

the HINESBURG Record

FEBRUARY 2022

*Hinesburg's
independent,
nonprofit
community
newspaper*

INSIDE...

Forest Misconceptions

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Ice-Out Challenge

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Service Directory & Calendar of Events

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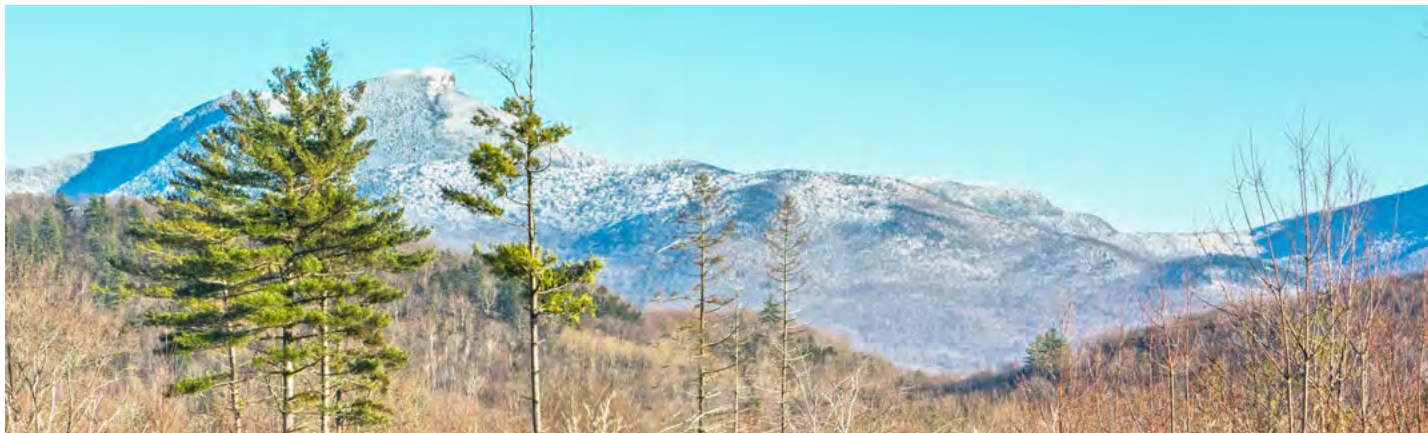
BACK STORIES

of Hinesburg

Town Meeting Day and Pandemic Safety

Page 24: Has the town improperly applied a pandemic-era safety measure?

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There will be a public walk this Saturday (February 29) at the Hinesburg Town Forest.

Winter Wildlife Ecology and Forest Management at Hinesburg Town Forest

Public Walk This Saturday

FROM VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE PRESS RELEASE

Join Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, and Andrea Shortsleeve, wildlife

biologist for the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department on Saturday, Jan. 29, from 1-3 p.m. for a free, public walk of a forest management project being implemented at the Hinesburg Town Forest.

This walk will highlight winter wildlife ecology, wildlife tracking and how active management of the HTF is expected to influence wildlife habitat and behavior.

The HTF is an 839-acre property, owned by the town of Hinesburg and managed under the guidance of Chittenden County foresters since the 1950s. It is a beloved public resource, used by people from all over the region for hiking, mountain biking, hunting, bird and wildlife-watching and other activities.

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Rural Residential 1 District — What's Your Vision?

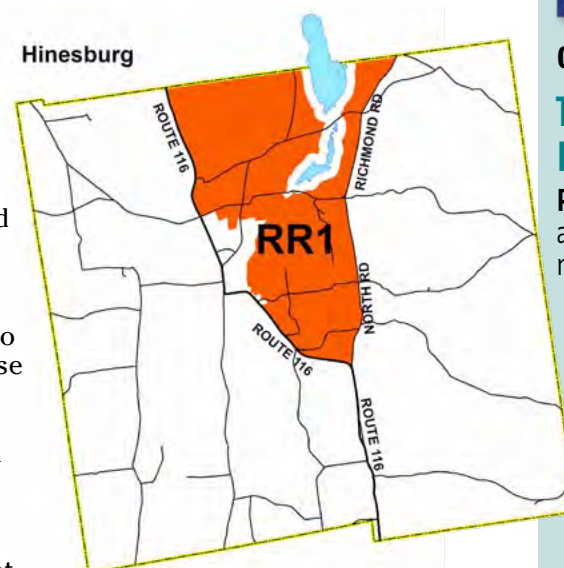
BY ALEX WEINHAGEN, DIRECTOR
OF PLANNING & ZONING

