The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON
The Newspaper of Richmond & Huntington
Volume 41 October 2024 Issue Number 8

Fed Up With Flooding

Drone's eye view of the shift in the river on the field owned and hayed by Joe Spence and his family. The continuous erosion of the field by the Huntington River is now cutting toward the Main Road, after taking out many feet along the edge in the July 11 rains. However, it has not reached the town's right-of-way. The large field is now two fields separated by a thin section of land, and equipment must be taken out onto the road to cut and bale hay. Photo: Jim Fecteau

Submitted by Diane Reynolds

Some Huntington residents (the "River Group"), frustrated by ongoing flooding, want the town to take some action. Amy Seoane and Brandie Holland, especially hard hit by the waters, called a meeting. Battered by the two summer storms, and past years' storms, Seoane and her husband have joined the buyout list. Holland, also on the buyout list, has watched the river eat away the distance between her septic and the riverbank and faces a huge expense to fix this.

About 50 residents attended the meeting. Some had been similarly directly impacted. Some are concerned about town infrastructure. Some just care about the health of the river itself.

State Representatives Theresa Wood and Tom Stevens offered support and information.

The general consensus was the state's current, mostly "hands off,"policy of river management is not working. The extreme river management methods of the past, i.e. before Tropical Storm Irene, e.g. extensive dredging, may have shown a gross misunderstanding of the nature of rivers, but "hands off" has gone much too far the other way.

Twelve homes are now signed up for the buyout. Many residents' houses sit on the river and its tributaries.

The group members raised a litany of river issues they say need immediate attention. Up and down the river, huge wide gravel bars have formed, and some are, for much of the season, completely above the water line. Trout are gone from the river because their habitat has been destroyed: their waterholes are filled in and the too shallow water is too warm. In one place, the river has now completely reversed direction, flowing south when it was appropriately flowing north. The river has stolen acres of fertile soil from farmlands leaving large swathes of muddy gravelly debris. One stretch of farmland had been carefully planted with a huge vegetated buffer and the river swept all of it away. Planting these buffers is one of the currently recommended practices for maintaining bank integrity but clearly does not work in some, as yet, unexplained way. The combination of gravel bar and carve-out (they occur on opposite banks) threatens Main Road in several places posing a huge public safety issue in that ambulances and fire trucks would not be able to get through. Huge trees have fallen into tributaries changing their course entirely which causes massive carve outs. Especially problematic are several stream-river conjunction points. Two huge forces of water blast into each other and easily jump the banks.

Jim Fecteau has watched his yard fall into the river. When the river was 100 feet away from his house, he called out the Army Corps of Engineers for advice. Now the river is 30 feet away.

Individuals who wish to remove (and pay for) gravel must follow the state's Stream Alteration "10/50" rule: can remove, in any year, 10 yards below the water line and 50 yards above the waterline. And, can also armor up to 100 feet of the bank.

Three subsequent Selectboard meetings responded to the River Group's concerns. At the first, the River Group enumerated these issues and offered a motion for the town to take collective action toward removing the gravel bars.

The River Group had been in touch with Agency of Natural Resources River Management Engineer Jaron Borg who told them:

1. Gravel bar removal from several problem places would greatly benefit the hydrology of the river, and

continue to page 15

Preparing for a Big Night at the Races

Frank Flemings Jr. shows his stripped-down car, outfitted for the Double Figure 8 races at the Champlain Valley Fair. The door has been reinforced with a piece of a blade from the old town grader and foam rubber pool noodles provide extra cushioning around the frame of the driver's door. Flemings is ready to paint the number and sponsor's name on the car and it will then be ready for its ride out of Huntington on a flatbed. See article beginning on page 12. Photo: Heidi Racht

Bandshell in Richmond: A History of a Volunteer Effort

Newcomers to a town often don't know that the town they have chosen to call home has a history that is more than old photos of buggies, big hats with feathers, and milk cans. Much of what is special in a small town is there through the efforts of people who had a vision and were willing to put the time and effort into creating something for the community that can be used and enjoyed by everyone.

Sometimes, tax dollars were used in the form of a municipal construction bond for larger projects such as buildings or infrastructure like wastewater systems, but mostly it has been individuals or groups of people in the community getting together and working out the details, getting donations of building supplies, and rallying workdays.

Sometimes, the project is celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony or a dedication. Other times, it just slides into the routine of life in the town. There comes a time when even the people who have worked hard on the project no longer remember how it had been before.

Take the Round Church. For a period of time in the 1970s, the building was not open to the public. It was in a sad shape. The belltower was lifted off the roof and put on the ground where is sat for a period of time while the work was done.

But, then it is what is here now and the community with many new faces accepts that it has always been here.

The beautiful town library... always here.

The elementary school with the big parking lot, weather-tight windows, and a gymnasium in the same building... always here.

The soccer fields and public playground... always here.

The traffic light that replaced the stop signs on two corners of the four at the intersection in the middle of the village... always here.

The cute little gazebo nestled amidst the trees in the middle of the green in the village... always here.

And, who planted those trees?

The public performance space in the park used for events throughout the year... always there.

And, who planted those trees?

Every once in a while, it seems appropriate to interject a little history into the discussion.

Gary Bressor, a lifelong, multigenerational resident of Richmond who worked on several important projects, has shared a piece of history (and his opinion) on one such town effort.

Read more about it on page 10.

In this Issue

Libraries, pp.4 & 5 • Selectboards, pp. 6 & 7
Schools, p. 8 • Honors, pp. 9 & 18

POSTAL PATRON

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

Write to Us!

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

The Times Ink!
OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

LJ Kopf, Cartoon

Meg Gross Northrop, Distribution

Reporters: Diane Wester, Mark Aiken, Paul Susen

Regular Columns: Demaris Tisdale, 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

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

Deadline: October 10
Issue: October 23

The Fine Print:

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS
12 issues for $25
Do you live outside Richmond or Huntington?
Do you want to keep up with The Times?
Subscribe to The Times Ink! of Richmond & Huntington.
Name_____
Street or Box No _____
Town, State, Zip_____
Mail check or money order to
The Times Ink!, PO Box 532, Richmond, VT 05477

Letters Opinions & Other News

Richmond Public Safety Forum

The Richmond community is invited to meet and ask questions of representatives from the Community Justice Center, Howard Mental Health Community Outreach and our Chief of Police, Anthony Cambridge.

The event will be on Wednesday, September 25, from 7 pm to 8 pm, at the Richmond Congregational Church. Please join us for conversation and refreshments at 6:30 pm. A remote attendance option will be available.

Come and learn how their work keeps people out of the criminal justice system and increases public care and safety. Do you have questions about alternative justice approaches? Do you wonder about mental health support in our community? How do police interface with these agencies? Or do you have questions about our new Richmond police officer and comfort dog, general policing or crime in Richmond. All questions are welcome.

Please bring your questions or, if you prefer, send them to Patty Brushett at brushett@gmavt.net ahead of time. This event is sponsored by Richmond Racial Equity and will be posted on our website, as well as a Zoom link, as we get closer to the event. Save the date. https://richmondracialequity.org

—*Bonny Steuer*, Richmond Racial Equity

Notes from the Richmond Historical Society

Old Round Church Concert Series The Old Round Church 2024 Concert Series continues on September 21, at 7 pm, in the Old Round Church located on Round Church Road in Richmond. The featured performers will be the band Mama Tried, an all-gal bluegrass, country folk and blues string band. This Vermont-based band features Rebecca Padula's smokin' vocals, Linda Kallinger's fine fiddling, Ukulele Clare Innes on the uke and banjo, and Kathy Mulligan laying down the bassline. Enjoy new and old favorites that'll have you humming all the way home. Suggested donation of $15 to benefit the upkeep of the Old Round Church and the projects of the Richmond Historical Society. For more information RHS@richmondvthistory.org.

Volunteer Guides needed for the Old Round Church Fellow Round Church tour guides can attest that for many visitors to our town, the Round Church is their primary destination. From there, our guides often recommend a local restaurant or coffee shop for tourists to visit. We are lucky to have this National Historic Landmark in our town.

We continue to seek volunteer tour guides for the rest of the summer and fall. Tourists are disappointed when they arrive at the church and there is no guide on duty. No experience or history degree required! Shifts are either 10-1 or 1-4, and consist of greeting visitors and providing historical information about the Church. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the history of Richmond and give back to our community. We will train all volunteers with what information they will need to know. Please consider giving back to the Historical Society, by volunteering some of your time, for its efforts to keep the church well maintained and available for tourists, concerts and other events as well as making the sledding hill available for young and old during the winter.

Email meghughart@gmail.com if interested in learning more.

Wedding Hosts We are also in need of volunteers to host weddings at the Round Church. This is a fun and upbeat time to be in the Round Church. Hosts share the job with another volunteer and are present at a couple's rehearsal and wedding ceremony. They open and close the building and are on hand to help the couples in any way they can. The time commitment is about an hour for the rehearsal (generally on a Friday afternoon) and three hours or so for the ceremony (most commonly on a Saturday afternoon). If you are interested in serving as a volunteer wedding host, please contact Laura Moltz at Weddings@Richmondvthistory.org

Other Volunteer Opportunities We would love to have some volunteers to help manage our archives, write articles for our newsletter and help with research requests. Contact Karen Yaggy at archivist@Richmondvthistory.org for more information.

Historical Society Website Looking to learn a bit more about Richmond's history? Check out the Historical Society website: Richmondvthistory.org. It contains a number of photos, changing stories about Richmond happenings, information about our archives, a calendar of events and more. The website replaced our old site in 2023 and is well worth your time to check it out.

—*Fran Thomas*, Richmond

Open Mic Night at Huntington Town Hall

Open Mic Night at Huntington Town Hall returns this month on Saturday, September 28. Sign-ups and doors open at 6:30 pm. Show starts at 7 pm.

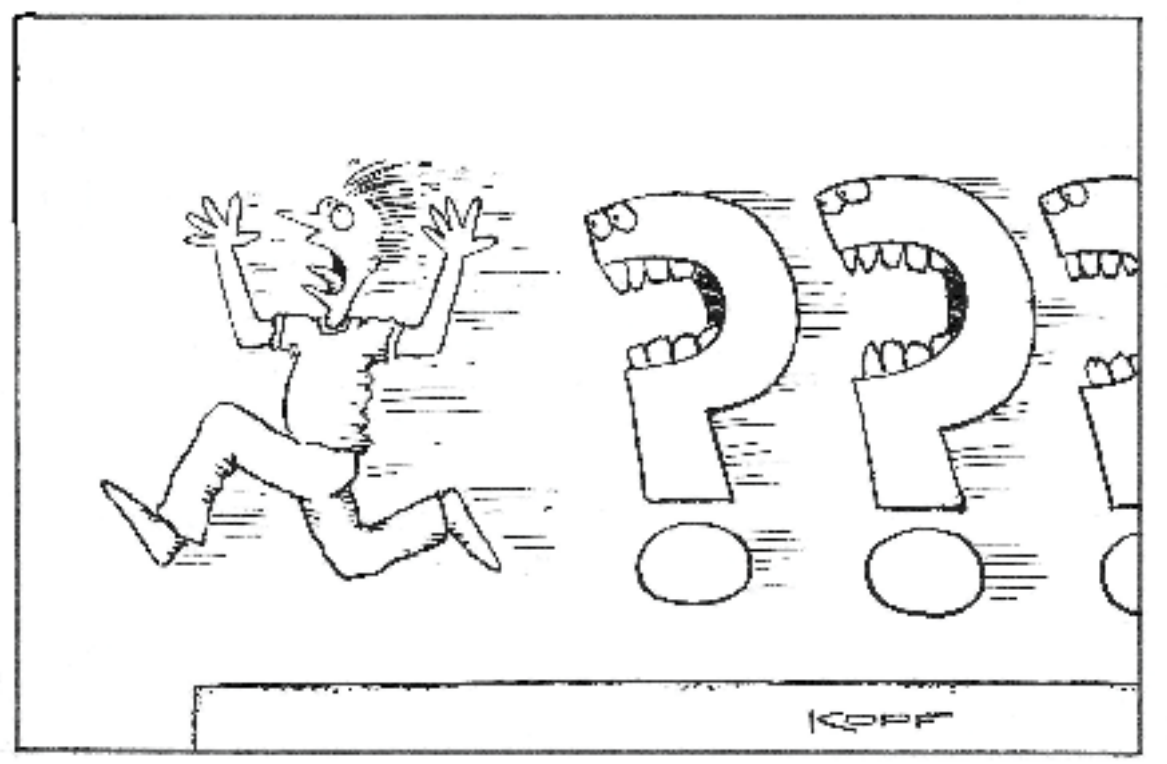
This is a wide open mic, so pretty much anything entertaining goes, just keep it family friendly. Bring your stories, your songs, your poetry, jokes and dances. Perform a wee play. Come share your talents with your friends and neighbors or kick back and enjoy the show. Performers of all ages are encouraged.

We will be highlighting the Birds of Vermont Museum and collecting donations at the door for their benefit. Email your host at openmicnighthuntington@gmail.com for more info or to volunteer to help.

— *Marie Claire Johnson*, Huntington

Donate Blood in Richmond

The next local American Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for October 9, noon to 6 pm, at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church located at 20 Church Street. Type O blood is in high demand; all blood types are needed. New and loyal donors are welcome. Appointments are required. Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to https://www.redcrossblood.org/ for more information, and to make an appointment.



