The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 41 **Mid-August 2024 Issue** Number 7

Ugh! Again, and More

Flood Catastrophes in Richmond, Huntington & Bolton

Although rain was predicted, most of us went to bed on July 9 thinking, "It's supposed to rain again tonight." After all, Tropical Storm Beryl was making its way up the coast. But little did we know the that many members of our community spent an all-night vigil as the waters, seemingly Biblical in volume, cut through the valleys and fields, into houses, and taking much in the path.

Once again, Richmond was hit hard. This is the third time in less than a year that the village was inundated. Although the town was ready to act, the sheer force of water that came down from the hills and into the valleys drew a devastating portrait of speed and power. In Huntington, one Hanksville house was swept off its foundation and carried more than 30 feet where it deposited and split, and now sits aslant in the field.

The water passed right over culverts and over bridges and roadways. Every road in Bolton had damage. Neighbors on Snipe Ireland Road, were stranded, raising the dilemma of how to pay for the repairs.

Here are some photos contributed by local photographers, with more on page 11.

Left: Todd Hanley's photo of his road in Richmond on July 11.

Below: Huntington Firefighter Eliot Lothrop took this 4 am photo of the Huntington River rising to the deck of the Brace bridge on July 11.

Richmond Aglow on the Fourth

Richmond photographer Jared Katz captured the lovely reflection of the July Fourth fireworks in the then-peaceful Winooski River.

August 13 Polling

Richmond	Huntington
CAMELS HUMP MIDDLE SCHOOL	**BREWSTER-PIERCE SCHOOL**
Polls Open: 7 am to 7 pm	**Polls Open:** 6:30 am to 7 pm

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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.

The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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news@timesinkvt.org

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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, Gina Haddock

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, Mary Ganzenmuller

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Letters Opinions & Other News

Hollywood, Here They Come!

We stayed busy in July with two weeks of our TV production camp; we added an extra week for the first time this year! This yea,r we participated again in Crowdsourced Cinema Vermont, a statewide project that takes a classic Hollywood movie and splits it up into small sections for groups and individuals to recreate. Each of our middle school camp groups tackled a scene from the movie Home Alone. Though we are always up for a challenge, it was helpful having a film that wasn't animated or in a fantasy land (Toy Story, Star Wars, and Jurassic Park). And who doesn't love Christmas in July? This film definitely presented its own challenges, but overall, it was an extremely successful endeavor.

Week One: The Final Scene We kicked off with our fifth and sixth grade camp. This small group was focused and there was lots of opportunity for individualized, hands-on learning, especially with a robust teaching team (Madeline, Tegan, Angelike, Verity and board volunteer, Tim).

Some initial challenges were how to recreate the interior of the suburban house in the original scene. The kids were unsure at first, but quickly learned that with enough holiday decorations, anything is possible! Parts of the town hall were quickly decked out with every Christmas item you can think of, and filming got under way. There was an extra sense of importance as this group had the very last scene in the whole movie.

The kids buckled down and we were able to get the scene done by the end of the week. Though we had to adjust the schedule due to a day of flooding, the staff agreed that this was one of the most successful weeks in the camp's history. You can watch a near-final draft of the scene at achive.org (Home Alone Scene 44 Home With the Family).

The campers were extremely efficient, which meant there was time for other side projects to practice the skills they learned throughout the week. They interviewed a Richmond police officer and his K9 dog Duke, as well as the Jericho Town clerk about how eligible voters can vote this August.

Week Two: Santa Request The week after, we jumped right into the grades 7/8 camp. There were similar challenges, especially making the lush green Vermont summer day look like a night-time winter wonderland!

The script called for heaps of snow, a junky car, a gingerbread house and lots of holiday lights. Given the complexity of the scene, there was a lot of discourse on how to pull this off, including using a greenscreen and building a mini model; in the end the group decided on fooling the viewer by filming during daytime and making it look like night, as well as filming some of the scenes indoors. For the exterior shots, the town hall was decked out with Christmas trees, tinsel, lights, a Santa statue, and more! There were some hot filming days that required the kids to be dressed in winter gear, but the kids were great sports and we made it through without incident.

The filming was time intense but there was plenty of time for kid led side quests. We worked together with the Richmond Town Clerk to make an informational video on upcoming voting. The kids also scripted and filmed their own skits, one acts, and comedy sketches. We had many videos to share with the parents and play on MMCTV.

Here's the link to the group 2 draft...We are polishing up some special effects and will submit both videos to the Crowdsourced Cinema VT folks at Media Factory, our sister station in Burlington. Please look for special screenings of the full Vermont Home Alone remake in the fall!

—MMCTV staff

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Check the Online Residential Contractor Registry

Following a repeat of devastating flooding on the anniversary of last year's floods, Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas reminded Vermonters to be aware of potential residential contractor fraud. She encouraged those seeking to hire residential contractors to do their due diligence by utilizing the homeowner and consumer protection resources provided by the Vermont Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) and other state offices.

"Among the challenges brought on by the flooding in our cities and towns, many homeowners have an urgent need for repair to damaged homes. This vulnerability can be an unfortunate target for fraud and scams," explained Copeland Hanzas. "My office maintains a list of registered residential contractors who are currently in good standing, and I strongly encourage Vermonters to check our interactive map and homeowner resources when looking to hire a contractor."

Vermont passed a law in 2022 (Act 182) that requires residential contractors who perform residential construction where the estimated value is more than $10,000 (inclusive of labor and materials) to register with OPR. Consumers can do additional research about specific contractors on OPR's Find a Professional page and OPR's full homeowner resource page can be found here.

"It's always a good idea for consumers to do their homework when hiring a contractor," said Copeland Hanzas. "Good practices include checking a contractor's registration with us, getting references, ensuring the business is insured, and putting any agreement in writing before work starts."

Residential contractors who are registered with OPR are required to have a contract in place before starting work and demonstrate they have insurance at the time of application.

The Attorney General's Home Improvement Fraud Registry is another tool to research contractors and the Attorney General's Consumer Assistance Program (CAP), where consumers can file a complaint or report a scam.

To find out more about the residential contractor registry, click here.

Report Flood Damage & Other State Resources

If your business or home was damaged by the flood, please report your damage to 2-1-1. Reporting damage, even if you're planning to make repairs yourself, will be used to determine if the state will qualify for federal assistance. You can submit a report online at www.vermont211.org.

The Vermont Department of Labor Job Centers are ready to assist displaced employees. Computers and phones are available to allow individuals to computer unemployment insurance claims. Job Center Specialists will help with any employment-related questions for businesses or jobseekers. Online, go to labor.vermont.gov for further flooding resources. Learn about work safety reminders, different ways to access emergency information and more.

Eleventh Season of P.M. Sundays Concerts Opens on September 29

The eleventh season of P.M. Sundays, a Valley Stage Productions (VSP) presentation will begin with a performance by award winning Maine based singer-songwriter Connor Garvey and his quartet on Sunday, September 29 beginning at 4 pm. He incorporates the amiable presence of an entertainer, the lyrical depth of a poet and the enchantment of a story-teller.

A total of eight concerts will take place, September 2024 through April 2025, in the intimate and acoustically balanced sanctuary of the Richmond Congregational Church on 20 Church Street. The performances will include established and many emerging and promising artists from around the US and Canada. First time artists like Molly Tuttle, Darlingside, Mr. Sun, Red Tail Ring, Ordinary Elephant and others to the region.

The balance of the season is as follows:

October 20 – Canadian Harmony trio The Pairs

November 10 – National Award winning songstress Sadie Gustafson-Zook

December 8 – Michele Willis – diverse solo artist, piano/guitar and singer.

January 12 – Cambridge, Ontario long time Celtic Soprano Allison Lupton and her Trio comprised of a five-time national fiddle champ and repeat award winning guitarist and step dancer.

February 9 – Multi talented banjoist/guitarist and ascending accompanists G. Rockwell and Micah Nicol as Bookmatch

March 23 – Diverse singer/songwriter who evokes lanscapes and lifestyles of rural California known as Ismay

April 6 – Contemporary melodic folk pioneer Abigayle Kompst

To listen to the artists yourself by sampling the videos that have been posted for each of them and reviewing their bios, visit the website. Tickets are $25 in advance, $27.50 day of show and all seniors (65+) and children (16 and under) are $17.50 in advance and $20 day of show. Seasons ticket; $150 adults, $100 for seniors and children are available by contacting Don Sheldon directly.

VSP continues to be committed to presenting both emerging and established national and International touring artists to the community in the Huntington Valley.

For more information about this series and all Valley Stage Productions events, visit www.valleystage.net or contact Don Sheldon at 802-557-7589 or don@valleystage.net

Photos, from top: Cambridge, Ontario long time Celtic Soprano Allison Lupton and her Trio comprised will perform on January 12; Michele Willis, diverse solo artist, piano/guitar and singer, will be onstage on December 8; on November 10, National Award winning songstress Sadie Gustafson-Zook will entertain audiences at the Richmond Congregational Church.

Marsh Lights

Sun., Sept. 8 • 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Richmond Congregational Church

www.valleystage.net

802-557-7589

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Your donation (we suggest $25) 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.

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Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD), including the towns of Bolton, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, and Underhill intends to destroy the special education records of all students who exited from any special education program during the 2018-2019 school year.

A permanent record of the student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record, and year completed is maintained without time limitation.

Any former student, who has reached 18 years of age, may review and/or receive these records upon request. Also, any parent of a student who is 18 years of age or older, who has retained parental rights, may obtain these records.

Please contact the MMUUSD Special Services Office at (802)434-2128 by October 31, 2024. If no student, parent, or guardian responds to this public notice prior to or by October 31, 2024, the school district will assume consent to destroy the entire record specific to the student.

Destruction of these records will begin on November 1, 2024.

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Fri 10-5 • Sun 1–4
434-4583
hpl@gmavt.net

www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

A huge thanks to Alan Homans for mowing our lawns, Jeanine Carr for maintaining our gardens, and to Heidi Racht and Pleasant Mount Farms for the gorgeous flower boxes.

September Sounds is coming! The third annual September Sounds Community Concert will take place on Saturday, September 14, at the Huntington Recreation Field. (This is dependent upon the field being re-opened.)

Performances will include talented local musicians Walt and Carl - Alive! and a collection of their special guests along with the joyful Ukes R Us.

Doors will open at 3:30 to allow you time to find a place to spread your blanket or set up your chairs. Bring a picnic or treat yourself to something delicious from food vendor Little Miss Taco who will be serving family-friendly food. The Friends will provide a water bottle filling station.Music begins at 4 pm and lasts until about 6 pm. The event is family-friendly with children's activities, face painting and plenty of space to play.

September Sounds is a fundraiser for the Friends of the Huntington Public Library. The Friends support special programs for all ages.

