The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
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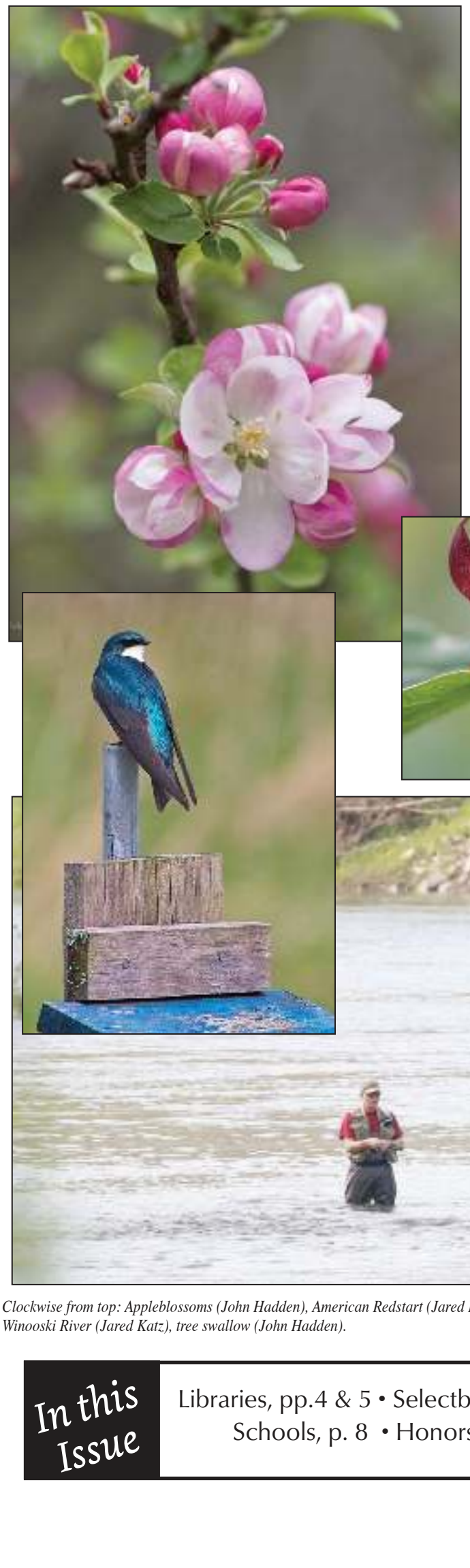
Signs of Spring



Clockwise from top: Appleblossoms (John Hadden), American Redstart (Jared Katz), trillium (Jared Katz), fisherman in the Winooski River (Jared Katz), tree swallow (John Hadden).

How to Love a Forest

For many years, this paper, along with other community newspapers, has had a regular column, INTO THE WOODS, contributed by Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper. The column covered a variety of topics directly related to forests in our towns, including habitat, vegetation and social influences. The columns were well-received, judging by the comments made by readers, and informative.

Ethan Tapper is finishing up his last couple weeks as the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. His last day in this role will be May 31, marking eight years to the day since he started this job in 2016.

Tapper reminisced, "Over the last eight years I've met thousands of you in the woods, led hundreds of public events and written more than 70 articles for a dozen community newspapers."

He has been an important resource for Richmond and Huntington, two towns of several, that have directly benefitted from his work, as he wrote the Forestry Management Plans (FMP) for the Andrews Community Forest, the Huntington Community Forest, the Huntington Town Forest, and the nearby Carse Addition to the Hinesburg Town Forest.

Additionally, he wrote the FMP for the Westford Town Lands, the Catamount Community Forest, the Milton Town Forest, and the Indian Brook Conservation Area.

And, Tapper gave forest tours to explain his work, attend meetings of the Conservation Commissions and Selectboards, and was available to anyone who wanted information on the forestland.

Said Aaron Worthley, chair of the Huntington Community Forest Stewardship Committee, "Ethan was instrumental to us for evaluating the property with the Conservation Commission. He also assisted with the acquisition process," which was a multifaceted task, involving several funding organizations to help pay for the purchase of the property. Tapper was the featured speaker at the forest management public forum prior to the acquisition of the property

Worthley noted, "These projects were done during COVID" and almost all the information was done through Zoom. In 2019, Tapper conducted in-person walks prior to the acquistion.

Tapper was also very present for Richmond's Andrews Community Forest, working closely with the group.

Brad Elliott attended most of the meetings for the Richmond forest acquisition and has recently been appointed to Andrews Community Forest Committee. He explained that Tapper's influence for managing the 428 acres of forestland and farmland provided a type of forest management called "ecological forestry." According to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, ecological forestry uses the harvesting of trees to emulate natural disturbances and to encourage the development of complex, diverse and healthy forests. Among the benefits of this type of forestry is the creation of great habitat for a wide range of Vermont's wildlife species, helping forests be more resilient and adaptive in a changing climate, and helping Vermont's relatively young forests more quickly develop characteristics of old growth forests.

For example, strategic logging and logs left in place can deter deer activity. This allows for areas to not be heavily grazed by deer, thus creating an age-diversification of species in the woods, serving ecological needs. Elliott noted that a recent bird walk in the Andrews Forest had shown a "managed" area that produced a habitat previously not inhabited by birds.

Tapper has received numerous honors and distinctions, most recently as the National Outstanding Inspector of the Year for the American Tree Farm System.

He explained, "For six years, I woke up every morning at 5 am and wrote for an hour before heading to work in the woods. Gradually, these writings became a book called HOW TO LOVE A FOREST: THE BITTERSWEET WORK OF TENDING A CHANGING WORLD, which will be coming out in September. I was inspired to write HOW TO LOVE A FOREST by my work as a forester, as well as by my experience caring for my own 175-acre parcel – Bear Island – that I bought in 2017. I found that there were lots of books about forests and other ecosystems and the threats that they face, but none about what we actually do about it:

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Letters Opinions & Other News

Dear Richmond Residents

Do you want to hear a secret? I used to think that Richmond was a healthy town. But now I think that people need to spend more time together in this amazing place. That would boost your creativity, be a good activity, and be an energy option. What this town needs to know is this town needs more hiking trails.

One reason that Richmond needs more hiking trails is because it would be a fun, family, friend activity! For example, my mom, my mom's friend, my mom's friend's son, my godmother and I all went backpacking. We had to carry these gigantic backpacks. We could only bring the essentials. Including delicious cider donuts. But the best part was spending the time with my friends and family. Richmond needs more trails to walk on.

Another reason Richmond needs to have more trails for hiking is it would mean we would have more energy options. According to Mayo Clinic, "exercise actually boosts your energy, instead of making you run out of it." According to me, I think getting some hiking trails would encourage that matter because people can exercise on hiking trails. This town needs more hiking trails!!!

My last reason Richmond needs more hiking trails is because hiking makes you have more creativity. Natural scenes calm your mind, but then your mind gets bored, so it wanders. Which is a good thing, because then your brain notices the setting, the very, creative, setting. And if you've lived a year, at least, you should probably know that creativity travels as fast as light. Richmond needs more hiking trails so people can increase their creativity!

In conclusion, Richmond needs more hiking trails. Making more hiking trails would be pretty good. I mean just think, hiking trails could lore curious creatures out, then you could discover them. When you think about hiking trails, what do you think? Then, maybe you and someone else could do your idea.

—Sincerely,
Charlotte D. Clark-Lietar

(Charlotte Clark-Lietar is in Grade Four at Williston Central School, and lives part time in Richmond. This letter was an assignment connected to Use Your Voice to Change the World.)

Gearing Up for July 4

The Richmond Parade & Fireworks Committee is planning a fun & exciting day. You just know the weather will be beautiful! The theme for the parade this year is Fairy Tales Can Come True. Everyone can expect a lot of great characters on the parade route. The Fun Run is planned to start before the parade. K-9 Duke who will be joining us in Richmond. Lots of fun, food and music is planned. Of course, the evening ends with a beautiful fireworks display.

Volunteers are needed to assist at the May 25 Coin Drop and July 4. Please contact Linda at 802-434-2221 x 2 to be included in the fun. Volunteers are encouraged to help with set up and clean up, as well on July 3 and 5. More information, including the schedule, vendor sign-up and participant sign-up sheets may be found at the Richmond website: https://www.richmondvt.gov/boards-meetings/parade-and-fireworks-committee

—Richmond Parade & Fireworks Committee

CCH Dinner

The Community Church of Huntington will hold a dinner on June 22, with serving beginning at 5 pm.

In addition to pulled pork, the meal will include baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, jello salad, pickles and olives, and dessert.

Reservations are suggested, but not required.

For information, call or text Ellie (802)398-5320; ellielawyer93@gmail.com

Pay what you can. Suggested donation is $15.

The event will be held at 4910 Main Road, Huntington Center.

Donate Blood in Richmond

The next local American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for June 4, 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.

