



The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 40 **May 2023 Issue** Number 4

Towns to Hold Special Meetings

Richmond and Huntington will each have a Special Town Meeting this spring to allow voters to make a change in the meeting day (Richmond) and to correct an error made in warning for Article 6, the town operating budget (Huntington).

Richmond April 29, 2023, 9 am

Richmond will hold a Special Town Meeting on Saturday morning, April 29, at 9 am in the Community Room at the Richmond Free Library.

The purpose of this meeting is to hold a voice vote on moving the business portion of Town Meeting back to Tuesday morning.

Some History In 2020, the Selectboard placed a question on the Australian ballot to consider moving the business portion of Town Meeting to the preceding Monday night in hope that more residents would attend. That article passed. Then came COVID, and no in-person meetings were held. So, the first time to hold that Monday night meeting was March of this year. The meeting was held at Camels Hump Middle School at 6 pm to discuss and vote on the town budget. No more than usual attended. At a high point there were 145 residents present. As the hour got later, many left the meeting. Some folks even fell asleep. The town budget was passed by a voice vote of about 130 residents.

With the business meeting at night, registered voters had to return to CHMS on Tuesday to vote the Australian (paper) ballot.

A petition revealed a lot of interest in changing the meeting back to the historical Tuesday morning. It was signed by 189 Richmond

citizens.
By Vermont State Law, the only way to move the business meeting back to Tuesday morning is to have a voice vote to change it. That is what is planned for April 29. The meeting will be held at Richmodn Free Library and not at CHMS because the school is not available. This will be an in person meeting only. You must be present to vote.

If you have any questions, please contact Town Clerk Linda Parent (802-434-2221).

Huntington May 22, 2023, 7 pm

Huntington will have a Special Town Meeting on Monday, May 22, at 7 pm. The purpose of the meeting is for the voters to amend a technical error discovered after Article 6 from the March 7, 2023 Annual Town Meeting had passed. Two incorrect numbers were warned, even though the budget, which had the correct figures, was unanimously approved by voters. This was "discovered" later in the meeting - too late to legally correct the errors. The article to be voted on May 22 does not change any of the budget line items or dollar amounts in General Fund Budget or the Capital Plan as published in the Annual Report for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2022.

If approved, the vote would correct the General Fund expenditure and amount to be raised through taxes to accurately reflect the General Fund Budget as it was printed in the Annual Report, and reviewed and approved at Town Meeting. If the article does not pass, according to legal counsel at the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the budget will need to be reduced to the incorrect figure warned for Town Meeting.

Green Up Day is May 6

Spend part of a Saturday working with other volunteers in your town to get rid of roadside trash. Help make your community look its best. What can be better than a spring day for people to get out and clean up litter and enjoy the outdoors and each other.

Richmond
"We're hoping for an enthusiastic response from Richmond to clean up our roadsides," said Green Up coordinator Ibit Wright. Here are some plans and resources.

The big green Green Up trash bags have already arrived at the Town Office. They are available in the front entryway. Town Clerk Linda Parent has ordered posters from Green Up Vermont (GUV), the nonprofit organization that is 53 years old this year! They have a helpful and informative

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Huntington
In Huntington, call the Town Clerk's Office (434-2032) to sign up for a road or show up at the Town Garage in the morning on May 6. You can also sign up for a specific road or stretch of road through a link on the town website (huntingtonvt.org) and pick up your bags after May 1 from the Town Clerk to get an early start.

Bring your Green Up trash to the Town Garage on May 6, preferably before 12:30 pm - no early drop offs, please. Do not leave trash bags next

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Onstage This Spring



Isaiah (Izzy) Gilbert recently starred in Lyric Theatre's *SHREK*, the musical, performed at the Flynn Theatre in Burlington in mid-April. Gilbert played the role of the Donkey, seen here with Shrek (Ry Poulin). The colorful, popular production that played to enthusiastic audiences of all ages. Photo: Studio 2N Photography



The age of jazz and infamy came alive during Mount Mansfield Union High School's production of *CHICAGO*, performed at the end of March. Above are Emmeline Dodd, Kaitlin Ford, Sonya Klinger. Courtesy photo

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Letters

Open Mic Returns to Huntington Town Hall

It's been a minute, hasn't it? Three years, to be exact!

And some of you have suffered three. long. years. of regret over not having seized the opportunity to sign up for Open Mic Night at the Huntington Town Hall when you had the chance.

You know who you are. And probably so do I.

Well, never fear, because we're back! And we're psyched as ever to behold the sea of talent this beautiful little town (and beyond) has to offer. Music! Stories! Dance! Comedy! Magic! Whatever kind of entertainment you can fit into your eight-minute time slot goes.

Open Mic Night at Huntington Town Hall hits the stage for the fourth time on Saturday, May 13, at 7 pm. Sign-ups and doors at 6:30 pm.

Come sign up to share your gifts with us or kick back and enjoy the show! Performers of all ages welcome and encouraged. Donations collected at the door will benefit a local organization.

Bring your friends! Bring your neighbors! Please don't bring your germs (stay home if you're feeling iffy)!

Email Marie Claire, your exuberant host, at openmicnighthuntington@gmail.com for tech specs and more info or to volunteer to help.

—Marie Johnson, Huntington

actively seeking an additional board member. This is primarily an oversight/advisory role, of only four meetings a year and optional extra projects. The Board meets in May, if you'd like to learn more. Please send nominations via email: mmctv15@gmail.com

—Angelike Contis, MMCTV Director

Summer's Coming! Partners In Adventure Has Got You Covered!

With the coming of spring, we all know that summer in Vermont is just around the corner! Partners in Adventure offers a one-of-a-kind summer camp experience for young people with disabilities, and their friends.

There are four two-week sessions packed with adventures from A-Z including sailing, kayaking, outdoor education, crafts, music and so much more! The first session will begin June 26th. Our base camp this year will be at the Williston Federated Church in Williston. Our camp runs Monday-Friday 9 am to 3 pm. Anyone seven years or older is welcome to fill out an application available on our website: www.partnersinadventure.org.

For more information, contact program director Sue Minter at: sminter@partnersinadventure.org

In the Field: It's Wild Out There

At last count, MMCTV has processed 138 videos so far in 2023, including many hybrid municipal meetings. These include the Richmond ARPA Committee, Development Review Board, Housing Committee, Parking Advisory Committee, Library Board, Recreation Committee, Water and Sewer Commission, and more, in addition to the expected Richmond Selectboard and MMUU School Board meetings.

We've noted a growing demand for our services out in the field again, with a twist, as there is also streaming and interactivity in the mix.

Channel Manager Jim Hering expertly streamed a presentation/hearing related to the Andrews Community Forest plan at CHMS. The many people in the room and at home were able to take part. (See article on page 8.)

Sometimes we don't need to bring gear at all, as we've already installed it! For a recent Underhill Conservation Event on Forests and Climate Change at the Town Hall, we used the hybrid system in the great hall. That event has been picked up by 22 other TV centers nationwide.

Due to high demand, MMCTV has created an online form for event requests.

Middle School TV Camp We will hold our camp at MMCTV July 10-14, with young filmmakers again focusing on remaking a scene from a Hollywood film for Crowd-sourced Cinema VT. This time it's all fun and games with TOY STORY. (Note: We'll also co-teach a free workshop at the Deborah Rawson Library the last week of June.) Camp registration is now online.

Keeping Vermont Green! During February break, we teamed up with the Richmond Free Library and six talented young filmmakers to create a video for the Green Up Day, Vermont competition. A special thanks to filmmaker Sierra Ulrich for volunteering her time and expertise to help with the workshop. The young filmmakers put in some extra editing time in March to finish the video.

Board Member Needed Do you know anyone (including you) with great marketing and/or fundraising skills? MMCTV is

From the Archives

EXPLORING THE MMCTV CONTENT VAULT

After operating for 25 years, we've recorded thousands of hours of content, and documented years of history. Much of it has been converted from VHS tapes (remember those?) and have sat organized but un-played on hard drives. We decided it's about time to let them see the sunlight! We have edited snapshot summaries of the originals, but have also published the uncut version for your viewing pleasure. Enjoy a blast from the past and community moments throughout the years.

1996 Comets Girls Softball

[View Edited Snapshot](#) > [View Full Length](#)

1999 4th of July Parade

[View Edited Snapshot](#) > [View Full Length](#)

2005 Music in Underhill Town Hall

[View Edited Snapshot](#) > [View Full Length](#)

2005 Music in the Round Church Elisabeth Von Trapp

[View Edited Snapshot](#) > [View Full Length](#)

2002 DRML Spring Fling

[View Edited Snapshot](#) > [View Full Length](#)

2002 Medieval Fair

[View Edited Snapshot](#) > [View Full Length](#)



Watershed Action Plan for Lake Iroquois and Patrick Brook



Lake Iroquois from Oak Hill Road. Courtesy photo

The Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) has been awarded funds through the Lake Champlain Basin Program to develop a Watershed Action Plan for Lake Iroquois and the Patrick Brook watershed. WNRCD is working in partnership with Lake Iroquois Association (LIA), Lewis Creek Association (LCA) and water resources engineers to identify and address areas where stormwater runoff and phosphorus pollution could be improved to benefit water quality, wildlife habitat, and climate change resilience.

Throughout spring and summer 2023, partners will be conducting road and stream assessments to identify projects. The goal of these assessments is to identify areas where erosion, limited trees next to streams, or road runoff/culverts could be contributing pollutants like phosphorus to our streams and lakes, which then flow on to the LaPlatte River and Lake Champlain. Pollutants like phosphorus can contribute to algal and cyanobacteria blooms, impacting aquatic life and human health.

In addition to these road and stream assessments, WNRCD has a goal to complete Lake Wise (lake front) or Storm Smart (riparian or upland) assessments on at least ten private properties. Staff visit a property and generate a collection of clean water best management practice recommendations (such as rain gardens, buffer plantings, and driveway water bars) that keep water on site, spread it out, and sink it into the ground. Participating in these assessments is entirely voluntary by property owners.

If you own property on a lake front and wish to sign up for a free Lake Wise assessment, sign up at <https://bit.ly/lake-wise>. If you own upland property in the Lake Iroquois or Patrick Brook watershed, sign up for a free Storm Smart assessment at <https://bit.ly/storm-smart>.

