

R^{the} HINESBURG Record

APRIL 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

Here are some of good things going on around town.

- The Town of Hinesburg has posted much what you need to know as well COVID-19 Help Resources & Info at hinesburg.org/
- Town police, fire, water/wastewater and road departments continue to function fully.
- Town Hall also has engaged in remote office and meeting practices.

Below is the latest from the Town Administrator.

TOWN INFO

BY RENAE MARSHALL,
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

As the information regarding the novel coronavirus has continued to evolve, we have been in close communication with the Vermont Department of Health, Vermont Emergency Management and local school officials. In order to best protect our most vulnerable populations, the elderly and those with

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Mud Season Trail Closures

BY JANE SHELDON, TRAILS
COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mother Nature throws mud at us on different schedules each year, but most commonly in March or April. At the higher elevations she may continue her harassment into May. Mud season is inevitable in Vermont and we must learn to adapt as best we can. That means giving up trail usage for a few weeks each spring. It's a sacrifice for those of us who want to get outside when the temperature rises, but it's a very important one.

Hiking on wet or slushy trails can cause irreparable damage to ecosystems; by compacting soil, killing vegetation and causing erosion.

Erosion exposes rocks and roots, and causes future flooding. When hikers try to avoid the worst of the muck by walking on the trails' far edges, more damage is caused to even more vegetation.

When you see "Trails Closed for Mud Season" signs, please find an alternative site to hike. Hinesburg has miles of lightly traveled dirt roads,

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Cartoon by Emily Benning

CVU Theatre Production a Hit

BY CANDY PADULA

The CVU Theatre Program presented its biennial student directed production, Monty Python's Edukational Show, March 13-15. This is a new offering from the iconic comedy team, making many of their classic

sketches and songs available for production by high school students. This year's group of five student directors brought life to sketches such as "Dead Parrot," "Cheese Shop," "Four Yorkshiremen," "The Ministry of Silly Walks" and "Crunchy Frog," to name a few.

Monty Python's Edukational Show also featured projected animations from the classic television show "Monty Python's Flying Circus."

The student directors rehearsed with a cast of 40 actors for the last 2 months

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Dancers perform the traditional Fish Schlapping Dance of Finland. (L to R Miranda Hamlet, Clara Cichoskikelly, Lily Clark, Ray Lindsley, Miranda Gagne, Anders Erikson.) Photo Credit - Kelcie Kruk

*Hinesburg's
independent,
nonprofit
community
newspaper*

INSIDE...

Welcome Baby Brunch

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Tree Tapping Scouts

Page 16-17: Local sugarmaker explains process to Boy Scout Troop 690.

Service Directory & Calendar of Events

Page 16-17: At-a-glance view of community services and events.

BACK STORIES

of Hinesburg

The Future of Lot 15

Page 24: With Hannaford's pulling the plug on a store, what will become of this undeveloped land?

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Deadline for our next Issue: April 16, 2020

Please send your article as an attached file to: news@hinesburgrecord.org. Or call us at 999-2410.

You may also use the drop box at the Giroux home at 327 Charlotte Road to drop off hard copy articles and photographs.

Contact us at ads@hinesburgrecord.org for ads or call us at 482-7227.

Deadlines for 2020

| Advertisement/News | Publication Date |
|------------------------|------------------|
| April 16..... | April 30 |
| May 14 | May 28 |
| June 11 | June 25 |
| August 13..... | August 27 |
| September 10..... | September 24 |
| October 15 | October 29 |
| November 13..... | November 27 |
| January 14, 2021 | January 28, 2021 |

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One year subscriptions are available for a \$15 donation to The Hinesburg Record, Inc., PO Box 304, Hinesburg, Vermont 05461. Please print the name and address clearly.

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Town News

Town Clerk & Treasurer

BY MISSY ROSS

We had a very busy election, which seems like a long time ago now given all that has transpired in the last couple of weeks. I hope this finds everyone doing well and staying healthy. We had just over 1900 voters, which is a large number for a typical town meeting. The Presidential Primary, in addition to three

contested Selectboard seats created a lot of interest and hence lots of participation. The full town results are available on the town website at www.hinesburg.org. Many thanks to everyone for their help and support during this busy time for the clerk's office. I truly appreciate it! Thank you to Tom Ayer for his many years of dedicated service to the community. Merrily Lovell will return for another 3-year term and newcomers Jeff Tobrocke and Michael Loner take two seats on the Board. I wish all of them the best in their important roles on the Board. I would also like to thank the townspeople for re-electing me to

Letters

Letter Policy

The Hinesburg Record welcomes letters from local residents and from others who are involved in issues that effect our town. The opinions expressed in the Letters to the Editor are those of the writers.

All letters must be signed. Addresses and phone numbers must also be provided for verification purposes. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

Letters should be brief. We do not have precise guidelines for length but reserve the right to edit based on available space. To the extent possible, letters should focus on local issues. Other forums exist for discussions of statewide, national, and international issues.

With these cautions, please keep those letters rolling in. Send them via email to news@hinesburgrecord.org, mail them to The Hinesburg Record, P.O. Box 304 or to 327 Charlotte Road, Hinesburg, VT 05461, or deliver them to the Record drop box on Charlotte Road.

Lake Iroquois Improvements

Efforts to address ecological problems in Lake Iroquois should be based on facts and scientific knowledge. Geologically, Lake Iroquois is a glacially-formed kettle pond with a relatively deep basin surrounded by shallow littoral areas. Ecologically, the lake is eutrophic, with a high level of phosphorus, nitrogen, chlorophyll, and aquatic plants. It has been eutrophic for de-

cadec, evidenced by the 1972 chart showing extensive "weed beds" in the north end and in several shallow spots.

Recent efforts have concentrated on the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil plant. This invasive species is confined to the shallow, littoral areas of the lake. The milfoil plant is spread primarily by plant fragments chopped up by propellers. In some spots, native plants, such as lilies and pondweed, compete successfully with milfoil. Milfoil and other plants do not grow in the deeper areas of the lake. The eutrophic problems of high nutrient content and algae pervade the entire lake. Other than phosphorus, nitrogen, and some chloride, the lake's waters contain little or no chemical pollutants. Bass fishing is excellent. Much of the lake's shoreline is wooded. There are, however, significant portions of the shoreline that continue to be clear-cut to the shore. Shoreline buffers are scientifically known to improve water quality and are protected by the Shoreline Protection Act. Trees along the shoreline provide shade that inhibits the growth of milfoil.

Rather than funding plant toxins and herbicides in an attempt to control the ecosystem, efforts to improve water quality should be directed to extending shoreline buffers, eliminating clear-cut shores, concentrating plant harvesting in littoral areas of the lake used by power boats, and educating power boaters about the importance of avoiding fragmenting milfoil plants. Undertaking these clean alternatives to the milfoil problem can be supported by the entire community.

Daniel Sharpe

another 3-year term. I am so grateful to have your continued support and I look forward to serving all of you in whatever way I can.

Dog licenses are typically due by April 1. However, in light of the closure of the town hall to the public, we are extending the period for licensing by a month until May 1. If you mail us a check for \$10 per dog, along with a copy of a valid rabies certificate, we will mail you the tags and the paper license. Stamped, self-addressed envelopes are appreciated but not necessary. Please do not send a bill showing the dog received a rabies shot as this doesn't suffice as evidence of a rabies vaccine. If you can't find the Rabies Certificate, please contact your vet and ask them to mail it to us, fax it to 482-5404 or e-mail it to mross@hinesburg.org. There is a drop box on the back porch at town hall where you can drop a check to request the dog license or drop other payments. PLEASE DO NOT DEPOSIT CASH IN THE DROP SLOT. Thank you!

Water and sewer payments and property tax payments can also be dropped in the drop box out back. Again, you may only deposit checks or money orders made out to the Town of Hinesburg. Water and Sewer bills will be coming out sometime in early April. Stay tuned! Thank you for your understanding during these difficult times.

HCRC Programs and Services During COVID-19 National Emergency

BY RACHEL KRING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HINESBURG COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Safety and health of our community is very important to us. With that in mind, we are making a few changes to Hinesburg Community Resource Center programs and services during the COVID-19 national emergency:

Friends of Families programs, including playgroups at the Town Hall and the Library, as well as the April Clothing & Book Swap, will be suspended until May 1 (we will reevaluate as necessary, and we will reschedule the swap when possible).

The Food Shelf is still open to serve the needs of our community. We are

changing operations a little for increased safety, including frequent wipe-downs of high touch areas and having guests stay in cars in more of a "drive-through" manner rather than shopping the shelves. If you are ill, please have someone pick up for you or call us at 482-4946 to ask about delivery.

Our emergency assistance fund is always here for families who are facing a crisis. Please call Rachel (during office hours 9-5) at 482-4946.

Twice is Nice will be open as of the time of this article, and we will be wiping down any high touch areas. For recent updates, please visit facebook.com/twiceisnicehinesburg/

There is no doubt that many families in our community could be under significant financial and food stress in the coming weeks, and all the offers of help we have received are much appreciated. If you would like to help us respond to increased needs, please consider supporting neighbors with a donation to HCRC. That allows us the flexibility to order what we need from the Vermont Food Bank and to direct funds where they are most needed. Online donations are best and are gratefully accepted at www.hinesburgresource.org. Checks can be mailed to HCRC at PO Box 444, Hinesburg, VT 05461.

Our Board will be talking regularly and adjusting as the situation evolves. We hope this is a time for our amazing community to come together and to look out for each other!

Tobrocke Declared Winner After Recount in Close Race

BY NICKIE MORRIS AND MERYL BRACONNIER, COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

After a narrow finish on Town Meeting Day and a recount a few days later, Jeff Tobrocke was declared the winner for a two-year seat on the Hinesburg Select Board, defeating incumbent Tom Ayer, according to town election officials.

The initial ballot count had Tobrocke narrowly leading Ayer, 888 to 883, according to Town Clerk Melissa Ross.

On Friday morning, March 6, the Board of Civil Authority members convened at Town Hall and ballots were put through the tabulating machine a second time to double-check the tally.

The second count changed by just one vote, Ross said, with the official tally at 888-882 in Tobrocke's favor.

"It's confirmed," Ross said.

Town Meeting Recap

The recount capped off a busy election week that began Monday evening, March 2, with town meeting where local residents and elected officials debated a variety of topics before voters cast ballots to decide local elections on Tuesday.

One key decision that voters made was to approve funds to contract for ambulance service for the coming year and

to put a question on the November ballot regarding creating a new town ambulance service.

According to Ross, 194 people attended the meeting at Champlain Valley Union High School. They voted on 13 articles including a few unexpected amendments.

While the proposed budget of \$1,851,236 for fiscal year 2021 passed easily, it did not come without questions about the effectiveness of the town meeting process.

"I think the town needs to have a discussion about whether voting on the town budget on the floor is the most democratic process. A few hundred people making all these decisions in a town of 4,500, it just seems really unfair to me," resident Bill Baker said.

While many residents had more thoughts on this matter, the debate was shelved in order to continue discussing each article.

Article 5 drew passionate questions for Police Chief Anthony Cambridge, as voters approved the proposed Police Department budget of \$606,783 despite unclear answers about Hinesburg's drug problem.

"What we have to do with addressing the drug problem is get more officers on the road, making traffic stops and getting to the drug houses. Other than getting more officers out there, there's nothing I can really do to stop the drug problem," Cambridge said.

Select Board Chair Phil Pouech disagreed. "I don't think more police are necessarily what will solve the problem or what the people of the town want," he said.

Hinesburg resident Elizabeth George then asked what efforts were police making with restorative justice in the community, as there is nothing in the Hinesburg police budget toward such efforts.

"Our restorative justice program is through Williston. We've started to use that more and I certainly don't want to criminalize a drug problem. We want to help out in whatever way the community wants us to," Cambridge responded.

The proposed Fire Department budget raised some concern, as a new paid daytime EMS position was added to the mostly volunteer force.

"The Fire Department used to be run by local Hinesburg farmers. Now this force is commuters who work 30, 50 miles away, and that's the primary reason we need this one person during the day on staff," Fire Chief Greg Matthews said.

Article 8 was preceded with a presentation about Hinesburg's Community Resource Center, a nonprofit organization that operates the food shelf, provides medical equipment, and runs a variety of programs for children and families.

After the presentation, appreciative Hinesburg citizen Mary Beth Goldman proposed increasing the \$21,000 proposed for the organization by 10% to \$23,100. The amendment was approved by a two-thirds majority and the article then passed to support the resource center.

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

US Senators

Patrick Leahy

(802) 863-2525, leahy.senate.gov

Bernie Sanders

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Aaron Kimball, vice-chair

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Merrily Lovell

482-5665, mlovell@hinesburg.org

Tom Ayer

482-5163, tayer@hinesburg.org

Jeff French

551-9091, jfrench@hinesburg.org

CVSD School Board

Ray Mainer, Director, 482-3134

Colleen MacKinnon, Vice Chair, 482-3266

RECURRING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Town Clerk Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Town Hall. Missy Ross, Clerk/Treasurer, mross@hinesburg.org 482-2281 ext. 223.

Town Administrator Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., other hours by appointment, Town Hall. Renae Marshall, Town Administrator tlashua@hinesburg.org 482-2281 ext. 221.

Town Planner Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Town Hall, 482-3619. hinesburgplanning@gmavt.net. Alex Weinhausen, Planner.

Zoning Administrator Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Town Hall, 482-3619, E-mail, hinesburgzoning@gmavt.net. Peter Erb, Administrator.

Assessor's Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to noon, other hours by appointment, Town Hall. Marie Gardner, Assessor 482-2281 ext. 228, mgardner@hinesburg.org.

Hinesburg Recreation Office - Jennifer McCuin, Recreation Coordinator Town Hall. 482-2281 ext. 230. Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. hinesburgrec@gmavt.net

Recycling & Trash Drop-Off Centers: Williston, Redmond Road; Mon., Weds., Fri., & Sat. 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; 872-8111. South Burlington: Landfill Road (off Patchen Road), Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 872-8111. CSWD website: cswd.net.

Environmental Depot: 1011 Airport Parkway, South Burlington. Weds., Thurs., Fri. 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; Sat. 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 863-0480.

Hinesburg Community Resource Center, Inc. Leave a message for Rachel Kring at 482-4667. Alex Konciewicz is the contact for Friends of Families, and she can be reached at the same number or at konciewicz@hinesburgresource.org.

Hinesburg Food Shelf: Fri. 10:00 a.m. -12:00 noon. Tues. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

United States Post Office Hours: Window: Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 2:00-4:30 p.m., Sat. 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Lobby & TriVendor: Mon.-Fri. 6:00 a.m-6:00 p.m.

WEB PAGES:

hinesburgrecord.org. The Hinesburg Record news, contact information, publication deadlines, submissions guidelines, town calendar.

HCS: hcsvt.org. Viking newsletter, cafeteria menu, email addresses for staff, department and team web pages, calendar information etc.

CVU: cvuhs.org. CVU activities and programs, sports schedule, and more.

CCL: carpentercarse.org. Library hours, services, and online resources.

Hinesburg Town: hinesburg.org. Official Town of Hinesburg web site.

hinesburgbusiness.com - FREE. POST NOTICE OF JOB OPENINGS. POST RESUMES. Sponsored by HBPA.

seewhy.info: Official website Connecting Youth (CY), the Chittenden South community-based organization dedicated to creating a safe and healthy environment for young people.

facebook.com/connectingyouth. Connecting Youth (CY) Fan Page: for parents and teens to connect with others in the CY community!



Do you need a Ride?