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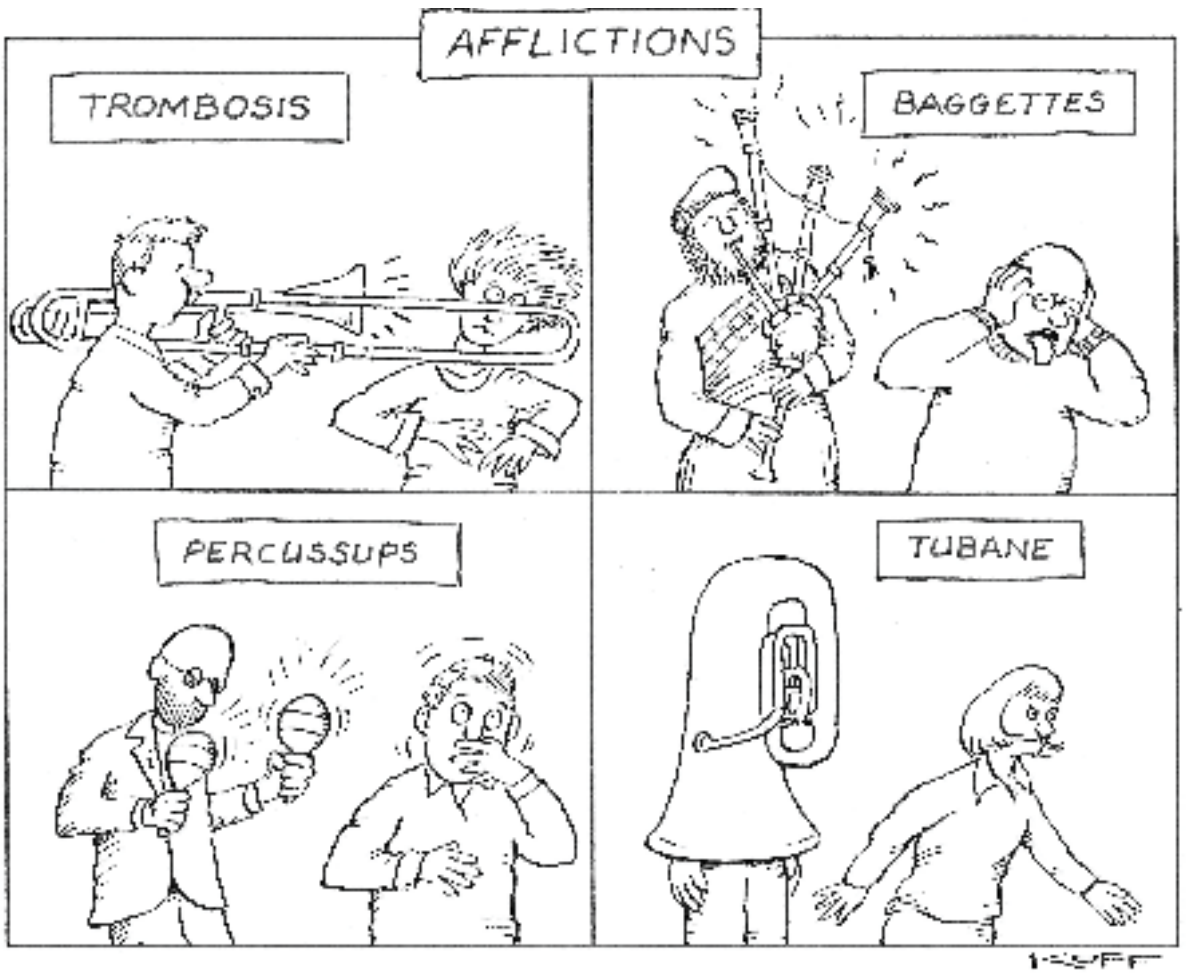

Community Seniors Set 2024 Fund-Raising Goal

Area elders gather weekly for Morning Coffee Hour at the Huntington Public Library, where they enjoy brilliant conversation and other activities - and strong coffee. Courtesy photo.

The Community Senior Center begins its annual drive in June to raise funding required for its expanded list of activities and programs that serve hundreds of area residents.

This year's budget calls for $32,200 to cover costs of bringing dozens of different weekly activities and informative programs to a growing number of seniors. The CSC offers a diverse weekly line-up suited to different ability levels and interests so that as many area seniors as possible have opportunities to improve their lifestyle and well-being. In addition, it routinely requests and acts on suggestions from seniors for new activities.

The organization depends almost entirely on contributions from individuals. It receives some support from grants for special projects, but does not draw from the three towns' tax revenues.

To keep its operating costs low, the CSC uses spaces that are best-suited to each activity, rather than maintaining a physical Senior Center facility. Venues include church halls, schools, libraries, and even a fire station meeting room, all made available to the CSC at reasonable rates.

Almost 80% of the budget goes to support programs and activities, which are overseen by more than 50 volunteer leaders and coordinators. The weekly calendar covers health and wellness sessions, recreational sports, card and table games, crafts, social coffee hours and discussion groups. Seniors can learn new skills in a writers' group, memoir writing classes, and in Spanish and French conversation, among other offerings. Online sessions help with grief support and weight management, and give seniors the opportunity to share stories from their experiences. While some activities, like the Friendship Garden, swimming, and hiking are seasonal, the CSC hosts Pickle Ball, corn hole and bocce indoors and out based on the weather.

Part of the budget is allocated to fees for professional speakers who are experts in various fields. Other programs include travelogues presented by area residents at no cost to the CSC.

This year's budget also allows the CSC to continue making fees optional for activities like bowling that have costs ordinarily covered by participants. The goal is to allow seniors to join in at no cost when circumstances may require it. Additionally, the CSC is implementing a Senior Support initiative to help residents in new ways. One example is the foot clinic, generously supported by Richmond Family Medicine and area RNs. The organization is also developing plans to bring activities to seniors in their homes when needed.

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

Enjoy coffee, conversation and table games in all three towns each week.

MMU Students Present Senior Spring Play

The Theatre Department at Mount Mansfield Union High School presents its final theatre production of the school year. In this play-within-a-play, the ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Dramatic Society present their ambitious production of the cunning whodunit, MURDER AT CHECKMATE MANOR.The scenery collapses, cues are missed, props go wrong, and the sound effects are "revolting."

Performances are May 31 and June 1 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $6 for students and staff, and $8 for general admission. Tickets will be available at the door on show nights.

Round Church Concert

The Richmond Historical Society will host a summer concert series in the Old Round Church featuring two local bands.

The first concert, with headliner Forest Station, will be held on June 1 at 7 pm. Donations are requested for admission. Any profits realized from the concert will go toward maintenance of the Old Round Church and/or projects of the Richmond Historical Society to preserve Richmond's History. Forest Station is a Vermont-based bluegrass group born in the Rocky Mountains and realized in the Greens. Its blend of high energy, tight pockets, and just enough improvisational grease will scratch your itch for real, honest bluegrass. Throughout the years, they have formed a communicative musical bond that has resulted in innovative string music spanning the traditional ideal and pushing a unique style into unknown territory. Their debut album, Earth Tones was released in April and is an ode to their Western roots, steeped in the mountain ranges, landscapes, and forests that surround them. It's evident in their songwriting that they have a deep appreciation for the natural world and the traditions of bluegrass music.

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Summer Reading Program Every summer we join the Vermont Department of Libraries and libraries across the country in offering reading program materials around a common theme. This year the theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library. Registration for the program will begin on June 18. A flyer detailing all the special programs and events happening at the library this summer will be available at the library in early June. Below are a few of the first special programs of the summer.

Alyx the Magician Alyx the Magician is more than magical, she is a kids' fun expert! Weaving books into her program she will amaze, entertain, and fill the room with laughter. Don't miss this show! All ages are welcome to join us on Friday, June 21, at 10 am.

Thingamajigs and Doodads Drop in to help us use up all sorts of left over craft supplies like duct tape, paints, pom poms, feathers, pipe cleaners, stickers, google eyes, streamers, and sparkle glue. We'll throw in lots of boxes, tubes, containers and cardboard and you can let your imagination run wild as you create the best whatchamacallit possible. Kids ages 6 – 12 are invited to join us for this program on Monday, June 24, at 1 pm.

Portable Mini Golf Company We will have a nine-hole mini golf course and everything else necessary for kids to enjoy a fun round of golf outside the Library. The event will move indoors if rainy. Drop by for your turn to test your skill on this fun course. No registration is required is required for ages 4-teen on Tuesday, June 25, from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Avian Adventure with the Audubon Staff from the Green Mountain Audubon Center will guide us through the basics of birding through active games about bird song, migration, and identification. This program on Wednesday, June 26, at 10:30 am is best suited for youth ages 5 to 10.

Family Toad Trivia Why did the toad cross the road? Join Katie from the organization In Defense of Animals for a fun family vs. family trivia night. Gather up your team and test your knowledge about toads, frogs, salamanders and all things amphibian. Cookies will be provided. Register in advance for this fun family event for all ages on Wednesday, June 26, at 6:30 pm.

Golden Dome Book Nominees We are all waiting to learn who the Vermont students in grades 4 to 8 have voted in as winner of the 2023 Golden Dome Book Award. Winners of all Vermont Youth Book Awards are announced by the first week of June. The list of nominees for 2024-2025 is out and we have brand new copies of each book ready to be checked out and enjoyed over the summer.

Weekly Children's Programs Weekly programs at the RFL run from September through May. If you have enjoyed story times and playtime at the Library this past year, check out our summer schedule and see if there are things of interest for you and your little one.

Is an ADU Right for You? Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are becoming an appealing option to use extra space, generate income, provide independent but close-by housing for family and work to address housing shortages in our community. ADUs have been around for centuries and include everything from basement apartments to standalone cabins. Learn about different types of ADUs, the local zoning and permitting process, state incentives and VHIP, financing, and what it's like to actually build and own an ADU. Join us on June 8 at 10 am.

Cookbook Club Join us on June 8 at noon for an hour of dining and discussion. This month participants prepare dishes from Jubilee: Recipes from Two Centuries of African American Cooking. To register, check out a copy of the book and sign up for a recipe by June 3. Email Suzanne at skrohn@richmondvt.gov.

Knitting & Stitching Group Drop in to knit, embroider or otherwise needlecraft with your neighbors on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8pm.

Seed Library Our new seed library is officially open for (free) business. Stop in to "check out" some of our seeds generously donated by High Mowing, FedCo, Annie's, and Seed Savers Exchange. If possible, plan to save and bring back some of your harvested seeds for next year! Stop in or email skrohn@richmondvt.gov for more information.

Get Started with Container Gardening Planters aren't just for flowers! Join Hannah Harrington of Richmond Community Garden to learn how container gardening can help with small spaces, poor soil and mobility challenges. Topics include types of planters, strategies for different plants and plenty of inspiration and conversation. Wednesday, May 29, at 5:30pm.

May Art Show Drop by to see the abstract landscapes of Hinesburg artist Rebecca Padula. Rebecca is a mixed media artist who enjoys finding ways to combine different materials to discover new effects. She has been mostly working with oil and cold wax, a type of thick oil painting that lends itself to building multi-layered, textured surfaces. Her abstract work is inspired by the natural world.

Device Advice is Back Jim Poulin is returning to Vermont and will be available on the last Wednesday of each month to help anyone who needs to tame their electronic device whether it's their smart phone or tablet or laptop. Come see Jim starting May 29, 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Yay!