Suggested donation is $5/person or $15/family, but all are welcome. Come show your love and appreciation for the Huntington Public Library while enjoying time with family, friends and the Huntington community.

Nature Literacy Programs Save the dates. The Library and the Huntington Conservation Commission will again be co-sponsoring nature related program this autumn. They will take place at the Library.

September 17, 7 pm – John Arberth, beaver rehabilitation specialist.

October 6, 4 pm to 6 pm, former Chittenden County Forester Ethan Tapper will discuss his new book, How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World. Books will be available for purchase and autographing.

November 3, 4 pm - Jennifer Lovett, Starksboro author and beaver aficionado.

Save the Date Wednesday, October 2, at 7 pm for a screening of Bess O'Brien's Just Getting By film. Bess has captured the daily reality of working Vermonters struggling to access adequate food and housing for themselves and their families. Vermont has the second highest rate of unhoused people in the United States. This film explores the multiple challenges and incredible resiliency that lower income Vermonters experience. This event is co-sponsored with Huntington Valley Arts.

Gather – Vermont Reads 2024 The Huntington Community, supported by the Huntington Public Library and a grant from Vermont Humanities, is invited to read Gather by Vermont author Kenneth M. Cadow. Gather, a National Book Award Finalist, tells the story of a teenager and his adopted pup Gather. It describes rural life, resilience, class difference, and addiction and recovery in Vermont and the loving relationship between a boy and his dog. Copies of Gather are available at the Huntington Public Library. A facilitated discussion will take place at the HPL on Sunday, November 17, from 2:30 pm to 4 pm. Refreshments will be served. The book is appropriate for grade 9 through adults. We wish to thank Amy Seidl for securing the grant and facilitating the community discussion. For more information, contact Amy Seidl aseidl65@gmail.com or the Library.

Book Group Our monthly group meets the fourth Saturday at the Library, 10am. The August book is The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan.

New Adult Fiction Long Island by Colm Toibin; James by Percival Everett; No One is Talking About This by Patricia Lockwood; My Year Abroad by Chang-Rae Lee; The Lantern's Dance by Laurie R. King; The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid; Swan Song by Elin Hilderbrand; The Bee Sting by Paul Murray; Within Arm's Reach by Ann Napolitano; The Berlin Letters by Katherune Reay; Big Swiss by Jen Beagin; Just For the Summer by Abby Jimenez; The Vows of Silence, Shadows in the Street, The Risk of Darkness, A Question of Identity and The Betrayal of Trust by Susan Hill; James by Percival Everett; A Refiner's Fire by Donna Leon; Forgotten on Sunday by Valerie Perrin; The Glass Maker by Tracy Chevalier; The God of the Woods by Liz Moore; Husbands and Lovers by Beatriz Williams; The Conditions of Unconditional Love by Alexander McCall Smith.

Adult Nonfiction Beyond the Illusion of Preservation - Taking Regional Responsibility by Protecting Forests, Reducing Consumption and Expanding Ecological Forestry in New England - A Booklet; Whole Brain Living - An Anatomy of Choice and the Four Characters That Drive Our Lives by Jill Bolte Taylor; The Darkness Manifesto - On Light Pollution, Night Ecology and the Ancient Rhythms That Sustain Life by Johan Eklof; Edible Mushrooms - Safe to Pick, Good to Eat by Barbro Forsberg; Birding to Save the World: A Memoir by Trish O'Kane; Dodging Dementia by Mary Jordan; All Who Believed - A Memoir of Life in the Twelve Tribes by Tamara Mathieu; Weaving Sundown in a Scarlet Light - 50 Poems for 50 Years by Joy Harjo.

Picture A Perfect Spot by Isabelle Simler; Coyote's Wild Home by Lily and Barbara Kingsolver; Harold the Iceberg Melts Down by Lisa Wyzlic; Flat Cat by Tara Lazar; Lost Inside My Head by Vigg; You're So Amazing by James and Lucy Catchpole; Teeny-Weeny Unicorn by Shawn Harris; My First Book of Travel by Robyn Wall; We Care - A First Conversation About Justice by Megan Madison; Little Land by Diana Sudyka; If You Spot a Shell by Aimee Sicuro.

Juvenile Fiction Maria's Island by Victoria Hislop; Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Chamber of Secrets, Prisoner of Azkaban and Goblet of Fire, illustrated by Jim Kay.

Juvenile Nonfiction Mysterious Marvelous Octopus by Paige Towler; The Book of Math - Adventures in the World of Shapes and Numbers by Anna Weltman; What's Inside by Mary Holland; Life After Whale - The Amazing Ecosystem of a Whale Fall by Lynn Brunelle.

Juvenile Graphic Novels Our Scrumptious Lake-Phytotastic by Sandra Murray and Karen Neeson; Batcat Sink or Swim by Meggie Ramm; Tryouts by Sarah Sax; Break by Layla Miller; The Breakaways by Cathy G. Johnson; 5 Worlds Series: Books 1 - 3 by Mark Siegel, et al.; The Princess and the Grilled Cheese

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Richmond Free Library

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Guessing Jar Winners If you have been guessing how many hickory nuts, pasta noodles, event tickets, beads, etc. are in the weekly guessing jar, make sure you check the winner sheets posted near the desk on the second floor. There have been up to eight lucky winners each week and every winner is entitled to a free book from the prize boxes. The winner sheets will remain posted through the month of August.

Thank You The Friends of the Richmond Free Library provided funds for this summer's youth programming. We had a busy summer running the youth reading program, holding twenty-four in person programs and setting up scavenger hunts. Funding from the Friends allows us to reach many children and is greatly appreciated.

Read and Win a Day at the Fair For children in grades K-8, a free ticket to the Champlain Valley Fair is just three books away. Stop by the youth desk on the second floor of the Library to request a voucher which needs to be signed by a parent and a librarian. Once complete the voucher is exchanged for an official Read and Win ribbon which will be valid for one free admission to the 2024 Champlain Valley Fair on any day, as well as a $5 ride ticket, a free book, and an ice cream cone.

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

Storytime/Playgroup Beginning on September 4 on Wednesdays from 10 am until noon.

Baby Laptime Beginning on September 9 on Mondays at 10:30 am.

Hora del Cuento (Spanish Storytime) Beginning on September 21 at 10:30 am on the third Saturday of every month.

Summer Reading for Adults Our Summer Reading Bingo continues through September 20. Stop in to pick up a bingo card or show us your completed lines and pick up a ticket. Then pop your ticket(s) into one of four buckets for a chance to win a stack of books.

Cookbook Club Join us on Saturday September 14 at noon for an hour of dining and discussion. This month participants prepare dishes from Grist: A Practical Guide to Cooking Grains, Beans, Seeds and Legumes. To register, drop in to check out a copy of the book and sign up for a recipe by September 7. Email Suzanne at skrohn@richmondvt.gov with any questions.

Screening: Just Getting By In collaboration with Richmond Food Shelf and Thrift Store and Project All Together Now, we are hosting a screening of Bess O'Brien's new documentary, Just Getting By. This film follows a day in the life of some of the many Vermonters dealing with food and housing insecurity. Join us to learn and discuss on August 14 at 7 pm. Your suggested donation of $15 will help us fund this screening and support All Together Now and Richmond Food Shelf and Thrift Store.

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

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

August Art Show During the months of August and September Richmond artist Judy Bush will be showing her recent work in paper making and print making using a process she calls "painting with paper pulp." All colors of recycled paper are used to make the pulp and create paper that is the painting. The paper is also used for creating linocut or silkscreen prints. Judy will be giving a talk about her experiences with print making and paper making and will share the methods, tools and materials she uses at an "open house," sponsored by Huntington Valley Arts as part of its series called HVA@night. Join her at the Library on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:30 pm.

Device Advice Jim Poulin will be available on the last Wednesday of each month through October to help anyone who needs to tame their electronic device whether it's their smart phone or tablet or laptop. Come see Jim from 5:30 pm to 7pm. First come, first served.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on September 10 at 6pm to discuss Walking Home: Trail Stories, by Cylia Ryker. Contact Gwen Landis (434-5012; gwennie1972@yahoo.com) for information on joining this group.

Mystery Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on August 15 at 7 pm to discuss Medicus: A Novel of the Roman Empire, by Ruth Downie; and September 19 at 7 pm to discuss A Borrowing of Bones by Paula Munier. Contact Maureen Parent (802-434-2055, msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions.

Additional Resources Two of our online resources have changed.

Universal Class has been replaced by Gale Presents: Udemy, an online learning platform with 20,000 video courses on a huge range of topics: business, coding, music, cooking, and more. It offers well-structured video courses and assignments that you can complete at your own pace and in whatever order you want. Udemy is only available to public libraries.

Learning Express has been replaced by Gale Presents: Peterson's Test and Career Prep. It includes career certification exams, and vocational test prep tools for nursing, law enforcement, real estate, teaching, CDL training, trucking, and more; also, standardized test preparation, undergraduate and graduate program research, tuition assistance information, and career advice, as well as assistance with resumes and cover letters.

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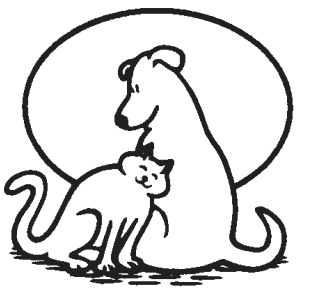

Drs. Daniel Hament
Cori Weiner & Jocelyn Selim

Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD) Early Childhood Programs

Are you the parent of a three, four or five year old child? Do you have concerns about your child's development in the areas of…

Understanding & use of language?
Clarity of speech?
Balance, strength & coordination?
Using small muscles to eat, dress, & play with toys?
Play skills & social interactions?
Ability to cope & regulate emotions?

The MMUUSD Early Childhood staff are available to address any concerns you may have regarding your child's development.

An individual appointment for you and your child can be scheduled by contacting:

Richmond Families
Richmond Elementary School
434-2461

Bolton Families
Smilie Memorial School
434-2757

Huntington Families
Brewster Pierce Memorial School
434-2074

Jericho & Underhill Families
Underhill ID Elementary School
434-2962

TAX NOTICE

Town of Richmond

First Quarter 2024-2025 tax payment due
Thursday, August 15, 2024.

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

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

Town of Huntington

First Quarter 2024-2025 tax payment due
Thursday, August 15, 2024.

The office will be open during tax week:
Monday, August 12, 8 am to noon *(closed early for Primary Election set up)*
Tuesday, August 15, closed • Wednesday, August 16, 8 am to 3 pm
Thursday, August 15, 8 am to 5 pm

USPS Postmarks on or before August 15th are accepted.

Payments placed through the town office door slot are accepted up until midnight on August 15th.

Internet-generated checks do not generally have postmarks and MUST arrive on or before August 15th.