A Hinesburg Community Resource Center Program

Call SSTA: 878-1527

Visit us at HinesburgRides.org

► Town Meeting Recap

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Next on the agenda was an article with requests totaling \$14,350 from seven nonprofit community and social service organizations: UVM Home Care & Hospice, \$6,500; Age Well, \$4,000; Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, \$1,000; Committee on Temporary Shelter, \$1,000; Vermont Family Network \$1,000; Hinesburg Senior Meal Site, \$650; Vermont Center for Independent Living, \$200. An amendment was also proposed to add a request for \$2,350 from the nonprofit Steps to End Domestic Violence. The item was approved despite the group missing the deadline to submit its request to receive taxpayer funding.

Voters then unanimously passed the proposed \$94,870 in expenditures to cover one year of contracted ambulance transport service from neighboring towns, as Hinesburg continues to explore its options for ambulance service. The town's longtime relationship with St. Michael's Rescue is set to end June 30 and a decision was needed on who will handle ambulance calls for Hinesburg after that.

The other article on this topic also passed with voters agreeing to put on the November general election ballot a question on whether Hinesburg should form its own ambulance service.

The last item of business was setting Monday, Nov. 16, as the date for property tax payments because the customary date of the 15th falls on a Sunday.

Local Election Results

On Tuesday, March 3, voters went to the polls to decide a number of races for local offices. The close-finish Select Board race that was recounted Friday was just one of three seats voters decided this week.

Another incumbent on the ballot, Merrily Lovell, handily won re-election to another three-year term against challenger Michael Bissonette, 1,034 to 783. Michael Loner was unopposed for the remaining two years in a three-year term; he received 1,463 votes.



Members of the Hinesburg Board of Civil Authority feed ballots through the tabulator machine in the March 6 recount for the 2-year Select Board seat. Left to right: Tom Giroux, Enrique Peredo and Vicki Matthews. Candidate Tom Ayer (rear left) and BCA member Gill Coates (rear right) look on.



Board of Civil Authority member Tom Giroux and Town Clerk Melissa Ross check the tabulator machine is reset to zero at the start of the March 6 ballot recount for the Select Board race that resulted in a five-vote margin in Tuesday's election. The recount confirmed the result with a new tally of 888-882.

Other results were:

- Katherine Kjelleren won re-election to a three-year term for library trustee defeating Paul Lamberson, 1,489 to 1,239.

- Ross was unopposed for re-election to three-year terms as town clerk and treasurer as was incumbent Frank Twarog for another year as moderator.

- Glenn Place and Gill Coates had no competition for re-election to three-year terms as cemetery trustee and Peck Estate trustee, respectively.

Community News Service is a collaboration with the University of Vermont's Reporting & Documentary Storytelling program.

School District Town Meeting Day Results

The Champlain Valley School District reported that voters on Town Meeting Day approved all of the school articles on the ballot in the member communities of Charlotte,

Hinesburg, Shelburne, St. George and Williston.

| | Yes | No |
|---|-------|-------|
| Article VII: Budget of \$82,398,769 | 6,557 | 3,195 |
| Article VIII: Use of \$725,000 fund balance for operating revenue | 7,755 | 1,865 |
| Article IX: Spend \$266,000 to purchase three school buses | 6,769 | 2,768 |
| Article X: Construction bond \$6 million for school projects | 6,879 | 2,733 |

School Board elections

Hinesburg: Colleen MacKinnon re-elected to a three-year term.

Charlotte: Lynne Jaunich re-elected to a three-year term.

Shelburne: Ken Scott elected to a three-year term, replacing outgoing Dave Connery.

Williston: Erin Brady re-elected to a three-year term.

Source: Champlain Valley School District central office

Heating with Wood

BY ETHAN TAPPER, CHITTENDEN COUNTY FORESTER

In Vermont, we're "Forest Strong." Our 75% forested landscape constantly endows us with gifts: clean air, clean water, wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration and storage, to name a few. It also produces opportunities for forest-based recreation like skiing and mountain biking and supports local economies that thrive on these industries, all while making Vermont a beautiful place to live, work, and visit. At the same time, our forests can provide us with local, renewable resources that strengthen our communities and support a healthier environment. Such is the case with firewood.

In Vermont's long winters, heating with firewood is a tradition. Wood accounts for about 21% of our heating needs, with 43% of Vermonters heating wholly or partially with wood. Most of that wood comes from within 50 miles of where it's used, meaning that economic benefits stay local; by contrast, 78 cents of every dollar spent by Vermonters on fossil fuel heat leaves Vermont. Besides supporting our communities and local economies, using local wood (and local products in general) gives us more control over how our resources are extracted, rather than displacing the impacts of our consumption elsewhere in the country or the world, where resources are produced under potentially more problematic social and environmental conditions.

The way we burn wood is as important as the resource itself.

Fireplaces, old woodstoves and old wood boilers are inefficient, using an excess of wood and releasing particulates that can degrade air quality. "Advanced Wood Heat," modern wood-

stoves, pellet boilers and chip boilers, burn more efficiently, producing emissions on par with propane and heating oil. Burning wood using advanced wood heat systems is critical to increasing usage of this resource while protecting our air quality.

The way that we harvest wood from our forests also matters. Forest management should be regenerative, not solely extractive, making the forest healthier and more resilient in the long term. On a responsible timber harvest, "low-grade" wood from smaller, less healthy trees usually accounts for the majority of the wood cut, but only a small portion of the overall value. Conversely, larger, healthier trees often account for a small portion of a timber harvest's volume and but most of its value. This is as it should be; cutting mostly unhealthy trees, which get turned into firewood, pulpwood and chips, generally improves the overall health of the forest. "High-grading" is the disreputable practice of cutting only the healthiest, most valuable trees, leaving a less healthy forest behind. Having strong markets, like firewood, for low-grade wood provides an economic incentive for loggers and landowners to do the right thing.

As we think about how to craft a more sustainable future in light of climate change and other challenges, one of the most important things that we can do is to keep our forests intact. Vermont's forests are about 80% privately-owned, and so private landowners are ultimately responsible for most of the public benefits that forests provide, from the carbon that they store to how they define the culture and the character of our communities. Allowing landowners to harvest some wood or to make a little income from their forests offsets the costs of management and taxes, ultimately benefiting all of us by making it more affordable to own land and keeping forests as forests.

Wood pellets provide some interesting new opportunities. According to the Northern Forest Center, regionally-produced wood pellets reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 54% when replacing heating oil, and 59% when replacing natural gas. Pellets are made of compressed sawdust, so they can be created from waste, and pellet systems can be automated and thermostat-controlled, with all of the hands-off benefits of propane or fuel oil. For people who are uncomfortable with traditional methods of burning firewood but still want to source their heat locally, this is an excellent option.

The State Clean Energy Plan set the ambitious goal of achieving 90% renewable energy by 2050, including sourcing 35% of our heat from wood by 2030. The environmental and economic benefits of this would be great, allowing us to displace the use of around 40 million gallons of fossil fuels annually and saving Vermonters about \$120 million a year. I would encourage you to think critically about switching to wood, and/or switching your old wood stove for a newer more efficient model. For a list of available incentives, check out: fpr.vermont.gov/woodenergy/rebates

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov, (802)-585-9099 or at his office at 111 West Street, Essex Junction.

Legislative**House Passes Emergency Package to Help Vulnerable Americans Affected By Coronavirus Outbreak**

FROM PETER WELCH PRESS RELEASE

Rep. Peter Welch voted early in the morning of March 14 for emergency legislation (H.R. 6201) to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease and help affected Americans. This bill is the second emergency coronavirus package to pass the House with an overwhelming bipartisan vote (363-40) in the past eight days. Last week, the House passed an \$8.3 billion emergency funding bill to primarily help states and frontline providers respond to the coronavirus. The bill passed earlier today provides assistance to individuals and families who are impacted by the outbreak.

"Slowing the spread of this disease is critical to addressing this outbreak," said Welch. "This bill ensures coronavirus testing will be free for everyone and allows families and workers to continue to be paid when they need to stay home because of this virus. This bill is an important step in caring for the most vulnerable among us during this outbreak. I urge the Senate and the president to act now to make these protections law."

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201):

- Ensures that all Americans have access to free testing for coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Establishes paid emergency leave, including both 14 days of paid sick leave and up to three months of paid family and medical leave.

- Enhances Unemployment Insurance, a step that will extend protections to furloughed workers.

- Suspends Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or 3SquaresVT in Vermont) work requirements.

- Gives schools flexibility on how free and reduced-price lunches are delivered in case of school closures. The Vermont Agency of Education received a federal waiver yesterday allowing for greater flexibility to deliver meals.

- Boosts Medicaid funding for states during the crisis.

- Provides additional funding for home-delivered and pre-packaged meals to low-income seniors.

Vermonters looking for up-to-date information on the coronavirus can visit a resource webpage on Welch's site: welch.house.gov/coronavirus.

Sanders Statement on the Coronavirus

BY SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS

Written March 18

First and foremost, as we face a national emergency, I want all Vermonters to know that my office is here to help. Please do not hesitate to be in touch if we can be of assistance on our website or by phone: 802-862-0697 or 1-800-339-9834. Please know that our call volume may be higher than normal and you may have to leave a message during business hours.

My staff will be checking messages regularly and will call you back as soon as possible.

Right now, be assured that I am doing everything in my power in the U.S. Senate to correct the completely unacceptable federal response to this crisis. We must mobilize every tool and resource available to our government in order to tackle this unprecedented health-related and economic challenge. My offices continue to be in communication with Vermont's state, local and health authorities on specific issues impacting Vermonters.

In my view, we must prioritize the economic well being of Vermont's working families — particularly our most vulnerable community members — instead of handing over another welfare check or no-strings-attached bailout to corporate CEOs and bankers on Wall Street.

Working people must have the income, healthy food, safe shelter, child care, workplace leave, and cost-free medical testing and treatment that they need right now. This means focusing on the needs of Vermont's seniors, children, community members with compromised immune systems and chronic illness, those experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as well as students, homeowners and renters, workers, and small-business owners.

At this crucial moment for public health, I also urge Vermonters to practice com-

continued on page 6

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► Sanders Statement

continued from page 5

monsense safety precautions to curb the spread of coronavirus, prevent unnecessary sickness and death, and stop our health care system from being overwhelmed. That includes good hand washing, maintaining safe distance from others, avoiding large crowds, and staying home as much as possible.

At tinyurl.com/Sanders3-18-20 you can find web links to information regarding coronavirus, state and local updates, and travel advisories.

Gratitude in a Time of Crisis

BY TIM ASHE, VERMONT SENATE PRESIDENT

This is a time of uncertainty and risk. I find myself filled with gratitude for all the people who work on the front lines fighting the COVID-19 pandemic - health care workers, mental health providers, first responders, teachers and school staff and child care workers, personal care attendants, people who work in facilities that house older Vermonters and people with disabilities, and so many more.

I have a family member in an assisted living facility in Vermont, and I have seen firsthand how hard the staff is working to keep people safe from this

pandemic. Let's not take these efforts for granted.

I've also never appreciated so greatly the truth in something we hear so frequently it's easy to take for granted - that the most important job of government is to keep people safe. As President of the Senate, I am working with the Speaker of the House and the Governor to lead Vermont through this crisis as safely as possible.

Things are literally changing by the hour, but the Senate and House are in constant communication with the Governor and his team. Priorities to address this crisis include:

- Ensuring sufficient testing capacity and medical supplies like N-95 masks
- Mitigating the financial impacts on employees and businesses of lost income or business during this crisis
- Supporting our health care system so patients can get regular care with as little disruption as possible
- Accommodating families who need to be home with their children
- Protecting the health of workers who will be on the job in public settings

I am conducting daily Facebook Live streams to provide updates on the state's response. If you are not on Facebook, please email me any questions you have.

Please stay safe and make decisions rooted in public health in the days ahead.

CSWD

CSWD Closes Administrative Office, Requests Customer Cooperation

BY ALISE CERTA

Written on March 14, 2020

The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) is monitoring the impact of COVID-19 with state health agencies. As a precaution, we are closing our Administrative office and instructing employees to work remotely until further notice. At present, all other facilities continue to operate under their regular hours. However, due to the continually changing landscape concerning this virus and the potential impact to our employees, we may have to close facilities without advance notice. We will post any changes in facility hours at www.cswd.net, on our Facebook page and through our text alert system. Please visit our Contact Us page for instructions on signing up for text alerts.

We Need Your Help

To keep facilities operating as efficiently as possible and to minimize exposure to employees and patrons, we are requesting your help.

- Please limit Drop-Off Center use to essential visits and materials only. Essential materials include: Trash, blue-bin recycling, and food scraps. This will help us keep traffic moving and enable us to continue to provide these important services.
- Please remember that all Drop-off Centers are do-it-yourself (DIY) facilities. Our staff is unable to assist in unloading customers' materials. This long-standing position to prevent employee injury is even more important now to help maintain social distancing recommendations and prevent the spread of this virus.

- If you're feeling under the weather, we encourage you to stay at home and visit our facilities when you are feeling

better. This helps protect our workers and other customers.

For hours of operation and locations of CSWD facilities please visit these links:

Administrative Office: CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. cswd.net/facility-locations/administrative-office

Drop-off Centers: cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/drop-off-centers/#DOC%20hours

Environmental Depot: cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/environmental-depot

Green Mountain Compost: cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/green-mountain-compost

Our priority remains the health and safety of our customers and employees while continuing to meet Chittenden County's solid waste needs. We appreciate your patience and assistance during this time.

All About Glass

Glass recycling is a complicated subject, and probably nothing like what you're imagining. We detailed the specific steps of how glass is recycled in Vermont in "The Rocky Road of Glass Recycling—Part 2 of our Keep Calm and Recycle On" series. In this article, we dig even deeper into the history, current realities, and future hopes for the 6,500 tons—that's 13 million pounds!—of glass bottles and jars recycled every year by CSWD.

1993: A new era begins

To explain how glass—or any—recycling works, we need to go back to its roots. In Vermont, those roots reach all the way back to 1987, when the State Legislature passed Act 78, Vermont's first solid waste law. This heralded the end of the town "dumps," and the start of recognizing that we needed a new, modern way of managing our solid waste.

Part of that new approach was creating Solid Waste Management Districts to provide regional solutions for solid waste management. The Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) covers Chittenden County. In 1993, CSWD's

Board of Commissioners, representing our 18 member municipalities, voted to enact mandatory recycling for all Chittenden County residents and businesses "so as to prolong the useful life of landfills and to protect the public health and welfare and the environment."

That's when it became against the law in Chittenden County to put glass bottles and jars and certain other recyclables in the trash.

In April of 1993, CSWD opened a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Williston to sort those recyclables so they could be sold to buyers willing and able to use them as raw materials for new products. (See CSWD Investments in Glass Recycling sidebar.)

1994: Market realities hit

When the MRF opened, about 60 percent of the glass sent there arrived in pieces large enough for workers to hand-sort it by color—green, amber and clear. Only the clear and green qualify as potential "cullet." That's the name for glass suitable for making into new bottles. CSWD sent this material as far away as Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Canada to be cleaned and processed further for possible recycling into new bottles and other products like fiberglass.

The remaining 40 percent arrived in pieces too small to sort. The only option left for this multicolored mixture and the sorted brown glass was a product known as Processed Glass Aggregate (PGA). In the construction industry, "aggregate" is a broad category of coarse to fine mined materials such as gravel, crushed stone, and sand. Vermont quarries mine and sells hundreds of thousands of tons of aggregate each year for construction projects.

Processed Glass Aggregate, not surprisingly, is much like sand and can be used in many of the same ways in place of sand mined from quarries.

By 1994, prices for recycled glass cullet were dropping, and MRFs everywhere were struggling to cover the costs of shipping heavy glass bottles and jars to distant facilities able to process cullet acceptable for new bottle and jars. Recognizing this, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) issued an "Acceptable Uses for Processed Glass Aggregate (PGA)" paper (see More About Glass sidebar). This paper identifies market challenges for glass cullet, defines what qualifies as PGA, and lists the types of civil engineering applications where PGA can be used without further approval.