Annual Rummage Sale at Richmond Congregational

The Annual Fall Rummage Sale in the Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall is scheduled for Friday, October 4, 10 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, October 5, 9 am to 1 pm. The sale is expected to have all the usual styles and handy housewares and one can always count on finding treasure of some sort. Delicious, bake sale items will be available by donation.

The organizers are seeking donations of gently used items including adult clothing, (especially sweaters, coats, and winter boots - no shoes please), children's clothing, children's shoes and boots, jewelry, toys, games, puzzles, children's books, Halloween costumes, craft supplies, and household items (linens, dishes, kitchenware etc.).

Not accepted: sports equipment, books for adults, suitcases, adult shoes, electronics of any kind, large appliances, or large furniture. Please remember that only good quality, gently used items that another person/family would be happy to have should be brought in. This is not recycling and the church must pay to have trash removed.

Gather your donations for drop off at the church the week before the sale - on Tuesday, October 1, and Wednesday, October 2, between 3 am and 7 pm, or Thursday, October 3, between 9 am and noon.

If you are interested in helping with the sale by sorting donations, helping the day of the event, or baking cookies, please call the church office at 802-434-2053.

The Rummage Sale supports the community by providing good quality clothing and household items for inexpensive prices and offering folks an opportunity to clean out their cupboards and closets for a good cause. Vouchers for free shopping are provided to some and Saturday's by-donation-sale guarantees a bargain. Half of the proceeds from the sale go right back into the community as financial support for organizations like Our Community Cares Camp, The Richmond Food Shelf, the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, COTS and others.

Friday Food Affair is Back

A free community dinner, Richmond's Friday Food Affair is coming back on October 18. All are welcome at the table

FFA's mission is to increase food security in the community while increasing opportunities for socializing with neighbors and meeting new people. The meal is free with a donate-what-and-if-you-can structure.

This community dinner will be held starting at 5 pm at the Richmond Congregational Church on the first and third Friday of each month.

Shop Locally. Support Our Advertisers.

Art for All

HUNTINGTON VALLEY Arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2: Screening of Bess O'Brien's film: "Just Getting By"
Doors 6:30 - Show 7pm
@Huntington Public Library
Reserve a seat on the HVA website

October 4: First Friday and Opening of Passage to Wonderland

October 19: Fall Art Fest
10am-4pm
@Huntington Town Hall

November 1: First Friday

December 6: First Friday

Full event and contact details can be found on our website www.huntingtonvalleyarts.org

37th Annual MMU Lasagna (Takeout) Dinner

The MMUAcademic Boosters have been serving lasagna every fall for 37 years as its only fundraiser to support activities for the school year. The meal is open to all in the community and will be takeout only. Place your order now using this link http://mmu-academic-boosters.square.site/.

This year the event will be held on Tuesday, October 15, from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Pick up will take place at the front entrance of MMU. Servers will bring your dinner directly to your vehicle. It includes lasagna (meat, veggie, GF), green salad and dressing, bread and butter, and a delicious dessert (apple pie, pumpkin pie, chocolate cake, or GF dessert). Dinners are $15 each.

Final orders and payment must be received by Tuesday, October 8, 5 pm.

The MMU Academic Boosters is a group of parents whose goal is to promote, recognize, and reward the achievements of all students and each year sponsors MMU activities and events that encourage a positive focus on students and appreciation of staff. Past activities include purchasing panini presses for the cafeteria, serving Ben and Jerry's ice cream, handing out snacks and notes of encouragement for all students, hosting honors recognition events, and hosting staff appreciation meals.

See the MMU Booster webpage here: https://mmu.mmuusd.org/families/academic_boosters for further information.

If you want to donate or volunteer for the event please sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080C4FA4A82CA1F49-academic#/

Alumni parents are encouraged to help at this event. Please consider helping out. If you have questions or want to volunteer, email mmuacademicboosters@mmuusd.org.

The MMU Academic Boosters thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you on October 15.

Like What You Read in The Times??

Subscribe & Support The Times Ink!

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

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

Your donation (we suggest $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.

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

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

Potent Moon Rising

Physical Therapy Yoga
Pelvic Health
Empowering Individuals
Nourishing the Collective
Serving humanity for over 20 years.

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

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

Pure Vermont Maple Products
Mountainside Maple
mtnsidemaple@gmavt.net
HUNTINGTON, VT
802.434.7415

Maple Syrup
Maple Cream
Maple Granulated Sugar
Retail and Wholesale
Shipping Available
Find us on Facebook @ mountainsidemaplevt

Thank you for your business!

Lawnmowers & Tillers
Chainsaws sharpened

Young's Small Engine Repair

REPAIR & SERVICE OF ALL SMALL ENGINES

Serving the area for over 20 years!

3147 Dugway Road, Richmond

Jim Young
434-3993

ARABESQUE ETC.
RICHMOND VT

Pre–Ballet Classes

Open to ages: 2.5–Kindergarden

Learn ballet techniques using a fairytale and princess inspired curriculum!

Contact us:
802–383–8468
arabesqueetcdance@gmail.com

Richmond Free Library

www.richmondfreelibraryvt.org
library@richmondvt.gov

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

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

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

Hora de Cuento (Spanish Storytime) Join native Spanish speakers Chichi and Eva for a time of stories, songs and learning activities all in the Spanish language. This program is a great opportunity for students in the Spanish Immersion Program to hear the language out in the community and for parents to learn alongside their student. Younger children and their caregivers are also encouraged to attend. It is never too early to be exposed to a new language. Join the fun on the third Saturday of the month at 10:30 in the Community Room.

Lego Club We have loads of Legos. Periodically we offer after-school Lego Club for kids ages 4 - 12. Lego enthusiasts work together or separately to build projects. No registration is necessary, just come play! The next six-week Lego Club session will be on Tuesdays, October 22 – November 26, from 3 pm to 4 pm.

Costume Swap Save the date for a costume swap at the Library on Friday, September 27, in the afternoon. Details to follow. No costumes will be accepted before or after the event.

Cookbook Club Join us on Saturday, October 12, at noon, for an hour of dining and discussion. This month participants prepare dishes from Let's Make Dumplings! A Comic Book Cookbook. To register, drop in to check out a copy of the book and sign up for a recipe by October 5. Email Suzanne at skrohn@richmondvt.gov with any questions.

How to Love a Forest with Ethan Tapper Bolton author and forester Ethan Tapper will be at the library on Wednesday, September 25, at 6 pm, to talk about his new book, How to Love a Forest. Tapper was our Chittenden County Forester for years and now manages his 175-acre forest in Bolton as well as advising others on what he calls The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World. Join us to learn about forestry, hope and this beautiful place we call home. Books will be available for purchase from Phoenix Books.

Bystander CPR Course with Richmond Rescue Saturday, October 12, 9 am to10:30 am. Learn the basics and important knowledge for emergency situations. Includes hands-on practice with training manikins and AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators). Learn to recognize cardiac arrest; perform chest compressions; apply and use an AED; and locate the public AEDs around town. This is not a certification course. Space is limited. To register email or call the Library.

Composting Class Two Vermont Master Composters will provide an intro to composting and answer your questions on Wednesday, October 16, at 6 pm.

Knitting & Stitching Group Drop in to knit, embroider or other 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 varietal, harvest date and location. If you are saving your own seeds, please note that we can only accept open-pollinated (non-GMO/hybrid) seeds. Email skrohn@richmondvt.gov with any questions.

September Art Show During the month of 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 their series called HVA@night. Join her at the Library on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:30 pm.

Foyer Display During the months of September and October, we will be featuring the work Molly Hall, fiber artist and crafter, based out of Richmond. Molly's passion for fiber and fabric arts began with learning how to sew and knit from her mother, but it was not until she was an adult that Molly fell in love with tapestry weaving and needle felting. Inspired by nature and her old brick farmhouse, her style falls between realistic and whimsical. Her art can be purchased on her website, as well as various local craft fairs and farmers markets. Molly also enjoys sharing her love of creativity through teaching felting classes to adults and children.

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 7 pm. First come, first served.

(Mostly) Fiction Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on October 8 at 6 pm to discuss Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver. Contact Gwen Landis (434-5012; gwennie1972@yahoo.com) for information on joining this group.

Mystery Book Group Join us in the Mezzanine Lounge on September 19 at 7 pm to discuss A Borrowing of Bones by Paula Munier. On October 17 at 7 pm, the group will discuss The Bookseller (Hugo Marston #1), by Mark Pryor. Contact Maureen Parent (434-2055, msparent@gmavt.net) with any questions.

New Streaming Service: Kanopy The Library plans to launch Kanopy for all patrons starting September 16. Patrons will sign up with the same credentials used to log in to the catalog, Hoopla, and Libby. Kanopy offers over 23,000 films via streaming: documentaries, feature films, educational, classic and international cinema and more. Visit our website after September 16 for more information.

continue to page 17

Huntington Public Library

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

www.huntingtonlibraryvt.org

A special thanks to the Friends of Huntington Public Library for creating a wonderful September Sounds event. The official Friends are Co-Chairs Hilary Redman and Jessica Redman;Treasurer Barrett Grimm; Kathy Kort, Kate Guttman, Katie Falk, and Guthrie Smith. We are grateful for their time, energy and ideas.

Thank you to Walt and Carl – Alive!, Ukes R Us, Little Miss Taco, the Schoppmann family, and Krin's Bakery.

Nature Literacy Programs Save the dates. The Library and the Huntington Conservation Commission will again be co-sponsoring nature related programs 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 film Just Getting By. O'Brien 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 Huntington Public Library.

Book Group Saturday, September 28, at 10 am. Our monthly group meets the fourth Saturday at the Library, 10am. This September read is The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell. Copies are available now to borrow.

New Adult Fiction Forgotten on Sunday by Valerie Perrin; The Benefit of Hindsight and The Soul of Discretion by Susan Hill; First Frost by Craig Johnson; The Bright Sword by Lev Grossman; The Museum of Lost Quilts by Jennifer Chiaverini; The Midnight Feast by Lucy Foley; Little Rot by Akwaeke Emezi; Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris; An Irish Country Doctor and An Irish Country Village by Patrick Taylor; By Any Other Name by Jodi Picout; The Butterfly Room by Lucinda Riley; The Dark Wives by Ann Cleeves; The Rose Arbor by Rhys Bowen; What Have You Done by Shari Lapena; The Ministry of Time by Kaliane Bradley; The Girl with the Make–Believe Husband by Julia Quinn; The Jinn Daughter by Rania Hanna; The Familiar by Leigh Bardugo;

Adult Nonfiction The Talk by Darrin Bell; Cultivating the Doula Heart - Essentials of Compassionate Care by Francesca Lynn; Briefly Perfectly Human: Making an Authentic Life by Getting Real About the End by Alua Arthur Arnoldy; Good Inside: A Guide to Becoming the Parent You Want to Be by Dr. Becky Kennedy; The Anxious Generation - How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Jonathan Haidt; Kinship: Practice: Volume 5.

Picture Books It's Beautiful Outside Today by Rusty Carpentier; Betty and the Mysterious Visitor by Anne Twist; The Blue Bowl by Flo Leung; Our Woolly Bear by Katie Arthur; Everywhere Still - A Book About Loss Grief and the Way Life Continues by MH Clark; Monster Hands by Karen Kane; Where's Waldo? The Great Games Speed Search by Martin Handford; Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio; Mason Goes Mushrooming by Melany Kahn; Aqua Boy by Ken Wilson-Max; I Talk Like a River by Jordan Scott; Pepper and Me by Beatrice Alemagna; How Does My Fruit Grow by Gerda Muller; Bill and the Dream Angel by Lucinda Riley; Big Tree Down by Laurie Lawlor; Logan's Greenhouse by JaNay Brown-Wood; Roar-Choo by Charlotte Cheng; Just Add Glitter by Angela DiTerlizzi.

Juvenile Graphic Novels Ghost Book by Remi Lai; Always Anthony and Remarkably Ruby by Terri Libenson; The Miracle Seed by Martin Lemelman; Dragon of Wrenly - The Dead of Light by Jordan Quinn;

Juvenile Fiction The Dragon and the Girl: True North and The Dragon and the Girl: True Treasure by Laura Findlay Evans; The Magical Unicorn Society: A Brief History of Unicorns by Selwyn E. Phipps.

Juvenile Nonfiction Courage Like Kate: The True Story of a Girl Lighthouse Keeper by Anne Crowley Redding; Knuckleboom Loaders Load Logs: A Trip to the Sawmill by Joyce Slaton Mitchell; Wind - Discovering Ait in Motion by Olga Fadeeva; The Noisy Puddle - A Vernal Pool Through the Seasons by Linda Booth Sweeney.

Young Adult Four for the Road by KJ Reilly; Lavender Clouds - Comics About Neurodivergence and Mental Health by Bex Ollerton; Wait, What ?: - A Comic Guide to Relationships, Bodies and Growing Up by Heather Corinna.

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, Listen Up Vermont, or LIBBY to access the site.

The 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

continue to page 17

This fall, seize the back-to-school energy for yourself.

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

Greetings from
Resting Lion Studio
Supporting small businesses and musicians in Huntington & Richmond since 1990.
802.434.4760 • john@restinglion.com

Gifford
Funeral Home
& Cremation Services
Roger A. St. Hilaire Jr.
Manager / Funeral Director
802-434-2231 • 22 Depot St • Richmond 05477

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TEXAS HILL-O-WEEN
October 26, 2024 3:30-6:30pm

Do you have a passion for parking? A craving for candy? A soft spot for silliness? **We need your help!**

Candy Distributor: The name says it all! Costumes preferred - the more dedicated to your 'bit', the better!
Crossing Guard: Guide trick-or-treaters safely along the road while keeping traffic flowing.
Parking Flagger: Guide cars in and out of designated parking areas.

