



The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington

Volume 43 **March 2026 Issue** Number 2

For My Valentine!



On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, residents of all ages came to the Huntington Public Library to create Valentines. The afternoon was a great success, with folks from ages 2-69 making beautiful cards in a warm and welcoming space. An enthusiastic crew from Huntington Valley Arts brought all the materials and expertise, helping others and making their own. Great fun was had by all. Photos: Julie Lerman



March 3 Polling

Richmond

CAMELS HUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 7 am to 7 pm

Huntington

BREWSTER-PIERCE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 6:30 am to 7 pm

Celebrating Gillett Pond on February 15



It was a good idea to for the Richmond Land Trust and Friends of Gillett Pond to reschedule the celebration of the new Gillett Pond dam, due to frigid weather last month. Those coming out on February 15, 2026, to skate, hear speeches, and eat s'mores around a bonfire no doubt agree. The event was well-attended and the weather was perfect. Photo: Bob Low

Local Robotics Team Wins Vermont Title



The members of the Camels Hump Coders, the Vermont state championship robotics team, proudly pose with their coaches, Heather Schoppmann and Nowell Strite. The team heads to Houston, Texas in late spring for the World Championship competition.

The Camels Hump Coders, now in its third year, placed first in the Vermont state competition and will be going to the World Championship, with over 1000 teams and 66 countries competing in Houston, Texas later this spring.

What is a robotics team? Participants on the Camels Hump Coders are

Huntington middle school students in the FLL, First Lego League. The League is a program building STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) proficiency in youth as they compete in a multi-section competition. This involves building and coding a robot

to perform missions around a board, and making a science project that creates a solution to a problem defined by the year's theme.

Want to meet your local team and help them get there? Come to Brewster-Pierce Memorial School on Town Meeting Day (March 3) to support your local team and enjoy some baked goods. You can also contribute to the Bake Sale at the Huntington Town Meeting - bring your cookies, brownies, Rice Krispie bars, cupcakes, or other baked dessert with you when you come to Town Meeting on March 3.

Or head to the Richmond Public Library on Wednesday, April 15, at 6:30 pm, for another opportunity to see the Coders present their science project, run their robot, and take (and answer) questions. Kids and families are encouraged to come check it out up close and in detail.

The Coders have an online donation opportunity through their website at camelshumpcoders.org.

In this
Issue

Libraries, pp. 4 & 5
Selectboards, pp. 6 & 7 • Schools, p. 8

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Write to Us!

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



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news@timesinkvt.org

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Letters

Opinions & Other News

We the People Murals

Every year, we repaint the panels that cover windows on the lower part of the Richmond Town Center building and it's time to start thinking about what you want to see there in the coming year. It will be the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Richmond parade theme will be WE THE PEOPLE, FREEDOM AND UNITY. Should we build on this theme? Your input and ideas are wanted. We will be painting this summer but need to do a lot of planning before then. You don't need to be an artist or a painter. All input is welcome: discussion, themes, ideas and drawings. We hope to have some helpful mural workshops in March. If you are interested in any part of this process please contact judybbush@gmail.com.

—Judy Bush, Richmond

Reject Article 3

Jewish residents of Richmond urge the community to reject Article 3, also known as the Apartheid Free Communities (AFC) pledge, on the floor at Town Meeting on March 3. This initiative makes us unsafe.

Richmond is already apartheid free. Racial and ethnic disparities in our community are very real, but they are neither codified in law nor addressed by the AFC. This initiative will not reduce the disproportionate rate at which drivers of color get searched and arrested by Vermont law enforcement versus white drivers. It will not protect Richmond's migrants and legal permanent residents from ICE and Border Patrol raids.

This initiative does not feed anyone in Gaza, or relieve any Palestinian facing indignities at a checkpoint.

What the initiative does do is put a bullseye on the Jewish people due to a false but pervasive narrative of Jewish complicity with the Israeli government. A clear example took place last year when Burlington resident Allie Schachter ran for a position on the City Council. Ms. Schachter, who is Jewish, publicly expressed sympathy for the Palestinian cause during her campaign, and did not state a position regarding the AFC. Nevertheless, she was harassed by another Councilor and by attack ads that held her personally accountable for deaths in Gaza, complete with antisemitic tropes framing her as deceitful and depicting her with laser eyes.

In Burlington AFC resolutions have failed three times. Each time the City Council listened to two to three hours of public testimony (with many individuals barred from speaking due to time constraints) and ultimately voted not to advance the measure. Despite the strong pushback in Vermont's largest city, and the fear expressed by many residents over its language, the Vermont Coalition for Palestinian Liberation (VTCPL) has not changed a single word of the AFC petition, and has instead sought to pass it in other Vermont towns and cities.

We are acutely aware that similar rhetoric was spun at City Council meetings in Boulder, Colorado in the leadup to last June's fatal firebomb attack against a peaceful gathering supporting Israeli hostages, committed by a man shouting "Free Palestine." We have ourselves become the target of Gaza-related death threats against Vermont synagogues. We respect the free speech right of any person to say that Israel commits apartheid, and indeed we have fought alongside VTCPL

demanding justice for Rümeysa Öztürk and Mohsen Mahdawi. But it is antisemitic to hold Jews responsible for the actions of the state of Israel, and it is antisemitic to deny the right of Jews to exist and flourish in their homeland. The AFC initiative, unwilling to compromise in the face of criminal threats to our safety, does both of these things.

In solidarity with the Palestinian people as well as the Jewish people, can Richmond build community instead of tearing it apart? One local option is to support Bread for Peace, a monthly fundraiser for two medical relief nonprofits – one in Israel, one in Palestine. There is a Vermont chapter of Friends of Standing Together which promotes peacemaking between adversaries in the Middle East. There is also the Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister Cities exchange program.

These are nuanced, emotional issues that deserve respectful community conversations. Please don't let debate over a foreign conflict, and the hatred of labeling one side "pro-apartheid," hijack our Town Meeting.

—Scott Silverstein, Richmond

This letter, with minor changes to the first and last paragraphs, was submitted to the Richmond Selectboard on 1/30/26 with additional signatures.

Sources:

<https://vtdigger.org/2025/05/08/black-and-hispanic-drivers-continue-to-be-stopped-disproportionately-across-vermont-traffic-stops-study-finds/>

<https://www.sevendaysvt.com/news/war-in-gaza-becomes-local-issue-in-burlington-council-race-43064725/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bQ_KIgaCIA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KlwfdYJuJI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6e9rSZhpiww>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/06/03/us/boulder-colorado-attack-city-council.html>

November Election Holiday Request

Here is a letter written by the Huntington Town Clerk in December 2022, and again in January 2024. (It is updated to present day, since John Alberghini has been succeeded by John Muldoon.) I also attended the MMUSD Board meeting on February 2, 2026, and made the request under Public Comment.

We are looking at an election this November and, as far as I know, the 2026-2027 calendar is not set.

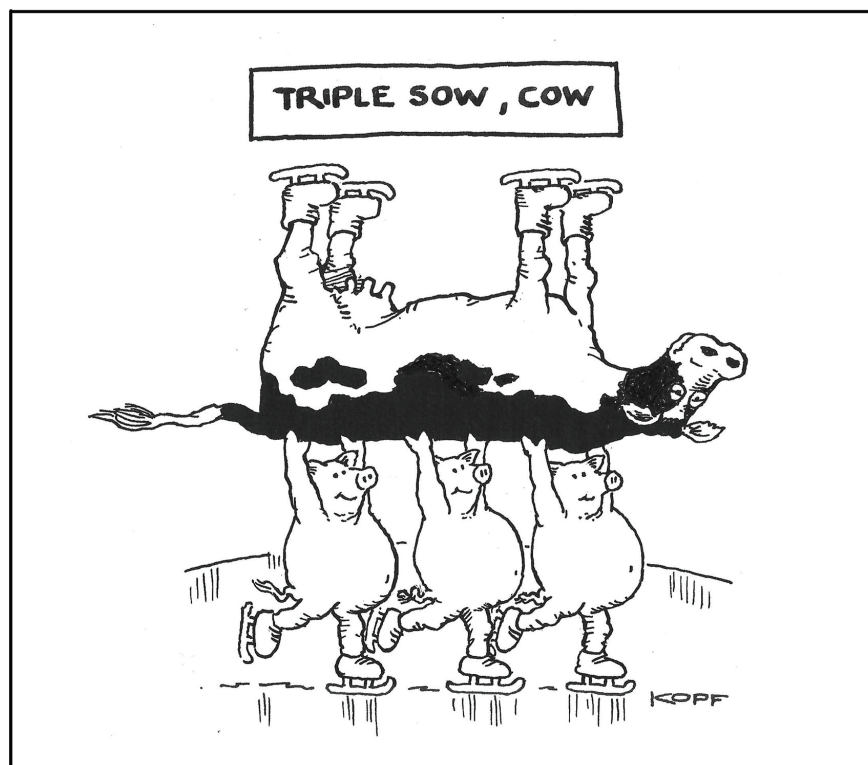
John Muldoon Superintendent
Edye Graning, Board Chair
Mt. Mansfield Union Unified School District

Dear John and Edye,

I would like to now plant the seed for having November 3, 2026 be a non-student day for the MMUSD.

I have always been a big proponent for having the elections in the school, having been on the Huntington School Board for seven years. I believe that having the elections in the building serves three primary purposes:

continue to page 13



Introducing the Candidates

Karen Godnick Barber

Huntington Selectboard,
2-year term

I'm excited to be running for re-election to the Selectboard, and I'd truly appreciate your support!

Serving Huntington has been an honor and a challenge. We've faced difficult and consequential decisions, but I genuinely love this work. I've poured my heart and soul into this because I care deeply about our town and the people who live here.

You may not agree with every decision I've made, but I hope to earn your support by continuing to show up, listen, and lead with integrity. All my decisions have been grounded in what I believe was in Huntington's best interest, with careful attention to the legal, financial, policy, and long-term impacts of our actions.

One of my core priorities is civility. Our community is strongest when we engage respectfully, listen openly—even when we disagree—and value diverse perspectives. Good governance depends on having a range of perspectives at the table—voices that truly reflect the full community.

As an attorney, I've brought my education and experience - offering an additional perspective as we draft and review policies, enter contracts, work through complex issues, and make careful, legally sound decisions.

As a mother of young children in our school district, this work is deeply personal. I want Huntington to remain a strong, welcoming community for generations to come.

As a fourth-generation Vermonter, I feel a real responsibility to give back to the place that has given me so much.

Beyond the Selectboard, I've expanded my service by being elected to the board of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, where I advocate for statewide policies impacting municipalities by ensuring small towns like ours are not overlooked. I also serve on the board of PACIF, which provides insurance coverage to Huntington and most municipalities. With the growing impact of natural disasters, this work—and ensuring towns like ours have a voice—has never been more important.

I am incredibly grateful for the support, encouragement, and thoughtful conversations. I value hearing from residents and am always available to talk, answer questions, or just listen. I would be honored to continue serving Huntington.