Lake Organizations Receive Access Grant

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA), a non-profit organization focused on the health and well-being of Lake Iroquois, and the Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD), a union municipal district comprised of the four towns of Williston, Hinesburg, Richmond, and St. George, have received a \$320,000 federal grant as part of fiscal year 2023 Congressionally Directed Spending. This grant will allow remediation of a road that has been a major contributor of polluted runoff into the lake. Implementation of this plan will install stormwater best management practices on Beebe Lane, which will prevent flooding and road washouts, reduce pollutants from entering the lake, and improve water quality. The project will also enhance public access to recreational opportunities. Beebe Lane serves as the access road to the 157-acre LIRD property at the north end of Lake Iroquois and provides access to the Vermont Fish and Wildlife boat launch, LIRD public access beach, and a nearly two-mile loop of walking trails.

The Lake Iroquois Association and the Lake Iroquois Recreation District have worked closely together for a number of years to improve the lake's water quality, educate lake users on aquatic invasive species prevention, and improve community access to a broad range of recreational opportunities on and adjacent to Lake Iroquois. By working together to acquire a grant for matching funds from Watersheds United Vermont, additional support pledged by LIA and LIRD, and through the help and support of Haley Pero, Outreach Director for the Office of Senator Bernie Sanders, this project achieved successful Congressional approval.

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Migrating Salmon Get a Lift to the Winooski

Every fall, landlocked salmon migrate from Lake Champlain and head upstream to spawn in the Winooski River. How do they make it, with three formidable dam headwalls to hinder progress along the way?

Join Vermont Fish & Wildlife's Lee Simard for his on-line presentation and discover how the

In the presentation, Simard describes how his agency stocks salmon smolts at a point in the Winooski near Lake Champlain. The salmon then migrate into the lake and mature for about a year. Between September and November, some of the adult fish return to the Winooski to spawn.

Their first obstacle is the Winooski One dam, where an actual fish lift has been constructed. Adult salmon routinely swim into the lift's large metal tub and are hoisted to the top of the dam where they are measured and tagged for tracking. From there they get a lift in the agency's truck, getting them past the dam visible from I-89, and another near the Williston/Essex line. Finally, the salmon are released into the Winooski in Richmond and travel upstream to the Bolton Dam or the Huntington River and other tributaries. Come fall, some migrate back to Lake Champlain, while others remain in place until spring.

Although the salmon are tagged for tracking, Simard assures fishing enthusiasts that they may keep those they are skilled enough to catch, or return them to the river.

A Fisheries Biologist with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department's Essex Junction regional office, Simard received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Sciences and master's degree in Natural Resources from UVM. His work focuses on managing wild trout in inland waters, and includes



Above, Vermont fisheries biologist Lee Simard tags a landlocked salmon at the Winooski dam fish lift. Photo: Josh Morse, VFWD

Salmon enter the fish lift where they are measured and tagged, then transported for release farther upstream. Photo: Lee Simard, VFWD



salmon get an actual lift over the Winooski dam, then hop a ride upstream where they can deposit their eggs. Recently presented as a live online CSC (Community Seniors Center) program, the recorded version can be accessed by going to YOUTUBE, entering Community Senior Center in the search window, and clicking on the CSC's logo. SALMON ON THE WINOOSKI is among the recent programs listed.

lake sturgeon and salmon management in the Winooski.

In addition to Lee Simard's presentation, the CSC has over 50 other interesting and informative programs available on YOUTUBE, and adds new ones regularly.

Sterling House at Richmond

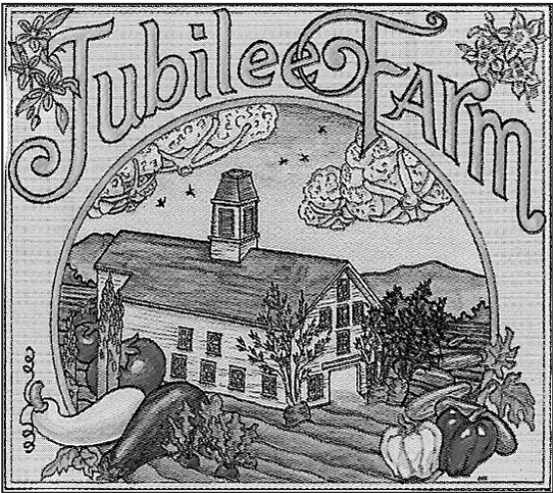
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The evening server helps serve dinner and clean up after dinner. We will train. We are a group effort type of work environment and would love to have you join our team.

Hours are typically 4-7, but we have other opportunities to increase hours if you are interested. Give us a call and come talk with us!!

Contact Liza Rixon at 802-881-2285



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Library Closing The Library will be closed Wednesday, May 24 between 12:30 and 2:30 for important staff training.

Earth Day Book Talk What is *THE PROGRESS ILLUSION*? Come hear Jon D. Erickson, the Blittersdorf Professor of Sustainability Science and Policy at the University of Vermont, discuss the progress illusion of economics: a story centered on a very narrow caricature of humanity as greedy and independent; a story that assumes the Earth is limitless and at our disposal; a fairytale detached from biophysical reality and lacking a moral compass. The fate of people and planet depends on upending the illusion and writing a new story based on care, cooperation, interdependence, and stewardship. Jon's new book is "The Progress Illusion: Reclaiming Our Future from the Fairytale of Economics" and we look forward to welcoming him to the library for this special Earth Day talk on Wednesday, April 26 at 7 pm.

Climate Action Book Discussion A collaboration between the Richmond Climate Action Committee and the library, this group has chosen its final book for this series. Please pick up a copy of *BRAIDING SWEETGRASS* by Robin Wall Kimmerer and join us for a discussion on May 24 in the Community Room. In this bestselling collection of essays, Indigenous scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer shows how acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world can awaken a wider ecological consciousness. This is a beautiful book that all humans should read. Copies of the book and an audiobook are available to borrow from the Library. Please join us for conversation (and cookies) on Wednesday, May 24, at 7 pm.

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Egg Scavenger Hunt in the Library Youth ages 3 - 12 can see how fast they can find all the eggs hidden on the Library walls and decode the secret word. Completed decoding sheets can be turned in at the youth desk for a small prize. The hunt will be up for the month of April.

Baby Brunch On Sunday, April 16, we welcomed Richmond's newest residents and future readers at our annual Baby Brunch. Families in attendance selected a new picture book to be added to the library collection in dedication to their little bundle of joy. These books will have a special dedication plaque on the front page, and will likely become favorites for the children as they get older and enjoy seeing their name in their special book. If you welcomed a child to your Richmond household in 2022, and were unable to attend the brunch, please stop by the Library and ask to see the book that we dedicated to your child.

Free Passes to American Precision Museum Vintage machines evolve into modern technology in a National Historic Landmark.

The American Precision Museum in Windsor combines the atmosphere of an original 19th-century factory building with a world-class collection of historic machines. Explore industrial history in the context of innovation, creative problem-solving, and the impact of precision manufacturing on American history and culture. Passes available at the circulation desk.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group May's book is *THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE* by Abi Daré. The unforgettable story of a teenage girl growing up in a rural Nigerian village who longs to get an education so that she can speak up for herself, this book is a tale about the power of fighting for your dreams. Contact Gwen Landis (434-5012; gwenne1972@yahoo.com) for information on participating. Join us in the Mezzanine on Tuesday, May 9, at 6 pm.

Mystery Book Group May's book is *FIELD OF BLOOD* by Denise Mina. Set in Glasgow in 1981, a time of hunger strikes, riots, and unemployment that decimated the old industrial heartlands, this book is the first in the Paddy Meehan series. Contact Maureen Parent (434-2055; mspparent@gmavt.net) with any questions. Join us in the Mezzanine on Thursday, May 18, 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 (4 tests) per person. Ask for them at the circulation desk.

Photography Show During the month of April come appreciate the vivid work of Richmond photographer Mary Claire Carroll. Her Images capture the light, shadow, and beauty of the moment and include some of her favorite locations around this area including Charlotte, Huntington, Essex, Lake Champlain, Underhill, and Richmond.

Foyer Display Richmond resident Gwen Landis has an interest in all things Celtic, especially decorative knotwork. Using mostly Copic alcohol markers, colored pencils, watercolor pencils, and gel pens she embellishes the shapes and fills them with color and shading to create depth and flow. Come see her work during the month of April.

The Birds of Vermont Museum will be 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: Did you know your love of coffee affects birds? What we do to get our favorite coffees 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.

Weekly Children's Programs Weekly programs at the Library run from September through May and follow the MMUUSD schedule for vacation days and weather closure days.

Storytime/Playgroup The good times kick off with stories and action songs in the Library Community Room and then the toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the Library and the Lund Center. Children infant through five years and their grown ups are invited to join the fun on Wednesdays from 10 am until noon.

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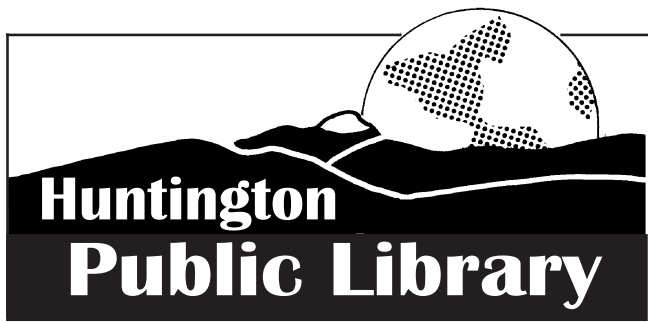
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Arbor Day Arbor Day is coming right up - National observation is April 28 and Vermont observation is a week later on May 5. Arbor Day is a day set aside annually to celebrate and honor trees. Just think of all the gifts we enjoy and life-giving attributes trees share - starting with air to breathe. This year there is no Library fairy giving out free saplings, but there will be other fun educational tree-related activities and resources to find when you visit. Lots and lots and lots of tree books. Keep your eye on social media and flyers posted on the Library door for details.

Planet Huntington is Back A huge thanks to Don Dresser for reviving Planet Huntington. The return program kicked off with a visit to Kyrgyzstan with international exchange student, Aiana Pazylova. Aiana even taught some traditional dances.

