



The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 40 **June 2023 Issue** Number 5

Making the Village Sidewalks Safer



Richmond photographer Pennie Rand took these photos of the work in progress on the sidewalks in front of her house on Bridge Street. Above, a squirrel's view through the daffodils planted along the road by Richmond resident Mary Houle. Below, prepping the base for the work, as seen from Rand's house on the corner of Bridge and Church Streets.



Richmond Meeting is Back on Tuesday

Plan to attend Town Meeting in Richmond on the real Town Meeting Day in 2024: March 5.

A Special Town Meeting was held in Richmond on April 29, after a petition was circulated to move Richmond's Town Meeting from the Saturday before Town Meeting Day back to its original date. Over 90 people attended the meeting at the Richmond Free Library where the voters discussed and the decided to change the meeting back. It was not quite unanimous but a substantial majority with three nay votes.

At Richmond's Town Meeting, voters can discuss the articles and amend them. Included in the business of the day is the town's operating budget, awards and recognitions, and other business. The meeting is usually lively.

Green Burials

On a less lively note... Interest is keen in Vermont for natural burials, known as Green Burials. The Huntington Cemetery Commissioners are looking at this option and a potential location for Green Burials in the town's cemeteries. The Board's goal is to make a determination or plan this summer, as the topic has been coming up for years.

As the research continues, the Commissioners plan to meet with a representative from the organization Vermont Natural Burials to ascertain if the town has the capability to do this. Included in the details for this would be the location and access, year-round burial as there is no winter storage, markers (or not), site preparation and other details.

The Commissioners plan to hold an informational meeting this summer. Details to be announced.

MMU Section

Do you have a graduating high school senior? The Times Ink is planning its annual MMU section for the next issue.

What is needed to make the section fun:

Pictures of seniors participating in school sports, performances and other activities.

Graduation photos with friends and family.

Photos taken of activities outside of school (hikes, vacations, with pets) could also be used.

Email a PDF to the Times Ink - news@timesinkvt.org - by June 20.)

Help Sponsor the MMU Section

Sponsors are needed to help cover the costs of the additional pages. To get your name on the list of sponsors or to make an anonymous donation, send \$20 to TI MMU Section, PO Box 532, Richmond. Display ads are also available. Contact Meg Gross Northrup at advertising@timesinkvt.org

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Write to Us!

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



PO Box 532 • Richmond, Vermont 05477
news@timesinkvt.org

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Letters

Community Senior Center Sets Fundraising Goal

The Community Senior Center begins its annual drive this month to raise funding required for its expanded list of activities and programs that now serve over 500 area participants.

This year's budget calls for \$25,500 to cover the costs of bringing dozens of diverse activities and informative programs to a growing number of seniors each week. The organization depends fully on contributions from individuals to cover the cost of activities and programs, and does not draw from the towns' tax revenues. It receives some support from grants for special projects. It also does not have a physical facility and the related costs. Rather, the CSC utilizes spaces best suited to each activity that local churches and towns provide at reasonable rates.

Over 75% of the funds raised by the non-profit go directly to support programs and activities that are coordinated by more than 50 volunteer leaders. The weekly line-up encompasses health and wellness, recreational sports, arts, crafts, social coffee hours, and groups that meet to discuss books and current events. Seniors learn new skills in a writers' group, memoir writing classes, and in Spanish and French conversation, among other offerings. Online sessions help with grief support and weight management. While some activities like snow-shoeing and hiking are seasonal, the CSC hosts others like Pickle Ball indoors and out as the weather dictates, and has easy walks year-round.

Part of the budget covers fees for authors and professional speakers who are experts in various fields. Other programs to provide learning experiences include travelogues by area residents, and collaborative programs with town organizations, all at no cost to the CSC.

This year's budget parallels that of last year. The level of funding has allowed the CSC to make fees optional for activities with costs that participants typically cover for things like bowling equipment rentals. The intent is to allow all seniors to participate at no cost if circumstances make it difficult from time to time.

The CSC is also developing ways to do more for seniors through its new Senior Support initiative. According to Board Chair Jane Vossler, "One example is the clinic we coordinate with the generous support of Richmond Family Medicine to provide foot care to seniors unable to administer it themselves. We are also exploring ways to make more of what we do accessible to those who may not be able to participate otherwise."

Those wishing to support the CSC's work can send a check to the Community Senior Center, P.O. Box 508, Richmond 05477, or contribute by credit card on its website at cscvt.org.



With the support of Richmond Community Garden, the CSC constructed raised beds where seniors could socialize and exchange ideas during the 2022 growing season.

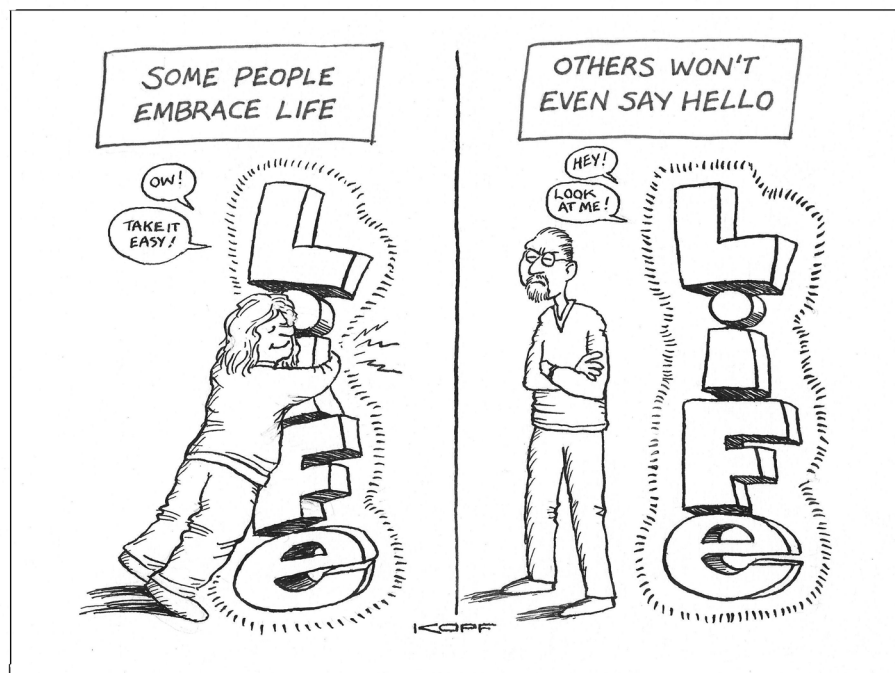
Become a Richmond History Volunteer

Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the Round Church's summer/fall visitor and events season. There's a lot going on this year – from a four-show Round Church Concert Series beginning on June 25, to weddings, to group tours bringing in visitors from all over the country. We will need help from the community to make this season a success. Our volunteer wish list includes:

- Greeters and parking assistants for each of the four Round Church concerts;
- Guides to serve three-hour shifts (10 am to 1pm or 1 pm to 4pm) during the Round Church Visitor Season;
- A Bell Ringer to climb into the belfry when this service is requested by a wedding party, and
- Hosts for weddings, recitals and other Round Church special occasions.

If your Richmond history interests extend beyond spending a few hours at the Round Church, consider volunteering to help the RHS with archival, website maintenance, and/or writing projects.

To find out more, contact RHS Volunteer coordinator, Meg Fugate (meghughart@gmail.com), or Round Church Guide Service coordinator, Martha Turner (turnerbatt@aol.com).



MMU to Present Black Comedy



A romp with mistaken identities and surprises lurking in every dark corner, *BLACK COMEDY* promises a fun evening for the whole family. The MMU Theatre Department's Senior Production will be presented on June 2 and 3.

Things are going badly for struggling artist Brindsley Miller and his fiancée Carol during a party designed to impress Carol's bombastic father, Colonel Melkett, and millionaire Georg Bamberger, who may buy some of Brindsley's sculptures. They have borrowed (without permission) the furniture and effects of their fussy neighbor, Ellis, to make Brindsley's more presentable. Before the guests arrive the power goes out, plunging the flat into darkness; only the audience can see what is happening. What follows is a frantic romp with unexpected visi-

tors, mistaken identities, and surprises lurking in every dark corner! The result, as you might expect, is chaotic, disastrous – and very funny!

The Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department presents the end of the year Senior Theatre Production of *BLACK COMEDY*, a British farce by Peter Shaffer. Performances will be Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3, at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$5 for students and children and \$7 for general admission and will be available at the door. Fun for the whole family.

July 4 is Fast Approaching



The Richmond Parade and Fireworks Committee is hard at work planning the July 4 activities. Right now, the plan is for the parade and activities at the park. In the evening there will be several live bands and a karaoke contest, so bring your best singing voices! The whole day will be concluded with fireworks at the park.

The Parade Theme this year is MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC. What a fabulous opportunity to strut your stuff. Sign ups are open now for parade entries and vendors, on the town website: rich-

mondvt.gov (boards-meetings/parade and fireworks) and at the Town Office don't miss out!

<https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/parade-and-fireworks-committee>

We always need more volunteers to help. Our amazing Fourth of July celebration has happened through the generous volunteering of a small group of people for over 30 years, but that group is dwindling. Volunteering can be one hour or a few hours, it can be the actual holiday or before (planning and set up) or after (there is always clean up to do.) See the town page or town offices to give a little bit of your time to keep this great event going for all of our community members.

The park will be making available spots for both For Profit Vendors and Non Profit Vendors. The fee to set up will be \$100 for For Profit Vendors and \$25 for Non Profit Vendors. Forms to sign up are available on the town website. Paper sign-up sheets will be available at the Richmond Town Office. All fees must be paid along with the application.

Enjoying Town Forest Trails with Wildlife in Mind



Sue Morse's talk on June 7 will feature some of the thousands of photos she's taken of local wildlife, such as this bobcat.

Richmond's forested wildlands have long been appreciated as excellent wildlife habitat. From the nearby summits of Mount Mansfield and Camels Hump, uninterrupted foothills sweep all the way down to the Winooski River Valley and Richmond, and include the Town's Andrews Community Forest.

"These unspoiled forests make up one of Vermont's largest core habitats," says Susan Morse, a widely acknowledged wildlife expert and photographer, and founder and science director for Keeping Track. "They contribute to a richness of plant and animal species that is unparalleled across Vermont."

Morse will speak at the Richmond Free Library on June 7 about the habits and habitats of the wildlife found in the Andrews Community Forest, illustrating her talk with photos of plant and animal life typical to the Forest.

"Places like this are vital, worthy of our protection and stewardship," says Morse. "Vermont's wildest wildlife are at home there, largely free from the hazards and harassments associated with people, roads and our vehicles."

"That's why we need to think about how we can balance our recreational pleasures with securing critical sanctuary for wildlife."

Morse's storytelling and photos have been enjoyed by audiences across the country. Fun, compelling and full of humor, her presentation informs and entertains adults and young people alike. That's why the show's organizers urge people to bring their kids and grandkids.

Morse's June 7 talk at the Richmond Free Library will take place at 7 pm. It is being presented with the support of Friends of Forest and the Richmond Conservation Commission, with assistance from the library and Mount Mansfield Cable Television.

Birds of Vermont Museum

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Open by appointment, November 1 - April 20

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Saturday, June 25
1 mile fun walk/run,
and 5 k

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Register online in advance:
<http://huntingtonrace4sundaes.weebly.com/>

Information:
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Our Weekly Children's Programs will run through the end of May and then we'll take a break for the summer months. We will resume Baby Laptime, Storytime, Playgroup and Hora de Cuento in September. Pick up a copy of our summer flyer to see when there are special summer programs that might be a good fit for your child.

Summer Reading Program Every summer we join the Vermont Department of Libraries and libraries across the country in offering reading program materials around a common theme. This year's theme is ALL TOGETHER NOW and features the artwork of illustrator Frank Morrison. Registration for the program will begin on June 19. Kids will learn all the details at school in early June and will go home with a flyer detailing all of the special programs and events happening at the Library this summer. Middle-school-age youth and those who are homeschooled can pick up a flyer at the library in early June. Below are a few of the first special programs of the summer.

VINS: Raptors - Inspiring Conservation For hundreds of years, humans didn't understand the vital role that raptors play in our ecosystem. Some of our most charismatic birds, including the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, wound up on the Endangered Species List, and today we know that a majority of bird species are in decline. Join us in learning how people can band together to save these magnificent animals, and meet some live birds who will help us tell these inspiring conservation stories. Best of all, learn what you can still do to help them thrive in the wild. No registration is required. All ages are welcome on Friday, June 23, at 10:30.

ALYX the Magician Alyx Hilshey is a Vermont-based, nationally touring comedy magician who is bringing her super fun, family library show to Vermont libraries in June 2023. Don't miss her Richmond show! No registration is required. All ages are welcome on Monday, June 26, at 1 pm.

Introduction to Cartooning Learn some simple ways to make cartoons with local cartoonist and youth librarian L.J. Kopf. Please register in advance for this fun opportunity on Tuesday, June 27, at 1 pm. Ages 5-12 are welcome.

Library Mini Golf Help create a fantastic mini golf course out of boxes, books, cones, hoops and whatever else we can find, and then play a round of golf in the community room. No registration is required. Ages 6-12 are welcome on Friday, June 30, at 1 pm.

Golden Dome Book Award Winner Vermont students in grades 4-8 have spoken, and their 2022 Golden Dome Book Award winner is *Alone* by Megan E. Freeman. The list of nominees for 2023-2024 is out and we have brand new copies of them all ready to be checked out and enjoyed over the summer.

Displays at the Library The Birds of Vermont Museum is sharing two informative displays with us for the month of May: *BIRDS IN ART*, a wonderful and whimsical display of the variety, depth, scales, and even history of the art of birds, and *THE COFFEE-BIRD CONNECTION*, about how your love of coffee impacts birds. What we do to get our favorite coffee affects both local and migratory species. Some coffee varieties and brands have a negative impact, while others have a positive one. This display

introduces viewers to a growing field of research and action.

New Faces at the Library After more than six and half years, Jennifer Esser will be leaving the Library to pursue other activities. Jennifer has been in charge of interlibrary loan and supporting the book groups and also developing and hosting a variety of programs over the years. Jennifer's last day is May 31. Suzanne Krohn will be joining the Library to take on Outreach and Programming and Melissa Lawler will take over interlibrary loan functions. Melissa will be away for six weeks this summer and we're very glad to have Jennifer Sprague to fill in while she's away.

Need Tech Help? We're happy to announce that Jim Poulin of Richmond has volunteered to help patrons take charge of their devices! Are you stuck on how to use Libby or Hoopla? Does your Windows laptop go on strike when you tell it to do something? Jim can help and will be at the Library the last Wednesday of the month between 5 pm and 6:30 pm, starting May 31.

Borrow from Hoopla Patrons may borrow books, videos and music from Hoopla Digital. Each patron is allowed five downloads per month. Hoopla is available on your desktop, phone, tablet, Alexa devices, Roku, Apple TV, Fire TV, and Android TV. Download the app to begin borrowing. You'll need an unexpired and unrestricted library card to register for the service. Click on the Hoopla link to any titles you want to download or stream. On first use, you'll be prompted to register with the barcode on the back of your library card. Enjoy!

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group June's book is *THE NATURE OF FRAGILE THINGS* by Susan Meissner, a novel about the bonds of friendship, motherly love, and the power of female solidarity, all set against the backdrop of the massive 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Contact Gwen Landis (434-5012; gwen1972@yahoo.com) for information on participating. Join us in the Mezzanine on Tuesday, June 13, at 6 pm.

Mystery Book Group June's book is *KNOTS AND CROSSES* by Ian Rankin. In this first of the Inspector Rebus novels, Detective John Rebus's city is being terrorized by a baffling series of murders, and he's tied to a maniac by an invisible knot of blood. Contact Maureen Parent (434-2055; msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions. Join us in the Mezzanine on Thursday, June 15, at 7 pm.

