

The Times Ink!

OF RICHMOND & HUNTINGTON

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Governor Kicks Off Maple Season



Governor Peter Shumlin addresses RES students and other dignitaries before he taps a maple tree at Slopeside Syrup on Cochran Road. Courtesy photo.

Governor Peter Shumlin kicked off Vermont's 2015 maple sugar season on March 16, officially tapping a tree at Slopeside Syrup, in Richmond. The Governor was joined by Vermont Agriculture Secretary Chuck Ross and students from Richmond Elementary, who tap trees at Slopeside as part of their Farm to School curriculum.

Slopeside Syrup is located on the grounds of Cochran's Ski Area, a not-for-profit ski center founded in 1961 by Mickey and Ginny Cochran. The sugaring operation was established in 2011 by four of Mickey and Ginny's grandchildren: Jim Cochran, Tim Kelley, and Roger and Douglas Brown.

"For more than fifty years, Vermont's young people have come to Cochran's to learn how to ski," said Shumlin. "Today, they are learning another essential Vermont skill... sugar-making!"

Co-owner Roger Brown, who was named 2014 Maple Person of the Year by the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers Association, says the idea for a sugaring operation at Cochran's took shape in 2009, when a forester pointed out that the property was rich with mature maples. In 2011, they began tapping trees and today Slopeside has about 23,000 taps.

They sell their syrup in a variety of local retail outlets, as well as online at SlopesideSyrup.com. They've also recently introduced a maple energy gel for athletes called Untapped. Sold in single-serve pouches, Untapped is marketed as a pure-maple energy booster for performance athletes. www.untapped.cc

Flanked by members of the maple community, the Governor used the occasion as an opportunity to build awareness for "real maple." He called on Vermonters to help him bring attention to the many imitation maple products lining grocery shelves, which threaten the reputation of Vermont maple.

"Vermonters know real maple, but across the country, food manufacturers are mislabeling artificially produced products as maple, and that creates confusion," the Governor said. "We need to build awareness for real maple...there is no substitute."

Vermont continues to lead that nation in maple production. In 2014, Vermont produced 42% of the nation's syrup, twice the amount produced by the next largest maple states, combined (New York and Maine each produced 17%, respectively).

After tapping a tree, the Governor toured the Slopeside sugarhouse and

enjoyed some French toast prepared by Richmond Elementary school kitchen director Karyl Kent. This is the fourth year Slopeside Syrup has provided maple syrup for Richmond Elementary, and has taught students about tapping trees.

"This is a fantastic example of Ag Literacy in action," said Chuck Ross, Secretary of Agriculture. "This hands-on experience will make a lifelong impression on these students, building awareness for the way our food system works."

The Cochran family has a long and storied history in the world of skiing: over the years, eight Cochrans have raced on the U.S. Ski team, including Barbara Ann Cochran, who won a gold medal in slalom at the 1972 Olympics in Sapporo, Japan.

Today, a whole new generation is coming to Cochran's to learn to ski and enjoy real maple syrup.

"It doesn't get much more 'Vermont' than this," said the Governor.

MMU Girls Nordic Skis to Championship



Congratulations to the MMU Girls Nordic Ski team, Vermont State Champions. It is the Nordic team's first state championship in two decades. Photo: Alan Homans

Huntington Pancakes, Maple Tour and More on March 28

For a quick cure to those Mud Season Blues, join your neighbors and friends for sweet treats during Huntington's Annual Sugar Makers' Tour. On Saturday, March 28, from 11 am to 3 pm, many Huntington sugar making operations will be open to the public. Sugar makers from one end of town to the other will be boiling that day (weather permitting) and invite people to check out their facilities, sample this year's crop, enjoy sweet treats and purchase a variety of delicious maple products. Maps with directions to participating sugar makers are available. Or contact Margaret Taft at 434-3269 for more information.

The tour is sponsored by the Huntington Conservation Commission. It is intended to raise awareness and appreciation for local agricultural enterprises in the town. The approximate 30,000 taps in Huntington are found in a mix of retail and private

operations ranging in size from 120 taps to 12,000 taps.

...

Huntington Boy Scout Troop 645 will hold its annual All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 28, 2015, serving 8 am to 11 am, at the Community Church of Huntington Annex in Huntington Center.

Made-to-order pancakes (with fresh maple syrup and Vermont butter) will be served with juice, and sausage or fruit, and a beverage that includes a choice of coffee, tea or hot chocolate. The cost is \$6 adults, \$4 6-12 years, \$3 preschoolers and under,

The event is the troop's largest fundraiser and is held in conjunction with the annual Huntington Sugarmakers Tour, which begins at 11 am.

Plan to enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast before touring Huntington's sugarhouses.

Did you know the following maple facts?

- Vermont sugar makers produce an estimated 750,000 - 1,000,000 gallons of syrup each year.
- Vermont is home to an estimated 3,000 sugar makers.
- There are an estimated 3.5 million taps in Vermont.
- Vermont sugar making contributes more than \$225 million to the state's economy annually.

Source - February, 2013: George Cook, Tim Wilmot - UVM Extension Maple Specialists; Tim Perkins - UVM Proctor Maple Research Center, Director; Henry Markkres - Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets, Consumer Assurance Chief.

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



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Letters

Thank You! Best Year Ever!

Thank you to everyone who made this year's Friends of the Richmond Free Library Book Sale a great success. The proceeds from the sale are used to underwrite summer youth programming for art and craft classes, featured performers and presentations and special acquisitions of supplies, furnishings and materials and special projects. (Friends funded 50% of the mezzanine renovation.) This is the single largest fundraiser each year for the library and it's thanks to all the Friends and volunteers who came together to make it happen! As well as all you lovely people who came to buy books, raffle tickets and cookies.

Special thanks go to our musicians who provide the lovely shopping ambiance: Paul Butler, David Connor, Richard Salzman, Terry and Joanne Ranney, Marshall Paulsen, Gary Beckwith, Art Herttua, Larry Thomson and we are very grateful to the local businesses that showed their support with wonderful raffle prizes. The prizes were: Kitchen Table Bistro (\$50 gift card), \$50 gift card from Sonoma Station, \$50 gift card from Toscano Bistro, hair products from Bridge Street Hair, Mann and Machine t-shirt, \$50 gift card from Richmond Home Supply, \$50 gift card from Richmond Market and Beverage, 5 class pass to Balance Yoga, \$25 gift card from the Mobil Station on Main Street, \$25 gift card from Sweet Simone's, and \$15 gift card from Stargazer, goggles from Ski Express, Bolton Trail passes, Sleepy Hollow Trail passes, Mad River Glen passes, as well as a donation of a vintage turquoise and silver necklace. Wow!

—Friends of the Richmond Free Library

Camels Hump Middle School Spring Update

With the melting ice on the lake and Sugar Maple sap running, the spring activities at Camels Hump Middle School begin: softball and baseball, intramurals, and the second session of after school programs including a new woodworking club. Students at this time of year are rigorously tested on the new common core standards via the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium. SBAC replaces the previously used NECAP standardized tests. For more information about SBAC, visit www.smarterbalanced.org.

Thank you to the community for support of the recently-secured Willis Hill project. The ample outdoor education and recreation prospects anticipated for this 20-acre parcel are exciting for students and educators at Camels Hump Middle School.

Please remember when visiting the facility on School Street, the bigger loop in the parking lot is only for buses and emergency vehicles. Please use the inside loop for dropping off students and guests—please

Richmond Foot Clinics Scheduled

Richmond Foot Clinics: March 31, May 12, June 23

Clinics are held at the Richmond Rescue Building, beginning at 9 am. Participants may arrive between 8:45 am and 10 am. Bring a towel and enter through the back door of the building. The clinic is sponsored by Fletcher Allen Health Care. More information at singersallydan@yahoo.com or call 434-3480 (Singer) or 434-3572 (Coggio).

remember the last buses depart at 5 pm. Thank you for helping keep the Richmond Elementary and Camels Hump students safe!

The next Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District meeting will be held on April 6, 6:30-8:30, at Camels Hump Middle School. The public is welcome, and encouraged, to attend.

—Mark Carbone, Principal, Camels Hump Middle School

Lining Up for French Toast with the Gov



Richmond Elementary School kitchen director Karyl Kent prepares to serve French toast with fresh maple syrup at the Governor's tree-tapping ceremony at the Slopeside sugarhouse in mid-March. This annual event marks the official beginning of the maple sugaring season and the Richmond operation on Cochran Road was the 2015 site. Slopeside Syrup is served at RES, where students learn about the production of local food sources, including tapping trees. Courtesy photo.

Richmond Red Cross Blood Drawing

The next local area blood drive will be held at the Richmond Congregational Church Fellowship Hall on April 22, 2015 from 11:30 to 5pm. Blood donors report feeling a sense of great satisfaction after making their donation. Why? Because helping others in need simply feels good. Eligible donors can call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or go online to redcrossblood.org for more information and to make a blood donation appointment. Those with appointments are able to help minimize the time it takes to donate.

The need is always constant; the gratification is instant; please consider giving blood.



MMU New Musical: Young Frankenstein



Roll in the Hay: Akash Kushwaha (as Frederick Frankenstein) and Samantha Day (as his lovely laboratory assistant Inga) travel to the castle Frankenstein by means of a hayride.

The Mount Mansfield Union High School Theatre Department presents **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**, a new musical by the always clever and most hilarious Mel Brooks. Performances are Thursday through Saturday, March 26-28, at 7:30 pm; and Sunday, March 29, at 2 pm. Tickets are \$6 students and children; \$9 general admission. For ticket info call 899-4690 during school hours or visit <https://sites.google.com/a/cesuvt.org/mmu-theatre-department/home/ticket-order-form>



Molly Beatty as Frau Blücher. Photos: Mira Coffey

Perennial Gardening A Journey to Oz

Rich Dube will be offering two Saturday gardening workshops, 10 am to noon, at the Richmond Free Library.

AUTUMN'S ABUNDANT GARDEN DISPLAY, April 18. Plan and plant now for an abundant garden display in the fall. From Bugbane and Bears Breeches to Windflower and Fleece Flower; see perennials that rival Asters and Mums. Add late native blooms to nourish pollinators for winter and migration. View how bold foliage, in an array of color, texture and form, play a distinguished role juxtaposed to fall blooms. Fee: cash donation to the Richmond Food Shelf, which is working to improve the lives of our neighbors in the Richmond area.

BENEFICIAL WILDFLOWERS FOR DIVERSE HABITATS on April 25. Provide for monarchs, other butterflies, pollinators and birds. The use of native plants creates diverse, healthy and beautiful native landscapes supporting a plethora of pollinators essential to the production of flowers and food that we and wildlife depend on. Garden-worthy Milkweed, Blazing Star, Penstemon, Bee Balm, Goldenrod and numerous other natives can be added to existing gardens or to create special Monarch and pollinator habitats. Fee: cash donation to benefit Our Community Cares Camp (OCCC), a non-profit day camp providing enriching activities and nutritious meals for Bolton, Huntington and Richmond children.

To register, call Richard Dube at 434-4834 or email to richdubegeo@cs.com.

Gear Swap and Clothing Sale

The fourth annual Vermont Gear Swap and Clothing Sale will be held at the West Monitor Barn in Richmond on Saturday, April 25, from 9 am to 3 pm. Local and national retailers provide discounted outdoor gear, apparel and equipment in an effort to raise money for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) and the social mission of the Burlington Sunrise Rotary Club.

The Swap also doubles as a celebration of spring with food and live music by one of Vermont's most popular Celtic bands, Longford Row. So bring your family and friends to shop for great deals on quality outdoor gear and enjoy the festivities while helping out your community.

Want to Donate or Sell gear? Go to the **GEAR GUIDELINES** page on www.gearswapvt.org for clarification on gear that can be sold and the condition guidelines. If you have gear that qualifies, visit the **SELL MY GEAR** page to create a label. Print and affix the label to your gear. Bring your gear to the Barn at the designated drop-off times (drop-off details can be found on the **DROP OFF MY GEAR**).

Need to drop-off gear early? Volunteers and drop-off locations will be ready to accept your gear at WCAX-TV3 (30 Joy Drive, South Burlington) Monday-Friday, 8-5; Westaff Locations or email gearhead@gearswapvt.org to make other arrangements. You can also drop off your gear to the VYCC at West Monitor Barn Thursday, April 23 or Friday, April 24, 3 pm to 6 pm. Drop off entrance is around the back of the barn; follow the service road and look for the big open barn door.

In the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, VYCC crews helped 60 families clean out their homes in Waterbury, Richmond, and Montpelier. They restored the Richmond playground and playing fields, and more. The VYCC'S ongoing work to restore Vermont's watersheds serve to improve water quality through river corridor restoration projects that enhance wildlife habitat, restore natural communities, and preserve soil quality. The VYCC's projects include trail and bridge reconstruction, with recreation opportunities for all Vermonters.



Vermont Youth Dancers (VYD) will present **BETWEEN THE RAINDROPS, A JOURNEY TO OZ** at Mount Mansfield Union High School on Saturday, April 11, at 6:30 pm, and on Sunday, April 12, at 1:30 pm.

Vermont Youth Dancers uses dance and popular music to tell the beloved story of Dorothy and her loyal friends, mesmerizing witches, an elusive wizard, and the true meaning of home and friendship. The show appeals to young kids, teens, and adults with its magical effects, cool vibe, and timeless message.

VYD follows Dorothy from her farmland home, through a dangerous tornado brewed by witches, to the strange and exciting Land of Oz. Audiences will enjoy mischievous Munchkins, flamboyant Ozians of the Emerald City, and of course, the mysterious Wizard himself. VYD brings this classic tale to life with exciting music, electrifying hip-hop, and vibrant lyrical choreography.

This year's cast of 45 includes dozens of local talented dancers from Jericho, Colchester, Underhill, Huntington, Essex, and Fletcher, in a dynamic large scale production complete with imaginative set and costumes, lively characters, and best of all, choreography and music that tell a story about things that matter – leaving home, building friendships, and finding unexpected strength to face our fears.

VYD is a community dance troupe of area elementary, middle and high school students founded in 2006, by Jericho resident and Director Mia Groff, and co-directed by Theresa Robinson. VYD grew from its original five dancers into a top-notch performance experience for local youth, ages 7 to 18, who commit to a rigorous rehearsal schedule and learn choreography and drama to animate their characters on stage.

Previous VYD performances include **CINDERELLA UNWRITTEN**, **FOREVER YOUNG-A PETER PAN TALE**, **BREAKTHROUGH**, **COME WITH ME, YOUNG FOREVER – BACK TO NEVERLAND**, and last year's performance of **CARRY ON, A SONG WILL RISE**, based on the novel **LES MISERABLES** by Victor Hugo.