Scan the QR code, or email mctoddfamily@gmail.com to sign up!

Connor Garvey

Sun., Sept. 29 • 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Richmond Congregational Church

www.valleystage.net

802-557-7589

4582 Main Road (North of Huntington Center)
Open daily 10-7 • 434-5488

Open for the Season!

cheese
meat
kombucha
iced coffee
maple syrup
bake-at-home
pizza & pastries
and many more
local delicacies

Let Us Help with Your Fall Yard Work!

Mulch & Compost
featuring Natural Hemlock Mulch Bulk and Bags,
Pine Mulch Bulk, Bulk Topsoil
& Compost Bulk and Bags
Delivery Available

We have the tools & equipment you need.

SCREEN REPAIR

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

Half Barrel Planters
Wall Stone
by the pallet
Peat Moss

Richmond Home Supply
99 Railroad Street • Richmond
434-2887

BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value

Richmond Selectboard

Reported by Mark Aiken

The Richmond Selectboard met on Monday, August 19 to discuss a slate of topics. Selectboard chair David Sander welcomed all in attendance and noted the weather – it was raining (again). "There is a flood warning," Sander observed, adding, "It is what it is." Plenty of rain fell during that middle week of August, causing damage in some parts of Vermont (again).

Public Comment The meeting began with a public comment, during which Richmond resident Mary Houle praised the Richmond road crew for their work this summer repairing Richmond's flood and rain damaged roads. And she noted an earlier Richmond Town Clerk social media post explaining that election ballots would be mailed to all Richmond residents. "Don't lose your ballots," she said.

Appointment of New Board Secretary Richmond Town Manager Josh Arneson explained that each year the Selectboard votes to appoint a Board Secretary whose primary function is to record Board meeting minutes. Assistant Town Manager Duncan Wardwell has served this function in recent years, but Sarah Caroleo, Richmond's newly hired Administrative Assistant, will be taking minutes moving forward. Caroleo introduced herself (and the pronunciation of her last name which, she explained, rhymes with Galileo) and Board members unanimously approved her appointment.

Trees Richmond Town Tree Warden Caitlin Littlefield reported on two "hazard" trees by the Town Center and Library parking lot that need to be removed. The trees are Norway maples, an invasive species. Selectboard members and Littlefield discussed replacing them with native sugar maples. Littlefield also talked about a Norway maple on the border between the Round Church and its neighbor whose branches are under attack from a tree-eating fungus. Richmond Historical Society member Fran Thomas said she is concerned about the branches in question falling and breaking Church windows. Acer Tree Service, which does tree work for Town, will be trimming that tree and removing the Library trees.

The discussion segued into the pros and cons of a Shade Tree Protection Plan – something that other towns use to organize, schedule, and plan: trimmings, prunings, plantings, and assessments of town trees. The pros would be the idea that costs associated with all the above might be better predicted. The con, said Littlefield, was that having a plan might hamper future flexibility around trees and removals that might arise in the future.

Selectboard vice chair Lisa Miller asked if Littlefield would write out a four-page sample plan for Richmond's trees for Board members to peruse.

Flood-related Discussions Arneson and the Board then worked through several agenda items relating to flood recovery, repairs, and funding concerns. At the top, Arneson commended the Highway Department members on the work they did repairing Richmond's roads this summer. He noted that some roads still needed repairs – and he noted that if any roads need repair and the Highway Department is unaware, residents should let him know. The flood situation has not yet been designated a disaster; however, Arneson fully expects it will, and then the funding and assistance that such a designation opens would then be in play. In the meantime, anyone who needs assistance, who wants to participate in a home elevation or buyout program, or who has any needs can reach out to the Town.

Arneson and the Board also discussed finances relating not just to this past summer's flood-related disaster but also to last summer's flooding catastrophe.

Grant for Energy Improvements to Town Center The Board discussed a Municipal Energy Resilience Program grant worth up to $500,000 for improvements in energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in the Town Centers. Richmond residents Mary Houle and Cara LaBounty expressed that they felt the measure should first be voted on by the Town Center Committee. Selectboard members voted to apply for the grant.

Trails Committee Members and A FEMA Buyout Grant In a rare but welcome shift, the next two agenda items were handled with a minimum of discussion.

First, as several town committees have done recently, the number of volunteers serving on the Richmond Trails Committee was reduced to ensure the Committee has enough members at its meetings to have a quorum. Then, Selectboard members decided to apply for a home buyout through the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for a property on Esplanade.

Draft Warning for Special Town Meeting It was just August, but Selectboard members are already thinking about Town Meeting Day! Selectboard members discussed voting by Australian ballot, voting on budget items by Australian ballot, and whether to put to voters the establishment of a special projects reserve fund of just under $1 million. Arneson offered to do some research and writeups for a future meeting.

Discussion about a Vermont 250th Anniversary Resolution Selectboard member Lisa Miller reflected on failed efforts to try to involve native populations like the Abenakis. The Board opted not to address this issue at this time.

As background information for those not up tp speed on the issue, the resolution is in reference to Governor Phil Scott's 2020 executive order creating a 250th Anniversary Commission to organize activities and observances for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the United States' Declaration of Independence.

Loan for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Study Selectboard members opted to take out the loan from the Vermont Bond Bank to help fund the 20-year scoping study of Richmond's Wastewater Treatment Facility. The money – about $76,000 – is on top of a prior $154,000 loan. The crux for Richmond residents: the loan will be paid back through receipts from Water and Sewer users. In other words, this loan does not affect Richmond residents who are not on the water and sewer system.

Engineer for Watershed Protection Program Selecting an Engineer for a final design for locations in the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, the Selectboard reviewed two proposals – one way over the amount that the Emergency Watershed Protection Program would cover and one well under that amount. Selectboard members wisely opted to select the under.

Other Business The Board members then approved minutes, warrants, and pending purchase orders, briefly discussed the next meeting's agenda, and moved into an Executive Session before adjourning.

Local Black Angus • Grassfed & finished

Find us on Facebook/moultroupvalleyfarm
or call Jeff or Debbie 434-3720

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Paul Susen

The Huntington Selectboard held a regular meeting on August 19 and a special meeting on August 22. Topics of discussion included recovery from flooding and future mitigation of storm related events, finances, zoning administrator contract, reported lack of adherence to speed limits, public comment, scheduling of public hearing, and warrants.

Flooding this summer has seriously impacted residential properties, agricultural lands and roads in Huntington. Federal and state agencies have been active attempting to bring resources to impacted areas in Vermont, of which there are towns with critical needs including Huntington. The rules for accessing monies are complex. Town leadership and the Selectboard have promoted forums for communication on how best for people in town with serious deficits from the flooding to proceed. At the same time, questions continue to be raised around what can be done with the Huntington River and streams in town to at least partially alleviate the effect of the next powerful storm.

Barbara Elliot, Special Projects Coordinator, explained to the Selectboard that funding assistance for property owners requires municipal endorsement. The Selectboard voted to approve the preapplication to the state for financial support. The range of projects for remediation from property damage due to recent storms includes erosion control, house elevation, buyouts and other mitigation programs which respond to disasters.

After a discussion with residents regarding their experiences with the recent floods, the Selectboard took up the question of whether to apply for a permit for stream alteration. The Selectboard was split on the issue, and rejected the idea on a 3-2 vote, the first vote by the Selectboard with this narrow of an outcome in a long time, on what can be viewed as a very serious matter. The residents stated that a permit resulting in sufficient funding would allow debris and gravel bars to be selectively removed from the river and streams. Their position relied in part on the reported view of State Engineer Jaron Borg that a town-wide approach would allow appropriate mitigation efforts in the Huntington River and in the Texas Hill Brook. There was reportedly an urgency to the decision as the application for the permit needed to be submitted by August 30. Further decisions needed to be made on the scope of the permit. Finally, concern was expressed regarding town finances. The specific motion was to submit the application for the stream alteration permit at a cost of $350, which would allow approved removal of debris from waterways and which would provide the foundation for additional applications for funding. Cochran and Haskins voted to support the motion; Barton, Livak and Barber voted to oppose the motion. The motion failed and no alternative motion was made.

At the Special Meeting held three days later, a discussion of a conversation with the State River Engineer occurred. Borg said that a large-scale scoping study is needed but that he was not aware of a source for funding for the study. There are annual allowances as to how much gravel can be taken from waterways per year (10 cubic yards below the water line and 50 cubic yards above the water line). There was no cost benefit analysis nor was there any specific suggestions as to locations where gravel should be removed. There was a question as to whether the river adjacent to Spence's field should be targeted for work. There is a sizeable gravel bar which is creating erosion of the opposite side of the river. However, that portion of the Huntington River is not within the town right of way and therefore requires collaboration with the property owner.

As reported in previous editions of the Times Ink!, the Town Treasurer has consistently reported that town finances were at least even if not better than the budget passed at the prior town meeting. There have also been suggestions made in the past by professional auditors that the reserve threshold in the general fund be increased, which the Selectboard has done over time, but not to the amount suggested in the most recent audit. The eventual financial impact of the storms from Summer 2024 cannot be known but can be assessed as significant. The financial unknown creates the problem of not knowing what other parts of the 2024-2025 budget plan can be pursued at this time. The Selectboard voted to authorize a one-year current expense note of up to $1.5 million with the National Bank of Middlebury at an interest rate on the amount used of 4.5%.

The Town Treasurer advised that all departments be made aware of the budgetary restriction due to the cost of flood recovery. Given the financial concern, the Selectboard discussed holding off on plans at this time to move forward with town office expansion. The expense of $14,300 for the design proposal was to have been paid for by ARPA monies. [The Selectboard then voted at its meeting on September 4 to move forward with the study for office expansion. Members experienced, firsthand, the insufficient space in the building to have an in-person meeting with some members upstairs due to an echo on Zoom, created by more than one laptop open in a room and several people downstairs in attendance with Town Administrator Adam Argeropoulos.] A matter which will be postponed has to do with highway operations. After a discussion with the foreman, the possible implementation of cameras at the north and south end of town which would inform the department about road conditions in the winter months will be considered in late fall.

The contract with the zoning administrator continues to be a subject for review. The town administrator and a member of the Selectboard have been tasked with rewriting the contract for the balance of the contract period.

People do speed in Huntington and the Selectboard's work on this matter is never done. The latest concern stems from a resident in the Hanksville part of town. In concert with other people who live nearby, with houses close to the road, he suggested another look at traffic enforcement, this time from the Hinesburg Police Department. The Town Administrator will follow up.

Under public comment, a resident remarked that given mention at past Selectboard meetings that he had made several requests for public records, that he done so going back many years.

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 16, at 7 pm to receive comments from residents concerning recently proposed changes to the land use regulations. The meeting will be held in the Huntington Public Library with a Zoom option.

A Selectboard member requested that a warrant for highway work at the end of Camels Hump Road, at the intersection with Main Road, not be paid as water was puddling on the surface. However, that particular bill had already been paid.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF HUNTINGTON

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

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

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

Reverend Fred Little Jr, Pastor

4910 Main Road, Huntington Center

www.communitychurchofhuntington.org

Sleepy Hollow Inn, Ski & Bike Center

Huntington, Vermont

www.skisleepyhollow.com • (802) 434-2283

RE-ELECT **JANA BROWN**

VOTE IN THE AUGUST 13TH PRIMARY

& THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5TH

I AM WORKING TO

- Support our childcare system and schools to help families thrive
- Protect the environment and work to combat climate change
- Address our affordable housing crisis and support workforce development

WWW.JANABROWNFORVT.COM | JANABROWNFORSTATEREP | JANABROWNFORSTATEREP@GMAIL.COM | 802-999-4333

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

Health Heroes Workshops Planned for Teens

University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H and the UVM Larner College of Medicine will offer a series of fun, interactive workshops for teens this fall that promote practical health and wellness knowledge.

Students in Grades 8 to 12 may register for one or more of the Health Heroes Workshops for Youth, which will take place on the UVM campus. Food will be provided. Anyone attending all three will receive a certificate.

Dates and topics are:

September 19, 5 pm to 7 pm: Healthcare and Healthy Living: Careers in Healthcare and Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

October 5, noon to 2 pm: Prevention Strategies: What You Can Do to Enhance Personal and Community Health

October 17, 5 pm to 7 pm: What is Mental Health and Why is it Important for Overall Health?

To register: https://go.uvm.edu/heroes2. Registrations will be accepted until three days prior to the workshop. A confirmation email with workshop location and parking information will be sent to all registered participants. To request language interpretation, translation assistance and/or a disability-related accommodation to participate, contact Margaret Coan at (802) 656-7634 or margaret.coan@uvm.edu at least three weeks in advance.

The Times Ink!

Your ad. This space. $58.

Advertise with us!

Contact Meg Northrop at advertising@timesinkvt.org

Prepay? Save 5%.

MMUUSD Board

Reported by Diane Wester

August 26, 2024 Meeting

Superintendent Search

The Human Resources committee interviewed three different executive search companies to help with the selection of a new Superintendent.

Human Capital Enterprises (from the Portland, Oregon area) was chosen. It is a firm that specializes in placing educational personnel. Hank Harris, founder/proprietor spoke to the Board.

He referred to a search timeline document which can be found at the website: mmuusd.org; along with other reference materials concerning the search.