The next Planet Huntington hosted and planned with Jeanette and Joe Segale, along with Don Dresser, is sure to be fabulous.

First Friday Movie Night Friday, May 5. Time and movie to be determined by Odyssey of the Mind. The Library is excited to participate in the Huntington Valley Arts First Friday events. This will be a fundraiser by donation in support of OM's trip to the Worlds. Please watch for our signboard and social media posting.

Lego Club Fridays 2:30 pm to 4 pm, April until May 12. Join your friends for some fun at the Library. We will have light snacks. Bring your creativity, patience, and sharing skills.

Goat Yoga Midnight Goat Farm has generously offered to host a Goat Yoga for the second year, with a class led by Kerry Walker and all proceeds going to the Friends of the Huntington Public Library. The baby goats will be ready to join a yoga class by late spring. The anticipated dates will be Saturday, May 13, with a rain date of May 20. The exact time is yet to be decided, so please watch the Library's website for the date and time. Please join us, this will be fun.

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. April's book is *BLACK CAKE* by Charmaine Wilkerson, and May's book is *LIBERTIE* by Kaitlyn Greenidge. If you would like to join us via zoom, let us know and 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 consider replacing 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.

New Adult Fiction *SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE* and *WALK THE BLUE FIELDS* by Claire Keegan; *SO SHALL YOU READ* by Donna Leon; *NORTH* by Brad Kessler; *BLACK LIGHT BLUE* by Peter May; *MAAME* by Jessica George; *WEYWARD* by Emilia Hart; *A PSALM FOR THE WILD* and *A PRAYER FOR THE CROWN-SHY* by Becky Chambers; *THE HOUSE OF EVE* by Sadeqa Johnson; *SO SHALL YOU REAP* by Donna Leon; *ALL THAT IS HIDDEN* by Rhys Bowen; *RIVER SING ME HOME* by Eleanor Shearer; *OLD BABES IN THE WOODS* - Stories by Margaret Atwood; *A MANSION FOR MURDER* by Francis Brody; *THE WHITE LADY* by Jacqueline Winspear; *JOE COUNTRY* by Mick Herron.

Nonfiction *ROUGH SLEEPERS* - DR. JIM O'CONNELL'S URGENT MISSION TO BRING HEALING TO HOMELESS PEOPLE by Tracy Kidder; *ON LIVING* by Kerry Egan; *ENCHANTMENT* - AWAKENING WONDER IN AN ANXIOUS AGE by Katherine May; *UNDER A WHITE SKY* - THE NATURE OF THE FUTURE by Elizabeth Kolbert; *ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS* - INTERVIEW YOUR FAMILY TO UNCOVER STORIES AND BRIDGE GENERATIONS by Elizabeth Keating; *IWIGARA* - THE KINSHIP OF PLANTS AND PEOPLE - AMERICAN INDIAN ETHNOBOTANICAL TRADITIONS AND SCIENCE by Enrique Salmon; *DINNERS WITH RUTH* - A MEMOIR ON THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIPS by Nina Totenberg.

Pictures Books *POTTY POWER* by Eunice and Sabrina Moyle; *AMY WU AND THE PERFECT BAO* and *AMY WU AND THE WARM WELCOME* by Kat Zhang; *THE PERFECT POTTY ZOO* - THE FUNNIEST ABC BOOK by Agnes Breen; *NO SNOWBALL* by Isabella Kung; *WHAT MAKES A BABY* by Cory Silverberg; *THE POOP SONG* by Eric Litwin; *SUGAR IN MILK* by Thrity Umrigar; *DOE'S DANDELIONS* by Laura Renauld; *CHINESE NEW YEAR'S COLORS* by Rich Lo; *WHALE IN A FISHBOWL* by Troy Howell; *THE SWING* by Britta Teckentrup; *PALACE OF BOOKS* by Patricia Polacco; *SHY* by Deborah Freedman; *THIS STORY IS NOT ABOUT A KITTEN* by Randall de Seve; *THE POLAR BEAR IN THE GARDEN* by Richard Jones; *SEA OTTER PUP* by Victoria Miles; *THE TREE AND THE RIVER* by Aaron Becker; *ONE WORLD* - 24 HOURS ON PLANET EARTH by Nicola Davies.

Juvenile Nonfiction *WOLF ISLAND*, *THE SEAL GARDEN*, *A WHALE'S WORLD* and *A BEAR'S LIFE* - ALL STORIES OF GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST by Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read; *TWO TRUTHS AND A LIE* - HISTORIES AND MYSTERIES, *IT'S ALIVE*, *FORCES OF NATURE* by Ammi-Joan Paquette; *MUSHROOM FAN CLUB* by Elise Gravel; *THE UNIVERSE IN YOU* - A MICROSCOPIC JOURNEY by Jason Chin; *HOW TO MAKE A MOUNTAIN* - IN JUST 9 SIMPLE STEPS AND ONLY 100 MILLION YEARS by Amy Huntington.

Juvenile Graphic Novel *THE LEGEND OF KORRA* - PATTERNS IN TIME, *RUINS OF THE EMPIRE*, *PARTS TWO AND THREE* by Michael Dante DiMartino; **Noise** - based on a true story by Kathleen Raymond; *SCIENCE COMICS* - THE PERIODIC TABLE OF ELEMENTS by Jon Chad.

Vox Audiobooks for Children *LONG-HAIRED GIRL* - A STORY IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE by Chen Mengmin and Chiara Nasi; *SINGING IN THE RAIN* by Tim Hopgood; *SADIQ AND THE PET PROBLEM* by Siman Nuurali; *ANCIENT MARINE LIFE* - PLESIOSAURS by Kate Moening; *SEREE'S STORY* by Irma Gold and Wayne Harris; *RICK THE ROCK OF ROOM #2214* by Julie Falatko; *I WILL SURVIVE* - song lyrics by Frederick J. Perren; *HUMBLE AND KIND* - song lyrics by Lori McKenna.

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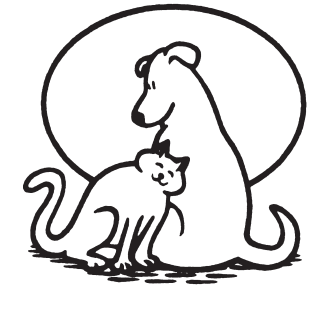
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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Paul Susen

The Huntington Selectboard held a regularly scheduled meeting on March 20. Agenda items included oaths of office, election of officers, confirmation of organizational matters, May 22 Special Town Meeting, lower village pedestrian access public meeting, issues raised at Town Meeting, planning commission priorities, updating land use regulations, Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) annual plan, concern regarding open meeting law and use of social media, protocol for signing documents, public comment, and appointments.

Town Clerk Heidi Racht administered the oath of office for Selectboard members elected by Australian ballot on Town Meeting day, namely Dori Barton and Larry Haskins Jr. Barton was elected Chair and Landel Cochran Vice-Chair.

The meeting schedule, location and access, postings of municipal meetings and public notices were confirmed. Selectboard meetings will normally be held on the first and third Monday of each month unless there is a holiday in which case the meeting would be set for the following Tuesday. Meetings during the summer are held on an abbreviated schedule and meetings during budget development season are usually held every week. Unless warned differently, meetings will be held remotely. Accommodations for a staffed physical location can be arranged through a request to the Town Administrator at least 12 hours before the scheduled meeting. Postings of board, committee and commission meetings shall occur at least 48 hours prior to a regularly scheduled meeting, 24 hours prior to a special meeting and as soon as possible before duly defined emergency meetings. Postings will be placed on the town website, at Town Office, at Beaudry's Store, and emailed to the Burlington Free Press. Public notices which are required to be published according to statute will be printed in the TIMES INK!, logistics permitting. If time does not allow, the notice will appear in either SEVEN DAYS or the BURLINGTON FREE PRESS. In addition, the notice will be placed at Town Office, Beaudry's Store, the town website and a summary will be posted on FRONT PORCH FORUM.

Budget Revote At Town Meeting, Article 6 dealing with the 2023-2024 General Fund Budget was voted from the floor. However, after that vote occurred, an error in the warning was discovered. The total amount and the amount to be collected by taxes weren't stated correctly. The budget information presented to voters in the Annual Report was correct. A revised motion with the correct figures was made and approved. However, it was subsequently determined that the budget article with corrected dollar amounts needed to be warned and as such, the revised motion made at Town meeting could not be considered official. Therefore, the Selectboard approved a Special Meeting to be held on Monday May 22 at 7 pm in a location to be determined for the purpose of voting the

Call to Artists!

In recognition of the unique Huntington River Watershed, including streams, brooks, rivulets and wetlands throughout Huntington, an art exhibit is being planned for October 2023 at the Huntington Public Library. This will be a mixed media exhibit.

All forms of art are welcome, such as stories, poems, soundscapes, music and the myriad forms of visual and tactile creative expression. Consider sharing your creative interpretation of Huntington's flowing waters by contributing to this community project. The planning has just begun and exhibit guidelines will be available soon. Email Anne Dannenberg at the Library (hpl@gmavt.net) for more information.

revised Article 6 warning. This process will not change any element of the 2023-2024 budget as presented to voters at Town Meeting. The vote on the corrected Article 6 warning is required to be made from the floor and not by Australian ballot.

Lower Village Traffic Patterns The Selectboard determined that the meeting on April 3 would be devoted to a public session for the purpose of discussing possible ways to change the Lower Village to improve pedestrian access and safety. This has been a subject of concern to the Selectboard and community for which action has been delayed due to the pandemic.

As is the usual custom, the Selectboard reviewed issues raised at Town Meeting, including the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the bidding process for painting the exterior of town buildings and a possible pocket park. ARPA, the bidding protocol and development projects will be on future agendas.

Joe Segale, Chair of the Planning Commission, requested feedback from the Selectboard on their priorities. The Selectboard requested that the rural residential district be moved to a medium priority as there are currently 200 non-conforming lots. In addition, the Selectboard indicated that the matter of cannabis would need to be moved up in priority if inquiries are submitted.

Ongoing Land Use Regulations Updates Now that the proposed land use regulations were enacted through the Australian ballot vote at Town Meeting, the Selectboard reviewed how best to update the regulations on a regular basis. It was acknowledged that policy, statute, regional planning commission input and legal considerations needed to be factored into future changes.