The Rural Residential 1 district is that center slice of Hinesburg, bounded by Route 116 on the west and Richmond Road and North Road on the east, excluding the village growth area. The district includes very densely settled areas along the Richmond Road that are served by municipal water or sewer (e.g., Birchwood Drive neighborhood, Sunset Lake Cooperative mobile home park). It also includes lightly settled areas constrained by steep slopes and sensitive natural resources, e.g., Mount Pritchard area (near St. George border) and Lavigne

Hill Road area. Current zoning takes a one-size-fits-all approach for the district.

Updating of the RR1 zoning is called for in the town plan. Action item 3.4.1 says, "Assess and revise the zoning for the rural portions of the Rural Residential 1 zoning district to reinforce the rural character of these areas — particularly the northern and southern portions of the district." The Planning Commission discussed this in 2021 and took two field trips to various parts of the district. The PC would like to revise the zoning regulations so that

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The location of the Rural Residential 1 district.

Deadline for our next Issue: February 10, 2022

Send articles 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 2022

Advertisement/News	Publication Date
February 10	February 24
March 17	March 31
April 14	April 28
May 12	May 26
June 16	June 30
There is no publication date in July	
August 11	August 25
September 15	September 29
October 13	October 27
November 10	November 25
There is no publication date in December	
January 12, 2023	January 26, 2023

Our Policies

The Hinesburg Record is published ten times each year by The Hinesburg Record, Inc., a non-profit corporation, and is mailed free of charge to all residents of Hinesburg.

The Hinesburg Record is not responsible beyond the cost of advertising for any additions, deletions, or typographical errors that may occur.

The Hinesburg Record is not responsible beyond the printing of corrections for errors in submitted material.

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► Rural Residential 1 District

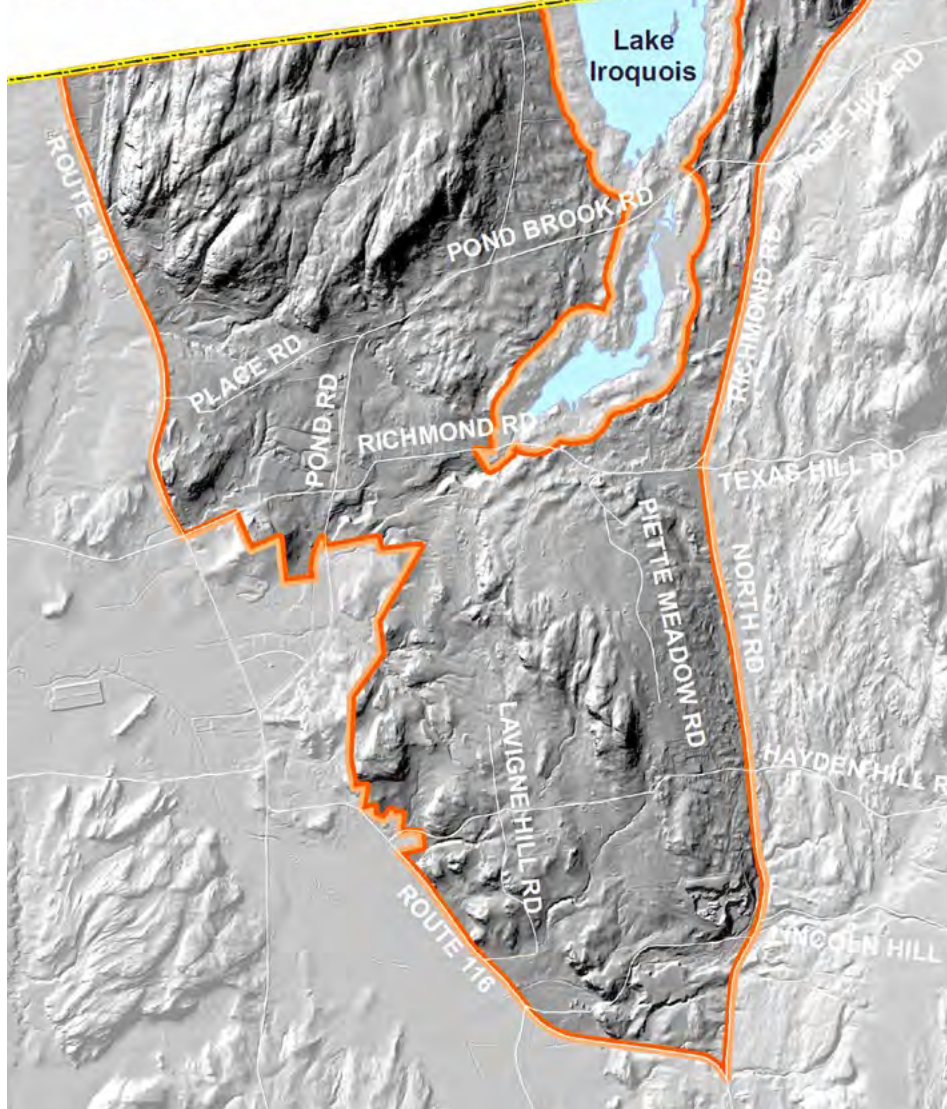
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development potential better reflects actual site conditions in the various parts of the district. They have some ideas, but they want your input before they start drafting revisions to the zoning regulations.