In August and September, one-on-one conversations are being held with the Board members; focus group meetings and an online survey. This is to learn about the school district as "quickly and deeply" as possible. In October, the company plans to come back to the Board and report the results: representing the community. Member selection for the focus groups is yet to be determined – a lottery was discussed. There was some concern expressed that some people wouldn't or couldn't participate because they couldn't take a work day off.

Concerning the on-line survey – it was suggested a Board member be available at a designated place (like the MMU Library) for a designated date and time to help those who don't have online access.

November and December will be the recruitment window. Individual interviews with consultants, presentation of slate, and Board initial interviews will be in January. Finalist interviews will be in February. Selection will be in February or March. The new Superintendent will assume his or her duties on July 1.

Harris then went into the nitty gritty details. Where will they live; who will make the reference calls; should the District hire a private detective to do a criminal background check, advertising for the position… etc. A page on the MMUUSD website will be dedicated to the Superintendent Search.

The Board unanimously approved the search process as presented.

Board Chair Edye Graning closed the meeting by stating that anything that can be shared in public, will be shared in public. Parts of the hiring process can only be discussed in Executive Session – especially anything that might disadvantage the District's hiring process. She noted two school districts adjacent to MMUUSD are also trying to hire Superintendents this year.

The next school Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 9, at MMU High School.

Built with integrity, built to last.

At Otter Brook Carpentry, we value high-quality and efficient work. Whether you're looking to **build a new home** or **improve your space with an addition**, we've got you covered.

Contact us today to discuss your dream project with a member of our team. We look forward to hearing from you!

(802) 324-0934 | austin@otterbrookcarpentry.com | otterbrookcarpentry.com

OTTER BROOK CARPENTRY

Middle-of-the-Road Party

Huntington Road Foreman Yogi Alger and James Cochran enjoy a community get-together on the road - right on the double line in the middle! Landel and Rachel Cochran invited residents to a Fourth of July barbeque on the road, normally a highly trafficked, high-speed stretch of the Main Road, This three-week dead-end near their house in Huntington was due to a bridge replacement. They and other residents on either side of the bridge enjoyed the quiet of the detour. Due to reduced traffic going south, many residents of the Lower Village took the opportunity to enjoy leisurely walks northward without fear. The bridge reopened on July 10, the day before heavy rains caused extensive damage on either side of the new bridge and in other places in the town and in Richmond and Bolton. Courtesy photo

Montpelier's Capital City Concerts 25th Anniversary

Founded in 2000 by flutist Karen Kevra, Capital City Concerts season opens its 25th season in September with concerts running through May of 2025.

In 2000, with the help of enthusiastic community members, and guidance from her mentor the late Louis Moyse, Karen Kevra founded Capital City Concerts (CCC), a Classical Chamber Music series based in Montpelier.

This 25th anniversary season has expanded offerings and will welcome favorite return performers as well as new ones. Kevra explained why the concerts have endured and flourished, "Unlike many classical concerts series in Vermont, we are not a presenting organization. We create one-time concerts just for our audience. It makes for a special bond between our loyal audience and the performers. It's what keeps them coming back again and again."

As the very first performer in the history of CCC, pianist Paul Orgel comes full circle when he opens the season on September 21. A pianist of "brilliant technique, sense of humor and fantasy" (Bridgeport Post), his masterful program includes the music of J.S. Bach, Beethoven, and Liszt.

Capital City Concerts annual JS Bach concerts will take place in Montpelier and Burlington the weekend of October 26-27. The series will shine a light on the new generation of CCC performers when flutist Jillian Reed (who grew up in Montpelier and is establishing herself as a rising star) will perform alongside her former teacher Karen Kevra, as well as other veteran performers.

The series continues into May.

Go to www.capitalcityconcerts.org to order tickets ($15-$30) and learn more.

About the Volunteers Green Bandshell

When the Selectboard decided to use $450,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds granted to the Town of Richmond for the town's parks, a committee was formed called the Volunteers Green and Browns Court Project to explore options for using these funds to improve the parks. For one park feature, the Volunteers Green bandshell, the options under consideration are restoration, modification or demolition. I was involved in the building of the bandshell 48 years ago and would like to share some of this structure's history – starting with how Volunteers Green came to exist at all.

When the Village of Richmond needed a place to build the sewage treatment facility, it purchased the farm field that is now Volunteers Green. That field extends from Bridge Street to beyond the current site of the sewage treatment plant. After setting aside an area for the plant to be built, the trustees leased out the remaining land to a farmer to grow corn.

According to Sonja Schuyler, who was active in Richmond at the time, a local women's group called the Richmond Home Dem pointed out the need for a park with a playground because younger children could not use the school's playground during school hours. Around the same time a more activist women's group was formed, part of the League of Women Voters, and they took on the idea of creating a village park.

At first the Village Trustees strongly resisted the idea of converting even two acres of the 22-acre parcel into a park. They were concerned about taking a portion of the cornfield out of production and having a park so close to the river. Eventually they relented and a small portion of the current Volunteers Green was formed.

Around the same time, all 50 U.S. states were working on plans for how to celebrate the country's bicentennial anniversary. The Vermont Bicentennial Commission came up with projects like running railroad excursions from Burlington to Bennington using an old steam engine to pull the cars. They also invited towns to submit proposals to build a bandstand or similar structure, with the six winning projects to be awarded $500 each.

Richmond was one of the six winners. As I recall, a local group - likely either the League of Women Voters or the Village Trustees – applied for the award. I have seen the bandshell included with the application; it appears to be drawn by an architect, but it was just an elevation drawing and not a set of construction plans.

I was attending school in Boston at the time and missed everything that happened up to this point. When I came home and heard about the project and that it would be constructed using typical framing lumber, I decided it should be built with a timber frame. To me the bandshell is a companion piece to the Round Church and I thought the frame should be similar to the frame of the church.

I attended a meeting of the League and offered to build the bandshell with all-volunteer labor, if they let me use a timber frame approach. The group never asked if I had any experience with timber frame construction (I did not), and we moved ahead never having more than the elevation drawing to work from. I am not sure I would have been so quick to make my offer if I had known it was going to take 163 work sessions over seventeen non-winter months and the efforts of 91 volunteers to complete the project.

I kept records of every person who worked on the bandshell every work session and how long they contributed their labor that day. Recently, for the first time, I totaled all of those hours by person. The total of all those hours is 2,171½ .

We started on May 1, 1976. Soon the town road crew began bringing in fill from what is now Overrocker Park. Overrocker Company had a business of dredging the Winooski River every year and selling the gravel they removed. Some of the remaining material from the process was brought over to build the elevated area around the bandshell, something that would not be allowed today under our current zoning.

Next we poured sixteen piers, one for each corner. After this was completed Agus Gonzalas told Heath Riggs that it was his opinion that the foundation would not be stable over time. Agus designed a much more substantial foundation intended to withstand flooding. So we pulled out the piers we had poured, dug out the whole area of the foundation and poured the foundation Agus had designed. We used the old foundation piers as bench supports and on the corners of the sandbox.

The new foundation started with a wide 16-sided footing poured onto undisturbed soil below the level that fill would be added. This was topped with another 16-sided ring about 14 inches square. The next step was to add 12-inch diameter by eight-feet high concrete columns on each corner. The final step was to form and pour another 16-sided ring about two feet high tying all the columns together. All of this had reinforcing steel tying it all together. The result is a foundation that is about 11 feet tall and remains in good shape today.

There were several moments that felt like real highlights: when the foundation was completed and backfilled, when the walls were framed and sheathed, when HOK Masonry brought down the lift from their business on Railroad Street and installed the assembled truss, when the bandshell was all framed and sheathed, when all of the cedar shingle roof was laid and when the siding and trim were completed and painted.

The comaraderie felt by working with so many people all donating their time makes this my favorite of the construction projects I have worked on over the past six decades. I have always wanted to be a part of a large timber-frame barn-raising event and this is probably the closest I will come. It is hard to thank everyone individually in this article but I will mention a few.

The most steadfast worker was Heath Riggs. While he was not a person known for being a trained carpenter, he put in more hours than anyone else who worked with me. On the last day of work, volunteers painted the eight sides of the exterior. Heath had brought his own pail that we poured paint into, and as he painted his side from top to bottom it started out white, turned pinkish, then very pink as he got to the bottom. It turns out he had brought his raspberry-picking pail.

My brother James had the second-most hours of the people who worked with me. He and his buddies Clint and Toby Buxton, along with Jay Ladensack and his brother Peter, and Jeff Colburn, combine to donate 292 hours or almost 23% of the hours worked, if you don't include my hours. Working with these six approximately seventeen-year-old men was so much fun.

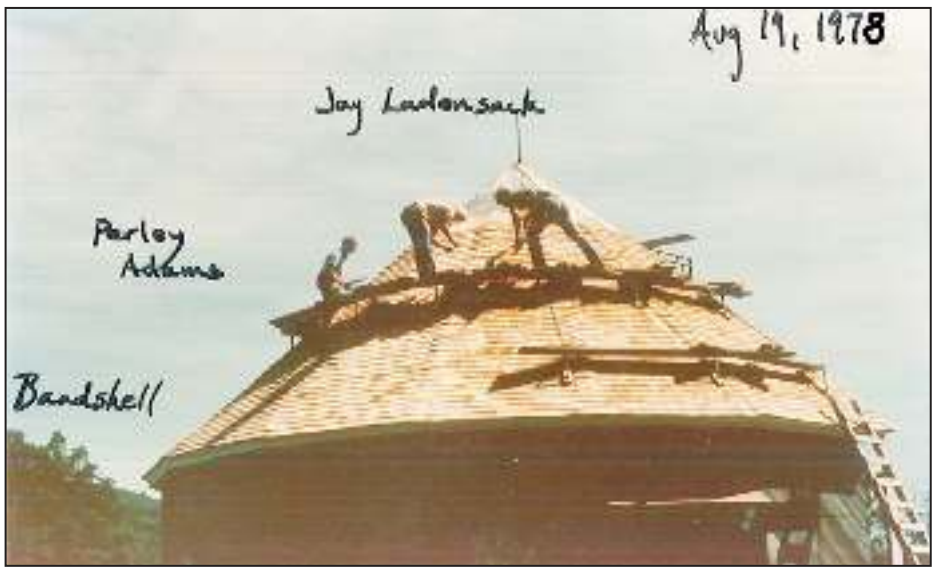
Perley Adams had the third-most hours. He was one of the few who had some real carpentry skills, although he was a banker by profession. Perley had a gentle demeanor and wit that put everyone at ease. He was moderator at the Village of Richmond Annual Meeting for years and he made everyone at those meetings and on the bandshell jobsite feel as if we were at a family reunion or in a Norman Rockwell painting.

Special thanks to the Richmond Highway Crew who freely loaned me cutting torches, welders, dump trucks and whatever else I needed and also provided labor and equipment to dig the foundation and elevate the whole area around the bandshell. The crew members included Ronnie Lafreniere, Red Lawrence, Gaynor Sargeant and Mike Charland.

Questions I have been asked about the bandshell:

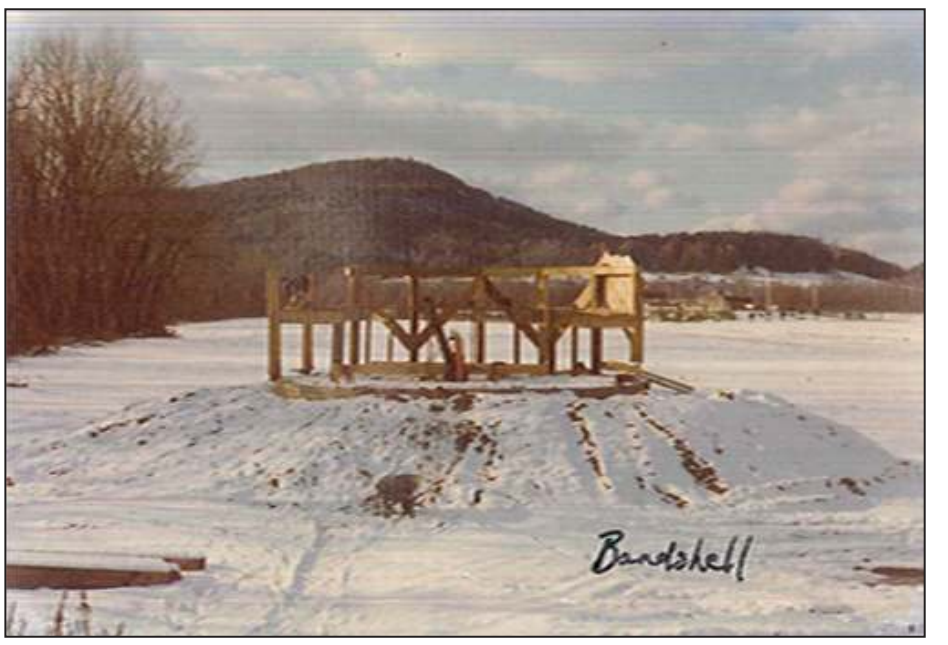
Does the flag at the top of the bandshell represent anything?

No. The flag was designed as a decoration and to act as a weathervane. It is held rigid by a steel frame on top of the rod with a greased



ball bearing allowing it to spin freely. The rod extends through the roof and is welded to the large steel structure that all of the rafters are bolted to. Decorative welds were added to represent roots extending from the rod.