Tickets are \$5 presale, and \$7 at the door. Call 802-448-0893 or email vydtix@gmail.com to reserve tickets in advance; reserved tickets not picked up 20 minutes prior to the performance will be released. First come first served seating, wheelchair accessible. Show runs approximately two hours, including a short intermission.

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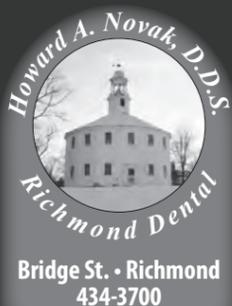


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2015 Summer Camps

- Adventure Camp** – Various dates (Ages 3-6)
- Lego Camp I** – July 22-26 (Ages 3-6)
- Engineering Camp** - June 29 -July 2 (Ages 5-9)
- Lego Camp II** – July 6-10 (Ages 5-9)
- The Arts Camp** - July 20- July 24 (Ages 4-9)
- Survival Skills Camp** – July 13-17 (Ages 5-9)
- Robot Camp** – July 27-31 Ages (6-9)
- All camps will run from 9am to 3pm**

Visit www.saxonhillschool.org for camp descriptions, pricing and registration forms.
For more information contact:
Eden Shullenberger at 303-641-5107 or eden_shullenberger@hotmail.com



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Thank you to Rebecca and Terry Ryan for another fantastic year of Planet Huntington! The travel series brings a fun event to look forward to during the long winters!

Planet Huntington Please join us on Sunday, April 12, at 7 pm for the following presentation by Ted Marcy on Eleuthera, Bahamas.

This long (110 miles) but thin (barely a mile wide) island, in the Bahamas archipelago was the destination spot in the 1950s through 1980s for the rich and famous, e.g., Robert DeNiro, Prince Charles and Princess Diana. However, hurricanes and economic downturns have put the island on hard times despite its enduring beauty. Seven members of North Ferrisburgh United Methodist Church spent a week this February as volunteers at the Bahamas Methodist Habitat working on homes for a few of the residents. They put a roof frame on a home of a person who had a million dollar view, but has lived in a derelict car for the past seven years. See the transformation, and hear about the wealth in community and spirit of the Bahamian people.

Music at the Library Join us for an evening of acoustic music by Sleeping Bee on Saturday, May 2, at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 the day of the show.

Sleeping Bee is a four-member band of multi-instrumentalists and friends featuring Lindsey Horner, Andy Goessling, Randy Crafton, and Timothy Hill. Their style can best be described as Transcendent Acoustic Alt Folk Jazz Celt Grass. For more information and purchasing tickets in advance, contact Don Sheldon at don@valleystage.net or 434-4563.

New Adult Fiction THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN by Paula Haskins; THE BEAUTY OF HUMANITY MOVEMENT by Camille Gibb; SERENA by Ron Rash; ONE FOR SORROW by Christopher Balzak; LIMITS OF POWER AND THE SERRANO LEGACY - THE OMNIBUS EDITION by Elizabeth Moon; MIRROR SIGHT by Kristen Britain; WOMEN OF THE

SILK by Gail Tsukiyama; THE LAW OF SIMILARS by Chris Bohjalian; LUCKY ALAN AND OTHER STORIES by Jonathan Lethem; THE STORY OF LAND AND SEA by Katy Simpson Smith.

Non-Fiction CATERPILLARS OF THE NORTH AMERICA by David L. Wagner; THE DAY OF BATTLE - THE WAR IN SICILY AND ITALY, 1943-1944 and THE GUNS AT LAST LIGHT - THE WAR IN WESTERN EUROPE, 1944-1945 by Rick Atkinson; COASTAL MAINE BOTANICAL GARDENS by William Cullina.

Audiobooks LUCKY ALAN AND OTHER STORIES by Jonathan Lethem.

DVDs GAME OF THRONES SEASON FOUR; THE HUNGER GAMES and THE HUNGER GAMES CATCHING FIRE.

Junior Fiction IVY TAKES CARE by Rosemary Wells; CHARLOTTE'S WEBB by E.B. White; NANCY CLANCY STAR OF STAGE AND SCREEN by Jane O'Connor.

Young Adult Fiction IF I STAY AND WHERE SHE WENT by Gayle Forman; MISS PEREGRINE'S HOME FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN by Ransom Riggs.

Children's Books THE HOUSE THAT'S YOUR HOME by Sally Lloyd-Jones and Jane Dyer; ON THE NIGHT YOU WERE BORN, WHEREVER YOU ARE, THE CROWN ON YOUR HEAD, and TUMFORD by Nancy Tillman; FANCY NANCY-PEANUT AND JELLYFISH by Jane PO'Connor; WAITING IS NOT EASY! by Mo Willems; ANGRY BIRDS STAR WARS, PATH TO THE PORK SIDE, LARD VADER'S VILLIANS, DARTH SWINDLES SECRETS AND YODA BIRD HEROES.

Summer Volunteer Opportunities Are you a teen looking for volunteer experience? Need to do service hours for school or the community? The Library is looking for motivated teens who would like to assist with planning and doing summer reading events for children! Contact Stacey with your ideas and availability.

Movie Night First Friday of the month Movie Night is April 3. The popcorn and movie will be ready at 7 pm.

Kripalu Gentle Yoga Mondays, 7 pm - 8:15 pm, at the Library with Suzanne Boyd. Drop-ins are always welcome.

Huntington Playgroup The playgroup provides a welcoming and fun space for children, families and caregivers to meet, share and have fun on Friday mornings at 10 am. Jane Davis, Huntington Playgroup Facilitator, can be reached for information at huntingtonplaygroup@yahoo.com.

Story Time We currently address the six early literacy skills, as adopted by the Vermont Department of Libraries, every week at Story Time. Pre-reading skills can be learned from birth. Children of all ages are welcome for books, crafts, songs, and fun at 10:45 am every Friday.

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The Vermont Department of Health is working with 15 libraries statewide to make blood pressure monitors available to borrow for up to a month. Material on how to track and reduced your blood pressure included. The monitors are part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Million Hearts® initiative to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes by 2017. Check out a monitor now while they are still available!

April Art at the Library The April Wall Exhibit will feature the paintings and drawings of mother - daughter team Lynn Butler-Dube and Maya Dube.

The April Display Case will feature the Library's collection of Danbury Mint Storybook dolls. Come see Goldilocks, Sleeping Beauty, Miss Muffett and many others.

March Wall Exhibit On our walls will be the end result of a printmaking project on leaves by Richmond Elementary School students under the direction of art teacher, Joanna Elliott. The students looked at positive and negative shapes.

March Display Case Terri Erdelyi has been collecting popup books for 10 years, but her inspiration was a Cinderella pop up she had as a child, featuring a beautiful 3D coach and team which was published in the 60s. Come see her collection which contains pop up books for both children and adults.

Senior Film Join others from the Community Senior Center for a screening of the film MASH, starring Donald Sutherland and Elliott Gould. This event is free and open to all. The film starts at 12:30 on Wednesday, April 15.

April Book Groups Book Group will be discussing TRACKS: A WOMAN'S SOLO ADVENTURE by Robyn Davidson on Tuesday, April 7, 6 pm.

Mystery Book Group will be discussing the book DEATH ON DEMAND by Caroline Hart on Thursday, April 16, 7 pm.

English Country Dance Beginner-friendly classes taught by Val Medve to recorded music, Fridays, April 3 and April 17, and May 1, 7 pm to 9 pm. Try this accessible and popular form of community social dance enjoyed by people all over the world. Adults and youths 12 and over are welcome. Attend on your own or with a partner. Casual dress. Smoother soles (rather than treaded soles) are helpful. No advance registration needed. Just show up for a fun evening of dance and camaraderie. Contact Val Medve at val.medve@gmail.com with questions. \$3-\$5 suggested donation.

Green Mountain Club Taylor Outdoor Series TRAVELS IN GASPE, April 10, 7 pm. The Gaspe Peninsula in Quebec Province has a lot of attractions - beautiful scenery, great hikes, wildlife and more. Sheri and Rich Larsen headed there last summer with stops in Quebec City and the north shore of the St. Lawrence River on the way. On the return they hiked the high points of New Brunswick and Maine. Their slideshow presentation will feature photos of the places they visited, the wildlife they saw (including whales, caribou and a colony of Northern Gannet birds) as well as their hikes in Gaspe Peninsula, New Brunswick and Maine.

Digital Downloads The Library gives patrons access to thousands of audiobooks and eBooks. Check out the webpage for ListenUpVermont and OneClick links. Got questions, ask staff

Other Services Remember the Library has WiFi connections, computer workstations with scanners, Fax (\$1/page to send, .20 to receive), copy or print, .20/page. To make your work experience even more productive, we also have a Keurig machine and K-cups of regular coffee, decaf coffee, cocoa, tea, chai latte at \$1.

New Children's Books While weeding the juvenile non-fiction section, we revisited all the great fairy tale and world folk tale books we have there. THE RANDOM HOUSE BOOK OF FAIRY TALES, FAVORITE FAIRY TALES TOLD AROUND THE WORLD, FAIRYTALES BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN, and SIXTY FAIRY TALES OF THE BROTHERS GRIMM contain some of the more well known material, but our collection goes far beyond that.

HOW MANY SPOTS DOES A LEOPARD HAVE? contains ten African and two Jewish folk tales beautifully retold in an oral tradition by Julius Lester. LAND OF THE LONG WHITE CLOUD is a selection of Maori myths and legends retold by Kiri Te Kanawa with fantastic illustrations by Michael Foreman. DANCE, NANA, DANCE (BAILA, NANA, BAILA) is an award-winning book of Cuban folktales in English and Spanish. THE GIRL WHO DREAMED ONLY GEESSE AND OTHER TALES OF THE FAR NORTH (which was a DCF nominee in 1998-99) collects stories from Siberia, Alaska, the Canadian Arctic, and Greenland retold by Howard Norman and richly illustrated by Leo & Diane Dillon. CAN YOU GUESS MY NAME? is a collection of fifteen folktales from all over the world retold by Judy Sierra. SOUTH AND NORTH, EAST AND WEST edited by Michael Rosen also draws from world traditions. MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD (subtitled WORLD FOLKTALES FOR STRONG BOYS) teaches the value of strength without force. The companion volume (both done by Jane Yolen) is NOT ONE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS (subtitled WORLD FOLKTALES FOR STRONG GIRLS). In a similar vein, CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH (subtitled AMERICAN WOMEN OF MYTH, LEGEND, AND TALL TALE) from the brilliant team of Robert D. San Souci and Brian Pinkney can be coupled with AMERICAN TALL TALES (whose folk heroes are predominately male) retold by Mary Pope Osborne with wood engravings by Michael McCurdy. THE PEOPLE COULD FLY is a collection of American Black Folktales retold by Virginia Hamilton. Also close to home is RETURN OF THE SUN (NATIVE AMERICAN TALES FROM THE NORTHEAST WOODLANDS) retold by Joseph Bruchac. If you want to explore mythology, we have GODS AND HEROES FROM VIKING MYTHOLOGY; DRUIDS, GODS AND HEROES FROM CELTIC MYTHOLOGY; GODS AND PHAROHS FROM EGYPTIAN MYTHOLOGY; D'AULAIRES' NORSE GODS AND GIANTS; and numerous books on Greek mythology.

Children's Programs Playgroup meets on Wednesdays at 8:45 am, except during school vacations.

Early Bird Math is an interactive math literacy storytime for young children and their caregivers. Through books, songs and games children are exposed to many early math skills and will enjoy a chance to play with their peers. Join Wendy in the community room on Fridays at 11 am.

Storytimes Toddlertime (for ages 18 months to 3 years) is on Wednesdays at 10:30. Storytime (ages 3-5) is on Mondays at 10:30. Pajamatime (ages 2-6) with Douglas is on Mondays at 6:30. We're very flexible about ages, siblings, and so on, so don't feel restricted by the age suggestions. No registration is necessary.



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Town of Richmond

2015 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SEARCH

The Richmond Selectboard is seeking volunteers to join their neighbors on the following committees, beginning in May. Further information is available via e-mail townmgr@gmavt.net or by calling Geoffrey Urbanik, Town Manager, at 434-5170. Letters of interest should be emailed, or mailed to: Volunteer Search, P.O. Box 285, Richmond, VT 05477 by April 10, 2015.

- **PLANNING COMMISSION** 2 meetings per month; (two 4-year terms) Work includes the completion of a major rewrite of the town plan and zoning and subdivision bylaws.
- **DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD** 1 or 2 meetings per month; (one 3-year term, two unexpired term two 1-year alternate positions) Conduct public hearings most major land development and commercial projects and permit appeals.
- **CONSERVATION COMMISSION** 1 meeting per month; (two 4-year terms) Develop planning tools for local natural resources and working on proposals to utilize the conservation reserve fund.
- **RECREATION COMMITTEE** meetings per month TBD; (two 3-year terms) Develop and manage recreation programs and enhance the use of Volunteers Green and Browns Court.
- **RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE** one meeting per month; (three 3-year terms) Develop and manage the trail and path network in Richmond, including making connections to neighborhoods.
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** 1 meeting per month; (eleven 1-year terms) Assists the Selectboard in enhancing the business climate in Richmond.
- **RICHMOND RESCUE BOARD OF DIRECTOR LIAISON & REPRESENTATIVE** Board members oversee operations and guide policy for Richmond Rescue. This Board member should be willing to help Rescue improve as an asset to the Town.

ONE-YEAR TERMS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

- Town Service Officer
- Parade & Fireworks Committee
- Weigher of Coal
- Civil Defense Director
- Energy Coordinator
- Town Fence Viewer
- Tree Warden
- Emergency Management Coordinator
- Inspector of Lumber, Shingles and Wood

Huntington Selectboard

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

The Huntington Selectboard meeting February 16, 2015 focused on Town Meeting preparations. New Town Moderator Dana Cummings joined the Board to loosely run through the meeting plan. Board Chair Jim Christiansen led the Board through a review of the meeting template. Board members decided who would introduce articles and anticipated questions from the floor.

During Public Comment, Helen Keith referred to the Mount Mansfield Modified Union School District (MMMUSD) report, which lacks financial details of Huntington's portion of the grades 5 - 12 budget, according to Keith. She expressed frustration that details of the budget's creation are available to other towns but not to Huntington. Christiansen commented, "As the Selectboard, we sign off warrants to pay taxes to the school but have no details about some items in the budget, such as building maintenance within the modified union district budget... is this for middle school or high school or other buildings?" Board member Nancy Stoddard suggested writing a letter. A motion to write a letter to the School Superintendent, copied to the MMMUSD board chair and representatives as well as Vermont State Representatives and the Secretary of Education requesting a line item detail of Huntington's portion of the grades 5-12 budget as has been traditionally provided, with information sent to Town administrator by February 23, 2015 unanimously passed.

