to be involved in pollinator conservation. It encourages schools, businesses, farms, community gardens, and homeowners to preserve permanent wild spaces for pollinator-friendly habitat, or to create landscapes and/or container gardens with plants and gardening practices that benefit pollinators.

The initiative also highlights current pollinator conservation work being done in Vermont.

Sixty-four sites have already joined the movement. Schools are using their pollinator gardens as outdoor classrooms, businesses are converting parts of their lawns into habitat, and many homeowners and farmers are planting for pollinators and raising awareness in their communities.

Spring is the perfect time to make plans for incorporating pollinator habitat into the landscape, and to get your community involved in the planning and planting process.

It's easy to get involved and join the initiative. Wild for Pollinators registry, which is connected to the national Million Pollinator Garden

Wild for Pollinators is a collaboration of KidsGardening.org, the Vermont Community Garden Network, and the Intervale Center, with support from American Meadows and Gardener's Supply. To learn more and find out how you can BEE involved, visit wildforpollinators.org or register now.

—Lily Myers, Wild for Pollinators Coordinator
Vermont Community Garden Network, Burlington

Excerpted from the April 3, 2017 Chester Telegraph, Covering the Central Tier of Southern Vermont

GIVE BLOOD



Richmond Blood Drawing on June 2

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One Journey Ends and Another Begins

by Jane Vossler

After working for thirty years as a vet at Richmond Animal Hospital, Dr. Virginia Clarke retired in 2020. I talked to her about her time as a vet and her plans for the future.



Before settling in Richmond in the early 1980s, Clarke went to Purdue's Veterinary School and graduated in 1978 as one of eleven women in a class of ninety. "Things have changed since then," said Clarke. Today practicing female vets make up 55% of the profession.

Next, Clarke got married, had a child, and worked part time in California as a vet. Then her husband, Ted Lyman, got a job at UVM, and in 1983 they moved to Vermont. By now Clarke had two small children, and she took time off from working. In addition to caring for her children, she needed a license to practice in Vermont and had to study for the exam. She also had "to ride around with a large animal vet to bone up" for the exam.

Clarke explained to me that there's been a huge shift in veterinary science. It had its roots in agriculture, working with farm animals. As people had more disposable income, there was a shift to companion animals that gradually began to dominate the field.

Later, with her license in hand and her youngest

child in kindergarten, she leased a tiny garage behind Ernest Paquette's house in Richmond and started a part-time small animal practice. She said, "There were two tiny rooms and looking back it was very primitive." At the time, Paquette was Richmond's only veterinarian and while he did a little of everything, he was not

really interested in small animals. She worked part time for three years.

Then along came Dr. Dan Hament. As he tells the story, he was practicing in New Hampshire and wanted his own business. He had a friend in pharmaceuticals who told him Richmond was a good place to live. The friend suggested that Virginia Clarke would make a good partner for him. Hament found out that Clarke would be at an upcoming conference for vets. He walked up to her at the conference and asked her if she'd like to work for him. Hament reports that Clarke said she didn't want to work for him, but she'd work with

him.

Together they purchased the 175-year-old farmhouse on East Main Street where Richmond Animal Hospital is today, and they were partners for the next thirty years.

For the first six months it was just the two of them, each working part time. In addition to seeing patients, she did the bookkeeping and Hament took care of the supplies. As the business grew, they added one staff person. Before she retired, Richmond Animal Hospital had 10 to 12 staff people and a third part-time vet.

As her children got older, Clarke worked more hours and poured her energy into helping animal companions and their people. She said one of the things she loved about her veterinary work is that "I was able to meet and know so many Richmond people through their pets." One of those people was Martha Laing who told me, "We were always impressed with Virginia's knowledge and could always count on thorough and educational exams when we brought our Golden Retrievers in for a visit. The most memorable was

when she suggested we add fruits or vegetables to Roxy's meals, explaining that kibble lacks moisture so dogs don't feel satiated. Almost 13 years later, Roxy continues to be a good eater and looks forward to the day's surprise topping." Laing is one of many people and their companion animals who had Dr. Virginia as their vet and loved her.

Continuing to reflect on her career, Clarke said, "I also loved the puzzle-like, or mystery-solving aspect of making diagnoses, researching and putting clues together. I loved the fact that I could contemplate every day the amazing way life-forms have evolved over the last million years to solve the basic problems of being alive."

At the same time that she was attending to Richmond area animals, she was also active in the greater community. She had always been interested in town planning and served on the Richmond Planning Commission, represented Richmond at the Regional Planning Commission, worked with the Vermont Climate Health Alliance, was the state chair of Animal Welfare for ten years and spent six years on the Selectboard because, "...politics is one way to help people and animals lead better lives."