Lloyd "Rick" Fitzgerald

Huntington Selectboard,
2-year term

I was born and raised in Colchester Vermont. After high school, I enlisted in the United States Army.

Now as a retired disabled veteran, I have found my home of over a decade, in Huntington. We built a small farmstead on East Street. We raise our horses, goats, ducks, and chickens. We are also enjoying the country lifestyle living on the Huntington River.

I am currently the President and member of the Riverside Horseshoe Club here in town, and vice president of the Vermont Horseshoes Pitchers Association. I am a current member of the Huntington town Recreation Committee, where we are helping to create and improve opportunities for folks young and old.

Being an avid outdoorsman, I enjoy hunting, fishing, farming, town activities, and just being outdoors. As many family, friends, and neighbors will tell you; I am there to help them at any time. From cleaning up the Rec Field three times, to relocating friends after the floods, to simply helping a neighbor stack wood for the winter.

Once again, I've been asked by many to run for Selectboard.

I bring a new perspective and a fresh set of eyes to the important questions our town faces such as:

- (1) sustainable fiscal spending
- (2) responsible river management
- (3) the thoughtful redesign of the Lower Village

These are issues that are not just only important to me, but to each of us!

I respectfully ask for your trust and your vote on March 3, 2026. It would be a pleasure for me to proudly serve you, the people of Huntington as I did our Country.

Thank you.



Greg Rabideau

Richmond Selectboard,
2- year term

I have lived in Richmond for 38 years, and in that time, I have applied my time and talents to support a number of local projects including the Richmond Town Center, the Richmond Free Library, the Richmond Rescue, the Richmond Congregational Church, and the VYCC West Monitor Barn. In my professional life, I worked as an architect. That career gave me broad experience in contracts, land use regulations, project management, and public meetings.

All of these skills are useful in the work of the Selectboard.

My wife and I are long-standing members of the Richmond Congregational Church and our three children attended RES, Camel's Hump Middle School and MMU. Now that I am retired, I have the time and attention needed to attend to the town's business. The only agenda I have is to see that the town's money is spend wisely, and that our government and our infrastructure are well managed to the benefit of all Richmond residents. I am a careful and patient listener, and I promise to be a thoughtful representative of all our town's people.

Town Meetings More Details

March 3 will be a day where residents can gather in their towns to discuss issues at hand, both local and other.

Keep in mind that no campaigning by candidates or their supporters is allowed at Town Meeting. Further, there is a buffer with signage disallowing campaigning and the dispersal of campaign materials, including posting of signs, within the prescribed area around the polls, as determined by the Presiding Officer of Elections (Town Clerk).

Huntington will have a traditional Town Meeting with discussion and voting at the meeting on articles, covering a range of topics housekeeping details: quarterly tax payment dates and authorizing the Town Treasurer to collect the taxes for the town; the annual budget for the operation of the town; and a long, detailed article about a resolution on justice, preservation of the Constitutional Rights of all people within town borders, equal protection and due process under the law; freedom of speech, religion, association and assembly; and freedom from the tyrannical abuse of power, breach of the public trust, violation of civil rights, and misappropriation of public resources leading to the erosion of respect for government authority; and, affirms its commitment to lawfully preserve the Constitutional Rights of all people within its jurisdiction.

Richmond has gone to Australian ballot for most articles. Richmond will be voting on the Apartheid Free Pledge (Article 3, floor vote on warning) and adoption of the Town Plan (Article 7, by ballot on warning). Residents are encouraged to come to the meeting to discuss a variety of issues and to vote that day.

Both towns will have information tables and Girl Scouts selling boxes of cookies. Huntington will have morning pastries (rumor of cinnamon rolls) and coffee, a potluck lunch to benefit Neighbor Helping Neighbor, and a bake sale to benefit the Camels Hump Coders (see article on page 1).



March 3 Polling

Richmond
CAMELS HUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 7 am to 7 pm
Vote at the polls or receive a ballot by mail:
802-434-2221
Contact: Susanne Parent, Town Clerk

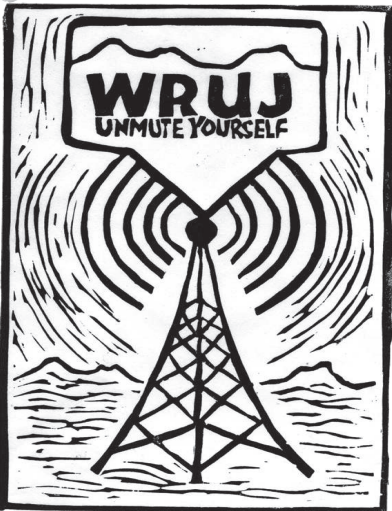
Huntington
BREWSTER-PIERCE SCHOOL

Polls Open: 6:30 am to 7 pm
Vote at the polls or receive a ballot by mail:
802-434-2032
Contact: Heidi Racht, Town Clerk

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MMCTV

We will be streaming Richmond Town Meeting live at mmctv@youtube and Comcast cable 1086 Links & more at MtMansfieldCtv.org



Listen to new WRUJ-LP community radio at www.wruj.org

No Other Land; A Film Showing at the Richmond Free Library

Richmond Racial Equity will show a film screening of *No Other Land*, followed by discussion with Hamed Bakir, Sophie Cassel, and moderated by Fran Stoddard.

The event will be held on February 22, 4 pm to 6:30, Richmond Free Library, Community Room (second floor).

Come watch the Oscar-winning documentary film, *No Other Land*, made by a Palestinian-Israeli collective of four directors over the course of five years. *No Other Land* provides a harrowing account of the systematic destruction experienced by Masafer Yatta, a group of Palestinian villages in the southern West Bank, at the hands of the Israeli military.

The film will be followed by presentations by Hamed Bakir, a Palestinian American living in Vermont, in retirement from a 30-year career with the United Nations development agencies, primarily the World Health Organization and UNICEF, and Sophie Cassel. Sophie is a Rich-

mond resident and member of the Vermont-New Hampshire chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace, a national organization built on the belief that our safety is bound together with the safety of all people, and none of us is free if we aren't all free.

The discussion will be moderated by national award-winning media producer Fran Stoddard.



Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org
library@richmondvt.gov

HOURS

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
10 - 5
Wednesday 10 - 8
Saturday 10 - 2

802-434-3036



**YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR VOICE**

VOTE

March 3

Winter Reading Bingo for Adults Adult Winter Reading Bingo has begun and continues until March 20. Stop in to pick up a bingo card or show us your completed lines and pick up a ticket. Then pop your ticket(s) into the jar of your choice for a chance to win a stack of books.

Tax Help with AARP Volunteers working with AARP are meeting with seniors to prepare tax returns in the Library Community Room on Tuesday mornings, February 3 to April 7. Call the Library to schedule an appointment.

Vermont Reads Vermont Humanities has selected *THE LIGHT PIRATE* by Lily Brooks-Dalton as the Vermont Reads book of the year. Copies of the book are available to check out by the circulation desk, and we will be hosting events related to the book and its themes throughout February and March.

Mushroom Foraging Talk Join local mushroom expert Ari Rockland-Miller to learn about key mushroom species, along with foraging strategies and safety on Wednesday, March 11, at 6 pm. This program is part of our Vermont Reads series celebrating the themes of this year's novel, *THE LIGHT PIRATE*.

THIRTY-EIGHT: THE HURRICANE THAT TRANSFORMED NEW ENGLAND Join author Stephen

Long, from Vermont Humanities, to learn about the Hurricane of 1938 that surprised and devastated New England. Co-sponsored with the Community Senior Center on Saturday, March 21, at 11 am. This program is part of our Vermont Reads series celebrating the themes of this year's novel, *THE LIGHT PIRATE*.

Make Your Home Storm Smart Learn about strategies to keep your home safe in a storm and manage the movement of water around your property with this presentation from the Winoski Natural Resources Conservation District. Wednesday, March 25, at 6 pm. This program is part of our Vermont Reads series celebrating the themes of this year's novel, *THE LIGHT PIRATE*.

THE LIGHT PIRATE: Book Discussion Pick up a copy of *THE LIGHT PIRATE*, then join us on Saturday, March 28, at noon, for a book discussion led by a facilitator from Vermont Humanities. Co-sponsored with the Richmond Climate Action Committee. This program is part of our Vermont Reads series celebrating the themes of this year's novel, *THE LIGHT PIRATE*.

Chess Club Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on Saturdays, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, for an all-ages chess club. BYOB (Bring Your Own Board) or use one of ours.

Needles and Threads Night Bring your knitting, crocheting, embroidery, sewing, mending, weaving, or any handwork project, and join us for a relaxed evening of creativity and conversation. All skill levels welcome. Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8 pm in the Mezzanine Lounge. Contact the Library for more information.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on Tuesday, March 10, at 6 pm, for discussion of *THE BOOK WOMAN OF TROUBLESOME CREEK*, by Kim Michele Richardson. Contact Gwen Landis (802-434-5012, gwennie1972@yahoo.com) for information.

Mystery Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on Thursday, March 19, at 7pm, for discussion of *THE MURDER OF MR. MA*, by SJ Rozan and John Shen Yen Nee. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055, msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions.

Radio Workshop for Middle School Students We are once again working with our local community media center MMCTV to offer the annual media workshop for middle school students during the February school vacation. This year participants will record, edit, and produce material for radio. Students ages 10 - 14 are invited to register for this fun, free workshop offering hands-on experience. Time will be split between the Library and the MMCTV studio on February 23 and 24 from 9 am to noon. Space is limited. Sign up by calling or emailing the Library.

February Break Fun for Youth No big trips to the beach coming up for you and the kids this February break? Well, the Library can help soften that blow. Besides the usual entertainments, we will have all sorts of puzzle-related activities available each day throughout the first week of school break. Watch for scavenger hunts, puzzle tables, puzzle crafts, contests and more; all to be found in the Community Room whenever you stop by.



Death Notices • Obituaries • Celebrations

1/8 page • 1/4 page \$58 to \$110

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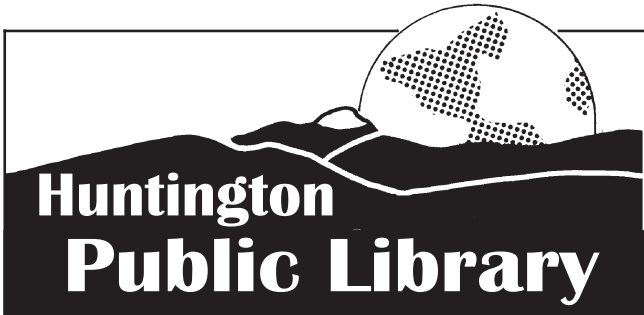


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continue to page 13



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Tues & Thurs 10-1
Fri 10-5 • Sun 1-5
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hpl@gmavt.net

www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

Backyard Fruit Tree Pruning in Vermont with Joe Sperlak. Saturday, February 28, noon to 2 pm. Joe is a life-long horticulturalist and founder of Growing Wise LLC, an ecology-based landscape practice centered in Lincoln. He loves plants and empowering people to engage with them. This workshop is intended for beginner and intermediate home gardeners, homesteaders, and the orchard-curious. Topics Covered will be: goals of pruning, recommended tools, types of cuts, limb training, step-by-step approaches for trees of different ages and conditions, fruit thinning, managing size, dealing with debris, and diming.