A motion allowing Town Administrator Barbara Elliott to spend up to \$2,000 for a new computer passed.

The Selectboard meeting on March 2 began by recognizing out-going the Board Chair with a certificate of appreciation. Vice-Chair Dori Barton noted the Board's many accomplishments under Jim Christiansen's leadership.

Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger requested the Board consider an early purchase of a replacement for the one-ton truck if the article allowing its acquisition passed at Town Meeting. Considering the cost of anticipated repairs, the Board agreed with Alger's plan. Alger told the Board road salt expenses are roughly \$5,000 over budget.

Andy Carlo, of Fountains America, requested the Board grant an extension for a temporary silviculture stream crossing to replace the Town Highway 9 (TH9) bridge washed out during the July 3, 2013 storm. Original approval of this project was granted one year ago, but loggers have been unable to complete their work. A motion to extend permission for the temporary crossing on TH9 until August 1, 2016, passed unanimously.

Elliott reported she and Alger would meet with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) on March 9 for a project kick-off meeting. This meeting regards repairs from December 2014 storm damage. Although the Town doesn't know what work will be authorized, FEMA reimbursement will be 75% of the total approved disaster project amount.

A Public Informational Meeting for the Conveyance of a Town Hall Easement was held at the Church Annex March 16, at 6:30 pm. An historic preservation easement of perpetual duration, to be held by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) and the Preservation Trust of Vermont, must be executed by the owner of the Huntington Town Hall (Town of Huntington) as part of accepting an award from the VHCB. Town Hall Committee (THC) Chair Barbara Felitti said VHCB grant funding will allow completion of what the building needs to be accessible year round, The THC presented a slide show of historic photos taken at the Town Hall, which was built in 1903 and is part of the Huntington Center Historic District, designated

in the 1970s. Felitti explained how the THC looked at grant options, deciding what would be its highest priorities. In order to get more funding, the THC had to make the building handicapped accessible, leading to the work currently underway, which includes a new street side entrance, and a totally revamped rear exit which will have a lift to the second floor. Money from the VHCB grant will be used for a new roof and other improvements.

Karen Freeman, Conservation Director for the VHCB, told the audience the historic preservation grant is very competitive, and the THC application showed how important the Town Hall is for the community, and provided plans for maintenance and fundraising. In the easement, "There are mechanisms in place to make sure the building is not torn down, and is maintained," Freeman said. Elizabeth Egan, Project Counsel for the VHCB added, "[As a] legal instrument, the easement protects work for future generations." Rahul Kushwaha asked if the easement places restrictions on building use or limits access to the building. Egan responded that public access is essential to the easement, and uses are fluid. The easement protects building features. "You would be allowed to have revenue raising events. Some towns end up leasing space to groups," Egan stated. Freeman said, "The building will change but certain features need to be preserved." Kushwaha asked if the building will remain on the town balance sheet and if there will be limits on the Town borrowing against it. Egan explained, "If and when a town does mortgage a building, the easement can not be subordinated, even if it was foreclosed upon, it would remain an historic property." Selectman Roman Livak referred to using the word "perpetual" in the easement as "arrogant." Freeman responded, "The concept of perpetuity, we see that state dollars should be used wisely to protect a treasure." Rick Moulton echoed, "It is an insurance policy for the culture of the town."

Livak proposed that if the Town had financial difficulties, it would be "on the hook" for this building. THC member Mariah Riggs countered, "I think we should be honored that the state chose to preserve our adorable little Town Hall." Livak stated, "I respect and admire the hard work of the Town Hall Committee." Duncan Keir, regarding maintenance, asked, "What teeth is there to force a town to put money into a building?" Freeman replied, "Our role is not to be punitive, but protective." Alison Forrest offered, "It's a simple, humble building, but it's all we've got... it's a great space, it has a great dance floor, it has a great stage. I just think it is such an asset and could raise enough funds to maintain itself." THC member Linda Fickbolm agreed, "Having resources in this town is priceless." Three residents also sent letters of support of the Town Hall easement.

The Selectboard will vote on April 6 whether to endorse the easement.

The Board reconvened at the Town Office for Selectboard business. Earlier in the evening, Barton was voted Chair, Stoddard Vice Chair, and Helen Keith was sworn in as a new member.

During Public Comment, Rahul Kushwaha, conveyed his opinion that the Selectboard and School Board should consider options for Brewster Pierce Memorial School, such as taking it private. "The problem with [State] funding is people are not willing to think out of the box and we need to start thinking outside of the box," Kushwaha stated. "I hate the idea of being dictated by Montpelier how our primary school will be run. So many things in the school budget are mandated from above, our hands are tied." Barton suggested Kushwaha form a committee.

Stoddard concurred, "If you have some passion about a great idea, the way to get things done is to offer your help." Keith offered to get together and talk about a process.

Richmond Selectboard

by Greg Elias

The Selectboard contemplated yet another weapon in the fight to clean up and redevelop the decaying creamery in the heart of Richmond.

At the March 16 meeting, Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik introduced the idea of adopting an abandoned building ordinance modeled on one used by Essex Junction.

The village's ordinance allows the town to fine the owner of a vacant, blighted or dangerous building up to \$10,000 or seek a court order to tear down the structure. The ordinance states property owners must prevent buildings "from becoming a burden to the neighborhood and the community and a threat to public health, safety and welfare."

Selectboard members, however, voiced doubts about whether a small town like Richmond could enforce such an ordinance used by a larger and better-staffed municipality.

"To me, this is a policy in search of a problem," said Board member Taylor Yeates. "Yeah, we have one problem, but we're creating a bigger problem by creating an ordinance we don't have the resources to enforce."

He said what would happen is that the ordinance would attract complaints from neighbors of dilapidated barns and other buildings that pose no public safety threat.

Board member David Sander said he liked Essex Junction's ordinance but felt it might be impractical in Richmond.

"I had some concern about the efficacy of enforcement and the resource of enforcement," he said. The town should instead again ask the state to step in.

Board member Ellen Kane, however, said it was an idea worth considering. She wondered if the town could procure grants to fund enforcement.

Bard Hill said such an ordinance would put the onus on the property owner to correct problems by handing out fines to those who refuse to fix derelict buildings. And he noted that the creamery, with its collapsing roof, certainly qualifies as derelict.

The creamery, located just off Bridge Street, closed in the late '90s. Since then, structures at the site have slowly decayed and the town has repeatedly tried to compel the owner, Florida resident Craig Caswell, to clean up the site or sell the property.

In 2013, Richmond declared a public health emergency, which forced the removal of ammonia from a rusting tank used for refrigeration by the creamery. Late last year, the Selectboard discussed using eminent domain to purchase and clean up the property.

Most recently, voters on Town Meeting Day on March 3 approved a proposal that permits the Selectboard to lower or eliminate property taxes for anyone who purchases and redevelops the creamery.

Yeates said the town's effort have been futile. "Although we want to put the hammer down on that property owner to sell the property, it's not working," he said. "The owner of that property doesn't care what we do."

But a former Richmond Planning Commission member said there might be change on the horizon. Heidi Boreman said she has heard that there may be a pending purchase and sale agreement on the property.

Some Board members still wanted to pursue an ordinance, but they agreed to wait until confirming that a sale is in the works.

"I'd like to put it on hold and not kill it," Hill said. "But I'd like an update on the creamery and what the status is for the purchase and sales agreement. Is there a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel after 17 years?"

Beach Beef For such a small beach, a lot of towns have a say in what happens at Lake Iroquois' swimming area. That has led to a little tension

Richmond, Williston, Hinesburg and St. George share ownership of the slice of sand at the north end of the lake. Each town is represented on the Lake Iroquois Recreation District's governing board.

But Williston Public Works Director said that his town has long shouldered the modest maintenance burden, using its staff to grade the access road, Beebe Lane, and replenish eroded sand. He said Williston wants to other towns to start doing their share.

Hoar explained that though the district pays for all materials, Williston expends about 30-40 personnel hours each season on maintenance. That costs the town about \$1,500.

So the district's governing board proposed that starting in 2016 maintenance duties rotate among the towns. Hinesburg has already agreed to take the first year. Hoar said Richmond is lined up for the second year and St. George will be responsible for the 2018 season.

In response to Selectboard questions, Hoar explained that the district owns the access road and the beach, not the lake itself or the state-run boat access. He noted that the district, through beach access fees covers, other operational costs but not maintenance expenses.

Hoar also detailed access fees as broken down by town that show relatively few Richmond residents use the beach. The district took in more than \$10,000 in fees from Williston and Hinesburg residents but only \$1,334 from Richmond residents.

Board members did not vote on whether or not Richmond will do its share of the beach maintenance. "You're in year three, so you've got a little time," Hoar said.

Annual Appointments Made The Selectboard completed the annual exercise of selecting its leader and making other appointments.

Taylor Yeates chaired the Selectboard for the past year. Urbanik explained that though no policy or rule requires it, the town has in the past rotated the chairmanship to a different member each year following Town Meeting Day.

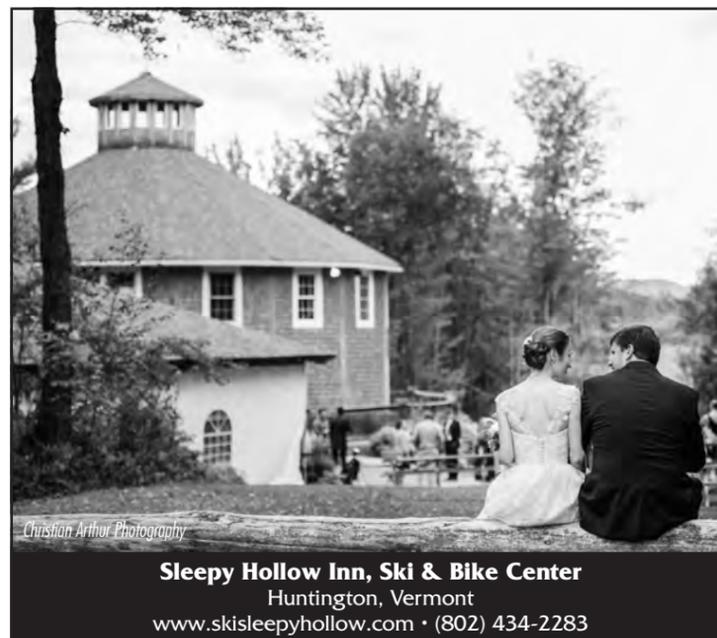
So Sander was nominated to lead the Selectboard for the next year. There were no other nominations, and by unanimous vote his selection was approved. Board chairs help formulate agenda, call for votes on various issues and generally run meetings.

Then Hill was picked by the other Board members as the vice chair, who serves as the Board's leader when the chair is absent. And Urbanik was reappointed as Board Secretary, who takes meeting minutes.

The Selectboard then chose liaisons to town departments and the many appointed boards and commissions. Members, by turns eager or reluctant to serve, volunteered or nominated those who would staff the positions.

Yeates, for example, said he only wanted to serve as a Fire Department liaison. He ended up also responsible for the Planning Commission.

Newly elected member Lincoln Bressor volunteered to serve on the Conservation Commission and ended up with the related Trails and Recreation committees.



Christian Arthur Photography

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MMU / MMM Boards

Reported by Diane Wester

MMU School Board February 12, 2015

The MMU School Board asked themselves the question "What our responsibilities are between now and July 1 when our newly merged school district MMMUSD board takes control?"

CESU Superintendent John Alberghini replied that banking, bill paying, committee work, real estate transfers and audit approval are still responsibilities of the current board. Richmond representative Michael Marks commented it is still necessary to have a fully functional board, available at all times, to deal with any Executive Session called between now and July 1 (personnel, student issues). The facilities committee will continue to meet on a monthly basis. The next regularly scheduled MMU meeting will be held April 9 at the high school.

Members of the board approved transfer of impact fees from the towns of Jericho and Richmond. These fees are levied by the town on new construction to offset additional town infrastructure charges incurred.

Committee Reports Curriculum committee chair Cindy Preston reported both the ultimate Frisbee and the volleyball clubs are doing well with good participation. The volleyball team is looking for a new coach for next fall.

Policy committee chair Diane Kirson Glitman reported a new school K-8 school choice policy is being drafted. She noted the choice will be guided by the needs of the students, parents and districts and constricted by transportation and classroom space. Alberghini mentioned there

may be a school choice option available for kindergarten this fall.

Glitman, also a member of the board of directors of the Vermont School Boards Association and liaison to the State legislature reported there is a new vaccination bill being drafted in the legislature that will remove both personal and religious exemptions and accept only a medical waiver exemption.

A great deal of time was spent on fine tuning the budget presentation prepared for the February 26 annual meeting. (See separate report)

MMMUSD Board February 16, 2015

Superintendent John Alberghini reported on the Process for Investigating Educational Opportunities initiated as part of the merger process. He outlined the first two programs to be investigated by the administration: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics); and Foreign Language Immersion.

He believes that developing a template by which to evaluate educational opportunities will be valuable in streamlining the process now and in the future.

The example he gave was: (1) form a team of parents/teachers/administration/business leaders; (2) develop a work plan – research, gather data, analysis; (3) discuss research results – prepare white paper; (4) additional research – site visits, small group tests; (5) coordinate report; (6) present with recommendations to the Board; (7) if approved – implementation.

He hopes the foreign language immersion study will be complete by fall. Please write, call, or email him for additional information. He believes the STEM program will take between eight months and a year as there is a \$50M grant involved to train teachers in pedagogy.

Legislative Report Reorganization of the Department of Education, education funding and school governance continue to be hot topics in Montpelier. One recent discussion centered on high school tuition payments. Parents in districts without their own high school can choose to use their State (taxpayer) funded tuition anywhere. There is a certain number of parents who chose to spend this Vermont state tuition money (legally) in Switzerland – instead of participating and supporting public education. It is also acceptable to send these students to traditional, "independent schools." These schools, although a part of Vermont culture, do not need to meet the standardized testing measures, special ed. or teacher licensing measures a public school does. Legislation addressing these issues is being drafted. Jericho Representative Andrew Davis reports Montpelier is also looking at a new approach to fund special ed to a more flexible block grant approach.