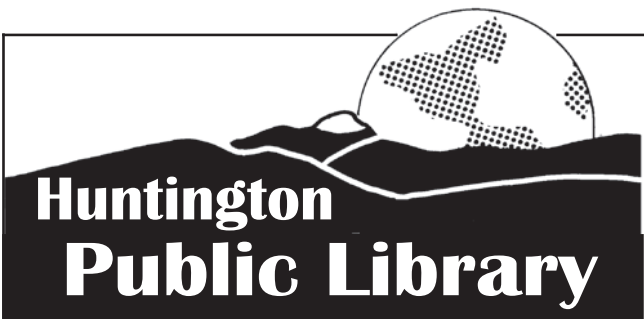
Free Covid Tests Free at-home Covid antigen tests are available at the library thanks to the Vermont Department of Health. Individuals may pick up two kits (four tests) per person. Ask for them at the circulation desk.

Trustees meetings are on the second Monday of the month via Zoom until further notice.

Please, no donations for the book sale at this time. The Friends of the Library will resume accepting donations in mid-September in anticipation of the book sale on December 1 and 2. We would appreciate it if you would hold on to items suitable for the sale (or the collection): clean intact items free of dust, foxing, mold, or mouse poop. Library staff will continue to review individual titles of new releases.

Clearance Sale of Our Perpetual Sale All items are currently for sale at \$1 each: books, CDs, DVDs while supplies last.

continue to next page



**Huntington
Public Library**

HOURS:
Mon 10-6
Tues & Thurs 10-1
Fri 10-5 • Sun 1-4
434-4583
hpl@gmavt.net

www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

First Friday Movie Night Friday, June 2. The Library is excited to participate in the Huntington Valley Arts First Friday events. Please watch for our signboard and social media posting.

Save the Date Our brilliant local nature artist, Aurora, will be sharing a lifetime retrospective of many beautiful works on Friday, June 2, during Huntington Valley Arts First Friday on June 2, 5 pm to 8 pm.

Library Book Group Fourth Saturday of each month, 10 am, in-person or via zoom. Meet new friends while reading some great books. If you would like to join us via zoom, let us know and want to know the title of the next book, we can email you a link.

Damaged Books Occasionally books are returned in a damaged condition that prevents other patrons from checking them out. Mishaps can happen to many of us book lovers. Maybe there was an unexpected shower that blew in the window onto your book pile during the night, or your toddler decided paper books are more interesting than board books, perhaps an early morning klutz spilled coffee, maybe your new puppy hasn't learned to read yet - whatever. Please replace the damaged book or giving money towards the purchase of a new one. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Summer Reading Program We are getting ready for the Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is ALL TOGETHER NOW. There will be Fun Fridays at the Huntington Recreation Field, Picnic Table Crafts at the Library, raffles, and more.

Vox Audiobooks for Children BIBLIOBURRO - A TRUE STORY FROM COLUMBIA by Jeanette Winter; What the Dinosaurs Did Last Night by Refe and Susan Tuma; Everything in Its Place by Pauline David-Sax; I'll Go and Come Back by Rajani LaRocca.

PlayTime and Story Time Bring your child ages birth to 4 years to listen to some songs, read a few books, and learn some new fingerplays. All children and their caregivers are welcome to join us to build on pre-math and pre-literacy skills with books, songs, rhymes, games, and fingerplays in a fun setting. Contact the Library for the location as the program may be at the Rec Field, weather permitting.

Please note: The Library will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Sunday, May 28, and Monday, May 29.

RFL continued

Palace app You may have read there is a free eBook and eAudiobook service for all Vermont libraries. In theory, this is true. At present, the Department of Libraries has added 71 libraries in two phases. Libraries will be added as they are able to complete login testing for each library. We'll be sure to spread the word once Richmond has been added. This will be a complementary service to Libby and Hoopla.

Blood Pressure Monitors Available Is it time to take a reading on your blood pressure? The Library has several blood pressure monitors to loan.

RICHMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2023 Round Church Concert Series

- June 26 ~ The Tenderbellies
- August 27 ~ Honey and Soul
- September 24 ~ The Larkspurs
- October 22 ~ Wild Branch

ALL CONCERTS:
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Open Studio Weekend



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#20. Huntington Valley Arts huntingtonvalleyarts.org 2209 Main Road, Huntington (Fuller House) (802) 434-4235. Fiber arts, weaving, knitwear, fine arts, pottery and collage.

Look for the yellow wayfinder signs during the events to guide you to the studios.

Maps and more information available at the Vt. Crafts Council website: www.vermontcrafts.com.

Maps will be available around town or from participants.

May 27 & 28• 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.

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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Zoom Meeting*

APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW FOR June 20, 2023 • 7 pm

The Huntington Development Review Board (DRB) will meet via Zoom to conduct the following business, pursuant to the Huntington Land Use Regulations:

Subdivision

Eugene and Kathlyn DePietro seek an 18.6 acre Subdivision on a 52.05 acre lot. Property is located in the Rural Residential District (5-acre zoning) on Stagecoach Road, Tax Map ID# 06-011.000.

Conditional Use

Camel's Hump Nordic Ski Area seeks Conditional Use for a Late Summer Concert on two lots, a 29.30 and a 6.98 acre lot. Properties are located in the Rural Residential District (5-acre zoning) on Bert White Road, Tax Map ID# 06-018.200 & 06-018.400.

Roman Livak seeks Conditional Use for a Principal Dwelling on a 26.9-acre lot. Property is located in the Neighborhood District (1-acre zoning) on Main Road, Tax Map ID# 11-026.200.

The project information is available on the town website www.huntingtonvt.org. Participation in a hearing is required to appeal a decision of the DRB. Application materials may be viewed the week before meeting.

—Yves Gonnet, DRB Staff, May 11, 2023

*Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82853092094?pwd=K2pFMU9MMkpQcDQrMVVSakFxWXUzUT09> Meeting ID: 828 5309 2094 Passcode: 328992 / Questions: 802-434-3557.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Mark Aiken

Richmond's Selectboard has had a busy month of May, holding a meeting on Monday, May 1, a special meeting on Tuesday, May 9, to discuss issues regarding policing, and reviewing a report produced by the Williston Community Justice Center detailing the results (using no identifying names) from a Wednesday, May 10, Listening Circle meeting around the policing topic. This report covers the May 1 Selectboard meeting.

Eagle Scout The first agenda item was to recognize Colin Heskett's Eagle Scout project, which fundraised for the preservation of five historic buildings. "A round of applause!" said Selectboard member Lisa Miller. "Thank you for coming and good luck with everything," added Board chair Jay Furr.

Acting Zoning Administrative Officer Next, Board members considered the Planning Commission's nomination of Keith Osborne to serve as Acting Zoning Administrative Officer at times when the actual Administrative Officer is out of the office for multiple days. All Board members present voted to approve this appointment.

Share the Road The next agenda item addressed an issue that was raised at an earlier meeting. Richmond resident Nick Ponzio had requested that a resolution be adopted that promoted sharing of Richmond roadways. Chair Furr wrote a resolution, adding relevant legal language. Board member Jeff Forward wondered if Ponzio appreciated Furr's reworking of the original idea.

"I think it's a real good summary of what we're looking for and I appreciate that," said Ponzio.

"I like how it's balanced," added Board member David Sander. "It states Vermont State law, but it also balances common sense expectations. I like that it respects common sense and courtesy on both sides."

A few residents voiced their support; then Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution.

Fireworks and Coin Drops One of Richmond's largest community gatherings is on the Fourth of July. Furr explained that for 30 years, a small group of residents have taken it upon themselves to organize the event and raise funds for fireworks. After a discussion about this history and various suggestions about how to handle the events moving forward, the board voted to create a July Fourth Reserve Fund to raise money through vendor fees and donations and use it for the events of that day. The town had already agreed to pay for the fireworks. The measure passed with just Board member Lisa Miller abstaining.

"I've never seen the town's fireworks display, Miller said, explaining her abstention. "I spend it in the basement with earplugs in because it physically hurts my ears. I'm not putting a penny of my taxes into buying something that hurts me like that."

"I'm an animal lover and I have known people with a dog that will not go out for a walk for a month after the fireworks," responded Furr. "If there is a way that we can do quieter fireworks, I think that's something that could be looked at."

The Board followed that vote with a vote allowing the Parade and Fireworks Committee to hold a coin drop at the intersection of Bridge Street, Main Street, and Jericho Road. The coin drop will be held on Saturday, May 27, from 8 am to 3 pm (remember to put some cash in your car if you are a fan of local Independence

Day events!).

"Make sure you do all the background checks for people handling the money," warned resident Cara LaBounty.