As stated in the ANR "Acceptable Uses" paper (last updated in 2002), PGA used in these applications is not considered solid waste and is "exempt

With this new machinery and exciting new projects with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the University of Vermont Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, we are exploring brand new PGA applications. We believe these projects will ensure we can continue to keep this material out of the landfill and into beneficial uses, reduce traffic and emissions by keeping it close to home, and in the not-too-distant future, even bring in some revenue to cover the costs.

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CSWD doubles down on recycling of glass.

from the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Rules."

2003: New systems for a new decade

In 2003 CSWD converted the MRF to what is known as a "single-stream" facility. This meant that residents and businesses could put all clean recyclables together in a single container instead of keeping containers in one bin and paper and cardboard in another. This reduced truck traffic by enabling haulers to collect all recyclables at once; some collect trash and recyclables in special trucks with separate compartments. The added convenience for residents and businesses resulted in more recyclables being kept out of the landfill.

From this point forward, all glass coming into the MRF becomes Processed Glass Aggregate.

2014 and beyond: Innovation

CSWD is committed to innovation. As the industry and technology changes, we're constantly evaluating our processes and seeking improvements.

In 2014, CSWD invested \$1.9 million into replacing and upgrading MRF sorting machinery to improve efficiency and the quality of the output. Increased efficiencies mean lower costs throughout the system, and higher quality output gives us access to more markets, closer to home. We doubled down on this effort by investing half a million dollars into a new secondary glass cleanup system in 2015.

This is our investment in the future of glass recycling. In fiscal year 2019 alone, we spent over \$65 per ton to process and market more than 6,000 tons of PGA, and CSWD has never received any revenue from sales of this material.

With this new machinery and exciting new projects with the Vermont Agency of Transportation and the University of Vermont Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, we are exploring brand new PGA applications. We believe these projects will ensure we can continue to keep this material out of the landfill and into beneficial uses, reduce traffic and emissions by keeping it close to home, and in the not-too-distant future, even bring in some revenue to cover the costs.

Police

Incidents

February 16

6:43 p.m. A welfare check was conducted at Kelley's Field.

February 17

7 a.m. While patrolling the area of Route 116 a vehicle was stopped and cited for passing a school bus during the process of loading students.

11:45 a.m. An officer responded to CVU to assist with a juvenile issue.

1:05 p.m. A residential burglary alarm was investigated on Route 116.

February 18

8:52 a.m. A citizen on Lincoln Hill Road was assisted with a VIN inspection.

7:51 p.m. A commercial burglary alarm was investigated on Commerce Street.

11:10 p.m. Officers responded to Hawk Lane for the report of suspicious circumstances.

February 19

7 a.m. While patrolling the area of Route 116, a vehicle was stopped and cited for passing a school bus during the process of loading students.

11:50 a.m. An officer responded to Hillview Terrace for a juvenile problem. A trespass notice was issued.

2:20 p.m. A traffic stop was conducted on Route 116 near CVU Road. Officers handled an active warrant that had been issued on the operator.

7:05 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a locked vehicle on Burritt Road.

February 20

8:40 p.m. An officer responded to Molly Way for the report of a suspicious male on private property. A resident had refused to open her car door until police arrived. The male appeared disoriented and told police he was in the wrong place.

9 p.m. An officer responded to Orchard Commons for multiple 911 hang ups.

February 23

7:41 a.m. A residential burglary alarm was investigated on Lavigne Hill Road.

8:45 a.m. An officer assisted with a traffic hazard on Shelburne Falls Road involving livestock.

5:08 p.m. An officer responded to Route 116 for a single car motor vehicle crash.

February 25

10:52 a.m. Officers conducted a welfare check on Mead Farm Road.

February 26

8:42 a.m. An officer assisted with a lock out on Elderberry Lane.

2:40 p.m. Officers responded to Baldwin Road where they assisted Hinesburg Fire Department with a structure fire. A preliminary fire investigation was conducted.

8:25 p.m. Officers responded to a residence on Route 116 for a 911 hang up.

February 27

10 a.m. Officers responded to Baldwin Road to assist state fire investigators.

12:18 p.m. An officer responded to Baldwin Road near the Charlotte Road

intersection for a single motor vehicle crash. A truck crashed into a wooded area. A snow-covered roadway appears to be a contributing factor.

12:30 p.m. A single car motor vehicle crash occurred at the intersection of Baldwin Road and Charlotte Road.

12:32 p.m. A single car motor vehicle crash occurred on Charlotte Road. The vehicle hit a telephone pole.

12:55 A single car motor vehicle crash occurred on Charlotte Road.

1:35 p.m. A single car motor vehicle crash occurred on Route 116 near the intersection of Buck Hill West.

2:30 p.m. A Single car motor vehicle crash occurred on Route 116 near the intersection of North Road.

February 28

12:10 p.m. An officer investigated a commercial burglary alarm at Ballard's Corner Road.

1 p.m. A 911 hang up on Shelburne Falls Road was investigated.

March 1

9:35 p.m. Officers responded to Lincoln Hill Road for a single motor vehicle crash. The operator was pronounced dead at the scene. The crash is under investigation.

March 2

11:52 a.m. A residential burglary was investigated on Silver Street.

March 3

5 p.m. A residential burglary was investigated on Mechanicsville Road.

6:30 p.m. Officers responded to the intersection of Route 116 and Silver Street for a two car motor vehicle crash.

March 4

8:40 a.m. Officers responded to the area of Mechanicsville Road for a domestic dispute in a motor vehicle.

March 7

12:15 a.m. An officer responded to Piette Road for a domestic assault.

Stuck at Home?

Check out the Vermont Stories on the MudSeason Podcast



from the Center for Research on Vermont/ Reporting & Documentary Storytelling

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Fire

Spring Craft Fair

Join the Hinesburg Firemen's Association for their third Spring Craft Fair, May 16, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at The Hinesburg Fire Station.

We are hosting a Craft Fair that will give our sellers the opportunity to share their Crafts and wares! The event will include local crafters as well as LuLaRoe, Thirty -One, Paparizza, Scentsey, Discovery Toys, Usborne Book consultants and many more.

If you are interested in a space, please contact dbarber7541@gmail.com

Proceeds from event will benefit the Katie Charbonneau Fund for Hinesburg Town AED's and The Hinesburg Firemen's Association.

Car Fire in Garage

At 2:40 p.m. on February 25, Hinesburg Fire was dispatched to Baldwin Road for a report of a car fire inside a garage. Based on the time of day, and report from the callers, Charlotte Fire was automatically dispatched for an engine and tanker along with Monkton Fire full response.

The first arriving responder reported a working structure fire with vehicles inside. Hinesburg was toned for a working incident and an additional tanker was requested from Starksboro.

Firefighters were on scene approximately three hours making sure the

fire was fully extinguished and there was no extension. The cause appears to have been gas fumes which were ignited by a welding torch. Vermont State Police was contacted for a follow-up investigation.

Time for Yard Cleanup

As the weather gets nicer, and we start to clean up our yards, brush piles will be begin to grow.

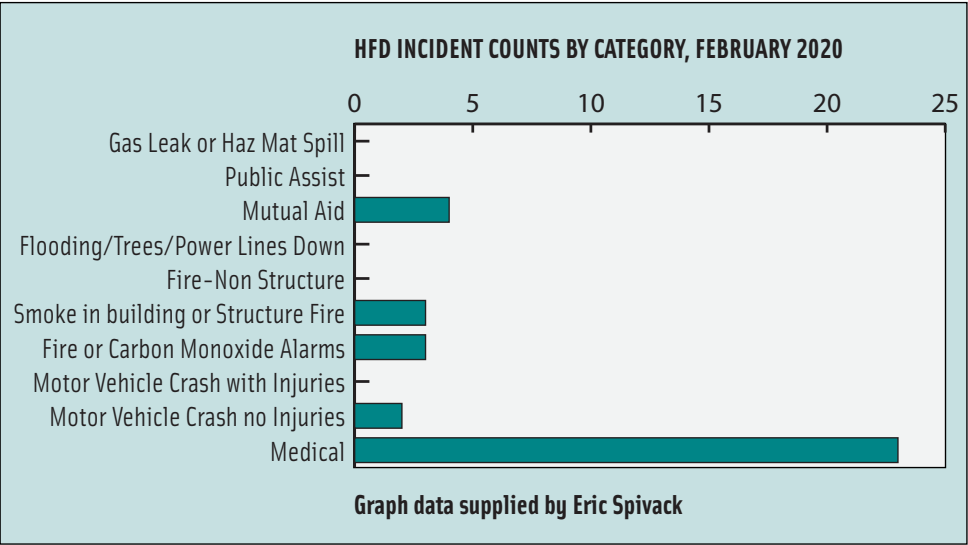
Please remember that now the snow is gone, burn permits are required in the State of Vermont. A permit may be obtained by contacting our Dispatch center in Shelburne. They will ask you a few questions and may provide you with some reminders about what can and cannot be burned.

The Dispatch center issues permits under the direction of the Town Fire Warden and State of Vermont Division of Fire Safety. If you are denied a permit, it is because of unsafe conditions for burning – e.g. high winds or dry conditions.

For more information, please go to Burn Permit FAQ on our website.

Remember. If your pile gets out of control, do not hesitate to call 911 and have us respond.

Follow us on Facebook at [HinesburgFireDepartment](#) and be sure to visit our website [hinesburgfd.org](#).



HFD responded to 35 calls in February.
* an example of a non-structure fire would be a telephone pole, car, or grass/brush fire.

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Business

Plants are Still Growing

BY JULIE RUBAUD

Written March 15

The willows stopped me in my tracks as I was leaving the green-houses on Friday. I was on my way home, and looked up just in time to see them just bursting with life, reminding me to pause and catch my breath. I had forgotten about spring. I snipped a few stems to bring home. There is a lot more there, and I welcome you to stop by and clip a stem or two for your own house. It feels good to share. Always having clippers in the car is a handy thing.

In the meantime, please send us your gardening questions and stories, share photos of your garden, engage with us on social media, and help your neighbors as best you can. In my more fantastical, utopian moments, I dream of us as a current day, virtual land army, with plants, flowers and home grown food helping us get through anything together.

Events at Red Wagon Plants

As said above, we are adjusting our calendar of events on a week by week, day by day basis. If you are signed up for a class or seminar, you will receive an email with updates.

Contact info: 802-482-4060, julie@redwagonplants.com, 2408 Shelburne Falls Rd. Register, or view more info at redwagonplants.com/events.

Saturday, March 28 - Beginner's Guide to Planning the Medicinal Herb Garden, 10 a.m.–Noon

Ready to start or expand your herb garden? Curious about the medicinal properties of the plants you already love to grow? Come join herbalist, gardener and Red Wagon employee Sophie Cassel as we dive into planning, planting, and using herbs all season long. We'll discuss the growing of popular annual and perennial herbs, including old favorites (lavender, calendula), locally-grown tropical herbs (tulsi, ashwagandha), and some unexpectedamentals (angelica, valerian). Come with questions and wish lists, and leave with the confidence to start your own herbal journey where it all begins - in the garden. Workshop fee is \$25.

We plan to open on April 17th with normal retail hours. But of course, this might change as we get closer. That evening's cocktail party will likely be postponed. Again, we will keep you updated.

We will offer home delivery of plants once the weather warms up. More details coming soon.

We will also offer pre-picked plant orders that can be paid for online or over the phone and picked up in the parking lot.

We will continue to deliver plants to our wholesale partners as long as they are open.

Our amazing crew is taking all of the precautions possible to work safely - more distance, more gloves, tons of hand washing. Because we are in large open spaces, this feels doable, and frankly there is no other place any of us would rather be outside of home. We are offering paid leave should anyone need it, and because of this, I am sending out this little plea: please continue to support small businesses in any way you can. We must rely on each other.



Willows

houses to make a floral planter that can work well indoors to liven up your home, and then can be taken outside to spend spring and early summer on your porch or patio. We will use pansies, alyssum, miniature snapdragons, herbs for greenery, and other cold hardy plants that will add fragrance and beauty to your home. Workshop fee is \$30 and includes all materials.

Tuesday, April 14 - Make and Take Spring Greens in an Apple Crate, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

In this Make and Take class, we will use beautiful wooden crates made right here in Hinesburg by our friends at Clifford Lumber to plant a mini-garden full of lush greens that you can harvest all season long. Choose from kale, chard, lettuce, mustard greens, collards, herbs, and more to create a very practical and edible container that can live in a sunny spot outdoors, hopefully near the kitchen door. Imagine a summer of meals with fresh greens and herbs just a step away. Workshop fee is \$50 and includes all materials.

Thursday, April 16 - Growing Onions 101, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

In this Garden Meet-up class, Julie Rubaud, Red Wagon owner, will show you how to plant onions from seedlings (not dried 'sets') and will discuss all that goes into this crop in the home garden including how to store them all winter long. We will be in the garden, planting the onions together, so that you will learn hands on and feel empowered to do it yourself. Onions are a fantastic value and one of the vegeta-

bles that give the most satisfaction in the garden. Workshop fee is \$5.

Friday, April 17 - Opening Day Cocktail Party, 6-8:30 p.m.,

Come celebrate our 15th opening day with us! We will open the greenhouses at 8:00 am, and the party starts at 6:00 pm with cocktails from our friends at Caledonia Spirits and food and other beverages from our friends at Farmers & Foragers in their food truck. We are looking forward to ushering in the season with you! Parking is limited, please carpool.

Tuesday, April 21 - Make and Take Herb Planter in a Wooden Crate, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

For this Make and Take workshop, we will plant up a ½ bushel wooden crate with a beautiful mixture of herbs that you can harvest and use in the kitchen all season long. We will discuss how to take care of your planter and which herbs can be planted into the ground and/or be brought indoors at the end of the summer. A crate full of fresh, growing herbs is sure to add flavor and interest to all of your summer meals. Workshop fee is \$45 and includes all materials.

Thursday, April 23 - Strawberries 101, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

This year, we will be offering a few different ways for you to plant your strawberry patch. In this gardening meet-up, Chad Donovan and Julie Rubaud will go over the methods of planting strawberries into the ground or raised bed from dormant bare roots or from green plants. We will also discuss how to take care of a strawberry hanging basket and have materials on hand if you would like to plant your own. Everything you need will be available for purchase, but feel free to come just for the information. \$5 registration fee.

Thursday, April 30 - Asparagus 101, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Have you wanted to eat asparagus from your own garden? It is so sweet and tender when you've grown it yourself. Asparagus is a little tricky to grow at first, so we are offering this tutorial to get you started. Horticulturalist and Red Wagon employee Chad Donovan will explain the difference between planting dormant, bare roots and starting out with little seedlings. You will learn about what kind of soil they like, and how to treat them in their delicate

first year so that you can have the best asparagus patch ever. Once asparagus is well established, it is easy to grow and will provide you with more and more each year. \$5 registration fee.

Public House Closed

BY WILL PATTEN

At the Hinesburgh Public House, we have always tried to do the right thing. We are a mission-driven company. So the question we asked ourselves is, are we serving our customers best by staying open or by closing for a limited time?

We have decided that it is in the best interest of our community to close. Effective Monday, March16, the Public House was closed for two weeks.

We hope this will curb the rate of infection in our towns. And we really hope that in two weeks things will look better.

We apologize for any inconvenience and hope that we can see you all again soon.

Pleasant Mount Farm's 29th Season

BY HEIDI RACHT

The Racht/Campbell family, owners of Pleasant Mount Farm organic greenhouse in Huntington Center, are happy to announce that they are enjoying their time getting ready to open in early May. This is the greenhouse's 29th season. It has been Vermont Organic by NOFA-Vermont since it began in 1992.