The first several versions of the flag were sewn by Viola Bressor and were made of cotton cloth, resulting in a fairly short life. Later, Fran Huntoon took over the making of the flag and has made many replacement copies over the decades, trying different material to extend the life of the flags. The flag is now made with the material used for sailboat sails. The latest replacement was made by Eliza West and paid for by Fran Huntoon and Cathleen Gent.



Why does the bandshell face the road rather than the park?

As originally designed, the area between the bandshell and the road was to have a sloping dirt amphitheater with landscaping along the outside. A Bureau of Outdoor Recreation Fund grant had been approved by everyone at the state level and we just needed the approval of the Village Trustees in order to receive funding for the amphitheater, a tennis court and a parking lot. The Trustees held a public hearing on the question. Unfortunately the hearing was held right after there was some fighting in Battery Park in Burlington that the Burlington Free Press played up as the Battery Park Riots. Lots of Richmond people came out for the hearing worried that by taking federal money we would not be able to tell troublemakers they had to leave the park. While this was not the case, the Village Trustees turned down the grant to finish the park. This was very disappointing to many people at the time, but given the regular flooding that that now happens in the park, the tennis courts would be ruined and the added fill would have made flood levels a little higher for the residents of Esplanade. (As an aside, I saw in an old deed that Esplanade Street was once called Rhodes Esplanade. That makes more sense as esplanade can mean street in French. So currently the street name means Street Street.)

There have been suggestions over the years to cut some of the trees behind the bandshell and to turn it around. Setting aside some reasons why this would be technically difficult, there are at least two other reasons not to do it. Because the floor of the bandshell would be 6½ feet higher than the ground below it, much of what could be going on in the bandshell would not be visible from the ground. The other reason for not doing this is with less visibility from Bridge Street the bandshell would be more likely to be used as a large shelter for camping. For security reasons it is good to see the open side of the bandshell from the street.

Should the roof be continued around to create more of a shelter?

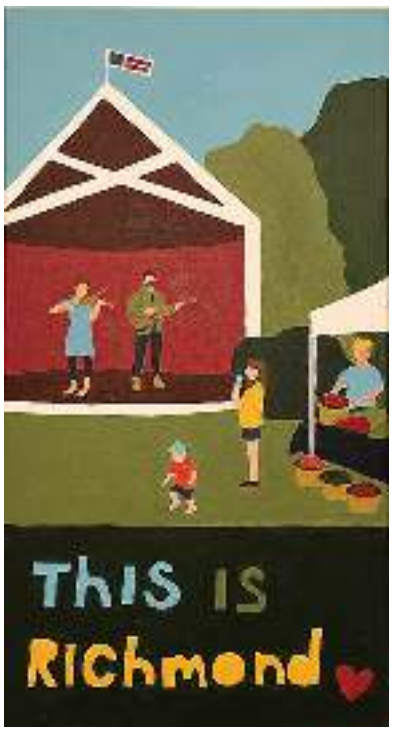
Like the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles or the Hatch Shell in Boston, shells are designed to project sound outward. Closing in the roof would defeat the purpose of the design.

The Richmond Bandshell was begun in 1976, the Bicentennial of the United States. Since towns and organizations are now being asked to develop ways to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, this is the perfect time to make repairs and freshen up the bandshell for another fifty years. Enough elevated land exists around the bandshell to move the playground and build a small bathroom on the existing higher ground and still have room for concerts.

The bandshell is a historic structure in it own right and it was built by the efforts of 91 people. It could never be built today with people age 15 to 68 scrambling over the building like it was a climbing structure in a playground and with the town crew loaning out dump trucks and other equipment to be used on the site. Due to insurance and OSHA regulations the town would not allow an all-volunteer effort like this today. Many of the original 91 workers are no longer living. The gift of 2,171½ hours of labor that created the bandshell should be celebrated by keeping the original design intact.

—*Gary Bressor,* Richmond

Volunteers Green Bandshell



Below is a list of 91 people who donated their labor to help build the bandshell in Volunteers Green over 46 years ago, plus five names of people who built the original playground structures and the fireplaces for barbeques.

Thank you for what you created.

Heath and Kent Riggs
Clint, Toby, Chuck & Howard Buxton
Jay, Peter & John Ladensack
Perley & Jeff Adams
Matt & Chris Kenney
Ed Mobbs
Peter, Sonja, Andrew & Becca Schuyler
Peter Earle
Howard Schroeder
Dwayne & Dorothy Machell and 2 children
Jeff Colburn
John, Eric, Karen & Jane Petersen
Lou Chiriatti & his brother
Carol Feirerabend
Denis, Denis Jr. & Eric Poley
Agus Gonzalez
Terry Ranney
Ed Dingham, Ed Jr. & 1 other child
Kurt Sherman
Don Yaggy
John Burton
Jay Chandler
George & B. George Gifford
Zolton Bedo
Greg Polonica
Mike Potvin
Dave & Marion Lajoie
Scott Whitaker
Ron Clifford
Franny Spence with his backhoe
Jim Cleary
Mark Bormann
Neil Boyden with a skid steer loader
David Mack
Douglas Thornton

David Lamoureux
Paul Kilburn
Robert Thompson
Jeff Thompson
Tom O'Neil
Steve Truso
John Dunkin
Roy Chip Chicoski
Telephone bucket-truck driver
Mark Prim
Bill Roland
Dave Prince
Ken Worden
Brent Noel
Louis Fergerson
Luther Metcalf
_____ Green
Bradley Gile
Dan Fitzgerald
Len Martell
Drew _____
Harold Irish with his backhoe
Tom Levesque
HOK Masonry worker with material lift
Ron LaFreniere
Red Lawrence
Mike Charland
Gaynor Sargeant
John Cady
James, Theodore, Viola & Gary Bressor
Lyman Phelps
Jim & Lee Harvey – Masonry fireplaces
Tom Nagel – Playground structures
Judy Bush – Playground structures
Jeb Bush – Playground structures, picnic table steel frames

Image from the This Is Richmond Banner Project sponsored by Radiate Art Space.

A Night at the Races

by Heidi Racht

Ken's Auto Repair in Huntington Center, like many home business garages, usually has at least one person hanging out in the office, making brilliant or not-so-brilliant observations about the weather, or what is being done or should be done to the vehicle on the lift, or the latest business discussed by the Selectboard or Planning Commission. The topics are far-reaching and endless, always interesting, even entertaining. Through it all, Ken Russin keeps working at his calm pace, although he has been known to shoot out a comment or two. He has been at this work in this shop for about 35 years and his relationship with the customers and other people in the community is easy – kind and even. He seems unflappable.

Kenny Russin with four of the many racing trophies found here and there in his shop. Most photos: Heidi Racht

In mid-August, things begin to ramp up at Ken's Auto. There is a buzz of activity and purpose. More work and fewer opinions on the state of the world. People are coming and going and vehicles unfit to be driven on the road (running, but not inspectable) get dropped in the yard. It is time to get ready for the Figure 8 Race at the Champlain Valley Fair.

True confession: I am a fan. Late to the game, I happened to be working at the grandstand at the Fair, and worked the event. Never one to be interested in track racing sports, I realized that this was a completely different from the Thunder Road events of my youth.

Figure 8 Racing – the event at the Champlain Valley Fair is a Double Figure 8 Race – involves timing and an enormous amount of nerve and skill – as drivers complete a pattern eight times around three large equipment tires to finish the race. It is exciting! It is thrilling! The number one car may take a turn too widely, allowing one or two cars to sneak in around the corner. It is now in the middle of the pack and anything can happen. A car may be bumped and pushed into a barrier, spinning around to face the wrong direction losing precious seconds to get back into the race. Sometimes, a car has a mechanical failure and the driver has to sit in the car for the rest of the race, watching in frustration as cars speed by.

Sometimes the race has to be stopped as the Fire Department and First Responders waiting on the sidelines run out with extinguishers to put out an engine fire. Or, respond to a car that took a corner too fast and flipped over onto its roof after doing a couple of cartwheels, with other drivers dodging flying debris.

After each race, the track is cleared and the big towing rigs from Burnett Scrap Metal come out and tow away the cars that cannot be driven away. Surprisingly, some of these cars can be revived for another race. Others go onto the big truck to be crushed and recycled. Burnett purchases the cars right at the race. Russin explains that the cars in the race are really getting a last moment of glory as they would have already been taken to Burnett's yard in Hinesburg for scrap.

Enthusastic Neighbors Neighbor Brian Valentine has given two cars to drivers in the race. He said, "Ken dutifully maintained our family's 'fleet' of cars over the years and, twice now, when they were finally beyond human repair, we gave them to him to enter in the smash-up/crash-up at the Fair. We always went to cheer on the brave driver and our intrepid little Honda Fits."

Brian Valentine's Honda Fix was repurposed (and repainted) for its last night of glory on the Figure 8 track at the Champlain Valley Fair. Courtesy photo

He added, "It was the closest thing to a Viking funeral that we could offer our beloved and loyal family steeds."

Neighbors Caitlin and Miles Jenness are also regulars at the Fair on Figure 8 night.

Catilin Jenness said, "Watching the Figure 8 races is one of the highlights of the summer. Living across the road from Ken's Auto, we get a sneak preview in the weeks prior as the cars get prepared, painted, and then tested for their cornering ability as they practice whipping around in little loops – safely, and obeying all traffic laws of course!"

The Jennesses are part of a large group from that part of the town making the pilgrimage into Essex Junction. Jenness enthused, "It's then such a riotous good time to join friends and neighbors to cheer everyone on and watch all the action. This year, we had guests from France staying with us for the month of August and for their final night in America we took them to see the Figure 8. They didn't really know what to expect.'"

She confided, "Honestly, I don't think they were initially all that excited at the idea of an American fair, but once the races started, they were immediately enthralled and had ear to ear smiles the entire time."

Cash Prizes The event has elimination races with cash prizes and the winners progress to the championship race (10 laps around the barriers) where the top driver gets the big trophy and $1000; the next driver gets $500 and a trophy.

Recently, Frank Flemings Jr and Ethan Shepard were working on Shepard's car. In addition to the work under the hood, Russin explained that to get ready for this type of event, a road-unworthy car will be "stripped out" down to the metal. Carpet, back seats, headlights and tail lights – all are removed. Leo Alger added, "Anything that might catch fire in the car [is removed]." All the glass is removed.

Flemings pointed out a strong metal bar bolted across the driver's side of the car keeps the door from bending if it gets hit. (This event is a race, not a demolition derby, so a direct hit to the door would be incidental and not intentional.) The piece was a blade from a recently replaced highway grader and fit the side perfectly.

He explained that the doors are wired shut, both so they don't swing open and also so they can be quickly opened with wire cutters if the First Responders need to get into the car for any reason. The drivers enter and exit the car through the windshield frame.

A further safety step, Russin explained, is the gas tank is strapped in and it only has a quarter tank allowed for the race.

Once the car is prepped for safety, it is painted and has a sponsor name sprayed on. The roof is cut and a fin is lifted up and the driver's assigned number is painted on both sides. It is clearly visible to the race announcer and the crowd in the grandstand.

How long does it take to get a car ready for the race? Shepard replied, usually a few days. But Flemings claims he can outfit a car in a day.

Russin pointed out that the Huntington drivers work on each others' cars to get everything ready for the Fair. "It is a team effort. We all celebrate the success of everyone." There is hometown pride. And, those lucky enough to be near the road through town on the Wednesday of the race will be treated to a car parade.

Huntington has been well-represented over the years, having as many as seven cars in the event's elimination races. This year, four drivers – Flemings, Shepard, Billy Lewis and BJ Haskins – entered the Figure 8. In addition to the drivers, the team has a group of supporters in the pit to work on the cars.

Wistfully, Russin said that his racing days are over. "My kids won't let me drive," he said, citing a heart issue. However, he is there to support the drivers who work on their cars at his garage, and would not miss a race.

In his day, Russin competed in races and demolition derbies throughout the state. He has at least four large trophies in the corner of the front office of his garage and pulled them out, dusting them off for the picture. "There are more somewhere, but I don't know where."

Russin grew up in rural Williston and is the son of a logger, Gerald Russin (called Pete), who logged with mules. He started working on cars at a young age and seems to have worked in just about every garage in the area, including for Barry Washburn (5 years), Mark's Auto Service in Williston (13 years) and Ron's Mobil (4 years).

Hands free - and the sun is shining! Ken Russin returns on his tractor to give advice to the guys working on their Figure 8 race cars at his auto repair garage on Shaker Mountain Road.

continue to page 14

Remembering Gale Lawrence

In 1979, a note arrived (illegally) in mailboxes around Huntington inviting people to a meeting at the school to discuss ways to create activities and other community projects. Thus, the HUNTINGTONIAN, a community newsletter, was born. The first issue was (illegally) put into mailboxes in May and for a few more months before the grumpy postmaster let us know our crimes had been noticed and he would take action if we did not cease and desist.

The newsletter had a few contributors at the beginning, and Sherman Hollow Road resident Gale Lawrence, who taught writing at UVM, offered to write a monthly nature column. She called it NATURE NOTE. She hired illustrator Libby Davidson to do a pen and ink illustration for the column. We were deeply honored to have someone of Gale's talent and caliber supporting the newletter, which was printed on a mimoegraph machine. After a period of time, Gale requested permission of those still working on the HUNTINGTONIAN (Town Clerk Olga Hallock and resident Heidi Racht) if she could run her column in other community publications. The column started appearing in the new monthly RICHMOND TIMES and then it became a popular weekly column throughout small towns in Vermont.

After the RICHMOND TIMES and the HUNTINGTONIAN, became the TIMES INK, a two-town community newspaper, she continued to contribute, later gathering her columns into a book entitled THE BEGINNING NATURALIST.