Bidding Town Projects Under public comment, a Huntington resident reiterated his concern regarding the Selectboard approach around bidding for town projects. In this instance, the expressed concern regards bidding for the heating upgrade in the Town Hall. As committee minutes had not been published until recently, the process for selection of a contractor was not publicly made available. The community member recommended that three bids should be the standard for work on municipal buildings. In addition, the resident discovered a conflict between the electrical capacity of the Town Hall and the requirements inherent with the installation of a heat pump. The Selectboard encouraged further dialogue between the interested individual and relevant committees.

Appointments The Selectboard made the following appointments: Barbara Elliot as Selectboard meeting recorder and clerk; Barb Winters to the Conservation Commission for a four-year term; Jennifer Randall as alternate on the Development Review Board for a one-year position; Jeanine Carr to the Planning Commission for the remaining one year of a three-year term; Dori Barton, Larry Haskins Jr. and Roman Livak as fence viewers for a one-year term; Landel Cochran as weigher of coal for a one-year term; Everett Lewis Jr, as inspector of shingles and Americans With Disabilities Coordinator for one-year terms.

Other Business The VTrans annual financial plan for 2023-2024 was voted consistent with the highway budget. To comply with open meeting laws, the Selectboard has and will continue to urge caution in the use of social media by members of municipal boards and committees. The Selectboard position is that comments from town/committee representative should not occur on social media platforms. Rather, the use of these digital spaces should be limited to posting agendas, public service announcements and providing general information. Finally, the Selectboard agreed to a process whereby official documents can be signed by specified representatives of the Selectboard.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Mark Aiken

The Richmond Selectboard held a meeting on Monday, March 20. During a public comment, Richmond resident Nicolas Ponzio asked the board to consider adopting a resolution calling for the safe sharing of roadways. Board chair Jay Furr responded that the board would consider it.

Solid Waste Budget Then Selectboard members quickly got down to business, hearing from Sarah Reeves, executive director of the Chittenden Solid Waste District, as she reviewed the district's budget for fiscal year 2024. "For our charter, we are required to go to our member towns and ask to approve our budget," Reeves said.

Board members listened to her report before voting to approve the Chittenden Solid Waste District's budget as presented.

Welcoming and Engaging Communities The Board heard from Jude Smith Rachele, director of Abundant Sun, a consultant who is working in partnership with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) on the first-ever VLCT Welcoming and Engaging Communities Cohort. Richmond is one of eight communities participating in the cohort (the others are Brandon, Hartford, Hinesburg, Jericho, Middlebury, Putney, and Williston). The cohort's goal is to study and build welcoming and engaging communities.

In a ten-minute presentation, Smith Rachele presented a mountain of data gathered from a survey of elected officials, employed staff, appointed staff, volunteers, and interns from the eight member towns. The data related to relationships with supervisors and colleagues, whether respondents felt people were treated respectfully, their satisfaction with culture within their towns, and each town's commitment to diversity and inclusion. Results were combined and broken out by town.

"I do want this discussion to continue," said Furr. "There are a number of avenues available to people here in Richmond. The Richmond Racial Equity group, which is not an official Town committee but has been meeting for three years. If people here in the Town are interested in having more discussions about this, meetings can be held to give everybody a chance to weigh in."

Prohibiting Sporting Events on Cochran Road Richmond resident Andrew Bessette brought forth the idea that, due to upcoming construction projects, the town should place a moratorium on sporting events that call for the closure of vehicle traffic on Cochran Road. "It is just an idea that I had that I wanted to bring to the board," Bessette said. "With the increased traffic on Cochran Road, it might be a good idea to cancel all organized sporting events where they take up the whole road or part of the road."

"If there's an emergency and you need to go down on Cochran Road and you've got thousands of joggers," he said.

A lively discussion followed, similar to the discussion that has been occurring in recent weeks on social media. Residents recognized that Cochran Road is a busy and beautiful place. Many comments were made about the diversity of users (drivers, cyclists, walkers, runners, and horses). Some people commented that cars make it dangerous for pedestrians; others asserted the opposite. Some asserted that runners, walkers, and bikers don't move over for cars; others claimed that cars don't make space for runners, walkers, and bikers.

Resident Francis Churchill raised the idea that

a reduced speed limit on Cochran Road could increase safety for all.

"It's inevitable that we would have this kind of discussion," said Selectboard member Bard Hill. "There's a long history of concerns of parking and traffic and multiple use. How do we manage this under particularly trying circumstances when Route 2 is significantly disrupted? I go to Overocker Park frequently, and I probably see on a weekday afternoon forty to fifty cars going back and forth."

Resident Cara LaBounty suggested a moratorium that moves any events requiring a road closure to Sundays. "It's about public safety," she said.

Town Manager Josh Arneson spoke to a number of points. First, he noted that any construction on Route 2 in the center of Richmond village this summer would be done at night. "It will be open during the day but reduced to one lane at times," he said. Secondly, he listed the events scheduled on Cochran Road this summer requesting road closures – both of them. "Richard's Ride," which departs from Cochran's Ski Area has requested a closure of the road on Saturday, May 20, from 11 am to 1 pm. The Round Church Women's Run, which typically runs the last Saturday in July, has asked in the past for a 40-minute road closure from 8:25 am until 9:15 am.

"I'm already planning on trying to run it earlier in the morning than we ordinarily do, because it's getting hotter," said Women's Race organizer Hillary Holmes, who lives in neighboring Essex. Richmond is a treasure for everybody in Chittenden County and I want us to be good neighbors and have good relationships with you."

"I think we're a town that wants to encourage our people in our community to be healthy," said resident Pennie Rand. "Route 2 is much less safe [than Cochran Road]. There are not a lot of options because the roads in our community are very narrow. Cochran Rd is relatively flat; it's easy. For the most part, cars can see pedestrians on the road."

"It represents the culture of our community to see people recreating," Rand said.

Resident Ann Naumann then read Vermont Statute Title 23, Chapter 13, Subchapter 003 Use of the Roadway section number 1035 so that those in attendance could understand what Vermont state law has to say about roadway users. Without quoting the legalese, the circumstances that must be in place for a car to cross the yellow line, and so forth, the statute in so many words says "Be smart and be safe."

Finally, Board chair Furr said, "The item on the agenda is a request from a resident. No actual action on the part of Selectboard is required this time. Is there any member of the Selectboard who wishes to make a motion on this topic?"

Then they moved on to the next agenda item. Another Cochran Road discussion!

Richard Tom Bicycle Event This agenda item had the Richard's Ride organizers asking for Selectboard approval for their event which included a two-hour closure of Cochran Road on Saturday, May 20.

Richmond resident Karen Ward (who said she drives, bikes, and runs on Cochran Road) and Tom Wright represented the Richard Tom Foundation. "Richard was an individual that was killed by a motorist in Hinesburg nine years ago," explained Wright. "This is one fundraiser

continue to page 13



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TAX NOTICE

Town of Richmond

Fourth Quarter 2022-2023 taxes payment due
Monday, May 15, 2023.

The Town Office is open to the public
on May 15, 8 am to 5 pm.

A 8% penalty and late fee of 1% interest will be applied
to late payments on May 16.

*Internet-generated checks do not normally include a postmark, so
MUST arrive on or before May 15.*

Postmark of May 15 will be accepted and there is a
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located by the side door across from the post office entrance.

Town of Huntington

Fourth & Final Installment of 2022-2023 taxes
is due
Monday, May 15, 2023.

The office will be open 8 am to 7 pm to accept tax payments.

- USPS Postmarks on or before May 15th are accepted.
- Payments placed through the town office door slot are accepted up until midnight on May 15th as on time
- Metered mail & Internet-generated checks do not generally have postmarks and MUST arrive on or before May 15th.
- In office payments are accepted by check or cash only.

Since this is the final payment of the year, late payments are subject to an 8% delinquency penalty along with a monthly 1% interest charge.

MMUUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

School Board Meeting March 2023

The principal thrust of this meeting was nuts and bolts going forward of how the MMUUSD Board will operate from this point forward. The members will focus on deepening knowledge of its individual committee assignments, while connecting outward districtwide in order to serve the public more effectively. The Board assigned themselves to five committees with the goal of becoming subject matter experts in their field. The Board is also expected to cycle through several committees, to become acquainted with every aspect of the Board's duties. Each committee will write its own "charter" (purpose), and provide one- and three-year goals. Emphasis will be placed on achieving these goals. "I don't want to just write the goal, I want to do the goal," said Richmond member Katie Nelson.

The committees and their assignments are:

Finance and Facilities: Lisa Pawlik, Heather Chadwick, Tara Arneson, and Kevin Campbell;

Human Resources: Chuck Lacy, Tom Cheney, and Edye Graning;

Community Engagement and Communication: Gail Conley, Katie Nelson, Stuart Morigeau, Alison Conant, Heather Chadwick, and Kennedy Jensen (student representative);

Regional Collaboration: Kevin Campbell, Chuck Lacy, Diane Kirson-Glitman, Alison Conant, Ethan Maurer, and Edye Graning;

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee: Tara Arneson, Lisa Pawlik, Katie Nelson, Edye Graning, and Kennedy Jensen.

Other positions include RAB (Regional Advisory Board-Tech) representative Chuck Lacy. The RAB met in September 2022 and again in March 2023. The Policy/Legislative lead is Diane Kirson-Glitman, who reports there are many education items under discussion at the Vermont Legislature, including being public funding of private schools. The Golden Apple Award Nomination Reviewers are Andrew Pond and Alison Conant.

The Board went into Executive Session on March 13 to discuss the proposed Teachers' contract. On March 27, the Board attended a Zoom meeting to ratify it. Some details of the new contract include the ability of teachers to attend meetings and use services virtually. Several details address the parameters of health and dental insurances, including employee grievances. Those meeting minutes are available at MMUUSD.org. The teachers will receive 6% or more salary increases per year.

Other Business The Board elected Edye Graning Chair; Tara Arneson, Vice Chair; and Lisa Pawlik, Clerk. It was noted for succession planning, the Vice Chair should accept the position with the thought of growing into the Chair position. The oaths of office were administered and signed.