Committee Reports After some discussion, it was decided to take a broader look at designing the committee structure of the new board at the next meeting (March 16, 6:30 pm CHMS). They decided the first and most important job of the new board is developing, approving, presenting and recommending to the public a combined MMMUSD budget. Defining the board's committee structure can wait until after a budget is approved by the public. At present – only Finance and Negotiations committees have been created. There is also an ad hoc committee to study the percentages of cost divisions for transportation, etc., throughout the districts.

Finance Committee Chair Kevin Campbell outlined for the board the Potential Responsibili-

ties of The Finance Committee. Some of these responsibilities included long range planning (five years), develop annual budgets, approve warrants, order audit, fiscal status reports, mid-year and year end spending reports, review expenditures over \$50,000, bring Facilities under finance committee, and provide a monthly report to the board. It was decided not to vote on this charge as it had not been warned to the public.

Policy Chair Diane Kirson Glitman reported "We need new by laws for our new organization." Alberghini replied the old CESU governing bylaws can be edited/adapted to fit the new organization and they were being revised currently. Glitman presented the new school choice policy to the board and it was approved. She noted there would be a big presentation at the March meeting concerning rescinding policies no longer relevant due to the merger and some policies are outdated/superseded by new legislation.

A budget presentation was given to the board and will be reported on in the February 26 report.

MMM Annual Meeting February 26, 2015

The warning was read. William Wilson was nominated as moderator, Laura Kimball was nominated as clerk, and Thomas Levesque was nominated as treasurer. All terms were for one year, no nominations were opposed, and all were elected unanimously by voice vote. There were approximately 20 persons in the audience – most were current or former school board members from the elementary and MMU school boards.

Kevin Campbell delivered the FY 2015-16 Budget Presentation. Color copies of the power point presentation were available at the meeting. This presentation can be viewed at www.cesu.k12.vt.us.

Overall increase to the board's approved MMUSD budget (comprised of all pre-K-12 schools except Huntington elementary) was 2.94%. This is predicated on a \$0.02 increase in state education taxes from Montpelier, bringing the rate up to \$1. It is also predicated on a 3% increase in salaries – both teacher and support staff salaries are under negotiation at this time. 26% of the 2.94% increase is due to the new, universal pre-K program. It is to the district's advantage to begin this program this year, as the pre-K students add to the number of average daily pupil count the state funds. The district has always strongly supported the research supported positive outcomes of universal pre-K. Offering this program is mandatory next year. Participation is optional. This budget also reinstates cuts made to facilities budget last year, replaces a bus cut, adds for the first time a Long Term Substitute budget, reflects health insurance company premium increases of 4.5%, and reflects staff reductions.

It is therefore projected that for this year the Richmond taxes will decline by \$38/\$100,000 assessed valuation, and Huntington taxes will increase by \$58/\$100,000 assessed valuation (plus the elementary school taxes). The \$0.08 statute-based tax incentive rewarding merger participation explains this difference. Next year's incentive will be \$0.06.

Noted in the staff reductions are redundancies in the kitchen staff of RES and CHMS. Questions were raised as to utilization of two sets of award winning cooks, and new kitchen improvements just finished at RES. Alberghini replied pilot programs were in progress, neither kitchen would be closed, and hot, healthful food would be available at both schools in a timely fashion.

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MMU News

Onward to State GeoBee

The Times Ink is looking for a Richmond or Huntington student to write an informative and engaging column for this newspaper. The columnist must commit for the school year.

A stipend is available or the student may chose to use this opportunity to gain community service credit. This opportunity may also be used toward an independent study. This is a great opportunity to doing something that benefits the entire community. Residents like to know what is going on at the high school, especially those who do not have students in the school. Additionally, writers get to know more facets

of the MMU program, as well as interact with staff and students.

Applicants must be able to:

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2. Write in complete sentences.
3. Provide a well-rounded column that covers a variety of school activities highlighting the activities and accomplishments of our students.

Information: news@timesinkvt.org or 434-2690.



Congratulations to Richmond Elementary student Eric Bissell, who successfully qualified to compete in the state level competition of the National Geographic Bee. The Vermont State Bee will be held on March 27 at Middlebury College. One winner from each state and territory will advance to the national competition on May 11-13 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Chinese New Year at RES



The Chinese New Year was celebrated from February 19-March 5 in the country of China. The festive Chinese celebration is also known as Spring Festival! This week, preschool scholars began investigating "spring happenings" in

our country and also enjoyed a variety of rich Chinese cultural activities. After discussing the annual spring Chinese celebration, each young learner created a traditional Chinese fan and later performed a Fan Dance. Each dancer wore a silk scarf and followed many movements that required children to understand a variety of math and directional concepts.

Fan Dance

- "Wave your fan above your head."
- "Wave your fan below."
- "Wave your fan in front."
- "Wave your fan behind"
- "Wave your fan under your legs."
- "Wave your fan beside yourself."
- "Wave your fan to the left."
- "Wave your fan to the right."
- "Wave your fan in front five times."
- "Wave your fan to the left 10 times."

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Huntington Town Meeting

Reported by Ruth Blodgett

Fledgling Town Moderator Dana Cummings called Huntington's Town Meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. March 3, 2015, in the Brewster-Pierce Memorial School gymnasium. Cummings' father, Britt Cummings, Town Moderator for over 25 years, retired after last year's Town Meeting.



Photos, from left: Eric Krull makes a point from the floor; Dave Clark addresses the room; Moderator Dana Cummings explains a handout at the start of the meeting. Photos: Mason Rachampbell

The School Board Meeting preceded Town Meeting, and empty seats increased when Town Meeting began. The polls were busy throughout the day.

After Article 1, to Elect Town Officers as required by law, passed, State Representatives Tom Stevens and Rebecca Ellis shared news from Montpelier. "The budget this year is difficult... the Ways and Means and Expenditure committees are trying to figure out how to cut 18 million dollars...may have to cut programs for the poor and for arts," Stevens said. Ellis mentioned two environmental bills. An energy bill passed which creates a renewable portfolio standard for VT, Ellis reported. The second bill requires utilities to offer resources to consumers for reducing energy usage and expense, without using government money, Ellis continued. Ellis referred to a clean water bill in the works, which led to a question from the audience. Joe Segale asked about payment options for the clean water bill. Ellis responded that the Legislature has not decided on the final funding mechanism. Stevens added that along with federal funds, some private companies have offered money,

Community members had questions about the school bill currently in the Legislature. Stevens said, "Things will change in the bill when the bill goes back and forth between the House and Senate. What may be in the bill today may not be in the final bill." Duncan Keir admitted being "confused about consolidation when we already belong to a union." Stevens concurred, "It is confusing, there are facts that point out savings and others that say there are no savings. The education committee is trying to set policy with the finance side within the Committee."

Breck Knauft asked about teacher benefits being subject to tax that could affect school budgets. Stevens responded, "Vermont is in the middle of an exemption, but conceivably this tax could cost a lot...perhaps move teachers over to the exchange, the exchange would be less healthcare for them." Meg's Keir spoke about reapportionment of districts, suggesting, "As you look to reapportionment, a Town should not have senators and representatives from 2 different counties."

Town Clerk Heidi Racht presented the Olga Hallock Award to Chuckie Lawyer, in his 40th year with the Fire Department, and his wife Joya Lawyer, for years a dedicated volunteer with the lady's auxiliary, supporting fire department fundraisers such as the Harvest Supper and bingo. Huntington Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tate Jeffrey accepted the award in the Lawyers' absence, to a standing ovation.

At 12:14, the meeting recessed for lunch.



Donna Lewis gets a cake ready for lunch dessert

The meeting resumed at 1:20.

Racht informed voters of errors and omissions to the Town Report when Article 2, to hear and act upon the reports of Town Officers and Committees, was introduced. Selectboard member Andrew Hendrickson highlighted several new Committee reports within the Town Report including: the Finance Subcommittee, the Development Review Board and two reports not in the newsprint version, the Energy Committee and Human



Resources Subcommittee.

Article 2 passed without

discussion.

Article 3 asked, "Shall the Town pay current taxes to the Treasurer of the Town and School District?" This prompted Terry Ryan to inquire, "What are we going to pay?" After Selectboard Vice-Chair Dori Barton clarified that the article was procedural, to establish to whom residents will send the taxes, not the amount, Article 3 carried.

Article 4, which authorizes the Selectboard to borrow money when needed to meet current expenses and indebtedness of the Town, passed without discussion.

Selectboard Chair Jim Christiansen, as part of a global introduction to articles 5, 6, and 7, thanked those involved in the Capital Plan, including the Fire Chief, Road Foreman, and Town Treasurer. The Selectboard presented a certificate of appreciation to retiring Town Treasurer Dan Stoddard for transforming accounting procedures during his tenure as town treasurer. Nancy Stoddard, chair of the Finance Subcommittee which was formed in response to questions from last year's Town Meeting about the Town's long term Capital Plan explained the Selectboard's goal of "finding the balance between Town needs and the timing of those needs...managing our debt service so we can borrow at a good rate should there be an emergency. One way of dealing

with town wide debt is creating reserve funds for specific needs." Article 5 asked voters to authorize the creation of a Fire and First Response Reserve Fund. Stoddard said \$20,000 would be put into this reserve fund. Heather Pembroke clarified this is a reserve fund and not a revenue fund like the other fire department funds. Terry Ryan asked if the town should just have a town wide reserve fund that could be used in an emergency, with Christiansen responding "[A specific Reserve Fund] creates a level of transparency, and commits to items in the long term." Dan Stoddard added, "VLCT (Vermont League of Cities and Towns) recommended not having a one big fund, since Selectboards change." The "Ayes" had it for article 5.

Article 6 asked the voters to apply \$80,000 from the General Fund accumulated Fund Balance to support the Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Capital plan. Barton spoke on the fund balance and how the Board has worked to create a policy for the fund balance, which will be

to keep one month's operating expenses as recommended by the professional auditors and VLCT, then use the remainder for the Capital Plan. David Worthley stated, "Kudos, kudos, kudos. This is a great plan...gives us a chance to have less money in our budget in the future because we have to spend less money on interest." His comment was followed by applause.

Article 6 also passed.

Selectboard member Roman Livak introduced Article 7, asking voters to approve the purchase of a replacement one-ton highway truck for a total not to exceed \$85,000, highlighting costs incurred lately on repairs. This item is part of the 2015-2016 Capital plan. Voters approved the truck purchase.

Article 8, to authorize a total Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund expenditure of 1,559,604, was introduced by Christiansen, who reported that Town employee salaries increased 1.7%, with no in-



crease for health insurance. The Fire Department budget for protective clothing increased, Christiansen added. Two bridges in Town are under various stages of engineering, Christiansen continued, and the Highway Department has seen higher materials costs. Bret Lindemuth asked if contracting traffic enforcement with the State Police is a good a value, "Considering how little money is generated by fines." Christiansen explained the Board has explored other options, such as contracting with other departments or the sheriff, but "The idea of having State Police presence in town is more important than revenue." Jeanine Carr criticized the lack of State Police presence on Main Road. Comments continued on the subject of speeding motorists, until Cummings reminded voters to keep discussion germane to the budget. Britt Cummings questioned the road salt budget. Road Foreman Clinton "Yogi" Alger said, "The price of salt increased a lot. We started a salt reduction program, but with all the snow, it's still over budget."

Article 8 carried.

Barton presented a certificate of thanks to Christiansen, who did not run for reelection after six years on the Selectboard. The Board has been "incredibly lucky to have Jim at the helm," Barton opined.

Article 9, asking Huntington voters to allow an exemption for Conservation Reserve Funds to be used, subject to the application process and approval by the Conservation Commission and the Selectboard, for dam restoration and shoreline protection of Gillett Pond and associated wetlands located in the Towns of Huntington and Richmond, led to lengthy discussion. Aaron Worthley, from Friends of Gillett Pond, said the land is now purchased and protected, with the next step being dam repair and shoreline protection. "We feel that the commitment that can be presented to other funders by the joint support of Huntington and Richmond will appeal to these funders," Worthley stated. Margaret Taft responded, "Back in 2000 when [The Conservation

continue to page 11

Richmond Town Meeting

Water Bond Passes in Close Vote

by Greg Elias

An expansion of Richmond's water and sewer system barely won voter approval on Town Meeting Day. Now the town must strike an agreement with a key user and obtain a federal grant to move the project forward.

The \$2.5 million bond to extend municipal water and sewer system lines passed, 536-527. Town Clerk Linda Parent said it was the closest bond vote in her 10 years as clerk.

So close that it spurred a recount request from resident Christy Witters. The recount, completed on March 19 at Richmond Town Center, produced an identical tally.

The water and sewer bond topped a Town Meeting Day ballot that also featured a contested race for Selectboard and funding for land conservation. At the separate annual meeting, attendees approved the municipal budget.

But it was the water and sewer extension that generated the most debate in the lead-up to this year's meeting.

The water and sewer extension would begin at Camels Hump Middle School, running through the former Willis Farm to Route 2. Future phases of the project extend along Route 2 to the Riverview Commons Mobile Home Park near the Route 117 intersection.

The proposal had its genesis in a search for new customers for the underutilized municipal water and sewer system. The creamery that was its biggest user closed about 15 years ago.

Now the system uses only about 10 percent of its capacity. Rates are much higher than neighboring towns and have risen steeply of late to fund infrastructure improvements.

The purchase of the Willis Farm by Richmond residents Bob and Joy Reap, who operate a home construction business, provided an opportunity to add users. Just after they acquired the land about a year ago, the Reaps asked the town about developing the nine-acre parcel. The couple requested the town consider extending municipal water and sewer to serve potential projects such as a child-care center or retailers.

"The discussion of the associated costs with larger lines and who would pay for them naturally followed," Joyce Reap said in an email. That led to the town asking if other nearby property owners would be willing to help fund an extension.

"That study and these discussions resurrected

a previous request by the Riverview Commons Mobile Home Park from many years ago," Reap said. "Basically, with our property and the easements we have in place, expansion is somewhat more easily attainable than it was years ago. So, what started with our initial inquiry has grown into a much larger project."

The Richmond Water and Sewer Commission eventually decided to ask voters to OK the more ambitious extension, reasoning that additional users would help fund the project and reduce rates for existing users.

But the close vote showed that many residents have reservations about the project. Critics worry that the extension, coupled with zoning changes now being debated, will attract chain retailers and restaurants, drawing customers away from Bridge Street businesses.

The project's future will turn on successful negotiations with the mobile home park and connection agreements from other users. Town officials have said that without the 148-unit mobile home park, costs for other new users may simply be too high.

There have been several negotiating sessions between the town and Riverview Commons over the past few months. Town Manager Geoffrey Urbanik declined to comment on the talks.