The seasonal business specializes in affordable bedding and accent plants and is known for its interesting and unusual varieties of tomatoes – last season, gar-

deners chose from over 125 varieties of tomatoes, over 80 varieties of peppers, and many choices of eggplant, basil, cabbages and greens. Pleasant Mount Farm sells vegetables in packs and individual pots – and customers are welcome to mix and match in the packs to meets their gardening needs.

Said owner Heidi Racht, "Having a small community business allows us to focus on our plants and our customers. We welcome the opportunity to work with new gardeners. And having a seasonal business gives us the opportunity to see old friends as they come up for plants. It is a fun time for our family!"

Gardeners are invited to check the website for information about plants and details about the season: pleasantmount-farm.com. Pleasant Mount Farm is located at 4501 Main Road, Huntington Center.

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Recreation

BY JENNIFER MCCUIN

Register for classes at hinesburgrec.com. **Please contact HRD at hinesburgrec@gmavt.net to confirm classes and programs.**

HRD Tree Ball

Co-ed K&1: Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 28–June 4. Ayer Field, Bissonette Recreation Area. 6-7 p.m. Cost: \$40 by April 3, \$50 after. Deadline April 17.

Co-Ed K-1-2 Lacrosse

Sundays May 3–June 7 (no practice on May 24). Millie's Field – Bissonette Rec. Area. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Cost: \$40 by April 3, \$50 after. Registration deadline April 17.

Mini Shooting Stars Soccer Sessions

Cody and Maeve O'Neil will share the love of the game and teach foundational soccer skills. 3-5 years. Sundays May 3–31 (no practice on May 24). Millie's Field. 4-5 p.m. Cost: \$45 - Shooting Stars t-shirt included.

Horseback Riding During April Vacation

Looking for something during April vacation? Come spend part of the day at Livery Stables. Enjoy an hour of horseback riding with a lesson, learn basic horse care and grooming. Braid a mane, feed, brush, water, and groom along with learning the full routine of a horse barn! Wear boots with a heel, clothes you don't mind getting dirty and bring your lunch and water bottle. You may even feed the horses their lunch!

Grades K-8. Monday – Friday April 20–24. Livery Stables, 601 Lavigne Hill Rd., Hinesburg. Half day 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. or Full day 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. option. **Cost:** Weekly: Half day \$300 or Full day \$350. Daily options at \$60 for half days and \$70 for full days available. More information can be found at liveryhorsefarm.com

After-School Horseback Riding

Enjoy horseback riding lessons and so much more with Kim Johansen at Livery Stables. Lessons are for beginning to early intermediate riders. In addition, Kim and staff will instruct children on basic horse care, tacking, feeding, watering, and all that happens in the horse barn! Take the bus from HCS to Livery Stables, located at 601 Lavigne Hill Rd., right after school. Please be sure to send a permission note with your child to ride the bus, pack a snack for your hungry rider, and send boots and barn clothes.

Grades K-8. Tuesdays April 28–June 2 or Fridays May 1–June 5. Livery Stables, located at 601 Lavigne Hill Rd., Hinesburg. Tuesdays 2-4:30 p.m. and Fridays 3-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays \$235 and Fridays \$135. More information can be found at liveryhorsefarm.com. Maximum: 9 participants

Middle-School Riders Club

The middle school horse club at Livery Stables continues! Riders can count on expanding their skills to include more advanced riding techniques, along with an introduction to drill team. More rid-

ing and more options for the rider that wants to navigate to the next level in horsemanship.

Grades 5-8. Mondays April 27–June 8. No class on May 25. Livery Stables, located at 601 Lavigne Hill Rd., Hinesburg. 3-5 p.m. Cost: \$195

Safe Sitter Courses

Safe Sitter® prepares teens to be safe when they're home alone, watching siblings or babysitting. The course offers four main content areas: Safety Skills, Child Care Skills, First Aid & Rescue Skills and Life & Business Skills. Lessons are filled with fun activities and role-playing exercises. Teens will practice choking rescue and diapering. Register for one date that works best for your child. Register with the town offering the program. Instructor: Rec. Staff

Grades 6-8. Classes are 9 a.m.–3 p.m. in each location.

Shelburne: Saturday, April 11. shelburnevt.org

Hinesburg: Thursday, April 23, in First Floor Conference Room at Town Hall. hinesburgrec.com

Charlotte: Saturday, May 16. recreation@townofcharlotte.com. \$60 Res/\$65 Non. 8 student max.

Summer Fun for Kids

Recreational Track and Field

Children learn the basics of running, jumping, throwing, and relays. Each week they warm up with Parisi Speed School Instructors and then practice their different events. There are local meets with other Rec. Depts. and a State Meet Saturday, July 18, at St. Johnsbury Academy. A great program for children who love to run, jump and throw. Practices at CVU, unless the track is being re-done. Alternate location will be Williston Central School. Instructors are program director Elise Seraus, parent and student volunteers, and Parisi Staff.

Ages 7-14 years, aging date August 31, 2020. Mondays and Wednesdays, June 17–July 18, 6:15-7:45 p.m. Cost: \$50

Horseback Riding Camp at Livery Stables

Join Kim Johansen and staff at Livery Stables for a week-long horse camp. Enjoy an hour of riding with a lesson, enjoy grooming, tacking, and general horse duties in the relaxed atmosphere of the barn. There are horse crafts, kittens to play with and an equestrian camaraderie that can't be beat! Please note below the two options for camp times.

6-12 years. Livery Stables, 601 Lavigne Hill Rd., Hinesburg. Camp Week 1: Monday–Friday June 15–19. Camp Week 2: Monday–Saturday June 29–July 4 - includes participation in Hinesburg July 4th Parade. Time: 8 a.m.-12 p.m. or 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Week 1 \$300 for 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and \$350 for 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Week 2 \$300 for 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and \$400 for 8 a.m.-4 p.m. option. Be sure to pack a lunch, a snack, and a drink as well as boots.

Tennis Lessons with Myles

Join Hinesburg tennis enthusiast Myles Peterson for introductory to intermediate tennis lessons.

6-12 yrs. Monday–Thursday June 22–25. Session 1 for beginners: 4:30-5:45 p.m.

or Session 2 for intermediate: 5:45-7 p.m. HCS tennis courts. Cost: \$85

Global Premier Soccer (GPS) Vermont Camp

GPS Vermont will offer a half and full day soccer camp program August 3-7 behind Hinesburg Town Hall. All programs will include age specific soccer training and games to help players improve in a positive environment.

GPS Juniors ages 4-6 years is 9-10:30 a.m. \$70. Half Day Technical Training Program (TTP) for ages 7-14 years is 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$135. Full Day Technical Training Program (TTP) for ages 7-14 years is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$190. Each player will receive a GPS t-shirt. To enroll please go to gps-vermont.com/vacationschedule

Adult Recreation

Cake Decorating with Matroyshka's Bakery – 3 spots left!

Participants will learn how to assemble multi-layer cakes, frosting application, smoothing on a cake turntable, create chocolate drips, and decorate with fruit and flowers. Each student will go home with their own vanilla cake, with fruit filling and buttercream frosting. A portion of each registration will benefit the Hinesburg Food Shelf.

Good Times Café. Monday, April 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Cost: \$85. Limit: 10 students.

Dog Obedience with Jim Warden

Join experienced dog trainer Jim Warden for this informative & beneficial dog training experience. This class is designed to provide enjoyment and interaction for both you and your pet. Jim makes it look easy, even with the most challenging dogs. Watch and see someone who truly "talks to the animals." **Who:** Dog & owner(s). **Where:** First class in 3rd Floor Conference Room at Town Hall. Remainder of classes are outside behind Town Hall. **When:** Thursdays, May 7–June 11, 6–7 p.m. Cost: \$70 resident/ \$75 non-resident. Please leave your dog at home for the first class.

Boater Safety Course

Boating safety education is required for any motorboat operator, 12 years of age or older, born after January 1, 1974. The Boat Vermont, 8-hour classroom course, provides the opportunity to take, pass and be officially certified. Participants must be present at all 4 classes to be eligible for certification. Location: REI Store in Williston. Instructor: Jon Fick

Ages 12+. Mondays and Wednesdays May 4–13. 6–8:30 p.m. Cost: \$15 Res/\$20 Non.

Let's Go Fishing

The program teaches families how to have fun fishing while using proper skills, ethics and respect for resources and rules. Families learn water ecology, fish identification, habitat needs and how to find fish. There is hands-on casting and making your own lure, as well as time to practice new skills with live fishing. This is a parent/child program. All materials supplied. Instructor: Chuck Goller

Ages 6-14 and an adult. Saturday, May 16, 1–4 p.m. Location to be announced upon registration.

Library

Library Hours

The library is currently closed, at least through April 6. Please call or email for updates – staff will be checking phone messages and emails.

Phone: 482-2878

Address: 69 Ballards Corner Road, Hinesburg 05461

Website: carpentercarse.org

Email: library@carpentercarse.org

Library News

April means longer days, muddier roads and dreaming of summer gardens (when we aren't lightly panicking about COVID-19). To survive our own imaginations, might we recommend: Hope in the Dark: Untold Mysteries, Wild Imaginations by Rebecca Solnit? Or perhaps some poetry? April is National Poetry Month, so will find us sharing some good poems both in the library and on our social media channels this month. We welcome new books by hilarious personal essayist Sam Irby (her new book is called **Wow, no thank you!**) Other new titles include Afterlife by Julia Alvarez, and new thrillers from David Baldacci, Stuart Woods & John Grisham. We are also delighted to be offering a talk on cultivating a pollinator garden by Vermont's indubitable garden enthusiast, Charlie Nardozzi, on April 16, thanks to support from the Friends of the Library. Speaking of the friends, we are now officially accepting book donations for the July 4 book sale, provided they are in good shape and haven't been moldering in your basement. Take good care and join us in April for any of these great events:

Calendar

The Library is closed, at least through April 6. Please check before heading out, to ensure the event is still taking place.

Monthly Book Group
Wednesday, April 8, 10:30 a.m.

This informal group will meet in the Community Room on the second Wednesday of each month to chat about the current book. Refreshments served. You can reserve a copy of the latest book at the front desk.

After School Crafternoon!
Tuesday, April 14, 2-3 p.m.

Come make a Spring mosaic at Crafternoon! Every participant will create their own design and use various colorful materials to complete their masterpiece. Crafternoon is open to students ages 6-11 years old, and space is limited, so email jen@carpentercarse.org or call 482-2878 to reserve your spot.

Color Your Way to Calm: Adult Coloring
Wednesday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Color your way to calm at our drop-in coloring club for adults. Coloring sheets, art supplies, and tea will be

provided.

Growing a Pollinator Garden with Charlie Nardozzi
Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.

Pollinator gardens are generating a lot of buzz and the role they play in our food system and ecosystem seems more important than ever. Everyone is talking about helping pollinators.

You can join in! It's not too late to plan a pollinator garden for this summer. It all starts with growing the right plants. Charlie Nardozzi will be here to discuss plant choice as well as other considerations when making your yard a pollinator-friendly environment.

Charlie Nardozzi is an award winning, nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, radio, and television personality. He has worked for more than 30 years bringing expert gardening information to home gardeners through radio, television, talks, tours, on-line, and the printed page. Charlie delights in making gardening information simple, easy, fun and accessible to everyone.

Sponsored by the Friends of Carpenter-Carse Library. Free and open to the public.

Saturday Storytime
Saturday, April 18, 10-10:30 a.m.

Join us for Saturday story time! Children ages 0-5 and their caregivers gather for stories, songs and games, followed by free play and snacks. 10-10:30 am, all are welcome, free.

Drop-In LEGO Club
Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Bring a friend and spend Saturday afternoon using the library's supply of LEGOs to create something straight from your own imagination! There are no age limits for Drop-In LEGO time but children do need to be accompanied by an adult. FREE and open to everyone. No registration required.

Spring Break Movie
Friday, April 24, 2 p.m.

Join us in the community room for a family-friendly movie about a pair of sisters and their snowman sidekick on a new adventure! Check our website for more movie details. Children must be accompanied by an adult. FREE and open to everyone.

Favorite Poem Reading
Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.

April is National Poetry Month and to celebrate, Carpenter-Carse Library is hosting a Favorite Poem reading.

Inspired by former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's Favorite Poem Project, the event is an opportunity for the community to celebrate and elevate the importance of poetry by reading a favorite poem out loud.

Here is how it works:

- Poems chosen are NOT poems the readers or their friends or relatives have written, but ones they have read, perhaps many times, and to which they feel a personal attachment.

- The reading is limited to no more

than 5 minutes.

- The reader would give a brief introduction, no more than a minute or two, giving the title of the poem, the poet's name, and why they chose that particular poem.

For more information on the project and to see videos of readers, visit: favoritepoem.org. Registration is not necessary- this is an open-mic style event. Free and open to all. Light refreshments served.

After School Maker Space
Thursday, April 30 3-4:15 p.m.

All students ages 7-12 who have an interest in learning about the science behind flying a kite, join us after school to design and make your own kite! We will provide instruction and materials. This is a great way for students to work together in learning something new or building upon an interest you've already explored - we want to hear your ideas! Space is limited so please email jen@carpentercarse.org or call 482-2878 to reserve your spot!

Weekly Event

Hands and Needles
Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon.

Join handcrafting enthusiasts for a morning of creativity and conversation. Bring whatever project you are working on- quilting, knitting, embroidery, etc. Free and open to the public.

The eBook Library is Always Open

BY CATHY RYAN

Although Hinesburg's Carpenter Carse Library is currently closed, ebooks are always available to be checked out. Here is a brief introduction to how to check out books.

What do I need?

You can read library ebooks on a computer, tablet, smart phone or an e-ink (black & white) ebook reader such as a Kindle.

You also need a library card from Carpenter Carse, and you need to set up a password. Call or email the library, and they will get back to you to help you out: 482-2878, library@carpentercarse.org.

On your computer, you'll be reading in your web browser, and no special software is needed.

If you'll be reading on a tablet or smart phone, the simplest way to read books is by using the Libby app. Search for "Libby" in the app store on your device. For a Kindle Fire tablet, there are some special steps to install the Libby app. You can see them at carpentercarse.org/resources.

How to browse for and check out books:

If you will be reading on a smart phone or tablet, you have a choice – you can browse for books and check them out in the Libby app, or you can go to **gmlc.overdrive.com** on your computer, and after you check out a book, it'll be available in the Libby app.

If you will be reading on a computer or an e-ink (black and white) Kindle, you will go to gmlc.overdrive.com to browse for and check out books.

In both the Libby app and the web site, you'll sign in with your library card number (include everything under the bar code including letters) and your password.

At the top of the website, there's a link that says "Kindle Books" that will narrow down the books presented to just those that are available in kindle format.

After you find a book and click "Borrow" on the website, click on "Read now with kindle" if you're reading on an e-ink kindle or in the kindle app (you'll be taken to Amazon.com to finish the process), click on "Read now in browser" if you want to read on your computer, or if you're going to read using the Libby app, you don't have to do anything – you'll see the book you've checked out on your "shelf" in the app.

Audio Books Too!

The Libby app can also be used to listen to audio books. When searching in the app or on the website, there are preferences or search options for specifying that you want audiobooks. Search in the app or on the website, borrow an audiobook, and listen in the app.

► COVID-19

continued from page 1

compromised immune systems, we are making the following changes to help prevent further spread of this virus.

Effective Monday, March 16, we are closing the Hinesburg Town Hall to the public. This means that all meetings and functions at Town Hall have been cancelled until further notice.

We are also cancelling all Recreation programs including those that were scheduled at other locations in town.. Town Hall staff will continue to operate either remotely or at Town Hall.

Staff will be available to assist the public by phone or via email Monday through Friday.from 8:00 am.- 4:00 p.m.