Sunday, March 1, noon to 2 pm, hands-on in the field, location to be determined (TBD) in Huntington. Watch for an announcement on the Library website.

3D Demo with a Young Maker Friday, February 20, at 3:30 pm Join us at the Library for a hands-on 3D printing demo led by an 11-year-old maker. He'll walk through how he designs a 3D model, how a 3D printer works, and then print an object live so you can see the whole process from idea to finished piece. This is a great introduction to creativity, engineering, and problem-solving—and a fun way to see what's possible with 3D printing. Questions are encouraged. Best for kids, tweens, and curious adults. Please register.

2025 Baby Dedication Books Did you miss the Baby Brunch on January 25? No worries—it's not too late to participate. The Friends of the Huntington Public Library and Library staff invite you to stop by the Library during open hours and choose a picture book to be added to the Library's collection in your child's honor. You can also pick up your gift from Friends of HPL. This special selection of picture books will be available throughout the month of February, and we'd love for you to be part of it.

Sunday Chess with Andre Gorostiaga, 2 pm - 3:30 pm. Join Coach Andre for a game of chess or two. Andre is an expert chess player who also coaches all levels of players. All levels of experience are welcome.

Lego Club Fridays, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm, through February. Come with your friends to make creations. Light snacks provided courtesy of our Friends Group.

Fun with Perler Beads Sunday, February 22, at 2 pm. Create fuse bead art. Make an animal, a vehicle, a design with pegboards - let your imagination guide you. Ages 4 to adult.

This Town's For the Birds Edible Bird House Building Monday, February 23 3 pm to 5 pm. Come build and decorate a mini town for our outdoor friends.

Friday Night Movie February 27, 6:30 pm. Wear your pajamas, bring something cozy to sit with and watch BAD GUYS 2 with us.

Gem and Gel Art Sticker Art Suncatchers Sunday, February 22, 2 pm. Make a bright suncatcher with gems and gel. Ages 5 to adult.

Save the date Huntington Valley Arts at Night features Julie Lerman on Wednesday, March 18, 6:30 pm.

Monthly Book Group Saturday, February 28, at 10 am. Join us for a discussion on THIS TENDER LAND by William Kent Krueger. March's book is the classic GREAT EXPECTATIONS by Charles Dickens. The Book Group meets on the fourth Saturday of the month to discuss our latest read. Books are available now. Everyone is welcome.

Moms Meetup Thursdays, February 19 and March 19, 6 pm to 8:30 pm. Please come to connect with other moms who understand your daily struggles and joys. Bring a craft, a snack, drink or just yourself.

Story Time and Play Group Fridays, 10 am to noon. Bring your little person ages 0 - 5 to listen to some books, sing songs, do a little crafting, and have some fun. Marshall Paulsen joins us for music on February 13 and February 27.

Visit our Art Gallery in February while Kristin Richland's artwork is still here. SWEET ENEMY ART seeks to "find that inner part of yourself that remembers magic." All ages will enjoy viewing magical creatures painted in acrylic on handmade paper.

New Adult Fiction A SOUL OF ASH AND BLOOD, THE PRIMAL OF BLOOD AND BONE and THE WAR OF TWO QUEENS by Jennifer L. Armentrout; TOGETHER WE BURN, WHAT THE RIVER KNOWS and GRACELESS HEART by Isabel Ibanez; MURDER ROAD and THE OTHER SIDE OF MIDNIGHT by Simone St. James; BRIGHTLY SHINING AND WINTER STORIES by Invild Rishoi; HEATED RIVALRY and THE GAME CHANGER by Rachel Reid; TIME OF THE CHILD by Niall Williams; THE DARK OF THE MOON by Fiona Valpy; WHEN WE MEET AGAIN by Kristin Harmel; WHERE THE FOREST MEET THE STARS by Gleny Vanderah; YOUR INNER HEDGEHOG by Alexander McCall Smith; THE LOST BOOKSHOP by Evie Woods; SKYLARK by Paula McLain; REMINDER OF HIM by Colleen Hoover; THE SEVEN RINGS by Nora Roberts; VIOLET THISTLEWAITE IS NOT A VILLAIN ANYMORE by Emily Krempholtz; WE ALL WANT IMPOSSIBLE THINGS and WRECK by Catherine Newman; THE WORD IS MURDER by Anthony Horowitz; CURSED DAUGHTERS by Oyinkran.

Adult Nonfiction BURNED BY BILLIONAIRES: HOW CONCENTRATED WEALTH AND POWER ARE RUINING OUR LIVES by Chuck Collins; THE IKARIA WAY: 100 DELICIOUS PLANT-BASED RECIPES INSPIRED BY MY HOMELAND, THE GREEK ISLAND OF LONGEVITY by Diane Kochilas; TURNING TO STONE: DISCOVERING THE SUBTLE WISDOM OF ROCKS by Marcia Bjornerud; LONE WOLF: WALKING THE LINE BETWEEN CIVILIZATION AND WILDNESS by Adam Weymouth; BECOMING EARTH: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE HIDDEN WONDERS THAT BRING OUR PLANET TO LIFE by Ferris Jabr; WHY HAS NOBODY TOLD ME THIS BEFORE: EVERYDAY TOOLS FOR LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS by Dr. Julie Smith; A YEAR TO LIVE: HOW TO LIVE THIS YEAR AS IF IT WERE YOUR LAST by Stephen Levine; VERMONT ALMANAC: STORIES FROM AND FOR THE LAND: VOLUME VI; EMERGENCE MAGAZINE VOL.6: SEASONS.

The Friends of the Huntington Public Library are always working behind the scenes to enhance our Library's offerings. Without their fundraising efforts we could not offer patrons so many wonderful additions to the collection. We are so grateful to all of the Friends: Hilary Redman and Katie Falk (Co-Chairs), Barrett Grimm (Treasurer), Kathy Kort, Guthrie Smith, Kate Guttman, and Brooke Gowdy-Johnson.

Listen Up Vermont /LIBBY App Now is the time to read ebooks and listen to books outdoors, indoors, and everywhere. Our Library subscribes to an online library lending service where our patrons to download ebooks and audiobooks to everyone with a valid library card regardless of age. All you need is an active Huntington Library card and your password. Visit our website or download LIBBY on your device. Contact the Library with any questions.

Let's keep conservation working for Richmond



Richmond's Conservation Reserve Fund needs your "YES" vote this year.

Since 2005, every dollar invested in Fund projects has generated \$3.49 from other sources — bringing us more than

\$2.1 million in additional conservation funding, and enabling us to:

- Protect important local forests, streams, wildlife habitat and farmland, including the Andrews Community Forest, Andrews Rivershore Preserve, Beeken Rivershore Preserve and Bombardier Meadow,
- Safeguard, improve and maintain popular recreational and educational sites — those above plus Gillett Pond, Volunteers Green, Browns Court, Willis Hill, Huntington River Gorge, Johnnie Brook Trail and others,
- Restore local historic landmarks, like the portico at the Richmond Town Center.

And all for just a penny on the tax rate.

Let's keep the Fund working for Richmond. Please join us in voting "YES" on Article 8 on this year's ballot. Request a mail-in ballot from Susanne Parent at sparent@richmondvt.gov, or call 802-434-2221. Or vote in person at Camels Hump Middle School on March 3 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Thanks for your vote for conservation!

Paid for by:

Bob and Liz Low
Velma Plouffe
The Stebbins Family
Terry and Ann Naumann
Holly Wilkinson
Jeff Forward
Michael Storrs
Marcia and Jake Levison
Maple Wind Farm
Kirsten and Steve Bower
Michael Lawler
Keith Kasper and
Francine Pomerantz
Jeremy and Sarah Hoff
Fritz Martin
Friederika Keating
Erik and Otie Filkorn
Molly Dugan
Dave and Fran Thomas
Daniel Martin
Marcy Harding
Cori and Jim Giroux
Roselyn Elliott
Cathy and Bill Aikman
Bill and Sue Minard
Amy Powers
Brad and Eileen Elliott
Christa Kemp
Dan Hament
Rick and Chichi Barrett
Doug Racine
Laura, Scott and Calvin Silverstein
Marcia Gardner
Ethan Tapper
Douglas and Katherine Fletcher

Eric Thomas
Ted Lyman and Virginia Clarke
Gary and Jean Bressor
Ernie Buford
The Shallow Family
Jim Feinson and Robyn Tebbetts
The Baran/Reisman Family
Lou Borie
Tim Schonholtz
John Hildebeitel and Demaris Tisdale
Betsy Hardy
Wright and Cindy Preston
John Broschious
Bruce and Pam Foust
Ellen Kraft
Honeycomb Kids
Kathryn and Doug Wysockey-Johnson
Jane Ann Miller
The Shallow Family
Jon Kart
Ian Stokes and Nancy Zimny
Judy McVickar
Cathleen Gent and Fran Huntoon
Jared Katz and Jennifer Jewiss
Martha Nye
Susan and Ken Nussbaum
Paul Garrett
Roberta Harold
The Malone-Wolfson Family
Ryan Dunn
Wendy Savoie
Ed and Susan Wells
Aletta Powel
Bob Heiser
Judy Rosovsky

Please vote "YES" on Article 8
See all the Fund has accomplished so far:
tinyurl.com/RenewCRF26

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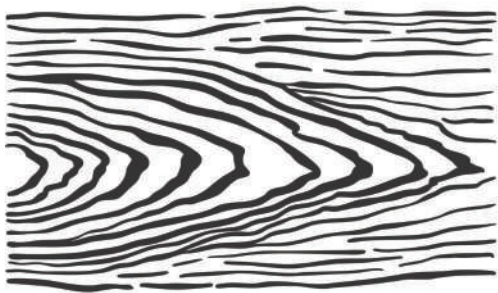
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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Paul Susen

The Huntington Selectboard held regularly scheduled meetings on January 12 and January 26. Topics of discussion included the Huntington River scoping study, highway, budget, liquor control, correspondence, public comment and appointments.

A public engagement session was held to consider the river scoping study. Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) representative Steven Libby presented an overview of the work, which started in 2024, as well as the source of funding (FEMA through VEM). Stone Environmental was selected to conduct the next phase of the project, which goes through fall of this year. Branden Martin from Stone Environmental stated the objectives were to (1) assess flood water and sediment flows, (2) identify flood vulnerabilities, (3) engage the public and (4) identify possible priority implementation projects. Evelyn Boardman from Stone Environmental provided a historical context on river evolution in Vermont.

