



The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 41 **February 2024 Issue** Number 1

Yet, Again! And More

The floods came back to Richmond on December 19. For the third time in the calendar year 2023, the Winooski River, which travels through Richmond and Jonesville, rose over its banks flooding the low-lying areas, wreaking havoc on the newly restored - after the two floods in July - Volunteers Green gateway and fields. While still a major flood, it did not reach the levels on 2011 and other recent floods, but the damage was still there for some and almost all roads into Richmond were closed. The MMUUSD Schools, serving Richmond and Huntington, were closed. As it turns out, Snow Days now are really Extreme Weather Days.



Richmond photographer Jared Katz spent the day on the edge of the climbing waters in the park in Richmond village on December 19. He captured the steady collapse of the newly repaired sign and flag base, which was necessitated by the July flood, and the height of the water that reached the top of the ladder on the slide (right side of photo) cresting near the top of the hill where the bandstand is located.

Read Bob Low's annual
weather update on page 10.

Huntington Selectboard Passes Updates on Regs

Huntington's Land Use Regulations (LUR) were approved by the voters on March 7, 2023. Almost 10 years in the making, the document presents three documents (Zoning, Subdivision and Flood Hazard Regulations) in one encompassing bylaws.

The LUR is drafted by the Planning Commission to implement the goals of the Town Plan, also drafted by the Commission in its statutory role.

Shortly after the LUR took effect, Zoning Administrative Officer (ZAO) Yves Gonnet informed the Planning Commission that new legislation from Montpelier necessitated revisions to the document. And, language in the Natural Resources section was written in a way that could overwhelm the Development Review Board (DRB) with minor projects that had previously been simply handled by a permit from the ZAO.

The new LUR immediately had to undergo revisions. The section on Accessory Dwelling Units, although more liberal than the town's previous regulations, did not align with the new Vermont statute, and the section on Natural Resources had areas that created hardship on property owners, as an unforeseen consequence of specific

The new LUR immediately had to undergo revisions. The section on Accessory Dwelling Units, although more liberal than the town's previous regulations, did not align with the new Vermont statute, and the section on Natural Resources had areas that created hardship on property owners, as an unforeseen consequence of specific

continue to page 17



Hurricane force gusts of wind had a major impact on properties. Although the winds were predicted, it was hard for Charlotte Moultroup to prepare for having the roof blow off her house on January 13. At 10 am, the crew of family and friend started clean up and repairs. By 1:30 pm, the new plywood sheeting was on the house and the metal roof then replaced. Grandson (and photographer) Luke Moultroup said that about 30 volunteers worked to get the roof replaced and the house weather tight.



The residents of Richmond and Huntington are now dealing with high wind damage. Crashing trees, flying debris and downed powerlines made most roads impassable in early January. While some areas of Richmond and Huntington had minor damage, other residents endured a loss of power for almost a week, had a teasing return, and then loss again. One Richmond contributor to this paper related that she had just had power restored entirely after almost two weeks. It was a different kind of clean up, requiring the professionals: road crews, utility crews and all with chainsaws and heavy equipment — and much kind support from neighbors and friends.

Richmond to Vote on
Town Center Renovation
Learn more on page 11

In this
Issue

Libraries, pp.4 & 5 • Selectboards, pp. 6 & 7
Schools, p. 8 • Honors, p. 9

POSTAL PATRON

PRSTD STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VT 05477
Permit #25

Write to Us!

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



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

The Times Ink! is published monthly by The Richmond Times, Inc., a non-profit educational corporation. It is wholly supported by paid advertising and subscriptions. It is mailed free to all 3075 post office boxes and households of Richmond & Huntington, and the Bolton Access Road.

Heidi Racht, Editor, 802-434-2690
news@timesinkvt.org

Meg Gross Northrop, Advertising
802-238-0198 • advertising@timesinkvt.org

Gina Haddock, Business Editor
802-922-6380 • ginahaddock@gmavt.net

LJ Kopf, Cartoon

Meg Gross Northrop, Distribution

Reporters: Diane Wester, Mark Aiken, Paul Susen

Regular Columns: Demaris Tisdale

Photographers: Jared Katz, Pennie Rand, Heidi Racht, Robert Low, John Hadden, Gina Haddock

Contributors: Bob Low, Brad Elliott, Jared Katz, Katelyn B. Macrae, Patty Baumann, Brenda Waters, Ethan Tapper

Board of Directors: Paula Kelley, Diane Wester, Heidi Racht (treasurer/secretary), Peter Irion, Liz Low. Elected November 30, 2023.

**Deadline: February
Issue: January 25**

The Fine Print:

- Postage is paid at Richmond, Vermont 05477.
- The Richmond Times, Inc. is not responsible beyond the cost of advertising purchased for any typographical errors which may occur.
- Letters to the Editor must be signed upon submission. Letters do not reflect the views of THE TIMES and are solely the opinions of the individual writers.
- Submissions can be made electronically or to our PO Box. Electronic submissions are preferred.
- All political ads and ads intending to influence polling decisions must be accompanied by the name of the person responsible for managing the campaign's funds and the telephone number of a local contact person.
- All photographs, original artwork, and feature stories are copy-righted and may not be reproduced without the permission of the originator or the editor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 12 issues for \$20

Do you live outside Richmond or Huntington?
Do you want to keep up with The Times?
**Subscribe to THE TIMES INK! OF RICHMOND
& HUNTINGTON.**

Name _____

Street or Box No _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Mail check or money order to
The Times Ink!, PO Box 532, Richmond, VT 05477



Letters

Opinions & Other News

MMUUSD Tax Rate Explained

There have been noteworthy changes in how Vermont's public schools are funded and we want to provide you with important details so that you are well informed to vote on Town Meeting Day. Specifically, the Vermont Legislature passed Act 127 in 2022, the law takes effect in the 2024-25 (FY25) fiscal year and it significantly alters how Vermont schools are funded.

For school districts like MMUUSD, that are disadvantaged by the new law, the Legislature included a 5% tax rate cap to limit the impact on communities. The Legislature added this section to the law because they understood that some school districts would have to make devastating reductions that would cripple their ability to provide students with a quality education.

The 5% tax rate cap is a lifeline for our District and allows us to make substantial improvements to our aging buildings, grounds and infrastructure without changing the tax rate. This is a limited and notable opportunity that will have lasting positive effects for our District and decrease future bonding and borrowing needs.

Therefore, we have added \$5.67 million in building/facility upgrades and improvements to the 2024-25 budget.

It is important to note that with or without these investments, MMUUSD tax rate will be the same. In order for MMUUSD to get below the 5% tax rate cap, we would need to cut \$5.83 million from the proposed budget, in addition to removing the \$5.67 million for one-time facilities funding. This would make it impossible for us to meet students' needs, maintain and keep our facilities safe, adequately staff our schools, meet federal and state requirements and align with Vermont's Education Quality Standards.

The Board acknowledges that the proposed increase of 18.7% in the 2024-25 budget is considerably higher than previous budgets. However, we also recognize that the District has an opportunity to include non-recurring investments for our facilities that do not affect the tax rate. To provide some context, under the terms of Act 127, the MMUUSD tax rate will be the same if we have a 1.7% decrease or a 18.7% increase in the year-over-year total expenditures. Thus, we believe it is very important for MMUUSD to optimize this limited and once in a generation opportunity.

To view additional budget information, please visit our website at <https://budget.mmuusd.org>. Additionally, don't hesitate to contact one of us if you have questions or comments. You can find our contact information at <https://boardmembers.mmuusd.org>.

We extend our sincere appreciation for your support of MMUUSD students and the whole school community.

—MMUUSD School Board Members

Sleepy Hollow's Full Moon Ski Party

Sleepy Hollow invites Nordic neophytes, seasoned skate skiers, intrepid snowshoers, passionate romantics, curious families, and anyone else who likes a unique activity to traverse the moonlit forest at the Second Annual Full Moon Ski Party on Saturday, January 27, 5 pm to 9 pm.

This year's event will kick off at 5 pm with a free one-hour classic skiing lesson for all ages and skill levels. Participants are then free to ski on

Sleepy Hollow's trail system with a headlamp or on the 1K lighted loop without one. Live musicians will play in the nearby pavilion and in Molly's Meadow. Both sites will have bonfires burning, with hot chocolate, s'mores, and other snacks available.

New this year: Bivo and UnTapped have joined the fun as co-sponsors. Bivo is planting goodie-filled water bottles for skiers to find on the trails between Sleepy Hollow Inn and Butternut Cabin, and UnTapped will have a tent where skiers can fuel up with hot mapleaid and yummy samples. And to make things even more entertaining, a cash bar hosted by Bevo will be available in the pavilion, and the Taco Truck All Stars will have a food truck onsite.

"It's a great way to celebrate winter," says Sleepy Hollow co-owner Molly Peters. "Who wouldn't enjoy skiing in the woods under a full moon, listening to live music, eating, drinking, and sitting at a bonfire with friends and family?"

The cost of the event is \$20, which includes skiing, music, bonfire, snacks, and lesson. Those without season passes or punch passes at Sleepy Hollow or reciprocal passes need half-day passes, which are \$17, \$12 over 65, \$12 for kids, and free under 6. Rentals are available. BYOB is allowed. Tickets can be purchased at the event, but, Peters said, "We may sell out, so advance sales are encouraged."

For those who want to continue past 9 pm, eight rooms sleeping two to four people are available at the inn for \$175 to \$195. This is a rare opportunity since the inn is usually reserved for weddings. To find out more or book a room: (802) 434-2283 (866) 254-1524 (toll free) or info@skisleepyhollow.com

Girls on the Run Vermont Seeks Volunteer Coaches

Girls on the Run Vermont needs volunteer coaches. The program is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires students in third through eighth grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident. The ten-week program incorporates movement into its curriculum to empower participants to develop critical life skills, build confidence, cultivate positive connections with peers, manage their emotions, and stand up for themselves and others. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons. The spring season begins the week of March 18. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes and the program culminates with all teams participating in a noncompetitive, celebratory 5K event.

Girls on the Run Vermont (GOTRVT) provides training so volunteers have all of the tools needed to facilitate the season and to have a positive coaching experience. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check. GOTRVT welcomes high school students to volunteer as Junior Coaches. Information: www.gotrvt.org/coach for full details or email info@girlsontherunvermont.org. GOTRVT is celebrating 25 years in 2024 – a very special season for coaches to participate!

Participant registration opens on Wednesday, February 21, for Northern teams. Join us for a virtual Q&A session on Thursday, January 25, at 6:30 pm. More information about the program, registration, and virtual session on 1/25 can be found on the Girls on the Run Vermont's website: <https://www.gotrvt.org>.

continue to page 12



Snowshoe Ramble and Demo Days February 24 - 26

The Greater Richmond Rec Committee members are pleased to announce the first Snowshoe Ramble and Demo Days, during the February school vacation week. The Committee is hosting snowshoe demo events from 10am to noon on:

February 24: Richmond's Volunteers Green, co-hosted by the Senior Center and Recreation Committee.

February 25 at Huntington Community Forest, meet at the Brewster Pierce School.

February 26 at Bolton's Smilie School.

Each event will have a special activity planned to do with or without snowshoes. In Richmond's Volunteers Green, all are welcome to join. Some activities are geared towards grandparents and grandchildren.

During the event at the Huntington Community Forest, the Committee plans a walk to identify trees.

Bolton's Smilie School has trails and an ice rink, weather permitting, so you can bring skates too. Following the Bolton snowshoe event, Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper is offering a winter forest walk from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Regardless of the amount of snow, the events will go on, but the hope is for great snow!

The Rec Committee purchased snowshoes with a grant. The snowshoes are available for loan from the Richmond Free Library anytime this winter. If you have your own snowshoes, bring them so there is equipment available to those individuals without them. Remember to dress appropriately for the weather.

Sign up for this event <https://forms.gle/CwknWxdwMpKquN2Z9> to help the Rec Committee plan accordingly for the size of the group.

The Power of Perspective: A Shifting Point of View

How do we focus our creative "vision"? Consider the scope of an eagle's eye—the narrow view of a gleaning warbler—the shadowed sight of a loon underwater. We may see birds above us from the ground, or below us from a plane. We may use a camera lens to record from afar, or a magnifier and lamps to perceive what is normally unknown. How does time influence your perspective? What if we "zoom out" from one bird to a species, to an ecosystem, to a planet? What if we "zoom in" to one bird to its wing, to a feather, to a gene? How does your art reveal a point of view?

The Birds of Vermont Museum seeks art that speaks to both humans' and birds' perspectives and experiences. How might a change in perspective alter people's understanding of the lives and needs of the birds who share our world?

Inspired by the 1977 short movie, *THE POWERS OF TEN* (<https://youtu.be/0fKBhvDjuy0>).

Art in any media, by new or returning artists, of any age, may be submitted. Submit up to three (3) works using the online form at <https://tinyurl.com/bovm-art-2024>. Accepted are: .jpg (visual art); .mp3, .mp4 (music/video); .pdf or .txt (stories, poems) file types.

Include your name, email, town, and a brief description of each piece (type, media, when made).

Submissions by email: send files (same formats) to museum@birdsofvermont.org. Please put

SUBMISSION FOR PERSPECTIVE 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: Perspective art show.

Visual, written, and multi-media works will be considered. In addition to walls, the museum has shelves for smaller three-dimensional pieces, room outdoors for weather-impervious works, and some ceiling area. Working with Museum staff, studio or multi-media works may be submitted. You are welcome to visit to consider the potential.

Entries are due by Monday, March 18, 2024, 11:59 pm.

Works for a show at the Museum create a cohesive exhibit that illustrates the year's theme. Jurors will select pieces by early April and will let artists know soon after, by email. Accepted pieces should arrive at the Museum between April 7 and April 20 and be ready to hang or display.

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, 2024.

The Museum asks for permission to reproduce images of the selected works in print and online as part of publicity for the exhibit. Partial or cropped images, or have preferred images, can be supplied after acceptance.

Benedict Arnold: Frustrated American Hero?

In author Jack Kelly's words, "Most Americans know one thing about Benedict Arnold: He betrayed his country." Yet unknown to many, he was one of the Continental Army's most brilliant strategists and tacticians. Held in high esteem by George Washington, what led to Arnold's act of betrayal?

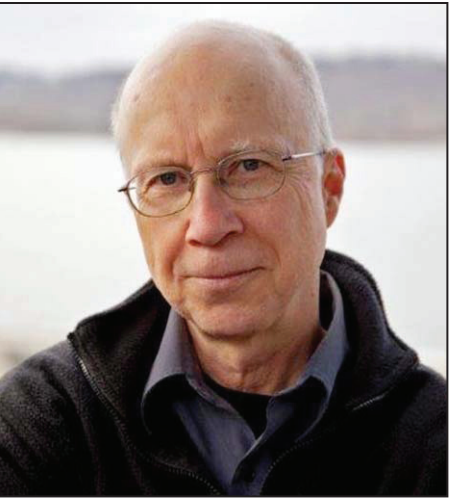
Kelly, author of *GOD SAVE BENEDICT ARNOLD*, provides detailed clarity on Arnold's life, brilliant military career and events that led to his

and the Continental Army's victory in the Battle of Saratoga, where he was wounded. He was also given command of the West Point fort by George Washington, who admired Arnold and was later heartbroken by the acts of the same man.

Despite his record, Benedict Arnold was repeatedly overlooked for promotions and had to stand down as others took and received credit for his successes. At one point, deep disappointment



Battle of Saratoga, where Arnold led a decisive victory against the British.