Furr responded that he volunteered at the coin drop last year and would be there again this year.

Town Center Maintenance and Flowerbed Maintenance Position Board members and others commented on the lovely flowers at the Town Center, which were, as usual, planted and tended by resident Mary Houle.

Houle has also taken it upon herself at times to tidy up areas of the Town Center building. Selectboard members voted to create a paid position to look after these things moving forward.

Reappraisal Follow Up Town Manager Josh Arneson mentioned that reappraisal information had been mailed to residents and that the information was also available at richmondvt.gov/departments/listers. LaBounty said she doesn't have the information she needs: "I've asked for information that should be accessible and transparent to the public, such as the land schedules, the depreciation schedules, the neighborhood identifiers, the quality specifications — all of these are driving how they calculate the information. If you want to appeal, you need to have some of that information. I don't have the information I need for my Monday meeting."

"You're supposed to have that information available to present why you're appealing," she said. "It could be on our website; anybody could download the information."

Arneson assured her that he would get her the information she needed, and he liked the idea of getting it on the town website.

"The bottom line is you don't have information for the public that should be transparent to the public," LaBounty said.

Zoning Questions An ongoing discussion for the Selectboard and the Richmond Planning Commission has been proposed amendments to Zoning Regulations for Village Residential/Commercial District and Gateway Residential/Commercial District. Planning Commission chair Virginia Clark was on hand to speak to a list of pros and cons the Planning Commission provided to Selectboard members. The Board made its suggestions and sent it back to the Planning Commission.

Resident Matthew Parisi expressed frustration about how long the process would have yet to take, but Furr assured him that it would just take a Planning Commission meeting and a Selectboard meeting so that the correct process was seen through.

Policing After some small ticket items and approval of an outdoor consumption permit for Stone's Throw Pizza, the discussion moved to policing — a topic that has received much attention of late (as well as chatter on social media). Arneson gave updates on the search for a new police chief and an arrangement for coverage with the neighboring Hinesburg Police Department.

As for the search for a chief, the hiring committee looked at 20 applicants, narrowed the field to seven, four of whom came in for interviews. Of the four, the committee selected two finalists, one of whom dropped out. That left one candidate, who, Arneson noted, still had to go through a background check. New information about the candidate's history — in particular an arrest for domestic assault (the charges for which were

continue to page 10

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Paul Susen

The Huntington Selectboard held meetings on April 3 and April 17. Topics for discussion and action included the May 22 Special Town Meeting, lower village pedestrian and road safety, highway report, declaration of inclusion, grants, Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) budget, local emergency management plan, possible adoption of an events ordinance, marking flags outside town office and public comment.

The Special Town Meeting was confirmed for May 22 at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to amend the erroneous wording of the March 7 Town meeting budget warning. By statute, the vote must take place from the floor and not by Australian ballot. The budget as delineated in the Annual Report was correct. This vote would not change the 2023-2024 budget. Approval of the correct warning language will formalize the budget for the coming fiscal year. If the change in the warning is not approved, the 2023-2024 budget would have to be reduced to the numbers in the March 7 warning.

Further presentation and discussion on the project to improve pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle safety in the Lower Village occurred. Events related to the project idea dating back to 2016 were reviewed. A member of the Selectboard requested street dimensions and an estimate of costs if only the intersection is revised. The Selectboard will discuss the feedback received from the community with the engineers.

There will be a delay in repair of Bridge 9H (Main Road, north of Texas Hill Road) due to supply chain obstacles. This work and the required detour will not be put in place until Summer 2024. The Certificate of Compliance for road and bridge standards and network inventory was approved.

The Selectboard formally adopted the anti-discrimination declaration of inclusion. This motion is based on a statewide initiative. Grants endorsed by the Selectboard for application to various agencies included Leadership Champion, Energizing Rural Communities, Library Solar EBSCO and Municipal Energy Resilience Program.

The CSWD budget was presented by officials from the agency. After the Selectboard expressed a concern about consumer tipping fees, the budget was approved. The local emergency plan was adopted. To facilitate approval of annual events, an events ordinance will be considered in the future. Marking flags have been placed outside Town Office due to a pending American with Disabilities Act project which was approved in the capital budget. Under public comment, a resident voiced a complaint against the Zoning Administrator and requested a different process which would address his concerns. A separate resident questioned the need for installing sidewalks for pedestrians in the lower village, adding that recurring costs would accrue due to maintenance.

Richmond Village Cemetery Clean-up Scheduled

The Vermont Old Cemetery Association, in cooperation with the Green Mountain Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Town of Richmond Cemetery Commission, have scheduled a clean-up of the Richmond Village Cemetery for Saturday, June 17, from 8 am to noon. Volunteers are invited to attend and will be provided with training beginning at 8 am. Work will involve cleaning old grave markers with a special solution (provided) that will not cause damage to the stone, and resetting stones as needed. Bring work gloves, a plastic-bristled brush, and a spray bottle; a stool or kneeling pad, snacks and water also may be helpful.

The cemetery was chosen by the DAR chapter for a work project because it is the site of the burial of at least five—and perhaps eight—Revolutionary War soldiers. They include very early residents of Richmond, such as Daniel Robbins and Daniel Bishop. They came from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island—several of them lived first in New Hampshire, before settling in Vermont, and they served in the lines of these states.

Additional details about the soldiers follow.

Confirmed patriots are:

- Daniel Bishop, who was born in Massachusetts, moved to New Hampshire, and was part of two different New Hampshire regiments during the Revolution. The family moved to Richmond in about 1788, as an early Richmond settler.

- Abel Hildreth was also from Massachusetts, and he enlisted four times in Massachusetts, even serving at the Battle of Saratoga. He was in Richmond by 1790, where he was a minister. Two of his daughters married one of Daniel Bishop's sons.

- James Humphrey was born and served during the Revolution in Rhode Island. He is said to have been at Valley Forge. Like Daniel Bishop,

he first moved to New Hampshire and was there by 1790. He is said to have moved to Alstead, then Brookfield, Vermont, before ending up in Richmond, where he was by 1810.

- Daniel Robbins was born in Connecticut, where he served first in the sea service during the war, then joined his father—who had moved—in New York and served that state as well. He was at Yorktown for the surrender of Cornwallis. He was one of the early settlers of Richmond.

- Jabish Spicer was another Connecticut native and another who first settled in New Hampshire and served in New Hampshire units. He was sent to Mt. Independence but was so sick he had to be left behind when his unit returned. He arrived in Richmond somewhere between 1810 and 1820.

- Bigford Spooner was born in Massachusetts and served there during the Revolution. Like several others, he moved to New Hampshire, where he was by 1790, but was in Richmond by 1810. His burial location is uncertain.

Possible patriots are:

- Oliver Cutler was born in Massachusetts and appears to have been there during the war years, but doesn't appear on any lists of Massachusetts soldiers, although another Oliver Cutler was. He is said to have been in service at Bennington. He was in Richmond by 1820.

- William Douglass was from Connecticut and an early settler of Richmond. It is not clear if he stopped elsewhere for a short while before arriving in Vermont; he had a daughter born in 1777 in Connecticut and the birth location for other children not conclusive. A William Douglas did serve for Vermont in 1781, not clearly the same person, and a different Connecticut William Douglass, a colonel, served and died during the war.



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MMUUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

School Board Meeting March 2023

One of the factors for calculating property taxes is the “weighting” of a student’s ability to acquire knowledge (and the amount of time, effort, and money to teach said student). This weighting evaluation is set by the state and takes into account rural districts with sparse student population, poverty, and English language learners. It costs more to provide equitable education to these students, therefore some districts bear a greater weight than others – and need, therefore, more tax dollars from the state. Act 127 has reset these evaluations, so that some districts – like MMUUSD, Champlain Valley and Harwood, for example, will receive less money from the State – while others, like Winooski, will receive more.

Creating an imaginary example for the MMUUSD in the 2023 school year: this would be the equivalent of educating 363 students without any funding from the state. This is the consequence of the change in the weighting formula in Act 127.

The difference will be made up with additional property taxes on the five towns in the district. No amount of belt tightening in the budget will make up this shortfall. Beginning with the 2024/25 school year, the amount should not exceed 5% per year for the next few years, although there are technicalities associated with this figure. Not adjusted for CLA, the Act 127, 5% Capped Tax Rate would be 1.2640 (based on the 23/24 Homestead Rate).