But he did note that an engineering study of the project found that the mobile home park's share of the cost of connecting to the water and sewer system would be about \$200,000. Under current rates, it would cost about \$190,000 annually for service to all the park's residents.

That estimate, based on each mobile home containing three bedrooms, may be high. But assuming it is accurate and the park passes on the entire cost to residents, each mobile home would pay on average more than \$100 a month for service.

"I think both sides agree that's too high," Urbanik said in an email, later adding that the mobile home park "has made it clear to everyone that the full rate is impossible for them to pay."

The Water and Sewer Commission has discussed the rate structure multiple times during closed-door sessions. Meeting minutes do not detail the secret discussions, but they show that in open sessions at least one commissioner, Chris Granda, opposed giving the mobile home park a rate break.

Riverview Commons representatives did not return phone messages seeking comment on the negotiations.

through. "Mark Smith spoke, 'I think second only to Camels Hump, Gillett Pond is the most exceptional natural feature in the area.' Rahul Kushwaha suggested another amendment to drop the words 'for perpetual' from the article. This amendment was also defeated. Dawn Taylor commented, 'It has been noted that no project is on the table. I think this is very premature and any HCC money should be for projects in Huntington.' Jeanine Carr countered with, 'Strong support for this project,' encouraging voters to 'not think of this as a Richmond Project or Huntington project but a benefit to the state.' Kathie Kretzer continued, 'The language might need an exception, but certainly the intent of the fund would apply to the project.'"

Article 9 passed.

Article 10, to transact any other Town business thought proper, led Don Dresser to publicly thank retiring Lister Joan Sargeant, and David Worthley to praise to the new Moderator.

The meeting adjourned at 4:02.

Other Business The Town Meeting Day ballot also featured a race for a three-year seat on the Selectboard. Newcomer Lincoln Bressor easily triumphed over former Selectboard member Mary Houle, 690-311.

Another ballot measure called for annual \$44,000 contributions for the next five years to the Richmond Conservation Fund. It was approved by a 3-1 margin.

At the separate annual meeting, attendees debated and passed the \$3.3 million municipal budget. Also at the meeting, which lasted about three hours not including a lunch break, voters authorized the Selectboard to negotiate property taxes to kick-start redevelopment of the creamery.

Turnout was about average for a Town Meeting Day, with 36 percent of Richmond's 2,957 registered voters casting ballots. The annual town meeting started with about 225 residents, Parent said, and attendance tapered off to about 70 people after lunch.

Hurdles Ahead The water and sewer project has garnered support from the Reaps and other property owners, some of them other small businesses, along Route 2. A survey conducted as part of a scoping study for the extension found that all eight of the homes and businesses that responded supported the project.

But the steep cost of connecting to the new water and sewer lines, which would run from about \$14,000 to more than \$20,000 per property, could cause some property owners to have second thoughts. Those figures include the town's connection fee, the cost of running water and sewer lines from the mainline to each home or business, and expenses related to abandoned wells and septic systems.

Grant funding for the project poses another uncertainty. The town intends to apply for a \$2.5 million U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development grant. The competitive program provides both grants and loans.

Grants range from 15-75 percent of the project cost, depending on the income level of residents in the service area. The town estimates 45 percent of the project's cost will be covered by grants.

What's Next? The next steps for the water and sewer extension are striking an agreement with Riverview Commons and filing the grant

application. The town's timetable calls for connection agreements from landowners to be finalized by July, followed by permitting. Construction is set to begin in April 2016 and completed by October 2017.

Joyce Reap hopes that an accord with the mobile home park and a federal grant will change opponents' minds and push the project forward.

"We were pleased with the outcome, but would have preferred that there were more positive votes," she said. "We are hopeful that as the Water and Sewer Commission and town administration gathers more information with regards to the Riverview Commons Mobile Home Park and rural development grants we can gain more support for the expansion."



Watching the Recount

I attended the recount for the Gateway water bond vote. Because I work with Vermonters for Voting Integrity, a non-partisan group that works for open and fair elections, my interest was more in the recount itself, than the issue at hand. I was impressed by the thoroughness of the procedures at the recount. The two bags of ballots arrived, sealed with serial numbers on the locks. The serial numbers were checked before the locks were removed and destroyed. The total ballots were counted before sorting began and it matched the 1069 originally counted by the optical scanner. Then they were sorted into YES and NO vote piles, and checked twice. Then the two piles were counted by making piles of 25, recounting each pile, and then counting the number of piles. The result was exactly

the same as the scanner count on election night -- 536 Yes, 527 No, and 6 blank votes. I personally checked the 6 blank votes to make sure they weren't real votes that were just too light to be recognized by the machine, and all 6 were definitely blank. This exercise can give our town confidence that the vote was counted properly. It should not however, give us the false impression that optical scanners used for counting elections are always perfect. There are many documented cases of errors made by these machines, which is why recounts and regular audits are recommended, especially in close elections. I would like to thank the Board of Civil Authority and others who participated in the recount.

—Gary Beckwith, Jonesville

Members of the Richmond Board of Civil Authority (Justices of the Peace and members of the Selectboard) at the recount, held on March 19. Photos: Gary Beckwith



Huntington

continued from previous page

Reserve Fund] was set up, it included the words, 'projects in Huntington.' I am concerned with the precedent this is setting." Segale, suggested a motion to amend the article adding: "for an amount not to exceed 25% of the Conservation Fund," since this money would be used outside of Huntington. This amendment was defeated. Worthley elaborated, "This is just so this could be considered, this is a unique situation. [We are] hoping for a little flexibility here. No project is in the works now." Margaret Fowle, Huntington Conservation Commission (HCC) Co-chair, clarified the process, saying, "In no case has any project asked for the Conservation Fund to fund 100%. we do not make the final decision! We recommend to the Selectboard, then hold a public hearing, The Selectboard makes the final decision. We put forth this article to be proactive in case a project comes

OCCC Perennial Plant Swap

Spring will soon be here. Start planning your spring work. What perennials do you need to split? Do you want to add more perennials to your yard? Our Community Cares Camp will sponsor a perennial plant swap on Saturday, May 2, from 9 am to 2 pm on the back lawn of Richmond Home Supply. Drop your plants off and swap for others. Don't have any to swap? Come and pick some up. There will be help to identify plants and habitats. Come and meet other gardeners, share your plants and your knowledge. Donations will benefit Our Community Cares Camp. A summer food service program and enrichment camp for local children. Also that weekend, any purchase at Richmond Home Supply will benefit Our Community Cares Camp. Watch for coupons to be distributed in late April. www.ourcommunitycarescamp.org.

Nightlights Bring Nightlife to the Park



Richmond residents and skaters from surrounding towns were treated this cold winter to a long season of skating. Rod West has assembled a rink in the park for five years for families to use. "This was the best year ever," he said, "because of the awesome winter. The extreme cold made for an extra hard surface and there were no thaws, so we had great ice for eight weeks." West has had extra help to build the rink, which got a lot of use, but he credits Chris Hamlin of Jonesville with creating the special atmosphere at night - the rink was ringed by strings of tiny lights. West enthused, "Chris made it magical." Photo: Pennie Rand



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Time to Get in Shape



The race back to the sundaes is all downhill. Runners in the Huntington race have a bucolic run up Camels Hump Road on backroads at the end of the race.

Spring is in the air (or perhaps that's just wishful thinking!)-- but it's time to get your running shoes out of the closet and start training for the 4th Annual Huntington Race 4 Sundaes.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 27.

Registration is open for the family-friendly one-mile walk/run-- and the out and back 5K

and 10K races will all be back again this year for those looking for more of a challenge.

For more information and to register: <http://huntingtonrace4sundaes.weebly.com/>

All proceeds of the race go to the Neighbor Helping Neighbor fund which gives financial support to struggling individuals in the Huntington community and surrounding areas.

Questions? Contact Megan Detweiler, Race Director, at race4sundaes@gmail.com



The prize at the end of the race.

Forum on Carbon Pollution Tax

Why a Carbon Pollution Tax Could Make Sense for Vermont.

Energy Independent Vermont Community will have an Education Forum at the Richmond Free Library Community Room on Tuesday, April 21, at 7 pm. The Energy Independent Vermont Campaign is a coalition of environmental, anti-poverty, and business groups all dedicated to a simple goal: address the problem of global warming by putting a price on carbon pollution here in Vermont. Come to this community forum to learn more about concept.

For more information, contact Betsy Hardy at 434-3397 or info@vtipl.org

The event is free and open to the public.

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50 Shades of Pink



Three of the local residents working on Lyric's *LEGALLY BLONDE*, which will be performed at the Flynn Theatre in Burlington in early April. From left, Laurie Dana of Richmond (costume crew), Owen Rachampbell of Huntington (cast member) and Costume Designer Lyn Feinson of Richmond. Courtesy photo.

Omigod You Guys! For the first time ever, Lyric Theatre Company is bringing the Broadway hit *Legally Blonde: The Musical* to life on the Flynn Main Stage April 9-12.

Based on the MGM motion picture of the same name, this fun, upbeat musical comedy about self-discovery is just like the movie, but with singing and dancing to help tell the story.

Elle Woods, a California sorority sister and blonde bombshell who appears to have it all, is devastated when her boyfriend Warner Huntington, III dumps her to get serious about his life and career aspirations and attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle uses her Delta Nu charm to also get into the prestigious ivy-league school. As she transitions from Bel-Air to Boston, she struggles with peers,

professors and Warner Huntington. With the help of Paulette and Emmett, Elle's newfound friends, she quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world. *LEGALLY BLONDE: THE MUSICAL* is an all singing, all dancing romantic comedy about knowing who you are and showing what you've got!

This community volunteer cast of 40 talented women, men and dogs (a Chihuahua named Joey and a French bulldog named Enzo), along with a 100+ person crew, are rehearsing, building sets, sewing costumes, collecting props and getting ready to take the stage by pink storm!

Tickets for all 5 performances, including two weekend matinees, are on sale now through the FlynnTix Regional Box Office, 86-FLYNN or www.FlynnTix.org.

2015 Governor's Institutes Application Season is Open

This summer, the Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) is offering eight residential learning Institutes for Vermont high school students. These hands-on intensive learning opportunities include six to fifteen days of immersive academic and creative exploration on Vermont college campuses with professors and leading experts in their fields. 2015 Governor's Institutes include Arts, Asian Cultures, Current Issues & Youth Activism, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science & Technology, Information Technology & Digital Media, and Mathematical Sciences. Host campuses this summer include the University of Vermont, Champlain College, Castleton State College, School for International Training, and Vermont Technical College.

Students apply to the Institute of their choice

through their schools (homeschooled students and Vermont residents who attend school out-of-state apply directly to GIV. Some Institutes also accept out-of-state students; see website for how to apply.).

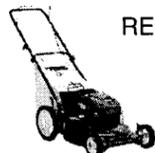
See giv.org for more information. Application deadlines are set by the schools; most are in March. GIV operates on sliding scale tuition and is based on families' abilities to pay. This is made possible by corporate and individual donations. The Governor's Institutes of Vermont is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering young people through in-depth learning experiences in college settings designed to inspire their academic and creative passions, build confidence and leadership, and expand their sense of possibility, serving over 500 students each year.

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Good Food for Good Eaters: Huntington Meals on Wheels

Driving-up to the front door of Brewster-Pierce Elementary School, one is struck by the idyllic setting—a herd of cows graze in the pasture nestled between the hills off of Camel's Hump Road; the pasture overlooks the school itself, a cozy building painted in a welcoming light blue.

It is just about 11 am, and while children are hard at work in their classrooms, the school cafeteria is a buzz of activity. Each day, the Brewster-Pierce Hot Lunch Program, headed by Alison Forrest, serves between eighty and one-hundred children and fifteen to twenty-five staff members. In addition to nourishing students and their teachers, Brewster-Pierce also gives back to the community, serving seniors Meals on Wheels in partnership with CVAA.

CVAA is a non-profit organization that empowers seniors to live well. CVAA works with seniors and caregivers, offering guidance and providing the support and services they need, when they need them. With the help of community partners and volunteers, CVAA serves over 10,000 seniors. Established in 1974, CVAA is known as the resource for seniors in the Champlain Valley (Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle Counties).

In the kitchen, Alison Forrest and her team of volunteers busily prepare for the noon hour rush. Volunteer John Martell cuts a block of Cabot Cheddar into slices, while his wife, Ann Martell, slices through the piping hot homemade hamburger rolls that have been baked fresh that morning from scratch.

The vast majority of the delicious food catered by the school is not only homemade, but locally sourced. Organic pasture-fed beef used in meatloaves and stews comes directly from the Maple Wind Farm in Huntington and the Moultrou Family Farm of Richmond. Local farmers donate vegetables during their peak seasons, and Forrest strives to purchase local produce whenever possible. Vermont maple syrup even tops desserts in this truly unique and wholesome meals program. Forrest also knows her clientele very well, and works to tailor foods to their tastes. Comforting hits like homemade mac-and-cheese, lasagna, beef stew, and meatloaf delight seniors.

The wonderful food prepared by Forrest and her team is a culinary combination of quality, caring, and heart. The team knows the names

and dietary needs of each and every student that comes through the lunch line and each senior that the Meals on Wheels Program serves. "We love feeding kids and seniors," Forrest says. With regard to the seniors, Ann Martell chimes-in, "We want to keep them healthy and home."

Once meals for the day are packed, Volunteer Coordinator Stacey Symanowicz and her group of community volunteers arrive to pick-up and deliver Meals on Wheels. Stop-by-stop, volunteers offer a warm and friendly "hello" and a hot, nutritious meal to every senior being served by the program. The benefits of Meals on Wheels deliveries are myriad, as with each delivery, volunteers are also checking on the safety and well-being of the seniors to whom they deliver, further empowering them to remain in their own homes.

The Meals on Wheels Program strives to keep seniors nourished and living in their own homes independently for as long as possible. According to the Meals on Wheels Association of America, 10.8% of Vermont seniors are struggling with hunger. The Mathematica 2010 Most Utilized Services Chart demonstrates that 91% of seniors receiving meals from the Meals on Wheels Program nationally reported that the service allows them to remain in their homes, with CVAA's MOW Survey finding that more than 94% of seniors in our area who receive Meals on Wheels report that since getting Meals on Wheels, they have enough food to eat each day.

Meals on Wheels are available to seniors aged 60 and older who are in need of nutritional support, are unable to prepare food for themselves and are deemed eligible for these or other reasons. Any senior or family member who is interested in learning more about the program is encouraged to call us at CVAA's Senior Helpline (1-800-642-5119), or visit on cvaa.org to learn more about the many support services available from CVAA to seniors.