Jack Kelly, speaker and award-winning author of *God Save Benedict Arnold*.

treasonous act, in his on-line presentation hosted by the Community Senior Center on Thursday, February 1, at 1:30 pm.

The author and speaker provides vivid descriptions of Arnold's difficult march through the Maine wilderness en route to invade Quebec, and his leadership in several decisive battles. As Kelly explains, Arnold played a pivotal role in naval battles, the capture of Fort Ticonderoga,

and frustration led to his resigning his commission. Married into a British family, the bitter Arnold gravitated to Loyalist circles, and soon collaborated with British General John André on a plan to surrender West Point in return for what would be \$4 million today.

History shows that the plan was never executed. André was captured by American militiamen while carrying details of the surrender, exposing what Kelly calls Arnold's "grievous breach of faith." Arnold fled capture, joined the British army, and later settled and died in England.

Jack Kelly is a noted scholar, historian and award-winning novelist. One of his many critically acclaimed books, *VALCOUR: THE 1776 CAMPAIGN THAT SAVED THE CAUSE OF LIBERTY*, was the subject of a previous CSC-hosted presentation. A New York Foundation for the Arts fellow, Kelly has appeared on NPR, PBS, and The History Channel. He has written for national publications including the Wall Street Journal and American Heritage. Born in Western New York, he now lives and works in the Hudson Valley.

For the link to Kelly's on-line presentation on February 1 at 1:30, see the CSC's January 28 email newsletter, also available on the cscvt.org website, or contact jane@cscvt.org.

Joy Clark

Sun., Feb. 4 • 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Richmond Congregational Church



www.valleystage.net
802-434-4563



The Times Ink!

Your ad. This space. \$58.

Advertise with us!

Contact Meg Northrop at advertising@timesinkvt.org

Prepay? Save 5%.



**Physical Therapy Yoga
Pelvic Health**

**Empowering Individuals
Nourishing the Collective**

Serving humanity for over 20 years.

Accepting new clients looking to uncover and understand the root causes of their health issues.

Alison Aiken, PT, DPT, PYT • 191 E. Main St. Richmond Vermont
alison@potentmoonrising.com • www.potentmoonrising.com

**This year, do the thing that
you have always wanted to do.**

Meg Freebern

teaching piano to life-long learners
virtually and on Governor Peck in Richmond.
802-825-5818 • meg.freebern@gmail.com



**Forestry Mulching Services
for private and commercial projects**

Forestry mulching,
removal of invasive vegetation & more.
Please check out our website:
www.vtlandmaintenance.com

Brian Washburn
vtlandmaintenance@gmail.com
434-4533(voice only) • 802-373-1755 (cell)



**The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON**

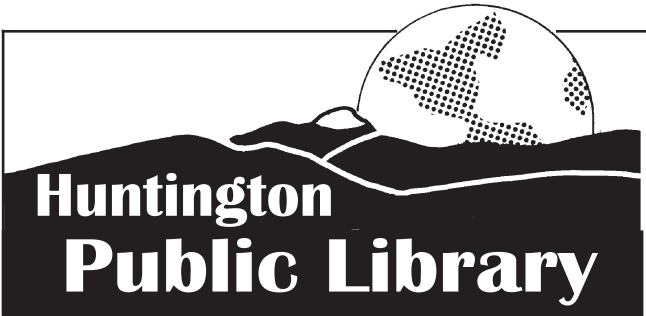
THE TIMES INK! OF RICHMOND AND HUNTINGTON publishes monthly and is mailed free to all households in the two towns and Bolton Access Road. In addition, it is mailed to over 50 paid subscribers and numerous local newspapers, legislators, and the UVM Library as a courtesy. About 150 additional copies are distributed to stores and other meeting places in the area.

2024 DATES:

January 11 deadline	January 21 issue
<u>Town Meeting Preview</u>	
February 8 deadline	February 22 issue
March 7 deadline	March 21 issue
April 11 deadline	April 25 issue
May 9 deadline	May 23 issue
June 13 deadline	June 27 issue
July 25 deadline	August 8 issue
August 29 deadline	September 15 issue
<u>Election Issue</u>	
October 10 deadline	October 24 issue
<u>Holiday Issues</u>	
November 7 deadline	November 21 issue
November 30 deadline	December 12 issue

**Meg Gross Northrop, advertising & billing
802-238-0198, advertising@timesinkvt.org**

**Heidi Racht, Graphic Designer & Editor
802-434-2690, news@timesinkvt.org**



**Huntington
Public Library**

www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

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

Terry Boyle: A Retrospective The exhibit represents a variety of watercolor paintings throughout January. Terry’s architectural and nature paintings kick off the winter series of Huntington Valley Arts at Night on Wednesday, January 24, at 6:30pm. Terry will generously donate 20 percent of all paintings sold in the January sale to be divided by the Huntington Valley Arts and the Library.

Thank You The Friends of HPL thank everyone who has supported our Annual Appeal. This is our most important fundraiser which allows us to support many programs at the Library all year. It’s not too late if you haven’t donated yet. Mail checks to Friends of HPL, PO Box 62, Huntington, or go to www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org and look for the donate button. Thank you for your support.

Baby Brunch The Friends will host the Library’s Annual Baby Brunch on Sunday, January 28 from 11 to 1 with a snow date of February 4. This annual event welcomes Huntington families with babies born in 2023. Parents can choose a picture book to be added to the Library’s collection in honor of their child. Refreshments will be served. Come meet other Huntington families with young children. Look for your invitation in the mail.

Story Time and Play Group Fridays, 9:15am-10:30am. Bring your little person ages 0 – 5 to listen to some books, sing songs, do a little crafting, and have some fun. All are welcome.

Drop-in Knitting/Crafting Nights Thursdays, February 1, 15, and 29, 6 pm to 8 pm. Bring whatever project you are working on to the Library and meet some fellow crafters and be inspired. Make sure to bring your favorite mug and be ready to make some new friends. All are welcome.

Afterschool Lego Club All Fridays in January and all Fridays in February, 2:30 pm to 4:45 pm (ish) Games and drawing supplies will be available for anyone who would needs a break from LEGOs. A light snack will be provided.

Afternoon Family Movie Join your friends and neighbors for a matinee on Friday, March 1, at 2 pm. Families and children are invited to watch ENCANTO. Bring your friends and something cozy to snuggle with and we will pop the popcorn.

Family Drop-in Play Group Saturdays, February 10, and March 9, 9 am to noon. Come meet other families with small children in a supportive setting. The Library will be open to mull around, browse, and even check out material, children can play with toys and an easy seasonal craft will be out. Coffee and tea, plus a small snack will be provided. Please contact Stacey for more information or to sign up to bring a snack.

Save the Dates Sunday, March 3, at 2 pm While we eagerly wait for the upcoming solar eclipse, the Richmond Free Library and the Huntington Public Library will have three educational programs with NASASolar System Ambassador Bridget Kimsey.

February 3 at 11 am in Richmond Where Are We? Staycation in Space. Use NASA’s Eyes to look at space in real time, visit Neptune and take a spin in the Milky Way.

March 3 at 2 pm in Huntington What’s Out There? Travel the Universe. Explore the

universe beyond our solar system, including fascinating phenomena like star death, black holes and more. This program includes activities for all ages.

March 23 at 11 am in Richmond Eclipse 101 - Are You Ready? Learn about the upcoming total solar eclipse on April 8 and the different ways to safely view it. Plus pick up free eclipse viewing glasses.

Free events, all ages welcome.

Book Group Saturday, January 27, at 10 am. The next book is Sherman Alexi’s THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART TIME INDIAN. Coffee and tea will be available. Everyone is welcome.

New Adult Fiction MURDER IN PROTOCOL and MURDER IN UNSOUND MIND by Anne Cleeland; THE WESTERN STAR by Craig Johnson; THE PEACOCK AND THE SPARROW by I.S. Berry; LOOT by Tana James; THE FROZEN RIVER by Ariel Lawhon; THE STARFISH SISTERS by Barbara O’Neal; APEIRGON by Colum McCann; A SOLITUDE OF WOLVERINES by Alice Henderson; SO LATE IN THE DAY by Claire Keegan; A COUNCIL OF DOLLS by Mona Susan Power; FOURTH WING AND IRON FLAME by Rebecca Yaroso; THE WILDEST SUN by Asha Lemmie.

Adult Nonfiction RESTORING OLD-GROWTH CHARACTERISTICS TO NEW ENGLAND’S AND NEW YORK’S FORESTS, a booklet by Anthony D’Amato and Paul Catanzaro; WHAT REMAINS? - LIFE, DEATH, RITUAL AND THE HUMAN ART OF UNDERTAKING by Rupert Callender; THE BLACK ANGELS - THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE NURSES WHO HELPED CURE TUBERCULOSIS by Maria Similios; WHAT AN OWL KNOWS by Jennifer Ackerman; ALTERNATIVE BAKER - INVENTING DESSERT WITH GLUTEN-FREE GRAINS AND FLOURS by Alanna Taylor-Tobin; HOW THE WORD IS PASSED - A RECKONING WITH THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY ACROSS AMERICA by Clint Smith; HIDDEN HISTORY OF VERMONT by Mark Bushnell; NO ONE CARES ABOUT CRAZY PEOPLE - MY FAMILY AND THE HEARTBREAK OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN AMERICA by Ron Powers; UNBROKEN - MY FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL, HOPE AND JUSTICE FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS by Angela Sterritt.

Picture Books VLAD, THE FABULOUS VAMPIRE by Flavia Z. Drago; PANDO - A LIVING WONDER OF TREES by Kate Allen Fox; THE CHRISTMAS BARN by John and Jennifer Churchman; BOBBY BLUE by Melinda Moulton; THE SHORTEST DAY by Susan Cooper; BOYS DON’T FRY by Kimberely Lee.

Juvenile Fiction FOXCRAFT SERIES, Books 1, 2, 3 by Inbali Iserles; THE UNICORN RESCUE SOCIETY - Books 1, 2, 3 by Adam Gidwitz.

Juvenile Graphic Novels THE BAD GUYS - LOOK WHO’S TALKING by Aaron Blabey; HI’IAKA AND PANAWEA - A HAWAIIAN GRAPHIC LEGEND by Gabrielle Ahuli’i; PIZZA AND TACO - Books 1, 2, 3 by Stephen Shaskan; THE BAD GUYS IN LOOK WHO’S TALKING by Aaron Blabey; ADVENTURES IN CARTOONING - CREATE A WORLD by James Sturm, et al; THE OKAY WITCH by Emma Steinkellner.

Juvenile Nonfiction NEXT TIME YOU SEE A CLOUD by Emily Morgan; CANADA YEAR BY YEAR by Elizabeth MacLeod; BUILT BY ANIMALS - MEET THE CREATURES WHO INSPIRE OUR HOMES AND CITIES by Christiane Dorion; KALEIDOSCOPE OF DINOSAURS AND PREHISTORIC LIFE - THEIR COL-



Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org
library@richmondvt.gov

Open to the
Public.
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
10 - 5
Wednesday 10 - 8
Saturday 10 - 2
Call for Porch
Pick Up
434-3036

Woof! What's the Dog Saying? Dog Behavior Workshop Learn what your dog is telling you in this fun, interactive workshop from Deb Helfrich at Gold Star Dog Training. Demystify dog communication, reveal some common dog-human misunderstandings, and explore how we can all live safely and happily together. No registration is required. Do not bring your dog. Thanks! Join us on January 27 at 11 am.

Staycation in Space NASA Solar System Ambassador Bridget Kimsey will be at the Library on February 3 at 11 am for the first in a series of three interactive space programs as we explore our universe and get ready for the big 2024 Total Solar Eclipse. Staycation in Space focuses on our solar system and includes live visuals from NASA's Eyes and fun take-home activities. The second program will be March 3 at the Huntington Public Library and the third on March 23 at Richmond Free Library. Programs include activities for kids, teens and adults. No registration necessary.

Vermont Reads RFL joins libraries and community groups around Vermont in a big community discussion of *LAST NIGHT AT THE TELEGRAPH CLUB*, by Malinda Lo. The book is suited for teens and adults and focuses on a Chinese American older teen coming of age in 1950s San Francisco. Copies of the book are available to take home (to keep or to borrow) now. Facilitated book discussion is March 13, with a free swing dancing lesson on April 5 and community art with Radiate Art Space later in April. Join us as we explore themes of Chinese American immigrant experience, McCarthyism, and queerness in mid-century America.

The Great Puzzle Challenge Make a team of up to three or four people and compete to see who can assemble their fun 500-piece jigsaw puzzle fastest! February 24 at 11 am. Register in advance.

MMCTV Video Workshop for Middle School Students We are working with local community media center MMCTV to offer the ninth annual video workshop for middle school students during the February school vacation. This year the theme will be *IT HAPPENED AT THE LIBRARY*. We will imagine plausible and fanciful scenes set in the Library and produce short videos using a variety of filming techniques. Students ages 10 - 14 are invited to register for this free workshop offering hands-on filming and editing experience. Time will be split between the Library and the television studio on February 26 and 27 from 9 - 12. Space is limited so be sure to sign up soon by calling or emailing the Library.

Cookbook Club Cookbook Club meets monthly on second Saturdays at noon. On February 10, the group will be discussing recipes and eating the food from *Ethiopia*, by Yohanis Gebreyesus. Space is limited and registration is required. Email Suzanne at skrohn@richmondvt.gov for information.

AARP Volunteer Tax Preparers Volunteers working with AARP are meeting with seniors to prepare tax returns in the library community room on Tuesday mornings, February 6 - April 9. Call the Library to schedule an appointment.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on February 13 at 6 pm to discuss *SUCH A FUN AGE*, by Kiley Reid. Contact Gwen Landis (434-5012; gwennie1972@yahoo.com) for information on joining this group.

Mystery Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on February 15 at 7 pm to discuss *MAN*

IN THE QUEUE (Alan Grant, #1), by Josephine Tey. Contact Maureen Parent (434-2055, msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions.

Climate Action Book Discussion: *THE HEAT WILL KILL YOU FIRST* Richmond Free Library and Richmond Climate Action Committee invite you to read and discuss *THE HEAT WILL KILL YOU FIRST: LIFE AND DEATH ON A SCORCHED PLANET*, by Jeff Goodell. This book focuses on the global impacts of heat and offers advice on how we as individuals and communities can adapt. Books are available now. Discussion is February 21 at 4 pm.

Children's Art from Ukraine On loan from The Fermata Arts Foundation in Avon, Connecticut, we will be displaying sixteen drawings done by students of the Vasylykivskyi Children's Art School in Izyum, Kharkiv region, Ukraine. Ranging in age from 9 to 14, students created a piece in support of Fermata's mission of promoting peace through arts and culture.

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

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

Baby Laptime This short, active story time is for our youngest little book lovers and their grownups. We'll look at picture books, sing simple songs, do some rhyming and bouncing and sometimes get out the shakers and scarves. This program is designed for infants and early toddlers. Mondays at 10:30 am.

Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime) Join native Spanish speakers, Chichi and Eva for thirty minutes of picture book stories and rhymes: great introduction to Spanish for young children and a nice way for parents of older children placed in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language. Join us in the Community Room at 10:30 am on the third Saturday of every month, September through May.