The newly (re)formed Finance and Facilities Committee has met and elected Lisa Pawlik Chair. The Capital Plan will be a priority.

The committee is also working on a five year financial forecast.

The newly formed Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee (DEIB) has met, Tara Arneson Chair. Their Charter was unanimously approved. This committee is working with the Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism (ABAR) Council. Students, educators, school leaders, and facilitator Dr. Luvelle Brown met at MMU in April – in person due to COVID – for the first time. They planned their work for the next school year.

School Year Calendar There are a few changes from the Current year. School will start on August 30, (not 31.) Parent-teacher conferences for grades K-8 will take place on October 23. All Chittenden County superintendents agreed there will be no after-school activities next on Eid and Yom Kippur.

State Policy Compliance The state requires updates on policies from time to time, and the revised Student Education Records and Student Attendance policies were unanimously approved.

School Board Openings in Jericho The recent resignation of Chuck Lacy and the impending end of term for Tom Cheney leaves opportunities for two community members from Jericho to apply/or run for a seat at the board.

Golden Apple Nominations for the Golden Apple Award recipients have been approved. They will be presented to the honorees at the May 22 meeting at CHMS.

Retirements MMU Assistant Principal Wilhelmina Picard and Assistant Special Services Director Blythe Leonard have shared their intention to retire at the end of this school year.

Songs and Strumming Delights All Ages

The fun of playing the ukulele and the ease of learning how gave Dave and Becky Cozzens of Huntington the idea that other seniors might want to take it up. When they asked the Community Senior Center to post it on their activities

and beyond. Often booked at area senior residences, they also entertain preschoolers at town libraries, as well as visitors to local events like Richmond’s Farmers’ Market and area craft fairs.



Dave and Becky Cozzens of Huntington lead the Community Senior Center Ukes R Us group in performances throughout the area.

line-up, they got an enthusiastic go-ahead.

That was in 2021, and Ukes R Us was launched with five singing strummers. In the two years since, over a dozen more seniors have joined the group. Today, anyone stopping by the Huntington Community Church on the second or fourth Wednesday of the month will be treated to some lively music as twenty or so enthusiastic seniors tune up for their next ukulele performance.

Ukes R Us performs about once a month for audiences in Richmond, Huntington, Bolton

The band has also embellished their sounds thanks to talented CSC musicians who drop in from time to time on cello, harmonica, violin and percussion instruments. The range of ukes is also now more diverse with baritone, tenor, alto and bass versions.

With a repertoire of over 100 songs, audiences can expect a range of music from old standards like ALL OF ME to pop numbers by Neil Diamond, The Beatles, Carole King and

many more. Sing-along books let the audience get in on the fun.

The Ukes R Us players welcome fans to rehearsals at the Huntington Community Church, and post their song list and performance schedule on the Community Senior Center’s website.

To request a live performance, contact “booking agent” Mary Ann Barnes at 802.434.3220 and leave a name, organization and contact information.

Area Residents Honored

Bressor Receives Historical Society's Award

The Vermont Historical Society has announced the recipients of this year's League of Local Historical Society and Museums Achievement Awards during this year's LLHSM Conference, held at the Vermont History Center in Barre on May 19.

These awards recognize the exceptional work from the prior year that has been undertaken by local historical societies, community organizations, and independent scholars dedicated to collecting, preserving, and studying Vermont's rich history. Information about nominations and prior winners can be found at <https://vermonthistory.org/achievement-awards>.

Gary T. Bressor, Richmond Historical Society, received the Individual Achievement Award, which honors a person's work and commitment to local history over an extended period.

Eileen Corcoran, VHS's Director of Service and Outreach said, "It is inspiring to see the amazing quality, true creativity, and hard work that these often all-volunteer organizations bring to preserving and sharing their community's stories. The award winners truly serve as models for other organizations throughout the state in showcasing what you can do for local history."

Founded in 1838, the Vermont Historical Society serves to engage both Vermonters and "Vermonters at heart" in the exploration of our state's rich heritage. Its purpose is to reach a broad audience through outstanding collections, statewide outreach, and dynamic programming. An understanding of the past changes lives and builds better communities. You can visit the Vermont Historical Society's website at <http://www.vermonthhistory.org>

Hausermann Receives Tree Steward Award

Several Vermont tree champions have been honored by the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VT UCF) for their staunch commitment and dedication to protecting and preserving their community's forests and trees.

In addition to the prestigious Vermont Arbor Day award, given to an individual who has made a significant difference in his or her community's urban and community forest, VT UCF also bestows a number of tree steward awards each year. Recipients were recognized at a special ceremony at the Vermont Arbor Day Conference, May 19 in Randolph.



Peter Hausermann of Huntington received the Leader Award. Hausermann has been the groundskeeper at Wake Robin, a continuing care retirement community in Shelburne, since it opened 30 years ago. He manages the development and stewardship of the 136-acre property, making wildlife and forest health his top priority. Hausermann works with Joe Nelson, Wake Robin's consulting forester, on long-range planning to manage the health and sustainability of the forest through selective harvesting and the removal of invasive species. Beginning this year, he has worked with Nelson and Audubon Vermont to develop habitat for the golden-winged warbler, a songbird that has been in sharp decline.

VT UCF also acts as the Vermont coordinator for a national awards program for the Arbor Day Foundation. VT UCF is a partnership between UVM Extension and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. To learn more, visit www.vtcommunityforestry.org.

MMU Team Wins Mock Trial Competition



On March 25, the Vermont High School Mock Trial Competition was held at Vermont Law School in South Royalton. Mount Mansfield UHS sent 24 students to the competition on four trial teams. Teams from nine schools from Vermont participated in the competition. The case was a criminal case which involved a fight in a parking lot which led to assault charges. The competition was judged by Vermont Court System judges. MMU was judged the Best Overall Team after two preliminary trials and a championship round. James Bellizia, a senior at MMU, received the Best Prosecutor Award and MMU senior Jacob Leamon received the Best Defense Attorney Award.



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Rep. Jana Brown

During the 2023 legislative session, we moved forward critical policies on housing, workforce development, childcare, and climate action. We passed an omnibus housing bill, S.100, that will increase the availability of affordable housing, promote homeownership, and expand housing opportunities across the state. We made significant investments in our childcare system to support children, families, businesses, and our early childhood workforce. And we advanced priority climate and environmental bills, including S.5 - the Affordable Heat Act. It was a productive session marked by significant progress on issues that impact Vermonters across all 14 counties.

Additional Session Highlights:

As a member of the House Education Committee, one of the themes of our work this session was to



advocate for ongoing support to Adult Basic Education and Vermont's higher education institutions. We heard testimony about the growing demand for Adult Basic Education services. My committee supported an increased investment in Adult Basic Education and H.494 (the FY24 budget bill) contains a \$1M appropriation to support their work. This increased investment is an important workforce development strategy because the majority of participants continue

to be part of Vermont's workforce. The FY24 budget supports the Vermont State College System (VSC) with \$8.9M to support the necessary and ongoing system transformation work. VSC plays a critical role in providing educational advancement opportunities to rural parts of Vermont. Thanks to ongoing funding in FY24 for 802 Opportunities, both the Community College of Vermont and VSC will continue to offer tuition-free college to any Vermont student in a degree program whose family income is \$75,000 or less and does not already have a bachelor's degree. We also invested \$4M with CCV to reduce tuition for certificates, degrees, and courses in critical occupations such as nursing and mental health.

Several significant bills also supported our preK-12 education system and school communities. With the passage of H.165, Vermont's current universal school meals program will become a permanent program to continue meeting the needs of all hungry students. Eliminating hunger at school allows students to fully engage in learning, increases well being, and supports stronger academic outcomes. The FY24 budget also creates a School Construction Aid Task Force to examine, evaluate, and report on the development of a school construction aid program. Prior to 2009,

meeting held on May 9, Arneson reported that some discussions had occurred and he expected an agreement to be reached with the union.)

Selectboard members then moved into executive session to discuss the negotiations with the New England PBA – public knowledge of which would put the Town at a disadvantage.