In office payments are accepted by check or cash only.

Late payments are subject to a monthly 1% interest charge as of August 16th.

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Paid for by Jana Brown for State Rep. PO Box 66 Richmond VT 05477

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Paul Susen

The Huntington Selectboard held four meetings on June 17, June 24, July 1 and July 15. Topics discussed included flooding, highway operations, tax rates, employee benefits, library solar, open meeting law, meeting format, budget, town office HVAC, driveway permits, American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA), conservation, town clerk update, public comment, library and appointments.

The response to the recent flooding event has been multifaceted. The top priority goals have been to provide direct help to affected people in the community and to address road issues throughout town. Huntington was waiting to hear whether Chittenden County would be declared a FEMA disaster zone. The Texas Hill area was considered the most serious problem for road repair. This discussion centered on whether a bridge or culvert was the better solution. Town administration has, on several occasions, reminded residents that anyone with property damage contact 211 and has been in contact with a state river engineer. Dredging is explicitly not a strategy which the state will allow. Visible alert notification via the town website was discussed. The flooding of the town garage will be examined in terms of possible insurance coverage as well as future remediation.

During the time the bridge detour route was a priority for the road crew, a Selectboard member had received complaints regarding road conditions elsewhere. The resources needed to grade one mile of road was discussed. A note was posted on social media explaining the situation. A tractor needed repair and the Selectboard decided to fund those expenses.

Green Mountain Audubon stated that people are parking on a blind portion of road at Horseshoe Bend when the parking lot was at capacity. The Director requested road signage to keep people from parking in dangerous locations.

Where to locate speed bumps and the specific shape of those speed breakers continues to be a conversation of interest in the community. Town Administrator Adam Argo displayed a map of Huntington Center and noted possible places to locate these measures. A community member remarked that the current speed hump in the village is too tall and abrupt and that a longer, more gradual strip, with less height, is needed. He also noted the noise impact. There was also discussion regarding alternative approaches such as medial islands and speed radar signs. A community member mentioned that speeding in Hanksville was an issue and that a slow sign would be helpful. Another resident mentioned that sidewalks, transition zones and crosswalks should be considered. The Selectboard, town administration and highway department will research the possibilities, including cost. At the time this report was submitted, the project has been deferred to allow for additional planning and input from the community.

The town will hire a road crew member and if necessary pay for the training for the Commercial Drivers License. Finally, the town will apply for a $200,000 structures grant.

The Selectboard set the municipal tax rate for 2024-2025 at $0.9160 per $100 assessed value.

The Selectboard approved salary increases for FY24-25. Zoning Administrator Yves Gonnet requested consideration for swapping one better health insurance plan for two lesser plans at the same cost. The Selectboard determined the decision needed to be on a town-wide basis not an individual basis. Past Town Administrator Elliott stated that she has been working on benefits consistency as part of her transition responsibilities. She will make recommendations to the Selectboard on next steps. A Selectboard member stated that he believed the matter needed to be resolved before October 1. Another member remarked that the insurance conversation was part of the larger contract negotiations.

The Selectboard supported a proposal that former Town Administrator Elliott and former Foreman Alger be hired as part-time employees responsible for designated tasks during 2024-2025. In addition, Elliott and Alger will be paid for unused vacation time. The Selectboard agreed to continue to offer the Vermont Municipal Employees Retirement System to full-time employees and designated part-time employees. The opt-out for the Treasurer was increased to a level consistent with other positions.

Solar Panels on the Library The Huntington Energy Committee received four bids to install solar panels on the roof of the Library. The State Fire Marshall has approved a modification of the standard four-foot setback to three-feet. The Selectboard suggested a list of questions to be addressed by the potential vendors. After the interviews, the Selectboard approved the vendor recommended by the committee.

Open Meeting Law Section 55 of Act 133 concerning the Open Meeting Law, now requires that space for in- person Selectboard meetings be designated. The discussion also considered whether a hybrid approach should be pursued. Argo examined possible venues to hold Selectboard meetings. The Library has come forth proposing that meetings be held there. A Selectboard member raised the point that technology would be needed in addition to a projector to facilitate the hybrid meeting delivery option.

Budget Discussion Town Treasurer Andrea Ogilvie updated the Selectboard on budget processes. She described the difference between former and new accounting systems. The delinquent tax status was summarized. She also recommended an increase in the emergency fund to 15% of the budget. She stated that there would be a budget surplus of $131,000 at the end of FY24.

The Town Office heat pump installation was over budget and the Selectboard decided to use the General Fund surplus to handle the overage.

Driveway Permit The application for a driveway permit for 9613 Main Road has now been supported, given approval from the Chair of the Development Review Board, as well as the Fire Chief.

ARPA Projects The Huntington Conservation Commission has decided to encumber its ARPA funds so that the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps can plant 500 trees next Spring. The cost and installation of the welcome signs to Huntington has been examined. Computer upgrades for the highway and town office are underway. Planning for town office expansion is in development.

Town Land Discussed The Trust for Public Land has expressed an interest in a 58-acre parcel of land, owned by the town of Huntington, becoming part of Camels Hump State Park. The donation would be used as a match to a Federal Forest Legacy Grant. The land would be held as wild in perpetuity. The Huntington Conversation Commission supports the transaction. One Selectboard member raised questions concerning the priorities of the Conservation Committee. Another Selectboard member introduced the idea that he thought the land use regulations restricted development in that parcel due to the altitude threshold.

Land Slide A community member expressed a concern regarding a long existing and worsening landslide on Camels Hump Road near the new bridge. The Selectboard agreed that the town should contact the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

continue to page 17

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Mark Aiken

Unfortunately, a lot has happened since I sat in this chair two weeks ago," said Selectboard Chair David Sander in opening the most recent Selectboard meeting – a reference to the horrific flooding that affected Vermont on the one-year anniversary of the worst floods in most lifetimes. Without wasting time, he talked about timing: "We have been running way over time the last few meetings," he said, asking speakers to please limit their comments to three minutes or less and to speak at their turn only. The final word count of this comment will serve as evidence of whether they accomplished this goal.

Sander acknowledged the flooding of July 10 – he called it the fourth major flooding event in the past calendar year. He anticipates over $3 million in damages to town roads and noted that last year's budget discussions included conversations about having unallocated emergency funds on hand. He acknowledged national news and events of the last week (he called them "national political chaos and violence") and noted that this could affect tempers and demeanors. "I'm just calling it out for what it is," he said.

During a public comment, Erin Farr asked that an agenda item at a future selectboard meeting discuss the possibility of evacuations resulting from a flooding event. She said, from her vantage point, it was a disturbing volume of water, and she feels that the town needs to plan for possible evacuations resulting from future floods.

Town Manager Josh Arneson noted that July 20's Round Church Women's Run had been canceled due to flood damages.

Fourth of July The Fourth of July festivities – the fun run, the parade, the activities at Volunteer Green, and the fireworks – were reviewed. Many thanks were spread to the volunteers of the Fourth of July Parade and Fireworks committee whose efforts make this generational celebration possible. Richmond resident Cara LaBounty added that she felt the parade was heavy on fire trucks and light on floats. "Maybe spread out the fire trucks," she said. Selectboard member Jay Furr added that he heard safety concerns: parade participants were throwing candy to kids, and kids would rush out onto the roadway where large trucks were driving.

Flood Damages (Again) The Board then moved onto a discussion about everything flood-related – an agenda topic that took up the next hour of the meeting. Arneson recognized the Highway, Fire, and Water/Sewer Departments for their efforts ahead of, and following, the flooding. He thanked Richmond resident Susan Whitman who, as she did in 2023, organized an online sheet for volunteers to help neighbors muck out basements, pump water, take loads to the dump, and so forth. He listed the many roads that had been washed out, making access impossible, and an even larger number that are passable despite serious damages. In addition to Richmond's Highway Department, five independent contractors repaired damages on town roads. Arneson noted that unnecessary travel on roads that are under repair should be avoided, as every car that passes causes minor delay in the work.

Sander asked Arneson about the forecasts preceding the storm; Arneson said that, as late as Wednesday, when he attended a briefing by the State and the National Weather Service, it seemed like river levels might remain in a zone that would result in minor field flooding in Richmond. Obviously, more rain fell than was forecast. Furr noted that the 2024 flood damages are more extensive and expensive than last year.

Richmond resident Shay DiCocco shated that the community around Lily Pond Circle, Red Pond Lane, and part of Route 2 was cut off by flood damages. His update spurred a discussion of private versus public roadways and damages that were exacerbated by work done by the town or the state ahead of the heavy rains.

Cara LaBounty advised those with damages of any kind should report these to 211 – the emergency line dedicated to community emergency relief including funding. Arneson also brought up the FEMA property buyout program and the home elevation projects. Anyone interested in (or with questions about) these programs should contact him.

Flag Collection Box Michael Denis, an aspiring Eagle Scout from Williston Troop 692, proposed a flag collection box, which he would construct and donate, to be placed at the Town Center. The Selectboard decided that the lobby near the prescription drug collection box would be an ideal location and that the box should be clearly designed and labeled so that nobody mistakes the flag collection box for the drug collection box. "I can do that," Denis replied. The Board approved the measure, giving Denis the go-ahead to move forward with the project.

Town Center and Library Buildings Appointment. Boardmembers approved Mike Storrs' application to serve as a volunteer on the Town Center and Library Buildings committee.

Discussion of Town-Owned Land Off Mary Drive Board members discussed a town-owned strip of land off Mary Drive, ultimately voting to convey the land for whatever price is possible and review future considerations with town attorneys.

Traffic Talks As has been the case at recent Selectboard meetings, the Board reviewed traffic calming measures in the Richmond village. A few stop bars were painted, but at this point efforts are at a standstill as Richmond deals with flooding damages. Meanwhile, members discussed asking Chittenden County to conduct a safety study at Fays Corner, ultimately deciding to wait on the study until a future date.

Parking Area In parking news, Arneson brought the happy news that after three years of using state land at the front of Johnnie Brook Road as a parking area for boaters, swimmers, anglers, cyclists, and other recreational users, the state and the town have a five-year agreement to use the property moving forward. The town maintains the lot, but if something (like a flood) caused significant damage to the space, it would not be the town's responsibility.

Recreation Path Update At a prior meeting, Selectboard members decided to form a committee to explore funding options for a recreation path connecting Riverview Commons and the Park and Ride to Richmond village. No progress had been made on this but Richmond resident Gary Bressor, who has already committed to be on the committee, plans to reach out to some people.

Liquor Licenses The Board approved liquor licenses for Kitchen Table restaurant and Lucky Spot Variety.

Other Business The Board voted to accept two grants (one for road stormwater improvements and the other for road paving); entered into an agreement with East Engineering to repair damages from flooding in July 2023; heard the quarterly report from Richmond Rescue; then passed meeting minutes, and warrants. No purchase orders were presented to approve.