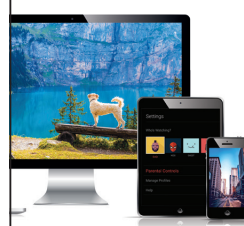
Seeking Artists and Collectors We are currently scheduling art shows for our walls and display case in 2024. If you have framed pieces (art, photography) and would like to schedule a show, contact us to choose your month. No professional experience is necessary, just a willingness to share your talent. 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 that you would be willing to share, we would love to hear from you. Call or email the library.

Snowshoes to Lend Patrons with valid library cards from Richmond OR Huntington may now borrow snowshoes at the Richmond Free Library 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.

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



Support our local businesses!
Buy our products at Beaudry's,
Richmond Market and Lantmans.



Looking for a Better
TV Experience?

Try New **GMA Video**
FREE for 30 Days!

GMA Video is a fully-featured, streaming TV service that's a complete replacement for traditional cable or satellite television. You'll enjoy:

- ▶ FREE HD Channels, Cloud DVR, Restart TV, and Replay TV
- ▶ Your favorite local broadcast channels and cable networks
- ▶ Personalized viewing recommendations
- ▶ Easy self-installation and no contracts
- ▶ Best value — packages starting as low as \$45.25 per month

**GREEN
MOUNTAIN
ACCESS**

802-496-3391
www.greenmountainaccess.net

Call 802-496-3391
Now for This FREE Offer.

GMA Video is available to Green Mountain Access high-speed internet customers only. Requires internet speeds of a minimum of 10 Mbps. After first month, monthly service charges will apply unless customer returns equipment and cancels service. Additional terms and conditions apply.

Commerce Group © 2022

Have you heard about the proposed Town Center Renovation Plan?

Join us to learn more before the March 5, 2024 Vote



There will be an article on the Town Meeting Warning authorizing the Town to borrow up to \$9.8 million to address the Town Center's many deficiencies. The Town Center and Library Committee is committed to informing Richmond voters about the Town Center Project in as many ways as we can. We hope people will take advantage of the opportunities below to learn more about the project and to ask the committee questions.

In 2018, the Town Center & Library Building Committee was charged with developing a plan for the Town Center building and site to address long-standing and worsening building deficiencies and resolve health & safety concerns for employees. The plan will create a functional, energy-efficient, flood resilient interior space within the restored, structurally-sound historic shell that will continue to serve Richmond for the next 100 years. Below are past and future opportunities to learn more.

Join us for building tours, presentations of the plan and budget, and Q&A sessions with members of the Committee:

Fri., Jan. 5 -- 5:30-7 p.m. -- Friday Food Affair table
Sun., Jan. 14 -- 2-3 p.m. -- Presentation & Building Tour
Fri., Jan. 19 -- 5:30-7 p.m. -- Friday Food Affair table
Mon. Jan. 22 -- 7-8:30 p.m. -- Presentation & Building Tour
Thurs., Feb. 1 -- 7-8:30 p.m. -- Presentation & Building Tour
Mon., Feb. 26 -- 7 p.m. -- Presentation as part of Budget presentation
Tues., March 5 -- 9 a.m. -- Table at Town Meeting

For more information go to <https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/town-center-and-library-buildings-committee>

In addition, the committee will post frequently on Front Porch Forum over the next two months in an attempt to answer questions about the project. If you have specific questions you would like answered or if you would like to schedule a tour of the building yourself with some friends or neighbors, please feel free to contact Jeff Forward at forward@gmavt.net or 802-735-3026. Our intent is to explain what we have learned and to answer as many questions about the proposed project as we can.

Town Center and Library Committee

Jeff Forward, Chair
Josh Arneson
Laurie Dana

Dave Healy
Jake Marin
Amy Wardwell

Thank you for your business!

Lawnmowers & Tillers
Chainsaws sharpened

Young's Small Engine Repair

REPAIR & SERVICE OF ALL SMALL ENGINES

Serving the area for over 20 years!

Jim Young
434-3993

3147 Dugway Road, Richmond





Open by appointment only

We are excited to announce that we are now offering a line of high quality supplements, nutritional products, probiotics and skincare for the whole family. Call or email for more information.

www.advancedwellnessvt.com
Advancedwellnessvt@gmail.com • Ph: 802-857-8423



Greetings from

Resting Lion Studio

Supporting small businesses and musicians in Huntington & Richmond since 1990.

802.434.4760 • john@restinglion.com

TAX NOTICE

Town of Richmond

Third Quarter 2023-2024 tax payment due
Thursday, February 15, 2024.

The Town Office is open to the public on February 15, 8 am to 4 pm.
Postmark of February 15 will be accepted.
Online bank checks do not have a postmark, so plan accordingly to get them to the office by February 15.
A late fee of 1% interest will be applied to late payments on February 16.

There is a TOWN CENTER DROP BOX located by the side door across from the post office entrance.

Town of Huntington

Third Quarter 2023-2024 tax payment due
Thursday, February 15, 2024.

**The office will be open: Monday, February 12, 8 am to 7 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday, February 13 & 14, 8 am to 3 pm
Thursday, February 15, 8 am to 4 pm**

USPS Postmarks on or before February 15th are accepted.
Payments placed through the town office mail slot are accepted up until midnight on February 15th.
Internet-generated checks do not generally have postmarks and MUST arrive on or before February 15th.

In office payments are accepted by check or cash only.
Late payments are subject to a monthly 1% interest charge as of February 16th.

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Mark Aiken

The Richmond Selectboard kicked off the new year with a meeting on the second day of 2024.

Richmond resident Mary Houle kicked off the first public comment period of the new year with a report on damage to the planters at Volunteer Green. Selectboard chair Jay Furr then welcomed the first Richmond baby – Wyatt Patrick Thomas Murray – born in 2024. Selectboard vice chair Bard Hill wondered who is responsible for gravel and other debris that winds up on someone’s property as a result of flooding, and Furr responded that this is probably a good agenda item for an upcoming meeting.

Update on Narcan at the Town Center In the event Richmond Rescue isn’t available or is on a call, the overdose-reversing drug Narcan is available at the Town Center. Town staff were trained on its use – both in the injection and nasal spray forms. Our Town Center is equipped with twenty-five Narcan kit bags.

Use of ARPA Funds for Sidewalk Repair “I’ve heard people refer to this kind of thing as ‘bureaucrat-ese,’” said Board chair Furr as he introduced the next item. “But it’s important: it refers to the use of ARPA funds for the sidewalk on the northern portion of the sidewalk on the eastern side of Bridge Street.”

Furr explained that when the town surveyed residents as to how they wanted to see the town’s ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding used, a large percentage indicated they wanted the funds to support pedestrian and traffic safety. There has already been ARPA funding allocated for sidewalks; this discussion, however, focused on a project that was already approved but that – due to an oversight – the final dollar amount of the project (\$256,000) fell \$49,000 short because it failed to account for final design costs. Unrelated to the sidewalk, there is currently \$450,000 of ARPA funds being held in reserve for projects relating to Volunteer Green, Brown’s Court, and the Round Church green spaces. After a discussion, selectboard members voted unanimously to shift some of the moneys from that reserve to cover the shortfall in the Bridge Street sidewalk project.

Flood Topics Town Manager Josh Arneson updated the Selectboard regarding a walk to several sites in town he took with a representative of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Despite hopes that all or some of the sites might qualify for emergency repair funds, none qualified.

After that report, the Board moved on to discuss the December 18-19 flooding and repairs. Damages from the event did not reach the scale of

the damages in the July flooding and did not qualify for FEMA emergency reimbursements. Damages included a mudslide on Kenyon Road, ruined culverts on Stage Road, erosion to roadsides, the falling over of the flagpole in front of the Town Center, water in the crawlspace under the Post Office, and a dented sewer line under the Bridge Street bridge, among others. Furr reported that the Richmond Wastewater Treatment plant, which usually processes 60,000 to 70,000 gallons of water on a regular day, processed 1,173,000 gallons by 3 pm on December 18.

The Board then voted to waive any permitting fees relating to construction that had to occur as a result of damages from flooding during the weather events on December 18 and 19.

Discussion of Brown’s Court This topic centers around whether it would be feasible for any portion of the park at Brown’s Court to be used for affordable housing. Many residents and Board members weighed in, some calling on the Board to commit to not using the space for housing. Others – while not necessarily supporting using this particular space for housing – echoed the now widely accepted sentiment that there is a lack of affordable housing statewide.

The discussion digressed in the direction of possible uses for ARPA funding at Brown’s Court (including putting a playground there since the playground at Volunteer Green was flooded twice in the last eight months), and the possibility of a housing summit – that is, a study to look at housing needs, possible locations, and other related topics – was raised. It is the opinion of this reporter that the topic will most certainly be raised at future selectboard meetings, on social media, and in this column!

Andrews Town Forest Committee Business After this, Selectboard members and members of the Andrews Community Forest Committee discussed best ways for the Andrews Committee to conduct its business while still falling in compliance with its mission, town structure, and Open Meeting Laws. It became apparent that the Andrews Committee is no different in this area than other town committees and subcommittees and the discussion broadened to considerations that all such groups must make as they conduct their business.

In Other Business Selectboard members had some discussion about authorizing town attorneys to enter an appearance on the town’s behalf in the appeals of the Development Review Board’s approval of the Hillview Heights final subdivision application and did so. They appointed Richmond resident Wright Preston to an at-large seat on the Andrews Community Forest committee; and appointed Ian Bender to a vacant spot on the Planning Commission.

The Board discussed a ballot item at Town Meeting that would relate to renovations to the Town Center; some minor amendments to the town budget to be presented to residents at Town Meeting; reviewed the wording of the warning to be posted letting everyone know about Town Meeting; and reviewed the monthly planning and zoning update from the Planning Commission. Then they approved any minutes, purchase orders, and warrants, and – at 10:40 pm – adjourned the meeting.



Shop Locally.
Support Our Advertisers.

Gifford

Funeral Home
& Cremation Services

Roger A. St. Hilaire Jr.

Manager / Funeral Director

802-434-2231 • 22 Depot St • Richmond 05477

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Paul Susen

The Huntington Selectboard met on December 4, 11, 15, 18 and 27. The Selectboard continued to develop the proposed 2024-2025 General Fund and Capital Plan budgets, including the use of American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) monies; reviewed the proposed 2024-2025 office and department budgets; planned for the March 2024 Town Meeting, discussed the potential Lower Village wastewater project and associated placeholder application; examined the idea of possible expansion for the town office complex; supported a grant application from the town of Richmond to the state for playground improvements; authorized the animal control contract; and received public comment.

In terms of the working budget for 2024-2025, the year-over-year increase stands at 4.9%. The Selectboard will prioritize needs over wants. Funding streams were identified for a one-ton truck (ARPA) and the town hall boiler (reserves). It was agreed that transition support for the highway department and the reserve fund for property reappraisal would be reviewed. Proposed salary ranges effective for the 2024-2025 budget were marked up for the new Town Administrator, the special projects consultant, the Highway Foreman, the highway consultant, and two CDL qualified drivers.

The Town Treasurer presented a financial version of the Capital Plan, which maintained debt service under the 13% established threshold and addressed fluctuations in the tax rate. As to the use of the loans versus bonds, the heuristic is that loans are initiated under \$500,000 and bonds are utilized over \$500,000. The Selectboard agreed to the capital financials and the plan was transmitted to the Town Auditors.

The Huntington Fire Department has proposed a 0.8% decrease in their year-over-year budget for 2024-2025. Huntington First Response reported that four members of the emergency team have moved forward on professional credentials, reaching or close to achieving certification or advanced certification. Richmond Rescue proposed level funding of \$14 per capita for 2024-2025. They assisted 69 Huntington residents in 2023 and their average time from call to arrival was 19 minutes. They have added a full-time employee.

The Energy Committee reported that it plans to use a \$4000 Municipal Energy Resiliency Program grant for technical assistance for the Town Hall heating system. On an unrelated note, the Selectboard expressed reservations regarding the free energy audit program, as to whether the assistance should be limited to low-income families.

The Library Trustees submitted an initial budget and then a revised budget based on continued analysis and feedback. These budgets address needs for increased librarian hours, a printer for use by patrons and books.

Vice Chair of the Board Landel Cochran proposed purchase of an OWL video-conferencing system which would provide the technical interface for hybrid Zoom and in-person meetings.

The Selectboard had one question regarding the Town Clerk's budget for 2024-2025, that being whether there would be a proposed increase for the Assistant Town Clerk. The recently released benefits consistency report could affect office budgets. After the initial meeting when this budget was discussed, the Town Clerk recommended that the salary of the Assistant Town Clerk be addressed. There were no reported issues with the budget of the Town Treasurer except for the continued concern regarding salary equity.

There are budgetary questions regarding unspent monies in the Recreation fund and a lack of a business plan for the Old Fire Station. The Howard Family Center submitted a budget request which missed the deadline. The Selectboard declined to incorporate that proposal into the 2024-2025 budget discussion.

The Selectboard worked towards finalizing the warning and narrative for the March 2024 Town Meeting. The same question occurred this year as in the past regarding the inclusion of advisory articles for which state law already grants the Selectboard authority. The particular instance this year surrounds the continuing unresolved matter of how to process changes in Land Use Regulations, some of which can be argued to be mainly technical adjustments and others may appear to cover a broad policy. In past meetings, the need to come to grips with a process became a goal. Public comments will be requested at the January 15, 2024 public hearing on the modification of land use regulations.

Lower Village Wastewater The Selectboard continues to look at the process and implications of creating a wastewater project in the Lower Village. Archeological data will be available to the Selectboard in the summer of 2024. This evidence will shine light on whether the project can be housed at the preferred site. The Selectboard agreed to submit a so-called placeholder application because that document would maintain the Town of Huntington its position in line for possible funding in the future should it be determined that the town should proceed to the next step in the long and complex process. Questions still need to be resolved, including whether options exist around creating a wastewater district within the existing municipality or as an independent district; and what the property tax implications would be for people in Huntington who would not benefit directly from the specified project. A member of the community in public comment continues to express concerns regarding the process and implications and has requested numerous times to hold up planning until the affected community can truly understand what is at stake. The Selectboard has reiterated that to date the work has been around studying feasibility and possibilities, not the implementation of a decided-upon project.

Town Office Renovations/Expansion In the past, there has been talk about whether the town office complex should be expanded. With possible ARPA funding available, the question was addressed again. According to the Town Zoning Officer, the maximum square footage for any expansion would exceed the allowable limits and as such would need to be reviewed by the Selectboard and planning organizations.

Richmond Grant Support The Selectboard endorsed the request from the Town of Richmond to the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation to improve the Volunteers Green playground. A letter of support for the grant application was drafted, revised and then agreed to.

Animal Control Contract After review, the Selectboard authorized the Town Administrator to sign the 2024 Humane Society Animal Control Intake Contract. The contract defines the responsibilities of the town and the humane society as to stray domestic animals.

Rain Storm Drainage Issue Under public comment, a resident offered the Selectboard the opportunity to review a video taken during a recent rain-storm which was stated to visibly demonstrate the water draining issue at Raven Ridge. The Selectboard agreed to review the video.

Trusted advisors
to help you plan
for a life you love.

Financial Planning
Wealth Management
Protection Products

PFA Professional Financial
Associates, LLC

802.865.4067 PFAVT.com

PFA advisors are registered representatives of and offer securities, investment advisory and financial planning services through MML Investors Services, LLC. Member SIPC. Professional Financial Associates, LLC is not a subsidiary or affiliate of MML Investors Services, LLC, or its affiliated companies. 200 Clarendon Street, 19th & 25th Floors. Boston, MA 02116. 617-585-4500. CRN202408-602394





Christian Arthur Photography

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski & Bike Center
Huntington, Vermont
www.skisleepyhollow.com • (802) 434-2283



How Are You Coping with Winter?