Do You Enjoy Classical Music? The Richmond Free Library will soon have (2) passes to the Craftsbury Chamber Players Summer Music Festival valid July 10 through August 15. Performances take place on Wednesdays at the Elley Long Music Center and Thursdays in Hardwick. To learn more about the Players: http://craftsburychamberplayers.org/site/ Let us know if you'd like to be notified when the passes arrive.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on June 11 at 6 pm to discuss The House in the Cerulean Sea by TJ Klune. Contact Gwen Landis (802-434-5012; gwennie1972@yahoo.com) for information on joining this group.

Mystery Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on June 20 at 7 pm to discuss The Sacred Bridge by Anne Hillerman. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055, msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions.

Trustees Meetings are on the second Monday of the month via Zoom until further notice. All meetings are open to the public.

COVID Tests Pick up your free tests at the circulation desk. It is wise to have them on hand prior to needing them, so stock up.

Closings The Library will be closed on Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day. The Library will

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www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

Save the Date The Friends of the Huntington Public Library will be hosting Yoga on the Hillside on Saturday, June 1 from 3 pm – to 4 pm. Midnight Goat Farm has hosted Goat Yoga for the couple of years, but there was no guarantee of baby goats being on the farm in June. We are so grateful for Karen and Yves' generous support!

Reimagined Yoga on the Hillside will take place outdoors in Huntington with a view of Camel Hump. Kerry Walker will once again guide our yoga practice with her experience, warmth and humor. This year Evergreen Erb will create an ethereal atmosphere with her magical harp music. In case of rain, we will relocate to the Huntington Town Hall.

Watch in the upcoming weeks for more details and how to sign up.

The Art of Dr. Seuss The month of June will feature an extra special exhibit featuring Dr. Seuss. Caroline Horn has generously offered to share her personal collection of artworks. Come by to see favorite characters and explore some new ones.

Summer Reading Program The Library is gearing up for the summer. This year's Summer Reading Program theme is Adventure Begins at Your Library. There will be field trips to exciting places such as the Birds of Vermont Museum, Vermont Heavy Timber, Pleasant Mount Farm, and others. Again we will have a Family Reading Raffle with prizes, Guessing Jars, and crafts. And don't miss the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge. More details to come.

Local Author Rusty Charpentier visits the Library Saturday, July 13, 10 am. Join us for Rusty's new book, It's Beautiful Outside Today! Rusty will have books available to purchase.

Book Group Fourth Saturday of every month, 10 am. Good company, discussion, and great books – what's not to love? New members always welcome.

New Adult Fiction Lost Birds by Anne Hillerman; Funny Story by Emily Henry; Table for Two by Amor Towles; A Calamity of Souls by David Baldacci; The Last Word by Elly Griffiths; The Crescent City Series, Books 1, 2 and 3 by Sarah Maas; The Secret Service of Tea and Treason by India Holton; Icebreaker and Wildfire by Hannah Grace; The Waters by Bonnie Jo Campbell; The Figurine by Victoria Hislop; Old God's Time by Sebastian Barry; The Canal Murders by J.R. Ellis; The Cemetery of Untold Stories by Julia Alvarez; Until August by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; A Wild and Heavenly Place by Robin Oliveira.

Adult Nonfiction The Art Thief - A True Story of Love, Crime and a Dangerous Obsession by Michael Finkel; It's Not You - Identifying and Healing from Narcissistic People by Ramani Durvasula, PhD; Master Slave Husband Wife - An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom by Ilyon Woo The Comfort of Crows by Margaret Renkl; When We Walk - Forgotten Humanity, Broken Systems, and the Role We Can Each Play in Ending Homelessness in America by Kevin F. Adler; Around the World in 80 Birds by Mike Unwin; Earth Basketry - Weaving Containers with Nature's Materials by Osma Gallinger Tod; The Complete Book of Drawing - Essential Skills for Every Artist by Barrington Barber; Sea of Glory - America's Voyage of discovery - The US Exploring Expedition 1838 - 1842 by Nathaniel Philbrick; Monet in the 20th Century by Paul Ahyes Tucker; The Demon of Unrest - A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak and Heroism at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson; Somehow - Thoughts on Love by Anne Lamott; The Lost Flock - Rare Wool, Wild Isles and One Woman's Journey to Save Scotland's Original Sheep by Jane Cooper; Baby Sign Language Made Easy - 101 Signs to Start Communicating With Your Child Now by Lane Rebelo; You Are Here - Poetry in the Natural World, edited by Ada Limon; We Loved It All - A Memory of Life by Lydia Miller.

Audiobook The Women in the Castle by Jessica Shattuck.

Picture Books Ojiichan's Gift by Chrieri Uegaki; Gravity is Bringing Me Down by Wendekin Van Draanen; Grief is an Elephant by Tamara Ellis Smith; The First Day of Peace by Todd Schuster; Juneteenth by Van G. Garrett; All Different Now - Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom by Angela Johnson; I Forgive Alex - A Simple Story About Understanding by Kerascoet; Are You Big? by Mo Willems; Your Body is Awesome - Body Respect for Children by Sigrun Danielsdottir; Reading Together - A Heartwarming Story About Bonding with Your Child Through the Love of Reading by Robert Broder; Ahoy! by Sophie Blackall; Beneath by Cori Doerrfeld; Summer: A Solstice Story by Kelsey E. Gross.

Juvenile Nonfiction Minecraft Idea Book - 70+ Awesome Builds; Next Time You See a Spiderweb by Emily Morgan; John Ronald's Dragons - The Story of J.R.R Tolkien by Caroline McAlister; Free At Last - A Juneteenth Poem by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle.

Juvenile Graphic Novels Witches of Brooklyn Series, Books 1, 2 and 3 by Sophie Escabasse; Duel by Jessixa Bagley; Amulet - Wave Rider, Book 9 by Kazu Kibuishi; Agents of S.U.I.T. - From Badger to Worse by John Patrick Green; Magic Tree House - Afternoon on the Amazon by Mary Pope Osborne.

Early Chapter Dragon Masters - Cave of the Crystal Dragon by Tracey West; Heartwood Hotel - Books 1-4 by Kallie George; The Boxcar Children Beginning by Patricia Maclachlan.

Young Adult Fiction Palmer's Acquisition by Clifford Robarge.

Story Time and Play Group Fridays, 9:15 am to 10:30 am. 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.

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Please note that the Library will be closed on Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.

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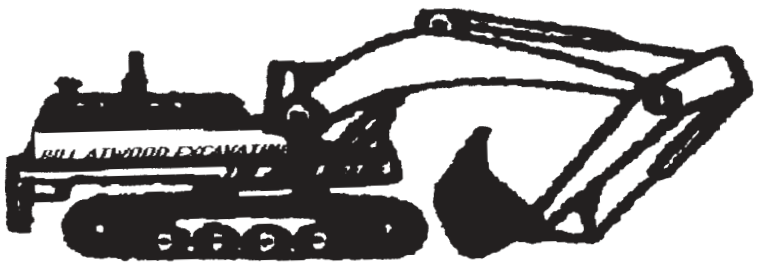

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Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Mark Aiken

The Richmond Selectboard met on May 6 and covered a range of topics. The meeting began with a welcome by Selectboard Chair David Sander who noted the night's extremely long agenda list. "In ten years on the Board, I don't know if I remember items going all the way through the alphabet," Sander said.

In the public comment, Jack Linn thanked the Selectboard for having open, in-person meetings, because, he said, "Zoom doesn't work for me." (An aside: this reporter also hates technology… except for the digital recordings of the meetings without which I'd be unable to write these monthly reports!)

Amy Gifford and Erin McGuire, owners of Richmond Community Kitchen, raised concerns over a proposed sidewalk project on Bridge Street that would eliminate all the parking spaces in front of their local business. "We are certain this will negatively impact our business," Gifford said. The two business owners asked to be included in discussions about the project moving forward. Jack Linn then returned to the microphone to come out in opposition to the whole sidewalk project.

Recognition of Tree Warden Littlefield After a brief reminder about a then-upcoming special Selectboard meeting about the future of Volunteer Green, Board members moved the first agenda item: recognizing Richmond Tree Warden Caitlin Littlefield who was honored with a Leader Award at the Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Program and Council's Tree Steward Awards. "Congratulations, and thank you Caitlin for all you do for the Town of Richmond," said Town Manager Josh Arneson.

Discussion of a Letter of Recommendation for Buttermilk Application The next item was brought by Selectboard Vice Chair Lisa Miller who raised concerns about a letter of recommendation written by Selectboard chair Sander for an application to the Vermont Housing Finance Agency regarding the continued development of the old Creamery property. "This was an egregious example of ex parte communication," Miller said, meaning that the letter was written without review by the larger Board. Sander explained that there was a deadline on the application and that the letter promised nothing in the way of permits.

Miller granted that the letter did specify that the Selectboard hadn't had an opportunity to discuss the letter and that they would at the May 6 meeting, but she expressed frustration that the letter included her name as a signer and that it implied support for the application before the Board had been able to discuss it. Also, she said, she wasn't aware that anyone had asked for an extension of the deadline.

Board member Bard Hill said that he felt that the Town's prior support for the development of the former Creamery property justified Sander's writing the letter. Selectboard members seemed to generally agree with the contents of the letter, but recognized that, really, it should have been discussed at a publicly-warned meeting before being signed and sent.

Sander went on to say that disagreement among Board members is okay, and that in instances of dissatisfaction, it's important to communicate. "Unpleasant communication is better than no communication," said Sander.

Unrelated but related: later in the meeting, Town Manager Arneson stated that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns held a training on Open Meeting Law in April. Fourteen Richmond committee members and Town staff (many of them volunteers) attended the training. Good to know that Richmond will most likely be following these important laws.

Australian Ballot Town Budget Vote Discussion Arneson explained to Selectboard members the process options available if they wanted to approve the annual Town budget by Australian ballot. Selectboard member Jay Furr noted that the question and process reminded him of when the Town moved Town Meeting from Tuesday back to Monday; a meeting was held at the Library on a Saturday morning and people voted on it. Further discussion about this topic will be held at a future meeting.

Traffic Signals Since the last Selectboard meeting, Richmond installed new traffic signals at the Bridge Street and Route 2 intersection. There was a flurry of feedback in the days after the install about the timing of the signals. "This signal is controlled by the State, so we have no authority over it," said chairperson Sander.