LAURA E. GORSKY PLLC
Attorney at Law
LAURA E. GORSKY, ESQ.
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW INCLUDING:
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MMUUSD

CHILD FIND NOTICE 2024 - 2025

Any individuals from birth through age 21 with disabilities currently residing within Bolton, Buel's Gore, Huntington, Jericho, Richmond, or Underhill, and who are in need of special education and related services need to be identified, located and evaluated by Mt Mansfield Unified Union School District (MMUUSD). This includes children: not enrolled in school, attending private or independent schools located within the afore mentioned towns, enrolled in home study programs, suspected of having a disability despite advancing from grade to grade, who are highly mobile (such as migrant children), and who are homeless or wards of the state. Any person with information about any disabled person fitting these descriptions should contact:

Special Services Director
10 River Road
Jericho, Vermont
Phone: 802-434-2128

In accordance with MMUUSD policies and with 34 CFR Part 99 (the Family Education Rights Privacy Act of 1974), this public notice informs all parents within their jurisdictions about how information is maintained when it is collected during identification, location and evaluation of all people with disabilities.

- Personally identifiable information will be protected by each school.
- Personally identifiable information about people eligible, referred or considered for special education services is maintained.
- Parents have the right to know what types of information have been designated as directory information (i.e. contained in a student's education record and is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed). This information includes the student's name (unless otherwise requested), address, phone number, date/place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities/sports, weight/height, membership in athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees/awards received, and the previous school attended.
- Parents have the right to know the types and locations of educational records kept by the school and the titles and addresses of officials responsible for the records.
- A list of the names and positions of employees within MMUUSD who have access to personally identifiable information shall be available for public inspection.
- If anyone other than an authorized MMUUSD employee looks at the educational record of a child, that person shall so indicate by signing his/her name, date and purpose for reviewing the record on a form to become part of the education record.
- Parental permission will be obtained prior to disclosing confidential information to anyone who is not an authorized employee of MMUUSD.
- Information relevant to a child's specific disability (such as: medical information, intelligence test results, social/developmental history, comprehensive evaluation report and the individualized education program) will be part of the education record.
- Personally identifiable information will be gathered from screenings, qualified diagnostic centers and other sources, as deemed necessary, to complete a comprehensive evaluation. Parents, or an eligible student, will be able to access personally identifiable information and inspect and review their education record(s) no later than 45 days after the request is made.
- Parents have the right to a response to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the educational records.
- Parents may obtain a copy of the educational record without a fee for copying, if a fee will be a financial burden and/or will prevent them from obtaining the records.
- Parents have the right to request the education record be amended. The school district will decide whether to amend the record within a reasonable time of the request. If the district refuses to amend the record, it shall inform the parent and advise the parent of the right to a hearing. If, as a result of the hearing, it is found the educational record must be amended, the school district will amend the record and inform the parent in writing. If, as a result of the hearing, it is found the disputed information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy right of the child, the school will inform the parent of his/her right to place in the educational record a written statement commenting on the information or stating any reasons for disagreeing with the results of the hearing. This written statement will become part of the educational record and will always be included whenever the contents of the education record is properly viewed or requested.
- Parents have the right to a hearing to challenge the educational records of their child.
- Parents will be notified prior to the school district's destruction of personally identifiable information about their child.
- The parent has the authority to inspect and review records relating to his/her child unless MMUUSD has been advised that the parent does not have the authority under applicable state law governing matters such as guardianship, separation and divorce.
- Parents have the right to file a complaint with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the MMUUSD to comply with this policy.

NOTE: If there are parents within the below mentioned schools who need this information interpreted, please notify your local school.

Brewster-Pierce Memorial School 434-2074	Smilie Memorial School 434-2757
Richmond Elementary 434-2461	Jericho Elementary 899-2272
Underhill Center School 899-4676	Underhill ID Pre-K 434-2962
Browns River Middle School 899-3711	Camels Hump Middle School 434-2188

Mt Mansfield Union High School
899-4690

MMUUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

June 2024 Meeting

The temporary suspension of the open meeting law (due to COVID) is over. The Legislature has changed the law to allow remote participation, in addition to in person attendance. The physical location this month was at Jericho Elementary School.

Community Comments Richmond Resident Erin Wagg noted former Richmond Elementary School (RES) Principal Mark Andrews passed away. She expressed her gratitude for his dedicated service to the school and the community.

Jericho Elementary School (JES)Principal Todd Rohlen reported the literacy rates have improved from 58% to over 70% this year. The Spanish Immersion program is continuing and the students who complete the program are awarded certification in Spanish Literacy.

Adjustments to Graduation Requirements Superintendent John Alberghini presented the updated Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements Policy. This policy, which meets the State mandates, was approved unanimously. Basically, the student must demonstrate evidence of proficiency in the content areas, meet a participation standard, and meet the requirements of the Senior Seminar course. Monitoring of various components of the Personal Learning Plans and progress of the PBGR happen on an annual, and bi-annual basis.

Facilities Planning A 20-plus page report detailing all the work needed now and in the future for all the buildings in the district was given to the Board. A survey of all Vermont School buildings is being conducted by the State. The State has not contributed to a school building fund since 2007; it is planning to contribute to the fund in the future. The Board will study the State survey in the fall.

The following major repairs/improvements will take place over the summer: replacement of a roof at CHMS, replace the freezer at Browns River Middle School, installation stormwater mitigations systems at MMUHS, RES, and CHMS, seal MMUHS 400 wing floor and dehumidification, Smilie (Bolton) and JES playground upgrades, and PCB identification and mitigation at CHMS and BRMS. These summer improvements are in the budget which recently passed. Any possible overages could be taken from the Capital Reserve, if approved by the Board.

Personnel Comings and Goings Search committees were formed for the MMUUSD Superintendent position, and an Interim Principal of Brewster-Pierce Memorial School in Huntington.

Retiring from the District this year are: Maribeth Berliner, Susan Detweiler, David Cavanaugh, Gerald Freeman, Michael Turner, Mary Lundeen, Susan Empie, Martha Erickson, Janette Roberts, David Horner, Mickey Dutcher, Mary Fran Holly, Thodd Van Allen, Judy Bean, Steve Duda, Wendy Guay, Jeri Harvey, Sherry Mahoney, Allan Salter.

School Board Policy Governance The Global Restraint Monitoring Report was presented by Alberghini. In general, the policy says the Superintendent should create a positive environment, while creating/maintaining a system that protects the District from unsafe or litigious activity.

The report lists parts of this system: Employee Handbook, and the Administrative Procedural Guide, amongst several others. Positive results from internal and external polls were reported. No employee grievances or insurance claims were made during the course of the review period. Technology safeguards are possible within the school system. Cellphone-free schools are being discussed. The report was accepted unanimously.

The communities of Jericho and Bolton have local funds for scholarships. The control and distribution of these funds is being investigated by the Board.

Brewster-Pierce Interim Principal

The Mount Mansfield Unified Union School District recently announced that Michelle Patnode has been hired as the Interim Principal of Brewster-Pierce Memorial School for the 2024-2025 school year.

Patnode brings with her a strong educational background and a genuine passion for working with students. She earned a Masters in Education from Union Institute and University and is currently working towards a Doctorate in Supervision and Administration from Liberty University. She was previously at Missisquoi Valley School District (MVSD), where she recently completed her District-Administrative Internship. During her tenure at MVSD, Patnode served in various capacities, including elementary teacher, district science leader, grade team leader, project-based leader, and continuous improvement team co-leader. Prior to her work at MVSD, Patnode was the HR Director at Stanley Associates and Preschool Director at Tyler Place Family Resort.

The School District said in a press release, "We warmly welcome Michelle Patnode to our school community and look forward to her leadership at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School. She is eager to connect with families and staff at Brewster-Pierce Memorial School. In the coming weeks, she will be reaching out to introduce herself and provide opportunities for everyone to meet her. Building relationships and establishing a strong connection with the school community are priorities as she begins her role as Interim Principal."

☑
YOUR VOTE
IS YOUR VOICE
VOTE
August 13

Area Residents Honored

Beverly Little Thunder, a Lakota elder, travelled to the White House in June, where she was among a small group participating in a Pride Month event.

Beverly Little Thunder with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Halland. Courtesy photo

The Huntington resident received an email invitation from the White House and saw it as both an honor and an opportunity to share her opinions and ideas with "some of the people who make decisions in the White House about what we see going on in the two-spirit community nationally."

Two-spirit is a term used by queer Indigenous people, a term Little Thunder and a committee helped coin back in the 1990s, and is now broadly used. "We came up with the term two-spirit because we felt we were sort of balanced with both the male and female aspects of our communities," she said.

Her road as a two-spirit person hasn't always been easy. Little Thunder was cast out of her community in the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in the Dakotas when she came out. "In 1985, when I did come out, all my fears came true," she explained. She was asked to leave the annual Sundance by a tribal council, a devastating time. However, Little Thunder, whose childhood was fraught with uncertainty including being taken from her tribe and put into a convent school, is nothing if not resilient. She moved to Vermont and established the first and today, the only all-women's Sundance in the world, which is held every summer on the land where she lives with her wife Pam Alexander. The couple has lived in Huntington for 20 years.

Little Thunder noted, "History has shown the White House has not always been a place friendly to Indigenous people," making this invitation even more special.

After her visit to Washington, DC, Little Thunder noted that the invitation was an honor and a statement was made that this was a historic moment to have Indigenous Two Spirit leaders there. She reflected, though, that over the course of the past two hundred years Indigenous people had been invited to the White House, where they were "wined and dined, given trinkets – we got a small box of candy kisses – then after promises were made (with no intention of being kept by the government), they were sent home. Nothing has changed in all that time."

However, she said, "All in all, it was an exciting visit and I am honored to have been invited. I never in my wildest dreams imagined that I would be invited to the White House!"

NCAA Champ

Saint Michael's College women's cross country rising sophomore **Tess Drury** of Richmond and a graduate of Mount Mansfield Union High School was part of the team receiving Northeast-10 Conference Team Academic Excellence Award for its sport for the 2023-24 school year after posting the highest cumulative grade-point average among women's cross country squads in the league. The Purple Knights earned the award for the second consecutive school year, under 18-year head coach Molly Peters.

Drury highlighted the 2023 season by qualifying for the NCAA Championship and earning NE10 Rookie of the Year, while she landed U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) East Regional All-Region and NE10 All-Conference first team nods.

Advanced Degrees

Anna Ogilvie, PhD, Huntington, Rutgers University, Doctor of Philosophy from the Graduate program in Nutritional Sciences. May 2024. Thesis: Nutritional Factors Affecting Diet Quality and Endotoxin-Induced Inflammation.