The store is open with
curbside pick up, phone
orders and delivery options.



**Snow Shovels
Roof Rakes
Weatherization
Sand & Salt**



Richmond Home Supply
99 Railroad Street • Richmond
434-2887

MON-FRI 7-5:30 • SAT 8-4:30 • SUN 8:30-1:30

BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
True Value



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

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

"A Place to Belong, to Believe, to Become..."

Reverend Fred Little Jr, Pastor

4910 Main Road, Huntington Center
www.communitychurchofhuntington.org

Your Local Realtor!

**BOLTON
BOLTON VALLEY
HINESBURG
HUNTINGTON
JERICHO
JONESVILLE
RICHMOND
STARKSBORO
& More**

**Affordable & Unique
Country & Village Properties**



Re/Max North
Professionals

Linda St. Amour
*Specializing in this area
for over 25 years.*

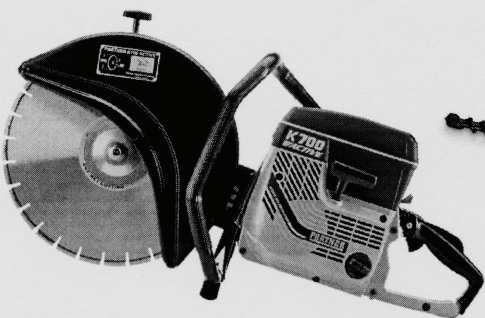
434-2450

777-6244 cell

lstamour@gmavt.net



**When there's room
for improvement,
but not the equipment.**



Pavement breakers. Concrete saws. Rotary hammers. Get your project started with professional-quality tools and expert, local advice.

**Just Ask
RENTAL**

MON-FRI 7-5:30 • SAT 8-4:30 • SUN 8:30-1:30

Richmond Home Supply
99 Railroad Street • Richmond
434-2887

**BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
True Value.**

MMUUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

**School Board Meetings December 18, 2023
& January 8, 2024**

The Budget is as Completely Predictable as the Weather. Act 147 is now the law of the land. Districts with more ELL students, and in the lower socio-economic strata will have been "advantaged" with a larger share of the share of the education pot of money in Montpelier because these students costs more money to educate.

Some districts, like MMUUSD, will be "disadvantaged" and pay a far greater share of the education revenue to enable this, an over 18% increase in property taxes – however this increase is so steep the state has capped annual increases to 5% per year for these "disadvantaged" districts in the next few years. Richmond representative Alison Conant complained that the "black box" lack of accountability is "frankly very concerning to me. A lot of these decisions were made without any community awareness."

The District's budget meets the requirements for the 5% cap, thereby qualifying it for this cap for the next several years. As long as the per pupil education spending is under 10%, the budget is not subject to state examination.

Trying to cut the budget to under a 5% increase would cause the district to cease to function. The increase in health insurance costs this year exceeded 16%, inflation has hit supplies and services, and salaries are up.

Capital improvement spending will not affect the Homestead Tax rate, which is estimated at \$1.2669 – therefore the Board will propose a non-recurring expenditure of \$6,000,000 on capital improvements and still keep the budget under the 10% increase examination cap. There was a facilities survey completed just before COVID hit, and improvements to district-wide HVAC alone (for energy efficiency and cleaner air) is nearly \$5 million. There are many other projects under the category of deferred maintenance that equal \$1 million. These monies will need to be spent over the next few years no matter what – so why not do it now when it will not affect the tax rate? This is the recommendation of the DOE and the VSBA. "I don't think we have a choice," said Kevin Campbell, Finance Committee member, we didn't "do anything

to put ourselves in this position. This was the outcome of legislative and AOE (Agency of Education) giving us two bad options. One option is to cut the budget by \$5 million in order to stay below an artificial 5% cap, the other option is to accept the 5% cap and take advantage of the additional money that we could get. If you're a steward of the school district, which option would you pick?"

A list of these specific potential capital improvements is available. CAVEAT: unfunded mandates by the Vermont AOE may throw this list out the window: most costs of radon testing and mitigation, new runoff water rules, and PCB testing and mitigation are all big unknowns. CAVEAT: AOE could change the law, or the details of the law, within the next few years.

Another factor that affects the tax bill is the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA).^{*} Because the District is comprised of five towns, there are five different CLAs. Richmond and Bolton properties were reappraised in 2023. Richmond's CLA is 103.45%, its Estimated Homestead Rate with the CLA applied is \$1.2246 – a 27.90% decrease from last year resulting in a decrease of \$483.83 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Bolton's CLA is 104.08, its Estimated Homestead Rate with the CLA applied is \$1.2172 – a 23.85% decrease from last year resulting in a decrease of \$381.33 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Huntington was last assessed in 2015 and has a CLA of 65.58%. Its Estimated Homestead Rate with the CLA applied is \$1.9318 resulting in an increase of \$273.28 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

Policy Governance The Asset Protection Monitoring Report was unanimously approved. The Board Governance Compliance Review process has begun: a Survey and an Assessment Tool have been distributed.

The Budget will be warned in a special meeting on January 15.

^{*}CLA or Common Level of Appraisal measures how properties are assessed by the Town compared to their actual Fair Market sale value. The State measures CLA with the goal of having properties of equal value pay equal school taxes. CLAs that are either above 110% or under 85% are required to conduct town-wide property reassessments. Huntington is in the middle of a townwide reappraisal.

Craftsbury Scholastic Chess Tournament

Sunday, March 23, Craftsbury Academy, tournament is open to Vermont students in grades 6 to 12. Home school students are eligible. Chessboards, pieces, and clocks will be provided. No prior tournament experience necessary. High School and 8th grade sections will be USCF rated.

Check In Opens: 9 am
Check In Closes: 9:30 am
Rounds Begin: 10 am (four Rounds)

Selection tournament for nominees to the Denker, Haring, Barber and Rockefeller Invitationals.

This tournament is open to Vermont students in grades K-12. Participants must be Vermont residents or be enrolled in a Vermont public or private school. Vermont resident home school students are eligible. Chessboards, pieces, and clocks will be provided. No prior tournament experience necessary.

High School and 8th Grade sections will be USCF rated. K-7th Grade sections will be unrated. Learn more about USCF: <https://new.uschess.org/join-us-chess>

Individual and Team Awards

Registration and more information: VermontChess.org Early Bird registration fee: \$20. All players must pre-register for the event. No walk-ins allowed. Registration closes on March 17. Registration may close prior to March 17 due to space limitations. If registration is still open, the entry fee after March 1 will increase to \$25. Online registration only, no entries will be accepted via mail or email.

J&K Property Maintenance

Keith Dunbar

Junk Removal
Garage Cleanouts
Seasonal Cleanups
Debris Pick up



Labor Help • Free Estimates

Estimates & appointments: 802-373-4588
keith@jkpropertymaintenance.net

Area Residents Honored

The American Institute of Architects, Vermont Chapter (AIAVT) announced the recipients of its 2023 Excellence in Architecture Design Awards program at its annual meeting, held in December 2023. Six projects were chosen for demonstrating “excellence in design” from 27 entries submitted by AIA member architects.

The jury was asked to consider granting awards using the AIA FRAMEWORK FOR DESIGN EXCELLENCE as their judging criteria. Awards were given at three levels: Honor (first), Merit (second), and Citation (third).

Included in the winners of this year’s AIAVT Annual Design Awards are as follows:

Honor Award in the Single Family Residential category **Sidehill Design** for **Woodlands** in Richmond.

General Contractor: Red House Building
Interior Design: Brooke Michelsen Design
Structural Engineer: Engineering Ventures
Landscape Design: Birdseye



Honor Award in the Commercial/ Institutional/ Multi-Family/ Mixed Use category goes to **Birdseye** for Annex in Williston.

Architect: Jeff McBride, AIA
Builder: Reap Construction
Landscape Architect: Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architecture
Structural Engineering: Engineering Ventures
Landscape Installer: Church Hill Landscapes



President's List, Fall 2023
Mason Combs, Aidan Woods, and Ari McKennedy, all of Jericho, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the semester

Nominate a Tree Steward

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VT UCF) is accepting nominations for its 2024 Vermont Tree Steward Awards. The deadline for nominations is March 29.

The annual awards celebrate individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a strong commitment to protecting and nurturing Vermont’s trees and forests. Award recipients will be announced in April and recognized at a special ceremony at the Vermont Arbor Day conference on May 23 as well as through the

Presidential Scholar

Kai Oakley Richter, Huntington, a senior majoring in Civil Engineering, was named a Presidential Scholar for the Fall 2023 semester at Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York. Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Ceilidh Kiegle, Jericho, a senior majoring in literature, has been named a Presidential Scholar at Clarkson University.

Northeast 10 Conference Academic Honor Roll

Tess Drury, Richmond, earning a perfect 4.0, St. Michael's College, Colchester. She is a first year student and MMU graduate.

Beth Syverson, Huntington, fifth year senior, sixth 4.0 average semester, St. Michael's College, Colchester.

Dean's List, Fall 2023

Tristan C Magnuson, Jericho, Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York, achieving a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Jessica Ewing, Richmond, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, completing 12 or more credits per semester and earning a grade point average of 3.4 or higher.

Liam Thompson, Richmond, Lasell University, Newton, Massachusetts, achieving a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Aurora Lamoureux, Jericho, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire, earning a minimum grade-point average of 3.500 to 3.699 for the reporting term.

Justice Green, Starksboro, Elmira College Elmira, New York, earning a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY
Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

Jacqueline French, Jericho, Class of 2027, studying Neuroscience.

Brenna Redmond, Jericho, Class of 2025, studying Forensic Science.

Mason Combs, Aidan Woods, and Ari McKennedy, all of Jericho, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the semester

Justice Green, Starksboro, Elmira College Elmira, New York, earning a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY
Students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 during the semester to make the Dean's List.

Jacqueline French, Jericho, Class of 2027, studying Neuroscience.

Brenna Redmond, Jericho, Class of 2025, studying Forensic Science.

Mason Combs, Aidan Woods, and Ari McKennedy, all of Jericho, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire. To be named to the President's List, a student must achieve a grade point average of 3.70 or better for the semester

Justice Green, Starksboro, Elmira College Elmira, New York, earning a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Thanks to Our Advertisers!

- 116 Wine & Spirits
- Advanced Wellness Massage & Bodywork
- Alan Homans & Lynn Reynolds
- Alison Anand Aquatics School
- Arabesque Dance Studio
- Audubon Nature Center
- Beaudry's Store
- Bilder Studio Northern Exposure Photography
- Birds of Vermont Museum
- Blackfork Towing
- Brad Elliott
- Brewster-Pierce School P.I.E.
- Bridge Street Hair
- Building Energy
- Camels Hump Nordic Skiers Area
- Cathedral Square
- Charlie Frazier - Over the Hump Concerts
- Choice Physical Therapy
- Chris Billis
- Cochran's Ski Area
- Coldwell Banker- Cindy Feloney
- Coldwell Banker- Jennifer Clark
- Community Church of Huntington
- Crate Escape
- Crouching Lion Tang Su Do
- Daryl Storrs, printmaker
- Deanna Allgaier, First Friday
- Don Dresser
- Dufour-Martinez Family
- Efficiency Vermont
- Element Nail Salon
- Family of Connie Bushey
- Family of Ida Harvey
- Family of Sallyann Gindel Brink
- Family of Seward F. Harvey
- Friends of the Huntington Public Library
- Friends of the Richmond Free Library
- Gary Beckwith/Solarbus - Sunrun
- Gifford Funeral Services
- Green Mountain NEA
- Heather Chadwick, massage
- Heidi Racht, Huntington Town Clerk
- HELD (Huntington Endowment for Library Development)
- HERO (Huntington Elder Resource Opportunities)
- Hunters Breakfast
- Huntington Conservation Commission
- Huntington DRB
- Huntington Historical & Community Trust
- Huntington Planning Commission
- Huntington Public Library
- Huntington Selectboard
- Huntington Town Clerk
- Huntington Town Hall Committee
- Huntington Valley Arts
- Jamieson Insurance
- Interrobang Design Collaborative, Inc.
- Jean Meinhardt Designs
- Jim Feinson
- Jubilee Farm
- Krin's Bakery
- Laura Gorsky, attorney
- Linda Parent, Richmond Town Clerk
- Lisa Miller, candidate
- Mann & Machine
- Maple Wind Farm
- MMCTV (Mt. Mansfield Community Television)
- MMUUSD
- Moultroup Valley Farm
- Northfield Savings Bank
- Open Studio
- Owls Head Berry Farm
- Phoenix Books
- Pleasant Mount Farm
- Pleasant Valley Landscaping, Inc.
- Potent Moon Rising - Alison Aiken
- Professional Financial Assoc. LLC - Tim Monty
- Purinton Family Tree Farm
- Race 4 Sundaes
- Radiate Art Space
- Remax North - Linda St. Amour
- Rep. Jana Brown, candidate
- Rep. Theresa Wood, candidate
- Rep. Tom Stevens, candidate
- Resting Lion Studio
- Richard Tom Foundation
- Richmond Animal Hospital
- Richmond Community Senior Center
- Richmond Congregational Church
- Richmond Dental
- Richmond Food Shelf
- Richmond Historical Society
- Richmond Home Supply
- Richmond Land Trust
- Richmond Mobil Mart
- Richmond Planning Commission
- Richmond Town Clerk
- Richmond Town Forest Committee
- Shelly McSweeney & Eric Palola
- Sleepy Hollow Inn Ski & Bike Center
- Sterling House of Richmond
- Valley Stage - Don Sheldon
- Vermont Gas Systems
- Vermont Land Maintenance
- VPIRG: Make Big Oil Pay Community Action Tour
- Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom
- Young's Small Engine Repair

**These Business Advertisers Help to Bring
The Times Ink to Your Mailbox
FREE OF CHARGE
Every Month
Please support them!**

Weather: Water Weary / Weather Weary / Water Weary

Bob Low's Annual Weather Summary from Wes White Hill

Quite a year for weather and climate change for us and for the world! Daily and monthly all-time high temperature records, billion-dollar storms. El Nino's multi-year promise of hot temperatures quickly realized. Closest to home, flooding in July brought world-wide attention with a near repeat in December; for us, six months recording way above average precipitation to go with record-setting temperatures.

January 2023 began feeling like March with record high temperature and muddy roads. There was no "January thaw", one temperature

above average, red-wing blackbirds appearing mid-month, bluebird and hermit thrush sightings as well. Syrup season started early.

March was pretty much uneventful with early signs of spring and mild temperatures though finally some snow due to a Pi-day storm. Dry April brought early spring gardening with regional record highs mid-month. Delightfully, no mud season.

May began with a persistent rainy upper-level low causing a gardening pause. A major frost mid-month led to widespread apple crop failure.

precipitation list. Our first real frost at the month's very end was among the latest we have experienced. The first mountain snow also was late but no snow for us with a brown winter already predicted due to El Nino.

November featured yo-yo temperatures, the first measurable snow coming and going. Otherwise pretty uneventful. Snow finally came in early December, especially in the right places for the best early skiing / snowboarding in quite a while, cross-country skiing briefly good around here. However, heavy rain caused local flooding due to saturated soil and mountain snow melt and road closures once again: our 6th month with way above average precipitation. Backroad dust was exchanged for potholes. A Christmas tree shortage was due in part to the devastating effect of summer excess rains on tree farms on top of no holiday snow.