As much as she loved her veterinary work, after thirty years, Clarke started thinking about retirement. She felt it was time to pursue other passions, work that she strongly believed was important. She particularly wanted to work on and contribute to climate change solutions. She noted, "My underlying purpose in working on the climate crisis comes from the same place as my desire to do veterinary work—that is, to reduce animal suffering."

So when COVID came in 2020, she took a leave and then segued into retirement. She's continuing to work with the Vermont Climate Health Alliance, a group of health professionals whose goal is to highlight the health aspects of climate

change. Outreach to the state veterinarian organization is one example of the educational work done by the group. They also support legislation such as the Global Warming Solutions Act which passed recently in Vermont and "puts teeth into goals like reducing greenhouse gases."

Clarke is also a member of the Richmond Climate Action Committee which also works on education and legislation at the local level. They advocate, among other things, for more solar panels, for changing heating systems, and for electric vehicles.

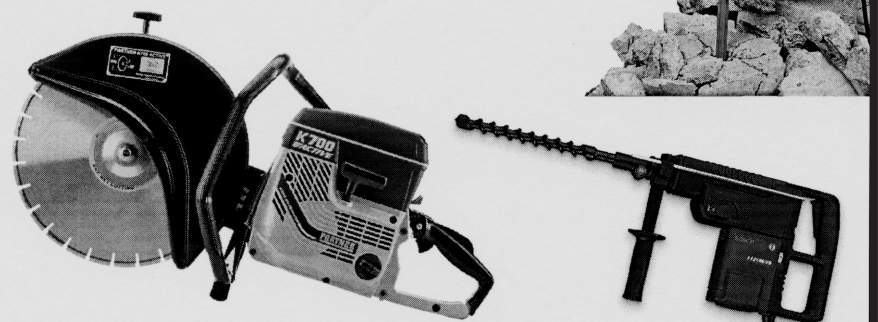
Another of Clarke's passions is working with the Richmond Planning Commission to insure the use of land contributes to slowing climate change. Their work includes trying to keep forested land forested, promoting public transportation to reduce the number of cars on the road, and re-doing the zoning to match the town plan.

Clarke said her goal now that she has more time to contribute to climate action is "to be as effective at this work as possible." She also made it clear that another goal was to walk her dog every day.

And so Clarke begins a new journey, one that will call for all her compassion, her skills and her love of solving problems. We wish her well in this new life.



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Community Senior Center On-Line Activities and Important Notices.

Please note: We're moving to our lighter spring/summer schedule with speakers' programs to resume in September. In June we hope to update you about our ability to resume outdoor activities. While we're eager to do so, we'll continue to be vigilant about health guidelines for our seniors.

Here's what's on-line for you through June:*

Mondays: Meditation; Needle Arts

Wednesdays: Bolton Coffee & Chat; Richmond Bone Builders Chat; French Conversation - all levels

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

Fridays: Story Circle: *Sharing stories from our lives*

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

Please Support Our Annual Fund-Raising Drive!
Our \$17,000 budget supports all our programs and activities.
To donate by check: P.O. Box 508 - Richmond VT 05477



**Community
Senior Center**

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Development Review Board Application Notice June 8, 2021

Weston Properties, Bolton LLC

Applicant proposes a driveway to property that resides in the Town of Bolton for the purposes of accessing a proposed Single Family Dwelling. DRB review and approval required for a driveway to be further developed on slopes of 15% or greater. 1811 Happy Hollow Road, Tax ID# 03-009.000

Fields Joint Revocable Trust

Applicant proposes a driveway and quarry site on property located at 1379 Economou Road for the purposes of access for a proposed Single Family Dwelling. DRB review and approval required for a driveway to be developed on slopes of 15% or greater with an associated on-site quarry for road bed material. 1379 Economou Road, Tax ID# 04-008.400

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski and Bike

Applicant proposes a 44ft. x 25ft. (1,125 sq. ft.) expansion to an existing commercial garage. Further, applicant proposes a 16 ft. x 18 ft. (270 sq. ft.) Pavilion addition to support wedding operations. Commercial expansion requires DRB review and approval. 427 Ski Lodge Drive, Tax ID# 01-002.000

Meeting will be held remotely via Zoom. Agenda will be posted to meet the Vermont statute.

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Importance of Print

"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."