We will closely evaluate new information as it is received by the CDC and Vermont Department of Health and adjust accordingly.

Please note, that the Selectboard is planning to conduct their meeting on March 18 remotely in order to test if we can effectively offer this option to other public bodies in order to continue town business and achieve the goal of providing access to the public. We will send out information on Monday or Tuesday regarding the status of that plan. We will provide further updates as we make adjustments to this plan.

Thank you all for your patience, understanding and cooperation as we navigate this in a calm and responsible fashion, as a community. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions.

► Mud Season Trails

continued from page 1

which are maintained in this season by the town road crews. You might also consider paved roads such as Mt Philo State Park, which offers views as well as a great work-out.

Thank you for being considerate and obeying the signs. You will be helping to make a better hiking experience for you and everyone else later, when Mother Nature dries things out again.



If you see a trail closure sign, please find another place to hike. Photo Courtesy of Vermont State Parks

► CVU Theatre

continued from page 1

to put the show together. They also had an opportunity to make a cameo appearance within the show, in a film of Silly Walkers.

This year's student directors were: Kianna Ayer, Eric Couture, Sydney Hicks, Schuyler Edgar Holmes and T Weishaar.



During the great war, a Major tells his men that there are only rations enough for 4, so one of them must choose "another way out." The men draw straws to find out who's the unluckiest soldier. (L to R - Rory McDermott, Rylee Mason, Levon Applin, Seamus Greenwood & Noel Bedard.) Photo Credit - Kelcie Kruck



At this restaurant the number one item on the menu is spam, which may not be enjoyed by this particular couple. (L to R - Rory McDermott, Magner Amsbary, Lily Clark.)



Will Cornish plays a Gumbie teaching how to make flower arrangements, in CVU's upcoming Student Directed production of Monty Python's Edukational Show.

Education

VSAC Workshops Focus on Managing College Costs

Learn about financial aid resources that help families pay for education after high school

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Vermont Student Assistance Corp. is hosting free workshops at local high schools to help sophomores, juniors and their parents learn about the financial aid resources for education and training programs.

Financial Aid and Managing College Costs will provide an overview of how families pay for college costs and the different types of financial aid available. VSAC will also share several resources and websites that can help families get ready to file financial aid forms.

Please go to vsac.org/events/list to see list of event dates and times, all of which are now offered "on demand" via internet connection.

Parent Listening Session on School Wide Cell Phone Policy

FROM CVU PRESS RELEASE

Please join the CVU principal Adam Bunting and others parents to discuss the positives and negatives of cell phones and their use in schools. Current research, personal experiences, best practice, and existing policy will all be discussed. Your participation is welcome and needed! Watch for more details from CVU, the feeder schools and on FPF. Currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 6:30-8 p.m., at CVU. **Please check CVU calendar to confirm or email dshepardson@cvsdvt.org.**

Sports

Quad Champions: Redhawks Girls Basketball Season Ends Abruptly

"A banner is only a representation of the skills you've earned: discipline, hard work, and collaboration. They are rewards that serve you long past this season. When the trophies tarnish and the banners fade, it will be your teammates, your coach, and small moments you remember best."

Those were the words of Champlain Valley Union High School Principal Adam Bunting on Twitter March 13, the day after undefeated Redhawks girls basketball was stopped in its tracks on the way to the state title amid growing concern over the spread of the COVID-19 virus in Vermont.

The top-seeded team with a season record of 20-0-0 was poised for the March 12 semifinal round against No. 5 Rutland (13-7-0) when the Vermont Principals Association called an abrupt end to the playoff tournament citing public health concerns.

Not only would the playoffs attract large crowds, but basketball by nature is a contact sport, the VPA noted.

Hockey and boys basketball contests had already been decided, leaving all four divisions of girls basketball still on the court. Final games were to be played

over the weekend of March 14-15.

"We recognize the disappointment that this unprecedented experience is for our hard-working student-athletes, their coaches, and their fans. Basketball is a sport that brings athletes into extremely close proximity to one another, and given the guidance from health officials at both the state and national levels, it is necessary to make this difficult decision to ensure that we do not inadvertently contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in Vermont."

The announcement emphasized that concern for public health superseded an extracurricular activity.

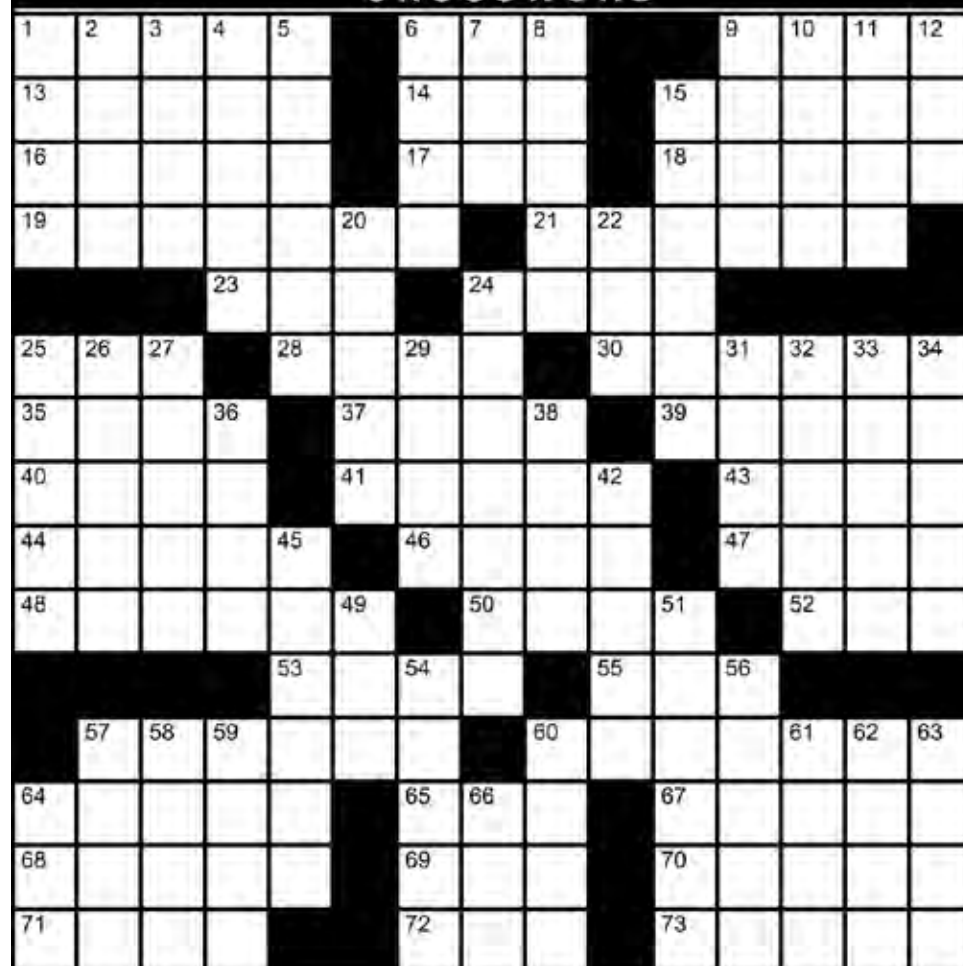
"These Vermont student-athletes will join the UVM athletes, hundreds of world-class NCAA basketball players, and many other tournament high school athletes around the country in having this never before seen strange end to the 2020 season," the VPA said.

Next came the VPA announcement of "co" and "quad" champions for the girls 2020 basketball season as a way to bring "some of the deserved recognition for these student-athletes who ended up in the unprecedented scenario of cancellation. While not the ideal way to finish a season, we wish to recognize the dedication, effort, and now sacrifice that these teams have shown."

The move made the No. 1 CVU Redhawks quad champions in Division 1 alongside rivals No. 2 Essex, No. 3 Mt. Mansfield Union and No. 5 Rutland. Essex and MMU would have played the other semifinal match.

The unusual end to the winter season ***continued on page 14***

CROSSWORD



STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: DRIVER'S ED

ACROSS

1. Happen again
6. Promotions
9. Field mouse
13. UV absorber
14. Seek a seat
15. Eagle's nest
16. Jury
17. Mad King George's number
18. Bad-tempered one
19. *Two or more people on the road
21. *Fines can do that?
23. Scot's woolen cap
24. Give an impression
25. Last month
28. Willy Wonka mastermind
30. Lay down to rest again
35. Container weight
37. Damaging precipitation
39. One born to Japanese immigrants
40. Windows alternative
41. Clown act
43. London subway
44. What Motion Picture Association of America does
46. Lentil soup
47. Pulitzer winner Bellow
48. Little Women to Aunt March
50. Victorian and Elizabethan ones, e.g.
52. Dropped drug
53. Type of dam
55. Post Malone's genre
57. *Traffic separator
60. *Kind of lane
64. Tiger's and lioness' offspring
65. J. Edgar Hoover's org.
67. Capital of Vietnam
68. Between wash and dry
69. 1985 Kurosawa movie
70. Village V.I.P.
71. Brewer's kiln
72. Play part
73. Young salmon

Down

1. Campus drilling grp.
2. Poet Pound
3. Coconut fiber
4. Not fitting
5. Add a new magazine
6. Seed cover
7. *Punishable driver offense, acr.
8. Like a hurtful remark
9. Action word
10. Like face-to-face exam
11. Don't cross it?
12. Comic cry
15. Keenness in a certain field
20. D-Day beach
22. Old-fashioned over
24. Move like a serpent
25. *Go back the way you came
26. Hawaiian veranda
27. Banal or commonplace
29. *"Raised _____," or "Don't Walk"
31. Small fragments
32. Bar order, with the
33. Puzzle with pictures and letters
34. *Up-side-down triangle sign
36. Biz bigwig
38. Yarn spinner
42. "The Nutcracker" protagonist
45. Crafting with stitches
49. One of Sinbad's seven
51. Miss America's accessory, pl.
54. Prefix for below
56. Church song
57. Actress Sorvino
58. Shining armor
59. Negative contraction
60. Pub order
61. _____China
62. Christmas season
63. Horizontal wall beam
64. *Keep your hands at ten and _____
66. *Measurement of alcohol in body, acr.

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► Sports

continued from page 13

was immediately followed by a pause by the VPA regarding the upcoming spring season. On March 16, the organization said it would mirror Gov. Phil Scott's emergency closure for K-12 schools by postponing the start of pre-season training until April 6.

"Any changes in guidance from the Governor's Office and/or the Vermont Department of Health will be reviewed ahead of April 6th to determine if the season can get underway, or we need to further postpone, or if cancelation becomes necessary," the VPA said in a news release.

"We join the voices of student-athletes around the state in our shared desire to get the season underway as soon as possible, and we will follow whatever steps are deemed necessary for the betterment of public health."

Student-athletes and their coaches will stay sidelined until at least April 6 before they start spring training.



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Organizations



Every year the Hinesburg Community Resource Center – the recipient of a recent VEC Community Fund grant – hosts a volunteer-cooked Welcome Baby Brunch for families with babies born in the past year so the families can socialize and meet other families with babies. Here, a mother and her daughter enjoy a recent brunch. Photo courtesy Hinesburg Community Resource Center.

Hinesburg Efforts Receive Support from VEC Community Fund

FROM VEC PRESS RELEASE

An initiative to expand community playgroups for young children and another to support the growth of lo-

cal news coverage – both Hinesburg-based initiatives – received support recently from the Vermont Electric Cooperative's Community Fund.

The Hinesburg Community Resource Center's Friends of Families coordinates local playgroups and received \$750 to continue the delivery of these services.

"Playgroups foster a 'sense of place' or affiliation in a community, especially for families who are new to town or new to parenting," said Rachel Kring, the executive director of the Hinesburg Community Resource Center. "We hear many stories from families who met lifelong friends in playgroups or were able to engage in other community activities and programs because of connections made at a playgroup," she said. "Our playgroups provide a nurturing environment to support children's social and emotional wellbeing, as well as early learning," Kring said.

The other Hinesburg-based grant recip-

ient, the Community News Service, will receive \$500 to support a collaboration with the Hinesburg Record to boost community news coverage. Specifically, the effort will include hiring a professional editor to support students to provide substantive multi-media content for the local news outlet.

"The overall goal is to ensure the paper remains a vital part of the community, providing information and engaging readers," said Richard Watts, director of the Center for Research on Vermont, which coordinates the Community News Service.

The VEC Community Fund is a voluntary program supported by VEC members who choose round up their electric bills, donate their patronage capital dollars, or make one-time donations to the fund. The fund then makes grants to local organizations that support economic security, energy education, emergency and disaster relief, and community development.

About Vermont Electric Cooperative

Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC), established in 1938, is a non-profit, member-owned electric distribution utility that provides safe, affordable, and reliable electric service to approximately 32,000 members in 75 communities in northern Vermont. Nationally recognized for innovative and advanced use of technology, VEC is the largest locally-owned electric distribution utility in Vermont. vermontelectric.coop

Five Vermont Poets to Read at Sixth Annual Hinesburg Poetry Reading

BY LAURA BUDOFKY WISNIEWSKI

Poetry moves us, heals us, delights us, teaches us and brings us together. Celebrate National Poetry Month at the 6th Annual Hinesburg Poetry Reading with Hinesburg poets Jeff Volzer, Marian Willmott (Still Life, Requiem and an Egg; Turnings) Laura Budofsky Wisniewski (How To

"Not a Hair Out of Place"

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Poet Laura Budofsky Wisniewski reading at a previous Hinesburg Poetry Reading

Prepare Bear; Sanctuary, Vermont), Bristol poet Karla Van Vliet (From the Book of Remembrance; The River From My Mouth; Fluency: A Collection of Asemic Writings), and Shaftsbury poet James Crews (Bluebird; Healing the Divide: Poems of Kindness and Connection).

The reading will be held on Sunday, April 26, from 3-4:45 p.m., at Hinesburg's Carpenter-Carse Library. Light refreshments will be served and poets' books will be on sale.

Lake Iroquois Association and Lake Iroquois Recreation District Submit Watermilfoil Permit

FROM LAKE IROQUOIS ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) and the Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD) have jointly applied to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for an Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit to use the aquatic herbicide, ProcellaCOR (active ingredient Florypyrauxifen-benzyl), to control the infestation of the invasive weed, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in Lake Iroquois. ProcellaCOR is an herbicide that specifically targets EWM. It has received a Reduced Risk classification. Studies show that it does not cause adverse effects on human health or the environment. It targets the plant's growth receptor and is very effective at eliminating EWM when used at very low concentrations. It breaks down very quickly – within hours.

The Vermont Department of Health has thoroughly examined this product and, in 2019 its use was approved by the Vermont DEC in 4 lakes in Vermont. The result of this application was almost immediate, with significant plant deterioration occurring within days of the herbicide application. There were no deleterious effects on native aquatic species and the herbicide was shown to dissipate in less than 24 hours.

The permit application filed by LIA and LIRD includes a comprehensive lake management plan with herbicide treatment as part of a multi-pronged effort to reduce and control the EWM infestation. The plan includes continuation of the many other projects the LIA undertakes to enhance the lake's water quality. Herbicide treatment would be targeted to EWM and limited to 40% of the littoral zone (the area of the lake where plants can grow). The littoral zone of Lake Iroquois comprises approximately 100 acres, so treatment would be of about 40 acres at the north end of the lake where the infestation is so dense that boats cannot navigate through it.