Climate has been a driving force for life since Day One. Frankopan's *THE EARTH TRANSFORMED: AN UNTOLD HISTORY* describes the reciprocal relationship between human civilization and our natural world – how climate change has affected migration while, at the same time, humans have affected climate.

Dvorak's expert *HOW MOUNTAINS ARE MADE* uses a mystery / story-telling approach to explain how geological events – volcanoes and lava traps for example, cause climate change as well as extinctions on the one hand and increased capacity for diversification of life on the other. Precise detail is provided regarding where to travel and which way to look to identify key geological features. The book offers surprises galore. For example, how creation of the Panama Isthmus bears responsibility for glacial eras and how planting of grasses stabilized climate for an extended period. Humans have moved more rock, soil and sediment than all the earth's rivers combined. Chickens, humans and cows are more numerous by 3X than all wildlife.

The USA leads the world in weather disasters, so admirably illustrated in 2023. Tornadoes, flash floods, hurricanes, blizzards, nor'easters, polar vortex, atmospheric rivers, two oceans, and hurricane-prone Florida peninsula with the Gulf of Mexico birthing ground. Western air moving up over the Rockies crashing into warm gulf air, energized by the north / south temperature driven Jet Stream. The battle of cold arctic and warm tropical air at mid-latitudes. On the short-list: mammoth heat waves from Washington State to our Southwest; repeated "pineapple express" rivers of rain in our Northwest; multi-month Midwest and south heat domes causing stagnant weather due to Jet stream cul-de-sacs; rapid storm intensification as with hurricane Idalia; smoke-filled air from wildfires across Canada; deadly tornadoes.

Globally, 2023 was the hottest ever. April, July, August and September were the hottest months ever world-wide. July included the three hottest days ever. Heat waves and floods crossed



Old farmhouse, now used for storage by Duncan and Megs Keir, had most of a side blown off during recent high winds in Huntington. The Keirs also lost shingles from the roof of their new house. Courtesy photo



Bridge only to the Bressor house, which rests high above the river. This house is famous as one of the few residences near the Winooski River that did not flood in November 1927. Drone photo of Richmond village taken by Aaron (the Plumber) Gibson in July.



July damage to Huntington Road's Richmond Hill from culvert damage and ditch flooding reduced the road to one lane as the crew scrambled to do repairs. Truckloads of gravel and sediment washed down the hill and were dumped into the field near the intersection with Hinesburg Road. Photo: Bob Low

in the teens and none below zero. But we witnessed our first of 6 months with seriously above average precipitation. Still, there were some winter activities. Gillett Pond walkers and skaters one day were greeted with 100s of snow-rollers.

February came in with arctic temperatures, reaching -20F. Then came a rapid reversal with an extended period of March-like days yielding little overall snow cover for the month. The overall monthly temperature again was way

Hot dry weather thereafter kept gardeners busy watering. No hint of what was to come precipitation-wise. June arrived with record highs only to be followed immediately by a cold front bringing highs in the 60s. The air was clothed in smoke from persistent Quebec fires. Rains welcome at the time registered the beginning of a rain onslaught.

July again brought us high temperatures, the highest overnight temperatures ever recorded for New England, not sparing us. However, it was the unforgettable and devastating rains mid-month which became the weather story of the year. Richmond was all but isolated by flooding, stories and photos reaching world-wide news outlets, Montpelier was especially hard hit. Locally, month's end brought Richmond more rain trouble featuring road washouts and more property damage. All should give thanks to the extraordinary job our Highway Departments have done.

August started cold with below average temperatures at the outset, however more than double the normal amount of rain. September then blessed us with dry weather the first week and quite below average rainfall for the month. At the same time, another regional heat wave. Fall colors were muted featuring bronzes and burgundies, as compared with the recent past, though there certainly were bright spots. The culprit is thought to include waterlogged tree roots causing nutrient and oxygen deficits. Also, fungal pathologies – lots of brown-spotted yellow leaves.

October brought fine weather for a change with regional record monthly highs and the warmest ever for some. Fall colors continued muted. Later rains added the month to the high

Europe, Africa, Asia, some 30 countries setting all time heat records. The loss of summer Antarctic ice was off the charts. The world breached the sought-after postindustrial 1.5C warming mark for some 40% of 2023 days. For a great summary see: <https://bbc.com/news/science-environment-67861954>.

Much of current climate change centers on increasing ocean temperatures at all depths causing increased delivery of CO2 into the atmosphere, and higher intensity, rapidly developing ocean storms and the like. Warming also depletes O2, a growing challenge to marine predators. A particularly troublesome additional aspect is the effect of warm ocean currents in the Antarctic, causing loss of ice shelves that slow the progress of glaciers, hastening the melting of the "doomsday" Twaites glacier and others.

There continues the mismatch between current policies and current pledges, the world remaining far from delivering a safe climate future. The COP28 Climate Summit did little to change the equation. The basis of science denial regarding weather and so much else such as vaccination is explored in Oreskes' and Conway's *Merchants of Doubt* focused on the role of comments from prominent scientists without appropriate professional experience. A follow-up, *The Big Myth* focuses on market fundamentalism, the belief that markets unencumbered can solve any problem, the sowing of doubt about any governmental regulation – anti-regulation propaganda.

Still, there is reason for hope, as expressed by Climate Scientist Kate Marvel Climate in a *NEW YORK TIMES* essay. How to make dramatic emission cuts is known, ways that are sustainable and equitable are understood. Communication confusion regarding how human activities are responsible is sorting out. Reaching those of us still in disbelief is underway. Foer's *WE ARE THE WEATHER* focuses on key offenders such as the agricultural industrial complex. There is urgency to buy local and to take action as individuals and communities.

Coda: Year's end found us with brown winter holding true. Gillett Pond was ice-free, no New Year's Eve and Day skating parties as in the past, though a quick reversal did bring excellent Pond sports at the end of the first week of the new year. The overall prognosis remains the same with multi-year El Nino just beginning last June with record temperatures already realized. We all must commit to addressing the climate issues before us to avoid future devastating weather impact, to realize resiliency.

Richmond to Vote on Town Center Renovation

by Heidi Racht

In 2018, the Richmond Town Center and Library Building Committee was charged with developing a plan for the Town Center building and site to address long-standing and worsening building deficiencies and resolve health and safety concerns for employees. The comprehensive plan has now been presented to the Selectboard, which has decided to move it forward for a town-wide vote on March 5. The goal of the committee has been to create a functional, energy-efficient, flood-resilient interior space within the restored, structurally-sound historic shell that will continue to serve Richmond for the next 100 years.

The vote on March 5 will authorize the Selectboard to borrow up to \$9,841,603 to complete the planned project. Local, state and federal grants are also being pursued to help offset some of this cost.

The Town Center building is now 116 years old. It has served the town well and it has seen some pretty hard use, starting as a school in 1907 (See related article on the school history). For the past 35 years, it has served the town as the municipal offices, including the Richmond Police Department and town records that go back to the founding of the town.

After Richmond Elementary School was built in the late 1980s, the old Richmond High School was still owned by the Town of Richmond and the town had reached a point of deciding what to do with the building. Naturally, there were strong opinions: conserve the historic building in the center of the village or tear it down and build a new building. After a rather contentious period of time, the voters chose (2-1) to renovate and move the Town Clerk's Office from Depot Street, where it had shared the basement space

(what was most recently Richmond Home Interiors) in the Masonic Building with the much smaller Richmond Free Library. Two large tenants were secured to help fund the move into the old school. The Richmond Post Office anchored the back of the building in the 1953 school addition, moving from what is now the home of Richmond Dental. (That location had once been the town green.) And, the CESU (school district) administrative offices moved into the top floor of the Town Center building (The CESU offices had also been in the Masonic building.)

With the departure of the MMUUSD (school district) administrative offices to Jericho, the Town of Richmond municipality has expanded into the third floor vacated by the school and has also opened up office spaces to other nonprofit groups: the Richmond Historical Society, Community Senior Center, Our Community Cares Camp, MMCTV (office and studio) and a basement studio to Radiate Art. It is a center with a lot of activity for all ages. Additionally, the interior of the building has an elevator which allows for access to each floor and the parking lot is adjacent to a ground floor entrance for those coming in to do town business and other activities.

But time and weather has taken its toll on the old historic building, where more of the renovations seem to have had an appearance emphasis (of course, this is a somewhat simple statement since the work on the front porch addressed safety), rather than those hidden but critical structural repairs. The Town Center and Library Committee's report emphasizes that the need for work on this building "has reached a point where doing nothing is not an option. Deteriorating windows, electrical, HVAC and plumbing systems are impacting the working

conditions for town employees and tenants." Committee member Laurie Dana recently stated, "The lack of a safe egress from the second floor and lack of sprinklers and a building-wide fire alarm system are safety concerns." In addition, like just about every municipality in Vermont, increasing energy costs, the effects of climate change, and addressing flood resilience "make this renovation necessary." The 1953 addition that houses the Post Office is also deteriorating, with holes in the concrete foundation, flooding issues and little to no insulation.

The vote is especially timely in light of three major floods from the Winooski River in 2023, which penetrated the building, but did not flood it to the degree that was experienced after Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.

The good news is that the foundation, walls and roof of the historic building are sound and in good condition. However, much of the rest of the building needs to be brought up to current life safety codes. Even so, the architect determined it is far less costly to restore this building than it would be to tear it down and build new. The committee believes that the renovation plan being presented will address existing issues and ensure that the Town Center, Post Office and site are safe, functional, flood resilient and energy efficient well into the next 100 years.

Several opportunities to learn more about this project will be available in the weeks leading up to the March 5 vote. A schedule of presentations and tours, site and building plans, cost estimates and an FAQ that addresses specific questions are all available on the Town Center and Library Committee's page on the Town website at <https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/town-center-and-library-buildings-committee>. There is also a link to a building tour produced by MMCTV on that page.

If you have specific questions or if you would like to schedule a tour of the building yourself with some friends or neighbors, please feel free to contact Jeff Forward at forward@gmavt.net or 802-735-3026.

Article written with information from a variety of sources, including the Building Committee and RICHMOND, VERMONT - A HISTORY OF MORE THAN 200 YEARS by Harriet Riggs and Others.

Highlights of the Proposed Renovation

- This renovation plan creates an essentially "new" building inside the existing, structurally-sound, envelope.
- HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems will be brought up to code and meet energy-efficiency standards. This includes adding missing ventilation and cooling and upgrading the building's air-quality to current standards.
- Existing windows will be replaced with new energy-efficient windows that will also restore the historic appearance of the building as well as the windows at ground level.
- Fossil-fuel based heating system will be replaced with high efficiency electric heating & cooling
- Interior work spaces will be reconfigured for more efficiency, keeping all town services on one floor. Office and meeting spaces will be upgraded to meet current and future technology needs.
- Fire alarm system will be brought up to code and a sprinkler system added
- The iron fire escape will be replaced with a safer enclosed stairwell which meets code
- An inadequate roof structure, flooding issues and poor insulation in the 1953 Post Office addition will be addressed



Photo of original building with old school behind it. Circa 1907. Below, Richmond High School.



A Bit of Richmond School History over the last 100 Years

The Richmond Town Center started life as an elementary school. The right half and bell tower of the Town Center building was built as a grade school in 1907 in a time of neighborhood one-room schoolhouses. It replaced the wood frame school that was torn down. In 1914, the left half of the building was added and a four-year high school was adopted. Centrally located in Richmond Village, the high school served the residents of the town, and students from outlying small towns. Those attending the high school were not bussed into the village and due to the distance and the unpaved roads, many rural students did not have public education past eighth grade.

What is now the PO addition was completed in 1953 and housed the first four grades. The fifth, sixth, seventh and eight grades occupied what were four rooms on the main floor and the high school was on the top floor. In the mid-1960s, the Chittenden East Supervisory Union (CESU) was created and Richmond joined with Jericho and Underhill to build Mt. Mansfield Union High High School (MMU) in 1967 (Bolton and Huntington joined the district somewhat later).

Two other effects of this direction for public education throughout Vermont was the larger multi-town high schools and moving the high schools out of the villages, where many students walked to school, to rural locations with acreage for athletic fields and building expansion capabilities. This also created geographically-large school districts throughout the state. Mt. Mansfield Union High School (MMU) was built

in Jericho Center, with the School District's administrative offices located in the "south" part of the district in Richmond.

Richmond High School became Richmond Elementary School. Richmond school also occupied what is now the Richmond Public Library: the large open building, once the Universalist Church, served as the gymnasium and cafeteria. New elementary schools were built in the other towns.

MMU originally served students in grades 7-12, with the individual towns educating students in grades 1-6 (private kindergartens were available to students until the Legislature mandated public kindergarten for all Vermont students). In 1971, the voters of the Chittenden East member towns created two middle schools for grades 5-8: Camels Hump Middle School (CHMS) in Richmond, serving Richmond, Huntington and part of Bolton, and Browns River Middle School (BRMS) in Jericho, serving Jericho, Underhill and West Bolton, the latter being isolated from the rest of the town due to the winter closure of backroads connecting the villages.

In the late 1980s, Richmond built the new elementary school on land owned by the town near CHMS, which had been used for playing fields for almost 20 years.

The building that was built as a school was replaced by a one-story building with classrooms, offices - and with a cafeteria and gymnasium in the same building.

Letters

continued from page 2

Dam Project Nears Fundraising Goal



Skaters enjoy ice and camaraderie at Gillett Pond, including hockey players off in the distance. Photo: Bob Low

The ten-year project to raise enough funds to extend the life of Gillett Pond long into the future is now within \$11,400 of its \$1.1 million goal.

“Though we already have enough to build the dam itself, we still need to establish a long-term stewardship fund to maintain it and protect the Pond’s ecological and recreational resources,” says Fritz Martin, RLT board member and chair of the dam replacement committee.

Construction of the new dam, begun last year, will resume in the spring. Workers will install a temporary coffer dam, remove the old dam and build the new one.

In 2014 Richmond Land Trust and Friends of Gillett Pond joined forces to save the Pond. Its stone dam was leaking badly, and State officials were concerned it could collapse at any time. The two

groups launched a fundraising campaign which quickly generated enough money to buy the Pond and dam, and hire engineers to design a new, stronger and tighter dam.

Donors from throughout our area responded to the appeal. Once the purchase was made and engineering drawings prepared, the campaign shifted to raising the funds needed to build and maintain the new structure.

Martin finds this moment particularly exciting. “Thanks to the incredible support of our communities for Gillett Pond, we’re just one percent away from the goal,” he says. “The only question left is, who will put the campaign over the top?”

Donations to close the campaign can be made at tinyurl.com/GP2023. Checks payable to “Friends of Gillett Pond” can be mailed to: Friends of Gillett Pond, c/o Richmond Land Trust, P.O. Box 605, Richmond, VT 05477.

Support Your Local Lake Association

Did you visit one of Vermont’s many lakes this summer?

Maybe you launched a vessel at one of the many fishing accesses around the state and were approached to have it inspected by a Greeter. You may have wondered who manages that program, and who works to make sure Vermont’s lakes and ponds are protected and remain clean and healthy.