Diane Reynolds inquired about funding specific remediation projects and Libby responded that implementation was separate and needed new grants. Shayne Jaquith asked about river coverage and Libby said Texas Hill Brook and possibly some tributaries would be included. Duncan Keir inquired about Fargo Brook and Brush Brook. Boardman responded that although project scope is limited to Huntington River and Texas Hill Brook, that flow differentials can be accounted for at tributaries. Aaron Worthley asked about what drives the determination of mitigation locations, the model or public participation? Boardman and Martin said that it is possible for the model to be run, without public involvement, to produce mitigation conclusions, but that is not the intent. Rather, it is anticipated that the model will be driven by comments from the public. Rick Fitzgerald asked about sediment accumulation and Martin said he did not expect that sediment would be measured.

In order to improve engagement from the public, Joe Segale, Chair of the Planning Commission, suggested mailing postcards to residents, with an estimated cost of \$450. Dori Barton, Chair of the Selectboard, agreed with the idea. Participants were requested to place stickers on maps to show locations with past issues and where a special project was needed. A survey is available to be completed at <https://www.huntingtonvt.org/huntington-river-scoping-study/>

The Texas Hill bridge culvert project requires an easement for right of way. The adjacent land owner has requested time to discuss the matter with the people involved and to consider the implications. Also, there are permitting changes

which need to be approved. Town Administrator Adam Argo is working on both matters under a change of scope of work.

In order to maintain the current tax rate for Huntington, given the moving parts of budget reconciliation, \$32,000 less than planned is being transferred into the paving reserve fund and \$560 more than planned would be used from the equipment reserve fund.

Alcohol License Update The Liquor Control Board, which consists of the members of the Selectboard, approved the annual alcohol and tobacco license application from Beaudry's Store.

Correspondence Under correspondence, Argo said he had received a request to have a mobile sauna unit transported to the parking area adjacent to the Recreation Field for a private function. The Selectboard was fine with the idea with the caveat that the company be insured and name Huntington as an additional insured party. The Huntington Conservation Commission requested comments on how to proceed with the language on the pollinator resolution. The Selectboard said that a formal resolution was not necessary and that a document clearly stating the proposal would be appreciated.

Public Comment Resident Bonnie Gordon continues to express concerns regarding the intersection of Camels Hump Road with Main Road. She has requested that the stop sign in Camels Hump Road be moved closer to the intersection and that speeding needs to be checked in the area. Barbara Felitti asked that river projects be placed on every agenda to keep the public informed, but the Selectboard disagreed for logistical reasons.

Duncan Keir stated that an update on the erosion issue at the Spence field would be appreciated. Argo responded that with funding from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, Hoyle Tanner had been contracted to complete a technical analysis of the problem. That report is due shortly and will be discussed.

Heidi Racht stated she would likely not run for Town Clerk in 2027 and wished to discuss succession. In an unrelated matter, Racht said she had submitted a resolution to the Selectboard which turned out to have similarities with the Huntington Acts Now resolution which was circulated after her submission. She would like to discuss her resolution after Town Meeting. Daniel Paradiso asked that agenda items for meetings be described in more detail.

Finally, the Selectboard approved the nomination of Ben Roll as Fire Chief of the Huntington Volunteer Fire Department.

History Volunteers Needed

For more than 50 years, the Richmond Historical Society (RHS) has preserved and shared the town's rich history, including the restoration and ongoing care of the Old Round Church. This work has always been powered by dedicated volunteers and community leaders.

RHS is now seeking new Board members and volunteers to help guide the Society into its next chapter. Several Board positions are currently open, including Vice President, Assistant Treasurer, and Secretary.

Fran Thomas, who has been president for over 15 years, would like to step down in the not-too-distant future, and the members would love to have someone in line to replace her. The Board meets about four times a year, and training is available for those stepping into new roles. Fresh perspectives and new energy are essential to keeping this organization strong.

Not ready to serve on the Board? RHS also welcomes volunteers to:

1. Assist the archivist with research requests and digitizing collections;
2. Serve as Old Round Church guides or wedding hosts;
3. Help organize and promote Historical Society concerts;
4. Write historical articles for the RHS newsletter or the TIMES INK;

If you care about Richmond's past and want to make a meaningful contribution to its future, the Historical Society would love to hear from you.

Contact: RHS@Richmondvthistory.org or Fran Thomas at DTFT5171@gmail.com

Join the RHS and be part of preserving Richmond's story for generations to come.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Mark Aiken

The Richmond Selectboard met on Monday, February 2, in a meeting that covered topics that ranged from very local to very global. Selectboard Chair Adam Wood welcomed all present and then a public comment period began. Richmond resident Mary Houle asked about charitable appropriations items on the upcoming Town Meeting ballot, and Town Manager Josh Arneson assured her that all of the information is available online at the official “warning” for Town Meeting which can be found at: richmondvt.gov/news/post/annual-town-meeting-march-3-2026.

Informational Budget Meeting Wood reminded those present and watching the meeting about informational meetings around the budget that would be presented and hopefully approved at Town Meeting. The final meeting is on Monday, February 23, 7 pm, at the Town Center.

Update about Lawyer Convo The next agenda item was about a meeting between Town Manager Arneson, Selectboard Chair Wood, and attorney David Rugh, who provides the town with legal advice and services during which they reminded him about the need to treat town residents respectfully at public meetings.

Setting Date for Town Plan Meeting Town Planner Keith Oborn explained that the Richmond Planning Commission has worked hard to draft a new Town Plan which will hopefully be approved at Town Meeting. There had been a session on January 17 where changes had been made. The rules stipulate that those changes now need to be reviewed in a public meeting. Selectboard members set Tuesday, February 17,

as the date of the special meeting to review the changes to the Town Plan.

School Budget and Pre-Kindergarten The Selectboard isn’t involved with the school budget; the School Board, which represents the communities of Richmond, Huntington, Jericho, Underhill, and Bolton, presents its own separate budget to voters. However, Wood explained that Superintendent John Muldoon had asked the Board to spread the word about how challenging it is to prepare a school budget. Selectboard member David Sander explained the immense effort the School Board makes to pare down an already lean budget and that the school district is also subject to the state educational formula.

Wood and Selectboard Vice Chair Caitlin Filkins also talked about serious changes to the district’s Pre-Kindergarten program and the lack of transparency in this decision-making. Filkins said she met with the superintendent about this.

New Police Officer Hiring Arneson announced the hiring of police officer Blake Allen who brings 20 years of experience of policing in Vermont. Allen started on February 5.

Discussion about Town Meeting Article 3 Selectboard members acknowledged receiving Richmond resident Scott Silverstein’s letter that included signatures from other town residents. The letter referenced a Town Meeting article asking residents to pass a non-binding referendum about the town’s beliefs surrounding Israel and Palestine. The letter writers expressed that the article asks for things that already exist in Richmond, that it contains potentially hateful and divisive language, and that it expresses beliefs that are most likely not universally shared

by all town residents. Selectboard members, Arneson, and Town Meeting Moderator Clint Buxton noted that because the article is already on the Town Meeting warning, it cannot be legally removed at this time.

Because the resolution involves a touchy, divisive topic, some residents expressed concerns that the resolution would be voted on by a voice vote. Residents and Selectboard members discussed a number of ways this could shake out that the meeting including that it could get changed to a paper ballot vote (allowed at the meeting after a Division of the House is initiated and where voters go through the polls and check in, write their yes/no choice on the paper anonymously and deposit it into a separate box where it is then counted by members of the Board of Civil Authority) or tabled and not voted on at all.

Citizen Rights When Interacting with Federal Agents Several agenda items covered the topic of citizen rights when interacting with federal agents like those from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency. Interim Police Chief Matthew Cohen gave a presentation on the topic, noting that the talk was educational and not legal advice (everyone has to make their own ultimate decisions). Ultimately, Selectboard members voted to make available a listing of resources on the topic for residents.

The final agenda item on the topic was the consideration of a resolution that affirms Richmond’s opposition to any illegal activities of federal agents. The agenda item was for discussion only and would be voted on at a future meeting.

Climate Discussions Tree Warden Caitlin Littlefield spoke about two initiatives around climate. The first was the Climate Smart Communities Initiatives grant that could provide \$75,000-\$215,000 to Richmond’s ongoing climate resilience efforts and advance planning – specifically around building capacity around flood mitigation on private lands. She noted that her work here was as a private resident and that she has been working with Friends of the Winooski River and the Vermont Land Trust on it. She said the grant application is due in March and that she would keep the Selectboard posted on her progress.

Littlefield also described a study by the Morten Arboretum of butternut trees in Overrocker Park. Selectboard members voted to approve participation in this study.

Remainder of the Meeting The remainder of the meeting included discussions on the way the town “warns” meetings and the language used; the Southview neighborhood’s stormwater permitting; Executive Sessions about the Greystone Estates stormwater system maintenance agreement; an easement for the Tilden Avenue, Bridge Street, and Thompson Road waterline project; approval of a Certificate of Highway Mileage for the state; certifying that there are no pending suits or appeals regarding the 2025 Grand List; an update on how Richmond reduced some fines owed to VOSHA; and changing a Selectboard meeting date due to a national holiday (February 16 to February 17).

Then Selectboard members approved prior minutes, warrants, and purchase orders and adjourned the meeting.

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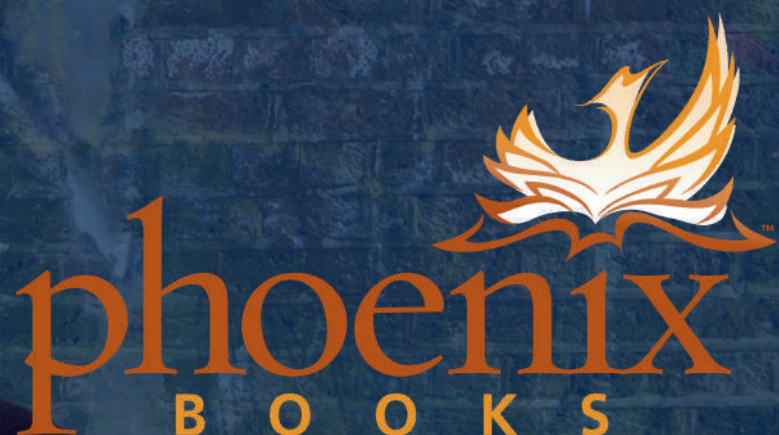
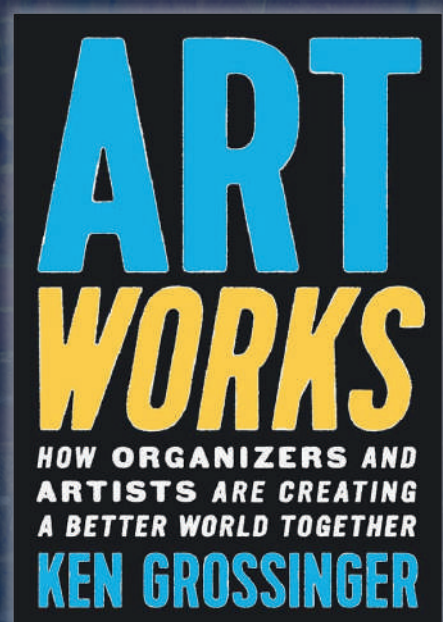
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MMUUSD WARNING

OFFICIAL WARNING
MOUNT MANSFIELD UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District comprising the voters of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill, are hereby notified and warned to meet at polling places hereinafter named for each of the above-referenced towns on March 3, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. (Huntington at 6:30 a.m.) at which time the polls will open until 7:00 p.m. at which time the polls will close, to transact the following business involving voting by Australian ballot:

- Article 1: To elect the following officers:
a Moderator for one year,
a Clerk for one year,
a Treasurer for one year.
- Article 2: Shall the voters of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District authorize the school board under 16 V.S.A. 562 (9) to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year?
- Article 3: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to transfer the audited general fund balance, of the current fiscal year, to a Capital Reserve Fund, to be used for capital improvements and operations of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District?
- Article 4: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$64,963,496 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,771, which is 9.79% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Upon closing of the polls, the ballot boxes will be sealed, transported to, and opened at Camels Hump Middle School in the Town of Richmond, the ballots commingled and publicly counted by representatives of the Boards of Civil Authority of the Towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill under the supervision of the Clerk of the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District.