Nathaniel Ogilvie, Huntington, University of Vermont, Master of Science Specializing in Computer Science. December 2023. Thesis: Fine-Grained Permeable Surfaces Mapping Through Parallel U-Net.

Key Award Recipients

Elmira College recently announced this year's recipients of its annual Key Award. This year's award was given to 831 students in 17 states. A tradition that goes back to 1935, the Key Award is presented to outstanding students in their junior year of high school or preparatory school.

Local students include:

Cameron Brinegar, Jericho
Hazel Jensen, Richmond

This award is given to students with the potential to excel academically, serve as leaders, and go on to enjoy success in life.

Dean's List Spring 2024

Eric Mckean, Starksboro, Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York, a senior majoring in global supply chain management and achieving a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts

Ariella M. Graning, Jericho, second honors.
Jens A. Peterson, of Jericho, first honors.

Bates College, Lewiston, Maine

Local students with a 3.92 grade point average or higher:

Ada Knauft, Huntington
Ali Priganc, Richmond
Isabel Subin-Billingsley, Richmond

Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York

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

Eligibility is GPA greater than or equal to 3.400; they do not have any grades of Incomplete, D or F; and they have registered for, and completed, at least 12 credit hours.

University of New England, Maine & Morocco

Attaining a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0:

Angelica Stewart, Huntington
Grace Andrews, Richmond

Vermont State University, Randolph

The following local students maintained full-time status and achieve a 3.5 or greater semester average:

Aliza Beliveau, Richmond
Jenna Pelland, Jericho
Rosie Phelan, Jericho
Sayler Ruggles, Huntington
Ally Stearns, Richmond
Tristan Wade, Jericho
Amber Whitcomb, Richmond

A Colorful & Celebratory Fourth in Richmond

A Successful Fourth

Wow! What a great celebration of community and being together this Fourth of July! Thank you to all the volunteers, participants, floaters, singers, runners and vendors and most importantly, the children who made this summer celebration of our community a great success.

Parade Winners of the Day
Motorized Floats Category:

1. Dairy Tales – Conant's Riverside Farms
2. Alice in Wonderland – Sweet Simone's
3. Rapunzel – Otter Brook Construction

Parade Non-Motorized Floats Category:

1. Piggy Babes and the Big Bad Wolf
2. Phoenix Cheerleading
3. Richmond Free Library's Fairy Godmother and her team of faeries and creatures

Karaoke Winners:

1. Britany Meunier
2. Hilary J Delisle
3. Gary Moreau

We want to hear from you! We've made it through many tough weather events before, let's keep celebrating when we can. Share your thoughts and ideas. Email us at paradeandfireworks@gmail.com or visit the Town of Richmond website and look for us under "Boards and Meetings!"

—Parade and Fireworks Committee

Winners of the Richmond July 4 Road Race

The Main Street Mile, which is held before the start of the Fourth of July Parade, had a large participation. The event was not timed and had a large participation.

Men/Boys

1. Luke Smith-Miodownik
2. Cyrus Goetze
3. Chris Hamlin

Women/Girls

1. Acadia Enman
2. Ella McEntee
3. Eloise Stowell

—Michael & Maggie Leugers

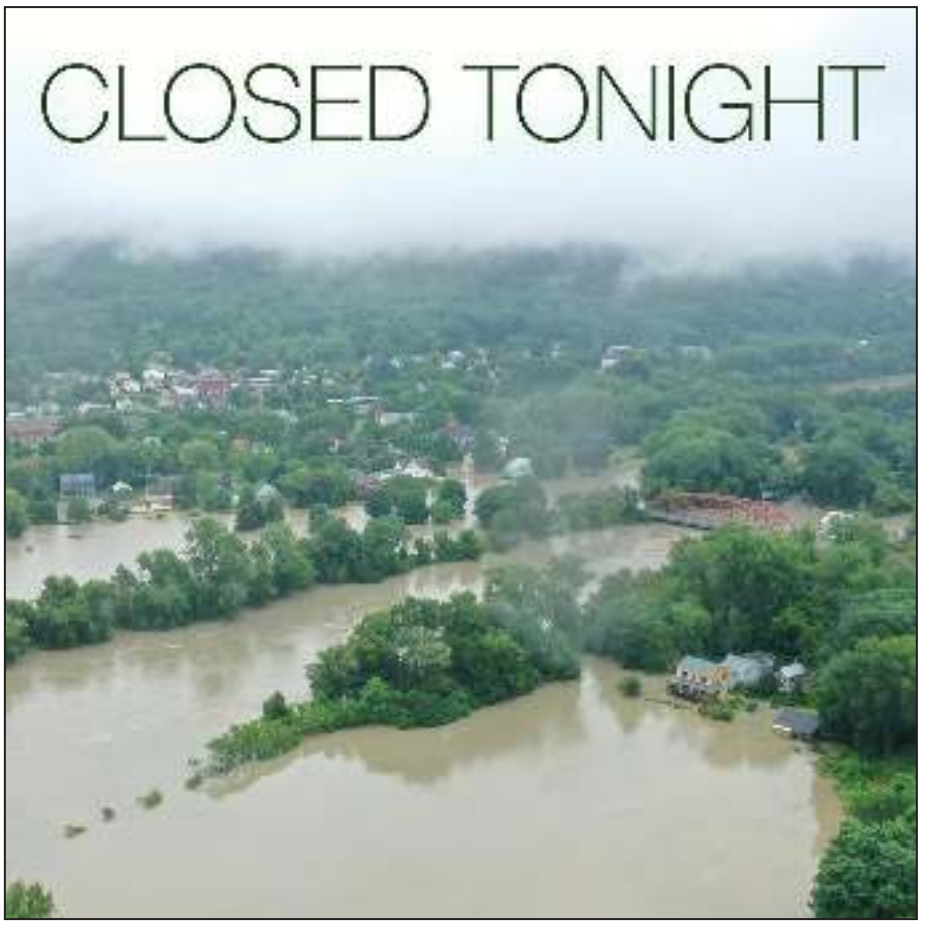
Photos, this page: Jared Katz

From top: Becca Golden and Andy Carlo enjoy a perfect convertible day; Richmond Library Director, Grand Marshall and Queen of the Parade Rebecca Mueller; fireworks in the park.

July 4

Ezra, Nehemiah and Cyrus Valyou show off the float tube their dad, Jamie Valyou, won in this year's Richmond Land Trust raffle. Francis Churchill scored the second of the two tubes offered. Jamie and Francis bought their winning tickets at the RLT lemonade booth on Volunteers Green after the Fourth of July parade. Proceeds from ticket and lemonade sales went to RLT's work to conserve and care for important local natural, historic and agricultural resources.

July 11



Hatchett's social media post on July 11.

Well... Gretchen Paulsen actually is somewhat shorter than her husband Marshall Paulsen. Photo: Laurie Dana

Texas Brook, usually a demure stream, overflowed its culvert and changed course across Texas Hill Road, Huntington on July 11.

Greetings from

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Flood-Impacted Businesses Asked to Complete Damage Survey

The Vermont Department of Economic Development (DED) is requesting businesses that endured damage as a result of the July 2024 flooding events to complete DED's Flood Damage Survey for Businesses to capture the type and scale of the flood-related damage. Survey data will be used to help advocate for future relief and recovery programs for businesses and nonprofit organizations.

"The Department of Economic Development is here to help as best we can with the ongoing recovery in communities across Vermont," said DED Commissioner Joan Goldstein. "Our goal is to understand everyone's circumstances so that we are better able to quantify the aggregate need at the community and industry levels."

Non-profit and for-profit organizations that sustained physical property damage suffered by the July 2024 floods should answer questions to the best of their ability. If multiple properties are damaged, a new survey should be submitted for each location.

In the event financial assistance for businesses becomes available, DED will be in contact with those who have completed the Flood Damage Survey to share that information.

Damage should also be reported to Vermont 211 at Vermont211.org. All data reported to Vermont 211 is being used only to get a big picture of the storm's wrath to help the state assess the extent of the damage as it applies for a federal disaster declaration. Completion of this survey does not replicate that reporting.

For information on flood recovery and support, visit accd.vermont.gov/flood. The Agency of Commerce and Community Development is providing updates on the recovery efforts via the Severe Storm Recovery Newsletter. Please sign up here to receive these updates.

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Huntington Community to Read Award-winning Gather

The Huntington Community, supported by the Huntington Public Library and a grant from Vermont Humanities, is invited to read Gather by Vermont author Kenneth M. Cadow. Gather, a National Book Award Finalist, tells the story of a teenager and his adopted pup Gather. It describes rural life, resilience, class difference, and addiction and recovery in Vermont and the loving relationship between a boy and his dog. Copies of Gather are available at the Huntington Public Library. A facilitated discussion will take place at the HPL on Sunday, November 17, 2:30 pm to 4 pm. Refreshments will be served. The book is appropriate for grades 9-12 and adults.

For more information, contact Amy Seidl (aseidl65@gmail.com) or the Huntington Public Library (hpl@gmavt.net)

RE-ELECT

Tom Stevens

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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VOTE on or before AUGUST 13th

WATERBURY: BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL | 7AM-7PM
BOLTON: SMILIE MEMORIAL SCHOOL | 7AM-7PM
HUNTINGTON: BREWSTER PIERCE MEMORIAL SCHOOL | 6:30AM-7PM

ENDORSEMENTS

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Agriculture Flood Loss and Damage Survey Released

Vermont Farms affected by July 2024 flooding are asked to complete a Flood Impact survey to capture loss and damage to agricultural community

Following major flooding caused by the remnants of Tropical Storm Beryl on July 10, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM) is launching a new Flood Loss and Damage Survey to understand the impact on Vermont farms. Last week's flooding comes on the heels of severe weather last season that caused significant damage and economic harm to farms and food producers across the state. Many of these Vermonters, still not fully recovered from last year's crisis, are once again facing uncertainty and trauma.

VAAFM, in coordination with the Vermont Agricultural Recovery Task Force, is asking flood-impacted agricultural producers to participate in the 2024 Flood Loss and Damage Survey. The purpose of this survey is to capture the scale and location of the flood-related damage agricultural producers suffered throughout the state starting on July 10, 2024. The survey will remain open to capture information on loss and damages until the deadline of August 31, 2024. Participants are welcome to submit more than one report if they incur additional losses, but we request that they only report "new" impact.

VAAFM asks that any agricultural business, organization, or individual that raises animals, meat, or poultry and/or grows feed or crops for anyone beyond your immediate family fill out this survey. This survey does not include forestry or cannabis production, or food industry and security businesses who do not complete production activities (ex: slaughter facilities, gleaning organizations, aggregation and distribution facilities). This survey should take between 10 and 15 minutes to complete.