Town Manager Arneson said that the Vermont Agency of Transportation made adjustments over that first weekend (it was installed on a Friday). There have continued to be tweaks; Arneson and Assistant Town Manager Duncan Wardwell had visited the intersection almost daily to make their observations based on local feedback and communications with VTrans. "Their response to this intersection is always very quick," Arneson said. Many of the issues are worked out, but kinks are still being adjusted.

Committee Matters The Board expanded the number of seats on the Town Center and Library Buildings Committee from five to six and then appointed Matt Cherouny to the committee. Meanwhile, the Board changed a rule for the Andrews Community Forest committee. Although there must be a representative of the Conservation and Trails committees on the ACF committee, those members no longer have to be present at a meeting for the ACF committee to vote on issues. The ACF question still needs to be approved by the Vermont Land Trust.

Later in the meeting, the Board approved decreasing the number of seats on the Transportation committee from seven to five.

Events and Road Closures The Selectboard approved closures to Cochran Road for the Aliza Lapierre Fan Club 25-50K race on July 6 (rain date July 13) and the 45th running of the Round Church Women's Run on July 20. Meanwhile, the Board approved a coin drop to be operated by Richmond's Parade and Fireworks committee on May 25 at the intersection of Bridge Street and Route 2.

Certificate of Deposit and Third Quarter Financials Town Treasurer Jim Feinson explained some town financial investments. The Board approved the purchase of a six-month Certificate of Deposit from Northfield Savings Bank in the amount of $750,000.

Later, Arneson and Town Financial Director Connie Bona reviewed the third quarter financial sheets that included more interest rate returns than usual, vacancy savings from the Police Department, and lower expenditures on road salt and sand.

Intersection of Thompson Road, Bridge Street, Cochran Road, and Huntington Road Who knew this traffic discussion was going to be the most passionate and heavily discussed topic of the night. In fact, the discussion spilled over into Richmond's social media feed for over a week after the Selectboard meeting ended. On the other hand, it should come as no surprise; any topic including the words "Cochran" and "Road" tend to generate discussion.

Transportation committee chair Chris Cole explained that his committee has been looking at the intersection – a four-way intersection with stop signs at Cochran Road and Thompson Road and unstopped traffic flowing to and from Huntington Road to and from Bridge Street – which are at 90-degree angles to each other. It

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Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Paul Susen

The Huntington Selectboard held one regular meeting on April 17 and two special meetings on April 24 and May 2. Agenda items included driveway permit applications, highway operations, presence of law enforcement, conflict of interest, budget, bicycle ride, and land use regulations.

Three separate driveway applications were considered. An application on Texas Hill Circle was tabled due to uncertainty over a boundary line. An application for a second driveway cut at 982 Sherman Hollow Road was approved. Selectboard members noted that although there is past practice related to consideration of second driveway cuts, there is no current policy. An application for a second driveway at 9613 Main Road, this one to an accessory dwelling unit, resulted in questions regarding the height of the driveway, the needed presence of a mirror, what party would be financially responsible for the mirror, the cutting of trees, the addition of a hidden driveway sign, visibility, equity, policy and a comment from the public expressing concern over safety for cyclists. A motion to reject the application was tabled. Two site visits occurred involving two special meetings. No final action was taken.

Under highway, the Selectboard confirmed its interest in purchasing a truck with a special transmission, despite the reported back order. The Selectboard approved the annual financial highway plan to be submitted to the Vermont Department of Transportation. The Selectboard decided to ask the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission to conduct a traffic study of the section of Main Road from Raven Ridge to Maplewood Cemetery north of the village. The Selectboard decided to offer a full-time road crew position to a candidate.

Whether or not the presence of law enforcement in Huntington is adequate is often the subject of conversation at the Selectboard. The focus is almost always on what to do about individuals driving vehicles at speeds reportedly far greater than the posted signs. After a suggestion from a resident about collaboration with Hinesburg, the Selectboard tabled a discussion on engaging the Hinesburg Police Department.

Conflict of interest At every Selectboard Meeting, there is a procedure whereby a potential conflict of interest can be declared. There is also the possibility that a member of the public can suggest that a conflict of interest exists. One suggestion of a conflict was not discussed since the corresponding agenda item was tabled. In a separate matter, a resident claimed that the Zoning Administrative Officer had a conflict of interest with an existing case. After investigation of the matter, the Selectboard determined that no conflict existed. A modified Conflict of Interest Policy for 2024 was approved. Proposed rules of procedure were not acted on.

Budgets on Track A variety of budget matters were discussed in addition to highway actions, which were presented above. After a presentation by a representative from the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD), the FY25 CSWD budget was approved. Nothing out of the ordinary exists in the Q3 General Fund budget. The Town Treasurer was set to file the annual American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) budget. Priorities for how to spend the remaining ARPA dollars will be considered at an upcoming meeting.

The Town Administrator had received a request for the Selectboard to support Richard's Ride on May 18. A pop-up tent would be set up at the base of Lincoln Hill Road. Residents in the vicinity will be notified. The Selectboard supported the idea as the experience in the past been a good one.

Regulations Two residents have expressed concerns over some land use regulations. The Selectboard noted the concerns and is waiting for a report from the Planning Commission.

Selectboard

continued from previous page

is not a standard traffic pattern.

The committee and many residents in attendance looked at several options for the intersection. Generally, those who spoke (and there were plenty) seemed to agree that, with adequate painted lines on the roadway and signage, the intersection could probably function well without changes. Currently, the lines are worn and indiscernible, and signage is inadequate. Much discussion centered around the State's designation of the intersection as "dangerous." People expressed concerns about costs for changing the intersection and whether changes were needed. Possible changes were debated and discussed (and most speakers seemed to discard them as overpriced or unnecessary).

Board member Hill noted that the roads were designed when the main vehicles traveling them were horses and buggies, and "now we're driving cars and bikes."

The Board voted to pursue a four-way stop option for the intersection with a price tag of over $100,000. (Although they did not specify this at the meeting, the vote means the Board will explore the four-way option. In a follow-up email, Arneson clarified that the Transportation committee will explore funding options for the project. The change is not a done deal, and we can look forward to more discussion – and, likely, social media postings – in the future.)

In Other Business Board members approved amendments to Richmond Zoning regulations (Selectboard vice chair Miller cast a dissenting vote); discussed plans to build a new sidewalk in front of the cemetery on Bridge Street (and issues with this plan including the disturbance of grave sites); disbanded the American Rescue Plan Act committee; decided to add a third speed table on the western end of Cochran Road; discussed a hearing to discuss changing the Municipal Parks Ordinance to include the Round Church Green; talked about railroad ties lying around the tracks; discussed reviewing the Selectboard's Rules of Procedure; and other items. At a few minutes after 11 pm, the Board approved the minutes from the previous meeting, approved several purchase orders, and approved any warrants. Then they adjourned a very lengthy meeting.

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MMUUSD News

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District recently announced that Michael Abbott has accepted the Director of Student Activities position at Mount Mansfield Union High School, effective July 1, 2024.

Abbott received his Bachelor of Science degree from Keene State College and later obtained a Master of Arts degree from Saint Michael's College. He has served as the Director of Student Engagement within the Milton Town School District for the last three years. Prior to this, he was an administrative intern and science teacher at Champlain Valley School District.

Abbott said he is excited to bring his extensive and relevant experience to the Director of Student Activities position and looks forward to fostering a culture of inclusion and equity within MMUHS's activities and athletic programs.

Jenn Cote has accepted the MMUUSD (Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District) Director of Special Services position.

Cote earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science and her Master of Education in Special Education from Saint Michael's College.

Cote served as the Principal at Underhill Central School since 2019, held the position of principal at Underhill ID School for one year and was a special educator in the District for 10 years.

Above: Michael Abbott, incoming MMU Director of Student Activities.
Below, Jenn Cote MMUUSD Director of Special Services

MMU Graduation Section in Next Issue

The next issue of The Times will feature its annual section celebrating MMU graduates.

Photos, sponsorships ($25), ads of congratulations will all help make this section special.

Photos of a variety of activities are needed. The school has already supplied senior photos, so we are looking for photoa of sports, performance, hanging out with friends.

Sponsorships of $25 - add your name to the list - and ads: contact Meg Northrop, advertising@timesinkvt.org.

The deadline is June 13 for ads and June 17 for photos. The paper will be in all mailboxes in Richmond, Huntington and Bolton Access Road on June 27.

Area Residents Honored

Caitlin Littlefield

The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program (VT UCF) recently announced the recipients of the 2024 Vermont Tree Steward awards, given to deserving individuals and community groups for their ongoing commitment and dedication to protecting and preserving their community's forests and trees.

VT UCF staff also selected a recipient of the Vermont Arbor Day award, which recognizes an individual who has made a significant difference in his or her community's urban and community forest. The recipients were honored at a special ceremony at the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Conference on May 23 in Randolph.

This year's recipients included **Caitlin Littlefield** of Richmond. To prepare for the arrival of emerald ash borer, Littlefield spearheaded a comprehensive effort to inventory ash trees, shared resources to educate homeowners and secured grant funding to hire certified arborists for ash tree treatment and removal. She also worked with a local nonprofit, Wood for Good, to ensure that the removed ash tree logs were used as heating fuel for local resource-constrained families. While serving on the Richmond Town Forest committee, Littlefield championed sustainable forest management practices, including working with ecological consulting and trail design firms on ecologically sensitive trail planning. In addition, she consistently volunteers her time to support tree-planting events and invasive species removals to provide equitable access to community forests.

Caitlin Littlefield

Ella Agran

Ella Agran, a member of the class of 2025 majoring in Aerospace Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts, was a member of a student team that recently completed an intensive research project titled Engaging Young People in Local Culture: A Profile of Ranov.

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue. About two-thirds of students complete a project at one of the university's 50-plus off-campus project centers, which are located around the world. A signature element of the innovative undergraduate experience at WPI, the project-based curriculum offers students the opportunity to apply their scientific and technical knowledge to develop thoughtful solutions to real problems that affect the quality of people's lives-and make a difference before they graduate.

U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-Academic honors for the fall season, while both teams were recognized with academic accolades.