Informational Hearing

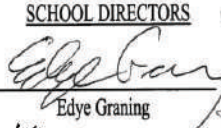
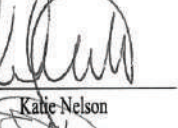
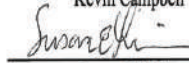
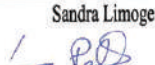
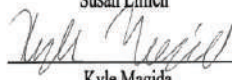
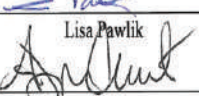
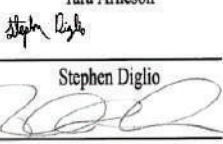
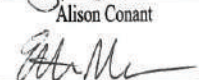
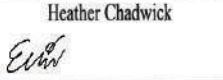
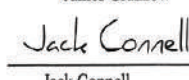
Said persons and voters are further notified and warned that Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Mount Mansfield Union High School, in Jericho, VT shall serve as an informational meeting to discuss the FY2027 school budget which will be voted on by Australian ballot on March 3, 2026. A virtual option will be available at: Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rvb-jrjx-dzc>
Or dial: (US) +1 219-316-1581 PIN: 351 330 627#

Polling Places

The voters residing in the Mount Mansfield Unified Union will cast their ballots in the polling places designated for their towns as follows:

Bolton	*	Smilie Memorial School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Huntington	*	Brewster-Pierce Memorial School	*	6:30 am -7 pm
Jericho	*	Mt. Mansfield Union High School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Richmond	*	Camels Hump Middle School	*	7 am - 7 pm
Underhill	*	Browns River Middle School	*	7 am - 7 pm

Dated this 12th day of January, 2026.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS		
 Kevin Campbell	 Edye Graning	 Katie Nelson
 Susan Lillich	 Sandra Limoge	 Tara Arneson
 Kyle Magida	 Lisa Pawlik	 Stephen Diglio
 Stuart Morigeau	 Alison Conant	 Heather Chadwick
 James Granzow	 Ethan Maurer	 Eli Wimetete
 Jack Connell	 Helen Stoddard	

Received for record this 12th day of January, 2026, A.D.


Jon M. Magazzini, Clerk, Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District

MMUUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester
January 2026 Meetings

The last MMUUSD informational meeting on the school budget is March 2, at Camels Hump Middle School, 6:30 pm with a virtual option.

Detailed information; including facts, figures, and a video recording of a power point presentation is available at www.mmuusd.org.

The Board unanimously approved a budget of \$64,963,496 for the 2026-2027 school year. This is an increase of 5.99% that reflects cuts of \$860,000.

This number includes leveling last year's deficit, a reduction of 6.5 teachers throughout the district, and the double punch of reductions in Federal and State funding contributions in the coming year.

The Annual Meeting Warning was approved. Article 3 was amended to allow the Board to transfer any surplus funds in the future. This change could help the budget procedure in the future.

School Reports Richmond Principal Jeremy Rector reported early indicators (first trimester) see an encouraging trend. Professional development has spent a lot of time on learning how to implement the new ARC reading program (available in both English and Spanish). The math program is progressing well, as is the SEL (socio-emotional learning) program. This program helps to instill self control in the students.

MMU High School Principal Mike Weston reported the development of "Coops" – a kind of homeroom/advisory blend comprised of 80-90 students in a pod to help transition eighth grade students to a more mature and rigorous ninth grade high school schedule and work load.

The Advisory and Student led groups continue to help feel (according to those surveyed) they belong, they matter, they're respected and they are supported.

The Vermont Sustainability Project teams the high school students with VYCC to learn about environmental challenges in a hands-on environment.

Cell Phone Usage in School (Vermont Act 72) The MMU Student Working Group has proposed banning cell phones "from bell to bell" excepting IEP students, health care, etc.

Strategic Planning Superintendent John Muldoon related the results of 1,000+ person (and 200 in-person) survey/interactions with members of the community. The full report has been given to the Board to help with the strategic planning process. In general, the participants enjoy their individual schools but find it difficult to access programs to which they might be entitled. The facilities for autistic students are "depressing" – meanwhile, parents of autistic children are now homeschooling due to facilities, programming, and lack of individual attention.

Small Town Blues Huntington feels isolated geographically. Long bus rides were a concern for many parents of several elementary schools. The smaller schools enjoy their autonomy – but also feel that not being at one of the "hubs" with a middle school limits their access to more programs.

More Concerns There were also concerns about equity of programs between the schools – noting the Spanish immersion program.

Tremendous anxiety exists about a forced merger with another district.

Students surveyed felt well prepared for the transitions between the different levels of schooling and were proud of their school.

The Pre-K programing is facing a major structural change. The District proposes offering teachers for half the day, with a wrap-around day care coverage for the other half of the day for 7:30 to 5:30 coverage. The draft plan and link to the podcast explaining this are available on the MMUUSD website.

The Board approved the updated Employee Unlawful Harassment Policy as mandated by the state. It redefined the criteria for sexual harassment – it need not be "severe or pervasive to be unlawful." It added categories for new protection: citizenship, immigration status and crime victim status.

Richmond Historical Society
Annual Meeting and Program



Have you always admired and/or bought corn, squash or a pumpkin at Conant's Riverside Farm located on Route 2 in Richmond and thus, might like to know about its history.? Then save the day, March 8, 3 pm, and find your way to the Community Room in the Richmond Free Library. Several members of the Conant family, owners of the farm since 1854, have put together a program on the history of their farm. It will be very interesting and worth your time on a cold winter Sunday afternoon.

A brief Historical Society meeting and election of officers will be held prior to the program. Light refreshments will be served.

Interested in being on the Historical Society Board or helping in other ways ? Contact RHS@richmondvthistory.org. In particular, RHS is looking to fill vacancies on the Board for the Vice President and Secretary positions.

Area Residents Honored

Trustees' List, Fall 2025

Champlain College, Burlington:

Kenneth Moran, Starksboro
Akiva Nugent, Starksboro

Achieving a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.

President's List, Fall 2025

Ari McKennedy, Jericho, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire, achieving a grade point average of 3.70 or better, majoring in Elementary Ed and Youth Development at Plymouth State.

Hannah Baslow, Jericho, SUNY Potsdam (New York), with an Exploratory/Undeclared major, satisfactorily completing 12 numerically-graded semester hours, with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Michaela Randall, Jericho, Champlain College Online, Burlington, achieving a grade point average of 4.0 or higher during the semester; majoring in Digital Marketing.

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU), Manchester, New Hampshire:

Avela Krull, Huntington
David Necrason, Jericho

Full-time undergraduate students earning a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term.

College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina:

Reilly Stevens, Jericho Center, majoring in Psychology
Aurora Leonetti, Jericho Center, majoring in Commercial Real Estate Finance

Vermont State University announces the following local students achieving the highest academic honor with a 4.0 semester grade point average:

Chey Bourne, Richmond
Jack Eickenberg, Starksboro
Adam Palmer, Starksboro

Champlain College, Burlington

Achieving a grade point average of 4.0 or higher:

Carleigh Lane, Jericho
Avery Luther, Jericho
Kenneth Moran, Starksboro
Akiva Nugent, Starksboro

Dean's List - Spring 2025

Oak Clarke, Jericho, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, achieving a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing at least four total credits, which is equivalent to a course load of 16 semester hours. Berea College is the first interracial and coeducational college in the South, focuses on learning, labor, and service. The college only admits academically promising students with limited financial resources, primarily from Kentucky and Appalachia, although students come from 46 states and 66 countries.

Dean's List - Fall 2025

Liam Thompson, Richmond, Lasell University, Newton, Massachusetts, completing at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieving a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Vermont State University, Randolph Center:

Brianna Brownell, Huntington
Jill Huyler, Huntington
Sayler Ruggles, Huntington
Kyle Taft, Huntington
Annabella Voyer, Jericho
Tristan Wade, Jericho

To qualify for this academic honor, students must maintain full-time status and achieve a 3.5 or greater semester grade point average.

University of Rhode Island, Kingston:

Avery Gilbert, Jericho
Riley McCarthy, Jericho
Ethan Myers, Jericho
Annabelle Roberge, Jericho
Kaitlin Ford, Richmond
Oscar Howard, Richmond
Robin Ryan, Richmond
Tessa Simson, Richmond

Students completing 12 or more credits and achieving at least a 3.30 GPA qualify.

St. Lawrence University, Canton, New York:

Eligible students must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

Gabby Alger, Huntington, Class of 2029 and a Mount Mansfield Union High School graduate.

Morgan Barnard, Starksboro, Class of 2028, majoring in biology.

Cyrus Goetze, Richmond, Class of 2028, and a Mount Mansfield Union High School graduate.

Cherise Shamp, Huntington, Class of 2028, majoring in conservation biology and political science.

University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine and Tangier, Morocco

The following students attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

Mya Peters, Huntington
Angelica Stewart, Huntington

Champlain College, Burlington

Achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher:

Kevin Wallace, Jericho
Rowan Zeno, Starksboro

Jacob Laird, Richmond, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire, achieving a grade point average between 3.5 and 3.69, majoring in Mathematics.

Kaia L. Sleeper-Spady, Jericho, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, having a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.



**Sunday Worship Service is now held
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BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
True Value

Huntington Forest Habitat Improvement Project

The Huntington Community Forest Stewardship Committee (HCFSC) recently announced an upcoming project taking place within the Community Forest. For the past year, the Committee has worked closely with County Forester Brandon Benedict to implement enhancement of wildlife habitat within a portion of the forest referred to as Stand 1 in the Forest Management Plan. Stand 1 is located on the hillside behind Brewster-Pierce Memorial School.