The EWM infestation in Lake Iroquois has long been a problem. It has been spreading and has caused a reduction of native aquatic species to the point that EWM is now the most commonly found plant in the lake. The LIA has undertaken numerous projects that have reduced nutrient levels and sediment runoff in the lake, improving water quality. LIA provides information and educational materials to lakefront property owners about lake-friendly landscaping and creation of buffers to help reduce runoff from lawns and gardens. LIA runs a greeter and pressurized hot-water boat wash station and has used Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) of milfoil, and placement of bottom barriers to help reduce EWM. All of these are important aspects of the comprehensive lake management plan but have not been sufficient to control the EWM infestation. The addition of this targeted herbicide provides a means to reduce and control the infestation allowing native aquatic plants to re-populate and mechanical methods to be effectively deployed.

The complete permit application, the detailed comprehensive lake management plan, recent aquatic plant surveys, further information on ProcellaCOR, the notice that was sent to lakefront property owners and property owners bordering waterbodies for one mile downstream along with information on how to follow the permitting process can all be found on the LIA website: lakeiroquois.org

Peregrines are on Territories and Eagles are Incubating

Spring has arrived for these raptors

BY MARGARET FOWLE, CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST, AUDUBON VT

Sometimes, it is hard to believe that any bird might begin its breeding season in Vermont in March. For many raptors, this is the case, however. These birds have a long breeding season and, therefore, need to get a jump on things so that their young can become proficient hunters before the cold sets in again in the fall.

Bald Eagles typically begin the process of returning to nests and setting up territories in late February, and Peregrine Falcons start defending their nesting cliffs and reinforcing their pair bonds

in late March. This year things seem to be on a bit of an early track with most of the eagles in the lower Connecticut River area already incubating eggs, and many peregrines present at their breeding sites.

Audubon Vermont and the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department work together to monitor and protect these two iconic raptors during the breeding season. By April, we will be sending more than 60 community scientists out to nesting sites to determine which sites are occupied by breeding pairs and document where these pairs are in the nesting process: defending the territory, choosing, building or maintaining a nest site, and/or incubating eggs. As the season progresses, these volunteers will keep tabs on how each pair's breeding season progresses: whether or not a pair nests, if so, whether or not it is successful, and if so, how many young fledge from the nest site.

Both species have made remarkable comebacks after being nearly extinct in the middle of the last century. Vermont hosts more than 56 pairs of Peregrine Falcons and 36 pairs of Bald Eagles. Peregrines were removed from the state list of Endangered and Threatened Species in 2005. Eagles are still listed as Endangered in Vermont, but have been proposed to be downlisted to Threatened status.

While these birds have been highly successful, it has not been without our help. It is important to give these birds the space they need to successfully complete their breeding cycles. Please respect cliff closures at peregrine sites and keep your distance from eagle nest trees. For more information on each of these species, visit: vt.audubon.org/conservation/science.

Birds of Vermont Museum Installs a Little Free Library

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Built of an upcycled Wood Duck nesting box, the Birds of Vermont Museum's Little Free Library (LFL) is now up and open to the public. It is easy to get to: on a shed wall near the entrance path to the Museum. In keeping with a nesting motif (that is, slightly hidden), and wishing to keep some of the weather off, volunteer Ernie P., 85, attached our LFL under the shed's eaves. Ernie also did the remodeling of the box, adding a door and a shelf for smaller books. The clear window gives a sneak peek at what's inside.

Little Free Libraries are pop-up boxes (in an endless variety of styles) containing books you can borrow. You may return them where you found them, return them to another Little Free Library, or keep them, all without a library card. LFLs are not meant to replace regular libraries (goodness, no!) nor bookstores, but to inspire us as all to read a little more, wherever we go, and to share interesting books widely.

Our LFL is also a Bookcrossing zone, so we and you can share and track



The Birds of Vermont Museum's new Little Free Library

books via bookcrossing.com too. Bookcrossers register books in their collection, sometime release them (in a zone or wherever), and can look up a registered book to discover where else that book has been.

Come by the Museum and borrow a book!

We started by including a bird guide you can use while exploring our trails, sitting in the bird blind, or sketching from our tree house. Will it still be there when you arrive? Come find out!

The Birds of Vermont museum is located at 900 Sherman Hollow Road Huntington. For more information, call 434-2167, go to birdsofvermont.org/events or email museum@birdsofvermont.org.

Vermont Scholastic Chess Championships Postponed

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The Vermont Scholastic Chess Championships, originally scheduled for April 4, has been postponed. A new date will be announced as soon as possible. Due to the current pandemic, venues are unable to host events, or to make a commitment to hold events at a future date.

The tournament is not permanently canceled, and the organizers fully intend to run the event when it is safe to do so.

Scout Troop 690 Learns Tree Tapping

Saturday morning March 7, members of Scout Troop 690 met with Dave Estey to learn about tree tapping.

The morning started with Mr. Estey giving a history of tapping which included showing the Scouts the different styles of taps, tools and tubing which has been used over the years. He then demonstrated the taps and tubing currently in use.

continued on page 16

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Outdoors

A Reminder from Fish & Wildlife to Remove Ice Shanties

FROM VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE PRESS RELEASE

Vermont state law requires that ice fishing shanties be removed from the ice before the ice weakens, according the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

The shanty must be removed before the ice becomes unsafe or loses its ability to support the shanty out of the water, or before the last Sunday in March

– the 29th this year – whichever comes first. All contents, debris, wood, and supports must also be removed so they do not become a hazard to navigation in the spring.

The fine for leaving your ice fishing shanty on the ice can be \$1,000.

Shanties may not be left at state fishing access areas.

► Scout Troop 690

continued from page 15

One of the problems he stated he has is animals, especially squirrels and deer, chewing on the tubing. He explained that by using the vacuum system and shut off valves, he is able to locate and fix leaks. Small leaks are repaired with tape, while the larger leaks require sec-



Gavin D. looks at the sap collection.



Evan S. drills the hole for a tap.



Scouts listen as Dave Estey shows the troop sap equipment and tools used over the years. Dave is pointing to the types of tubing he uses.

tions of tubing to be replaced.

The group then moved on to the shed where his sap collection tank is located. Mr. Estey explained how the sap comes in to a tank, and when the tank is full, valves open releasing the sap into a large storage tank. The sap is periodically removed from the storage tank and taken to a boiling operation to be made into syrup.

The final learning experience was tap-

ping trees. After demonstrating how to look for and locate old tap holes, and where a new hole should be placed, each Scout took a turn tapping a tree and connecting to the tap to the line.

The Scouts of Troop 690 would like to thank Mr. Estey for his time and the opportunity to learn about and tap trees.

If you would like to join Scouts, Troop 690 meets Wednesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m. at the United Church of Hinesburg Parish Hall.



Ice shanties in Vermont must be removed before the ice becomes unsafe or loses its ability to support the shanty out of the water, or before the last Sunday in March. Vermont Fish & Wildlife photo.

State Game Wardens are available for questions via the Vermont State Police radio dispatcher.

The Hinesburg Town Forest: Diversity, Inclusion and Demonstration

BY ETHAN TAPPER, CHITTENDEN COUNTY FORESTER

Most of the readers of this article have probably heard of the forest management that has been underway at the Hinesburg Town Forest (HTF) for the last two winters. As I write this, the project — in the southeastern corner of the property, from the Economou Road access — has been nearly completed, with some minor clean-up work scheduled for this summer. I think that the project has been a huge success, in large part due to the support of Pat Mainer, the Hinesburg Town Forest Committee and the broader Hinesburg Community.

It continues to be an honor to follow in the footsteps of County Foresters like Bill Hall and Mike Snyder in helping manage the HTF. The property is iconic; an incredibly robust, vibrant example of public lands at work. In addition to being an important resource, recreationally and otherwise, for residents of Hinesburg and the surrounding communities, it also continues to be an important site for demonstration and education, providing landowners, forest managers and laypeople a road-map for the responsible stewardship of our forests.

Over the past two winters, the forest management at the HTF has had two major goals, one local and one more regional, or “global.”

From a local perspective, we’ve tried to encourage a healthy, diverse, resilient forest with great wildlife habitat. We’ve created conditions which will benefit the overall health and ecology of the HTF and enrich the surrounding landscape, including encouraging

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Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Publication date for The Hinesburg Record.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Hinesburg Historical Society Meeting. Ground Floor Conference Room, Hinesburg Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. HFOF Play Group. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Affordable Housing Committee. 3rd Floor, Town Office.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Fire and Rescue/Medical Training. Hinesburg Fire Department, 10340 VT-116, Hinesburg.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Hinesburg Land Trust Meeting. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballard's Corner Rd., Hinesburg.

7:00-10:00 p.m. Select Board Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

MONDAY, APRIL 6

4:30-5:30 p.m. Lake Iroquois Recreation District Meeting. Williston Town Hall. Public invited.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Select Board Meeting. Town Hall.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Vermont Astronomical Society Meeting. University of Vermont, Burlington.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

7:00-8:30 p.m. Community Writers' Group. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballards Corner Rd., Hinesburg. Calling all local writers! Join us for our monthly Community Writers Group! All genres are welcome. Get your literary juices flowing with creative writing prompts; network with other local wordsmiths; and enjoy a fun, stimulating monthly workshop in the Carpenter-Carse Community Room. Snacks will be provided. To submit a piece of writing for others to review and enjoy before the group meets, email Laura Wisniewski at bhy@beecherhill yoga.com.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Energy Committee. 3rd floor conference room.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Recreation Commission Meeting. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:30-9:30 p.m. Development Review Board Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. HFOF Play Group. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Fire and Rescue/Heavy Rescue Training. Hinesburg Fire Station.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Advertising and News deadline for The Hinesburg Record.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Lewis Creek Association Board Meeting. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballard's Corner Rd., Hinesburg.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Town Forest Committee. Ground Level Conference Room, Hinesburg Town Hall.

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Easter Sunday.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

7:00-9:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting. 1st Floor Conference Room, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. HFOF Play Group. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:00-8:00 p.m. Fire and Rescue/Business Meeting. Hinesburg Fire Station.

7:00-10:00 p.m. Select Board Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Trails Committee. 3rd Floor Conference Room, Hinesburg Town Hall.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

7:00-9:00 p.m. Select Board Meeting. Town Hall.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

5:00-6:30 p.m. CVSD School Board Meeting. CVU room 160.

5:30-7:00 p.m. Hinesburg Business and Professional Association Meeting. Papa Nick's, 10997 VT-116, Hinesburg. New members welcome!Contact HBPA President Laura Gurdak at 802-482-2877or hinesburghair@gmail.com.

7:30-9:30 p.m. Development Review Board Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. HFOF Play Group. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:00-8:00 p.m. Carpenter-Carse Library Trustees Meeting. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballard's Corner Rd., Hinesburg, VT 05461.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Fire and Rescue/Fire Training. Hinesburg Fire Station.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

7:00-9:00 p.m. Hinesburg Historical Society Meeting. Ground Floor Conference Room, Hinesburg Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. HFOF Play Group. Main Room at Town Hall.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Publication date for The Hinesburg Record.

MONDAY, MAY 4

4:30-5:30 p.m. Lake Iroquois Recreation District Meeting. Williston Town Hall. Public invited.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Select Board Meeting. Town Hall.

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7:30-8:30 p.m. Vermont Astronomical Society Meeting. University of Vermont, Burlington.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

7:00-8:30 p.m. Community Writers' Group. See Calendar entry for Tuesday, April 7.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Recreation Commission Meeting. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:30-9:30 p.m. Development Review Board Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. HFOF Play Group. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Affordable Housing Committee. 3rd Floor, Town Office.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Fire and Rescue/Medical Training. Hinesburg Fire Department, 10340 VT-116, Hinesburg.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Hinesburg Land Trust Meeting. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballard's Corner Rd., Hinesburg.

7:00-10:00 p.m. Select Board Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

SUNDAY, MAY 10

Mother's Day.

TUESDAY, MAY 12

7:00-9:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting. 1st Floor Conference Room, Town Hall.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. HFOF Play Group. Main Room at Town Hall.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting. Ground Level Conference Room, Town Hall.

7:30-8:30 p.m. Fire and Rescue/Heavy Rescue Training. Hinesburg Fire Station.

THURSDAY, MAY 14

Advertising and News deadline for The Hinesburg Record.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Lewis Creek Association Board Meeting. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballard's Corner Rd., Hinesburg.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Town Forest Committee. Ground Level Conference Room, Hinesburg Town Hall.

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Arts & Leisure

Lyric Theatre Company's Matilda The Musical

A Magical Show for Kids and Kids at Heart

BY KYLIE HALPIN

Lyric Theatre Company will be bringing the magic of Roald Dahl's classic characters from Matilda to the Flynn MainStage. Originally scheduled for April 2, a new date will be announced once the production can take place safely in the community.

Based on the children's book by the same title, Matilda The Musical sends a courageous and positive message to kids of all ages to become the heroes we all need. Ever a heroine of spirit and precocity, leading lady Matilda uses her intelligence, wit, and imagination to overcome the negativity of the adults in her world. Throughout the show, she inspires her peers (and audience) to seek out life's positives and become the writers of their own story. Inspired by the twisted genius of Roald Dahl, with book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, Matilda has won 47 international awards and continues to thrill sold-out audiences around the world.

In his directorial debut with Lyric MainStage, Artistic Director Ian Ferris has crafted a stunning vision involving unique, innovative perspectives on visual storytelling, special effects, and delightful surprises woven throughout this creative and musically captivating show. Ian's leadership is supported by Production Supervisor Rob Parzych, Music Director Nate Venet, Choreographer Kim Nowlan Hathaway and Assistant Choreographer Jane Burchard, Stage Manager Freda Tutt and Assistant Stage Manager Andy Whitaker.

With Rick Ames in the role of Agatha Trunchbull and Merrill Cameron as the

kindly Miss Honey, the Matilda cast is lead by first-time Lyric MainStage performer Phoebe Raphael as our inspirational leading lady. Consisting of both children and adults, this 33-member cast combines Lyric veterans and debut performers who will be performing their first Lyric MainStage production this spring.

Cast members with ties to the readership area of the Hinesburg Record include Jayden Choquette, Mr. Wormwood; Fiona McCormick, Lavender; Lucas Moran, Bruce; Ella O'Neil, Hortensia; Rowan Williams, Eric; and ensemble members Abigail Lord, Robert O'Neil, Avery Smith and Benjamin Villa. Production team members with area ties include Ian Ferris, Artistic Director; Linda Goodhue Fleury, Hair & Makeup Designer; Lesley Graham, Properties/Set Dressing Chair; Steve Smith, Sound Designer; and Andy Whitaker, Assistant Stage Manager.

For every production, Lyric Theatre Company likes to shine the spotlight on one or more community non-profit organizations. For Matilda, we are proud to partner with KidSafe Collaborative and Prevent Child Abuse Vermont, two organizations that empower communities, organizations, and families to combat child abuse and neglect.

Lyric Theatre Company's presentation of the Tony Award-winning Matilda The Musical will be presented on the Flynn MainStage April 2-5, with evening performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday, and matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. The Friday evening performance will be ASL interpreted for hearing-impaired patrons, and the Sunday matinee will be audio-described for patrons who are blind or visually impaired.

For tickets, call 802 86FLYNN, purchase online at flynnitix.org, or visit the Flynn Box Office in downtown Burlington. Generous support is provided by Vermont Federal Credit Union and PCC Pediatric EHR Solutions, with WCAX and Seven Days as media partners.