Gale's interests in the community became more focused on the Birds of Vermont Museum and she decided to conclude the commitment to the readers of Richmond and Huntington and other publications, and passed the torch to two homeschooled students who alternated months and then, they, too moved on.

Most people in the community know Gale Lawrence as the devoted partner of naturalist and bird carver Bob Spear, founder of the Audubon Nature Center on Sherman Hollow Road, and it was for him that she created the Birds of Vermont Museum with others, and generously supported it over the years. She was a walker and spent much time on her rural road chatting with neighbors, and in the woods, observing all her surroundings had to offer. In the greater world, she was a well-known teacher, journalist and blogger. Gale cared tirelessly for Bob in his declining years. He died in 2014 at the age of 94. She then began to fail herself and spent her last years living outside of Huntington, eventually not returning to the house and museum she loved so deeply.

Read more about Gale Lawrence, respected and loved author, teacher, naturalist, gardener, walker, and detailed observer of nature, who died on August 22, 2024. The full text of this tribute to her can be read online at birdsofvermont.org.

Gale Lawrence was born in 1941 in Springfield, Vermont. She spent most of her childhood in Pennsylvania and Texas. She received her undergraduate degree from Earlham College in Indiana and her master's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She then traveled and eventually moved to Washington, D.C., where she taught at the National Cathedral School.

Thirty years after leaving Vermont, she returned in 1975 with her cat, Hussy. She bought an old farm in Huntington to embrace a more natural life after years of dwelling in urban areas. Her boundless curiosity drew her to Bob Spear, who knew the names of trees, birds, and stars. He had founded the Audubon Nature Center next door, where Gale began to work as a volunteer. Before long, they fell in love. Bob shared her home and life for the next forty years.

The Birds of Vermont Museum came into existence when the couple and supporters rebuilt the farm's old barn into a place to house Bob's ambitious retirement project of carving all the birds of Vermont.

Gales shared many stories orally and in her journals. She wrote for her pleasure, filling notebooks with observations, reflections, and poetry, in addition to professional writing. Gale continued to teach and write professionally. Eventually she transitioned from teaching UVM classes to individual mentoring of home school students and young professionals. She created a large network of friends who would bird, look for ferns, and explore bogs with her.

Gale Lawrence and Bob Spear on Opening Day of the Birds of Vermont Museum in 1987. Courtesy photos

Gale supported environmental education in many forms. In addition to the Birds of Vermont Museum, she donated to other Vermont conservation organizations, as well as to her local library. Gale's gifts for conservation and her words about birds, butterflies, wildflowers, and more, will continue to inspire, educate, and connect all to Vermont's natural world for many years to come.

She leaves behind her siblings, her caregiver and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

The Birds of Vermont Museum will host a celebration of the life of Gale Lawrence on September 22, at 2 pm. Photographs and memories to share would be appreciated. If you are not able to come on that day, feel free to send memories to the Museum, and they will be added to a memory book that will be assembled at a later date.

Donations in Gale's name can be sent to the Birds of Vermont Museum, 900 Sherman Hollow Road, Huntington, VT, 05462, and can also be made through the Museum's donate page on its website.

LAURA E. GORSKY PLLC
Attorney at Law
LAURA E. GORSKY, ESQ.
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW INCLUDING:
REAL ESTATE, PROBATE, WILLS, CORPORATIONS &TAX SALES
13 East Main Street, P.O. Box 471
Richmond, Vermont 05477
434-3344, phone / 434-6677, Fax
laura@vtgorskylaw.com

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

The Times Ink!
Advertise with us!
Contact Meg Northrop at
advertising@timesinkvt.org
Your ad.
This space.
$35.
Prepay? Save 5%.

FALL YARD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
Cedar Fence Posts
Decking • Lattice

The store is open with curbside pick up, phone orders and delivery options.
Richmond Home Supply
99 Railroad Street • Richmond
434-2887
BEHIND EVERY PROJECT IS A True Value
MON-FRI 7-5:30 • SAT 8-4:30 • SUN 8:30-1:30

Ethan Shepard and Frank Flemings, Jr work on removing mirrors and glass from Shepard's car. Leo Alger, in the meantime, starts to remove the back seat. Cars in the Figure 8 race are stripped down to the bare essentials.

Russin

continued from page 12

He and his wife Rhoda moved to Shaker Mountain Road in the early 1980s after living around and about in Huntington, and he put in his own garage 32 years ago. The date was carved into the floor of the shop on the day the concrete was poured. They raised two daughters in their house near the Huntington River.

July 11 Floods Damage Property The Russin family has been hard hit by recent flooding, losing much of their back yard to a shift in the river. It was a terrifying experience. Although they kept an eye on the water, it rose quickly and was much higher than anything they had seen before. By the time they stepped off their porch, helped by their daughter Brandie Holland and her family to her house next door on slightly higher ground, the water was up to their waists. Russin said he left a light on in his house, so he could look over "and see if my house was still there." At some point in the night, the light went out. It was a power outage and when daylight came, the house was still there, although the property was a mess. The Russins and Hollands have both applied for the FEMA buyout.

But, as this will not be an immediate approval, life goes on for Russin. He is cleaning up from the flooding in the garage. And, the annual race at the Fair gave them a focus away from the devastation at home.

The garage is still in business and neighbors and friends come and go.

The drivers working on their cars call him "Old Man." He answers to the title without a pause.

However, giving Flemings and Shepard a glance, he said, "Hopefully, we'll get some more trophies this year. I need to get in here and show you how it's done."

The attendance at Figure 8 night at the Fair attests to at least one thing: people love the race and seeing their neighbors in their cars giving it their best effort.

It seemed that half of Huntington was in the race or working on it, and the other half was in the grandstand cheering them on.

Still in the race, Ken Russin in car #15 rounds the corner headed for the next turn. Courtesy photo.

PLEASANT VALLEY, INC.
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

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

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

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

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

MARK FRANCESCHETTI
Cell: 802-343-4820 • Office: 802-425-3737
Email: pleasantvalley@madriver.com
www.pleasantvalleyvt.com
Local References • Free Estimates
Established 1991

The Times Ink!

Your ad.

This space.

$58.

Prepay? Save 5%.

Advertise with us!
Contact
Meg Gross Northrop
advertising@timesinkvt.org

Citizen Group Organizes to Work on Flood Mitigation

Clearly seen from above, the shift of the river on the Spence property in Huntington, which has been moving west for years. Photo: Jim Fecteau

2. That if the town took charge of all the gravel removal projects, it would be more efficient and inexpensive (because there would be access to state and federal funding). Selectboard chair Dori Barton, joined by two selectboard members, opposed the motion stating that the Board first needed to do its own due diligence with Borg. The motion failed.

Three days later, the Board met again with the River Group. After speaking with Borg, the Board seemed to have learned something different from him. He was unsure that the benefit of removing debris would exceed the expense of removal. He wouldn't design a permit for these projects and that such a permit wouldn't come with funding. Finally, he said he couldn't really identify any place along the river where it would be beneficial to remove gravel because it might only lower the water a couple of inches. But then, in an email, states "Reduction in floodwater elevations a matter of inches can have a meaningful impact on structure damages." Barton pointed out that river gravel can't be used directly on roadways; that it needs to be processed first; that it's a high cost to remove it and another high cost to sort it.

The Board closed by saying the town needed to obtain a hydrologic study of the entire river as soon as possible. Two avenues will be investigated, one with the state and one with the Lake Champlain Basin program. Zoning Administrator Yves Gonnet also noted that Act 121 tasks the Department of Environmental Conservation with performing river study work by January 2026. The Board has agreed to keep the flooding concerns on its agenda for the foreseeable future.

The River Group is frustrated by mixed messages and continues to express itself on social media.

Duncan Keir, owner of riverfront farmland, stated each acre of farm soil washed into the river is equivalent to dumping more than 500 tandem dump truck loads. Much of this washout makes its way to Lake Champlain to contribute to the algae blooms.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist… to know that removing some of the gravel bar on the inside of the (river's) curve would relieve pressure on the soil banks on the opposite side."

Keir also said the town, in the past, has used the removed gravel (crushed and screened) for road work.

"We spend close to $200,000 every year to purchase sand and gravel from the pit in Hinesburg."

Fecteau for his part has decided to try some soft bank armoring with downed trees. Friends of the Winooski and Streamwise will also help him plant a buffer. But his best idea yet is to just rent an excavator and travel to the problem areas with permission to remove gravel.

Seoane will keep working the problem. She notes that everyone in the town has a flooding issue: whether you are directly impacted, pay taxes or use the Main Road.

"We need this short-term (gravel removal) fix while we wait to have the long-term scoping study completed. I don't want to be forced out of this town. (We) spent a lot of money elevating four years ago – we thought it would last us 20 years."

To watch Jim Fecteau's drone footage of the river, search You Tube for July 2024 Flood Devastation Fecteau and click View Full Playlist.

Shop Locally. Support Our Advertisers.

Become a Blood Donor

Valley Stage Productions presents:

"P.M. SUNDAYS"

Connor Garvey - 9/29/24

The Pairs - 10/20/24

Sadie Gustafson-Zook - 11/10/24

Michelle Willis - 12/8/24

Allison Lupton Trio - 1/12/25

Bookmatch - 2/9/25

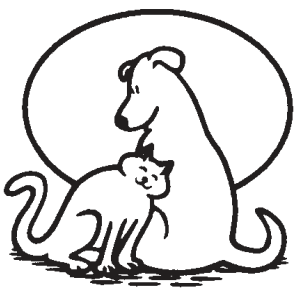
Ismay - 3/23/25

Abigayle Kompst - 4/6/25

Richmond Congregational Church
20 Church St. Richmond, VT
Sundays 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
For Details and Tickets visit
www.valleystage.net
802-557-7589

RICHMOND
ANIMAL
HOSPITAL
richmondanimalhospitalvt.com

434-4935
233 East Main Street
Richmond
rah@gmavt.net
Please call for an
Appointment
Monday-Saturday



Drs. Daniel Hament
Cori Weiner & Jocelyn Selim

The Times Ink!

Your ad.

This space.

$58.

Prepay? Save 5%.

Advertise with us!
Contact
Meg Gross Northrop
advertising@timesinkvt.org

Town of Huntington

Notice of Public Hearing
Revisions of Regulations

September 16, 2024 • 7 pm

Huntington Public Library & Zoom*

The Selectboard will hold a public hearing on September 16, 2024 at 7 pm at Huntington Public Library to receive public comment on proposed changes to the Land Use Regulations.

The purpose is revisions, as follows:

Proposed Amendment 2.1 Replace Maximum Enclosed Space per Lot with Maximum Footprint per Structure and Maximum Lot Coverage. Table 4.02 – Land Use Table – Dimensional Standards Related to Lots & Buildings. Maximum cumulative enclosed square footage above grade for the permitted use(s) to maximum footprint per structure and maximum percentage of lot coverage. The geographic areas affected are all Districts.

Proposed Amendment 2.2 Woodland-Conservation Districts Boundary Definition. The land use maps in Addendum B of the current land use regulations incorrectly show the boundary between the Woodland and Conservation districts is at an elevation of 2,500 feet. The text in Section 4.05 of the land use regulations states that the purpose of the Woodland District is to protect environmentally fragile high elevation areas between 1,500 and 2,000 feet above sea level from incompatible use. The text in Section 4.06 of the land use regulations states that the purpose of the Conservation District is to protect pristine and sensitive areas above 2,000 feet from the adverse effects of development and growth. The changes correct the map and clarify the text to state that all land within the elevation limits is included in the districts. The geographic areas affected are the Woodland and Conservation Districts.

Proposed Amendment 2.3 Clarify Regulations of Fences, adding Section 5.30. Eliminates the requirement for a permit to construct a fence, except within Special Flood Hazard Areas; allows for fences to be constructed within the setback to the boundary lines.The geographic areas affected are all Districts.

Proposed Amendment 2.4 Approximately 60 new definitions are proposed to clarify terms identified in the document. A specific list of terms and definitions will be incorporated into Article VIII of the Land Use Regulations. The geographic areas affected are all Districts.

Copies of the proposed revisions, as well as a report on how the proposed changes comply with State Statute and the Town Plan, are available on the Town website (www.huntingtonvt.org) at the Town Office, Beaudry's Store and the Huntington Public Library. A list of the affected section headings follows, as required pursuant to Title 24, Chapter 117 V.S.A. Section 4444 (b).

Table 4.01 – Zoning districts: Maximum Footprint per Structure & Maximum Percentage of Lot Coverage
Section 5.30 – Fences
Section 4.05 – Woodland District
Section 4.06 – Conservation District
Article VIII: Definitions

— Dated: August 22, 2024

*Zoom link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83092715066?pwd=V29iSnNwVDNobjJzNFo2UGVPaGgwdz09
Meeting ID: 830 9271 5066 Passcode: 143747

News from Area Churches

Community Church of Huntington

www.communitychurchofhuntington.org

Gram Goes to the "Gym"

The following article is the author's opinion, reflecting on conversations with Charlotte Moultroup when God was calling her home from the final season of her life.

One of Gram's (Charlotte Moultroup) many life lessons was related to forgiveness around situations where our forgiveness muscles are not always as strong and enduring as they should be. I had never heard of forgiveness in the context of muscles, but Gram's lesson and insights brought me to a new understanding of why forgiveness takes muscles.