To help inform this work, we'd like to hear your vision! Here are three ways to share your thoughts, questions and comments: 1) Call Alex Weinhausen at 802-482-4209 or any of our volunteer PC members (phone numbers on the town website); 2) Email or write: aweinhagen@hinesburg.org or 10632 Route 116, Hinesburg, Vermont 05461; 3) Zoom: PC meetings at 7 p.m. on Feb. 9 and Feb. 23 (connection information on the town website). The PC will take questions and comments at the beginning of each meeting. Best of all, you can participate from the comfort of your own home via Zoom.

More background and maps to help visualize this part of Hinesburg are available on the PC webpage: hinesburg.org/planning-commission. Questions? Need a bit more information to go on? Reach out to me by phone or email. I'm happy to explain further, answer questions and convey your comments to the PC.

RR1 District



The location of the Rural Residential 1 district.

Town News

Town Clerk & Treasurer

BY MISSY ROSS

Early Ballot for Town Meeting

Town Meeting Day is March 1, 2022 and it is time to request an early ballot. You or a family member can request a ballot by visiting mvp.vermont.gov and signing in to your voter page. You can email mross@hinesburg.org or hroberts@hinesburg.org, or you can call the town clerk's office at 802-482-2281, ext.1. Additionally, you may pick up your ballot in person at the town clerk's office beginning on or about Feb. 9, 2022 when the ballots will have arrived. You are only allowed to pick up your own ballot, though you can request one for a family member and we will mail it to them. Once you have received your ballot either by mail or by picking it up, you may vote at home and then drop the ballot in the drop box outside the clerk's office at any time up to and including

Town Meeting Day. We do appreciate it if you return your ballot prior to election day so that we can check them in and reconcile the number of early ballots prior to the day of the election. All budget items and public questions will henceforth be voted by Australian ballot rather than from the floor at town meeting. The voters approved this change at the special meeting held on Dec. 7, 2021.

Register to Vote

There is no deadline to register to vote. You can register by going to olvr.vermont.gov to register online, by going in person to the town clerk's office and filling out a paper form, or on the day of the election. We encourage you to register to vote ahead of Town Meeting Day so that you may request an early ballot and avoid the polling place during COVID-19.

Polling Place for Town Meeting

As you may have read, the roof at Town Hall is not structurally sound and the main hall is therefore off-limits for voting. This means we will be relegated to the much smaller conference room on the first floor for voting purposes. There will be a limit of four people allowed in to vote at a time in order to maintain social distancing protocols. If you choose to wait until Town Meeting Day to vote, dress warmly and be prepared to wait

LETTERS

Letter Policy

The Hinesburg Record welcomes letters from Hinesburg residents and from others who are involved in issues that affect 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 500 words or less, and we 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.

outside the back entrance of Town Hall until there is space at one of the four voting booths. MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE TO THE POLLS. Masks will be available for those who need one. With COVID-19 cases at record numbers, we must all make the effort to protect the public health and safety of the community and election workers. Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this important matter.