Back in the lunchroom, a testament to the quality of the food provided by the Brewster-Pierce kitchen staff is evident. "Hands-up for seconds," a teacher, standing at the front of the lunch room calls out to the crowd of eager students. One-by-one, hands pop-up, children hurry back to the front of the room, and are served a second helping of hot and nutritious food, made with love.

—Submitted by CVAA staff



State House News

Rep. Tom Stevens

It was a treat to spend the bulk of our town meeting travels in Huntington. I really enjoyed hearing the end of the school meeting and staying through (the always excellent) lunch. Taking the time to come to Huntington is always a good thing, and I appreciate the warm welcome.

I especially appreciate it considering the news we brought to you. This has been, by far, the most stressful start to a biennium that I have experienced — even more so than my first, which fell at the height of the recession. Between very hard discussions about the future of education governance and finance, we are faced with a budget gap that resists consistent closing. The remedies we are contemplating are significantly difficult and we are moving ever closer to making fundamental changes to our revenue system in order to make our ends meet.

Does this mean raising taxes? In the short term, yes. The Ways and Means committee is working on those, most importantly considering aspects of moving to taxing our income based on the Adjusted Gross Income method, rather than Taxable Income. The main difference between the methods is the ability to make deductions. With AGI, deductions on your Vermont state taxes would not be allowed, or allowed in a very limited way. With Taxable income, 33% of Vermont taxpayers take allowed deductions, which lowers the tax liability of those who can. This innate inequity is starting to take its toll on our ability to make our ends meet. The proposal on the table right now is still being developed, and it remains to be seen whether it will pass out of committee, but the desire is there.

Another deficit in tax revenue comes from uncharged or uncollected sales tax on Internet sales. According to our Joint Fiscal Office, buying online costs Vermont in two ways — first, in brick and mortar sales, and second, in sales tax. This year's estimate is that we are losing nearly \$50 million in sales taxes. Think about that. When our budget gap is \$112 million, \$50 million is a result of the loss of these sales taxes. Without them, we are cutting programs, threatening layoffs and forced to find replacement revenue from other sources.

It is my hope we can move toward a more equitable taxation system prior to changing our education finance system. If we can strengthen this foundation, and if we can figure a way to capture lost sales taxes, we will alleviate some of the difficult budget situations we find, now on an annual basis.

Thank you for your continued emails on the issues that matter to you most. Please keep them coming!

Rep. Rebecca Ellis

Town Meeting week was a great time to reconnect with voters and hear your thoughts and concerns. The Legislature continues to wrestle with balancing the state budget, reigning in health care costs, and maintaining quality education for our children. As of this writing, many proposals are still up in the air. What seems certain is that we will not be able to avoid difficult spending decisions. That said, the Legislature has made progress on a number of bills, including several environmental measures that passed through the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee.

Municipal officials from St. Albans and Burlington visited the Legislature in early March and requested a streamlined procedure for handling and disposing of development soils from downtown locations. In today's industrial world, most urban soils are contaminated with PAHs, lead and arsenic, making development in downtown areas more expensive and complicated than other locations. H.269 provides for alternative management of development soils so long as the developer utilizes measures that will minimize risk to groundwater, human health and the environment. The Agency of Natural Resources is tasked with following up with rules by July 1, 2016. This legislation would facilitate several important downtown projects while maintaining strong environmental standards to protect public health.

The House also considered legislation to modernize our air pollution statutes. Under present law, sources of air pollution are required to register with the state only if they emit more than 5 tons of pollutants per year. Going forward, H.248 would give the Agency of Natural Resources authority to require registration of smaller sources of emissions, which will help the Agency track and monitor air pollution across Vermont.

Over the next few days the House is scheduled to take up Water Quality bill. This tri-partisan effort will direct significant new resources to farmers who implement practices that reduce water pollution. H.35 would also require towns to adopt road maintenance measures that reduce runoff and erosion, and would require urban municipalities to implement modern storm water management systems that capture and treat the polluted runoff from streets and parking lots. The Water Quality bill, which has a good chance of passage, will be a landmark piece of legislation, protecting both Lake Champlain and its tributaries.

With sap season right ahead, the Legislature is moving into high speed. Please contact us with your thoughts and concerns as you see issues develop. We look forward to hearing from you, answering your questions, and representing you in the Statehouse.

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

Development Review Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, April 14, 2015 at 7:15 pm
Huntington Town Clerk's Office, Huntington Center

Pursuant to the Huntington Zoning Regulations, the Huntington Development Review Board will hold a Conditional Use and Site Plan Review on the application by Brian Hayes for a woodworking production shop in an existing building (fka AW Palmer & Sons Woodworking) on a parcel owned by AFJ Grandchildren LLC. Property is located at 3848 Main Road.

Materials are available for viewing at the Town Office during business hours.

—Heidi Racht, Clerk
March 27, 2015



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244-4164 (H)
tom@stevensvermont.com
tstevens@leg.state.vt.us

Rep. Anne O'Brien
Chittenden 4
2406 Hinesburg Road
Richmond, VT 05477
434-4250
aobrien@leg.state.vt.us

Lucky Pup! Rendezvous at the Rabies Clinic

by Heidi Racht

Nine-year-old Zander, his parents and grandmother arrived at the Richmond/Huntington Rabies Clinic in the Richmond Rescue building before the volunteer staff had set it up for the busy day. They had come down from St. Johnsbury to adopt a puppy. About 20 minutes later, Roy and Lisa Haynes of Save Our Strays, headquartered in Huntington, arrived with a large crate full of six beautiful tan puppies with black faces and one black puppy with brindled paws. Some had long legs and a couple had short legs. There were choices - and lots of admirers. The ten-week-old lab-mix pups were originally from a litter of eight pups abandoned

Zander and his family with their newest member picked up in Richmond on Saturday, March 21. The puppies, rescued by Save Our Strays in Huntington, were a popular attraction at the Rabies Clinic - soft, cuddly and full of energy. Photo: Linda Parent



at an overcrowded shelter in Virginia. They were scheduled to be euthanized.

Save Our Strays (SOS), a non-profit animal rescue organization, has a contact there who was able to rescue them from Death Row. SOS had them examined and given age appropriate vaccines and then transported to the shelter in Huntington.

Founded in 1995, SOS places animals in homes in this area. Many are brought here from shelters in the South. The organization screens the adopters and does reference checks.

Two families, who came to pick up their pups in Richmond, had been approved earlier in the week.

Two puppies went home on Saturday and another on Sunday.

Zander had a hard choice to make between his favorite two puppies, but, after some tears of indecision, finally decided on a male, who calmly settled into his arms. The family went home late in the morning - accomplishing their goal for a successful trip to Richmond.

The 2015 Rabies Clinic, which opened early at 9:30, went until 1:30 and over 100 dogs and cats received vaccinations from veterinarian Kerry Lindemuth. Town Clerks Heidi Racht and Linda Parent registered about 70 dogs between the two towns.

[Save Our Strays, as most animal rescue nonprofit organizations, operates on a shoestring budget. Lisa Haynes said that 95% is spent on veterinary expenses, 3% on transport and supplies and 2% on administrative fees. The organization accepts tax-deductible donations at PO Box 167, Huntington, VT 05462.]

Discover the Outdoors at Family Camping Weekend

Becoming an Outdoor Family Weekend, May 29-31, offers campers a chance to learn basic outdoor skills, sample various recreational activities and spend time together as a family.

The annual event, which will be held at Stillwater State Park in Groton, is organized by University of Vermont (UVM) Extension and the Vermont Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Forests, Parks and Recreation. Although tailored to families new to camping or exploring the outdoors, veteran campers are welcome to participate.

Throughout the weekend, experts will teach workshops on everything from native wildlife and plants, orienteering and geocaching to outdoor wild game cooking, shooting sports, kayaking and mountain biking. New offerings this year include sessions on backyard forestry, basic knot tying, Vermont's furbearing animals, backcountry first aid and wilderness survival for families with young children, among others.

The \$189 fee per family (up to eight people) includes three workshops per person along with the campsite, Friday night ice cream social and Saturday night potluck supper. Other activities include a raffle, evening bonfire and bottle rocket-making station and launch.

Campers will have plenty of free time to enjoy all that the park, located on Groton Lake in the 28,000-acre Groton State Forest, has to offer including swimming, boating, bird watching

and hiking. Canoes and kayaks will be available for free rental.

The deadline for registration is May 15. Registration information and other details may be found at www.uvm.edu/extension/outdoorfamily. Due to the event's popularity, early registration is recommended. To request a disability-related accommodation to participate, please contact Gail Makuch at (802) 257-7967, ext. 301 or (800) 278-5480 (toll-free in Vermont) by April 30.

Assignment of campsites will be on a first-come, first-served basis with requests for sites adjacent to extended family or friends accommodated whenever possible. Tent, lean-to and RV sites are available.

Families interested in extending their stay may camp for no charge on Sunday night. Arrangements should be made at the park office upon arrival.

Past attendees who refer a new family will be entered in a drawing for a free weekend stay at any Vermont state park, courtesy of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Check the Becoming an Outdoor Family Weekend web site for details.

Questions about the weekend? Contact Debbie Fajans, UVM Extension 4-H Youth and Family Program coordinator, at (802) 257-7967, ext. 306, or (800) 278-5480 (toll-free in VT) or by e-mail at debbie.fajans@uvm.edu.

Valentine's Day Food Collection for the Richmond Food Shelf



On Valentine's Day, the MMU Leo Club solicited contributions for the Richmond Food Shelf in the lobby of the Richmond Market and Beverage. Pictured, left to right: Ginny Churchill, Katarina Keating, and Josie Lewis.

Leo Clubs encourage youths to develop leadership qualities by participating in social service activities. They are dependent on a Lions Club to sponsor and initiate a Leo Club. The students conduct various projects in the fields of health care, elders, children, differently abled, literacy and education, and self-development. Leos can raise funds by conducting fund-raising projects. They can conduct projects with another Leo Club, sponsoring Lions club, or with an outside organization. Leo Clubs are sponsored by Lions clubs and comprise an official program of the

Lions clubs international.

The MMU Leo Club completed a Fall Cleanup activities at 17 different homes on November 3. They also have fundraisers, from which the funds will be used to defray travel expenses to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, where they plan to spend a week or two volunteering next summer. The students have been in touch with Senator Bernie Sanders, who expressed interest in supporting the trip when he met the officers during Harvest Market this year



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JOB OPENING

ROAD CREW PERSON

Town of Huntington Seeks Highway Road Crew Member

The Town of Huntington is hiring a permanent full-time experienced road crew person. This position involves all Highway Dept. activities including plowing, sanding, salting, highway/bridge maintenance & repair, and equipment operation & maintenance. Requires a Class 'B' CDL license and clean driving record; flexible schedule (including nights & weekends); and the ability to pass drug screening tests. Must be able to lift 50 to 100 lbs. Salary is commensurate with experience. The Town offers an excellent benefits package. The job description & employment application are available online at www.huntingtonvt.org, at the Town Garage, or from the Town Administrator.

Applications must be received by the Town Administrator at 4930 Main Road, Huntington VT 05462 or by email (townhunt@gmavt.net) no later than 4:00 pm Monday, April 13. Candidates must be available to begin work on May 18.

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June 15-19 Tiny Tots Camp (3,4 yr olds)
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June 29-July 3 Historical Doll Camp 2 (7-9 yr olds) \$150 ½ day, \$225/full day

July 6- July 10 Morning Fairytale Princess Ballerina Camp (5, 6 yr olds) \$150, 9-noon

July 6-July 10 Morning Improv. and Acting Camp (12+) for any dance discipline \$150 9-noon

July 6-July 10 Afternoon Musical Theatre Camp (preteens) \$150, 1-4PM

July 6-July 10 combined camps \$225 full day

July 11/12 Weekend Jazz Intensive with Erin Johnson **ADVANCED LEVEL** 12-2 PM Sat, Sun

July 13-17 Hip Hop and Contemporary Camp (12-14 yr olds) \$225 full day

July 18/19 Weekend Jazz Intensive with Erin Johnson **BEGINNER/INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**

July 20-24 Exploring Dance Camp (8-12 yr olds) \$225 full day

July 27- 31 Ballet Camp (7-9 yr olds) 9-noon \$150

July 27-31 Hip Hop Camp for kids! (7- 9 yr olds) 9-noon \$150 Molly and Addie

July 27-31 Ballet Evening Summer Intensive Beg Pointe and PPrep 5-7:30 PM \$150*
**discount available if combined with camp below or summer classes*

Aug 3-7 Ballet Summer Intensive Camp: PPrep and Beg Pointe 9 AM -2PM \$220*
**discount available if combined with camp above or summer classes*

Aug 3-7 Hip Hop Morning Summer Intensive: Preteens and Teens 9 AM-noon

Aug 17-21 Ballet Summer Intensive: Pointe Prep and beyond 9 AM-3:30



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arabesqueetc.com

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News from Area Churches

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church
Father Lance Harlow, 434-2521

One of the most delightful things I perform at Easter, beyond all the solemn Masses and beautiful liturgies of Holy Week, is the blessing of Easter baskets. By that I don't mean the baskets laden with milk chocolate bunnies that one buys at the store, but the baskets from families who maintain the Catholic traditions of Poland and other Eastern European nations. These baskets are amazing and deeply symbolic—not to mention delicious! I would like to describe it for you because I believe it is important to preserve cultural traditions and identity. Sadly, many of these traditions have been abandoned by generations of "Americanized" people who have lost not only their language, but also their religious and culinary identity.

Usually there is a large wicker basket with a handle which is lined with an embroidered cloth or some kind of fabric representative of the country. The typical Polish basket includes the following foods and what they symbolize: Bacon—represents God's bountiful mercy; Bread—represents the staff of life given by God; Easter bread— a round loaf of sweet bread with raisins represents the risen Jesus from the dead; Butter—this is shaped into a lamb with a special mold. This dairy product represents the end of Lent and fasting; Candle—symbolizes Jesus the light of the world. The priest or the family can light the candle during the blessing; Cheese—reminds us of moderation. Eggs—these are hard-boiled, colored and uncolored, indicative of new life; Ham—symbolizes joy and abundance; Sausage (Kielbasa)—the sausage links symbolize the chains of death which are broken with Jesus' Resurrection from the dead; Horseradish—reminiscent of Jesus bitter passion and suffering; Salt—preserves us from corruption; Sweets/candy—suggest the promise of eternal life.

The traditional Polish basket is then decorated with sprigs of boxwood and dried flowers and colorful paper. Then, when it is all finished, it is covered with a white linen cloth representing the burial shroud of Jesus. The basket is brought to the church by the family and I bless each item in the basket with a particular blessing. While other Eastern European baskets may vary, they contain the essential delicious ingredients that are eaten on the feast of Easter Sunday.