Tess Drury, Richmond, Saint Michael's College, was honored by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) for a cumulative 3.25 grade-point average, finishing among the top 30% at an NCAA regional championship.Drury headlines the women's honorees after qualifying for the NCAA Championship and landing NE10 Rookie of the Year.

Trustees' List Fall 2023

Avery Luther, Jericho, has been named to the Champlain College Trustees' List for the Fall 2023 semester. Students on the Trustees' List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.

President's List Fall 2023

Mikayla Elliott, Huntington, Community College of Vermont, Montpelier, with a 4.0 grade point average.

Reilly Stevens of Jericho Center, (Highly Distinguished), College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina, earning a GPA of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours Stevens is majoring in Psychology.

Champlain College
Burlington

Achieving a grade point average of 4.0 or higher in the Fall 2023 semester:

Avery Luther, Jericho, majoring in Computer Networking & Cybersecurity.
Kenneth Moran, Starksboro, majoring in Computer and Digital Forensics.
Akiva Nugent, Starksboro, majoring in Computer Science and Innovation.

Student Honors List Fall 2023

Anabel Hernandez, Richmond, was named to the Community College of Vermont (CCV) 2023 Student Honors List. This honor recognizes part-time students with a 4.0 grade point average.

President's List Winter 2024

Elizabeth Walko of Jericho was named to the Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) in Manchester, New Hampshire. The winter terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Dean's List Fall 2023

Eve McCormick, Starksboro, Siena College, Loudonville, New York, with a grade point average for the semester between 3.5 and 3.89.

Taylor Bevins, Jericho, University of Tampa, Florida, 3.75. Bevins is a Junior majoring in Marketing.

Cortland Doyle, Jericho, Ohio University College of Business, Athens, Ohio, with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

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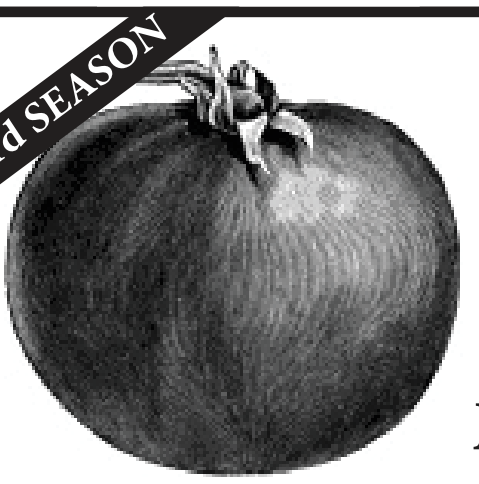

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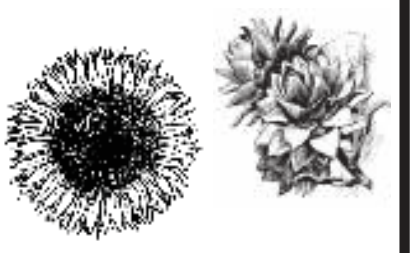

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State House News

Rep. Tom Stevens

As it always does, the Legislature came grinding to an end with a final vote on the Fiscal Year 25 budget. This year, we gavelled out at 2:30 am on Saturday, May 11. We worked long enough to miss seeing the Northern Lights when we were done!

I'm sure we will have a deeper and more thorough report on what bills passed and were signed (or not) in the coming weeks, but for now, a few highlights of the final weeks of the session as the House and Senate ironed out their differences and reached some compromises:

H.687 throughout the session was known as the "Act 250" bill in the House. By the time it arrived back in the House from the Senate, it contained many important elements of H.829 and H.639, which were two of our major housing bills. In the end, many positive reforms were made to Act 250 land use regulations. These changes should retain the principles of conservation while relaxing some zoning regulation in order to allow communities to build more housing units without hurting our antisprawl tradition. Housing sections included revisions to the recently created VHIP program, which allows property owners the ability to apply for funds to help renovate units, as well as funding for a series of pilot programs for upstream eviction prevention, which is estimated to prevent up to 400 evictions a year. Also included in H.687 were important flood risk disclosure provisions for owners selling their properties, created in response to the 2023 flooding.

H.121 is an incredibly important and well crafted Data Privacy bill that includes elements of S.289, which was focussed on privacy for children. H.121 was opposed by those who benefit by having access to your personal data in order to sell it — mostly the big companies like Google or Amazon.

H. 887 is the usually-sleepy "yield bill," which is one of the "must pass" bills we consider every year. The yield bill is basically the final word for the year regarding education spending. The state totals up the amount of money municipalities have voted to spend and divides it into the final statewide tax rate. This year, the bill contained funding to "buy down" the tax rate. This is a rightfully controversial construct, because it takes surplus funds and artificially lowers the tax rate in a way that must be paid for next year. This is because it is a one-time payment and not built into the funding structure. In essence, we'll be starting next year "in a hole" with respect to the education fund, and will have to account for this year's spending then. In the short term, the average increase has been lowered to approximately 13.5% statewide. Very high, to be certain, but nearly 40% lower than feared earlier this year.

There is no question that this was a difficult year, especially financially. The massive amounts of pandemic-related assistance funds have dried up, and establishing a workable budget that allowed for some programs created over the last several years to be continued took a lot of work. The House and Senate, as usual, had different ideas about priorities, and were able to work out those differences in a conference committee.

We will learn more in the days ahead about what is in store for us. The bills will make their way to the governor, and he will choose to sign them or veto them, and if vetoed, we will head into Montpelier in mid-June to hold a Veto Session. After that, we will be able to provide you with a more succinct list of the bills we passed.

Thank you, as always, for your patience and support. Please don't hesitate to reach out to ask questions. My email remains tstevens@leg.state.vt.us

Rep. Theresa Wood

The regular session of the 2024 Legislature adjourned Saturday, May 11, at just past 2 am. A variety of bills passed in the last week and are headed to the Governor's office for his decision to sign, let pass into law without his signature, or to veto. If the Governor decides to veto important bills, the Legislature has a veto session set for June 17-18 to consider the vetoes or to otherwise act.

I served as part of the three-member House conference committee to meet with 3 members of the Senate to reach agreement on the FY 25 budget. After just over a week of sometimes tense negotiations, we reached agreement on a budget that will provide for the operation of government over the next 12 months beginning July 1. Both the House and the Senate passed the budget conference committee report, and the Governor has given indications that he intends to sign the budget. A summary of the impacts of the budget can be found on the Joint Fiscal Office website: https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Uploads/500fbad7fa/FY_2025_COC_Budget_Highlights_-_H_883-v2.pdf

Given revenue projections that exceeded original estimates, there appears to be a fairly significant amount of one-time revenue that will be available to assist with flood recovery and $25 million of which will be used to "buy down" the education property tax. While this will be welcome to property taxpayers, it is also a double-edged sword as it does nothing to right-size our education system or create a sustainable financing scenario for education. In fact, over the last couple of years due to surpluses in the Education Fund, the education property tax has been "bought down". Unfortunately, this is one reason that early information estimated the property tax increase to be around 20% this year. The "yield bill" also sets aside an additional $13 million for property tax relief in FY 25. In the final hours of the legislative session, a bill was passed that sets up an education funding task force that will make recommendations on how to fund and control spending in Vermont. Additionally, a task force to re-envision Vermont's education system, which will involve making some hard decisions about the number of schools necessary, class sizes, staffing, etc. will also report back to the Legislature.

There has been a great deal of activity at the local and state levels regarding the cost and quality of education, the size and capacity of schools, changes to increase equity in funding and educational opportunity for youth across the State, etc. What is clear is that we have an education system where spending decisions are decided at the local level and then must be funded at the State level. We have a court decision that mandates students must have equal educational opportunity, regardless of where they live. The State utilizes a "common level of appraisal" to equalize property values, which also impacts tax rates. Our current funding system is overly complicated and is due for an overhaul. We have too many schools for the number of students that are continuing to decline, but no individual community wants to close or consolidate their local school. There are no simple answers to these complex issues, but we can no longer kick the can down the road. The two task forces, as well as the 2025 Legislature will need to dig deep to resolve these issues. For a snapshot of what individual school districts spend across the state for the current year, please see the school spending spreadsheet:

https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-FY24-Cohort-Spending-by-School-Type-v02-web.xlsx

Representing the citizens of Bolton, Buels Gore, Huntington, and Waterbury has truly been an honor and a responsibility I take very seriously. I plan to seek re-election for an additional term, and I would be grateful for your support.

Rep. Jana Brown

During the 2024 legislative session, we moved forward critical policies on housing, land use modernization, climate action, flood recovery and resiliency, education, and more. On the last day of our legislative session, the House and Senate gave final approval to a balanced $8.57 billion budget. Our budget was only 0.46% greater than the Governor's proposed budget, in part because we invested about $17 million in flood and disaster relief for hard hit communities across the state. In H.883, we targeted our available dollars at the priorities we heard about consistently from our communities: housing, resilience, health care and public safety. Our goal is to make sure Vermont is a place everyone can live, take care of themselves and feel safe. It was a productive session marked by significant progress on issues that impact Vermonters across all 14 counties. I will be publishing a comprehensive end of session legislative report in the coming days and paper copies will be available at the Town Center and Richmond Free Library. Some early legislative highlights in the area of education policy are described below. I also look forward to running for re-election this year to continue serving as our state representative. It is an honor to do this work, and I look forward to continuing to connect with our community over the summer. Please reach out with feedback and questions!

Education The House Education Committee saw several bills clear the Legislature that will help address the cost of education in Vermont. Various education cost drivers converging during this budgeting year led to a significant increase in education spending across the state. It is critical that we continue to support our public schools, offer equal access to educational opportunities across the state, and provide a high quality education to all Vermont students. Modernizing our education system and strategically implementing measures to bend the cost curve will require thoughtful deliberation in the years ahead. We have significant work ahead of us in this area.

H.630, which seeks to establish Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES), is an example of how we might realize cost efficiencies.These cooperative efforts bring regional school districts together in formal agreements that can save districts money in many ways: from bulk supply ordering to shared transportation to professional development, and they are especially valuable when it comes to providing special education services. BOCES could also help school districts draw down more federal dollars by joining forces to hire the skilled grant writers needed to navigate federal bureaucracy.