American Rescue Plan Act Update Selectboard chair Furr, who also serves on the ARPA committee reported that several items would probably be voted on at the next ARPA Committee meeting to recommend to the Selectboard. Items include Bridge Street sidewalks, Cemetery repairs, and various recreation projects.

“I don't have as much problem with the amount for Recreation, but I do have a concern about the process,” said Selectboard member Forward. “Work on Volunteers Green is contingent on a robust public engagement process.”

Furr agreed that any work or changes at Volunteer Green would have to be carefully thought out.

Board members then heard Richmond Rescue's quarterly update and an update on a grant for exterior repairs for the library building. Then Board voted to approve past minutes, warrants, and purchase orders, and they adjourned the meeting.



Vermont had a school construction aid program in place. However, that program no longer exists and we are currently the only state in New England without this type of support. School infrastructure needs are increasing across the state, and many older school buildings are in need of significant repair. The task force will consider the establishment of a state-level funding program to aid local communities and reduce some of the financial burden of large school construction projects.

Providing support to our teacher workforce was another theme for our committee this session. Part of our work included establishing a \$2.5M Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive Program. To be eligible for a forgivable loan under the Program, an individual agrees to work as a teacher in a public school located in Vermont for a minimum of one year following licensure for each year of forgivable loan awarded. We heard compelling testimony that school communities are struggling to attract and retain teachers, particularly in the rural parts of Vermont.

I will be publishing a comprehensive end of session legislative report in the coming days and paper copies will be available at the Town Center and Richmond Free Library. Please reach out with comments and questions!

Rep. Tom Stevens

The legislative session came to a close at 10:30 pm on Friday, May 12. Needless to say, the rush to the end was full of tension, last minute negotiations and promises of vetoes by the administration.

In other words, pretty normal for the Vermont General Assembly.

The last several sessions have seen us using federal coronavirus relief dollars, as well as other large appropriations from an infrastructure bill, to prop up our economy and to provide services we otherwise would not have been able to support, including spending nearly \$400M on investments to housing and another \$400M or so on supportive services to those most in need. This year, the surplus we had in tax revenue was due to the expenditure of these federal dollars, and

was returned to us in the form of increased sales and income taxes. These surpluses are enticing, because many of us feel that we have starved many essential services over the last few years, but we are wary of using what we consider “one-time expenditures” to create new programming. This wariness hasn't stopped us from proposing pilots for new programs, but the bulk of the money has been appropriated into programs that have proven successful, including investing in housing.

Take, for instance, S.100. This omnibus bill (meaning a large bill composed of many smaller proposals relating to a certain subject) focussed on housing and zoning, and should, overtime, make it easier to build housing that is affordable in all corners of the state by changing certain zoning regulations, as well as adjusting some Act 250 regulations, allowing more units to get built in certain designated areas. It also invests some of our surplus funds in continuing successful building programs such as the Vermont Housing Investment Program, which has subsidized the improvement of over 400 rental units to be made available to those exiting homelessness or who make less than 80% of the area median income, which for Chittenden County is approximately \$60,000 and slightly less in Washington County. We were also able to send nearly \$100M to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to continue their investments in local, nonprofit housing, as well as helping communities with the purchase of more immediate housing. The money appropriated to VHCB will also continue investing in conservation efforts statewide.

We also passed and then overrode the veto of the governor on S.5, the Clean Heat Standard Bill. The vote is a crucial step toward cleaning up emissions from burning oil, propane, kerosene and natural gas. The bill requires energy regulators to start crafting a program mandating that the state's fossil fuel dealers lower the greenhouse gas emissions from their products, either by reducing demand through insulation projects or switching customers to lower-carbon fuels. There was much disinformation spread about this bill, and it showed a real division in how we can move forward on our goal of reducing emissions. There will be rules and regulations created over the next two years — this issue is far too big for us to tackle successfully in one 5-month session — and nothing will go into effect until a future legislature approves of those changes.

We will have a veto session in June, at which time we can be much clearer in our wrap up from the session. Many important bills are likely to be rejected by the governor, and the veto session will either force us to change them or to override the veto.

Thank you again for the privilege of representing you in the Legislature. Please feel free to reach out with questions anytime.

Richmond Selectboard

continued from page 6

eventually dropped). The next step would have been a public forum at which the candidate would meet the public; however, in light of concerns raised about the arrest, an alternative next step is now in place: the Williston Community Justice Center was brought in to host a “listening circle” on May 10. The CJC would then prepare a report (keeping names confidential). “It allows for some time for conversation and some emotions to be addressed before we move on to a public forum,” said Arneson. As the hiring manager of a new chief, Arneson would decide how to move forward based on that report – due May 24.

Meanwhile, regarding the arrangement with Hinesburg to provide coverage, any arrangement was put on hold due to a letter from the New England Police Benevolent Association, which representing Richmond police officers, expressed concerns that the arrangement was an unfair labor practice. The arrangement was therefore put on hold while the town could meet with the union to discuss. (At a subsequent

Rep. Theresa Wood Washington-Chittenden 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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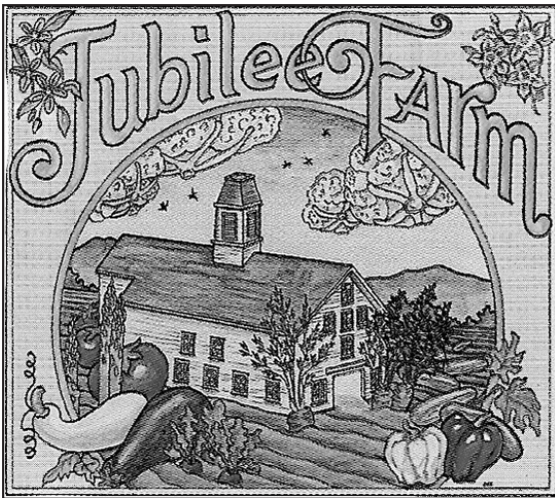
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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church
802-434-2053 (www.rccucc.org)

Join us for these events at Richmond Congregational Church. Sunday worship is at 10 am, in person or online: www.facebook.com/rccucc. Childcare is available.

May 28: Pentecost & Memorial Day Celebration
June 4: Guest Debbie Ingram from Vermont Interfaith Action
Save the date: Fall Rummage Sale, September 29 & 30

Community Church of Huntington
CommunityChurchOfHuntington@gmail.com

Hallelujah! (Which, as you know, is a spontaneous expression of joy, thanksgiving and praise toward God.) In keeping with Philippians 2:2, we're going to be doing something new. "Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose."

Ever wonder what would happen if people in churches throughout Vermont came together in prayer and unity? On the eve of Pentecost, which this year falls on Saturday, May 27, members and friends of CCH will be gathering at our church in Huntington Center at 7 pm for an hour of prayer. Of course, that members of various churches would be praying at the very same time is not new. Every Sunday, we gather to worship and dive ever deeper into the Word of God through messages from Pastor Fred—just as others are being led by their pastors on Sunday mornings. On Thursday evenings, we come together to offer prayers for the well-being of our community at large and for those who are facing especially challenging times. Many other churches are also hosting groups who gather in each other's homes and in their church buildings throughout the week for special times of prayer. Book groups of all sorts abound in Vermont – and about a dozen people from our church are currently coming

together for a weekly in-depth study of Rick Warren's THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE.

What is new is that on the Eve of Pentecost, we will be joining with church bodies of all denominations throughout Vermont who are gathering in their own churches at 7 pm for focused prayer. Across the state, we will be praying for a growing awareness of the need for and an awakening of the Lord in unity with others. We were invited to participate in this special time by Awake Vermont (www.awakevermont.org) the group that organizes this annual prayer event.

Why the Eve of Pentecost? Held on the seventh Sunday after Easter, Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples. Jesus promised He would not abandon his people but that instead, He would provide them a Helper—a Counselor—an Advocate. Through the Holy Spirit, He gave His followers a greater understanding of the mysteries of the Gospel to equip them to spread His Word, with the commandment to love God and others. Some claim that the Apostle Peter was often tongue-tied and had to be corrected by Jesus, but on that day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit filled Peter, enabling him to address a huge throng of people to proclaim the Good News. Before Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit, he wasn't prepared with the words Jesus wanted him to share. But, at Pentecost, nearly 2000 years ago, the Holy Spirit came upon believers after Jesus' ascension. This fulfilled the last promise Jesus gave his early followers—a promise meant for all believers to come from that day forward. As a result of what the people witnessed that long ago day, thousands came to faith. A faith so strong that many of them faced persecution of the choice they made For Christians, Pentecost marks a profound time in HISstory when churches were first born. Celebrating Pentecost is a little bit like celebrating the birthday of the church.