Gram described forgiveness as a moral virtue, being good to others who have not been good to you or not excusing or dismissing their behavior lest it happen again. She would often speak about it in the biblical sense. Being a Christian woman familiar with many Bible stories, she knew forgiveness scriptures like Matthew 6:14 (NIV). "If you forgive others when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." She followed it with a bit of a grin and added, "Of course, we all are sinners, including me." She was a wise woman and knew we had ALL sinned at some time in our lives, and we should take our "forgiveness muscles" to the gym, strengthening our ability to forgive. She knew it was an essential and convicting message for all of us. She would quip, "The blood of Christ has forgiven us. When we repent, we are fully forgiven because Jesus died on the Cross and was resurrected for us." For such a tiny little woman, I witnessed how strong and enduring her faith muscles and belief in repentance were.

But Gram admitted that her forgiveness muscles were not as strong as needed. She also knew forgiveness was a fundamental aspect of the Christian faith. She provided examples of different situations at different ages when she knew she was not being as forgiving as she should be. She said she would feel anger and frustration creep up on her like a slowly dripping faucet, drip...drip…drip…until she felt her emotions reaching a boiling point, with angry head and heart thoughts filling her body and mind with resentment. She professed knowing she was not living a Christian life when this happened, sharing she might even begin to feel a slight depression creeping in. She was not happy in her "own skin," as she would coin it, and ultimately, would end up not liking herself. That is when she knew she needed to return to the gym to work on her forgiveness muscles.

I wanted to know how she turned those feelings and emotions around. I asked her for answers to questions, the most difficult one being, how do you forgive someone? How do you turn those deep feelings of anger, resentment, intense dislike, and depression around when the faucet dripping has pushed you to that point? We all know how irritating the sound of a dripping faucet can be, especially when we feel helpless to fix it! How do you forgive another person, especially when you feel wronged by them?

For Gram, the process involved prayer, reading, and lifting scripture repeatedly throughout the day and night. She would add that it was like lifting milk buckets, bales of hay, or weights in the gym. If you repeatedly remember scripture, like Ephesians 4:32(NIV): "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you," or Mark 11:25 (NIV): "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." She emphasized that faith in God's forgiveness and the power of prayer were crucial on this journey.

She stated that it takes time and patience to build forgiveness muscles, but slowly, the feelings that caused her stress or frustration started dissipating, and she returned to a state of peace and love for herself and others. She said she would slowly but steadily get her life back on track. She stressed the importance of patience, reassuring me that the process may be slow… but it is worth it.

I suggested this sounded like a lot of work, and not being a weightlifter or someone who went to the gym, I asked her if anyone could use this practice. Quizzically, she looked at me and remarked, "Well, would you rather be ill, unhappy, and miserable, or healthy, happy, and live your life peacefully? Start strengthening your forgiveness muscles! This is when the healing starts to begin." Taking some time to reflect on her comment, I could see how choosing to forgive someone might counteract the toxicity of anger and reduce and even eliminate the effects of trauma and stress that one might feel. But Gram, just how many times do I have to forgive someone?

Gram always had an answer, often different from the one I expected or wanted to hear. She replied, "As many times as it takes, and remember, it is a choice. Do you know The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant?" I did not recall it, so she shared it with me, Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV):

"21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

"22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

Blessed be the person doing the forgiving; that is when the healing begins in the forgiver's heart. Thanks, Gram, for this lesson. I learned it is not about the other person but me and my forgiveness muscles.

I will go to the gym with you, Gram, and build my forgiveness muscles.

Heavenly Father, it is hard sometimes to put aside my hurt and anger towards those who sin against me. Please help me strengthen my "forgiveness muscles" and remember that Your Word invites us to forgive seventy times seven times, as You have done for me. I strive to be more like You every day and ask that You give me the strength to forgive even under painful circumstances so I may show Your love to others. Amen.

—Donna C. Stafford, is writing about lessons learned from conversations with Charlotte Moultroup, family matriarch, wife of Henry Moultroup (deceased), and mother of Bruce Moultroup (deceased). Charlotte passed away in June 2024, one month before her 93rd birthday. This article is written with permission from family members.

Richmond Congregational Church

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

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

Advanced Wellness
MASSAGE AND BODYWORK

Open by appointment only

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

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

Calendar of Events

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/ .)

DECEMBER 6 & 7: The Friends of Richmond Free Library Book Sale.

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.

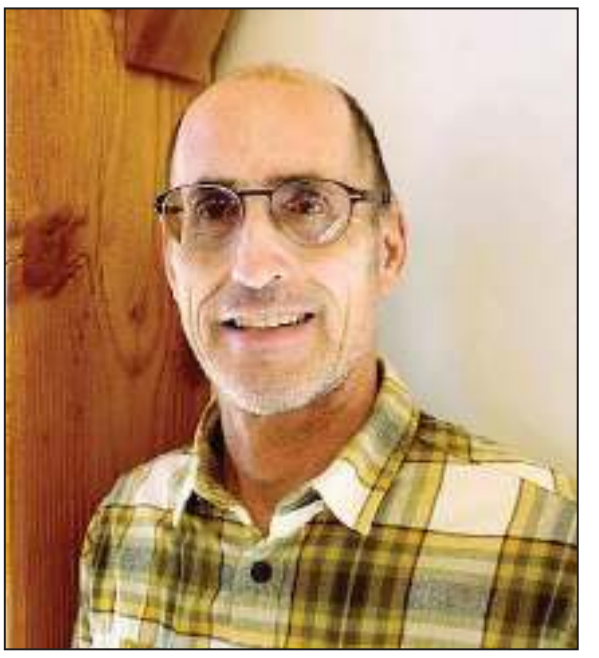
Jericho Congregational Church: on the green in Jericho Center Circle; Senior Pastor Dave Coons; Youth Paster Pete Anderson; Sunday services 10 am livestream on Facebook page. Sunday Youth Group: 6:15 pm. 899-4911 / www.jccvt.org

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.

Author Profile

Mark Lavine



Mark Lavine has published novels in the past, but his latest is the first one he set in Vermont. Windekind takes place in Huntington and is inspired by the land itself. The novel follows a recent widower who has moved to a co-housing community in Vermont with his eight-year-old, in the hopes of rebuilding their lives in a new place. In the process of following a series of messages meant just for him, Sam becomes entangled in a Mexican cartel and a drug-running syndicate and joins forces with a local police detective. Together they attempt a scheme to free Sam and his son from the reach of the cartel.

Lavine's previous publications have had various inspirations. ForeverChild, A Novel is a science fiction novel that sprung out of his own "imagination running amok, wondering where we might end up if our obsession with youth and beauty were to continue for another two hundred years." Other publications include Dr. Prozac and Victimless Crimes.

Lavine has been writing since college, where he wrote short stories. After graduating he began a novel but it wasn't until he was in his thirties that he returned to writing, which he has been doing on and off since. He did not pursue publishing his first two novels but after completing his third, he felt ready to move in that direction.

Lavine has found that self publishing is the best way for him to get copies of his books out to readers. He finds it exciting, but also challenging, as he is responsible for finding the path that will be most successful for each of his books. Lavine is editing his next novel, In & Out of Folsom and is in the process of determining publication options for that book.

When he's not writing, you might find Mark Lavine on local trails hiking or cross country skiing with his wife. He also enjoys playing classical piano.

Liz Greenberg continues her series profiling local authors. You can contact her at lizgreenbergvt@gmail.com.

Huntington Library

continued from page 6

just the LIBBY App, the Palace Project App, or both. Each provider has both specific and overlapping content.

Story Time and Play Group Fridays, 10am-11:30am. Bring your little person ages 0 – 4 to listen to some books, sing songs, do a little crafting, and have some fun! All are welcome!

Afterschool Lego Club Resumes after a summer hiatus Friday, September 20, 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. There are also games and drawing supplies for anyone who would needs a break from LEGOs.

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

Please note that the Library will be closed on Monday, October 14, in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Richmond Library

continued from page 4

Friends of the Library Book Sale The Friends of Richmond Free Library will hold its annual book sale on December 6 and 7. Bring your clean, undamaged book, audiobook, CD and DVD donations to the circulation desk between October 25 and November 22 .

Request an Interlibrary Loan Richmond Free Library patrons may now place their own interlibrary loan requests. If you cannot find the item you want at RFL or a nearby Homecard library, we can try to get the item from another library. Either call, email or stop by the Library to ask us to place a request for you or visit the Borrow page on our website for information and a link to place the request(s) yourself using your library card info.

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

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

Closings The Library will be closed on Monday, October 14, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Summer Construction Thanks to Town of Richmond ARPA funding, the Richmond Free Library will be under construction this summer to repair the woodwork (completed in May) and paint the entire building (mid-September). While we won't need to close the Library, there may be a brief time when one or both handicap parking spots or the sidewalk from Bridge Street are blocked or are within the construction area. As with last summer, the construction crew will work to minimize any disruptions. If handicap access is unavailable, your Library staff is happy to meet you in the parking lot to provide materials or pick up items that can't go in the book drop. Just give us a call.

American Revolution Experience

A new art exhibit at Saint Michael's College honors the talent and legacy of the College's first art professor, Cyrus "Cy" Sloane.

The exhibit, which will be shown in the College's McCarthy Art Gallery, began on Friday, September 6, 2024

The Cy Sloane Retrospective will be on display until September 20.

Sloane served as a professor at the College from the 1950s until 1978, when he became a Professor Emeritus. He remained associated with the College until his death in 1989. The current building in which Saint Michael's Art and Design classes take place – Sloane Hall – was named for the late professor and artist.

The retrospective will showcase art in a variety of media created by Sloane – many of which he made while a professor at the College in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Much of his work has been kept in the College's Archive. There will also be several of Sloane's paintings on display that were donated to the College by artist Terry O'Brien '72, a former student of Sloane.

A number of Sloane's pieces depict Vermont locations, including Lake Willoughby in the Northeast Kingdom and the lime kiln that used to be near Saint Michael's College's campus along Lime Kiln Road.

The show is being curated by Saint Michael's alumna Jessica Engels '81 of Duxbury whose father, John Engels, was an English professor at the College at the same time as Sloane. Engels said she hopes the exhibit will bring attention back to Sloane and highlight his talent and legacy.

"His legacy must be revitalized," Engels said. "I think people who do great work should be remembered and honored. That's the point of this exhibit."

American Red Cross

GIVE BLOOD IN RICHMOND October 9

Your Local Realtor!

BOLTON
BOLTON VALLEY
HINESBURG
HUNTINGTON
JERICHO
JONESVILLE
RICHMOND
STARKSBORO
& More

Affordable & Unique
Country & Village Properties

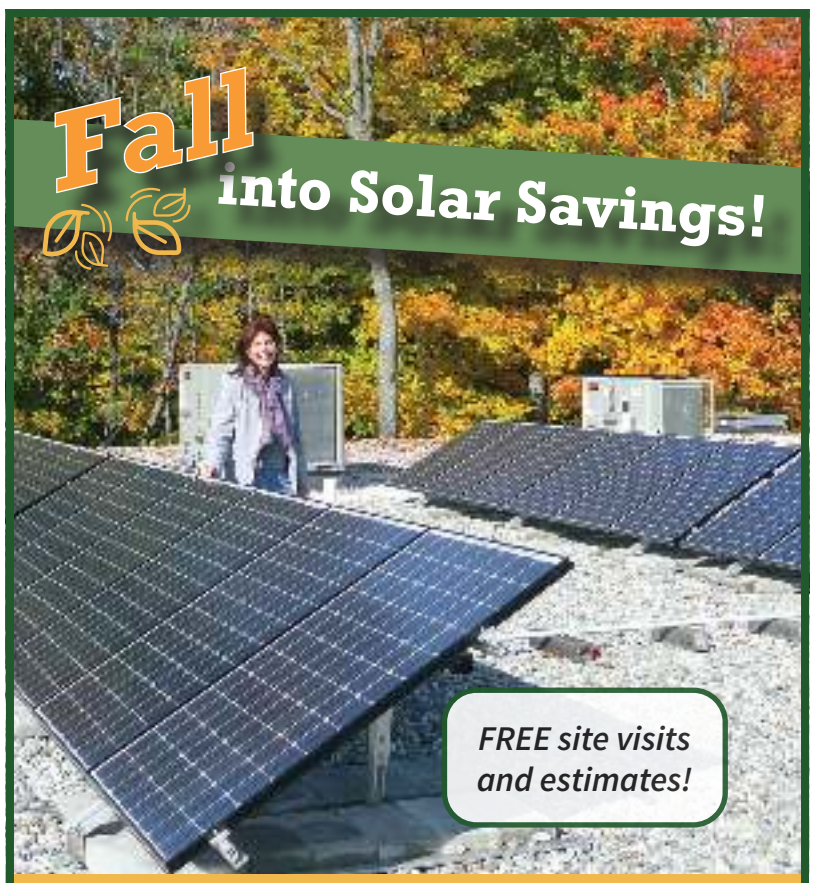
Re/Max North Professionals

Linda St. Amour
Specializing in this area for over 25 years.
434-2450
777-6244 cell
lstamour@gmavt.net

KRINSBAKERY.COM
Krin's BAKERY™
MADE IN VERMONT • EST. 2006

Support our local businesses!

Buy our products at Beaudry's, Lantmans, Richmond Market and Jubilee Farmstand.