H.871 is the next step in reviving Vermont's state-level school construction aid program. This legislation provides for a small group of legislators to prepare a bill for January 2025 that lays out a program to re-establish a state construction aid program. This legislative task force will look at building a program that incentivizes projects that address some of the cost drivers in education, such as number of schools, energy costs, replacing schools that have reached the end of their lifespan, etc. No school construction aid program has existed since 2008, and since that time few school districts have successfully passed construction bonds.

One overarching area of focus in the area of education this year was evaluating the cost, structure, and delivery of public education in Vermont. We need a clear vision for the future as we look to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of our system. As part of this work, the House Education committee designed the Commission on the Future of Public Education, a major part of the Yield Bill. This Commission is charged with examining Vermont's public school system, its cost drivers, and other factors, and then crafting recommendations on how Vermont can support an effective and modern public education system at an affordable cost. This work came in response to the unprecedented increase in education costs in districts' 2025 budgets, and the call from Vermonters that changes are needed.

Rep. Theresa Wood
Washington-Chittenden
Chair, House Human Services Committee

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Rep. Tom Stevens
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Rep Jana Brown
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Member, House Education Committee

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janabrownforvt.com

Area Honors continued

Ty Haessig, Jericho, Class of 2027, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), Worcester, Massachusetts, majoring in Biomedical Engineering

University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island

Mason DiGiammarino, Huntington
Kaitlin Ford, Richmond
Mira Woodside, Richmond

Full-time students must have completed 12 or more credits for letter grades which are GPA applicable during a semester and achieved at least a 3.30 quality point average.

University of New England
Biddegord & Portland Maine

Angelica Stewart, Huntington
Grace Andrews, Richmond

Students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

College of Charleston
Charleston, South Carolina

Lily Korczykowski, Jericho Center, majoring in Exercise Science.
Jada Diamond, Jericho Center, majoring in Psychology.

Students must earn a GPA of 3.500 or higher and complete a minimum of 12 semester hours.

Russell Sage College Troy, New York

Mason Remington, Jericho
Jeffrey Stearns, Richmond

Students must earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while carrying a minimum of 12 credits in courses graded A-F, with no grades of Incomplete.

Tufts University
Medford, Massachusetts

Honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

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

Rochester Institute of Technology
Rochester, New York

Students are eligible for Dean's List if their term GPA is greater than or equal to 3.400 and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

Aedan Lahiff, Jericho, computing and information technologies program.
Willem Smith, Richmond, mechanical engineering technology program.

Bates College Lewiston, Maine

Earned by students with a 3.92 grade point average or higher, the following local students were named:

Ada Knauft, Huntington, majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in Gender and Sexuality Studies.
Isabel Subin-Billingsley, Richmond, still considering a major.

St. Lawrence University
Canton, New York

Completing at least four courses and having an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester:

Mary Batsie and **Carly Hansen**, Jericho
Will Hauf, Richmond
Jax Lubkowitz, Huntington

Vermont State University, Randolph

To qualify for this academic honor, students must maintain full-time status and a semester grade point average of 3.5 or higher:

Eliza Beliveau, Richmond
Joseph Hoopaugh, Richmond
Elise Jackson, Huntington
Allyson Stearns, Richmond
Emily Zuraski, Bolton Valley

Jericho: Rosemarie Phelan, Nolan Barber, Rowan Lucier, Jenna Pelland, Deven Ruggles, Rita Veve

Dean's List Winter 2024

Elise Jackson, Huntington, Vermont State University, Randolph, for the Winter Practical Nursing term, earning a term grade point average of 3.5 or greater.

Jens A. Peterson, Jericho, first honors, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, with a GPA of 3.8 or above.

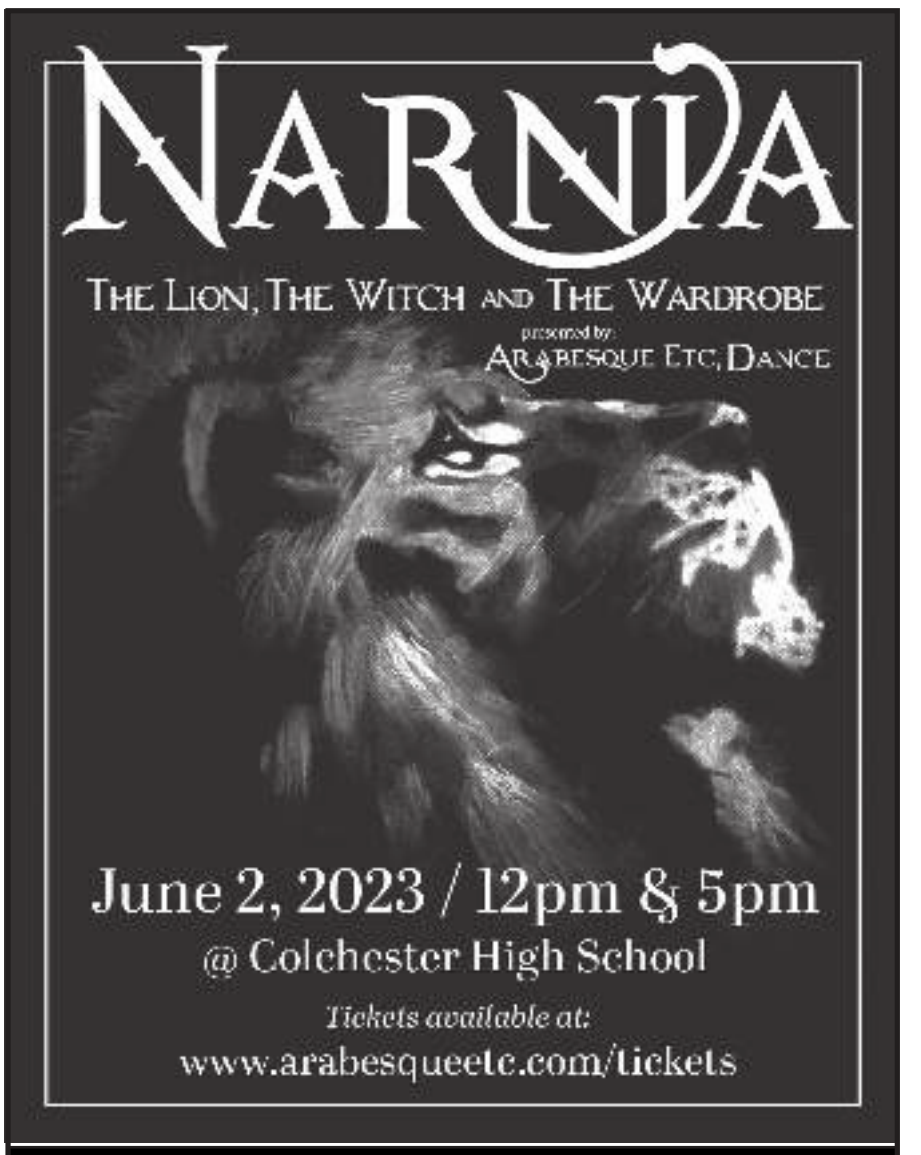
Justice Green, Starksboro, Elmira College Elmira, New York, earning a term grade point average of 3.6 or higher at the end of Term I or Term II.

Richmond Library

continued from page 7

also be closed noon to 5 pm on Wednesday, June 5, for a staff meeting. Please stop in from 10 12 or 5-8 that day for service. The Library will also be closed on Thursday, June 13, and Friday, June 14, for flooring installation.

Summer Construction Thanks to Town of Richmond ARPA funding, the Richmond Free Library will be "under construction" this summer to repair the woodwork (May) and paint the entire building (September). While we won't need to close the Library, there may be a brief time when one or both handicap parking spots or the sidewalk from Bridge Street are blocked or are within the construction area. As with last summer, the construction crew will work to minimize any disruptions. If handicap access is unavailable, your library staff is happy to meet you in the parking lot to pick up or drop off books. Just give us a call. The beautiful murals on the Library were saved and returned to Radiate!



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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

802-434-2053 (www.rccucc.org)

June 6 - Sunny Spring Agewell Luncheon: 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Available to individuals 60+ years of age. $5 suggested donation. No delivery available. Tickets available at Richmond Congregational Church 20 Church St. or Age Well office 875 Roosevelt Hwy Ste 210 Colchester

May 26 - 10 am Worship Service with Rev. Katelyn Macrae

June 2 - 10 am Worship Service with Rev. Katelyn Macrae; Communion

June 9 - Celebration Sunday; 10 am Worship Service with Rev. Katelyn Macrae & ice cream social

June 16 - 10 am Worship Service with Rev. Katelyn Macrae

June 23 - 10 am Worship Service with Rev. Neal Sadler

June 30 - 10 am Worship Service with Rev. Katelyn Macrae

American Red Cross

GIVE BLOOD IN RICHMOND June 5

Tapper

continued from page 1

what it means to love an ecosystem in a world of young, simple, degraded forests, in a climate crisis and a biodiversity crisis, in a changed and changing world.

Tapper explained, "Bear Island became a catalyst for the book – a forest that had every problem that a forest could have. I had to ask myself if it would be a greater kindness to Bear Island to leave it to suffer alone, or to do everything in my power to make it healthy again."

In a world in which many people believe that loving forests means simply leaving them alone, Tapper offers a more complex vision: that in this moment truly caring for forests means taking action to protect them. He explained, "The actions we must take will often be as counterintuitive, uncomfortable, and bittersweet as cutting a tree to make a forest healthy again. How to Love a Forest is a reimagining of forests and our relationship to them that is beautiful and hopeful and empowering."

But, Tapper is not settling into the life of a writer in front of computer all day. He also be starting his own consulting forestry company – Bear Island Forestry. The company will provide consulting forestry services to private landowners: advising landowners, writing Forest Management Plans and overseeing forest management projects.

In keeping with his recent work for public and private forests around the county, his work will be grounded in the principles of ecological forestry: managing forests for biodiversity, ecological integrity and resilience above all else.