The Vermont School Board Code of Ethics was read and accepted by the Board.

Science Fun Day

Are you a Grade 3-5 student with an interest in exploring how things work?

If so, the Science Fun Day: Out of this World STEM Activities may be just the event for you. It takes place at the Barre Civic Center in Barre on May 21, 2 pm to 4 pm. Space is available for 25 participants. Be sure to sign up soon.

The afternoon session will focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities. You will learn what it takes to fly a helicopter on Mars, investigate alien genetics, and build an egg-drop lander to protect the "eggstronaut" you create.

The event is free, but registration is required. Registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until May 15 or the event fills up. You must register by this date to allow

low time to receive the required paperwork, directions and additional information needed for the session.

To register go to www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements. To request language interpretation, translation assistance and/or a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Lauren Traister, University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H Teen and Leadership Program coordinator, at lauren.traister@uvm.edu or (802) 656-7565 by May 5. If the program is full, please contact Traister to be placed on a waiting list.

The event is sponsored by UVM Extension 4-H and will be led by 4-H Teen Science Ambassadors, who are high school students who take a leadership role in creating STEM programming to make science fun for other students.

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Area Residents Honored

Vermont Spelling Champ

Elise Cournoyer, an eighth grader from Camels Hump Middle School and resident of Richmond, won the Vermont State Scripps Spelling Bee, which was hosted at Montpelier High School in March. This is the second time that Cournoyer has won the state championship. She won with the word “ombudsman.”

The winner of the state spelling bee heads to the national competition held in Washington, D.C.

Fifty-one spellers participated in the two-hour competition with 21 rounds in total, lasting over two hours. At the end of the competition, Cournoyer went 10 rounds with James Schenk, an eighth grader at Crossett Brook Middle School in Duxbury, who placed second. Their words included pyrite, civet, beaucoup, sousaphone, and unctuous.

Judging the event were Scott Giles, the president and CEO of Vermont Student Assistance Corp; Auditi Guha, VTDigger’s Chittenden County editor; and Beth O’Brien of the Vermont Principals’ Association.

VTDigger sponsored the spelling bee, alongside support from the Vermont Principals’ Association, Vermont Student Assistance Corp, and Montpelier High School.

Richmond Resident Awarded

Shawn Medeiros, Endicott’s Director of Sports Information, has been selected as this year’s Irving T. Marsh Award winner by the Eastern Athletic Communications Association (EAST-COMM). The award—the highest honor EAST-COMM bestows—is given annually for excel-

lence in athletic communications. Medeiros is the youngest person to receive the award since its inception in 1966.

“This award is the byproduct of many people who have believed in and influenced my career,” said Medeiros. “It’s humbling to be in the same conversation as this year’s award winners and included among the many gifted and transcendent Irving T. Marsh Award winners from years past.”

Medeiros was honored at the 2022 EAST-COMM Awards Banquet during the organization’s annual workshop in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Medeiros is in his seventh academic year as the Sports Information Director at Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts. He is a past president of the Division III Sports Information Directors Association (D3SIDA), serving as that organization’s youngest-ever president.

He was the 2019 winner of the Rising Star Award from the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) and in 2021 Endicott was one of three winners of the newly-created CoSIDA ChangeMaker Innovation Award. The award was created to recognize professionals who have created and managed innovative content during the academic year.

President’s List, Fall 2022

Ashley Letourneau-McGarvey, Jericho, a student in the Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene program, achieved President’s Honors at Vermont Tech, Randolph, Vermont, with a GPA of 4.0.

Susan Lapointe of Richmond, a student at Northern Vermont University, who achieved a 4.00 semester average.

Dean’s List Fall 2022

Champlain College, Burlington, achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher:

Mya Brown, Richmond
Benjamin Cummings, Jericho
Cameron Mincar, Richmond

Emmanuel College, Boston, Massachusetts, achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester:

Alayna Northrop, Richmond
Sydney Sears, Jericho
Rory Wells, Richmond

Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts with a grade point average of 3.4 or greater:

Abby Johnson, Starksboro, Class of 2026
Josh Keough, Richmond, Class of 2025

Elizabeth Siminitus, Starksboro, Hamilton College, Clinton, New York. She earned an average of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale, as a senior majoring in biology. Siminitus is a graduate of Mount Abraham Union High School.

Vermont Tech degree students carrying 12 or more letter-graded credit hours who achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher:

Alisa Quiet, Jericho, Associate of Science in Nursing program.
Jamie Myers, Jericho Associate of Science in Nursing program.
Shane Riddell, Jericho, Electromechanical Engineering Technology program.
Aidan Luther, Jericho, Computer Software Engineering program.

Elizabeth Walko, Jericho, Computer Software Engineering program.

Anna Ruegsegger, Jericho, undeclared program.

Randall Marshall, Richmond, Certificate in Paramedicine program.

Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, students having a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79:

Raina K. Carfaro, Richmond, second honors.
Ariella M. Graning, Jericho, second honors.
Jens A. Peterson, Jericho, second honors.

St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York:

Mary Batsie, Jericho, Class of 2024 majoring in English. Batsie attended Rice Memorial High School.

Carly Hansen, Jericho, Class of 2025, majoring in biomedical sciences. Hansen attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Will Hauf, Richmond, Class of 2025. Hauf attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Jax Lubkowitz, Huntington, Class of 2024, majoring in biology and computer science. Lubkowitz attended Mount Mansfield Union High School.

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York students with a GPA 3.400 or greater:

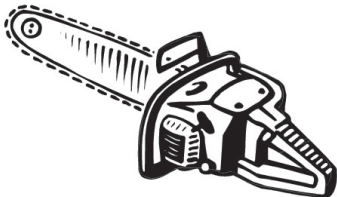
Aedan Lahiff, Jericho, computing and information technologies program.

CJ Roberts, Huntington, electrical engineering program.

Dexter Hartsfield, Richmond, film and animation program.

Northern Vermont University in Vermont, students who achieve between a 3.50 and 3.99 semester average:
Joshua Fisher, Huntington

Ashlin Velez, Huntington
Kori Pratt, Richmond



Beat the Rush

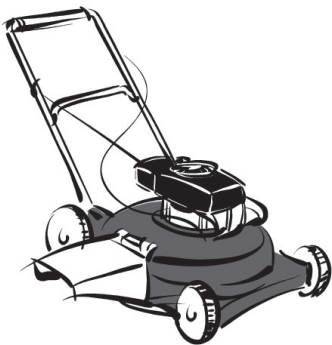
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Panel: Conservation and Recreation Balance



Above, a full room at the recent panel discussion about the balance of conservation and recreation on public and private lands. Below, panel participants Andrea Shortsleeve and Jim Shallow. Courtesy photos

Submitted by Robert Low

Approximately 75 members of Richmond and neighboring communities attended the March 15, 2023 meeting at the Richmond Free Library in-person or by Zoom for a panel discussion BALANCING CONSERVATION AND TRAIL-BASED RECREATION, sponsored by the Richmond Conservation Commission.

Moderated by Richmond resident Jim Shallow, Director of Strategic Conservation Initiatives at The Nature Conservancy, a panel of experts addressed a series of questions regarding the issues surrounding the topic.

The panel members were Hannah Epstein (Stewardship Coordinator at the Northeast Wilderness Trust), Meredith Naughton (Wildlife Biologist for the Green Mountain National Forest and who has studied Richmond Forests), Claire Polfus (Recreation Program Manager, Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation) and Andrea Shortsleeve (Private Lands Habitat Biologist, Vermont Fish and Wildlife).

Questions for the panel began with a discussion of how to approach conservation as an umbrella term so as to balance its priorities with recreational opportunity. The impacts of different types of recreation, human carrying capacity, the benefits of public access against the impact on ecology and wildlife were discussed. Discussion of trail-based recreation as a conservation action, promoting understanding and protection of our natural resources received close attention.



Trail development on private land focused on resources available to guide the landowner, i.e., the decision-maker.

The impact of adjusting for climate change and the importance providing access equity then led to panelists discussing examples where balance has been achieved: how trail development and location can account for threats such as fragmentation and ecological degradation.

The discussion that took place provides a wealth of information regarding how best to attain sustainable balance. All are encouraged to listen in on the lively discussion that was recorded by MMC-TV and can be found at: <https://archive.org/details/richmond-conservation-trails-panel-03152023>

Richmond Green Up

continued from page 1

website: <https://greenupvermontorg/>.

A map of Richmond will be placed in the entryway of the Town Office. It's a big, plastic-coated paper map that can be reused each year. With it will be markers to indicate on the map the section of roadside where you want to collect trash. You can write your name and a description of your clean-up plans on a big sheet of paper there alongside the map.

Residents are encouraged to work together on the roadsides, to spread out and, as a community, cover the majority of the miles of road in Richmond. Leadership roles as

"road coordinators" and post their contact information--on the laminated paper map, and as "team leaders" on GUV's app--for people who want to work with others on a particular road that has a coordinator/leader.

Help the Road Crew by bringing your bags of collected trash and other large items to Richmond's Highway Garage at the end of Thompson Road. Questions: 802-434-2631.

Wright encouraged, "Let's try to make this year remarkable for participation and for collection of the trash along the roadsides. We hope you will do what you can to spread the word and to participate—either on Saturday, May 6, or before, or the day after--hopefully in time for the work of Pete Gosselin and the Highway Department crew who will collect the trash not delivered to the Highway Garage."

Safety First! Please be extra safe and careful working along the roadsides picking up trash. Be sure to be highly visible with brightly colored clothing. Wear long pants, good footwear and gloves. Watch out for sharp objects. Check for ticks and protect yourself from the sun. Be sure to face oncoming traffic along roadsides. Put needles and other sharp objects in a thick plastic container, clearly mark "DO NOT RECYCLE" and duct tape the lid on, then put it into the regular trash. Visit <http://www.healthvermont.gov> for further information.