— Anonymous

The Chinese were the first to develop paper. It was a lengthy and tedious process, involving hemp, bark and other fibers. Centuries later, the German printer Johannes Gutenberg (1400-68) was the first printer in the West to use movable type to print and the first to use a press.

In the 1770s, the printer Benjamin Franklin played a significant role in the American Revolution, and over the centuries citizens relied on newspapers for their information about everything from local politics to national affairs. Freedom of the press was a founding principal of our country.

Fast forward to the present. Newspapers are increasingly scarce and the ones that remain are struggling. I'm told we can get the news online, but this option has no appeal for me. I want to read books and enjoy the physical feeling of holding a book and turning the pages of a newspaper with my hand.

This paper, THE TIMES INK!, was started by Betsy Bott, owner of Daily Bread Bakery, and others in 1984, as THE RICHMOND TIMES, if memory serves. Betsy believed that the town of Richmond could benefit from a local paper and it was set up with independent reporters for municipal and school meetings. The original organizers of the paper believed that an independent community newspaper should not merely reprint the minutes of the Boards - or their staffs - but view the goings-on from the "outside."

Betsy knew me as a frequent patron of the Bakery, and she asked if I would submit a regular column to the paper. I agreed, and each month I would prepare a typewritten column, putting it in a canvas bag on the door of the bakery. Someone would then type it for printing. Next

were floppy disks. And now it's email.

We titled the piece FAMILY FOCUS, and each month I wrote about what I knew best, which were local issues and a chronology of the growth and development of my two children. As the children grew and left home, my focus became broader, and we eventually changed the title to ALL THINGS HUMAN. Meanwhile, Betsy had been approached by Heidi Racht, who had started THE HUNTINGTONIAN, a town newsletter with others in 1979, to combine efforts for a two-town paper. It was renamed and for a brief time also included Bolton. In 2000, Betsy turned over the helm to Heidi, who, as well as being the Huntington Town Clerk and owner and operator of Mount Pleasant Farm, has piloted this project, sent out monthly reminders of due dates, proofread submissions, and dealt with the inevitable electronic snafus.

Following my own life changes, including a new profession, I began to take my writing more seriously. I learned that all serious writers hire an editor. Since I am not a professional writer, I needed an editor to correct my sometimes awkward syntax and bring a professional eye to my work.

Today THE TIMES INK! is one of the few small, and independent papers to be found anywhere. Even much larger and well-funded newspapers are struggling to keep the lights on. The pressure from the Internet is great and creates a crisis in the reporting of local news. Local papers everywhere are disappearing.

Vermont is fortunate to have the support of readers. Montpelier's THE BRIDGE, like the TIMES INK!, is also a nonprofit. It prints an excellent and informative biweekly paper.

Thank you, Heidi, and your dedicated staff, for continuing to provide this valuable service to our towns. Readers, please consider supporting your paper. Remember, our democracy depends on a free press and the truth. The alternative is lies and dysfunction.

Boomer Funk

Submitted by Scott Funk

Living Forever

It's an established fact that married men live longer than single ones. Seventeen years longer, according to Health Research Funding. Given I'm over seventy now, that puts me in the extra-years zone, which must be blamed on my wife. When I accused her, she simply replied, "You're welcome."

Maybe you've noticed it, too: our wives aren't just striving to keep us going a little longer, they are attempting to make us live forever, totally dependent on them as our life support system.

That's got to be it, because we know married guys aren't living longer just because of the energy they save having their wives do the house cleaning. Let's face it, we would never have expended that effort on our own. Think back to your last bachelor pad. Did you waste

money on buying a vacuum cleaner? Of course not. And that's my point.

We are living longer because our wives are forcing us to. Healthier food, less beer and booze, no smoking, and in my case, even stretching and strength training. Yes, I'll admit I do feel better as a result, and probably the rest of you do, as well. But it's not our fault and I can prove it. The National Center for Health Statistics finds the death rate of widowers is almost three times as high as life-long bachelors.

Why? I'll tell you why. Left unsupervised, most of us would head to the nearest fast-food joint for a double-cheese burger with supersized fries. Then we'd stop by a local watering hole for a few beers and maybe a shot or two. It would be big steaks and tall cocktails, until the paramedics found us sprawled in front of the giant-screen TV we bought with the life insurance money.

How do I know this would happen? Because we are out of practice. Our wives have laid a trap by taking such good care of us. When it comes to all the old vices, we are out of shape and lack the experience to live that way safely.

So, what can we do? Well, that's the tough part. It's too late to turn back. Our only alternative is to accept our fate and take the best care of our wives we can. After all, it appears we can't live without them.

(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.)

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