Tapper said, ""My hope is that this career shift will allow me to effect a larger change in our understanding of forests and what it means to care for them – building a larger platform from which to advocate for forests, responsible forest stewardship, and conservation" and will extend beyond the forests in Vermont. He explained that consulting with government agencies, NGOs and companies to incorporate these principles into their work, as well as to improve their communication around ecosystem management projects is part of the his plan. He also plans to continue to do public speaking, social media and public eduation outreach.

"Serving as the Chittenden County Forester has been a massive honor, and a dream come true – and now it's time for me to do something else," Tapper said. "I hope that you will follow along and that you'll be hearing from me soon!"

Ethan Tapper is a forester and author from Bolton. He served as the Chittenden County Forester, before leaving to start his own business. He uses a variety of social media platforms, including an email list at EthanTapper.com, BearIslandForestry.com and Instagram, using the handle @HowToLoveAForest, as well as on YouTube and TikTok (also at @HowToLoveAForest) and Facebook. His book can be preordered at any bookstore or at his website.

Editor's Note: My husband (Alan Campbell) and I (Heidi Racht) had the pleasure of walking our family's woods last year with County Forester Ethan Tapper to ascertain compliance with our Current Use Forest Managment Plan. It was an informative and fun morning.

Calendar of Events

MAY TO OCTOBER, WEDNESDAYS-SUNDAYS: The Power of Perspective Art Show, 10 am to 4 pm, Birds of Vermont Museum. The Museum's 2024 community art exhibit is open. Explore, examine, and delight in 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 this world? Included with museum admission, no registration necessary. 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington.

JUNE 7-8: The American Cancer Society's 33rd Annual Relay For Life of Chittenden County to help end cancer as we know it, Champlain Valley Exposition from Friday 6:30 pm, to Saturday, 6:30 am. This year's theme will be Star Light, Star Bright – Wish Upon a Cure Tonight, and will celebrate and recognize survivors, thrivers, and caregivers. The funds raised go towards cancer research, advocacy, and patient support, such as the Hope Lodge in Burlington, a 24/7 hotline, and rides to treatment. To learn more or join, visit www.relayforlife.org/chittendenvt.

Early Morning Birder Walks

Sundays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
7 am to 8:30 am

Spring and early summer mornings are terrific for birding. Who's singing, calling, nesting, or flying around the Birds of Vermont Museum? Discover birds on an early morning ramble in the Museum's forest and meadows. Walks are led by experienced birders familiar with Vermont birds.

Bring binoculars and good walking shoes. Early mornings are often damp with dew and boots are definitely in order. Don't forget bug spray/tick repellent!

Park at 900 Sherman Hollow Road. Free, suggested donation: $10-$15. Register for museum events at https://sevendaystickets.com/organizations/birds-of-vermont-museum

Local Calendar

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.

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

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

Worship

Call for information.

Community Church of Huntington: Sunday morning Worship & Sunday School, 9 am. 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.

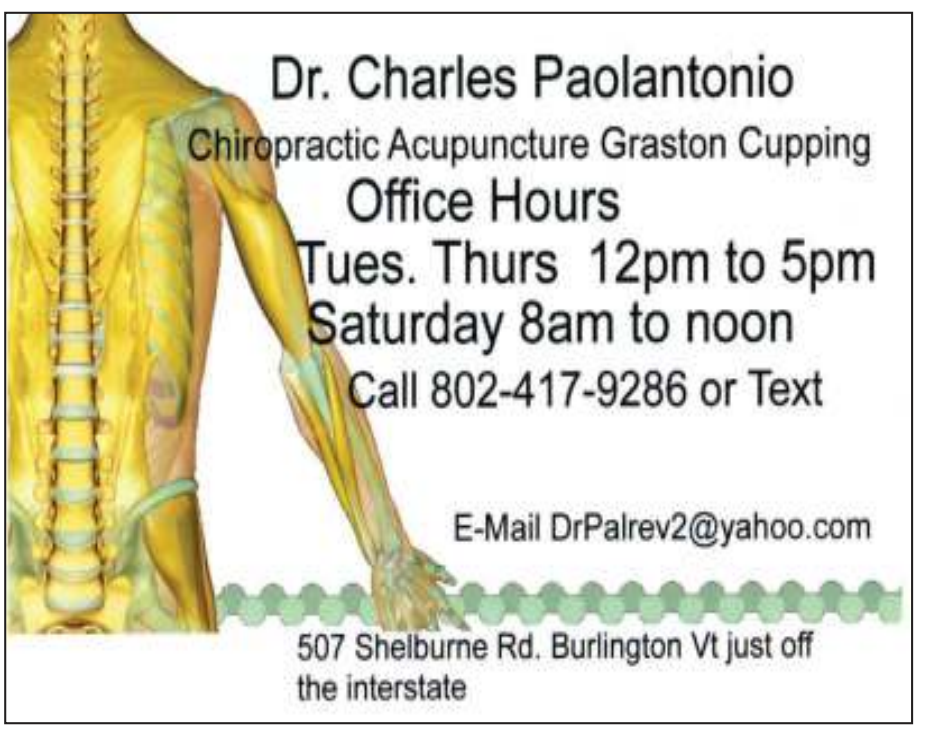
Community Alliance Church: 190 Pond Road (overlooking CVU), Hinesburg. Sunday, 9 am, Sunday school for all ages, with adults and teen electives; Scott Mansfield, 482-2132, www.hines burgcma.org

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.jccvt.org

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



Death Notice

A few weeks shy of his 88th birthday, Irving (Jim) James Beams, 87 of Richmond, passed away peacefully after a very brief illness on March 29, 2024. He was a renaissance man, and one of those people who was good at most everything he did. Jim grew up in a military family, moving around from state to state during childhood. His family eventually settled in the South Burlington and Shelburne area, and graduated from Burlington High School in 1955. He attended New England Conservatory for a year, and then transferred and graduated from the University of Vermont, with a degree in Music Education.

He was a Navy pilot, stationed on the USS Essex CV-9 Carrier. A music teacher, able to play many instruments, his primary was the trumpet. While studying music at New England conservatory, his professors discovered his strong voice, and convinced him to forgo the trumpet and focus on singing. He became an accomplished opera singer, performing with the Metropolitan Opera, and later founded the Vermont Opera Company with friends. He had one of the most beautiful tenor voices you'd ever hear. After getting his teaching degree from the University of Vermont, Jim was a music educator for over 20 years, teaching from small town one room school houses to colleges in the 1960s-1980s.

Jim married Katherine King of Bennington in 1980, they met while serving in the Army Guard. He earned his most cherished title as 'Dad' when Stephen arrived in 1982, then Robynn shortly after in 1983. The Beams' family home was in Richmond, where he lived for over 40 years. He was an exceptionally supportive, strict and doting father. His favorite thing to do was brag about his children. The ultimate sports dad, there was no mistaking when he was on the sidelines cheering on the kids & critiquing the refs. When his wife Katherine unexpectedly passed away in 2002, Jim became the sole and steadfast supporter of Stephen and Robynn as they navigated their college years and young adulthood.

He was an avid outdoorsman, an expert marksman, Vermont Deputy Game Warden and artist. His last career was his own business, JB Aero & Son, as an aircraft mechanic, where he specialized in the full restoration of antique and classic, fabric covered airplanes. He loved working alongside his son for many years, leading Stephen to a successful career in aviation, which was one of Jim's proudest legacies. He'd been fully retired for about ten years, and found himself sharing his voice with his rousing rendition of the Star Spangled Banner to kick off Green Mountain Roller Derby bouts, local high school hockey, and both UVM hockey & basketball games. He had a gruff side, but was always big hearted and loved to talk to anyone willing to lend an ear. When he became "papa", there's no doubt he cherished his three grandchildren.

Jim leaves behind his children: Son Stephen Beams, wife Marikje Shelmandine and their children Katherine and Arthur of Jericho, and Daughter Robynn Beams Conley, husband Bob Conley and their son August of Vergennes. His nephew Alan Beams and wife Kelley Beams of Colchester.

Larger than life, he had the loudest whistle, yell and singing voice you'd ever hear, and most importantly he lived and loved, booming and big. His over the top presence and souring beautiful voice will always be with us.

Burial was be held on May 11 at Fort Ethan Allen Cemetery in Colchester. Please consider a donation to Meals on Wheels Vermont. https://www.agewellvt.org/giving-back/donate/

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Opening Day Soon at Lake Iroquois

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) and the Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) are jointly hosting a Friendraising Event from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, May 25, 2024, Opening Day of the Lake Iroquois Beach. The Friendraising event will be held rain or shine! You can buy your beach passes for Summer 2024, or a new LIA tee shirt or hat. Hot dogs, chips, and a dessert treat will also be available to purchase.

The lake water might be chilly, but children will enjoy sinking their toes in the beach sand or making sandcastles. Paper and markers will be available for children to draw a picture of A Day at the Beach. Pictures will be displayed in the Lake Iroquois Beach Bathhouse.

And who knows? The pair of loons who recently returned to the lake might decide to swim by!

Waiting for Opening Day at the Beach. Courtesy photo

The Lake Iroquois Association is a volunteer organization whose "sole purpose is to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and appropriate public uses of Lake Iroquois and those aspects of its watershed which impact on the health and well-being of the lake". (LIA Bylaws)

The Lake Iroquois Recreation District was formed by the municipalities that border the lake: Hinesburg, Williston, St. George, and Richmond. One resident from each member municipality makes up the Board of Commissioners whose service on the Board is voluntary. The district lands (150 acres, including the beach) provide access to swimming, picnicking, playground equipment and walking trails.

If you are interested in learning more about the Lake Iroquois Association's efforts, or would like to get involved with any of LIA's projects, please visit our website at https://www.lakeiroquois.org/ or send an e-mail to lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com.

Community Church of Huntington

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

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

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Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

In the Business of Helping Every Child to Be Successful

Spring often marks the start of balancing summer logistics for kids. Figuring out camps, sports and other enrichment programs can be both complicated and expensive. For some families, however, there can be multiple barriers to giving their children these important enrichment and community building opportunities. Often, it is not just finances that make finding a camp difficult. Access to a camp can also be challenging because of transportation, food and/or housing insecurity, behavioral issues, and a variety of other factors that make participation impossible for some children. Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC) provides a life changing experience by eliminating many of these barriers.