Solar ✓ Weatherization ✓ Construction ✓ Heat Pumps ✓

ACT NOW to lock in the lowest prices of the year!
802-859-3384

BUILDING ENERGY
www.BuildingEnergyVT.com

Building Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Non-Native Invasive Pests

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR), the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets (VAAFM), and UVM Extension are once again alerting the public about threats from non-native, invasive insects to the state's trees and ecosystem. Among them is the spotted lanternfly, first found in Pennsylvania in 2014, and slowly making its way north with established populations already in southern New York and much of Connecticut and Massachusetts. This pest, which is emerging into the environment now, to date has no known infestations in Vermont, but could easily be established here.

A new effort by FPR, VAAFM and UVM Extension seeks to educate gardeners, grounds managers, landscape professionals and anyone travelling into Vermont about all three pests, but especially the spotted lanternfly. A new poster, "Help Protect Vermont's Trees," will be hung around the state at welcome centers, state parks, historic sites, and other locations to raise awareness of the threat of these non-native insects, and what to look for to prevent their spread. The other two highlighted in this effort are the emerald ash borer and the Asian longhorn beetle.

Spotted Lanternfly While these non-native invasive pests may eventually become established in the state, outdoor recreationists and travelers can do their part now to help slow the spread - of spotted lanternfly by checking their gear and vehicles for egg masses, nymphs, or adults, especially when traveling from states with active infestations. An interactive map showing known infestations in our region can be found at https://go.uvm.edu/lanternflies along with information about the insect's lifecycle and biology, its feeding behavior and management. More information and -imagery of the spotted lanternfly, its nymphs and egg masses can be found at VTinvasives.org.

Emerald Ash Borer Infestations of the invasive pest Emerald ash borer (EAB) naturally spread one to two miles annually. However, through human movement of ash logs and firewood, EAB and other wood pests can be moved long distances to uninfested areas, killing ash trees in new locations. While EAB is present in most of Vermont's counties, its population is low, and it has infested only a small percentage of the state's total ash trees. Attention and care in managing the movement of infested ash material will slow the spread of EAB and allow time for planning, monitoring, and research. More information and Imagery of the emerald ash borer can be found at VTinvasives.org.

Asian Longhorn Beetle This non-native pest has not yet been identified in Vermont. However, our state's hardwood forest, especially maple trees, make Vermont an attractive environment for this beetle that could severely impact the maple syrup industry. To combat this threat, the alert encourages those travelling to or within Vermont to not move firewood. Current quarantines prohibit firewood movement out of known infested areas, but it can take years for an infestation to be detected. Many of the known infestations have been traced to firewood movement. More information and imagery of the Asian longhorn beetle can be found at VTinvasives.org.

The Help Protect Vermont's Trees outreach works in conjunctions with the Arrive Clean, Leave Clean campaign, which debuted in June, promoting ways to help slow the spread of invasive, non-native insects and plants. In addition to checking vehicles for spotted lanternflies, the campaign encourages anyone spending time outdoors this summer and fall to clean their gear and avoid moving firewood. It's a joint effort of University of Vermont Extension; the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Apple Thief by Day

Richmond photographer Jared Katz solved the mystery of the disappearing apple drops on a recent afternoon. He noted, "When the fall hunting season opens on October 5, the turkeys will not be likely to show themselves so prominently."

Business Beat
by Gina Haddock

Arabesque, Etc Dance Studio

For over ten years Arabesque Etc Dance Studio, located in the heart of Richmond, has been nurturing and inspiring children of all ages to love dance.

Founder and owner Martina Price explained her philosophy to the Beat, "We believe that every child, regardless of body type or natural ability, can learn to love to dance. And while we certainly have the quality teachers, and students who go on to get dance scholarships in college, our main focus is to help each child to reach his or her potential so that they feel strong, beautiful, and successful in their own individual way. Because of this philosophy, we have a fantastic parent group who support our work whether it's building sets or baking cookies for a recital. They are involved in their child's success and joy." Another key to Price's success has been creating a culture of respect. "We want kids to respect themselves, their peers and their teachers. To be a good dancer you have to respect your body and so we make sure that this is an important part of our culture."

Martina Price grew up in a family of seven sisters who were soccer players and skiers. But a major influence came when Price watched the film Turning Point, with Mikhail Baryshnikov. "I thought to myself. I have to dance."

In dance, Price found joy and peace and she became transported by the music and technique. A major influence on Price was her introduction to classical ballet with Miss Ellie Scurba in Waitsfield. "Miss Ellie saved my life," Price said with a big smile. She took up musical theatre in High School and later resumed ballet training during college. She took a break from dance for some time but then resumed her training after the death of her son. Like many dance instructors, she taught at different studios (four) around Vermont before starting her own. This is thanks to fellow dance instructor, Nikki Boutin of Fusion 802 in Williston, who encouraged and supported Price to open her own dance studio.

Although Arabesque Etc does offer a variety of dance forms including Hip Hop, Contemporary, Jazz and Musical Theatre, ballet is considered the foundational art form and students are encouraged to begin their journey into dance with ballet: hence the name of her studio Arabesque, representing ballet and Etc, representing all the other wonderful dance disciplines. "Ballet forces you to use so many muscles specifically," Price told the Beat. "I like to suggest students begin with ballet and then as the student develops more body awareness, move into the other dance forms that he or she may be interested in. You can see the difference when students have trained in ballet first as they move into another dance form."

Arabesque Etc offers after school dance classes which are "parent friendly." Students are met at the school bus stop where they are given time to have after school snacks and change into their dance attire. Arabesque Etc sells gently used tights and leotards to keep prices down along with reduced priced new attire. There is also a basket of ballet slippers from which students can borrow.

Classes are divided up by age but every child in that age group can be at a different point depending on the length of their training and their natural ability. Arabesque Etc uses colored leotards so that the dance instructor can easily identify the level of each child. This way, every student receives individual support at the appropriate level. Safety is paramount as students learn new ways to move. Arabesque Etc also offers day care support to coordinate with a 5 pm parent pick up. Students who are 13 years and above are available to baby sit younger dancers at $5 an hour. So, for the price of a dance class and a $5 an hour fee, parents know that their child will have the opportunity to come to dance class, unwind and have a snack, then have fun playing games with a pre-teen dancer until pick up time. The pre-teens love being with the younger dancers and the young ones love the teens — a win for everyone.

Twice a year, the thrill of live performance happens for students. In the winter, Arabesque Etc brings the magic of The Nutcracker Sweet to the community. Showtime is when Price really goes into high gear with her many skills. "For some productions we have over 300 costumes," she told the Beat. "If I'm not able to order some costumes, then I make them myself." When you learn that some costumes can take dozens of layers of fabric to produce, you can see what a huge task it is to create this magic. Price deals with all measuring, ordering and creating costumes as well as lead choreography and administrative duties. She has eight additional teachers trained in specific dance forms to work with students as well. What is especially wonderful for students, as well as parents, is that multiple roles are given to the dancers so, for example, you might see your child dancing as Rockette, Jazz Snow, Berry Sorbet, Soldier and Flower during a Nutcracker performance.

The Spring recital is a Story Show usually with a fairytale or theme. Although negotiations are still in progress for the spring 2025 season, over the years the community has been treated to performances that were based on The Sound of Music, Wizard of Oz, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Narnia, just to name a few. Stay tuned for the upcoming announcement for the Spring show.

Summer is focused on the younger crowd when Princess Camps are offered. The camps are geared toward the 3-to-5 age group and the 5-to-7-year age group. Every day a new camper becomes the princess for the day. Ball gowns, tiaras and enchanting sets give the young dancers a magical experience. Preteens (age 10 to 13) help the little ones to create a new fairy tale each day. In addition to the dance, children also play games, do a special art project and even enjoy snacks that tie into the story of the day such as goldfish crackers when the Little Mermaid was created.

Martina Price works hard to make sure her dance program is affordable, and scholarship support is available for children who qualify for the hot lunch program. Dancers range in age from 3 to 40 and she has had participants from 15 communities. Classes run from 3 pm to 9 pm, with some kids coming once a week while others are there five days a week. A large part of her success is due to the good partnerships that she has nurtured over the years. MMU has worked with Arabesque Etc on the various after school student bus drop offs so that students are safely escorted over to the studio with staff. The Jericho Community Center collaborates with Arabesque Etc so that the more advanced dancers have a larger space in which to practice. Snowflake Chocolates in Jericho discounts fudge for students to sell for a holiday fundraiser to help defray their expenses and, of course, parents have been critical to both keeping costs down by volunteering for tasks but also creating a more vibrant environment or, as Price says, "our parents are a loyal, kind, hardworking, joyful group."

Sign-ups for upcoming classes are open until the end of October. For more information about class schedules, visit the website at www.arabesqueetc.com. Arabesque Etc is located at 35 W. Main Street, Richmond. Tel: 802-383-8468. arabesqueetcdance@gmail.com

Performance photos courtesy of Arabesque Etc.

VERMONT LAND MAINTENANCE VLM

De-brushing services for private and commercial projects

Retention ponds, ROW, pond edges, removal of invasive vegetation & more.
Please check out our website:
www.vtlandmaintenance.com

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

Birds of Vermont Museum
900 Sherman Hollow Road
Huntington • 434-2167
Open Wednesday -Sunday 10-4, May - October
Open by appointment, November 1 - April 20
museum@birdsofvermont.org • http://www.birdsofvermont.org

In the timeless words of Yogi Berra...

It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over!

We'll stretch your summer as long as possible with outdoor activities. But just in case, indoor sock-hops and bowling are back too!

No experience necessary, and it's all free!

*New to the CSC? Need more information? See ***Details.***

Easy-going ways to get some fresh air and socialize: Play corn hole or bocce. Take a walk. Help tend and harvest our Friendship Garden.

Easier-going, indoors: Meet nice people for coffee and conversation. Play canasta, cribbage and mahjong. Never tried? We'll show you how.

Up for something a bit more active? There's Pickle Ball and hiking. And indoors, sock-hops and bowling are back again in mid-September!

Learn and create: Practice your French in our conversation group. Brush up on needle arts. Share stories in our on-line Story Circle.

And for wellness-focused activities: 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
BOLTON · RICHMOND · HUNTINGTON

Come Check Out Our New Place!

116 Wine & Spirits
is now
in the plaza at
90 Mechanicsville Rd
in Hinesburg

☆ **Located in Beautiful Downtown Hinesburg.** ☆

Come join us
at the Hinesburg Community Meet Up
on Friday, September 27, 1:30 om to 6:30 pm,
at the Hinesburg Village Plaza
at 90 Mechanicsville Road.

Great selection of hand picked wine,
expanding beer selection and
an 802 Spirits Liquor Agency

You'll find the same great customer service and an even bigger selection!

Phone is still **802-482-4010**
Email still **116spirits@gmail.com**

All Things Human

by Demaris Tisdale

A Matter of Trust

"Love all, trust a few."
—Shakespeare in All's Well That Ends Well

People want to be able to trust each other. It is vital that we trust our partners and loved ones. And we want to have friends and neighbors whom we can trust. We also want to have doctors and medical providers whom we can rely on to provide good health care when needed. We trust the police and firefighters who dedicate their lives to keeping us safe and protected from harm. We raise our children to know who they can go to when they need help.

When we meet someone new we quickly assess whether or not this person can be trusted. We know the world has become less safe and sometimes people aren't as honest or reliable as they once were. I recall a time many years ago when my friend and I went shopping in New York City. Even back in the seventies it wasn't a good idea to get lost in the Bronx, an experience my friend and I had! Fortunately, we were able to call a friend who, when we told him where we were, said, "Don't move! I'll be right there!"

Our ability to trust is linked to our past experiences. Early losses, abuse, or an impoverished environment are detrimental to the development of trust. When a child suffers from post-traumatic stress, the lack of supportive, close relations can create a lifelong psychological illness. The child's self-esteem and guilt may inhibit the ability to form positive connections based on a sense of security and safety. The lifelong consequences of feeling unwanted can prevent the person from establishing a trust relationship with a caring and loving partner. I have seen this in my work. An unfortunate consequence is that people tend to repeat what they experienced in their formative years.

Our ability to trust depends on what we have grown up with and how we have been treated. If we have been abused or mistreated, we are likely to be suspicious of overtures of friendship. Or, we may be overly eager to make a connection and feel wanted and cared for. Much depends on our early nurturing and whether a positive trust was established between mother and infant.

Although it seems contradictory, the child who doesn't experience a warm and loving bond with the mother may find someone who also is lonely and who wants the person to alleviate their own loneliness. If we are hurt and lonely, we are prone to respond to someone who is also lonely and needy. The promise of love may be based on neediness and not on real trust. When people lack the understanding of their own psychological needs, they look outside for reassurance and comfort. They turn to folks who promise love but who, unbeknownst to themselves, are also lonely and needy.

If we have had a positive relationship as a child with parents who provided a safe home and community, the trust is built in. Developing trust as youngsters provides the basic foundation for our own sense of security. If we have had friends and teachers who have been kind and responsive, we can develop a more positive view of the world as a safe place. Having connections with people who have cared about us and responded warmly to our overtures of friendship provides us with a basic sense of security and trust. When that early bond lacks warmth and tenderness, the infant may feel the deficit and develop an impoverished and restricted view of human emotions. As we know, these initial experiences are essential to developing positive connections in life. My own personal experience recently was a visit with a physician who made poor eye contact and did not instill a feeling of trust. I am looking for another doctor. And drugs don't reassure.

It goes without saying that we are unable to trust some of the politicians. Their promises are just that. It can be challenging to know who to trust. Does the person display compassion and authenticity or do they just want money to add to their campaign?

In June, Betty Cochran enjoys an afternoon outing in the berry patch. Photo: Pennie Rand