After flooding and severe weather impacts in 2023, a similar effort was undertaken to gather data on the extent of impacts which provided crucial data to support making additional resources available to Vermont Farms. In 2023, Vermont farms suffered more than $16 million in losses across more than 27,000 acres. To learn more about the 2023 impacts, please review the 2023 Extreme Weather Impact & Recovery Report.

For more information on farm flood guidance and next steps for farms who have experienced flooding visit agriculture.vermont.gov/flood, or email at agr.floodresponse@vermont.gov, or call 802-828-2430.

Join the Hiking Community for Long Trail Day 2024

The Green Mountain Club announces the annual hiking fundraising, Long Trail Day, will take place on September 21, 2024. Long Trail Day, now in its fifth year, celebrates the Long Trail and raises funds to support the hard work that goes into caring for Vermont's 272-mile Long Trail.

Hikers and outdoor lovers near and far are invited to create a personal fundraising page and work towards a goal, then hike your favorite portion of the Long Trail on Saturday, September 21. The Green Mountain Club seeks to raise $80,000 from the community this year, an ambitious goal that builds from the success of more than $70,000 in 2023.

The Green Mountain Club has been building, repairing, and maintaining the Long Trail System, which comprises 500-plus miles of trails in the state, since 1910. The non-profit organization relies on the financial support of thousands of hikers each year to support their field work, including flood recovery projects and completing the top-to-bottom rebuild of the Burrows Trail.

This announcement of the Long Trail Day fundraiser comes on the heels of another massive flood in central and northern Vermont, the third major one in a year. Work is needed to upgrade Vermont's infrastructure, including trail design and infrastructure, to protect the resources from consistent flood damage. GMC has been doing this work for the past several years, but the scale and scope necessary to upgrade the entire trail system to climate resilient standards will take many years and a lot of financial support from the hiking community. Registering for Long Trail Day helps fund this work and spread the word about our trails' needs.

Taking part in the Long Trail Day community fundraising effort is a great way to connect with the trails and your fellow hikers. Emily Padberg and Emily Sloan, who together raised $535 for the trail last year, said, "We chose to fundraise and give back to GMC to support all the good work they do to preserve the trail, protect surrounding habitat, and encourage folks to get outside. It's also a great chance to catch up and spend time with each other, like the old days camping with our five kids combined - but in a new way!"

"We're so lucky here in Vermont to have hundreds of miles of well-maintained hiking trails and we have already begun to improve them to withstand increased storms, such as rebuilding the Burrows Trail on Camel's Hump. By participating in Long Trail Day and committing to raising $272, folks are invited to be part of the solution of managing trails for climate resiliency in Vermont," said Alicia DiCocco, Deputy Director at GMC.

To join in the fun and pledge your support for Long Trail Day, follow these easy steps:

1. Register as an individual or team fundraiser at www.greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday. You'll get a beanie and a sticker for signing up, and a free pair of Darn Tough Socks if you reach your fundraising goal!

2. Commit to raising $272, or $1 for every mile of the Long Trail. Ask family, friends, colleagues, or hiking partners to support your fundraising goal – they can donate to your personal page easily online

3. Hike your favorite portion of the Long Trail on Saturday September 21! (Or whenever works for you). GMC representatives and volunteers will be stationed all over the state, leading hikes and handing out cold drinks and treats. Check greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday for hike details (coming soon).

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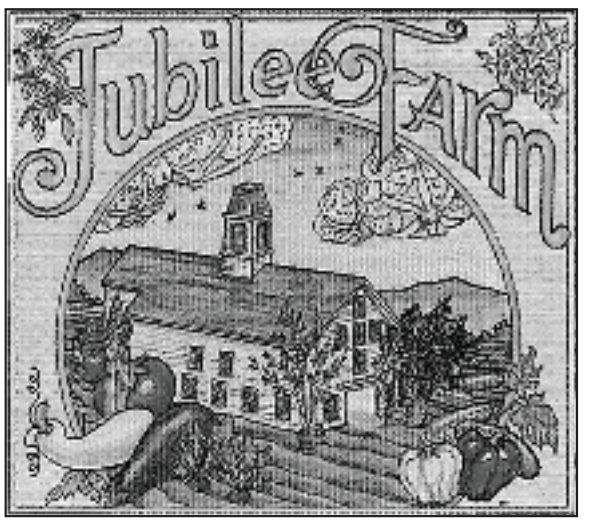

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Ted Sargeant

Ted Sargeant, a 60-plus years resident of Huntington, recently died at the age of almost 97. He was one of the founding members of the Richmond Farmers Market, serving on the Board for many years, and a popular vendor. He brought a variety of vegetables to the Market, but was best known for his sweet corn. He was also competitive gardener, displaying his vegetables at the Champlain Valley Fair, the Addison Field Days and the Tunbridge World's Fair, winning many blue ribbons, and sometimes winning Best of Show.

Theodore (Ted) Sargeant was born on July 28, 1927, the fourth of seven children of Neal W. Sargeant ,Sr. and Emma Stocker Sargeant in their home in Danville.

Ted was educated in Danville and graduated from Danville High School in 1945. He earned his degree in Agriculture from the Vermont School of Agriculture in 1946. In the fall of 1946, Ted joined the U.S. Army, and after training at Fort Knox, KY, spent the next thirty months with the 25th Division in the occupation forces in Japan.

During the next four years Ted was the milk tester for Caledonia Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and the next five years he spent as the Herdsman for Shadwell Jersey Farm in Groton..

On June 15, 1958, Ted married Joan Gile of Richmond. They purchased a small Jersey farm in Wolcott. They were there for three years before moving to Huntington, where Ted learned the plumbing and heating trade with his father in law. Ted operated his own business for several years and worked on the plumbing and heating systems in many homes in the Richmond/Huntington area.

Following, Ted enjoyed twenty years as the Rural Mail Carrier out of the Huntington Post Office. He was a proud member of the Vermont Rural Letter Carrier Association where he served as its president for two and a half years.

After retirement, Ted kept busy with a few beef cattle and growing vegetables for sale. Ted helped organize and was an original vendor of the Richmond Farmers Market for many years. In the last few years Ted enjoyed collecting and restoring vintage garden tractors as well as showing them at several events around the state. He was a member of the Vermont Gas and Steam Engine Association.

Ted was also an active member of the Community Church of Huntington, where he held many offices throughout the years.

Ted was predeceased by his wife, Joan, his parents and siblings. He leaves behind three daughters Elizabeth Quary (Jack), Amanda Keith (Pat), and Kathy Sargeant; four grandchildren Casey, Hollis, Paige, and Annie; three great-grandchildren Trae, Gage Theo, and newborn Mabel Hope.

A memorial service was held at the Community Church of Huntington on Saturday, July 28. Memorial donations may be sent to the Community Church of Huntington or Neighbor Helping Neighbor, P.O. Box 24, Huntington, VT 05462.

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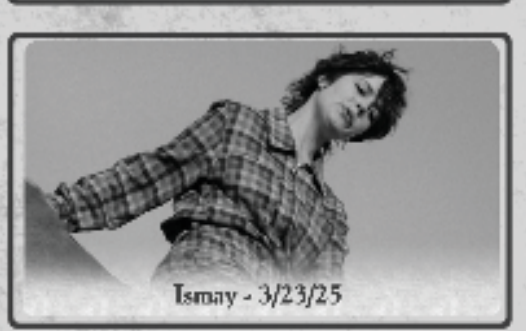
Sadie Gustafson-Zook - 11/10/24

Michelle Willis - 12/8/24

Allison Lupton Trio - 1/12/25

Bookmatch - 2/9/25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News from Area Churches

Richmond Congregational Church

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

June 6 Sunny Spring Agewell Luncheon: Upcoming Worship Services

August 18 10 am Worship Service led by RCC Deacons

August 25 10 am Blessing of the Backpacks Worship Service with Rev. Katelyn Macrae

September 1 10 am Labor Day Communion Worship Service with Rev. Katelyn Macrae

September 8 10 am Pilgrimage and Choir Worship Service at the Round Church with Rev. Katelyn Macrae

September 15 10 am Worship Service with Sunday School - Rev. Katelyn Macrae

September 22 10 am Blessing of the Animals Worship Service at Volunteers Green with Rev. Katelyn Macrae

September 29 10 am Worship Service with Sunday School - Rev. Katelyn Macrae

Save the Date! Rummage Sale October 5-6

Family Camping Weekend

Now in its 26th year, Outdoor Family Weekend promises to educate and engage campers of all interests and abilities with a host of new workshops and evening entertainment.

As in past years, it will be held at Stillwater State Park in Groton. Dates for this year's event are September 6-8.

The weekend is sponsored by University of Vermont Extension and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Forests, Parks and Recreation. A campsite (for up to eight people), expert-led workshops, Friday night ice cream social and evening activities are all included in the $175 fee. Campers also will have full access to the park's facilities, including free rental of canoes.

For details or to register, go to https://go.uvm.edu/outdoor-family. Registrations will be accepted until August 18 or all spots are filled. For the best selection of campsites and workshops, early registration is advised. Campsites are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis with every effort made to accommodate families that request adjoining sites.

For questions about registration or to request a disability-related accommodation to participate, please call Lisa Flinn at (802) 656-7607 or (800) 545-8920, ext. 67607, (Vermont calls only) by August 18. A full scholarship is available for one Lamoille County family. To inquire, contact Holly Ferris at (802) 656-7562 or holly.ferris@uvm.edu.

Participants can add a Sunday night stay at their campsite for no additional charge. Arrangements should be made at the ranger station upon arrival. Fishing licenses also may be purchased at the park although are not required for kids 14 and under.

The weekend kicks off with an ice cream social and evening campfire. On Saturday afternoon, campers will gather to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th birthday and learn about fire safety.

An evening fireside program will feature stories of fire and folklore told by Virginia Holiman, a farm-to-school educator from Highgate, and Kurt Valenta, founder of the Exordium Nature Experience in Enosburgh Falls.

Throughout the weekend there will be a camping gear swap. Families are encouraged to bring their gently used tents, sleeping bags, camp cookware and other hiking and camping gear to exchange for something new-to-them.

Each camper may sign up for three workshops with each session offering more than a dozen choices, including some geared specifically to younger children. A few workshops will incur a nominal fee for materials.

Options include shelter building and knot tying, firecraft, painting on canvas, shooting sports, campfire cooking, yoga in nature, introduction to mountain biking, canoe fishing, edible and medicinal plants, basic first aid and compass orienteering, among many others.

Several new workshops are offered this year.

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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.

MAY 1 TO OCTOBER 31: THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE: SHIFTING POINTS OF VIEW, Art Show at the Birds of Vermont Museum, Huntington. Each winter, since 2014, the Museum staff develops a bird-related theme for the exhibit and invites submissions in varied media. The 2024 art show, THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE, poses and answers questions of how our bodies, ideas, and assumptions might alter or affect what we perceive, think about, imagine, and understand about birds.