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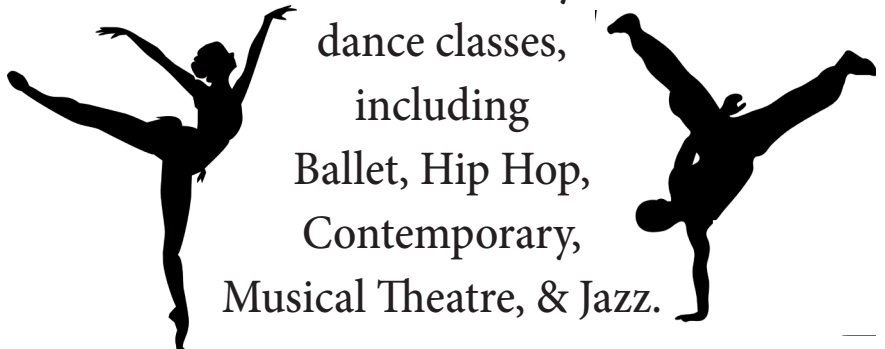
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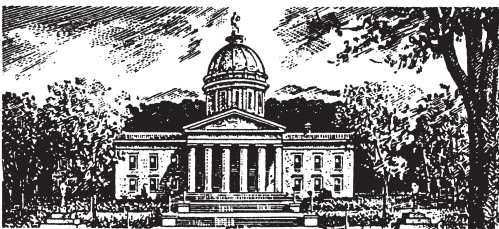


Rep. Theresa Wood

The month of April will largely be devoted to working on the issue of affordable, accessible and high quality early care and learning – aka childcare and Pre-K. The Senate passed S.56 that provides its path forward to achieve the goal stated above and now it’s up to the House to further refine, amend, and consider the complicated issue outlined in S.56.

My committee, House Human Services, is charged with doing a “deep dive” into all of the issues associated with childcare. In fact, this is the third time in the last five or so years that the Legislature has addressed this issue. What’s different this time? We have the experience of the pandemic to understand the impact of high quality childcare and early learning on children, families, workforce, employers and the State as a whole. In today’s world if a family has two parents, both are generally working; if you are a single-parent family, you need childcare in order to even be in the workforce. Sometimes that care is provided by the family itself through juggling work schedules of parents, or through extended family/ friends, as well as professionally-provided childcare. And very often, it’s some combination of all of these the families cobble together to make it work.

Several years ago Vermont passed what is known as Act 166 – the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Act or UPK as it is often referred to. This act was intended to provide access to 10 hours/week of Pre-K for all three- and four-year-olds across the state in what is called a “mixed delivery system.” The phrase essentially meant that parents would have access to 10 hours of free (paid for through the Education Fund) Pre-K in either a public school setting or in a privately-run Pre-K. That act placed a high degree of value on parental choice (it is not mandatory to attend) and essentially set up a voucher type system for families. You might believe that something that is called “universal” is available to everyone who is eligible for it, right? Well, that was the idea; however, that is not the reality. Some families have access to full day/full week Pre-K, others to just the 10 hours, and still others to none at all. This creates a significant inequity in a system that is funded by public dollars. Another unintended consequence of this policy has been the reduced access to infant and toddler care in the community. Ask any parent who is contemplating having a child and they will tell you they have been putting their names on waiting lists for months in the



State House News

hopes that by the time they have a child and need to return to work, that they will have a spot.

We don’t yet have solutions to all of these issues, but that is what we are working on. By the end of the session in May, we hope to have improved equitable access to this important resource for our youngest Vermonters and their families. Watch for more updates as the Legislative session comes to a close.

Rep. Jana Brown

On March 31, the Vermont House of Representatives gave final approval to H.494, the FY24 budget bill that ensures a balanced and fiscally responsible state budget for the coming year. The final 111-38 vote reflected strong support for the bill, which invests \$134.5 million in housing, \$70 million in childcare and early education, \$37 million for universal paid family and medical leave insurance, \$43 million in workforce development, \$46 million in Medicaid rate increases to support EMS, primary care, home health, mental health and substance use disorder, and foster care providers.

The FY24 budget reflects our strongly held values and priorities. It is the culmination of months of testimony from Vermonters, state agencies, community partners, advocates and expert witnesses. These shared priorities include: protecting Vermonters who are most vulnerable, sustaining support networks that keep people housed and fed, improving access to affordable childcare for working families, supporting thriving schools, investing in our workforce and economy, establishing paid family and medical leave, and meeting the needs of older Vermonters.

Highlights include:

- \$134.5 million in housing investments, including opportunities for greater access to workforce housing, permanent housing for those currently in the hotel/ motel program, and funding for the rehabilitation of apartments bringing more rental units online
- \$70+ million to support the child care and early education bill, which seeks to provide quality, affordable child care to Vermonters across the state
- \$37 million for universal paid family medical leave insurance, providing Vermonters with up to 12 weeks of paid leave
- \$43+ million in workforce development initiatives
- \$46 million in Medicaid rate increases to support EMS, primary care, home health, mental health and substance use disorder, and foster care providers
- Investing \$1.15 million into the Department of Mental Health, allowing for a mental health mobile crisis unit to provide rapid responses
- Provides \$1 million for refugee resettlement assistance, ensuring that new Vermonters are provided with opportunities to find work that best suits them
- Providing \$1 million to support Older Vermonters

through Meals on Wheels, ensuring our vulnerable generations

- \$1 million for the Vermont Foodbank to support Vermonters facing food insecurity

As with every year, this is a balanced budget that responds strategically to the future needs of our state while addressing critical needs in the present. These budget priorities reflect the voices and concerns of Vermonters and months of testimony. I’m proud to support our investments in housing, childcare, universal paid family and medical leave insurance, climate initiatives, and workforce development.

This year’s budget bill provides over \$40 million to create or enhance programs to increase workforce participation - it funds programs to educate and train workers, and programs to help businesses with hiring and retention. It funds forgivable loan programs, scholarships, and certificate programs. My committee, the House Education Committee, worked on several important provisions in the bill dedicated to growing and strengthening our Vermont teacher workforce. We focused on educators with the development of the Vermont Teacher Forgivable Loan Incentive program administered through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation and the Emerging Pathways Grant program which will provide support and mentorship for prospective educators seeking licensure. This is a "grow your own" program to help people already employed in schools become classroom teachers and mentorship program to assist new teachers who come from communities that are underrepresented in the field of education.

These next few weeks in Montpelier will be busy and productive as we work towards our May adjournment. Please continue to reach out to discuss our work! It is a privilege to represent our community.

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

Spring Safety
Tips from VGS



Planning any spring planting or other digging projects?

If you plan to do any type of digging on your property, **you or your contractor must contact Dig Safe™ at 811** at least 48 hours prior to digging.

Before the work begins, Dig Safe will notify member utilities, who will then ensure the locations of buried facilities they own are clearly marked. Please insist that any work within 18 inches of the marked lines be done by hand.



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Smell: Natural gas is normally odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you will recognize it quickly.

Sight: You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying.

Sound: You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing, or whistling.

If you suspect a leak:

Move immediately to a safe location. Call VGS at 800-639-8081 or call 911 with the exact location. Do not smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might result in a dangerous condition.

Do not assume someone else will report the condition.



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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. Child-care is available.

May 4: Peace Vigil, 5:30 pm Potluck dinner, 6 pm -

May 7: Cooking for COTS Daystation, 11 am

May 18: Age Well Senior Breakfast for individuals 60-plus years of age, check in 8:30 am; breakfast 9 am. Spinach and onion quiche, homefries with ketchup, French toast with syrup, fresh fruit salad, blueberry muffin, and milk. \$5 Suggested donation. Advanced tickets required by May 12. Contact Jen Greenwood (hurch@rccucc.org).

Community Church of Huntington
CommunityChurchOfHuntington@gmail.com

A. S. K. Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened." MATTHEW 7:7 (NIV—NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION)

Pastor Fred has been encouraging us to pray more. It's easy to remember to pray when we are together in church—especially when, in unison, we are reciting the Lord's Prayer. It takes more conscious thought in the midst of our hectic lives to pray when we are alone. I have a friend who prays aloud when she is driving alone in her car; and a friend who prays first thing every morning while she's drinking her coffee. Instead of counting sheep, I pray over our town every night, running my mind over a mental map of Huntington praying for those I know and those whom I have yet to meet. (I have to start on a different road every night because I have yet to make it even halfway through town before I fall asleep.) The man responsible for planting our church back in the 1800s, Charles Bowles, had a favorite place to pray, that he called "a sacred grove," where he bowed before his Heavenly Master and poured out his soul.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18 instructs us to "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (RSV—REVISED STANDARD VERSION) What does it look like when we pray constantly? It doesn't matter what our posture is. Pastor Fred pointed out that we can choose to pray with or without folded hands, heads bowed, eyes closed. We can pray on our knees, sitting in a chair, or simply when we're walking around (but preferably, not walking around with our eyes closed).

Sometimes I get caught up in thoughts that I'm just not praying right. But Pastor Fred assures us that we don't need to worry about being eloquent or lengthy. Prayers can be simple petitions: "Holy Spirit, please help me pray today." "Thank you, Jesus, that you are the perfect example for everything we do in our lives." "Father, please open my heart." "I pray that You will comfort all those who are broken hearted." "Thank you, Father, for all your blessings." If at first you can't think of anything to be thankful for, try making a list of everything you see or hear that is beautiful and every part of your body that is working well. There is an endless list of things for which we can thank God.

What's important is that God wants us to engage our entire selves with Him. And the way we do this is through prayer, which is both a privilege and a responsibility we have been given. The song WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS says it better than I can: "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer."

This is why Jesus told us, "You shall love your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (LUKE 10:27 (ESV—English Standard Version) When we ask God for something, we are using our mouths to petition for what we are hoping for—what we need, desire, want. When we seek God, we are using our minds to prioritize focusing our hearts on the Lord. And when we knock, we are using physical movement to take action to love.

Jesus isn't saying that we will get whatever it is we want or ask for. But, He will give us what we need. When we are in relationship with Him through prayer we gain strength and comfort. We just have to A.S.K., and then we can rest in the peace He gives us through prayer.

—Barbara Elliott, CCH Board President

Death Notice Ida Harvey



Ida Harvey, 85, a lifelong resident of Richmond passed away peacefully at her home on March 22 with her family by her side.