I love to see the families who come for this blessing and applaud their efforts to maintain their language and tradition because it adds another layer of beauty to the traditions of the Church.

Richmond Congregational Church

Rev. Katelyn B. Macrae
434-2053 / katelyn@rccucc.org

After a long cold winter, spring is coming. I love wintertime, and the ways that the trees and fields glisten with a fresh coat of snow. But then there's the other side of winter, dealing with snow, cold and the lack of sunlight. Winter can be exhausting and challenging. I am ready for spring and for new life

to break forth and for the whole world to wake up. It seems to be approaching slowly this year, but the signs are apparent. We've had a bit of a warm spell this week, and the snow on the driveway is finally melted. I never knew I could be so excited to see those patches of brown and greenish grass emerge as lawns become more visible around town.

In our church life, our spiritual journey parallels the change of seasons. Since mid-February we've been traveling through Lent and using these forty days as an opportunity to re-orient ourselves and our lives to God. Throughout Lent, we've admitted the ways that we turn away from God and fall short of living the full, rich, and blooming lives that God has created us for.

As we begin to prepare for Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday on March 29 and culminating with Easter Sunday on April 5, we will go on a journey with Jesus that reaches both the lowest depths of the human experience, death, as well as the joy and promise of the Resurrection, the miracle that God can and does raise up new life in the face of death.

Looking around at the melting snow, I see new life appearing again. Spring is coming, and nature is reminding us of the great resurrection promises of our God! I do hope you will join us for Easter, either for our Sunrise Service at 7 am at Volunteer's Green in Richmond, or at 10 am for worship in our Sanctuary. As the seasons change, I pray you will be blessed with the peace, hope, love, and joy of our God!

Community Church of Huntington
Larry Detweiler, 434-6715

One of our most treasured traditions at our community church is the Easter sunrise service at the top of Cozzens Road off of Hinesburg Hollow and Lincoln Hill. We gather in the field outside the Cozzens' log cabin home with expansive views to the west and east, including Camels Hump. We gather around a warm fire to sing a few songs accompanied by Dave on the guitar and a reading of the resurrection story as written by John in his Gospel account. Throughout our very informal service, we wait watchfully for the sun to rise and embrace us with its warmth. After taking it all in, we head indoors for a potluck breakfast that includes egg casseroles, fruit, sticky buns and other assorted treats. Everyone is welcome!

I can't say just yet when the service will begin. We track the rising of the sun over the course of several weeks prior to Easter so we time it just right. I can say that Easter day arrives April 5 this year, the first Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox. So we will keep you posted.

I, personally, keep tabs on the sun much more closely these past few years. I now have two solar arrays and a heat pump which includes a website that allows me to track the production of kWh each day. Surprising to me, but not to others more experienced; my highest production day was about this time last year, March 23rd. I can trace the trajectory of my commitment to clean energy and solar power back to 2011, Bill McKibben and 350.org. It was a conversion moment in the making when I opened the local paper that late summer day in 2011 with the call to join McKibben and others to D.C. for a protest in front of the White House. I couldn't just protest, though; I had to do something. So my wife bought a Prius and I purchased two solar arrays. Fun!

Vermont has helped to share the good news of Easter with me. With each sunrise, I'm reminded that God's work of reconciliation and peace extends to all of his creation, including this beautiful earth that blesses us all. McKibben is calling again. This time, he wants to gather at Harvard Yard on April 18 for divestment from fossil fuel companies. Easter tells me, "Go!"

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Calendar of Events

FIRST & THIRD TUESDAY: Free car seat inspections, Richmond Rescue, 216 Railroad St., 9 am to noon. Call Mike Chiarella for an appointment: 434-2394.

3RD THURSDAY: Shelburne Vineyard UNFILTERED Wine and Poetry Series, begins at 6 pm. Opportunity for poets and poetry lovers to gather to read and listen. All poets, genres and topics welcome. Wine available in the Tasting Room. Free, no reservations necessary. Information: shelburnevineyard.com or Shelburne Vineyard on Facebook, 985-8222.

1ST THURSDAY: Essex Art League meeting, 9 to 11, Essex Junction Congregational Church, Rt. 15. Business and social time, and features a guest artist presentation. Calendar: www.essexartleague.com

TUESDAYS: DeStress Yoga class, 5:45-7 pm www.balanceyogavt.com

SATURDAYS: Flow Yoga, 9 to 10:30, See: www.balanceyogavt.com.

2ND TUESDAY: Champlain Valley Prostate Cancer Support Group, 6 to 8 pm, Hope Lodge, 237 East Ave, Burlington. Mary L. Guyette RN, MS, ACNS-BC, 802-274-4990

FEBRUARY 13-APRIL 19: OUTSIDE IN: ART OF THE STREET, Middlebury. Exhibition presents the graphic art of 19 street artists whose prestige has carried them from urban legend into high-profile international art museums and galleries. Free. Information: www.middlebury.edu/events

MONTH OF MARCH: 3rd Annual A SHOW OF HANDS, featuring 100 decorated wooden hands at Penny Cluse Café in Burlington. A silent auction of the hands will take place on Thursday, April 2, from 5:30-7:30 pm. The exhibit and auction are a benefit for HANDS, a local non-profit striving

to close some gaps in getting food to older Vermonters. 169 Cherry Street, Monday-Friday, 6:45 am to 3 pm, as well as weekends and holidays from 8 am to 3 pm. Information: www.handsvt.org.

MARCH 8-APRIL 15: Young Vermont Lifestyles, an exhibition of Mt. Mansfield Union High School students, Jericho Town Hall.

APRIL 6 & APRIL 9: AARP Free Tax Prep Help, 9:15 am, 10 am, 10:45 am & 11:30 am, Brownell Library, Essex Junction. For taxpayers with low and middle incomes, especially those age 60 and older, Tak And Dorothy Ng, AARP foundation certified tax preparers, will offer 45 minute appointments. Call 878-6955 to schedule an appointment.

Scholarship Funding Available for Vermont Child Care Centers

Funding is now available for Vermont child care centers to support children of preschool age in need of assistance through the Edwards Child Care Scholarship Fund at the Vermont Community Foundation.

With funding from the O.P. and W.E. Edwards Foundation, the Vermont Community Foundation has been providing qualified child care centers with scholarships for underserved families since 1990. The Board of Directors of the Edwards Foundation intends for the scholarship program to benefit children of preschool age who seem to be getting "lost in the

APRIL 9: Join Terry Galloway for a discussion of her memoir, MEAN LITTLE DEAF QUEER, 7 pm, Phoenix Books Burlington, 191 Bank Street. Galloway is a writer, director and performer for stage, radio, video and film. Before her cochlear implant in 2010, she was a deaf lip reader with a lateral lisp. In 2009, her memoir became a Lambda Award finalist, a winner of the Golden Crown award for non-fiction and garnered Galloway one of her three Florida Division of Cultural Affairs Individual Artist Awards. \$3 per person, includes a coupon for \$5 off MEAN LITTLE DEAF QUEER. Tickets will be available at either Phoenix Books location starting on March 26, and coupons expire at closing the evening of the event. Information: www.phoenixbooks.biz or 448-3350

cracks" when the day care subsidy is not enough or the child falls just outside of federal or state program eligibility criteria. The fund was established to help those who, as a result of geographic or economic isolation, may face difficulties preparing for elementary school.

Any nonprofit child care center in Vermont with demonstrated participation of children from economically stressed families is eligible to apply. Grants up to \$2,000 are awarded. Applications will be accepted through 5 pm on May 1, 2015. Visit www.vermontcf.org/availablegrants to learn more.

Discovering Community Summer Institute

The Vermont Folklife Center's Summer Institute, DISCOVERING COMMUNITY: STUDENTS, DIGITAL MEDIA, AND PLACE-BASED LEARNING, brings together educators for an intensive five-day program July 13-17 in Middlebury.

The Institute offers participants basic hands-on experience learning the methods of community-based research, the process of making a mini documentary, and the skills of working with digital media in a school setting. Over the course of an action-packed week, Discovering Community participants work with cultural researchers, media specialists, and fellow educators to explore the power of ethnographic field research and techniques for working with digital audio, video, and photography as documentary tools. Using the Middlebury community as a classroom, Discovering Community models simple strategies for deepening students' relationships to their own hometowns.

The Discovering Community Summer Institute builds on the Vermont Folklife Center's many years with educators on community-based projects, the ever-expanding array of digital devices with recording capabilities, and the do-it-yourself editing and production opportunity that digital technology affords. Three graduate credits are available through Castleton State College upon completion of this course.

For registration, tuition, or other information about the Discovering Community Summer Institute: www.discoveringcommunity.org, 802-388-4964 or info@vermontfolklifecenter.org.

The Vermont Folklife Center seeks to broaden, strengthen, and deepen understanding of Vermont and the surrounding region; to assure a repository for collective cultural memory.



Come and celebrate the arrival of spring at Gruppe Gallery at 22 Barber Farm Road in Jericho on Monday, April 13 at 1 pm. Immerse yourself in the colors and textures of paintings by Montpelier artist John Weaver, and listen to John speak about his work. His talk will help us to understand and appreciate his art. If you've never been to Gruppe Gallery, it's an excellent opportunity to check out this community gem which sponsors many exhibits during the course of the year. If you like art, but sometimes wonder if you know how to really look at a piece of art or how to discuss it, John's talk will provide insight and help you to better enjoy a visit to an art exhibit.

M*A*S*H is the final film in this year's Not to Be Missed Movies series. It will play on April 15 at 12:30 at the Richmond Free Library. This '70s classic is a dark comedy about a medical team during the Korean War. It stars Donald Sutherland as Hawkeye Pierce and Elliot Gould as Trapper John who along with characters Col Henry Blake, Cpl 'Radar' O'Reilly, Major Margaret 'Hot Lips' Houlihan, Major Frank Burns, and Father Mulcahy all help to show the insanity of war. The movie later led to the long-running popular TV series. If you need a ride, please call John and Pam in Richmond at 434-3658 or Debbie in Huntington at 434-3169.

Save These Dates for Community Senior Center Fund Raising Events:

May 15 at 7 pm — Captain Richard Phillips of Underhill will tell his story of being hijacked on the high seas. You may have seen the movie, but there's nothing like hearing this dramatic story of survival from the man himself. This event will be open to all ages.

May 27 at 7 pm — Elaine Greenberg Piano Associates Recital will fill the Richmond Free Library with music.

Regular Meetings

SELECTBOARD:

Huntington: 1st & 3rd Mondays, 7 pm, Town Office.

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

SCHOOL BOARD:

Mt. Mansfield HS: 2nd Thursday, 7:30 pm, Meetings rotate among MMU, BRMS, CHMS.

Richmond: 3rd Wed, 6:30 pm, Richmond Elem. School

Huntington: 2nd Tues, 6:30 pm, Brewster-Pierce School.

MMMUSD: 1st & 3rd Monday of the Month, 6:30 pm, Camels Hump Middle School (location will change July 1).

PLANNING COMMISSION

Huntington: 1st & 3rd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office.

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

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

Huntington: 2nd Tues., 7 pm, Town Office

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

WATER & SEWER COMMISSION

Richmond: 1st Mon., Town Center

SCOUTS

Richmond: Cub Scout Pack 646 meets 7-8 pm, last Wednesday of the month, Camel's Hump Middle School music room pit.

Huntington: Boy Scout Troop 645, Sun, 10 am or Wed, 6:30 pm, Community Church of Huntington, John Christiana (johnpchristiana@gmail.com) or Mike Flock (mflock23@gmavt.net).

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Richmond: 2nd Tues, 7 pm, Town Ctr

Huntington: 2nd Thursday, 6-8 pm, Town Office (downstairs).

RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

RICHMOND TRAILS COMMITTEE

Richmond: 3rd Tues, 7 pm, Town Center Meeting Room

CSWD Richmond Drop-Off Center

Open all year Tuesday, 8-3:30; Thursday, 9:30-5; Saturday, 8-3:30. Located on Route 117 (80 Roger's Lane). 872-8111.

RICHMOND LAND TRUST:

First Thursday. Monitor Barn Annex. All are welcome. Dan Martin, (4231).

TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

Huntington: 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm, Town Office

LIBRARY

Richmond: Library Board, 1st Thursday, 6 pm, Richmond Free Library, 434-3036.

Huntington: Library Board, 4th Tues, 7 pm, Union Meeting House, 434-4583

RICHMOND RESCUE

Friends of Richmond Rescue: meet as needed, Rescue Bldg., Richmond. 434-2394. New members welcome!

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Beacon Light Grange: For information, call Master Darceline Lewis-Wedge at 482-2532.

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

HHCT (Huntington Historic and Community Trust): 3rd Tues, Huntington Public Library, 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

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

Prostate Cancer Support Group: Meeting Location: Hope Lodge, 237 East Ave, Burlington, second Tues each month, 6 pm to 8 pm. General discussion and sharing among survivors and those beginning or rejoining the battle. Mary L. Guyette RN, MS, ACNS-BC. 802-274-4990.

Richmond Community Band (RCB) Richmond Community Band rehearsals 7 pm to 9 pm. Mondays at Camels Hump Middle School. All band instruments are sought. Info: 434 2972.

Huntington Playgroup Fridays, 10 am, newborn through preschool (with older siblings welcome) Residents from any town are welcome.

Worship

Community Church of Huntington: (See article, above, for specific activities.) Sunday morning Worship 9 am. Communion: 1st Sunday. Senior Luncheon 3rd Tuesday (434-3155). Small Groups: Tuesday at 10 am and Wednesday at 7 pm at host homes in Huntington (Larry Detweiler 434-6715).

Richmond Congregational Church, United Church of Christ: 20 Church Street., 434-2053. Sunday Worship with 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.hinesburgma.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: Worship at 8 am & 11am-Winter; 9 am-Summer; Nursery care 9:30 am; Fellowship, 10:30 am; Youth Group 6:15 pm; 899-4911; www.jcvc.org; On the Green in Jericho Center. Pastor Glenn Carter.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: 273 Vt Rte 15 (near Brown Trace Rd) Jericho, 899-3932, Rev. Philip Raushay, Pastor, Worship Service: 9 am (Nursery Care provided) Sunday School & Bible Study: 10:30 am. www.GoodShepherd-Jericho.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.

Episcopal Gathering in the Jerusalem Schoolhouse (behind the Jerusalem Country Store, South Starksboro, Rte 17). Holy Communion Service 9:30 am first and thirds Sundays. Rev. Molly Bidwell, 453-5537.