So, on Saturday, May 27 at 7 pm, we will open the doors of CCH to all who long to see the Word of God spread throughout our town, our state, and our world. You—believers of all denominations and unbelievers alike—are most welcome to join us!

—Barbara Elliott, CCH Board President

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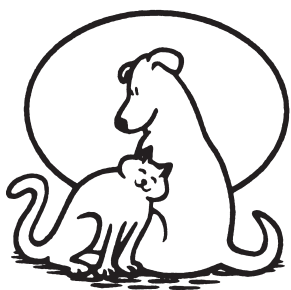
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Water Quality in the Huntington River

Submitted by Diane Reynolds

The Winooski Basin Plan (managing the health of the Winooski River watershed and Lake Champlain) is being up-dated and finalized by the end of this year. To highlight this effort, a series of articles is being published about the Huntington River, a major tributary of the Winooski. This second article discusses water quality in the Huntington.

Chemical / Nutrient Runoff Over 14,700 miles of rivers and streams deliver more than two trillion gallons of water to Lake Champlain each year. Often the water contains more than enough nutrients and pollutants to create an ecosystem imbalance. For example, an excess of phosphorus in the Lake is the primary cause of the toxic cyanobacteria blooms (also known as blue-green algae) and other harmful impacts to water quality.

Fast-moving water from heavy rainfall and melting events strikes open land and impervious surfaces such as buildings and roads. If it isn't captured and absorbed by the land, it quickly washes into waterways either directly, or indirectly via our roadside ditches. Everything put on land, buildings and roadways washes out with it. Runoff picks up various pollutants: road salt (chloride), nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients, sediment, oil, chemicals and metals. Whatever is being used to treat crops, roads, driveways, lawns and walkways can end up in the water.

In Huntington, the runoff heads to the Huntington River. From there it dumps into the Winooski River and then into Lake Champlain. Climate change will cause more and bigger storms which will worsen these issues.

The three most concerning chemicals for our waterways are: nitrogen, chloride and phosphorus. No sections of the Huntington River are considered officially impaired by these chemicals. But development and agriculture deliver all three pollutants to the river at a faster rate, and in a larger volume than is natural. Agriculture is often considered the main culprit regarding lake pollution. Not so. Agricultural/forest land (88% of Vermont) is responsible for 38% of the phosphorus in the lake. This means the 12% of "built property" is responsible for an alarming 62% of the phosphorus!

Ways to Improve Water Quality Keep watch over the quantity of pollutants being carried by waterways. But, there are steps that can be taken to divert and slow down the water so it can be absorbed by the land.

Monitor Chemicals Continued monitoring of river water might help identify chemical source areas and long-term trends. The Department of Environmental Conservation's LaRosa Lab in Randolph will analyze the samples; the community would create the sampling plan, do the sampling and deliver samples.

Control Homeowner Runoff Runoff from thousands and thousands of single properties in the watershed adds up to a huge influx of water to the roadside ditches (eventually to Lake Champlain). Anything a homeowner uses to treat their property could end up in

the waterways: fertilizers, chemicals (e.g., walkway salt) etc. The goal is to keep the water on the property, for the water to "slow down, spread out, sink in."

Control Agricultural Runoff The Agency of Agriculture's Required Agricultural Practices state that rivers/streams shall be buffered from croplands by 25 feet of perennial vegetation. The spreading of manure is prohibited within the buffer but the use of fertilizer or compost for the maintenance of the vegetative buffer zone is allowed. Farms could benefit from certain buffer practices (e.g., planting perennial vegetation in the buffers, increasing buffer size and diverting runoff to vegetated areas) to reduce pollutant runoff. Also, a mowed buffer is less effective at reducing pollutant loads to the river.

(Diane Reynolds is a member of the Huntington Conservation Commission)

Storm Smart

Partnership between WNRCD, Friends of the Winooski River, Friends of the Mad River

- Helps homeowners reduce stormwater runoff (carrying pollutants) by designing solutions tailor-made for their property; motto for stormwater runoff: "slow down, spread out, and sink-in"

- Any property owner is eligible

- Educates landowners on the ways managing stormwater runoff through Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) can improve water quality in the Winooski River and Lake Champlain

- Assessment is free (assess your house, driveway, yard); homeowner pays for suggested projects e.g., plantings, rain barrel, raingarden (for standing water), driveway recrowning/regrading/water bar etc; projects done on homeowner timetable

- Contact WNRCD Conservation specialist Adelaide Dumm via email at adelaide@winooskinrcd.org; or go to WNRCD website and sign up via registration form

- Contact Storm Smart Partners and set up assessment

Website winooskinrcd.org/stormsmart

Trees for Streams

WNRCD (Winooski Natural Resource Conservation District) PROGRAM

- Creates riparian (ie vegetated) buffers along waterways by planting grasses, shrubs, trees (e.g., willows, alders etc); best buffer size is 30-50 feet

- Any owner of property along a waterway is eligible

- Restore bank for stability, terrestrial/aquatic habitat (especially brook trout), to reduce runoff carrying sediment, nutrients, chemicals and other pollutants

- Free to the landowner. WNRCD will do the planting with the help of volunteers

- Landowner meeting to assess property for suitability; work with state river scientists to determine bank stability; source plants from local nurseries; plant; conduct post planting monitoring for survival rates.

- Contact Adelaide Dumm at 288-8155 X104 or at adelaide@winooskinrcd.org

Website WinooskiNRCD.org

Stream Wise

Partnership Between Friends of the Winooski River and Lake Champlain Basin Program

- Initiative to help property owners protect stability of stream/river buffer areas and adopt land management practices toward clean water, healthy habitats, and increased flood resilience

- Any property owner with a waterway on, or bordering, their property

- Clean up the Winooski River and Lake Champlain and restore water quality in their tributaries

- Assessment is free (assess frontage along waterway); cost of plantings may, in part, be paid by the pro-gram... every project is different; projects done on homeowner timetable

- Contact Stream Wise and set up assessment

- Email ljness@lcbp.org or Michele Braun at michele@winooskiriver.org

Website streamwisechamplain.org, click on "Become a stream steward"



Huntington River Photo: Jeannette Segale

Water Quality Enhancement Program Vermont Land Trust

- Program to set aside buffer areas along rivers and streams to allow natural vegetation to be reestablished, and slow surface water runoff through plantings, stream/wetland restoration

- Generally, projects are done on land already conserved with the VLT; and as part of new conservation projects with productive farms, forest land, unique habitat with a waterway on, or bordering, their property

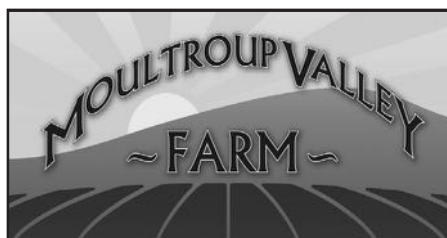
- Restore water quality in the Winooski River and Lake Champlain and in their tributaries

- Assessment is free and cost of restoration varies project to project

- Contact VLT; VLT staff would conduct a site visit to talk about what the owner wanted to do

- Email info@vlt.org

Website vlt.org



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Business Beat

by Gina Haddock

Unleashing the Creative Spirit for all Ages

Old-School Art, owned and operated by Abby Still, offers an inspirational space where the creative juices are nurtured and celebrated. The desire to start her own business was always in the back of her mind but it was a combination of the pandemic experience and the timing of space availability that finally made that dream of opening a studio a reality.

“I always knew that if I started a studio, I wanted it to be in Richmond,” Still explained. In January 2022, the perfect space in downtown

Whether young or old, nurturing the creative spirit is important and Old-School Art provides an opportunity for all ages and for all levels of art experience. The term “Old-School” evokes the sense of nostalgia for the more primitive crafts offered such as embroidery and sewing. Many of the skills that are now taught at Old-School Art are no longer available in schools. Happily, children and teens can now enjoy the thrill of learning drawing, ceramics, painting, printmaking, mixed media, embroidery and sewing through after school programs or summer camps. Surprisingly the sewing classes are one of the most popular. Adult programs are designed to be stand-alone workshops in order to make them low commitment and convenient for busy schedules.