After much planning together with the Committee, Benedict issued an RFP for the work. A proposal from Paul Smiths College (PSC) in the Adirondacks was enthusiastically selected by the Committee in December. As part of Paul Smith's hands-on curriculum, Forestry students will work to enhance early successional wildlife habitat in several "patches" throughout the Stand. Their work will be completed this winter, under the guidance of their instructor, John Foppert, assistant Professor of Silviculture and Economics at Paul Smith's College, and Benedict. Funding for this project was provided by a generous grant from the Ruffed Grouse Society.

Early succession habitat refers to managed young forest conditions made up mostly of saplings and small shrubs. This important habitat is more and more uncommon on the local landscape and important to a range of wildlife species, from songbirds, to predatory and prey mammals, to pollinators.

Different from the original assumption that the work would need to be done with large machinery, PSC students will cut trees by hand. Most downed trees will be left where they fall which will discourage deer from over browsing the area, giving saplings and new growth an opportunity to establish.

Decaying trees and brush piles will provide nutrients for the young growth as well as wildlife shelter. The result will look messy to humans at first, but will be a haven to wildlife. The 31-acre site will be monitored for invasive species as it grows back to dense young trees and shrubs.

The work is planned with strong consideration of the recreational and BPMS student use of

the area. All existing trails, as well as areas where heavy outdoor classroom use takes place, will be retained. For safety reasons, portions of some trails will be temporarily closed off during the work.

Today, visitors to this section of forest can expect to see multi-colored flagging, as well as informational signage. Pink flagging represents the edge of patches where cutting will take place. Blue flagging marks trees and shrubs within those patches that will remain. Apple, oak, nannyberry and other viburnum shrubs, hawthorn, shadbush (serviceberry), black cherry and other nutrient dense shrubs and small trees will stay. These are valuable plants for wildlife, providing food for birds and pollinators. The resulting young forest will provide breeding and nesting habitat for songbirds like the Chestnut-sided Warbler and American Woodcock. In addition, scattered larger trees will be retained to provide structural diversity, occasional shade, and visual interest.

The Stewardship Committee hosted an on-site walk in early November to show the proposed site and talk about the project plans. Paul Smith's College is particularly interested in the community aspects of the project and while details are still being worked out, the Committee hopes to have some public interaction with college students during the project. There will be a follow-up public walk planned after the work is completed to review the project and talk about the goals.

Committee Chair Aaron Worthley stated that he sees this as an exciting project within the forest: "This project brings the Stewardship Committee, Paul Smith's College, and the local community together in a learning project that enriches and diversifies habitat and accomplishes a Stewardship goal while maintaining multiple uses in the Community Forest."

Work is expected to take place late this winter and will last about two weeks, Worthley explained. Visitors are welcome to use the Forest during this time, but some areas may be closed off for short periods of time.

Contact the Huntington Community Forest Stewardship Committee with any questions or concerns at huntingtoncf@gmail.com.



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Over the Hump 2026 Concerts Announced

Long cold nights got you down? Yearning for sultry summer evenings? Huntington's own Mr Charlie (of WIZN and Blues for Breakfast fame) and the Huntington Recreation Committee have been, too. He's booked four shows for Wednesdays in July, and Stone Corral's mobile truck will be there serving up cold beverages. The event is free, takes place at the Rec Field, and provides lots of opportunity to contribute support to local organizations.

The music line up for the (wildly) popular Over The Hump Concert Series, sponsored by the Huntington Recreation Committee, was recently announced by Charlie (Mr. Charlie) Frazier, who created the series three years ago.

The concerts, held at the town's Rec Field in Huntington Center, run 5:30 pm to 8 pm. In addition to the great music from talented musicians, each date provides an opportunity to highlight a local nonprofit.

Frazier said, "Stone Corral is once again donat-

ing a \$1000 match for the four nonprofits, and will be pouring beverages."

He noted, "Over three years and 10 concerts, we have raised nearly \$10,000 for local nonprofits/charities."

Said Frazier, "It takes many drops to fill a lake, and donations of all sizes are welcome, as the series is not funded by the town and relies on fundraising to cover the cost of bands, sound, posters and things that go into having a successful concert."

The series has received enthusiastic support from local businesses. "Many thanks to Beaudry's, Purinton Maple, Treetop Equipment Repair, Northfield Savings Bank, Forest City Graphics, and Pleasant Mount Farm, who have returned as sponsors, as well as multiple personal donations from members of the community."

He added, "Volunteers are needed for parking and day of show duties."

July 8: The Mojo Birds, benefitting Brewster-Pierce School Partners in Education (PIE)—from Colorado with some Vermont members. Frazier enthused, "The group played at the Hun-



tington Town Hall last year and everyone was dancing up a storm. This concert is part of their summer Rockies to the Green Mountains Tour."

July 15: Duncan MacLeod, benefitting Edward Heyman's Soup's On. MacLeod will perform tunes with longtime local mainstays doing Allman Brothers, Little Feat, Steely Dan and everything in between.

July 22: Blues Over Easy with blues icons Paul Asbell, Jeff Salisbury, Chuck Eller and Clyde Stats will benefit the Huntington Holiday Boxes.

July 29: Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers, a mashup of The Starline Rhythm Boys and Banjo Dan & The Midnite Plowboys, will benefit the Birds of Vermont Museum.

Information and updates on shows will be posted on Facebook at Huntington Recreation Committee Over the Hump Concert Series. (Frazier confided, "If someone would volunteer to make us a website, that would be amazing.")

The days are getting longer and look forward to some music, fun and community bonding at the Rec Field this summer.

For donations or to volunteer, contact Charlie Frazier at mrcharlie@gmavt.net or see Mike at Beaudry's Store.



Performers at the Over the Hump Concert series, from left: The Mojo Birds, Duncan MacLeod, Vermont Bluegrass Pioneers.

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News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington
www.communitychurchofhuntington.org

"Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy."

—James 1:2
(New Living Translation)

I'd like to say that Valentine's Day got me thinking about the difference between happiness and joy—but actually it was from a James Emery White talk I listened to while knitting red hats in front of the woodstove. White described joy as coming from believing and following the message of Scripture, while happiness is something that comes "from the world." He noted that while we frequently use these descriptors interchangeably they're actually quite different states of being. Happiness is a reaction to something external that happens

to you. It's transient—coming and then going as your circumstances or situations change. Happiness originates from events and things, like receiving an unexpected Valentine in the mail, being given a genuine complement, or discovering you have the winning raffle ticket. And as such, happiness is a lovely outside-in kind of feeling. But joy? Joy is a state of being that comes from within you and transcends your surroundings and circumstances. While being happy certainly feels good in the moment, joy is a more stable, long-lasting, sense of purpose and inner peace. Happiness is something you can buy—but joy is something you need to practice and nurture.

I have struggled to comprehend how people could say they feel joy even in the midst of deep pain, grief and suffering. But, diving more deeply into this, I think I finally have a clearer understanding of the connection between joy and Jesus. It seems I was confusing joy with happiness. Joy is rooted in the eternal hope and promise that death is not the end and if we accept Jesus, it is assurance of our future with God.

As we develop a deeper relationship with God, as we love and serve one another as Jesus taught and demonstrated, and as we abide in Christ (accept and act in accordance with Jesus), we are promised great joy. "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11—New King James Version

We invite you to join us on Sundays at 9 am as we continue our journey for a deeper relationship with God.

—Barbara Elliott, CCH Board President



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Calendar of Events

Regular Meetings: call about in-person or Zoom clarification.

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

SELECTBOARD:

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

Richmond: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm, Town Center.

SCHOOL BOARD:

MMMUSD: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 6:30 pm. Meetings will rotate among the MMMUSD schools. Check the website for specifics: www.mmuusd.org.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Huntington: 2nd & 4th Tues, 7 pm, Zoom meeting.

Richmond: 1st & 3rd Wed, 7 pm, Town Center.

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Huntington: 3rd Tues, 7 pm, when required. Zoom meeting.

Richmond: 2nd & 4th Wed, 7 pm, Town Center.

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Center.

Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm, Zoom.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Richmond: 1st Tues, 7-9 pm, Town Center Mtg Room.

Huntington: 1st Wed, 6 pm, Rec Field or Community Church.

RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE **Richmond:** 3rd Tues, 7 pm, Town Center Meeting Room.

RICHMOND LAND TRUST **First** Thursday. Monitor Barn Annex. All are welcome. Dan Martin, (4231).

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Huntington: 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Huntington Town Hall.

LIBRARY

Richmond: Trustees, 1st Thursday in January, March, April, June, September & November, 6:30 pm. 802-434-3036.

Huntington: Board of Trustees, 2nd Sunday, 10 am, Huntington Public Library and on Zoom, 802-434-4583.

HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE 1st Tues, 7 pm, Zoom meeting.

COMMUNITY GROUPS:

May Not be Meeting.

Call for information.

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

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

Senior Coffee Time, Wednesday, 9 am, Huntington Public Library. Info: Don Dresser, 802-434-3811.

Howl Women's Land Monthly Business Meeting, 2nd Sunday of each month. 10 am. All women welcome 802-434-3953.

Richmond Drop-Off Center

Open all year Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 8-3:30. Located on Route 117 (80 Roger's Lane).

Worship

Call for information.

Community Church of Huntington: Sunday morning Worship & Sunday School, 9 am. In person and on Facebook.com/CommunityChurchofHuntingtonVT. Communion: 1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday. Contact Pastor Fred Little Jr. at any time at 802-777-8840.

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: 20 Church Street., 802-434-2053. Sunday Worship and Sunday School, 10 am.

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

Community Alliance Church: 190 Pond Road (overlooking CVU), Hinesburg. Sunday, 9 am, Sunday school for all ages, with adults and teen electives; Scott Mansfield, 802-482-2132, www.hinesburgcma.org

Jericho United Methodist Church: Rte. 15 in Jericho Corners. Sunday Worship and Church School 9 am winter and summer; Bible/Prayer Study Tues 7:30 pm. Rev. Kirk Thompson, 802-899-4288.

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 Vt Rte 15 (near Browns Trace) Jericho, 802-899-3932, Chelsea Page, pastor. Worship Service: 9 am. www.goodshepherdjericho.org

Wings, Waters, Ways

Explore the interwoven history of humans, birds, and waterways with your art. The Birds of Vermont Museum seeks art from the community for the art show that will be on display May 1 to October 31.

The Museum invites art submissions that dive and soar with the ways of wings and waters for its 2026 community art show.

Consider upcoming “250th”celebrations in the US, the much-longer history of humans on the landscape in the Green Mountains and Champlain Valley, and the much, much, much longer stories of how birds have evolved with, use, and been influenced by water and waterways. Ponder habitats, adaptations, and interactions.

Artists of all ages are invited to submit to this juried show. Amateur, hobbyist, student, and professional artists welcome. Traditional and digital works may be submitted. From fabric to photos, paint to poetry, the Museum welcomes visual, textual, and/or audio submissions. No work using generative AI will be accepted.