Since nearly all of Vermont’s lakes and ponds are public waters held in trust by the State, you might think that it is the responsibility of the State. Vermont statute places this responsibility with the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). Within the agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in conjunction with other ANR departments, is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the State’s public waters.

However, with over 800 lakes and ponds in Vermont, it’s not possible for the relatively small DEC staff to do all that is necessary to preserve and protect the State’s public waters. For that reason, the State partners with various conservation, watershed, and lake groups to help with the work necessary to monitor and protect Vermont’s water resources.

So, who is doing the work on the ground (and in the lake) to protect Vermont’s waterbodies?

DEC staff provide training and guidance, oversight, technical assistance and standards, and manage-

ment of project permitting. DEC staff scientists also conduct important research, and data collection and analysis. However, much of the “hands on” work necessary to protect the State’s public waters falls to volunteer lake and watershed associations that partner with the State.

Let’s look at some examples of the fantastic work being done by Vermont’s lake associations and preservation groups.

The previously mentioned Greeter Program is an integral component of the DEC’s overall plan to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), and nearly all the greeter programs on inland lakes are managed by volunteer lake associations. Greeters inspect vessels and equipment entering and leaving lakes to ensure they are not transporting AIS, along with educating boaters about the dangers of AIS.

Greeter Programs are only one element in the fight against AIS. Some 100 of the state’s lakes and ponds are already infested with some type of invasive. While the greeters are instrumental in preventing further spread, it is equally important that those lakes already infested work to control and reduce the level of infestation to decrease the possibility of that infestation being carried to other lakes, and to restore a more balanced aquatic ecosystem. The most widespread invasive in our lakes is Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), a biological pollutant that can spread quickly, damaging aquatic habitats, and reducing water quality.

The work to control, reduce, and where possible, eradicate milfoil is complicated and costly. Control methods include hand pulling, diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH), bottom barriers, and herbicide.

Unfortunately, the State provides very little funding for the prevention and control of AIS. In 2023, the State’s Grant-in-Aid program only supplied up to 25% of a lake’s total project cost. It’s left to the volunteer lake associations to close the gap by fundraising.

All of this may sound like more than enough for volunteer lake associations to do, but what about water quality?

Once again, it’s these volunteer groups and their local partners, like Natural Resource Conservation Districts (NRCDS), that are implementing water quality improvement projects at their lakes and ponds.

Some of these water quality improvement programs include: water sampling, mitigating stormwater runoff carrying phosphorus into lakes, performing Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) paddles looking for new introductions of AIS, and monitoring for cyanobacteria (harmful algae blooms) and other lake conditions throughout the summer.

But wait, there’s more.

These volunteer groups also carry out extensive educational activities, keeping lake communities informed of best practices, helping lake property owners with lake friendly landscaping to protect shorelines (Lake Wise), working to address polluted runoff from roads entering lakes, and providing free boating education classes.

But it’s not all work! Many lake associations also organize community events such as: boat parades, rewarding volunteer opportunities, annual meetings, educational events, ice out contests, and many more.

These associations and volunteer groups undertake so much work because they believe that we are all stewards of our natural resources, and as such, it is the responsibility of the entire community to protect, preserve, and enhance the health of the State’s public waters. Working in partnership with state agencies and other conservation organizations, these volunteers are indispensable to ensuring the health of the State’s waters for future generations.

If you love Vermont’s lakes, ponds, and waterways, take a minute to thank your local lake and watershed associations and the volunteers who devote countless hours of their time to preserve these precious natural resources for all of us. In this season of giving, when so many are asking for your support, consider a donation to a lake or watershed association.

Without your support, these groups can’t continue to do this important work – and if they don’t do it, who will?

Please see an extended version of this commentary on our website: <https://vermontlakes.org/>

—Pat Suozzi, Hinesburg
President, Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds



PLEASANT VALLEY, INC.
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Lawn & Grounds Service

Lawn mowing, seasonal cleanups, bark mulch
Garden edging, weeding & pruning
Excavation, drainage, tree work
Lawn/driveway installation & repair
Snow plowing / salt & sanding



Painting Service

Custom exterior painting & staining
Pressure washing, wood preparation
Drywall wall, interior painting



Build & Remodel Service

Asphalt shingle & metal roofing
Siding & trim replacement
Porches, decks, windows & doors
Renovations, basement conversions
Finish carpentry, tile & wood flooring



Landscape & Stone Service

Garden design, Planting
Vermont trees, shrubs & perennials
Stonewall construction, campfire areas
Stone walkways, patios & steps
Berms, Fencing, Screening



MARK FRANCESCHETTI
Cell: 802-343-4820 • Office: 802-425-3737
Email: pleasantvalley@madriver.com
www.pleasantvalleyvt.com



Local References • Free Estimates
Established 1991



P.M. Sunday Concert Features New Orleans Singer/Songwriter



Joy Clark will appear with her trio on the P.M. SUNDAYS stage on Sunday, February 4, at 4 pm.

Clark is a singer-songwriter, lyrical guitarist and composer who creates soulful compositions that celebrate peace and the undeniable power of love. Her intricate rhythms and warm melodies reveal a sweet vulnerability that have enchanted audiences around the world. Growing up the daughter of a minister, she learned to create an atmosphere ripe for an emotional experience. She believes music is her ministry and intimacy is her superpower.

The concert will be performed at the Richmond Congregational Church at 20 Church Street in Richmond. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$27.50 day of show. Seniors (65+) and children 16 and under are \$17.50 in advance and \$20 day of show.

COVID Protocol: Safety guidelines based on industry/live performance practices are subject

to change, so check the website frequently for updates. Please make sure you are comfortable with these requirements before purchasing tickets. Masks are not required but are welcome if you feel more comfortable with this level of protection.

For more information about this concert and all Valley Stage events: www.valleystage.net or Don Sheldon at 802-434-4563 or don@valleystage.net

French Canadian Supper

The Knights of Columbus from Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Richmond and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Williston will again be hosting their annual French-Canadian Dinner on February 3, 2024.

Due to COVID, for the past several years this annual dinner was only available via takeout. This year, diners will have the opportunity to partake of the supper in person in the Holy Rosary Church Hall or as a take out dinner for \$15/dinner. The dinner consists of tourtiere (Meat) pie (1/4 pie), pea soup (8 ounces), mashed potatoes, green beans, and various desserts.

Reservations can be made online at: <http://tinyurl.com/KnightsMeatPieDinner2024>

Pick-up and payment on Saturday, February 3.

Contact Ron with any questions. Call or text: (470) 588-5515 . Email: KK1L@comcast.net

Writers Wanted

The Times Ink seeks writers to cover events in the community, especially in Richmond. If you have some time and interest, and like to write, please get in touch. The list of fun feature stories is long - some are immediate and some can be on the calendar for spring.

Email news@timesinkvt.org for more information.

Thinking About Running for Local Office?

With local office candidate consent forms due by 5 pm on Monday, January 29, there is still time to get your paperwork in order and run for a position on a Board or Commission on Town Meeting Day. (See list of offices below.)

Once you've committed to have your name on the ballot, it's time to get the word out by letting our readers know all about you and why they should vote for you. Statements of 300 words (or less) will be printed in the issue of THE TIMES INK which will be out in late February. Note the deadline on page 2. For additional information, email: news@timesinkvt.org

Candidates in both Richmond and Huntington are elected by Australian ballot and the polls are open on March 5 until 7 pm. You can also

request an Absentee Ballot if you will not be around that day to vote or if you would rather not come into the polls.. Ballots can be mailed or picked up - just be sure to allow a week to get and return your ballot to your Town Clerk's Office.

For additional information, contact your Town Clerk:
Linda Parent, Richmond, 434-3139
Heidi Racht, Huntington, 434-2032



Donate Blood in Richmond

The next local American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for February 7, noon to 6 pm, at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church located at 20 Church Street. Type O blood is in high demand; all blood types are needed. New and loyal donors are welcome. Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> for more information, and to make an appointment.

Friday Food Affair is Back

Richmond's popular Friday Food Affair is back after a COVID-induced break. This community dinner will be held starting at 5 pm at the Richmond Congregational Church on the first and third Friday of each month. Friday Food Affair's purpose is to offer a nutritious and delicious dinner for any and all and an opportunity to gather at the end of the week to visit with neighbors and friends. The meal is by donation as able and all are welcome.

All Things

continued from back page

at times. But the reality is that none of us can grow and mature if we don't struggle at times. We must each learn limits.

The same is true for society. When there are tough times, our leaders have to be strong enough to set limits and boundaries. We are too often complacent and tolerant of behaviors that hurt the fabric of our country and the well-being of our citizens.



Towns of Richmond & Huntington

Positions Open for March 5, 2024

Town Meeting Vote by Australian Ballot

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

Petitions must contain 1% of the eligible voters from the Town of Richmond (30 names) and must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 29, 2024.

Forms to be completed to get on the ballot are available from the town clerk at Lparent@richmondvt.gov or at SOS.vermont.gov

In order to run for any office on the ballot, you must request a petition and Consent of Candidate form from the Town Clerk's Office. These forms are also available at www.huntingtonvt.org and from the Town Clerk: huntingtonclerk@gmavt.net

The petition with 17 signatures of Huntington voters, and completed and signed Consent of Candidate form must be returned to the Huntington Town Clerk's Office by 5 pm on Monday, January 29, 2024.

A consent of candidate form is due at the same time. Petitions and consent forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

17 V.S.A. §2681(b), 2681(a)(3). The nominating petition, accompanied by a consent of candidate form, must be filed with the municipal clerk no later than 5 p.m. on the sixth Monday preceding the day of the election.

richmondanimalhospitalvt.com

The Times Ink!

\$58.

PO Box 66
Richmond, VT 05477
434-2854 / 999-4333
jbrown@leg.state.vt.us
janabrownforvt.com

A Head Start on the Growing Season Library

Submitted by Amy Simone

The holidays are over, and we find ourselves in the cold, dark days of mid-winter. As a gardener, you may feel that the planting season is so far away. Don't worry as you can start many plants indoors by seed soon.

Garden centers already have seeds available and will bring in more as winter wraps up. Seeds also can be found in many hardware and grocery stores. Some communities have seed swaps and seed "libraries."

For a wider variety, find a seed company that offers the types of plants you want to grow and order a catalog or shop on its website. Seed providers that test their seeds in a growing climate similar to yours are ideal.

Carefully review the information on the seed packet, and create a chart of seed-starting and transplant dates. If you have plants that should be started 10 to 12 weeks prior to the last frost and some to start eight to 10 weeks before, a consolidated planting session at 10 weeks prior will suffice.

Before planting day arrives, gather any necessary supplies. Starting seeds does not need to be complicated or expensive. The main components are containers, planting media and a reliable artificial light source.

Containers can be made of plastic, silicone, wood, peat, fiber or other materials. Most importantly, they should be sturdy, sterile, free from harmful chemicals and have drainage holes.

Choose a soilless planting medium with peat moss and perlite and/or vermiculite. When ready to plant, moisten the mix and pack it firmly into the container to within three-quarter inch of the top. If you are filling several seed flats, sometimes it is easier to pre-moisten the mix in a larger container or bucket, then move to your final container.

Sow the seeds and cover with more of your planting medium to the necessary planting depth. Moisten the soil and seeds with a spray mister, then cover with a plastic dome or plastic wrap. Be sure to label the plants.



Planted seeds need to be kept at a temperature between 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit until they germinate. Electric heat mats are useful during this period, but another option is to keep the trays on a shelf over a heat register.

Remove the plastic from the germinated plants and place no further than 6 inches from a strong fluorescent or LED light. Leave the light on for 14 to 16 hours a day.

Note that once germinated, cold-weather seedlings prefer temperatures between 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Moving these seedlings to a basement or sun room is an option.

Keep the planting medium moist, but not soggy. It can dry slightly between waterings, but seedlings should not be allowed to wilt.

Give the young seedlings a 50 percent diluted fertilizer. After that, apply full-strength fertilizer weekly.

In February, you can plant bulbing onions that are dependent on long day length. The bulbs should be transplanted outdoors 4 to 6 weeks before your last frost. This ensures that they will receive the required daylight hours for the development of large bulbs.

Cold-tolerant plants such as pansy, sweet alyssum, snapdragon, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, head lettuce, leeks, kale and collards have start dates in February and March. You can start heat-loving plants like peppers, tomatoes and eggplants from seeds indoors in March to compensate for our shorter growing season.

Once spring arrives, follow instructions on the seed packets for outdoor planting times, paying attention to dates before or after the last frost. You can find information on frost dates at <https://garden.org/apps/frost-dates>. Be sure to gradually acclimate your tender seedlings a week prior to transplanting them in the garden.

Enjoy this early start to the growing season.

Amy Simone is a UVM Extension Master Gardener from South Burlington.

continued from page 4

ORS AND PATTERNS EXPLAINED by Greer Stothers; DICTIONARY OF DINOSAURS - AN ILLUSTRATED A TO Z OF EVERY DINOSAUR EVER DISCOVERED; DIFFERENT KINDS OF MINDS - A GUIDE TO YOUR BRAIN by Temple Grandin; GOODBYE - A FIRST CONVERSATION ABOUT GRIEF by Megan Madison.

Children's VOX Audiobooks THE ARTIST by Ed Vere; ROTTEN! VULTURES, BEETLES AND NATURE'S OTHER DECOMPOSERS by Anita Sanchez; LALI'S FEATHER by Farhna Zia; DREAM WEAVER by Gary Wright; WE GOT THE BEAT by Charlotte Caffey; STRAWBERRY SWING by COLDPLAY; TIGER BROTHER - A TALE IN ENGLISH AND CHINESE by Li Jian; WAITING FOR THE BIBLIOBURRO - ENGLISH AND SPANISH by Monica Brown; DO YOU BELIEVE IN UNICORNS by Bethanie Deeney Murguia; THERE WAS A PARTY FOR LANGSTON by Jason Reynolds; TOKYO NIGHT PARADE by J.P. Takahashi; GLADYS THE MAGIC CHICKEN by Adam Rubin; HELLO NINJA, HELLO GEORGE by N.D. Wilson.

Periodicals ORION MAGAZINE - Winter 2023; NORTHERN WOODLANDS MAGAZINE - Winter 2023.

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

VOL Vermont Online Library Available to all Huntington residents, with a valid library card. This service offers a wide array of electronic information databases on a wide variety of topics for all ages and interests.

MANN & MACHINE

AUTO REPAIR



Business Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm



83 Huntington Road - Richmond, VT 05477

mannandmachineinc@hotmail.com

802-434-7054

Let us help you with all your vehicle repairs in 2024

Shocks/Struts

Wiper Blades

Brakes

Diagnostics

Tire Sales

Battery Changes

Suspensions

Exhaust Repair

Wheel Bearings

State Inspections

Oil Changes

Tire Changes

LAURA E. GORSKY PLLC
Attorney at Law



LAURA E. GORSKY, ESQ. LAURAGORSKY@GMAVT.NET
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW INCLUDING:
REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, WILLS, CORPORATIONS & TAX SALES

13 East Main Street, P.O. Box 471
Richmond, Vermont 05477

434-3344, phone / 434-6677, Fax
laura@vtgorskiylaw.com



Element Nail Salon
It's Paradise Pedicure Season!
*** Pedicures * Manicures ***



Open Tues - Sun

Massage * Facials * Nail Extensions * Fills * Eyebrow Waxing
802-482-PEDI (7334) Appointments Required - COVID guidelines Gift Certificates Available
www.elementnailsalonvt.com ElementNailSalonVT@gmail.com 90 Mechanicsville Rd., Hinesburg, VT



BLACKFORK TOWING
Breakdowns • Accidents • Winchouts
• Flats, Gas, Jumps, & Lockouts •
Cars • Motorcycles • Pickups • Equipment
Wrecker • Flatbed • Crane
802-434-5751
Rod West, Owner • Since 2000
920 West Main St. Richmond
Expert • Help • Fast

Do You Like Keeping Up With the Times??