Dog Licenses Due by April 1

Dog licenses are here and it is time to register your pet for 2022. Please be sure to bring a valid rabies certificate when you come to obtain a license. If we already have the rabies certificate on file, you needn't bring one with you. The fee is \$10.00 per dog and we accept cash or check. If you would prefer to obtain the license via mail, you can send a check for \$10 per dog and add \$2 to cover the mailing. If you are licensing more than one dog, you still only need an additional \$2. Thank you and see you and your furry friend soon for a biscuit!

Consider Creating an Accessory Apartment

BY CARL BOHLEN, HINESBURG AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Anyone looking for housing — rental or ownership — knows there is a problem! Units are hard to find, costs are high and whatever comes on the market, disappears almost instantaneously. There is no one solution to this lack of housing, and affordable housing, defined as costing 30% or less of one's income, is even harder to find. One approach to increasing the supply of housing at a lower cost is building accessory apartments. And there are other potential benefits.

Have you ever considered adding an apartment to provide rental income to help with mortgage payments or property taxes? What about providing housing for a family member or health care provider? Or to provide housing for parents so they can age in place? These possibilities are all achievable in Hinesburg by adding an accessory apartment. The accessory apartment can be within the primary residence or it can be a separate structure. You can consider converting a garage or barn into living space.

Any single-family home on a residential lot can add an accessory apartment by simply obtaining a building permit. As long as the planned project meets zoning requirements, there is no need to apply to the Development Review Board. An accessory apartment is a lower cost option as no land needs

to be purchased since it's already owned, and fewer building materials will be needed due to it being a smaller square footage.

If this is of any interest to your situation, be sure to check out the short video by the Affordable Housing Committee on accessory apartments in Hinesburg at hinesburg.org/affordable-housing-committee to learn more. Please contact Carl Bohlen at larcresox@gmail.com or Alex Weinhausen at the town offices at 802-482-4209 if you have questions.

Planning News

BY ALEX WEINHAGEN, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ZONING

Zoning Revisions — Village Area Design Standards

In November, the Planning Commission delivered to the selectboard proposed changes to the zoning regulations to update architectural and site-level design standards for new development in the village area. The selectboard will consider these zoning changes soon, and will hold at least one public hearing before taking any action. Stay tuned and see the town website for details: hinesburg.org/planning-zoning/pages/zoning-regulation-revisions

Town plan top priority action item 3.3.1 states, "Create more specific development design standards (site, building, greenspaces) to more clearly articulate the community's expectations." The proposed regulation revision seeks to do just that — i.e., tune up the existing architectural and site-level design standards for new development. The goal is to be clearer about important design elements so that developers better understand what the community is looking for, and so community members have more confidence in what gets developed.

Some of the new provisions include:

- **Revised building footprint limits for retail uses** — e.g., 25,000 square foot maximum for grocery stores, and 15,000 square foot maximum for other types of retail and service establishments.
- **Building façade:**
 - Architectural detail
 - Front façade variation
 - Window pattern and minimum coverage
 - Prominent entryways — porches or porticos required for new single-family homes; multiple options for other types of

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GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

US Senators

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

Bernie Sanders
(802) 862-0697, sanders.senate.gov

US Congressman

Peter Welch, D
(802) 652-2450, welch.house.gov

VT Senate

Philip Baruth, P/D – Burlington
(802) 503-5266, pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us

Virginia "Ginny" Lyons, D – Williston
(802) 863-6129, vlyons@leg.state.vt.us

Christopher A. Pearson, P/D – Burlington.
(802) 860-3933, CPearson@leg.state.vt.us

Michael Sirotkin, D – South Burlington
(802) 999-4360, msirotkin@leg.state.vt.us

Kesha Ram, D – Burlington (Senator-elect).
(802) 324-5608, kesha@kesharam.com

Thomas Chittenden, D – South Burlington (Senator-elect).
(802) 233-1913, thomas@thomaschittenden.com

Vermont House

Bill Lippert, D–Hinesburg
482-3528, wlippert@leg.state.vt.us
Mike Yantachka, D–Charlotte/
Hinesburg 425-3960, myantachka@leg.state.vt.us

Hinesburg Selectboard

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Maggie Gordon
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CVSD School Board

Ray Mainer, Director, 482-3134
Colleen MacKinnon, Vice Chair,

TOWN HALL INFORMATION

[HINESBURG.ORG](https://hinesburg.org)

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

Town Administrator Office: Mon.–Fri. 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Renae Marshall, Town Administrator, marshall@hinesburg.org 482-2281 ext. 222.