Ida grew up with her mom Valerie Viola Dufresne, her father Napoleon Walter Dufresne, and 5 other siblings, Jeanette, Laurette, Florette, Lucille, and Helen on a farm in Williston. She worked at the Richmond Bank as it changed hands twice, and then at Bank North, Williston, before beginning a new career at IBM, Essex Junction, until her retirement in the mid-'90s.

Seward and Ida were avid snowmobilers during the winter months and spent their summers building a family camp in the Northeast Kingdom.

Ida was predeceased by her older son Michael in 2018. She leaves behind her husband of 67 years, Seward; daughter Veronica (David) Brown of Land O Lakes, Florida; daughter Sandra (Mike) Labounty of Huntington, and son Brady (Julia) Harvey, of Georgia, VT.; 8 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be planned at a later date.



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

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Lake Iroquois Access Grant

continued from page 3

This opportunity allows LIA and LIRD to build upon recent successes that include becoming only the third lake in the state to achieve Lake Wise Gold status and the mitigation of Eurasian watermilfoil.

The federal funding is timely given the marked increase in boating, fishing, and swimming on the lake observed by LIA's Greeter Program the last few years, along with a 50% increase in LIRD beach passes sold from 2021 to 2022.

If you are interested in learning more about LIRD and the Lake Iroquois Association's efforts, or would like to get involved with any of our projects, please visit the LIA website at <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/> or LIRD: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/enjoying/lake-iroquois-recreation-district>

Eight Ice-Out Winners

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) announced the eight winning ticket holders in the 2023 Ice-Out Challenge. The eight winners who selected the identical date and time will equally share 50% of the Ice-Out proceeds after expenses. The other 50% goes to improve the water quality of the lake, and to protect the lake from invasive aquatic plant species.

Lily Brennan, Jane Geider, Kimberly Hopwood, Robert Kenny, and Brian Washburn of Hinesburg, Sandra Labounty of Huntington, and Austin Savage of Essex Junction are among the 2023 Ice-Out winners. One additional winner is from Williston.

This year's Ice-Out Challenge came to an end on April 7, 2023, at 1:58 pm, when the pallet on the ice of Lake Iroquois flipped, the concrete block went into the cold lake water, and stopped the clock. This year's Ice-Out date of April 7, 2023 is five days later than last year's Ice-Out date of April 2, 2022.

Participants in the Lake Iroquois Ice Out Challenge paid \$1 per ticket to guess the date and time a concrete block mounted on a pallet would break through the ice on Lake Iroquois. The Lake Iroquois Association extends a heartfelt

thank you to all contest participants and hopes you plan to participate again.

The Lake Iroquois Association is a volunteer organization whose "sole purpose is to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and appropriate public uses of Lake Iroquois and those aspects of its watershed which impact



Clouds reflected on the calm surface of Lake Iroquois. Courtesy photo

on the health and well-being of the lake." (LIA Bylaws)

If you are interested in learning more about the Lake Iroquois Association's efforts, or would like to get involved with any of LIA's projects, send an email to lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com. You can also find historical ice-out dates on Lake Iroquois on the website at: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/enjoying/ice-out-dates>.

Huntington Green Up

continued from page 1

to the road for someone else to collect. Tires and large objects can be left on the side of the road - report the location when you drop off your trash in Huntington and someone with a truck can go with you to pick up the items.

Remember... Don't handle any potentially hazardous material - let the coordinators know where and what it is; they will find the appropriate party to deal with it.

Hand sanitizer will be available at the collection site in Huntington and the table will also include gloves. And, don't forget to pick up a snack and a drink, courtesy of the Selectboard (tax dollars at work) when you stop by Green Up Central at the Town Garage.

Richmond

continued from page 7

of the year. We have programs where we provide bikes to people who otherwise wouldn't be able to get them. We have programs where we provide scholarships for kids to go to mountain bike camps at Catamount outdoors center. We provide leadership skills for young women. We do a week of safety training with young kids in elementary school so they learn to ride safely."

This is the eighth running of the Richard Tom Ride, and it was scheduled a year ago. The organizers hire the Richmond Police to direct traffic, and motorists are allowed to drive the road during the closure. The event is non-competitive and includes vendors (including Richmond's own Stone Corral).

Resident Laurie Dana asked why the group scheduled their event before getting permission from the town. "It's never been an issue," said Wright. "You need to schedule these things in advance for the vendors and everything else. If you request next year for us to come six months in advance, we'll do that. But this is how we've done it for eight years."

When Selectboard member Bard Hill expressed concern about the ability of emergency vehicles to get through, Wright answered that Richmond Rescue would be on site at the event.

The Board then voted on a measure to approve the Richard Tom Foundation's request to hold their event and close Cochran Road for two hours. Jeff Forward, Jay Furr, and David Sander voted to approve, while Bard Hill and Lisa Miller abstained; therefore the measure passed.

Resolution to Share the Road As promised, Board members then heard Nicolas Ponzio's request for a nonbinding resolution encouraging users to share the road. Noting that the topic wasn't adequately warned ahead of the meeting (and perhaps in light of fatigue on the topic) Board members opted to address the topic at a future meeting.

In Other Business, the Board

- voted to hold a special meeting to discuss when to hold Town Meeting on April 29;
 - voted to use Town Center funds for some repairs to the Library building and to apply for a grant to do exterior repairs to the Library building;
 - voted to form a Town Gardening Committee.
 - set the date of a public hearing on amendments to the zoning regulations for Village Residential/Commercial and Gateway Residential/Commercial Districts. That hearing was April 18.
 - heard a report on the electric charging station in the town parking lot, and got an up-date on the delay to the start of the traffic calming study on Cochran Road (Cochran Road, you just won't go away!). Town Manager Arneson said there will be speed humps by the summer.
 - quickly read through some of the local emergency operations plan before approving minutes, warrants, and purchase orders, discussing some future agenda items, and moving into an Executive Session to discuss a confidential personnel issue.
- Then... they adjourned the meeting.
- Minutes and video recordings of all Selectboard meetings are available at Richmondvt.gov



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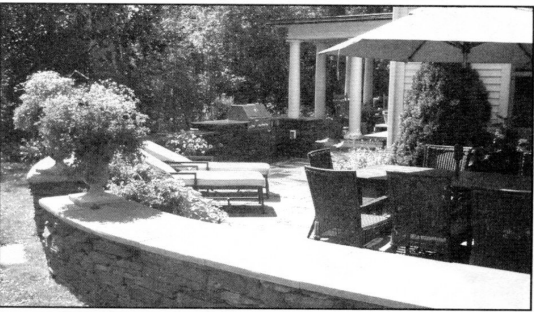
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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Zoom Meeting*

APPLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW FOR
May 9, 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:

Conditional Use

Karen and Yves Gonnet seek Conditional Use for an Accessory Dwelling Unit on a 17.3 acre lot. Property is located in the Rural Residential District (5-acre zoning) on Main Road, Tax Map ID# 11-066.000.

Conditional Use (with Waiver)

Kristopher Tenney-Lawyer seeks Conditional Use with Waiver for an Automotive Repair Shop on a 0.96 acre non-conforming lot. Property is located in the Village District (1-acre zoning) on Roberts Park Road, Tax Map ID# 16-068.000.

Conditional Use

Michael and Jennifer Warren seek Conditional Use for an Outdoor Recreation Facility on a 32.7 acre lot. Property is located in the Rural Residential District (5-acre zoning) on Economou Road, Tax Map ID# 04-003.100.

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, April 3, 2023

*Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82853092094?pwd=K2pFMU9MMkpQcDQrMVVSakFwXWUzUT09> Meeting ID: 828 5309 2094 Passcode: 328992 / Questions: 802-434-3557.

Into the Woods

Celebrating Nuance

by Ethan Tapper

On a recent episode of the ON BEING podcast, journalist Amanda Ripley was quoted as saying: “real life is not a bumper sticker.” I was struck by how true this is for forests and for forest management. As much as we would like to believe that taking care of forests is simple, in truth, it is nuanced and complex and often unintuitive. Celebrating nuance means having the courage to go beyond simple narratives and polarities, to ask tough questions about what it means to care for forests at this moment in time.

One example of where nuance is often lacking is in the discussion of mycorrhizal networks – sometimes called THE WOOD WIDE WEB. Through the research of Dr. Susan Simard and others, it has been shown that these underground fungal networks can connect trees’ root systems, facilitating resource-sharing, communication and a number of other emergent and adaptive properties. This has led some to anthropomorphize trees – thinking of them as people – and to mythologize forests – thinking of them as utopias. When we do this, we misunderstand the true nature of forests: that mycorrhizal networks are one piece of dynamic and imperfect communities which are defined by resilience, which celebrate death and change, and which need our help. Taking care of forests means having the courage to recognize that they are nothing like us, that it is more powerful to see them as they are than to weave comfortable and convenient narratives around them.

Another discussion that is often missing nuance is the discourse around old growth forests. Old growth forests are amazing: they support biodiversity, store lots of carbon, and provide an array of other benefits to forest ecology and to ourselves. Old growth forests are exceedingly rare in Vermont, and there is broad consensus in our conservation community that we need to both protect existing old growth forests and eave some forests unmanaged to develop into old growth on their own. Where this discussion gets derailed is when the importance of old growth is taken to mean that forest management is bad, and that the answer to all of our problems is to leave forests alone.

Old growth forests are not valuable just because they are old – they are valuable because of the characteristics that they have: things like

dead wood, canopy gaps, trees of different sizes and ages, and old trees, each of which provides unique habitats and properties. Nearly all of Vermont’s forests are young; many have regrown from pastures within the last 60-100 years. Most are missing these old-growth forest attributes, and developing them naturally may take centuries. In a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, we need forests with these characteristics now – we cannot afford to wait. To this end, forest management can be a vital tool, helping to create many of the attributes of old growth in just decades. We also need to acknowledge that our forests face an unprecedented array of threats and stressors and are moving into an uncertain future. As a result, many of our forests may never become old growth on their own. As they navigate climate change, non-native invasive plants, pests and pathogens, forest fragmentation, deforesta-



A red oak seedling sprouting next to a red maple stump. Photo: Ethan Tapper

tion, deer overabundance and more, inaction may actually be an expression of negligence. If we hope to protect forests’ function, their biodiversity, and their ecology, we will need to manage them.