Subscribe & Support THE TIMES INK!

The cost of distributing THE TIMES INK to every household and post office box in the Towns of Richmond & Huntington and Bolton Access Road is \$18 per year per mailbox.

We are fortunate to have the income from many loyal advertisers. The size of the paper each month is determined by the number of advertisers, although there is usually much more copy than the ads can support each month.

Your donation (we suggest \$20) of the cost of the free subscription you receive will help offset costs of producing our community newspaper and help keep us financially strong as we look to increase the number of pages.

The Times Ink is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
All donations are tax-deductible.

Please send a check payable to
The Times Ink! PO Box 532, Richmond, VT 05477.

News from Area Churches

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

As we turn the calendar page to 2024, you might have been tempted to make (and perhaps already break) a resolution. Many New Year's resolutions are aspirational or related to a sense of wanting to perhaps correct the indulgence of the holiday season such as starting a new exercise routine, eating healthier or spending less. All of these are noble goals. They also can set us up for quick failure if we don't have the supports in place to integrate these resolutions into our lives.

My mother-in-law told me that the only New Year's resolution she has successfully kept was flossing her teeth daily. Over time, her simple New Year's resolution became a habit. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Faith is taking the first step without seeing the whole staircase."

As 2024 is a leap year, we get a whole extra day this year to live differently. What if instead of making/breaking a lofty resolution and trying to climb the whole staircase in the first month of 2024, you instead considered throughout the month of January what habit, what next step you might like to take, or even leap into, in February. What is it that would help you better love your neighbor, yourself, God, or better care for God's creation in 2024? This habit (like flossing your teeth, except hopefully more fun) is something you can cultivate over the course of the whole year, step by step.

Looking for some ideas? You could try to pray regularly, develop a gratitude practice, read scripture or poems on a daily basis, meditate

or do centering prayer, volunteer for a worthy cause, read to a child, make music, smile, visit an elderly person, send thank you cards, be patient when driving or waiting in line, reshelve books at the library, volunteer for a town committee, try worshipping with a new faith community (we gather Sundays at 10am), pick up litter, work for social change, welcome a stranger, hold a sign for peace on Thursdays at 5:30 pm, visit someone imprisoned, work for affordable housing, or plant trees in whose shade you will not sit. Some people even try to read the whole Bible in a year; there's a guide for how to do that. Google it.

Whatever you contemplate, may you be gracious and generous with yourself at the start of 2024, and let that graciousness and peace emanate out into the world, step by step by step. God knows the world could use more kindness, patience, and peace in 2024. I pray that you, gentle reader, may be a part of bringing that positive change into being in the coming year.

—Rev. Katelyn B. Macrae, Pastor

- January 28:** 10 am Worship with Rev. Katelyn Macrae
- February 4:** 10 am Worship with Rev. Katelyn Macrae; Sunday School
- February 11:** 10 am Worship and RCC Annual Meeting
- February 14:** Ash Wednesday - Ashes to Go, 7 am to 9 am, at RCC, noon Worship in Sanctuary
- February 18:** 10 am Worship with Rev. Katelyn Macrae; RCC Choir
- February 25:** 10 am Worship with guest preacher Caitlin Purinton
- March 3:** 10 am Worship with guest preacher Caitlin Purinton

Arabesque etc.



**Summer Camp
Registration
is now online**



Tiny Tot Princess Camps & Combo Camps for all ages.

We have a variety of
dance classes, including
Ballet, Hip Hop, Contemporary,
Musical Theatre,
and Jazz.



Visit Arabesqueetc.com or call Martina Price 802-383-8468
Arabesque Etc. Dance LLC

Calendar of Events

JANUARY 10–FEBRUARY 15: Applications accepted for artists and writers for 2024 residencies at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson. Residencies will take place April – December. 35% of accepted applicants will receive a full fellowship for their residencies (the \$12,000 cost of the 4-week program will be funded by donations and foundation partners). Residencies at the Vermont Studio Center occur in 2-, 3- and 4-week sessions throughout the year; include a private room in a shared house, a private studio, meals, and access to the Visiting Artist and Visiting Writer Program. Info: Vermont Studio Center, vermontstudio-center.org/fellowships.

FEBRUARY 4: Capital City Concerts in collaboration with the Unitarian Church of Montpelier free family concert, 1:30 pm, Unitarian Church of Montpelier by the talented millennial sister act Sibyl. Visit www.youtube.com/@sibyl5048 for sample. The concert will also include a performance of two fiddle tunes performed by local string students. Info: www.capitalcityconcerts.org

FEBRUARY 8: Assistance available for Vermont business owners affected by the summer 2023 floods. Hosted by Vermont Law and Graduate School's Entrepreneurial Legal Lab and Legal Services Vermont, 1:45 pm to 5 pm, SAL Room at Waterbury Public Library. Info: Reid Brown (she/her), 802.431.6222 ext 721

FEBRUARY 10: Afternoon Enchantment, Eleva Chamber players, piano and flute magical midday concert, 3 pm, United Church of Christ/Waterbury Congregational Church (8 North Main Street, Waterbury). \$25, \$20 for Seniors & students. Tickets: elevachamberplayers.com or at the door.

FEBRUARY 11: ANNE CONNELLY: THE BLIND MERCHANT OF BURLINGTON, a talk by John Thomas, Development Director, VABVI (Vermont Association for the Blind & Visually Impaired). Anne Connelly (1889-1939) came to Vermont as a blind adult, working for VABVI, introducing trained guide dogs and white canes, running her own business and supporting the blind community. Downtown Burlington High School (enter at 67 Cherry

Street; free parking at City Parking Garage on Cherry St.) Refreshments. Free.

FEBRUARY 24, 25 & 26: Snowshoe Ramble and Demo Days, 10 am to noon. February 24: Richmond's Volunteers Green, co-hosted by the Senior Center and Recreation Committee. February 25 at Huntington Community Forest, meet at the Brewster Pierce School. February 26 at Bolton's Smilie School. Regardless of the amount of snow, the events will go on; snowshoes are available. If you have your own snowshoes, bring them so there is equipment available to those individuals without them. Dress appropriately for the weather.

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

Regular Meetings can sometimes be held in physical locations. Remote options remain in place.

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.cesu.k12.vt.us.

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 Ctr
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. 434-3036.

Huntington: Board of Trustees, days vary, Zoom meeting and Huntington Public Library, 434-4583.

HUNTINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE 3rd Wed, 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.

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

Worship

Call for information.

Community Church of Huntington: Sunday morning Worship & Sunday School, 9 am. Communion: 1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155).

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

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

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

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

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

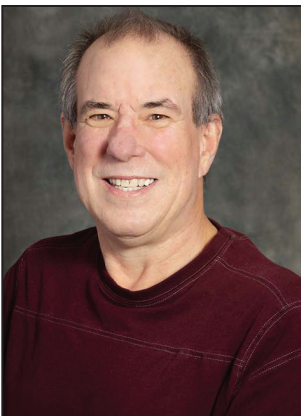
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 Vt Rte 15 (near Browns Trace) Jericho, 899-3932, Rev. Arnold Thomas, pastor. Worship Service: 9 am (nursery care provided), Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.goodshepherdjericho.org

Mount Mansfield Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship: 195 Vermont Route 15, Jericho, (the red barn across from Packard Road) 9:30 am services second and fourth Sunday (September to June). All are welcome.

Community Seniors Welcomes Three New Board Members



Debra Herbst



Darryl Smith



Jess Handrik

The Community Senior Center of Huntington, Richmond and Bolton enters 2024 with three area residents as new members of its board of directors. Concurrent with these new appointments, Earl Wester of Richmond retires from his board position of several years. He will continue in his role as communications director for the CSC.

Debra Herbst

Bolton resident Debra Herbst settled in Vermont in 1987, where she raised her three children. She earned a Certificate in Paralegal Studies from Woodbury College, and a Certificate in Non-profit Management from Champlain College.

Her other academic achievements include a B.A in history from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro, and a master's degree in special education from Virginia's Old Dominion University. In Virginia, she worked as a public school special educator, and served as Executive Director of the Chesterfield Historical Society.

In Vermont, Herbst served as a museum teacher at the Vermont Historical Society, and assistant to State House Representative Janet Ancel. She was also Executive Director of The Turning Point Center of Central Vermont, which assists those in the recovery community. She has been participating in the CSC since 2020, and serves as liaison for several of its activities.

Darryl Smith

Seeking the benefits of a country life, Darryl Smith moved from New Jersey to Roxbury, in 1986, serving as the town's Lister for several years.

Early career included positions in engineering and marketing in the semiconductor equipment industry. In 2000, he moved into software development where he managed customer relationships, and later completed his professional career at the Vermont State Treasurer's Office and Department of Labor.

Smith moved to Richmond in 2005 and spends time hiking and learning about nature and geology. Other interest include photography and reading, with a particular interest in historical topics. He takes advantage of the CSC's diverse opportunities and volunteers as leader of the canasta group and activity liaison for the weekly Coffee Time gatherings and Bone Builders.

Jess Handrik

A Bolton resident since 2017, Handrik and her spouse John came from New York City, where she had managed education programs at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts for 20 years. She was also Programs Committee Chair on the board of the city's Arts in Education Roundtable. Today she coordinates Flexible Pathways and Work-based Learning at Winooski High School. She was also a program advisor at Vermont Adult Learning, which helps adults ages 16 and older achieve their high school diploma. Additionally, she helped write a grant for The Flynn to engage community artists in new initiatives, and coach seniors in arts-based programs. She also served on the board of the Burlington Social Band, and Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Board.

Since July 2020, Handrik has facilitated a reading and reflection group with the CSC. Her hobbies include walking with her dogs, singing, baking, and photography.

Regs Revisions

continued from page 1

wording, especially requiring all property owners with Prime Agricultural soils to go before the Development Review Board. The types of projects causing hardship were decks, garages, additions, small sheds, which had been allowed uses requiring a Zoning Permit (fka Building Permit) from the ZAO. Vermont statute requires action by the ZAO within 30 days of receiving the complete application with a 15-day appeal period (total 45 days maximum). Since March for all projects on Prime Ag, in addition to the ZA-issued permit and fee, the property owner was required to also pay a fee, get scheduled on the DRB's project agenda, appear before the Board and then wait for an decision to be issued. After this, there is the 30-day appeal period and a subsequent 15-day appeal period for the Zoning permit.

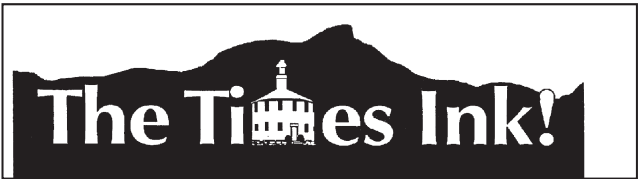
The Planning Commission made changes to correct this "unintended consequence" and revise/clarify other parts of the section. A public hearing was held in late September. The Commission then presented the document to the Selectboard, which held its public hearing on January 15. The public in attendance supported the changes proposed by the Planning Commission.

Due to new legislation, the Selectboard can, in its role as legislative board, simply approve any and all changes to regulations that had previously been put to a public vote. Recognizing that the regulations have been historically approved by an Australian ballot vote, the Board discussed how it might handle the approval of regulations, since some changes, like the Accessory Dwelling Unit section, are driven by statute. Now, statute allows for Board approval or public vote, where before it was an either/or situation. The Board deliberated on January 16, wrestling with approving necessary changes for minor corrections like the ones before them, and having the voters approve changes that are broader. What constitutes a necessary change or a policy change? The sentiment expressed by Board members was the discussion needs to be continued.

It was then pointed out by the Town Clerk, who read from statute, that the regulations take effect 21 days after the Board vote and voters have 20 days to petition the Board for an Australian ballot vote.

The Board approved the recommended revisions on December 16, by majority vote.

To read the revisions to the document, it is available on the town website (huntingtonvt.org) or from the Town Clerk's Office.



Your ad. This space. \$58.

Advertise with us!

Contact Meg Northrop at advertising@timesinkvt.org

Prepay? Save 5%.

A Great Smile Starts Here!



Welcoming New Patients!

Our goal is to create and maintain a healthy, comfortable, and attractive smile for a lifetime.

Dr. Howard Novak has over 20 years of experience providing state of the art dental care. Call today for an appointment and experience our warm, friendly environment.



Richmond Dental, Bridge Street, Richmond • 802.434.3700 • www.richmonddentalvt.com

**Richmond
Congregational
Church**
United Church of Christ



*Love God,
Seek Peace,
Build Community,
Welcome All.*

Winter Worship • 10 am

In person or online:

www.facebook.com/rccucc

Peace Vigil, Thursdays, 5:30 pm to 6 pm

Wave or a honk for Peace and Black Lives Matter

February 4: Worship with Rev. Katelyn Macrae; Sunday School

February 11: Worship and RCC Annual Meeting

February 14: Ash Wednesday - Ashes to Go, 7 am to 9 am, at RCC, noon Worship in Sanctuary

February 18: Worship with Rev. Katelyn Macrae; RCC Choir

February 25: Worship with guest preacher Caitlin Purinton

March 3: Worship with guest preacher Caitlin Purinton

Pastor Katelyn Macrae

802-434-2053

website: www.rccucc.org

Into the Woods

Managing Forests for Birds

by Ethan Tapper

What does it mean to manage forests for birds?

While this may seem like a simple question, it's actually almost impossible to answer. What we call "birds" includes everything from ducks and gulls to hawks and herons, from woodpeckers to hummingbirds, from turkeys to turkey vultures. Vermont is home to more than 80 species of breeding birds – one of the most diverse breeding bird populations in the United States. Birds are an immensely diverse group of animals with incredibly variable habitat requirements.

For this article, let's narrow our scope to songbirds. What we call "songbirds" (known by ornithologists as passerines, or "perching birds") includes birds as big as a raven and as small as a chickadee, as common as a robin and as uncommon as a golden-winged warbler. Our songbirds include both year-round occupants and neo-tropical migrants – birds that overwinter in the tropics and migrate to Vermont to breed in the summer.

The first thing that songbirds need is food. Most songbirds are heavily dependent on insects and other arthropods, especially when feeding

Another important component of songbird habitat is breeding habitat. Just as different species of songbirds utilize different canopy layers (understory, midstory, overstory) for foraging, they also do so for nesting. A forest with a diverse, multi-layered canopy may have rose-breasted grosbeaks nesting in the overstory, red-eyed vireos nesting in the midstory, black-throated blue warblers nesting in the understory and hermit thrushes nesting on the ground. Managing for structural diversity is key to providing breeding habitat for all of our songbirds.

Other important (and often under-appreciated)



Black-capped Chickadee

habitats for songbirds are big, old trees, snags, cavity trees and dead wood. Old trees feature complex bark and canopy structure, providing unique foraging habitat for many birds – especially bark-foragers like nuthatches.