Submit up to three (3) works through the online form <https://tinyurl.com/bovm-art-2026> (best for gmail users) OR by email (see below) OR <https://tinyurl.com/bovm-art-2026-alt> (if no google account).

Acceptable file formats include .jpg (visual art); .mp3, .mp4 (music/video); .pdf or .txt (stories, poems).

Include your name, email, town, and a brief description of each work (size, media, when made) when you send your submission(s).

We can also accept submissions by email: send files (same formats as above) to museum@birdsofvermont.org. Put Submission for Wings, Waters, Ways art show from [Your Name] as the email subject. If you do not have email, you may send up to three prints or photos (not originals) to the Museum, attention: Wings, Waters, Ways art show to 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT 05462.

Visual, written, and multi-media works will be considered. In addition to walls, shelves are available for smaller three-dimensional pieces, room outdoors for weather-impervious works, and some ceiling area.

You are welcome to visit the Museum to consider the potential.

Entries are due by Monday, March 23, 2026, 11:59 pm.

Jurors will select pieces by early April and will let artists know soon after, by email. Accepted pieces should arrive at the Museum by April 20 and be ready to hang or display (all hanging hardware already attached).

The art show runs from May 1 to October 31 at the Birds of Vermont Museum. Artists are wholly responsible for shipping or drop-off/pick-up. Pick-up should occur by December 30, 2026, if possible.

Call or email Kir Talmage or Allison Gergely with any questions: 802 434-2167 or museum@birdsofvermont.org.

RFL continued from page 4

Lego Club We have loads of Legos. Periodically we offer after-school Lego Club for kids ages 4-12. Lego enthusiasts work together or separately to build amazing projects. No registration is necessary, just come play. The next four-week Lego Club session will be on Tuesdays, March 10 to March 31, from 3 pm to 4 pm.

Special Storytime and Snack with Local Author

We will welcome Richmond author Stephanie Klein to our storytime rug. Stephanie is a speech, language and feeding therapist who recently wrote TINY FRIENDS, HAPPY BELLIES; A MICROBIOME ADVENTURE, a picture book. The book is a playful and interactive journey through the colorful world of food and is designed to spark curiosity and conversation between children and their caregivers. Stephanie will have hands-on play food to sort and talk about, and we will prepare a colorful snack to share. Join us on Saturday, March 7, at 10:30 am.

Weekly/Monthly 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.

Baby Laptime This short, active storytime is for our youngest little book lovers and their grownups. We’ll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing. This program is designed for infants and early toddlers and meets on Mondays at 10:30 am.

Storytime Miss Wendy will share some great new picture books, as well as some classics from years past, and will sing some familiar tunes and chants, all designed to keep kids interested, engaged, and soaking up some early literacy skills. Join us on Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

Playgroup The toys come out for free play with friends new and old. Co-sponsored by the

Library and the Lund Center. Kids from infant to five and their grown-ups are invited to join the fun on Wednesdays from 9 am to 10:30 am.

Snowshoes to Lend Patrons with valid library cards from Richmond or Huntington Public Library may now borrow snowshoes for a week at a time. Adult and youth sizes as well as poles are available. Snowshoes were purchased by the Richmond Recreation Committee (comprising members from Huntington, Bolton and Richmond) through a grant from Rise VT. Call or email the Library for more details or stop by to borrow some –and get out and enjoy the winter trails with your family.

Seed Library Now Accepting Seeds If you’re a seed saver or are looking for a home for your unused seeds, consider donating them to the Library. Seed donations must include the following information: plant type and varietal, harvest date, and location. If you are saving your own seeds, please note that we can only accept open-pollinated (non-GMO/hybrid) seeds. Email rehgg@richmondvt.gov with any questions.

Seeking Artists and Collectors We are currently scheduling art shows for our walls and display case in 2026. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, please contact us. We're also seeking interesting collections for our foyer display case. If you are a collector of thimbles, old books, feathers, nut crackers or anything else that would fit in our case, we would love to hear from you. Call or email the Library.

Trustee Meetings Trustee Meetings are on the second Monday of the month, at 6:30 pm, at the Library. All meetings are open to the public. Individuals may also join via Zoom.

Letters

continued from page 2

1. Students see true democracy in action as voters make their way to the polls. What better way to educate future voters than to have them see people of all ages, some of them older siblings and parents/grandparent come to a safe environment to exercise their civic right and responsibility.

2. Taxpayers, many of whom either don't have children or have moved into the town after their children were too old to have had the experience of the community school, can walk down the hall seeing the art on the walls, the photos of the staff, the impeccably-maintained building, the smiling kitchen staff serving good food to eager eaters, and busy students coming and going about the day. They have the opportunity to put the place to the name and see their tax dollars at work – and, we hope, are therefore more inclined to support education by voting for the school budget on Town Meeting Day.

3. Parking. It is one of two public buildings in our town that has enough off-street parking, the Town Garage being the other one.

I know all of this is how it was and was intended to be.

Before I address this, I would like to say that a high point of the day for me has been working with the third and fourth graders and their teachers to have the students in small groups "vote" at the polls. In past years, we went outdoors and came in through the entrance to the polls, where we went through the steps that voters complete when coming to vote on Election Day: looking at the bulletin board of information, including the Vermont Voters Bill of Rights; stating their names for the Elections Official at the Entrance Checklist table; picking up their ballots from the Ballot Official; choosing a place to vote – in a booth, sitting or standing, at a table, open or with a privacy panel; stating their names for the Exit Checklist Elections Official and then placing their ballots in the ballot box and then exiting the polls to go back to their classroom. Later in the day, after all the students had voted, I met with them to get comments and to answer questions. It is a great experience for everyone. I am confident that these students will be able to feel comfortable with the concept of going to the polls and voting.

During COVID, the elections just kept chugging along even though the schools were closed. Our concerns were about the health of the public. We were able (and forced) to be creative including having a fun outdoor Primary Election in August 2020.

But the tone has changed as we are now also dealing with concerns about student safety as well student health. The steps that we took on November 8, 2022 included having an Elections Official standing outdoors (it was a very cold day) and unlocking the door for each person who answered affirmatively that s/he was coming to vote. I have since been told that this could result in a complaint of obstruction of a person coming to the polls.

I made the request for school closure in 2024 and this was done, and so am asking again for a holiday on November 3, 2026.

In the interest of making the polls welcoming to all voters, it is better to have our voters be able to walk into the school through the front door and come to a polling area that seems both roomy and private. The voters could leave through the same door or exit out of the back door. It is better than approaching a solid door at the back of the gym and then exiting through a classroom into the parking lot, which is what we did here in 2022. The voters (taxpayers) would also be able to view the artwork and the bulletin boards at the school as they come and go. We could do this safely if no students are in the building; we could do this with an "ambassador" who directs those entering the building.

At a New England clerks conference, many expressed surprise that we had a school day in November and have to ask for a holiday. It motivated me to again get this in the works before the Board begins discussion on the 2026-2027 school calendar.

Thanks very much – warm wishes for a successful rest of 2025-2026 school year.

Most sincerely, and yours truly,
Heidi Racht, Town Clerk, CVC, CMC



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Rep. Theresa Wood

Update on Act 76 – Vermont’s Childcare Law. For decades, Vermont families struggled with a child care system that was expensive, fragile, and out of reach for far too many working parents. At the same time, child care providers operated as unsustainable businesses with chronic workforce shortages. Act 76, Vermont’s historic child care law, was a deliberate decision to change that reality. New statewide data show that this investment is already delivering meaningful results for families, providers, and Vermont’s economy.

As part of this law, the Legislature purposefully charged Building Bright Futures to monitor progress and measure outcomes. According to the January 2026 Act 76 Monitoring Report from Building Bright Futures, 2025 was the first full year that Act 76 operated at scale. During that year, Vermont’s Child Care Financial Assistance Program expanded to serve nearly 50 percent more families than before Act 76, with close to 12,000 children in almost 10,000 families receiving support statewide. Awareness of and participation in CCFAP are higher than at any point in the program’s history. Families consistently describe lower copays as a game-changer that reduces financial stress and allows parents to stay in the workforce, increase hours, or accept new employment opportunities.

This is exactly what Act 76 was designed to do. That shift matters not only for families, but for the state as a whole, and to Vermont’s business community. Act 76 has also strengthened the financial stability of child care programs themselves. For family child care homes, this stability has been particularly meaningful. These programs are small businesses that operate in every corner of Vermont, including rural communities where other employers may be limited and are critical to improving access for families.

Importantly, the report makes clear that Act 76 is functioning as intended, even as challenges remain. Workforce shortages remain the single largest barrier to expanding child care supply, particularly for infant and toddler care. Administrative complexity continues to create friction for families and providers. Access remains uneven across regions, especially in rural areas where transportation and long travel distances compound the problem. These challenges are real, but they are not evidence of failure. They are the predictable growing pains of scaling a public system in a field that was underbuilt and underfunded for decades.

The economic impacts of Act 76 extend beyond the child care sector itself. Building Bright Futures has begun engaging employers across Vermont to better understand how child care access affects recruitment, retention, and workforce stability. While this employer-focused work is still in its early stages, the report notes a consistent theme. When child care is more affordable and reliable, employers benefit from a more stable workforce. Parents are better able to show up for work, maintain consistent schedules, and remain attached to the labor market. In a state facing persistent workforce shortages, this matters.

In this way, Act 76 should be understood as economic policy as much as family policy. Child care access supports labor force participation, reduces employee turnover, and strengthens Vermont’s overall economic competitiveness. At the same time, stabilizing child care businesses supports local economies and



State House News

keeps dollars circulating in communities across the state. This is what it means to invest in economic infrastructure.

The Building Bright Futures report also highlights the importance of continuous improvement. Vermont is using data, lived experience, and cross-agency collaboration to refine implementation in real time. Adjustments to enrollment-based reimbursement, clearer guidance for families navigating multiple systems, and ongoing work to address fingerprinting and background check delays all reflect a commitment to improving the system over time. Act 76 was never intended to be a one-time fix. It is a long-term system shift that requires sustained attention.

Act 76 reflects our values of fairness, opportunity, and shared responsibility. It acknowledges that child care providers deserve stability and respect. And it demonstrates that public investments, when carefully designed and closely monitored, can deliver real results.

The data tell a clear story. Act 76 is improving affordability for families, stabilizing child care programs, and supporting Vermont’s workforce and economy. There is more work ahead, but the foundation is strong. When we invest in systems that matter, Vermont works better for everyone.

From Huntington's and Richmond's Reps

Do you find yourself having information fatigue, maybe a little whiplash, and perhaps feeling like you’re drinking from a firehose? If so, you’re definitely not alone and have good reason to feel that way. The current federal landscape has been marked by frequent reversals, unclear guidance, and abrupt policy changes that create confusion and uncertainty for Vermonters who rely on critical public programs. It’s not only chaotic but it’s extremely harmful to our state’s policies, programs, and most of all – its people.