People

Life Scout Completes Eagle Project

Cody Potter, currently a Life Scout in Troop 690 in Hinesburg, completed his Eagle Scout Project on February 1, 2020. A crew of scouts and parents helped build two storage shelves to benefit the Williston Federated Church in Williston. Cody has been attending the church since he was born. For his project, Cody recognized a need after a Halloween rainstorm flooded the basement of his church where Tiny Dreamers daycare is located. The floodwater damaged supplies, books, and toys, just to name a few items, so Cody talked with Tiny Dreamers owner Paula Nadeau and also Pastor Paul Eyer and Tony Lamb from church to see if his project could move forward to help assist the daycare in

case there was ever a future flood. His idea of building two 8' x 4' shelves six inches off the ground to store various supplies took flight. Cody scheduled two "paint parties" mid-January to paint the lumber from Home Depot in Williston. His choice of paint was most appropriate—"Swirling Waters White." A huge thank you goes out to Boy Scouts Gavin Davies, Jake Potter, Ronald and Evan Spivack, and Jackson Tellstone, and parent volunteers Dana and Fran Potter and Barb Powers for taking the time to assist on the paint project and for seeing it through to completion. The final step was construction and installation of the lumber in the storage room at Tiny Dreamers Daycare on February 1, 2020. A huge thank you goes out to Boy Scouts Everett and Quenten Barbeau, Gavin Davies, Jake Potter, Stuart Robinson, and Evan Spivack and parent volunteers Dana and Fran Potter for their time and hard work to construct and install the finished shelving units at Williston Federated Church. Thanks again to Pastor Paul Eyer and Tony Lamb from the Williston Federated church, who were instrumental in getting this project started with Cody.



Life Scout Cody Potter (in uniform) and then from left to right, Boy Scouts Jake Potter, Dana Potter (adult volunteer) and Boy Scout Stuart Robinson standing in front of the completed shelving project.

In order to become an Eagle Scout, several qualifications set forth by the Boy Scouts of America must be met. For example, the scouts must be active with their troop for at least six months after becoming a Life Scout, have references that prove they live by the Scout oath and laws in their daily lives, earn at least 21 merit badges, serve in a leadership position in the troop, and develop and create a service project. Cody joined Cub Scouts back in 2011 and has since climbed the ranks to Life Scout. He has earned 31 merit badges, is serving as the Bugler and Quartermaster in his troop, and is finishing his freshman year at CVU.

County "Capitol for a Day" event. It was featured on UVM Extension's "Across the Fence" television program, WCAX news and in the Vermont Woodlands Association (VWA)'s Annual Newsletter. To offer unique educational opportunities, we partnered with Vermont Woodlands Association, Vermont Coverts, Audubon Vermont, Woods, Wildlife and Warblers, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Vermont Land Trust, in addition to less traditional partners like City Market Coop and the Outdoor Gear Exchange in Burlington, Fellowship of the Wheel mountain bike club and Vermont Pride Center.

Higher Education Honors

Max Barron and Zaza Quatt, both of Hinesburg, made the Dean's List at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2019 Fall Semester. Barron is in the mechanical engineering program. Quatt is in the illustration program.

Alexandra Lewis of Hinesburg has been named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List at Roger Williams University, in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

Have an ad? 482-7227 or
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Have news? 482-2350 or
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At the end of the day, we hope that our efforts have helped to make the HTF's forests healthier.

Better still, we hope that our work has fostered an improved understanding of forests and forest management that will lead to healthier forests everywhere.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County Forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. He can be reached at ethan.tapper@vermont.gov or 802-585-9099.

Commentary

Gull Talk

BY ROGER DONEGAN

If old enough, the perfunctory annual statement received from the Social Security Administration dutifully lists one's work history, dates and employers, from the point one needed to have "working papers." So maybe it's embarrassing just how many years have passed, but the bureaucratic statement helps keep memory alive. "Seagull" was an older guy who showed up with the younger crowd of us "warehouse pickers," who loaded tractor trailers 4 pm to midnight for a big city grocery store chain, one of those first employers of mine listed on the Social Security statement. Seagull had tall thin legs like Big Bird that rose from his work boots all the way up to the ballooning shorts he wore to keep cool. The contour of his legs did not alter but for the knuckle-like appearance of his bare knees. He worked comfortably and enjoyed the bit of attention his stature and nickname "Seagull" brought him.

The 1970s book "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" by Richard Bach, on the other hand, told a captivating story by giving a human-like identity to a seagull growing up. Such is part of the nuanced background upon which a few of my real but later-in-life seagull encounters occur. Officially there are only gulls. Seagull is a misnomer. Even though we take gulls and the good that they do for granted because of their everyday presence, they were one of the first of birds protected by law, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, for instance. I've had too many encounters with gulls to count, including one which my brother and I once came upon whose legs were hopelessly entangled with fishing line but was cut free while it was hooded and quieted in a tee-shirt. Of my three favorite gull stories, two take place in Vermont.

But first, years ago as young parents with a family of our own, we were in the big city to visit the folks. And usu-

ally we had to get out of the house so the kids could get fresh air and stretch their legs, even if off season. It was worth a drive to the beach for a few hours outdoors. Here we would walk a stretch of empty beach along the water where the shore birds would skedaddle or fly off ahead as we progressed. One of the boys noticed one gull had a honker of a live clam clamped over its beak. Unlike a dramatic struggle of bucks locked in horns, this stand-off between gull and clam must have been a quiet status quo for days as the gull was weak and barely managed to fly a few yards away to set down again in shallow water. The water was no refuge

either as the weight of the clam tended to pull the gull's head underwater. I waded into the water, wrapped the gull in a shirt, cut the bivalve's two abductor muscles with the car key, which sacrificed the clam but set the gull free.

Approaching the latest end of my employment record now on January 23, 2015, I took my usual walk at noon on Burlington's Bike Path, on the section currently under reconstruction and detoured, and will be so for the remainder of 2020. The Bike Path was essentially clear of other pedestrians but I met Paul from Hinesburg on the north side of Roundhouse Point. I actually met his dog first on the south side. I hadn't seen Paul in years, and knew he was a tree guy. So I was surprised to bump into him shivering and standing next to a spotting scope on a tripod out of the

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Members of the cast and team for Lyric Theatre Company's spring production of Matilda The Musical with ties to Hinesburg/Shelburne/Charlotte: Back row L to R: Avery Smith, Ian Ferris, Jayden Choquette, Andy Whitaker, Rob O'Neil; front row L to R: Ella O'Neil, Fiona McCormick, Rowan Williams, Linda Goodhue Fleury, Benjamin Villa; photo credit: Stephen Mease

► Gull Talk

continued from page 19

wind. More than a dozen species of gull can be seen in Vermont. You often see a flock following tractors turning hay in the fields as they do fishing boats on the sea. I also take gulls for granted, too many to know and identify at once. While catching up with Paul I was curious about his birding quarry – gulls. Somewhat distant in calmed waters on the bay side of the breakwater was an aggregate of gulls bunched together facing the wind on ice so thin it undulated with the slight heave of the water’s surface.

Sometimes one has to see a bird on the wing, too, to accurately identify it, but not this day. Hunkered down among the Laughing and Great Black gulls, Paul pointed out Icelandic and Glaucous gulls with the scope, the latter two being new to my life bird list.

But my favorite gull story of all time has a New England town, municipality edge to it that began on April 16,

2013, on a previous lunch break walk. At Perkins Pier I spotted a gull close and tagged. I don’t mean banded, it was tagged on both wings with bright orange square synthetic fabric flags. It was walking around as if saddled with a miniature sandwich board. I short circuited for a moment. I didn’t know if I was looking at a variant of Redwing, a gull, or a totally new species. The gull was perfectly fine, however, without binoculars I couldn’t read what was on the tags. For the next two weeks I carried binoculars on lunch break in my hat in my hand so not to look as if I was watching for submarine periscopes in the lake or for an aircraft passing overhead to others on the Bike Path.

On April 29, I spotted the same gull again at the Blodgett pocket beach and could now make out the alpha-numeric tag “A/1004” on the flags with the binoculars. Searching the internet I found a site called “SEANET” and reported the sighting. Using the tag number the database indicated the bird to be female and a Ring-billed gull captured and tagged at a Stop & Shop Store



Rare view of Herring Gull on nest. Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH. Photo by the author.

parking lot in Revere, Mass. Bread was used for bait and a rocket net for capture. This program was undertaken by the Massachusetts Natural Resources Section, Water Supply Protection Division. Apparently the gulls were a problem for the drinking water reservoir in Revere and responsible people wanted to know where the gulls came from and how far afield they traveled. Gulls tagged in this program have been reported as far north as Labrador and as far south as the State of Georgia.

Death by Cop

BY BILL SCHUBART

The last person Vermont executed was Donald Demag on December 8, 1954. Demag committed two robberies and killed two people while doing so. He was electrocuted in the state’s electric chair. Vermont retired the death penalty in 1972; its instrument of death is stored at the Vermont Historical Society. Although U.S. Attorney General William Barr has directed the federal government to restart executions for federal convictions, his initiative has been stayed in the courts. It’s unlikely, given public opinion, that Vermont or the other 19 states that have abolished the death penalty will reinstitute it. The U.S. is, in fact, one of the few “civilized” countries in the world that retains a federal death penalty and Vermont has no legal means to prevent it within its borders if it is a federal prosecution.

Although execution as punishment in Vermont ended with only two people executed in the last century, deaths at the hands of police are rising, as a recent report in VTDigger (tinyurl.com/HR-VTDigger) shows. In the last decade, 17 people have been killed by Vermont police (one by Taser), and, on review by Attorneys General Bill Sorrell and T.J. Donovan, all have been deemed “justified.” As a friend in law enforcement says, “each time a cop kills, there are two victims, the killer and the killed, especially if the ‘kill’ is questioned.” To elucidate, he noted recent studies showing that drone pilots get PTSD.

Death by jury trial is over, death by cop is on the rise... why?

There are many reasons given, including deteriorating social adhesion, the increase in mental illness and lack of treatment, a rise in gun ownership, and inadequate police training and screening.

Vermont’s 330 State troopers have an

excellent reputation for training and performance. But Vermont has another fifty-odd categories of policing whose standards for training or qualification are considerably less rigorous: local police, deputies, sheriffs, campus police, transportation, border patrol, security etc. Most carry deadly weapons, including tasers, and are authorized to use “deadly force” under certain circumstances. But how well defined are the events that justify the use of “deadly force” and how well are potential users of it trained?

There are no Vermont statutes on “use of force,” only individual department policies largely based on a model put forth by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns liability insurance coverage.

There is a long-standing culture of not questioning men and women in uniform whether police, soldiers, priests, firefighters etc. The lack of statistical transparency and procedural review reflects this. “Improper use of force” investigations are sheltered as “personnel matters” and never see the light of day except as a final verdict in court.

“The use of deadly force was deemed justified.” Matter closed.

It’s been suggested that police agree as a condition of employment that in any “use of deadly force” review, their prior records relating to use of force be made available to examiners. Sometimes deadly force becomes a pattern with certain law enforcement personnel and that must be considered in any investigation.

Phil Grenon was a 76-year-old Burlington man with schizophrenia. He was shot by a 23-year-old Burlington police officer, David Bowers. Then-Police Chief Brandon Del Pozo, who was incident commander on the scene, deemed the incident justifiable, as did State’s Attorney T.J. Donovan. Elements of the body camera footage were only released much later and can be seen at 4:40 minutes into the video embedded in the VT Digger reporting.

I spoke with someone who has seen the footage and there are discrepancies between Del Pozo’s statements and what appears on the footage. Del Pozo arrived on the scene and took over from the “incident commander” who the video observer felt was managing the incident appropriately, making efforts to de-escalate. Del Pozo then allowed non-tactical team members into the house. The youngest officer headed the “stack.” There was one knife, as opposed to “knives.” Grenon was inside a bathtub with a sliding screen. There was no exit. He was contained.

The police were behind polycarbonate plastic shields and Del Pozo ordered the release of a pepper ball spray even though police were not wearing protective masks. Everyone’s eyes appeared to be watering and, terrified, Grenon began screaming and emerged and was shot four times.

“The concept that the tac-team members could not defend themselves against this elderly man who could barely walk, who had been tased and pepper-balled, who was completely contained in a bathroom without exit is insulting,” the viewer noted.

There appears to be a cognitive difference between Del Pozo’s November 13, 2019 New York Times op-ed on use of force and his management of this incident which raise other questions.

Why are investigations where a uniformed officer of the state or municipality takes a life not subject to public oversight if they are in the service of “public safety?”

What explicit statutes are needed to define and evaluate the justification for lethal force?

Rep. Anne Donahue, R-Northfield introduced H-808 which takes a stab at clarifying use of force criteria and accountability based on a California bill that requires “necessary” use. The Scott Administration and Public Safety Commissioner, Mike Schirling, oppose the bill as it stands and are urging a more measured approach, even as the urgency of statutory definition accelerates with more deaths at the hands of police.

And how and when will we begin to address the crisis in mental health care that is turning emergency rooms into temporary shelters and giving rise to more lethal events in law enforcement? Public safety officials are making a concerted effort to learn from and engage mental health professionals in dealing with crises, but the dearth of mental health professionals and treatment facilities makes their job even more difficult.

We have eliminated the part of the death penalty that occurs at the punitive end of the criminal justice system. Can we at least rationalize and oversee more than the five seconds before the shooting in the taking of life at the “public safety” end?

Speaking at the Democratic Party’s Speaker’s Soiree, former House Speaker Michael Obuchowski, who has battled health problems in recent years, put in a rare appearance. “Obie” received a warm welcome as he limped to the podium and spoke with some obvious effort. After bemoaning the loss of civility and respect in politics, he turned to an unexpected subject: the rising rate of police-involved deaths in Vermont. “We must use less-than-deadly means and de-escalation techniques,” he said. “Deadly force is not the way to solve problems.” He called on lawmakers and officeholders to “pass legislation and enact policies that will prevent us from taking lives.”

When asked why he spoke on that particular issue, Obuchowski offered a simple reply. “The humanity of it,” he said.

Other News

Easy Peasy Split Pea Soup

BY CATHY RYAN

With many people staying at home more, you may be doing more home cooking. So, I thought I’d share with you my recipe for vegetarian split pea soup. It’s pretty basic, but you can embellish it by adding a variety of ingre-



dients. It makes a LOT – at least six 1 and 1/2-cup servings. Stores well in the fridge for up to a week. Cut the recipe in the half for a small family.

Required Ingredients:

1 bag (1 lb.) of green split peas

Highly Recommended Ingredients:

1 onion
3 carrots
1 clove of garlic
1/2 tsp. salt
Several shakes of pepper, to taste
Vegetable broth or concentrate
Olive or vegetable oil

Totally Optional Ingredients:

1 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp onion powder
1/2 c. frozen or canned corn
1/2 c. frozen or fresh spinach
1 c. frozen or fresh broccoli
Less than 1/4 c. barley

Time Needed:

About 2 hours 15 minutes, although after the first boil, it’s turned off and doesn’t need your attention for an hour. In an instant pot, a little over an hour total.

Steps

1. Peel and cut into small pieces the carrots, onion, and garlic clove.
2. Put a little oil in the bottom of your soup pot, heat to medium, and dump in the carrots, onion, and garlic. Stir frequently until browned a little, about 5-8 minutes.

Have news? 482-2350 or
news@hinesburgrecord.org.

VTF&W Suggests Removing Bird Feeders

FROM VT FISH & WILDLIFE
PRESS RELEASE

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department says warm spring weather and melting snows will cause bears to come out of their winter dens in search of food. The department recommends taking down bird feeders by April 1 to avoid attracting bears.

“Apples, beechnuts, acorns, and berries were mostly plentiful last fall enabling bears to enter their winter dens in good condition,” said Forrest Hammond, Vermont’s bear biologist, “but our recent warmer temperatures will stimulate them to emerge and seek any food sources they can smell.”

Bears are very fond of suet and bird seed, especially black oil sunflower seed, which they can smell from a long distance. Bringing feeders in at night doesn’t work, because bears will still feed on seed that is spilled on the ground.

Bird feeders are just one of the things that can attract hungry bears. Other sources of food that bears find appealing are pet food, barbecue grills, garbage, household trash containers, open dumpsters, campsites with accessible food, and food wastes.

Purposely feeding a bear is not just bad for the bear, it causes problems for your neighbors, and it’s also illegal.