Town Planner Office: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Alex Weinhausen, Planner, aweinhagen@hinesburg.org, 482-2281 ext. 225.

Zoning Administrator Office: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Suzanne Mantegna, Administrator, smantegna@hinesburg.org, 482-2281 ext. 232.

Assessor's Office Hours: Mon. 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m., other hours by appointment. Lisa Truchon, VMPPA – NEMRC/Assessor, assessor@hinesburg.org, 482-2281 ext. 228.

Hinesburg Recreation Office: Mon.–Thurs. 8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Jennifer McCuin, Recreation Coordinator, hinesburgrec@gmail.com, 482-2281 ext. 230.

OTHER INFORMATION

Recycling & Trash Drop-Off Centers: Williston, Redmond Road; Mon.–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.NET](https://www.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: 51 Ballards Corner Road. Rachel Kring, Executive Director, kring@hinesburgresource.org, 482-4946. Alex Konciewicz is the contact for **Friends of Families**, and she can be reached at the same number or at konciewicz@hinesburgresource.org. Hours for **Hinesburg Food Shelf** are Fri. 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. Tues. 5:30-7:30 p.m. [HINESBURGRESOURCE.ORG](https://hinesburgresource.org)

United States Post Office Hours: Window: Mon.–Fri. 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Sat. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. Lobby & TriVendor: Mon.–Fri. 6:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. 482-2292.

Hinesburg Community School: 10888 Route 116, 482-2106, [CVSDVT.ORG/DOMAIN/9](https://cvsvt.org/domain/9) for cafeteria menu, staff directory, department and team info, calendar, etc.

Champlain Valley Union High School: 369 CVU Road, 482-7100, [VSDVT.ORG/CVUHS](https://vsdvt.org/cvuhs) for calendar, cafe, staff directory, student portal, etc.

Carpenter-Carse Library: 69 Ballards Corner, 482-2878, [CARPENTERCARSE.ORG](https://carpentercarse.org) for library hours, services, and online resources.

Hinesburg Business & Professional Association: business directory, membership, news and events. [HBPVAT.COM](https://hbpavt.com)

Connecting Youth: Chittenden South community-based organization dedicated to creating a safe and healthy environment for young people. [SEEWHY.INFO](https://seewhy.info)

Have an ad? 482-7227 or ads@hinesburgrecord.org.



Do you need a Ride?

A Hinesburg Community Resource Center Program

Call SSTA: 878-1527

Visit us at HinesburgRides.org

► Planning News

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structures (porch, portico, patio, storefront, etc.)

- **Building form** — prohibits excessive repetition in form and orientation
- **Building corporate branding** — prohibits stylized corporate or franchise architecture
- **Building height** — requires 1.5-story or greater buildings
- **Maximum front yard setback** — requires new buildings to be proximate to the street with certain exceptions
- **Minimum frontage buildout** — requires that a minimum of 40% of the lot frontage be occupied by structures.

DRB & PC Vacancies

We are looking for two people to serve as alternates on the Development Review Board. Do you have the time, interest and inclination to step up and help out? Being an alternate is a great way to dabble in town planning and zoning without making a full-time commitment to a regular meeting schedule. How did that new subdivision get approved? Is that business going to put in a sidewalk when it expands? Why did that development proposal get denied? Do more than just satisfy your curiosity — learn about and participate in the decision-making process itself by joining the DRB! The DRB (seven members and two alternates) reviews all development proposals that require more than a simple zoning/building permit. This includes applications for: subdivisions, business site plans, conditional uses, signs, camp conversions, etc. The board is a technical and project/application driven group with a specific “rule book” (zoning and subdivision regulations and Official Map) on which to base approvals or denials of new development. The DRB meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. Curious to learn more? Contact the Planning and Zoning office for details. If you’d like to be considered, fill out the brief application available on the town website at hinesburg.org/town-manager/pages/vacancies-town-boards-commissions.