At present, the Legislature has identified \$12.3 million in federal funding reductions since last summer, along with canceled or disrupted programs. Earlier this session, we outlined the growing impact of these frequent and unpredictable federal administration

changes and their impact on Vermont’s budget, health care system, and essential public services. We emphasized then, and want to reiterate here, that House Democrats are closely tracking federal actions and working to provide continuity and clarity wherever possible.

“We are navigating shifting sands at the federal level, but Vermont has put safeguards in place and is actively monitoring these changes to protect critical programs and services,” said Rep. Scheu, Chair of House Appropriations.

Current legislative efforts aimed at protecting Vermonters from federal instability include bills to maintain science-based immunization policies and to backfill funding when abrupt federal decisions threaten essential services.

“The chaos and uncertainty coming out of Washington are already impacting health care and public services, and Vermont is stepping up to ensure people don’t lose access to the care they need,” said Rep. Wood, Chair of House Human Services.

While this chaos tends to start in the nation’s capitol, the top elected official in our state has contributed, at times. A prime example is Governor Scott’s decision last August to hand over highly sensitive personal information related to roughly 140,000 SNAP recipients in Vermont. Despite a recommendation from Attorney General Charity Clark that the federal government’s request was illegal, Scott complied. His actions had a chilling effect on participation in food assistance programs, with advocates and service providers reporting that the decision caused some eligible Vermonters to hesitate or delay applying for benefits their families need.

About two months after Scott’s disclosure of Vermonters’ sensitive data, a federal judge ruled that the government’s request for the data was unlawful. Because he had already shared the information, Vermonters’ did not benefit from the protections granted through this decision.

House Democrats remain committed to monitoring federal developments and Vermont’s responses closely, challenging harmful actions when necessary, and providing as much stability as possible for all Vermonters.

Rep. Theresa Wood Washington-Chittenden Chair, House Human Services Committee 1461 Perry Hill Road Waterbury, VT 05676 (802) 585-5202 theresa.wood@vtleg.gov	Rep. Tom Stevens Washington-Chittenden Member, House Appropriations Committee 12 Winooski Street Waterbury, VT 05676 802-595-0429 (cell) tom@stevensvermont.com tstevens@vtleg.gov	Rep. Jana Brown Chittenden 1 Member, House Education Committee PO Box 66 Richmond, VT 05477 802-434-2854 / 999-4333 jana.brown@vtleg.gov
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RABIES CLINIC

WHEN? Saturday, March 28
WHERE? Huntington
Town Hall
FROM? 9 am to noon
PRICE? \$23 per shot
Microchipping available.

- APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE.
(huntingtonvt.org or richmondvt.gov for link).
- WALK-INS WELCOME.
- ALL LEASHED DOGS AND CONTAINED CATS WELCOME.

Huntington & Richmond residents can register their dogs on this day.
\$15 PER DOG REGISTRATION DUE APRIL 1, 2026



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Community Volunteer Search 2026

The Richmond Selectboard seeks volunteers to join their neighbors on the following Boards, Commissions and Committees, beginning in June.

Further information is available via e-mail – dwardwell@richmondvt.gov or by calling Duncan Wardwell, Assistant to the Town Manager at (802) 336-2092

Applications may be viewed/downloaded at <https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/vacancies-committees-commissions>

- **Water & Sewer Commission** applications are due May 27, 2026
- **Development Review Board (DRB)** applications are due May 13, 2026
- **Andrews Community Forest** applications are due April 3, 2026
- **Delinquent Tax Collector** applications are due February 27, 2026, Selectboard appointment after Town Meeting Day

Applications will be reviewed by the respective committees, with the exception of the DRB which will not review applicants prior to appointment by the Selectboard. The Selectboard will make appointments at its May 18, 2026, meeting for terms to begin in June. Selectboard will consider appointments to vacant positions throughout the year.

View SHADED terms that are EXPIRING in 2026 or currently VACANT: https://www.richmondvt.gov/fileadmin/files/Selectboard/General/VACANT_Committees_asof02-02-26.pdf

- **Water & Sewer Commission** – Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at 6pm. (TWO 1-year terms, seats to be filled by people who are customers of the water and/or sewer system. A customer is defined as a person who owns a property which is connected to the water or sewer system). Letters are due May 27, 2026. Applications will be reviewed by the Water and Sewer Commission. The Selectboard will make appointments at its June 15, 2026, meeting for terms to begin in July.
- **Development Review Board (DRB)** – Meets 2nd Wednesday at 7 pm; (TWO 3-year terms, TWO Vacant-Alternate 3-year terms). Letters are due by May 13, 2026. Applications will not be reviewed by the DRB. The Selectboard will make appointments at its May 18, 2026, meeting for terms to begin in June. Conduct public hearings regarding most major land development and commercial projects and permit appeals.
- **Conservation Commission** – Meets 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm; (THREE 4-year terms, ONE Vacant term until 2027, ONE Alternate 4-year term, ONE Vacant Alternate until 2029). Develop planning tools for local natural resources and work on proposals to utilize the Conservation Reserve Fund.
- **Andrews Community Forest Committee** – Meets 4th Monday at 6 pm; (TWO 3-year terms, ONE 3-year term for a seat filled by a Conservation Commission Recommendation, ONE Vacant term until 2028 for a seat filled by a Trails Committee Representative. Applications are due by April 3, 2026). Provides general goals, objectives, and administrative details for the management of the parcel to the Selectboard.
- **Parking Advisory Committee** – Meets 2nd and 4th Monday at 6-8 PM; (THREE 3-year terms, TWO 2-year terms). Examines and works on improving parking for recreational activities.
- **Planning Commission** – Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 7 pm; (ONE 4-year term, ONE Vacant term until 2027). Work includes the major revision of zoning and subdivision bylaws.
- **Recreation Committee** – Meetings TBD as currently no quorum as minimum of 5 members (ONE 3-year term, TWO 2-year terms, TWO Vacant 3-year terms ending in 2028). Overseeing and designing a variety of diverse recreational programs accessible to all residents.
- **Trails Committee** – Meets on the 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm; (FOUR 3-year terms). Develop and manage the trail and path network in Richmond, including making connections to neighborhoods.
- **Transportation Committee** – Meetings TBD as currently no quorum as minimum of 5 members; (THREE 3-year terms, ONE 2-year term, ONE Vacant 3-year term until 2028). Focus on transportation and parking issues.
- **Gardening Committee** – Meets TBD as currently no quorum as minimum of 6 members; (THREE 3-year terms, THREE 2-year terms until 2027). The scope could include maintenance of landscaping on Volunteers' Green, Browns Court, Round Church Green, and at Town welcome signs. Future scope may include creating a community garden on municipal property.
- **Housing Committee** – Meets TBD (THREE 2-year terms, TWO Alternate 2-year term). Advises the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, and Town Staff on the housing needs of the Town of Richmond.
- **4th of July Parade & Fireworks Committee** – Meets 3rd Thursdays at 7 pm from January -August; (SEVEN 1-year terms). The Committee plans and conducts the Fourth of July fireworks and activities.
- **Volunteers Green & Browns Court Project Committee** – Meetings TBD; (NO currently available OPEN-ENDED terms). Collects public feedback and provides recommendations to the Selectboard for projects to pursue at Volunteers Green, Browns Court and the Round Church Green.
- **Committee to Explore Path Funding** – Meetings TBD; (THREE 1-year terms). Explore funding options for a recreation path from the Village to Riverview Commons.

*Other Volunteer Openings:

- Richmond Health Officer: 1 opening for 3-year term
- Deputy Town Health Officer: 1 opening for 3-year term
- Service Officer: 1 opening for a 1-year term
- Animal Control Officer: 1 opening for a 1-year term
- Emergency Management Director: 1 opening for a 1-year term
- Energy Coordinator: 1 opening for a 1-year term
- Tree Warden: 1, 1-year term and 1 Deputy for a 1-year term
- Town Fence Viewer: 2 openings each for a 1-year term
- Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood: 1 opening for a 1-year term
- Weigher of Coal: Multiple openings each for a 1-year term
- Richmond Rescue Board of Directors-Liaison/Representative: 1 opening for a 1-year term
- Chittenden Solid Waste District: 1 opening for Alternate 2-year term
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors: 1 opening for 2-year term
- Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors: 1 opening for Alternate 2-year term
- Delinquent Tax Collector: 1 opening for a 1-year term
- Chittenden Unit for Special Investigations Policy Board: 1 opening for a 1-year term

Applications may be viewed/downloaded at <https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/vacancies-committees-commissions>

Let's Learn!

Coming Programs

- 2/26

Crossings: Bridges in VT
Robert McCullough
- 3/5

Farming in VT 100 years Ago
Dona Brown
- 3/12

Earth to Earth- The Lost Art of Dying
VT Forest Cemetery, J. Hogle, M. Acciavatti

**CHECK our ACTIVITY SCHEDULE
in the CSC NEWSLETTER EVERY WEEK**

*3/20 Join Us at Friday
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You're Why We're Here.



**Community
Senior Center**

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

It's a Strange World After All

"If you're going through hell, keep going."
— Winston Churchill 1874-1965

It's a strange world. The once leader of the free world has been described as a megalomaniac. Global trust has been eroded. Countries wonder what the heck is going on when the United States declares it will take ownership of free countries and independent territories. We expect our leaders to recognize reality and not declare that global warming is a "con job." We are dismayed at the exploitation of race and class division.

We want leaders who serve the interests of the majority of our citizens. We expect them to adhere to the oaths they take when agreeing to serve our nation. And we want to believe they want what is best for our country. Sadly, it seems our wants and expectations are delusional. Instead, we see corruption, greed, lies and exploitation.

Our allies, if we still have any, and other countries are stunned that the country that was once the leader of the free world seems to have lost its mind.

For example, it's crazy that on the national scene we have a former environmental attorney with no medical experience who doesn't believe in the science of vaccines running Health and Human

Services. This is more than irresponsible. Before the polio vaccine, my cousin Billie got polio, and when all the rest of us kids could run and play, Billie would try valiantly to keep up with us on his little crutches. Most of America's older generation can probably recall similar stories from their youth. Many of us got measles and polio vaccines and other important immunizations once they were available, and we are glad for the advances in science.

Something has gone wrong. There's an irrationality that has taken over and we have succumbed to accepting lies and beliefs that don't make sense. It's as if people need to close their eyes and ears so as to be able to carry on. And there's a price to pay for this. For one thing many people may get sick, and even die, if they don't get good preventive medical care. What has happened to basic humanity and caring for each other?

It is obvious we are now suffering under a culture of vengeance, retaliation, and intolerance. Of great concern to many is the violation of our laws and of the rights and freedoms that are guaranteed in the Constitution. We see this in violent ICE raids targeting immigrants and their families. Our Constitution is not just a collection of laws, it is a framework for a country. It is part and parcel of the American culture. It has provided us with the standards of conduct since 1787. It is beyond time for our leaders and institutions to rein in this madness in.

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Our Programs

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- legal advocacy
- education + outreach
- support groups
- family program

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