Still described to the Beat just how different these various age groups are and how she adapts to each group. “When I’m working with children, the challenge is to get them to slow down.” Many of us can remember as young children how unafraid we were to explore and unleash our creativity. This summer Still offers children a unique way to both enjoy the outdoors while using their creative energy with her Outdoor Art Camp. Students will work on observational drawings while creating a nature journal. Still’s popular sewing camp will also be on the summer schedule. In the fall children can immerse themselves in classes such as drawing, ceramics, painting and mixed media and sewing right after school. After school classes run from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm, making it convenient for the school bus drop off schedule. In addition, homeschoolers from ages 8-14 can enjoy a full day immersed in art. Programs may differ and more detail on this opportunity can be found on the Old-School Art website or by contacting Still.

“In contrast when I work with teens, I start off slowly,” Still explained. “Building trust and developing the relationship is the first thing.” One unique teen camp offered this summer is architectural drawing of their dreams by designing floor plans, elevation and interior design layout. What a great opportunity for the budding young architect or interior designer! Still is also in the process of developing a teen art club for middle and high school students. An art club is a place where students can hone their individual skills, collectively create a mini art

Richmond became available making that hope of opening her own business a possibility. Along with being a short walking distance from school, the studio is also close to Volunteer Green, making it easy to plan outdoor art activities. As Still said with a smile, “it was perfect, but terrifying.” Time for a leap of faith.

Still’s academic background is in interior design and architecture but she has a passion for teaching all types of art forms. Before opening her own studio, she had been teaching art classes in a variety of studios including BCA, Davis Studio, Lake Champlain Waldorf School and South Burlington High School as well as a number of home school groups.



Above, Abby Still in her studio. Photos: Gina Haddock

magazine and develop a supportive community of like-minded teens.

Unfortunately, as we get older, many of us become less confident when it comes to exploring our more creative side. But according to Still, “Everyone can learn how to do art. In working with adults, I find that it is important to encourage them to take risks”. For those

who would like to try their hand at art but don’t want a long-term commitment, the one-day Saturday morning or late afternoon workshops are a perfect option. A one-day workshop can open the door to a longer commitment. As Still explained, “Art should be a slow process. You sink into it.” This spring, community members spread their creative wings and tried their hands at mixed media painting, ceramics and printmaking.

Still also offers private group classes. Gather a small group of family or friends, pick a date and your media choice for a day or evening of art making together. Adults can even make it a BYOB social event at evening workshops.

As a one woman show, Still noted that there are certainly a number of challenges associated with the administration and marketing but it is clear that she has found where she wants to be. “I love walking into this space. Everyone is happy when they’re here,” Still explained with a big smile.

For information about organizing a small private group, joining the teen art club or other questions email Abby Still at abby@oldschoolartstudio.com.

Visit Old-School Art website www.oldschoolartstudio.com. Old-School Art Studio is located 13 E Main St (upstairs), Richmond



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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Shame

Shame: "The painful emotion arising from the consciousness of something dishonoring, ridiculous, or indecorous in one's own conduct or circumstances... or of being in a situation which offends one's sense of modesty or decency."

—Oxford English Dictionary

When I was growing up, if we kids did something wrong, an adult might scold, saying, "You should be ashamed of yourselves." It could be for using poor manners, telling a lie, or not having our schoolwork done on time. There were clear expectations of how we should behave, and consequences for behaviors that did not meet expectations.

Things have changed. In just a few short decades, lying has become ubiquitous. An elected Congressman is a compulsive prevaricator who shows no sign of regret or shame for his behavior. Our previous president is notorious for his bald-faced lies. Some people cringe, while others seem to accept the behavior, shrugging it off as something not worthy of attention. Others worry that this is a sign of deteriorating democracy. In the past, there were standards of behavior.

Character, honor, and modesty mattered. People respected boundaries and decorum. Decades ago, shame was the feeling a person had when they had done something wrong. It was normal to feel shame. Nineteenth-century authors, from Jane Austin to Tolstoy, wrote about behavior that others viewed as shameful. Thirty, fifty, a hundred years ago, shame was part of common conversation. There was a common view that certain activities were unacceptable. Anything

that others would view as being out of the norm or that would cause others to view you as an indecent human being was frowned upon. Any act that was seen as causing others to view you as incompetent or immodest was seen as acting in poor form. There were also negative consequences, such as frowning upon positive things, like interracial marriage, premarital sex, unlady-like behavior, and one's sexual preferences, or even off-beat artistic clothing.

In the past, the ability to feel shame helped us to learn modesty and honor. We learned to be respectful of social standards. These expectations of behavior included respect for laws and the police who help enforce those laws.

The lies and ravages of our Capitol last year are evidence of a lack of shame. People who participate in such violence not only don't appear to have shame, they seem to lack a basic sense of civility. Psychologists view this as a lack of a secure sense of self. In our contemporary society we see shame as a weakness. However, normal shame is necessary in a well-functioning society. Pathological lying leads to cracks in democracy and an unraveling of a shared vision of reality. This seems, psychologically, an even greater consequence. When established norms and values lose meaning, when leaders lack integrity and honesty, the people in that society experience uneasiness. When there is no shame, there is no honor.

I just watched the coronation of the new king of England. Some people mock the ceremony and the old traditions, but I was struck by the civility and the stark contrast with our country's display of people storming the Capitol, attacking our police and guards. The lack of shame of the leaders and of those who participated in the January 6 assault on democracy reveals a lack of a secure sense of self. Even worse, they lack the ability to feel shame.

12th Annual Fun-Filled Race 4 Sundaes

The 12th Annual Race 4 Sundaes, one of Huntington's most highly anticipated community events, is back for another year and better than ever. This year's event, taking place on Saturday, June 24, will offer participants two exciting options: a one-mile fun hike in the Community Forest and a picturesque 5K race along the beautiful and windy dirt road of Camel's Hump. All proceeds from the event will support the local Neighbor Helping Neighbor fund, providing financial assistance to those in need within our community.

The Race 4 Sundaes has become a beloved tradition in Huntington, bringing together individuals of all ages and backgrounds for a day of outdoor adventure, friendly competition, and charitable giving. The one-mile fun hike in the Community Forest allows participants to explore the scenic trails while enjoying the natural beauty of our surroundings. It's a fantastic opportunity for families, friends, and nature enthusiasts to come together and experience the joys of hiking while supporting a great cause.

For those seeking a bit more challenge, the 5K race is an out and back course on Camel's Hump Road, offers a picturesque route that showcases the unique beauty of Huntington. Whether you are an avid runner or just starting your fitness journey, the 5K race promises an exhilarating experience for all participants; just make sure you're training for the uphill first leg!

Following the races, all participants can enjoy an ice cream sundae as well as other post-race festivities to include live music, face painting, a juggler, and a raffle with exciting prizes donated by local businesses.

The Race 4 Sundaes not only promises a day of fun and camaraderie but also makes a lasting impact on our community. All proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Neighbor Helping Neighbor fund, a program that offers financial and food support to those in need in Huntington and the surrounding areas. In addition to giving financial support to individuals and families, NHN also helps sponsor Huntington's Little Free Pantry, the Backpack Program, and Edward Heyman's Soup's On.

"We are thrilled to host the 12th Annual Race 4 Sundaes, offering both a fun hike and a scenic 5K race this year," said Megan Detweiler, one of the event's organizers. "Our community has always shown incredible support for this event, and we are excited to continue making a positive impact through the Neighbor Helping Neighbor fund. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our sponsors, volunteers, and participants for their unwavering support year after year."

The success of the 12th Annual Race 4 Sundaes would not be possible without the generous support of generous sponsors and neighbors. Their commitment to community and dedication of support significantly contributes to the event's overall success and its ability to make a difference in the lives of neighbors in need.

Registration for the Race 4 Sundaes is now open, and we encourage participants to secure their spot early. To register or learn more about the event, please visit <http://huntingtonrace4sundaes.weebly.com/> or contact race4sundaes@gmail.com for further information.

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