We are also looking for someone to serve on the Planning Commission. Help shape Hinesburg’s future by joining the PC. The commission meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. There is one vacancy on this nine-member board. To learn more about the PC’s work, contact Alex Weinhagen in the Planning & Zoning office (aweinhagen@hinesburg.org or 802-484-4209) or check out the Planning Commission page on the town website. If you’d like to be considered, fill out the brief application available on the town website (same link as above).

’Tis the Season ... for Planning Spring Projects

BY JIM JARVIS, HINESBURG ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Do I Need a Zoning Permit?

It may not look like building season is here, but it’s right around the corner. Eventually, the snow will melt and projects will be upon us. In the time of COVID-19, contractors have been stressed about getting materials and labor to attack projects, so planning early is critically important now.

Zoning permits are required for all land development if the total added square footage is 100 square feet or more. This includes houses, finished basements, sheds, decks, garages, barns, swimming pools and ponds. Buildings under 100 square feet must still meet setback requirements from front, side and back property lines, even though they don’t require a permit.

When Can I Start?

Plan on three to four weeks from the time we get your completed application. This includes a mandatory two-week appeal period, from the time the permit is issued. In addition, state law requires that I issue a decision on an application within 30 days, but this office tries to get them issued within two weeks. Once we get into late spring and the flood of applications hits, we may need every bit of that two weeks

What Are the Fees?

The total permit fee varies by the type of construction. You’ll need to submit a dimensioned sketch or drawing of the project with your application. Once I review the drawing, I can determine what the required fee will be. An application is considered complete once the check arrives.

Are There Other Requirements?

It depends. If you want to add a new bedroom to your home, you might require a Vermont water & wastewater permit or water allocation from the town. If you want to expand a house or camp that doesn’t conform to present regulations, you might need a conditional use approval from the Development Review Board.

Got Questions?

Contact me at 802-482-4213, or via email at jjarvis@hinesburg.org. I’m usually in the office Monday-Friday, noon-4 p.m. You can also look at the zoning regulations and applications on the town website: hinesburg.org/planning-commission.

LEGISLATIVE**2022 Legislature Convenes**

BY REP. BILL LIPPERT

Remote Legislating Creates Greater Public Access

The 2022 Legislature convened remotely on Tuesday, Jan. 4 after House and Senate leadership concluded that convening in person was too risky, for staff, legislators and the public, due to the increasing spread of COVID-19 omicron virus throughout Vermont. Fortunately, legislative IT staff have supported remote legislating through access to daily Zoom sessions for the House and Senate floor sessions, and for all legislative committees of both bodies.

As a result of remote legislating, the public now has greater access to legislative proceedings than ever before. Interested persons can go to the Vermont Legislative Website at legislature.vermont.gov to access House or Senate proceedings, as well as all Legislative committee meetings. In addition, all Legislative proceedings are now also livestreamed on YouTube, and archived for future viewing on the Vermont Legislature’s YouTube channels.

After legislating remotely for the first two weeks, the Senate will continue remote legislating through January. As of Jan. 18, the House will begin a two-week “hybrid” process, in which all House floor sessions will be remote on Zoom and YouTube, with House committee meetings resuming in-person meetings. Individual legislators and legislative staff are being given the option of attending and voting remotely if there is a concern for COVID-19 issues for themselves or within their household, or if there are other medical symptoms. Keeping everyone healthy, and trying to not contribute to the spread of COVID-19 is priority.

Mental Health Service Pressures

Even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were growing needs and pressures for Vermont mental health services, both in the community and in hospital emergency settings. The House Health Care Committee held a special hearing in December to focus on addressing the long wait times within hospital emergency departments and at the community mental health outpatient settings throughout the state. Currently there are over 900 people on community waiting lists, with 25-30 individuals waiting in hospital emergency departments at any given time for

referral to appropriate inpatient mental health services.