Each work reflects the theme in its own way. The art includes distant views from above, below, and sideways; magnifications and close-ups; seasonal, ethical, and metaphorical angles; classic human-illustrates-bird compositions; immersions into habitats; and differing senses and unusual species.

It is an adventure, trying to fit together the many perspectives, styles, and media into a cohesive show that (we hope) tells a story or two. Over 50 artists, photographers, and poets of all ages exhibit their work this year. Most are from Vermont.

The Museum is open Wednesdays – Sundays, from 10 am to 4 pm, during these months. https://birdsofvermont.org/special-upcoming/ .)

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.

American Revolution Experience

The Vermont State Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation announce the opening of the American Revolution Experience at the Chimney Point State Historic Site on Wednesday, August 7. The innovative pop-up exhibition includes display panels and interactive digital kiosks that use storytelling, illustration, technology, unique artifacts, and primary accounts to connect modern audiences with the people and places that shaped the birth of our nation.

The American Revolution Experience will run through the month of August. Location and admission details are as follows:

Chimney Point State Historic Site, at 8149 VT Route 17W in Addison.

Chimney Point State Historic Site is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 5pm. Admission is $6 for adults. Children under 15 get in for free.

Admission will be waved Saturday August 10, Sunday August 11, and Friday August 16 so the public can enjoy the American Revolution Experience at no cost.

DAR members can enjoy the exhibit at no cost during all of August by providing their name, and membership number or Chapter name.

"The American Revolution would not have happened without the decisions, sacrifices, and valor of ordinary people," said DAR President General Pamela Rouse Wright. "DAR is honored to have collaborated with the American Battlefield Trust on this initiative to highlight some of our Patriots and their roles in the founding of this great country. We are thrilled for people in communities across the country to learn more about these individuals."

The traveling exhibit includes 12 panels highlighting thematic connections between profiled individuals and three interactive kiosks that connect to the full digital biographies, provide documentary context on the Revolutionary War, and offer information on how to visit today the places tied to these individuals. Both online and on-site, the American Revolution Experience features custom illustrations by South Carolina-based artist Dale Watson. The exhibit also draws from documents and objects in DAR's collection, as well as the American Battlefield Trust's industry leading digital interpretation resources.

"Independence may have been declared in Philadelphia by the Declaration's 56 signers, but it was hard-won on the battlefields by the thousands of Patriot soldiers from whom today's Daughters trace descent," said American Battlefield Trust President David Duncan. "Together, our organizations bear witness to the fact that we are not so far removed from those impactful events, that there are meaningful ways to bridge those 250 years."

The American Revolution Experience invites visitors to consider the choice faced by members of the revolutionary generation as tensions mounted in the 1770s: Would these ordinary citizens risk their lives and livelihoods in pursuit of liberty? Would they remain loyal subjects of the British crown, coming into conflict with neighbors and family? The exhibit surfaces diverse viewpoints and experiences, touching on the journeys, both literal and figurative, of Patriots and Loyalists, men and women, Black and Native populations, and even international allies. Rather than focusing only on generals and famous statesmen, it introduces audiences to drummer boys, military mapmakers, and other ordinary people who were impacted by global events.

Selectboard

continued from page 6

The Selectboard requested the Town Administrator determine the status of the Environmental court case.

Clerk's Report Town Clerk Heidi Racht summarized developments including recordings of mylars, old document scanning, office changes and tasks associated with four elections in 2024.

Complaint Monitoring Under public comment, a community member suggested that a tracking system be put in place to monitor complaints and that a target of ten days be set for responses. The Zoning Administrator stated that he had responded to the concern and that perhaps communications had gotten lost. A follow-up will occur.

Projector for Meetings at the Library The Library has asked for assistance in the purchase of a projector. A member of the Selectboard has requested that the Library Trustees first scrutinize their budget for the availability of any funds for this purchase.

Appointments The Selectboard appointed Steve Boucher to a five-year term as Town Forest Fire Warden and Diane Reynolds to the remaining year of a three-year term on the Development Review Board.

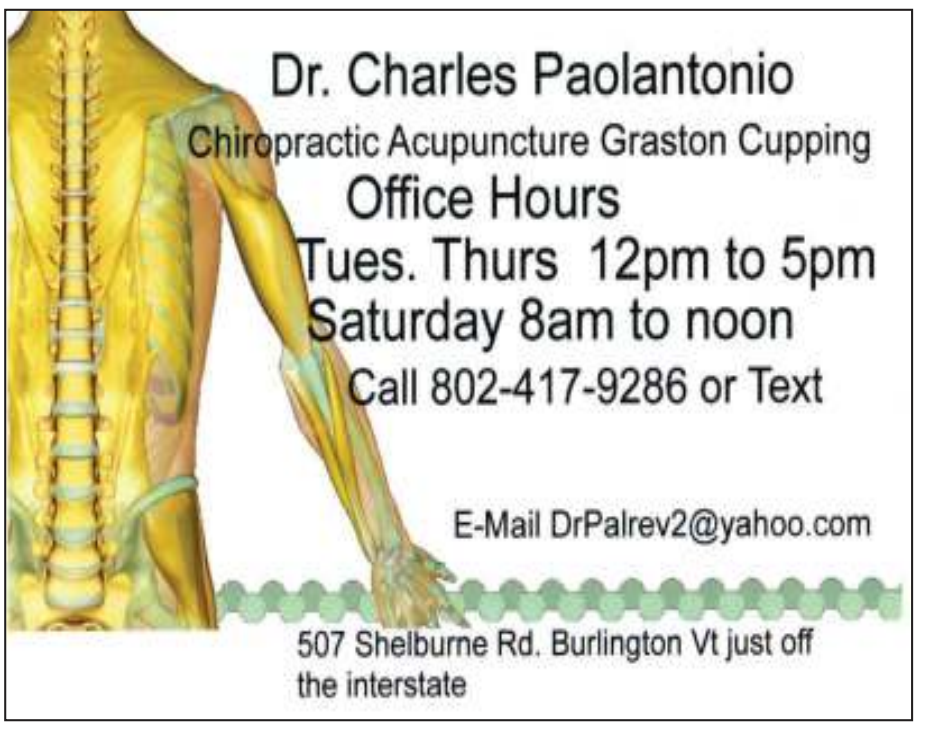
Huntington Library

continued from page 4

SANDWICH by Deya Muniz; DRAGON KINGDOM OF WRENLY - OUT OF DARKNESS by Jordan Quinn.

Listen Up Vermont/ Overdrive/LIBBY App Our Library subscribes to an online library lending service that enables our patrons to download ebooks and audiobooks to everyone with a valid library card regardless of age! All you need is an active Huntington Library card and your password. Visit our website at huntingtonlibraryvt.org, Listen Up Vermont, or LIBBY access the site.

Palace Project App Try out the Palace Project App! The Palace Project offers free access to content through multiple vendors (including Overdrive) all in one place. Patrons/Users have the choice between staying with just the LIBBY App, the Palace Project App, or both! Each provider has both specific and overlapping content.



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Area Graduates

Jessica Ewing, Richmond, with a B.S. in Marketing, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island.

Ali Priganc, Richmond, with a major in Neuroscience and a minor in French and Francophone Studies, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine.

Colby Giroux, Richmond, with a BS and MS in physician assistant, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York.

Kaiya Linn, Richmond, Emmanuel College, Boston, Bachelor of Arts in Management with a concentration in Sports Management,

Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire

Darren Gravel, Richmond, cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management.

Mason Combs, Jericho, magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Ed & Youth Development.

Connor Philbrick, Jericho, magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Finance.

Aidan Woods, Jericho, magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science.

Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts

Jens A. Peterson, Jericho, summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts.

Raina Katherine Carfaro, Richmond, with a Master of Arts.

Vermont State University, Randolph Center

Isaac Clifford, Starksboro
Aliza Beliveau, Richmond
Ashley Letourneau-McGarve, Jericho
Chanda Rochon, Starksboro
Ally Stearns, Richmond
Rita Veve, Jericho
Hannah Angolano, Jericho
Nolan Barber, Jericho
Silas Diamond, Jericho
Mark Howland, of Richmond
Michael Pendriss, Huntington
Liam Wilson, Jericho
Elise Jackson, Huntington
Amber Whitcomb, Richmond
Alex Charpentier, Richmond

Artist Development Grants

The Vermont Arts Council (VAC) is now accepting applications for its Artist Development Grants, which support artists at all stages of their careers. Artist Development Grants fund activities that enhance mastery of an artist's craft or skills or that increase the viability of an artist's business. Funding may also support aspects of the creation of new work when the activity allows the grantee to accept a rare and important opportunity. Grants are up to $2,000, and there are two grants rounds each year.

This year, responding to comments from artists as well as research and trends in grantmaking, this is a pilot of a new method for selecting grantees for this grant program: random draw. Applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be selected for funding using a random draw method. To ensure geographic diversity, grants will be drawn and awarded by Creative Zone in proportion to the zone's application demand. For example, if applications from the Southern Vermont Creative Zone comprise 7% of the total applications received, the Southern Vermont Creative Zone will allocated roughly 7% of the grants made.

With this new selection process, VAC aims to:

1. Simplify the application process for artists by significantly reducing the number of application questions and requirements;

2. Reduce the wait time for notification and disbursement of awards

3. Ensure geographic diversity of artists served

4. And crucially, by removing the need for a panel review process (as well as the compensation that panelists receive for their time and expertise), we can increase the amount of total funding available for grant awards.

Also new this year, Flood Relief Funding. If recent flooding has significantly and adversely affected your ability to produce, perform, and/or market your work and created a need for immediate relief funds and/or assistance, flood relief is available for eligible expenses.

Learn more on the website and apply online today: vermontartscouncil.org

Application deadline is September 10, 2024.

Proposed activities must begin after September 1, 2024 and end no later than August 31, 2025. Award notifications are typically made within three weeks of each application deadline. The next round will open in November with a deadline of January 28, 2025.

Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Bringing Farmers & Families Together

Along Huntington's Main Road stands an imposing white barn with the sign Jubilee Farm Stand. If you've never visited the farm stand, it is well worth taking the time to stop and visit this unique spot.

Sarah Jane Williamson, owner of Jubilee Farm, took ownership of the property in 1995. Prior to moving to Vermont, Williamson graduated from Cornell University with a degree in agriculture. Her career path took her to work on research farms, field work on a cut flower farm, work as an intern at the Rodale Institute, an internationally known learning center devoted to organic farming practices that restore soil health, and finally a vegetable farm in upstate New York. With this extensive agricultural background, Williamson finally decided that she wanted to make the move to own her own farm. Her exploration took her to Vermont which back then did not have a large farming community. But here was this beautiful historic barn, rich farmland and a rural community close enough to Burlington, calling out to her.