Fish and Wildlife also offers the following tips to avoid bear problems:

- Keep chickens and honeybees secure within an electric fence.

- Never feed bears.

- Feed your pets indoors.

- If you compost learn to do it without causing odors that attract wildlife.

- Store trash in a secure place. Trash cans alone are not enough.

“We are asking anyone who has a problem with a bear to report the incident in a form that we have on our website (vtfishandwildlife.com) under Living with Wildlife,” said Hammond. “There is a section in the form where you can ask us to call you to provide advice.”

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Religion

IMPORTANT NOTE: listed here are “regular” events times and dates. Please check websites or call to confirm.

United Church of Hinesburg

An Open, Welcoming, Affirming and Reconciling Church

Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Location: 10580 Route 116

Phone: 482-3352

Email: unitedchurch@gmavt.net

Address: P.O. Box 39

Website: ucofh.org

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.

Choir practice: 9:00 a.m. Sunday

Sunday School: Nursery and story time; Christian Education Kindergarten through 8th grade during academic p.m.

Senior Meal Site: Every Friday 11:00 a.m.- 1 p.m. (except first Friday) Osborne Parish House

AA Gratitude Group: every Monday 7:00 p.m., Osborne Parish House.

Lighthouse Baptist Church

Pastor: Reverend Ed Hart

Church Phone: 482-2588

Home Phone: 482-2588

Email: lighthousevt@aim.com.

Website: LBCvt.homestead.com

Location: Hinesburg Village Center, 90 Mechanicsville Road

Address: P.O. Box 288

Regular Services:

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m., Nursery provided.

Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer Meeting; Nursery provided.

Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church

Pastor: Reverend David Cray, SSE

Pastor's Residence: 425-2253, dgcray@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 2894 Spear Street/P. O. Box 158, Charlotte, VT 05445

Hinesburg Rectory: 482-2290, stjude@gmavt.net, P. O. Box 69, Hinesburg 05461, (10759 Route 116)

Parish Secretary: Marie Cookson, 434-4782, Rectory, 482-2290, marietcookson@aol.com

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m..

Parish Council Chair: Allan Monniere 578-8572

Finance Council Chair: Doug Taff: 482-3066

Buildings and Grounds Supervisor: Buildings and Grounds Supervisor: Henry Moreno, 802-777-4169.

Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday: 9:30 a.m., St. Jude Church, Hinesburg

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Charlotte

Weekday Masses: Monday and Friday, 8:00 a.m., St. Jude Church

Tuesday, Thursday: 5:15 p.m. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Sacrament of Baptism: Call the Pastor for appointment

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church and by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: Contact the Pastor at least six months in advance

Communion at Home: Call Parish Office, 482-2290

Confirmation Coordinators: Dan & Roxanne Smith, 453-3522

Religious Education Coordinator:

Marie Cookson, 434-4782

Religious Education (CCD): Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. for grades K-8. Registration is required.

The 9th and 10th grades (Confirmation Years) meet once a month. This is a two-year program. Watch Sunday bulletins for dates and times.

Please call Marie at 482-2290 (Parish Office) or 434-4782 (home) for more information.

Eucharistic Adoration: Eucharistic Adoration is held the first Friday of each month following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Jude.

Food Shelf Weekend: Every third Saturday and Sunday. Parishioners are asked to make an extra effort to bring non-perishable canned and dried food in weekly for the Hinesburg Food Shelf. Food Collection baskets are in the entry for your convenience.

Senior Meals: Will be served from noon to 2:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted. Food will be prepared by Meals on Wheels. There will be cards, board games and door prizes. Cost is \$4.00 donation. Please call in advance so we have plenty of food on hand. For reservations call Ted Barrett at 453-3087 or Marie Cookson at 482-2290 (parish office) or 434-4782 (home). Caretakers are welcome. Hinesburg Rides will pick you up and bring you home at no charge. For more information, call the parish office at 482-2290.

Williston Federated Church

United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church

An Open and Affirming Reconciling Congregation

Address: 44 North Williston Road, Williston VT 05495

Phone: 878-5792.

Website: steeple.org

Minister: Rev. Paul Eyer

Activities: Junior and Senior High Youth Groups; Men's Bible Study; Women's Book Group; Junior, Senior and Contemporary Music Choirs; Friendship Suppers; opportunities for mission and outreach in the community, country, and world.

Service: Sundays 9:30 a.m., Nursery/Child care provided; Sunday School

during the service for pre-K through high school; Coffee/Fellowship after service in Fellowship Hall.

Community Alliance Church

Pastor: Scott Mansfield

Phone: 482-2132

Email: info@hinesburgcma.org

Web: hinesburgcma.org

Address: 190 Pond Road, Hinesburg (overlooking CVUHS soccer fields)

Sunday Services: 10:30 a.m. Children's programs, for nursery through elementary school ages.

Middle School and High School Youth Group: Meets from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sundays. This is a great time to meet new friends, hang out and talk real life.

Weekday Life Groups: Various times, days, and locations throughout the week.

For more information, please contact the church at 482-2132 or visit hinesburgcma.org.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Address: 5171 Shelburne Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482

Church phone: 985-2269

Church email: info@trinityshelburne.org

Website: trinityshelburne.org

Worship service: Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m.

Worship service and Sunday School: Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

Space for Grace program: Sunday mornings 9:15 a.m.

All Souls Interfaith Gathering Non-Denominational Service

Pastor: Rev. Don Chatfield

Phone: 985-3819

Mailing Address: 291 Bostwick Farm Rd., Shelburne, VT 05482

Services:

Sunday 9:00 a.m.: Morning Meditation

Sunday 5:00 p.m.: Music & Spirit Service

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► Lot 15

continued from page 24

those new, more stringent stormwater regulations should be applied, and we applied them," Weinhausen said.

Hannaford's legal team disagreed. Weinhausen recalled how Hannaford argued for the town board to apply the 2010 rules to the reapplication rather than the more current regulations. That disagreement landed the case back in Superior Court.

But for reasons the company has not detailed, last November while Hannaford was having success in pre-trial rulings, Weinhausen received an email from Hannaford.

The message from Tyler Sterling, the company's manager of real estate development said: "Please be advised that Hannaford has decided to terminate its permitting efforts for a new store in Hinesburg."

Hannaford had scrapped its plans.

Weinhausen was shocked.

"I thought, 'Hannaford is getting the judge to make rulings that are in their favor with regards to how this will be reviewed,' [and] based on that, it was surprising to me that they dropped the project," Weinhausen said.

He wasn't the only one surprised by the move. Steve Giroux is a member of the family that owns the lot. He expressed discontent and frustration with the decision, stating he felt "disappointment that [after] 10 years of trying to get Hannaford in there," the company decided to pull out.

So far, Giroux said, there are no new projects being discussed. "It's back up for sale as a commercial lot, like it was before," he said.

Hannaford spokespeople declined to comment for this story.

Reflections on an Unrelenting Campaign

Looking back on the years-long fight, White recalled how the RGH members were committed and determined to see it through. "We just kept going," White recalled. "I never remember the group saying, 'Maybe we better quit this,' because we knew we were right! We had a lot of good, solid support. We never tried to be duplicitous or roil things up."

The group gauged its wider support from its financial success. Nine years of fundraising earned RGH \$300,000 in grants and donations, with 200 individuals contributing to its cause, according to the group's website. RGH also received significant assistance from Preservation Trust Vermont.

"Preservation Trust Vermont gave us an umbrella," White said. As a 501(c)3, the nonprofit collected donations on behalf of RGH.

Dumont, a 40-year veteran of grassroots environmental activist efforts to check development, said the Hinesburg group was particularly remarkable in its perseverance.

"The most important factor is the citizens – they wouldn't accept defeat,"



A view of the lot to the northwest, a lone staghorn sumac on the left side of the frame. Photo by Alexis Martinez.

Dumont said. "They kept educating themselves, educating me, and did a lot of fundraising. The more they got into it, the more sophisticated they became about the issues, and also about how to raise money."

Today, RGH is its own nonprofit organization with the same mission. And although the battle with Hannaford might be over, the lessons from that victory are not, according to White.

"We want to fulfill a positive role in this town, and I think that our real focus is education. Because we've learned so much, we would like to share some of that; we're not anxious to fight."

The Future of Lot 15

Since Hannaford's decision to drop its development plan for Hinesburg, the community has moved on with determining the future of the still empty 4.6-acre plot.

In December, the Select Board offered residents an opportunity to help guide deliberations regarding the official town map and zoning regulations.

The Planning Commission proposed the updated map and regulations which the Select Board needed to approve.

One sticking point was an item that involved Lot 15.

The proposal called for a "mix of community facilities and wetland preservation/enhancement" for about half of the lot based on a designation by the Planning Commission.

"This official map element was hotly debated, even during the [Planning Commission's] process and public hearing," Weinhausen explained.

Originally, the Planning Commission recommended all of Lot 15 be designated for "community facility" – meaning public uses such as parks or recreation. "Based on community feedback, they tried to strike a compromise with only the eastern half of the lot identified, so that the more developable western half would still be available for commercial use," Weinhausen added.

Crossword Answers

| | | |
|---------|---------|--------|
| RECUR | ADS | VOLE |
| OZONE | RUN | AERIE |
| TRIAL | III | CRANK |
| CARPOOL | DOUBLE | |
| TAM | SEEM | |
| ULT | DAHL | REBURY |
| TARE | HAIL | NISEI |
| UNIX | ANTIC | TUBE |
| RATES | DHAL | SAUL |
| NIECES | ERAS | LSO |
| WEIR | RAP | |
| MEDIAN | PASSING | |
| TIGON | FBI | HANOI |
| WRING | RAN | ELDER |
| OAST | ACT | SMOLT |



A view of the lot to the southwest. Photo by Alexis Martinez.

But the recommendation remained controversial. The December hearing drew 28 people, many advocating for removing this provision. The Select Board agreed and struck the public-use language with a 3-2 vote.

Steve Giroux approved of the Select Board's decision. He said the designation "was hindering the marketability of it so much."

Giroux did not comment on whether he and his family members prefer what ultimately happens on the lot.

Select Board Chair Phil Pouech ex-

plained that he voted against designating the lot for public use because the new zoning regulations contain requirements for green space to be included in future projects.

"The next developer would have new rules to follow, so I was OK with taking it off the town map knowing that even if somebody was to build something for the whole lot, we now have new greenspace requirements that they would have to meet," Pouech said.

The updated regulation calls for 10 percent of parcels in Hinesburg's non-industrial Village Growth Area Zoning Districts – where Lot 15 lies – to be green space.

"I considered [the vote] a way to move that town map forward, which I wanted to do, and the new zoning regulations on green space, and in a way, a compromise," Pouech concluded.

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BACK STORIES of Hinesburg

Lot 15's Future is Again a Blank Canvas

BY EMMETT GARTNER,
COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

More than three months since Hannaford Supermarkets abruptly terminated its application to build a store in Hinesburg, the reason why the supermarket chain made that decision is still unclear as is the future of the site that remains undeveloped.

"It surprised me, to be perfectly honest," said Alex Weinhausen, Hinesburg's Director of Planning and Zoning, of the Scarborough, Maine, chain's decision in December to walk away from a nearly decade-long fight to put a store in Hinesburg. "There is endless nuance in this whole thing."

It was 2010 when Hannaford first submitted an application to build a 36,000-square-foot supermarket on a 4.6-acre lot on Commerce Street, also known as Lot 15 in the commercial development. In November 2019, nine years and what likely amounted to thousands of dollars in legal fees later, the company withdrew.

Citizens Mobilize on Sustainable Development

Hannaford's plans sparked the formation of Responsible Growth Hinesburg, a citizens advocacy group in favor of development that is both environmentally conscious and observant of local perspective.

RGH began lobbying against Hannaford during local permit hearings on the proposal in 2011, arguing that there was a disconnect between the plan and the core values of Hinesburg as a small Vermont village. To bolster its case, the group hired consultants who provided detailed presentations on the project's potential impacts. The group maintained that the main goal of these initial efforts was education.

"Education is always the answer to everything; good or bad."

"Education is at the root," said founding RGH member Johanna White.



A close up of Patrick Brook, adjacent to Lot 15 and Mechanicsville Road. The brook would have been the primary recipient of the Hannaford development's discharge, according to a 2018 DRB site plan review. Photo by Alexis Martinez.

A significant part of the RGH presentations was focusing on Lot 15's wetland status and the stormwater absorption it provides. Another key concern was the potential traffic implications of the project. RGH consultants estimated that at peak time there would have been about 193 shoppers entering and exiting each hour. These trips would have added to an already congested Route 116, according to White, making rush hours even worse.

The Development Review Board in 2012 approved Hannaford's proposal with a 4-3 vote. This touched off a seven-year string of appeals by RGH, reaching the Vermont Supreme Court in 2017.

James Dumont, the lawyer representing RGH, explained that the issues at the heart of the appeals involved zoning ordinances, Act 250 protections, stormwater permitting, wetlands reclassification, and water quality certification.

The group hired expert witnesses to testify on these subjects. Dumont credited the group's ability to fund this team as testimony to its tenacity and organization.

"It was a huge, huge effort," Dumont

said. "I mean they had concerts, grant applications — they did everything, they were just amazing at what they were able to do. Because of their success, I was able to hire expert witnesses, who did a great job."

Four Years of Trial

The group's first appeal went to the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court where Judge Thomas Walsh upheld the DRB's approval of Hannaford's application, but the company's stormwater permit was rejected for reconsideration by the Agency of Natural Resources.

RGH and Dumont immediately appealed the decision to the Supreme Court, which heard the case in 2017. The high court sent the application back to the town DRB for further review. RGH claimed the move as a victory and a win for local decision-making.

Upon its return to the DRB, Hannaford's proposal didn't fare as well as the first time. In 2018 the board denied the project, citing updated stormwater regulations since the project's initial application. "Our attorney's opinion was that

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN HINESBURG

Make a Difference

Do you need volunteers for a Hinesburg event or non-profit organization? Send the information to news@hinesburgrecord.org and we'll publish it here. Use "volunteer need" as a subject line.

Mentoring

Make a difference in the life of a child. Become a mentor at HCS. No tutoring involved, just being a buddy to a child who would benefit from adult friendship. And only one hour a week during the school year. Contact Ginny Roberts at groberts@cssu.org or 482-6271 for more information.

Hinesburg Trails

Help maintain public trails. All skill levels from none (just enthusiasm) to experienced chainsaw operators, and trail designers are needed. For more information contact Lenore Budd at buddfamily@gmavt.net.

Meals on Wheels

Help out local area residents who cannot easily get out of their homes. Become a Meals on Wheels driver. Routes take anywhere from an hour to an hour-and-a-half depending on the day. You need not commit to a weekly schedule. Call Jane Gage at 482-6096 for more information.

Visit a Senior

Hinesburg seniors need your help. Some seniors live alone with limited social contact and would love to share their gift of gab with you. Just an hour of your time can make a big difference in the life of one of the seniors in our town. If you would be willing to help contact Bev at 800-642-5119 for more information.

Town Committees

Frequently there are openings on town committees. Here are some of the recent ones.

- Affordable Housing Committee
- Agency Request Review Committee
- Conservation Commission
- Recreation Commission
- Revolving Loan Fund Committee
- Town Forest Committee
- Trails Committee
- Village Steering Committee

Check town web site www.hinesburg.org/vacancies.html for the most current committee openings, descriptions and instructions on how to apply. For more information contact Renae Marshall 482-2281 x227 or rmarshall@hinesburg.org.

The Hinesburg Record

Help publish your community newspaper which is produced by volunteers who write, edit, and lay it out each month. The Record needs people to write and edit copy, take photos, and help with distribution and mailing. One-time or occasional submission of articles is more than welcome.

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