Calvary Episcopal Church Route 15, Underhill, (899-2326) Sunday Eucharist/Sunday school 9:30 am. Nursery available, handicapped accessible, coffee hour following service. Rev. Regina Christianson. www.calvarychurchvt.org

Church News now on previous page.

2015 APRIL THE SPRING MONTH SWEET PEAL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FISHING FOR TROUT IS FUN	The colors of April are Green and Yellow	ALL FOOLS' DAY AND FUN DAY	2	3	GOOD FRIDAY	4 FULL MOON OF PASSOVER
5 EASTER Jesus CHRIST	6 PEARY 1909 DISCOVERED THE NORTH POLE	7 WORLD HEALTH DAY	8	9	10	11 TROUT FISHING STARTS LAST QUAR.
12	13 THOMAS JEFFERSON 1743	14 LINCOLN 1865 ASSASSINATED,	15	16	17	18 NEW MOON RIDE OF PAUL REVERE 1775
19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24 ARBOR DAY PLANT A TREE	25 FIRST QUAR. U.N. FORMED BY 46 NATIONS AT 1945 SAN FRANCISCO
26 WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY	27 JULY SSES GRANT 1822	28 JAMES MONROE 1758	29 UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER SIGNED BY GERMANY 1945	30		

Service Directory



Animal Care

THE CRATE ESCAPE Do you worry about your animals when you are away from home? Worry no more! We offer quality daycare and overnight boarding for dogs. Our dogs get lots of exercise and attention. We also do catsitting and mid-day dog walks at your home. Baths for dogs are offered Conveniently located on Rt 2 next to Interstate exits. 434-6411. [07/14]

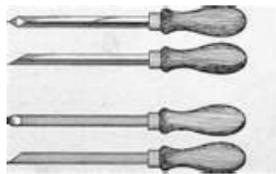
RICHMOND ANIMAL HOSPITAL Drs. Virginia Clarke, Cori Weiner and Daniel Hament, Veterinarians. Main Street, Richmond across from Harringtons. Full-service pet hospital. Call 434-4935 for day or evening appointments or emergencies. [04/14]

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Catering



INTERESTED IN A SERVICE DIRECTORY LISTING?

If you would like to purchase space in the Service Directory or if your current listing expires soon (check the date at the end of your listing), write to the address for Classified Ads. Cost is \$25 for 3 months, \$40 for 6 months, \$60 per year, .20/word for listings over 20 words. We reserve the right to edit for content, spelling and grammar.

Cleaning



Dental

Excavating / Mowing

BILL ATWOOD EXCAVATING Driveways, ditching, grading, culverts replaced, drainage systems, house sites, septic systems, clearing. Excavator/dozer Bolton, 244-7495. [04/16]



Fuel Sales & Service

Gardening / Tilling



Gifts & Antiques

Hair Salon

BRIDGE STREET HAIR: Full service hair salon, tanning salon, Axxium Nails, manicures, pedicures. Hair products, jewelry, scarves and gifts. Gift certificates available. Appointments or drop-ins for all ages. Denise Begins Barnard, owner/operator. 46 Bridge Street, 434-2220. [1/16]



Landscaping

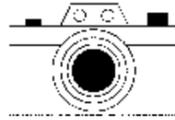


Lawn Care / Plowing

Laundry Service

Legal Services

BRIAN K. VALENTINE, ESQ., practicing in the areas of estate planning, probate, family law, and appeals. Meets with clients locally. A partner with the Burlington general practice law firm of Mickenberg, Dunn, Lachs & Smith, PLC (which also handles worker's compensation, real estate, and personal injury matters). Phone: (Daytime) 658-6951; (Evenings) 434-2162. Email: brian@mickdunn.com. [04/14]



Photography

MARY CLAIRE CARROLL PHOTOGRAPHY I love taking photographic portraits that transform the way you see yourself. Call me for individual, family, business, or high school senior portraits. www.carrollphotos.com 434-2312

PENNIE RAND PHOTOGRAPHY Outdoor portraits (family, individual, children), Weddings, Special Events, Sporting Events, Art Projects. 434-6047

Professional Services

GROVER ENGINEERING, PC Design and permitting services for water supply, wastewater, stormwater, Act 250, site designs, ponds, site surveys. 434-2989 [02/15]

HILLVIEW DESIGN COLLABORATIVE Full range of architectural services for large and small projects. Creating places that suit the needs of people: budget and expectations. Energy efficient and cost effective design solutions for new construction, renovations, additions. www.hillviewdesign.com, 434-2225, info@hillviewdesign.com [12/14]

Repair

FARR FAMILY REPAIR SERVICE Farm tractors, compact, snowblowers, all small engines, lawn and garden, chainsaw, chain and Hydraulic Hoses. 434-2151. [05/14]

SHATTUCK WELDING & REPAIR Fabrication and repair on stainless steel, steel and aluminium. Shop and mobile truck available. 434-3047 or cell 324-5660. [03/14]

YOUNG'S SMALL ENGINE REPAIR Repair and service of all small engines. Chainsaws sharpened. Jim Young, 3147 Dugway Road, 434-3993. [11/14]



Sewing



Towing & Crane Service

CRANE SERVICE 23-ton National Crane with 80' reach, mounted on flatbed Freightliner truck; optional two-man rotating work basket. Available with operator for your lifting and hauling needs. Call Duncan at Liberty Head Post and Beam: 434-2120.

Weddings

HAVE YOUR DREAM WEDDING at the Sleepy Hollow Round Barn in Huntington. A beautiful 17-sided barn that can seat up to 165. Let your family and friends enjoy over 800 acres of true Vermont. Two nights in our Eight bedroom Inn is included. Dates still available for next summer and fall. Please visit www.skisleepyhollow.com for more information or call 434-2283. [12/14]

FLOWERS FOR YOUR WEDDING Natural-looking, graceful wedding flowers: bouquets, table arrangements; planted arrangements in urns and pots. Colorful Vermont-grown flowers also used in season. Pleasant Mount Farm, Huntington. 434-2690 [10/15]



Wellness

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PSYCHOTHERAPIST Are you confused and out of balance? Are you looking for meaning instead of stuff? Over 30 years experience. Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W. H: 434-3941 O: 229-2770



Employment

CLASSIFIED ADS* All ads must be Prepaid! No phone call, please.

Rates: \$4 for first 20 words. 25¢ each additional word

Deadline: See dates on bottom of page 1

*Personal, NOT BUSINESS ADS. Business ads must appear a minimum of 3 mos in the Service Directory

Number of appearances: _____

Price/month _____ Total _____

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Richmond Farmers Market welcomes applications from interested vendors.

Come join a fun, weekly community-building event where everything sold is grown or made by the vendor. Our market runs Fridays, 3-6:30, May 29 to Oct. 16. Full-season, half-season, day vendor, and shared-booth options are available. For fees, rules, and other details, see our application form on our website RichmondFarmersMarketVT.org or email RFMmanager@gmail.com. Applications received by April 10 will receive first priority.



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Contact Meg Howard at advertising@timesinkvt.org

Your ad. This page. \$25.

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1.375" high x 3.25" wide



Help Wanted

The Richmond Farmers Market is seeking a Manager or Co-managers. This is a part-time position to manage one of the area's oldest and most vibrant markets. Candidates must be well-organized, community minded with excellent communication skills, both interpersonal and computer based. To express interest and to receive a full job description please contact www.richmond-farmersmarketvt.org or call Carol Mader at 434-5273 with questions.

NATURAL GAS SAFETY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Whether you are at home, at work, or in a public place, it's likely you are in an area served by natural gas pipelines. Like all forms of energy, natural gas must be handled properly. Despite an excellent safety record, a gas leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite. Natural gas pipelines are sometimes identified by signs that indicate their approximate location — but these signs should not be relied upon to indicate the exact position. As such, and because not all lines have signs, it is critical that you call **Dig Safe™ at 811** prior to any excavation.

USE YOUR SENSES TO DETECT A GAS LEAK

- **SMELL:** Natural gas is colorless and odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you will recognize it quickly.
- **SIGHT:** You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
- **SOUND:** You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing or whistling.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU SUSPECT A LEAK

- **MOVE** immediately to a safe location.
- **CALL** Vermont Gas at 1-800-639-8081 immediately, with the exact location.
- **DO NOT** smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might ignite the gas or cause an explosion.
- **DO NOT** assume someone else will report the condition.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG — IT'S THE LAW!

- The greatest risk to underground natural gas pipelines is accidental damage during excavation. Even minor damage such as a gouge, scrape or dent to a pipeline or its coating could cause a leak or failure. **Digging into a pipeline is the largest single cause of pipeline failures.**
- To protect pipelines and other underground facilities, the law requires that before starting to dig for any excavation, landscaping, construction or demolition project, on public or private property, the excavator must call **Dig Safe™ at 811 at least 48 hours in advance** (excluding weekends and holidays) to notify them of the work.
- Dig Safe™ will contact member utilities so they can mark the location of their underground facilities prior to any excavation. This service is provided at no cost to you.



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Easter Services

Richmond Congregational Church

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Worship, March 29, at 10 am,

with palms & Palm Sunday Brunch to follow worship

Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 7 pm

including a remembrance of Jesus' Last Supper, betrayal & arrest

Good Friday April 3, noon to 3 pm

Church is open for prayer and meditation

Good Friday Ecumenical Service, April 3, 7 pm worship with Williston Federated Church at RCC

Easter Sunrise Service at Volunteers Green April 5 at 7 am Followed by a light breakfast served at RCC

Easter Sunday Service, 10 am, with Special Music

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

HOLY WEEK

Good Friday Service, April 3, at 3 pm

at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Richmond

Stations of the Cross, April 3, at 7 pm

at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston

Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday, April 4, 8 pm

at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston

Easter Sunday Masses

8:30 (Richmond) & 10:30 (Williston)

Family Focus

by Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W.

Inertia

"Things won are done; joy's soul lies in the doing."

—William Shakespeare (1564-1616)

Joe, age 62, said he has felt depressed all his adult life. "Last night I couldn't even get out of my chair and walk across the room to call my son. I couldn't overcome my inertia."

Inertia is a noun defined as "a tendency to do nothing or to remain unchanged; idleness." The word "inert" is an adjective from the Latin for "unskilled, inactive, idle" and is defined as "without power to move or to resist an opposing force; tendency to remain in a fixed condition without change; inactive; sluggish; powerless; passive."

Children are not born as inert beings. On the contrary, they are alert and eager to engage and learn, quickly developing their senses and interacting with their environment. If conditions are favorable, they respond to their parents and form a close attachment. Within this bond, they learn how to manage their emotions, wishes, and needs. The enormous task for the infant and toddler is to gain self-mastery, to learn to cope with their strong inner tendencies and impulses. At the same time the infant must learn to deal with environmental frustrations, such as not having every demand satisfied immediately, despite the inner tension and anger that the experience creates.

The goal is for the baby to begin acquiring the basis for what we know as ego strength. The function of the control of the self, the "ego," Latin for "I," has also come to be known as "executive function." Ego functions included memory, intelligence, attention and alertness, self-regulation, consciousness of self and others, perception, thinking, and learning.

Dominated by inner forces, children's behavior

is driven by urges and immediate gratification. The child wants what it wants when it wants it, ignoring the helpless parent who cannot immediately satisfy the desires. As the ego develops, it is able to take into account the conditions of the situation. The mature ego learns it must work to get the world to provide what it wants. The ego deals with reality.

The parents' job is to model appropriate behavior so that gradually the child develops the ego. Depending on the help of parents and educators, the growing youngster slowly masters those strong, inner, asocial tendencies.

With training, the child gains the capacity to tolerate stress. A well-developed ego includes a strength of character and ability to fight difficulties. If the child grows up in less favorable conditions, without parents who model determination and self-discipline, she may not be able to muster the will to do what needs to be done. She gets stuck, bound by inertia, a condition that, in one form or another, may last a lifetime. It is known that Joe's parents did not provide favorable conditions for their son.

The same phenomenon can be observed in a town or whole society. Collectively, the group's lack of the ego functions of attention, perception, thinking, and learning, can result in an inability to face difficulties and a tendency to remain in a fixed condition. Unable to pursue rational thinking, they seem inclined to adhere to flawed ideas, deceiving themselves into accepting information that defies the facts or conventional wisdom. They don't believe scientists, "facts" are an inconvenience, and opinions continue unchanged. Beliefs remain fixed and passivity reigns as the seas rise, measles spread, development seizes land, and weather patterns create havoc around the world. It all begins in infancy.

(Demaris Tisdale, M.S.W., is a licensed psychotherapist. She can be reached at 434-3941.)

Aging in Place

Submitted by Scott Funk

Reverse Mortgages, New and Improved?

It has taken a few years for the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which insures Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECMs), to sort through the consequences of the worst real estate crisis in living memory and the entry of Boomers into the 62+ market. The result has been more changes recently than in the previous life of the program.

One of the most significant changes effects married couples with a non-borrowing spouse (a partner under 62 the minimum age for a HECM). Under the new rules, the non-borrowing spouse can remain in the home even after the borrower dies.

Costs to set up a HECM have become much more competitive. New options can make the closing costs even lower than those for traditional mortgages.

HECM for Purchase is also becoming more popular. This is a way to use a HECM to buy a home. It's a large down payment, no monthly payment mortgage. This can double a homebuyer's purchasing power over cash alone and can also help to preserve money for a nest egg.

There are now limits on how much of the available funds a borrower can access during the first year of a HECM. For those needing 60% or less of available funds, the cost for the Initial Mortgage Insurance Premium is substantially reduced.

Perhaps the most talked-about change is Financial Assessment. This is due to be rolled out April 27 and will impact all new applications as of that date. Financial Assessment requires lenders to consider borrowers' willingness and capacity to meet their housing and other obligations.

For borrowers with good credit and adequate income, Financial Assessment will only mean more paperwork. The impact will be greater for those who have struggled with their obligations. Past credit problems and not having residual income equal to expenses will have to be taken into account. Financial Assessment could mean the need to escrow HECM funds for future property taxes and insurance costs.

While a tough pill for some to swallow, the goal of Financial Assessment is to maintain the viability of the HECM program for the long term. It is also to aid those homeowners who might not actually be able to afford their housing expenses, to understand that borrowing more against the property might not be their best long-term solution.

Aging in Place, it doesn't happen by accident and it seems to mean encountering change constantly.

(Former Richmond resident Scott Funk is Vermont's leading Aging in Place advocate, writing and speaking around the state on issues of concern to retirees and their families. He works as a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage and HECM for Purchase specialist. You can access previous Aging in Place columns and Scott's blogs at scottfunk.org.)

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