Photos, from left: Stoni Tomson, Sarah Jane Williamson, Wendy Mayer at the farmstand; fresh vegetables, fruits and many more products from local food producers; the entrance to the Jubilee Farmstand in Huntington Center. Photos: Gina Haddock

Running a 30- acre farm is daunting enough but the restoration of a seventy-foot high barn built back in 1895 was a Herculean task. Still, farmers seem to have that can do spirit and an optimism that gets things done. **Liberty Head Post and Beam**, Huntington neighbors and custom timber frame builders, worked with Williamson on a three-year project to raise the barn and build a foundation. She added a heated greenhouse and three additional unheated greenhouses and began growing organic vegetables and flowers, sometimes selling at farmers markets and restaurants but working as a solo operation. Good neighbors like **Chelsie Bush** and his father **Jeb Bush** helped with all sorts of farming issues like irrigation and farm equipment maintenance and strong friendships began to grow along with her crops.

In 1999, Betsy Orvis came into Sarah Jane's life. She worked as an employee and eventually spun off the flower business into **Rock Meadow Farm** growing flowers on her Hinesburg property. But as her business grew, so did her need for more gardening space. The rich river bottom soil on Jubilee Farm was the perfect spot to return to around 2016. Williamson was then able to have a great farming partner and Orvis had her spin-off operation — a win for both women. Rock Meadow Farm provides custom floral arrangements, wedding flowers, a summer CSA and fresh floral bouquets available at Jubilee Farm.

For a time, the farm stand operated as a small self-serve honor system but in 2017 things began to change. Anne Bove and Leah Willsey approached Williamson with the idea of adding a section in the barn where they could sell their vintage products. The vintage sign in front of the barn brought in curious customers who, in turn, bought the fresh fruits and vegetables. It became clear to Williamson that the barn needed to be staffed and available to showcase more than just produce. Enter Judy Bush who began to work with local artists to present a mixed array of artwork including paintings, cards, pottery, clothing, jewelry, decoupage miniature boxes and much more. Now in addition to the vintage shop where you can find fun one-of-a kind items, Jubilee Farm Stand also showcases 21 local artists, nearly all from the Huntington area, along with fresh fruits and vegetables from a dozen local farms.

Most recently, Stoni Tomson was looking to move their farming operation called New Traditions to a new location. Tomson came to farming through the lens of social justice and politics. Growing up in an area that manufactured often-used pesticides and other harmful environmental substances, they became aware of the importance of being able to provide fresh organic food. Working on a variety of organic farms since 2016, they developed a skill and passion for growing all sorts of salad greens and toppings such as cherry tomatoes, carrots, radishes and even those hard-to-find delicious nutrient packed microgreens. They are now in their fourth season as **New Tradition Farm** and this is their first season farming at Jubilee Farm. Not only do these individuals share the land but they share a sense of camaraderie and support. "It's been a huge gift to me to be able to be around Sarah Jane," Tomson told the Beat.

"Collaboration is the way. I want to be a conduit to help local farmers, food producers and artists," Williamson said. And indeed, she is. Along with Besty from Rock Meadow Farm and Stoni from New Tradition Farm, the Taft Milk and Maple Farm in Huntington, known for their maple syrup and maple cream, are also excellent stewards of the land through their haying operation. Williamson also continues to farm but because of these partnerships, she has been able to cut back. She now grows mostly garlic and asparagus. Because of all of the relationships that Williamson has developed over the years, there is no shortage of fresh vegetables, fruits and many more products from local food producers such as meats, cheese, pastries, beverages and much more. You can visit the Jubilee Farm website to get a sense of the impressive offerings.

A trip to the farm stand is the quintessential Vermont experience. When you enter, you'll be greeted by the smiling face of Wendy Mayer, farm stand manager, who can answer questions and ring up your purchases.

Living in Vermont, it's easy to become complacent about how easy it is to access fresh nutritious food. Other parts of our country are not so fortunate. In fact, there are many areas

of our country that are considered to be "food deserts,"which are described as areas that have limited access to food that is plentiful, affordable and nutritious. And, of course, all this healthy fresh food comes to us because there are real people doing all the hard work to provide their neighbors with the opportunity to eat well. Visiting Jubilee Farm Stand brings that home.

Farming is certainly not for everyone. It takes a lot of stamina and resilience to deal with the many obstacles that farmers face: paper-thin financial margins, garden pests, the ups and downs of markets, floods and more floods, not to mention the long hours and back breaking work. What keeps these unsung heroes going? "We have an incredibly appreciative community," Williamson explained. "We feed off that." Tomson, added with a smile, "Sometimes when I'm working in the field, someone will drive by and beep. It makes me feel like I'm being cheered on."

Jubilee Farm has created a unique business model based on collaboration and community. We owe a debt of gratitude to our farmers who are giving their all to help us lead healthy lives one tomato at a time.

Jubilee Farm Stand is open daily from 11 am to 7 pm, located at 4582 Main Road, Huntington. 802-434-5488; jubileefarm@gmavt.net. Facebook and Instagram. The Farm Stand closes for the season mid-October.

For more information about Rock Meadow Farm, go to www.rockmeadowvt.com

For more information about New Tradition Farm, go to www.newtraditionfarm.com

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And some focused activities for wellness: Bone Builders, and our on-line weight-loss support group.

***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.

Community Senior Center

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

Honesty, Integrity, & Wisdom

"The need for truth is just as essential to the psyche as food is to the body."

—J Wilfred R. Bion, 2014

Anatole France said about honesty, integrity and wisdom, only bigotry and ignorance are more powerful.

In a civilized world, words substitute for motor discharge. The background and struggle of the human being from barbarism and our own purely animal existence to something we call a civilized society, has evolved over millennia.

Early in their lives, when children point to an object they want, and make an unintelligible sound, we teach them to use words. We teach them vocabulary and proper grammar so they can learn and fit into society and become productive members of this great American experience called democracy.

Critical to the success of the child is the development of a sense of self and pride in who she is. At the same time, developing that sense of self and of reality is critical to successful integration into society. Humans invented language which has been vital for our development as a sophisticated society. People rely on verbal communication. It is essential to our mental health when held in common by the group.

When a person is mentally healthy, he grows stronger through learning. The child develops appropriate behavior and actions and achieves contact with reality. The learning occurs through both painful and positive contact. Sometimes we can learn a lot when we fail. We can recognize our mistakes and learn what not to do. There's an old expression, "Falling down is good." Initially, it probably referred to learning to ride a horse, or later a bicycle.

Humans are curious and it is this curiosity that enables us to engage in a process of searching. We can take the time to learn things, even when it takes a long time.

Think of the many scientists and the few geniuses who devoted themselves to discovering the basic principles of human behavior and the rules of the universe. Galileo was able to ask the right questions to understand gravity. Einstein and Freud tolerated critics and naysayer's as they pursued their research and writing. Dedicated researchers, writers and reporters continue to devote themselves to learning the truth and understanding of what goes on in the world. Despite great risk to themselves, brave men and women go to foreign places to report to us the atrocities.

Most of us mortals remain earthbound, and are satisfied to do so. We are able to distinguish between fact and fiction and to perceive reality. We practice basic common sense. While there is a segment of the population that declines to accept reality, the majority does not. It is for those who value these qualities of justice and reason, of temperance and justice, to be bold and maintain our composure. We want to be authentic and true to our values. We want to have honest relationships with those we love. We are compassionate and set realistic boundaries. We care deeply about the planet.

Humans are impatient, and while technology has been helpful in a great many ways, at the same time it has not been the best learning tool for our youth. Bob Dylan promoted the value of great literature, noting how his early grammar school studies enabled him and his thinking to produce the great works that he did, his gifts to humanity.

If we care about the future of a civilized society, we must take these questions seriously. We need more citizen engagement and active response to honesty and integrity. We need to engage in common sense thinking, and participate actively in the battle for truth and honesty. It is incumbent on each of us to be informed, as aggravating as it is to hear the lies and distortions over and over again.

A hindrance to the advance of humanity is the lack of man's desire for the truth. We have become immune to dishonesty.

But if not us, then who?

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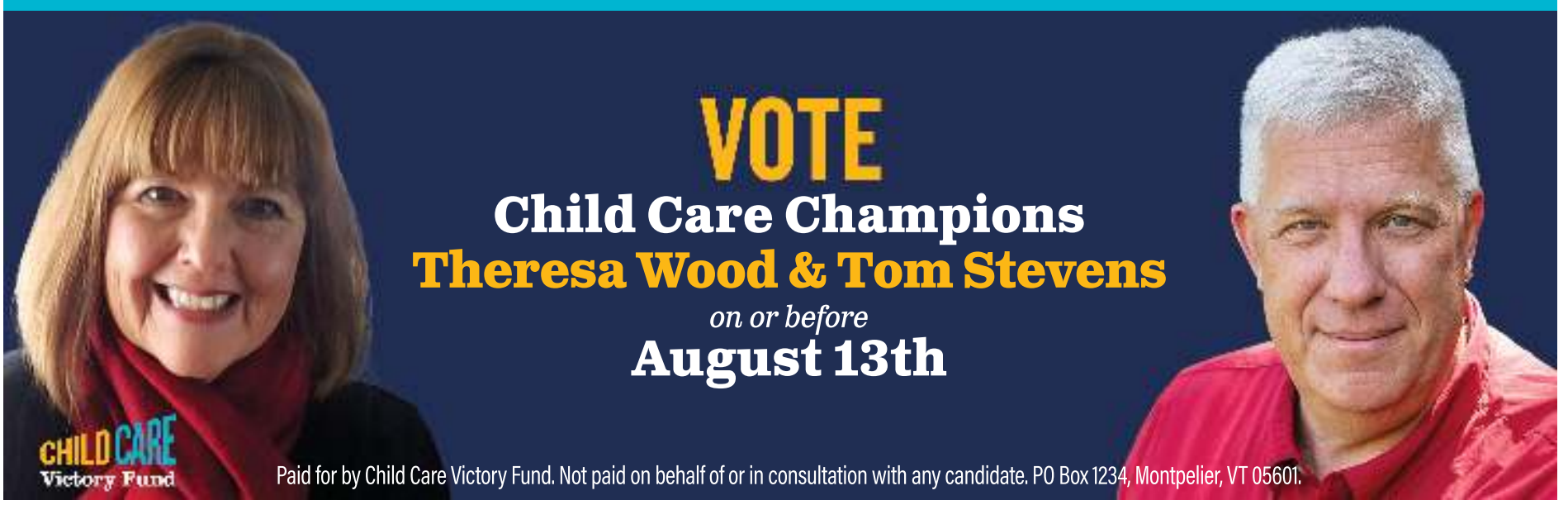
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