Another topic which often lacks nuance is forest carbon. While, in theory, unmanaged forests store more carbon than managed forests, a forest’s ability to sequester and store carbon in the long-term is a function of its holistic health, its resilience, and its adaptability. What we need is resilient carbon: carbon which is stored in diverse, multi-generational, healthy forests. Managing forests, even when management causes some carbon to be released in the short-term, can help forests respond to legacies, threats and stressors, build resilience and adapt to climate change, thus safeguarding their ability to store carbon in the future.

What does it mean to love a forest? Celebrating nuance means having the courage to wade in uncertain waters, to recognize that what forests require from us in this moment is often complex and unintuitive, challenging and strange. Forests, and what it means to take care of them, will never be as simple as a bumper sticker, but that’s what makes them beautiful.

(Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he’s written at <https://linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester>.)



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Business Beat

by Gina Haddock

Open Channels Energy

There is nothing like feeling your best health-wise but sometimes physical or emotional issues can bring us down. For many people, adding a complementary approach to healing can be very effective.



Molly Lawney with client. Photos: Gina Haddock

Since 2021, Molly Lawney, owner of Open Channels Energy Therapy, has been providing support to help people restore their bodies to optimal health.

Lawney has an impressive background in the traditional health field. She received her BS in Clinical Exercise Science from Ithaca College and a Master's Degree in Public Health from Boston University. Her personal life experience, however, took her on a less traditional career path when Lawney's eight-month-old daughter was diagnosed with Neuroblastoma, a form of pediatric cancer. Although her daughter, Rowan, received all the necessary treatments that modern medicine can provide, Lawney also wanted

to do all she possibly could to bring her daughter back to good health. A friend recommended a "healing class" called Tong Ren. Tong Ren is an energy healing therapy developed by prominent Boston acupuncturist, Tom Tam. It combines western knowledge of anatomy and physiology with the ancient principle of "Chi" or life force energy to create this healing modality. It is based on the premise that illness is related to blockages in the body's natural flow and most blockages can be traced back to Central Nervous System points along the spine. A Tong Ren practitioner uses a lightweight magnetic hammer to tap specific points on a small anatomical model of the human body which serves as an energetic representation of the patient; no physical contact is involved or necessary.

After Lawney began to delve into this type of energy healing for her daughter Rowan's positive response to Tong Ren led Lawney to further explore this new path of complementary healing. In addition to Tong Ren, Lawney became interested in Reiki, a more established healing modality that is based on the principal that the therapist can channel energy into the patient by means of touch, to activate the natural healing processes of the patient's body to restore physical and emotional well-being. Reiki is now available at many esteemed hospitals such as Brigham & Women's Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Mayo Clinic and the UVM Medical Center. Lawney has been trained in Reiki 1 and 2 and uses both Tong Ren and Reiki to open energy blockages. As Lawney said to the Beat, "I love the merging of science with the magical. There is so much that we do not understand about the human body."

Lawney has clearly made a positive impact on a number of community members. Below are several testimonials from Richmond clients who have used Lawney's services:

"I was going to have some pretty serious surgery in August and a friend of mine suggested I meet with Molly for a Reiki session. I did

have a session with Molly before my surgery and it was amazing. I had a lot of anxiety about the surgery and the day of my procedure, I was very calm. I continued to see Molly after and the sessions really helped my healing process. I would recommend Molly for sure." ~ Becky

"I reached out to Molly for energy work to support me while going through cancer treatment. I quickly found myself delving into spiritual work since the two are so intertwined. Molly has been an excellent healer, companion and guide throughout my journey, and her spiritually objective approach is both uplifting and refreshing! I highly recommend Open Channels and Molly, and if you aren't sure what energy or spiritual work entails, please try it, you won't be disappointed." ~ Angela

"I have Hashimoto's, which is an autoimmune disease. I manage the disease with medication, but there are several symptoms that have continued to affect me. Inflammation and fatigue are two that have been persistent, however over the last six months of working with Molly, my energy levels have improved and I have noticed a positive shift in my overall well-being." ~ Laura

"Molly has been my healing energy provider for over a year now, relieving my chronic pain issues brilliantly. In addition to that expert healing care, she is also my guide and mentor, supporting me as I gain a much better understanding of my spiritual self, leading me to a greater sense of peace and fulfillment in life." ~ Bruce

According to Lawney, there are no specific types of people who gravitate to energy work. "I see people who are anxious or depressed and want to feel more balanced. I see folks with debilitating chronic pain who are looking for relief. I work on people who have illnesses that either have no medical treatment, or for which the treatment creates troubling side effects. I work on babies, the elderly, and everyone in between. I don't pretend to think that energy work will cure every condition, but it can support the systems of the body no matter what life throws at you. At worst, you will leave my office only feeling deeply relaxed; given the very real impact of stress hormones on health, lowering your stress level is already putting you on the path toward healing!"

Lawney suggests that someone who is interested in trying energy work give the process about



Tiny house, inside, with just the right amount of room needed for a small studio practice.

four weeks to see if something shifts within you. Lawney would do an intake evaluation and then come up with a plan. In general, someone with a chronic condition might be advised to come once a week whereas someone who needs some general energy support might come once a month but, of course, each plan is developed for the individual.

In addition to Lawney's Tong Ren and Reiki work, she offers some additional tools to expand our awareness. Her Spiritual Mentoring program uses a variety of techniques and tools to support the mind, body and spirit. More detailed information about this program is available on the Open Channels Energy website.

For more general information about services and rates visit the website at www.openchannelsenergy.com or contact Lawney via email, phone or text at molly@openchannelsenergy.com or 802-265-6534. Open Channels energy is located at the "tiny house" at 46 Old Brooklyn Court, Richmond.

Molly Lawney is currently offering a free weekly Tong Ren broadcast on Instagram (@openchannelsenergy), Facebook.com/tongrenstation, and tongrenstation.com. In addition, two upcoming events are planned. On May 13, Tong Ren 101 (virtual) program will be offered. There is a fee for this workshop and advance sign up is required. On June 25, a Summer Solstice Workshop is scheduled. Check website for current details.

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On-line: Weight Loss Support Group, Meditation.

Indoor activities: Table Tennis, Bowling at Spare Time, Pickle-Ball, Ice Skating and Line Dancing.

Chat, share, have fun: Coffee & Chat, Canasta, Cribbage, Mahjong. Share stories in our on-line Story Circle.

Discuss a book, share ideas in our State of the World group.

Learn and create: Write your Memoir. Read a Play. French and Spanish Conversation. Needle Crafts. Learn the ukulele!

*DETAILS: See our email newsletter. Not receiving it? Join the mail list on our website cscvt.org, write to CSC, P.O. Box 508, Richmond VT 045477, or just contact Martha Nye at 802.503.8155

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**Community
Senior Center**

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Rationalization

"Rationalization is a process not of perceiving reality, but of attempting to make reality fit one's emotions."

— Ayn Rand (February 2, 1905 - March 6, 1982)

The leading cause of death of children in our country used to be car accidents. Now it is guns. How are we able to ignore these facts and rationalize the severity of this problem? Studies reveal that the more committed one is to a belief, the more resistant one will be to accepting information that contradicts that belief.

For many years we were told that what was needed when confronted with gun violence was "thoughts and prayers." Following Sandy Hook, many thought about the tragedy and prayed. Clearly that course of inaction failed. Such a lack of action enables people to deny the reality of gun violence.

Humans need to see themselves as kind and decent. And thus, we are masters of convincing ourselves we are rational. People are, in fact, capable of finding many reasons to believe many things that aren't true.

For example, we are told that both the victims of shootings, and people who shoot and kill, need our thoughts and prayers. The media, government officials, and even clergy, imply that thoughts and prayers will offer solace and comfort to the families and survivors of loved ones who have been shot and killed. There is little evidence to support this belief. In fact, the reverse is true. The parents, teachers, relatives, and friends are grief-stricken and angry. Many channel their distress into activism, crusading for gun control and demanding that actions be taken to provide better protection for our citizens and loved ones. Unfortunately, their pleas are ignored.

What must it be like for the ER doctors in large cities where they now have more patients who

have been shot than were in a car accident? One physician recently described being "weary." His profession has trained him to heal people. His goal in life is to help people heal, not devote his care to calling undertakers and consoling relatives.

In only three months this year, there have been 140 mass killings.

I have never understood how the Second Amendment applies to citizens with AR-15s. We have well-regulated militias. They are the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and National Guard.

How does a civilized society tolerate the slaughter of children, our future generation, and the teachers who devote their lives to educating our youth.

One direct effect of these mass shootings is the shock of the witnesses to the events. People everywhere are emotionally distressed, angry and helpless.

We wonder how we rationalize the continued slaughter.

In our own beloved state, the Governor refused to sign and vetoed a bill that allows a 72-hour waiting period to purchase a gun. As a licensed clinical social worker, for many years I have been aware of the abuse of women, and at times, men, who have been threatened and seriously hurt by an angry partner. I have accompanied law enforcement to a home to help people calm down. Fortunately our police are well-trained in diffusing volatile situations. Unfortunately, quick and easy access to a gun can mean a violent outcome before the police and social worker can arrive.

Easy gun access can also allow an angry and impulsive or distraught and hopeless adolescent to take their own life and/ or kill others

Is it rational to enable such tragedies to occur when they can be prevented? Isn't a 72 hour waiting period reasonable and rational here in Vermont?

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www.richardtomfoundation.com

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TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

OFFICIAL WARNING SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The legal Voters of the Town of Huntington, Vermont are hereby warned and notified to meet at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in said town on Monday, May 22, 2023 at seven o'clock (7:00) in the afternoon (p.m.) to transact the following business:

Article 1. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to appropriate an additional \$162,942 to be raised by taxes to meet the General Fund obligation of the 2023-2024 General Fund expenditure of \$2,285,654?

Notice to Voters:

This vote will take place in the manner as March Town Meeting, which is a voice vote at the meeting; the vote is not an Australian ballot vote at the polls.

The legal voters of the Town of Huntington are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting shall be as provided in Chapters 43 and 51 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Signed:

Dori Barton, Chair Landel Cochran Vice-Chair
Everett Lewis, Jr. Larry Haskins, Jr. Roman Livak

Received for record this 17 day of April, A.D., 2023 by

Heidi Racht, Town Clerk