"One key to our success is due to the amazing support we receive from the MMU school district," Susanne Parent, OCCC Executive Director told the Beat. "Though our camp is not an official school program, John Alberghini, Superintendent of the Mount Mansfield School District, has been a huge supporter. OCCC receives not only a large amount of school space rent free but the District also provides free bus transportation which can make all the difference for many families. Last summer more than 70% of our campers utilized bussing, many would not be able to participate without it."

Campers come from Richmond, Huntington, Bolton, Jericho and Underhill to Camel's Hump Middle School in Richmond. The day program runs for four weeks in July but unlike many other camps, children come to OCCC because they are facing some kind of identified barrier to being successful at a traditional camp. The referral may come from a teacher, guidance counselor, principal, school clinician, doctor, and/or caregiver directly.

Each summer, OCCC makes it possible for approximately 100 children to receive breakfast and lunch, and attend camp at no cost to the families of these campers. In addition to the barrier of transportation and cost of summer camps, some children just need more personal support in order to be successful. OCCC has a unique model in that the ratio is roughly one counselor to five children, as opposed to the thirty required of all Vermont camps for school aged youth. This high level of staffing makes it possible for a child who may have social-emotional needs to receive the personal attention and support they need in order to go on to have a successful camp experience," Parent explained. "Our staffing is crucial to our success and by far our biggest expense."

OCCC camp has access to six classrooms at Camel's Hump Middle School. Campers are divided up by age groups and can use the health room, commercial kitchen, music pit and café for various programs. All campers and staff receive free breakfast and lunch every day. Campers work with a trained dietician for a cooking program and even do a spin off on the Iron Chef competition. A number of farms have helped to provide fresh nutritious food. Combating food insecurity is one of the core values that the camp is committed to, along with building community and encouraging campers to be good citizens. OCCC has a robust music time directed by Buddy Dubay, a highly-regarded musician and educator. Art sessions inspire creativity and a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program has been added to promote scientific inquiry. Outside activities are a big part of the schedule. Campers play games, take hikes on some of the newly created trails and they especially love water games like the slip and slide. The Richmond Free Library and Radiate Arts Space work with OCCC to provide enriching programs for the field trips within walking distance to the camp.

Overall, the camp experience is enriching, educational, and most of all – fun! Or as one enthusiastic camper said, "Before I started coming here, I always dreaded summertime. But then I started coming to this camp and I finally had fun stuff to do…I finally love summer."

"Once a camper comes, they tend to come back every year, "Kyle Silliman-Smith, Board President, told the Beat. "The kids can start at kindergarten and participate through high school." Campers are so committed that when they are older, many go on to become counselors-in-training which provides middle schoolers the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Once in high school." Many kids become paid camp counselors. Most counselors come from the communities served, so youth have rewarding jobs while keeping the dollars close to home.

In addition to all of the counselors (half of whom were prior campers), OCCC employs specialized staff to conduct various programs, dieticians, cooks, dishwashers, administrative staff and a group of experienced volunteers. Many of these staff members work at the schools during the academic year and this program gives them important year-round employment. OCCC works hard to make sure that the staff receive professional training and everyone is committed to the core values of encouraging and empowering children to reach their potential.

Photos, courtesy of Our Community Cares Camp

Prior to the start of the camp season, the Howard Center does training to help staff support children who are struggling with trauma or other emotional issues. Peace & Justice Center has also done training in assisting counselors to help children better understand differences so they can become more understanding of others and combat racism. Other professional development programs are currently being planned. "The goal is to help our staff to empower campers to be civic minded, thoughtful community members," Parent said.

It's no easy task to provide free meals and camp that is run by a trained staff with a high camper/counselor ratio. "Yes, we have an interesting business model. We raise money to give it away," Parent said with a smile. The truth is that the life of a good nonprofit does depend on a lot of financial support and a commitment from the community. Donations come from grants which can often be a one-time gift. In addition, local towns make a contribution to OCCC. The in-kind support is also key. Two special event fundraisers are coming up: a family dance in Richmond and a Bike and Bite Event in Huntington. Check out the Facebook page or website for the most current information).

A critical part of the OCCC funding comes from the two mail campaigns that are sent to current and past donors each year. All these efforts go to help OCCC raise the over $90,000 needed each season. "We operate with a skeleton staff during most of the year, but things really take off in the spring when registration starts," explained Parent. "I hold my breath until we've raised at least $50,000 by the beginning of June. I know from our past history that it's key to have about half of the funds needed in order to be able to plan on a full roster of campers. We have to balance being accessible and fiscally responsible. For example, $5,000 could let us take five children off the wait list. It all comes down to dollars raised."

"The Board is committed to building our individual donor base because we know that there is wealth within our five towns and also passion to help children and families locally. We have some amazing donors who care about our mission and donate every year. We need to build this support to sustain and grow our programs," Silliman-Smith said. "I believe that giving kids a chance to be successful and develop into good citizens can help all of us. The OCCC experience is had by about 100 campers per year but it impacts all children in our school district. In the fall, campers integrate back to their various schools with all the memories, fun, learning, and growth from the summer, including the four weeks they shared at Camel's Hump Middle School with OCCC."

There are many ways to experience the joy of knowing that you are helping youth, and OCCC would love to hear from you. The camp needs in-kind gifts, volunteers, committed board members and, of course, financial support. If you know of a potential camper, you can learn more by going to the website and visiting the FAQ page or talk to a school staff. For more information or to make a gift on line go to www.ourcommunitycarescamp.com. You can also email questions to occcvermont@gmail.com. Phone is 802-434-6006. Mailing address for camp is Our Community Cares Camp, Inc, P. O. Box 503, Richmond, VT 05477. Camp administrative office is in the Richmond Town Center. Camp representatives also plan to be at some of this summer's farmers markets.

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski & Bike Center
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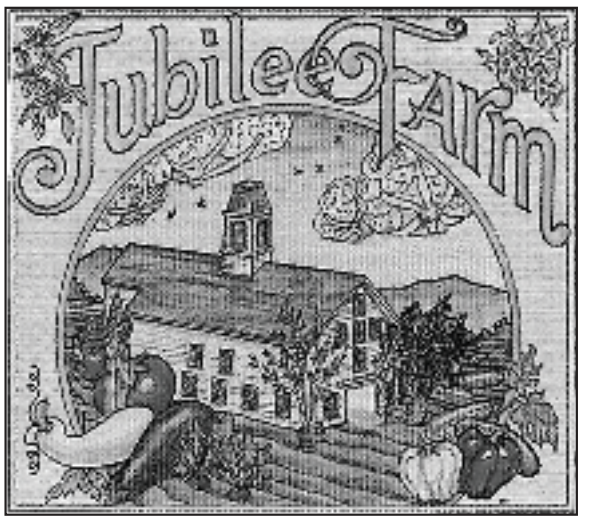

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***Details:** See our email newsletter. Not receiving it? Join the mail list on our website cscvt.org, write to CSC, PO Box 508, Richmond VT 05477, or contact Martha Nye: 802.503.8155; email: martha@cscvt.org

Questions? Get answers! Chat with a senior volunteer from your town about it. Contact Martha (info above) to set it up.

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All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

The Anxious Generation

"There's no doubt that young people today are in the throes of a mental health crisis, unprecedented in scope and severity."
—Judith Warner, The Washington Post

In his new hit book The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness, Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist, points out that "depression among teenage girls rose 145 percent, between 2010 and 2021" and "depression among boys rose even faster." Haidt has recently turned his alarm to smartphones and social media and now insists they are the cause of the teenage mental health crisis.

The concern of our elected officials and mental health workers is well warranted as evidence of the significant rise in teenage anxiety, depression, and self-harm grows.

Meghan Cox Gordon in the Wall Street Journal says, "giving smart phones to young people en masse constitutes 'the largest uncontrolled experiment humanity has ever performed on its own children.'" It is obvious to everyone, she says, that "the experiment has been a disaster." She notes how "the average teenager now devotes five hours a day to social media and an immeasurable amount of consciousness to the work of gaining online peer acceptance and avoiding online peer shaming."

Americans prefer action. Many of us go directly from impulse to action, saying whatever comes to mind. We aren't known for being reflective. We want quick fixes and we don't like delays. Social media feeds this preference for many of us and especially for kids. Fortunately, we still have members of society who read and write. There are those among us who study history and write books, those who are able to tolerate mental pain and do the hard work of research and writing.

Online immersion is rewiring us toward our "action bias" and the first positive or negative "rewards" attained by engaging with social media. Because of this, some doubt that today's young people will have the knowledge and patience to manage the serious work of running a government, for example. Many wonder if we are educating and raising qualified citizens. Can young people learn to discipline themselves and develop the core values or will they just follow the crowd? Americans seem to be good at taking action, but perhaps not so good at being patient. How can adults help young folks with this?

Looking back, I recall that the generation of hippies and rock and roll music was disparaged, and our parents were all convinced we weren't taking life seriously. They thought we'd never grow up to amount to anything.

But that isn't what happened. We found mentors and models and did learn to take life seriously. For example, many of us in the "hippy" generation have recognized that our planet is a special place and we are dismayed at its destruction. Legions of people from the '60s generation are still directly involved in efforts to save endangered plants and animals. We are compassionate, engaged, and committed.

Haidt's book is timely and serious, and should be read by educators, parents, members of government and anyone interested in providing positive mentors for our youth. We need them to be ready to take the reins and lead.

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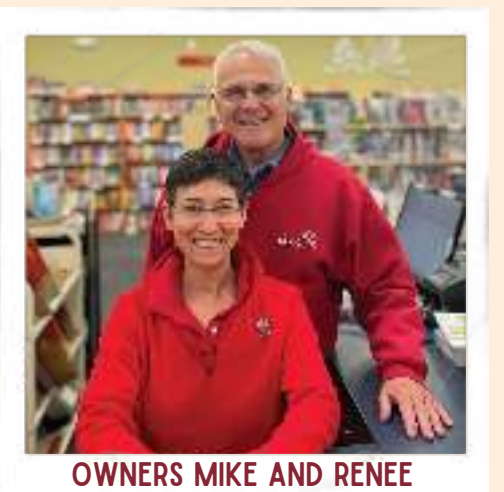
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