Both old trees and snags are important food sources for woodpeckers, which forage for the insects and insect larva that colonize rotten wood. As they forage, woodpeckers create the tree cavities that are nesting habitat for birds from owls to chickadees to wood ducks. As old trees, snags and cavity trees fall over, they create nesting and foraging habitat for birds like winter wrens, drumming logs for grouse, and seedbeds for future generations of trees.

So, what does it mean to manage forests for birds?

We can't answer this question without also answering a larger question: how do we

manage for healthy, diverse forests that are functional and vibrant and rich with habitat for all of our native species? All of the habitat features mentioned here – species diversity, structural diversity, old trees, dead wood, snags, cavity trees – are key to improving habitat for all of our wildlife, and as we manage for them we simultaneously manage for forests that are resilient and adaptable in a changing climate, for old-growth characteristics, for water quality, for carbon and much more. One of the joys of managing forests for songbirds is how by doing so we also create and sustain so many other vital things.

To learn more about managing forests for birds, check out Audubon Vermont's FORESTERS FOR THE BIRDS program!

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



Common Yellow Throated Warbler

chicks in the spring and early summer. Our tens of thousands of species of native insects have complex relationships with many species of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, as well as being associated with forests of different ages and structural conditions. Managing for insects in the woods means encouraging forests with tree species diversity and structural diversity, big, old trees, a gap-filled forest canopy, dead wood, dead-standing trees ("snags"), cavity trees (trees with holes in them) and areas of young forest. Also key to promoting insect habitat (and thus songbird habitat) is controlling threats to forest diversity – especially non-native invasive plants and deer overpopulations.

While insects are a staple of most songbirds' diets throughout the year, another important food source is "mast" – seeds, nuts, fruits and berries. Neo-tropical songbirds will feed heavily on mast (especially "soft mast" like berries) as they prepare for migration, as will year-round occupants as they prepare for winter. Birds that spent the summer north of us will also snack on soft mast in our forests as they stop-over in mid-migration, fueling up for another long night of flying south.

Kits & Tests Products for Your Home Safety.



The store is open with
curbside pick up,
phone orders
and delivery options.

Just Ask
RENTAL

Richmond Home Supply
99 Railroad Street • Richmond
434-2887

MON-FRI 7-5:30 • SAT 8-4:30 • SUN 8:30-1:30

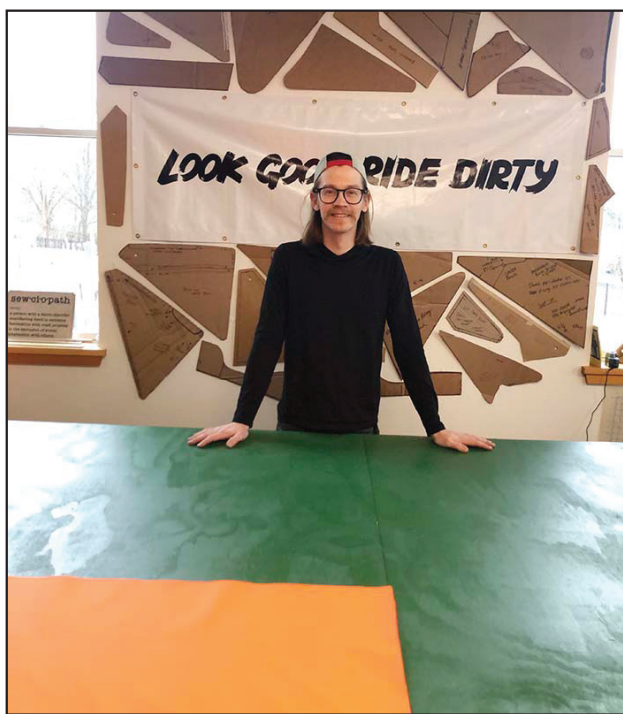
BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A
True Value

Business Beat

by Gina Haddock

Class Four Designs: Look Good, Ride Dirty

Equipment built for the road not maintained.” That’s the motto from one of Richmond’s newest businesses, **Class Four Designs**. When asked how owner Aaron August came up with this unusual name, August told the Beat, “Class Four is an actual road sign. It means that the road is not maintained, which translates into prime territory for mountain bikers. Since my business is focused on designing and making bags for bikers, I knew that this community would get the connection.”



Aaron August at his work table. Pictured behind him are various patterns for his bags. Photos: Gina Haddock

August had been working out of his Bolton home since 2018, but this September he moved his operation to downtown Richmond. “I’ve always wanted to move my business to Richmond,” August said. “It’s pretty much where I live, it’s big mountain bike country and it gives me the quality of life that I want. In addition, I’m right near the route of the Vermont Gravel Growler, a 255-mile loop around Vermont to experience some of the world’s best craft beer. Our local brewery, Stone Corral, is on the trail,” August told the Beat.

Originally from Pennsylvania, August attended Paul Smith College in upstate New York and studied business and entrepreneurship. Aaron has over 15 years working professionally in the outdoor industry. He worked for Outdoor Gear

Exchange from 2015 to 2020. There he learned about all the technical aspects of taking care of equipment. But even as a kid, Aaron knew that he wanted to have his own business.

“I saw my grandfather start his own very successful construction firm and I saw my grandmother create the most amazing quilts. I come from a family of engineers and sewing enthusiasts. Plus, I was a real hands-on kid and my parents got me involved in the arts,” August explained. All these experiences seem to have

come together in a profession that requires tremendous hands-on skills along with an artistic sense.

August is a one-man operation so every piece of equipment sold is designed and made by him. When asked how he manages to produce enough to make an income, August told the Beat, “It’s all about efficiencies. I try to create an environment where everything I do is as efficient as possible. It allows me to produce a good inventory of on-the-shelf products along with providing the time needed for made to order goods.” That concept of “efficiencies” translates into how he has developed his business. “If someone is riding a long distance over rough terrain, they need their equipment to be as functional and sturdy as possible. There are so many varieties of mountain

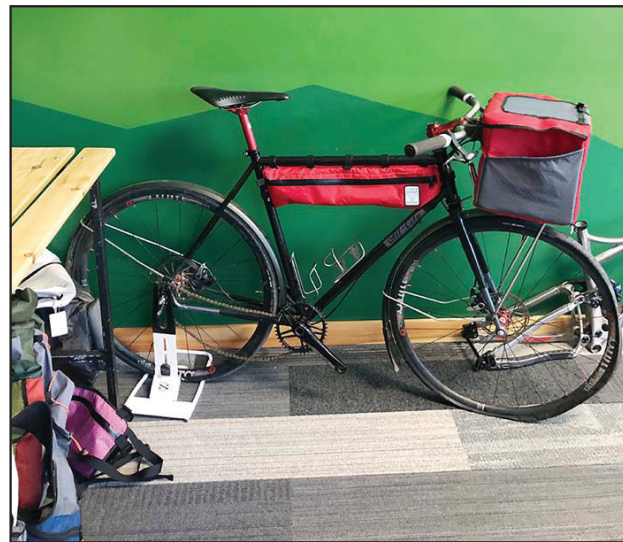
bikes and bodies. The bespoke idea has really taken off because it’s impossible for a big manufacturer to meet everyone’s individual needs and many bags just aren’t manufactured well.” August’s products have withstood the tests of time and distance with some riders traveling over 5,000 miles from Canada to Mexico using his bags. One enthusiastic rider uses eight of August’s purpose-built bags strategically fitted onto his one bike.

August’s shop not only has a nice inventory of different size bike bags but he also produces equipment such as vests for back country skiers. When it comes to quality made bags, the variety of needs is endless. August has created bags for an arborist’s equipment, videographers and a number of people in the tech busi-

ness who need to travel with equipment of mixed sizes and shapes. All of August’s products are made from durable and environmentally friendly sail cloth from a producer in Connecticut and all materials are sourced in the U.S. “My products are designed to disassemble easily so if a customer wants something repaired, updated or altered, I can take care of that. These bags are meant to last a very long time. I price my products reasonably because I want everyone to be able to get out there and enjoy their sport.”

A visit to August’s shop is an opportunity to see the wide range of gear that can be purchased on the spot. You’ll also see a bike fitted up to take advantage of every nook and cranny demonstrating how much a person could carry if every space is taken advantage of. If you’re looking for something very specific, you can visit August at his shop or email to discuss your needs. Some customers like to bring their bikes right into the shop so that August can make suggestions while fitting everything to the exact needs of the person.

August has done an impressive job of capturing the feel of the mountains in his shop using color and design. The walls are also filled with beautiful nature scenes created by local Bolton artist Natasha Bogar. His workshop is adjacent to his retail shop allowing customers the chance

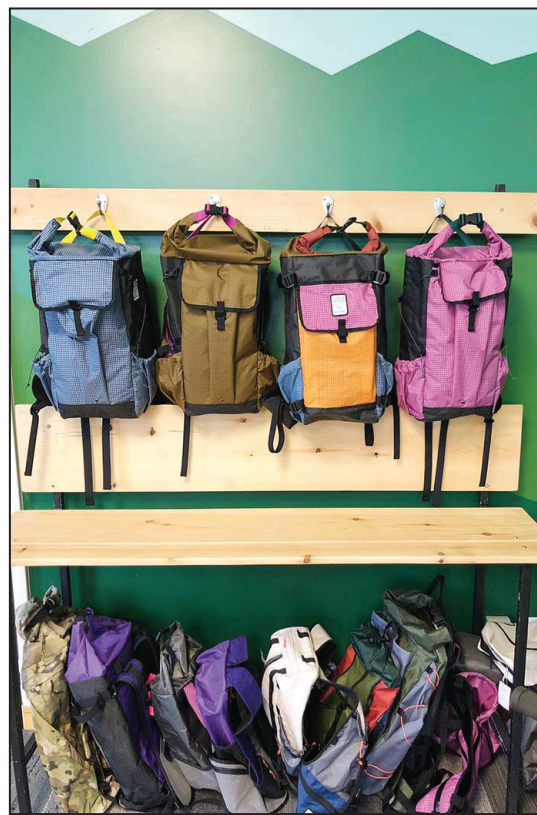


August can design a bike bag to fit exactly to your needs.

to see where the products are made. “People like to know who made their gear and this gives them the opportunity to do that,” August told the Beat. “Right now, the size of my operation is just right. It allows me the space to maintain the right level of customer service and produce enough products to meet my personal needs.”

A giant sign proclaiming “Look good, ride dirty” hangs in August’s workshop. August says this sums up his philosophy. “I want to support folks to get out there and enjoy those rugged trails but be equipped with good looking quality made equipment.” If you can’t visit the shop, one of the best ways to view August’s products is through Instagram or his website. August reports that about 70% of his business is on-line and out of state. He may even be producing some products for the Japanese market shortly.

Aaron August is excited to be a part of the local Richmond business scene. He plans to host an event in collaboration with the Richmond Trails committee this summer so stay tuned for more. Class 4 Designs hours are presently Tuesday through Friday noon to 6 pm, and Saturday noon to 3 pm although these hours may expand in the summer. Learn more at www.class4designs.com and on Instagram @class4designs. Class 4 Designs is located at 20 Jolina Ct., Suite 3, Richmond. Email is class4designs@gmail.com.



Class 4 Designs has bags of all sizes, colors and shapes



**Mount Mansfield
Community Television**

Your one stop for all Town Meeting
and local election coverage

MMCTV

Comcast Channels 1076 & 1086

Online at bit.ly/MmctvVideos AND YouTube @MMCTV

MtMansfieldCtv.org



Do you like to write?

**Are you interested in learning more about
our communities?**

Consider writing for the TIMES INK.

Feature Writer Needed

People businesses, more. There's a lot going on here.

Email to learn more: news@timesinkvt.org

EASY 2024 RESOLUTION: Have fun, learn a few new things, and meet some really nice people.

It's all available in your own back yard!

SEE *DETAILS FOR ACTIVITY SCHEDULES, ON-LINE LINKS.

COMING PROGRAMS - 1:30 PM on-line:

2/1/24: God Save Benedict Arnold with author Jack Kelly.

ACTIVITIES - Outdoors: Casual walks. *Hiking over til spring.*

Inside: Table tennis; pickleball; corn hole; bowling; ice skating.

Games, crafts: Canasta; mah jong; cribbage; needle arts.

Coffee and chat: Meet and make friends - all three towns.

Learning, improving: Spanish and French conversation;

on-linewriters' group - *any kind of writing*; memoir writing.

Music-making: Ukes R Us; Sing-along at Richmond Terrace.

Wellness: Bone Builders; Feldenkrais; on-line weight loss support group.

Story Circle: Share life's stories on-line.

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

Questions? Get answers! Chat with a senior volunteer from your own town! Call Martha at the number above to set it up.

You're Why We're Here!



Community
Senior Center

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Lack of Limits

Permissiveness is the principle of treating children; as if they were adults and the tactic of making sure they never reach that stage.

—Thomas Szasz 1974

Laurie was an educated woman with degrees in both nursing and teaching. She was devoted to her family and structured her life so as to be able to work nights at the hospital or doing private duty for patients in their homes. She was able to be home mornings to get her two children off to school. Then she could sleep for several hours and be awake when the children got home from school.

Both she and her husband were college educated and they expected that their children would be as well.

To outsiders the family looked like the normal middle-class family.

But family relatives saw a different picture. Cousin Alice noted, "Laurie clearly favors her son." Laurie allowed him to tease and torment his sister Sally. When Sally complained, Laurie would say, "He's a boy - that's what boys do." When he took Sally's doll clothes and put them next to the space heater's heating element to see if they would burn, which, of course, they did, Laurie's comment was, "He's a boy. That's what boys do, honey." When he cut the hair off her doll, she said, "That's okay, honey, that's what boys do." Sally became increasingly hurt and frustrated and Laurie continued to excuse the boy. And nothing changed. Robert, the son, continued to behave as though he had no limits.

When Robert later flunked out of college twice, and his mother continued to give him money, again there were no consequences or limits.

His feeble efforts to decline her offers were ineffective, and he continued to become more and more dependent. When he wanted a car, his mother bought him a car.

Despite the advice of others, Laurie continued her need to foster the dependence. She bought Robert land in New Hampshire, where he built a house for his parents' retirement. He moved in as he built the house, and settled in, clearly taking possession. His mother never protested and, in fact, gave him her blessing when he met a woman, got married and had two sons. He once decided to take the family out West, and had his mother pay for the van to travel in.

The sad part of this is the effect Robert's actions had on his own sons. Young men need a strong male to model as they grow and mature. The lack of the strong father does not offer the boy a model worthy of imitation.

Robert's lack of such an example had a crippling effect on his second son Lawrence. In order to develop his masculinity, Lawrence joined the Navy Seals. Unfortunately, the psychological damage of war left the young man emotionally and psychologically disabled. He found a place in which he felt he belonged, but damage was done.

As a society we struggle with setting limits. It seems increasingly difficult for parents to set limits with their own children. And it seems especially difficult for them when they are adults and have lost a marriage or a job. We don't like to say no, and we don't like to see them struggle

continue to page 13

PHOENIX BOOKS

- Save 20% on books all year when you join our Phoenix Book Club!
- Shop online 24/7
- Local author events
- School book fairs
- Educator discounts
- Business-to-business program
- Games, toys, puzzles, & fine stationery



OWNERS MIKE AND RENEE

WHEREVER YOU LIVE, LET US BE YOUR LOCAL BOOKSTORE



ESSEX



RUTLAND



BURLINGTON

ESSEX

802.872.7111

BURLINGTON

802.448.3350

RUTLAND

802.855.8078

phoenixbooks.biz
@phoenixbooksvt

phoenix
BOOKS