Budget Adjustment Act

These pressures for mental health services are due both to increased individual stressors being experienced due to the concerns of COVID-19, as well as the difficulty of fully staffing mental health programs throughout the state. Pressures within Vermont’s health care workforce is evident throughout the hospital and community-based health care system. In response to these pressures, the House Health Care Committee and the House Human Services Committee have prioritized the use of additional funds to stabilize these critical systems of care for Vermonters. Fortunately, we have access to federal COVID-19 funds that will allow us to make some immediate, critical investments. The House Appropriations Committee will be presenting the 2023 Budget Adjustment Act on the House floor within the next week that will authorize these immediate investments and hopefully help stabilize some of the pressures within the community health care workforce.

Pension Fund Agreement Reached

All of the legislators and employee union stakeholders represented on the Pension Benefits, Design, and Funding Task Force have come to an agreement that will fix and fully fund the underfunded state pension system by 2038. The result of this agreement will save Vermont nearly \$2 billion once implemented. While this has yet to move through the full legislative process, and ultimately needs the governor’s support, the task force members have unanimously supported recommendations for both the Vermont State Employees’ Retirement and Vermont State Teacher’s Retirement pension funds. The state will contribute a one-time \$200 million payment, and commit to using 50% of future general fund surpluses to help close the \$3 billion shortfall. Current retirees will not be affected, but future hires would pay slightly more into the fund while receiving slightly fewer benefits. The agreement was arrived at through collaborative work over the last seven months, involving 17 meetings and many, many hours by all stakeholders involved.

Much Legislative Work Lies Ahead

Issues involving climate solutions, pressures throughout Vermont’s workforce, COVID-19 economic

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► Legislative

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recovery measures, sustaining temporary telehealth, investment of federal COVID-19 funds, legislative reapportionment and investment of increased federal highway funds, along with many other challenges lie ahead in this second half of the legislative biennium.

Feel free to be in touch throughout the legislative session: Hinesburg Rep. Bill Lippert, wlippert@leg.state.vt.us, or 802-734-0593.

Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale Advances 2022 Legislative Priorities

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale (D-Chittenden) has released her legislative priorities and the key items on her 2022 policy agenda to move Vermont and the nation forward on climate action, affordable

housing and homeownership, pensions, criminal justice reform and more.

Sen. Ram Hinsdale serves on the Senate Economic Development & Housing and Government Operations Committees, as well as the Affordable, Accessible Health Care Task Force and the Government Accountability Committee. She also serves as co-chair of the Social Equity Caucus, which aims to root out institutionalized inequality and build equity and inclusivity through statewide policy and dialogue, with Rep. Kevin “Coach” Christie (D-Windsor-4-2).

Affordable Housing & Homeownership: According to a December 2021 apartment vacancy survey, the vacancy rate in Chittenden County is 0.8% — its lowest point in 20 years. Sen. Ram Hinsdale will be introducing a comprehensive housing bill this session that includes the creation of first-generation homebuyer grants, municipal land banks, increased funding and reduced red tape for housing creation in existing neighborhoods and town centers, a bill of rights for the unhoused, and resources for mobile home

communities and weatherization. She also supports the advance of the Just Cause Eviction charter change proposed by Burlington in Senate Government Operations.

“Housing is a human right. We owe it to Vermonters to address our housing crisis through investing in pathways to homeownership and expanding access to affordable, available rental housing.”

Climate Action & Environmental Justice: For over a decade, Sen. Ram Hinsdale has worked to advance an environmental justice policy for Vermont. Her bill, S.148, is now a priority of the Vermont Climate Council and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for passage, alongside recommendations for increased funding in weatherization and sustainable transportation, our greatest sources of greenhouse gas emissions. She will also be introducing a bill to create a Civilian Climate Corps program that would ensure employment opportunities related to climate resilience and adaptation work.

“Together, we can curb climate change and build the green economy of the future while centering equity and ensuring no one is left behind. If we get this right, it’s a win-win for our environment, our health, our economy and the future.”

Criminal Justice & Policing Reform: Sen. Ram Hinsdale has introduced legislation to end the doctrine of qualified immunity. She is also introducing a number of other reforms to advance equitable public safety, including funding municipal community safety conversations, ending the sentence of life without parole, eliminating cash bail and banning no-knock warrants.

“As a nation, we have put too great a burden on our criminal justice system to solve the problems of poverty, inequality, and mental health. We have a critical opportunity here to advance a new approach to accountability, while allowing victims of police misconduct to access justice.”

Overdose Prevention and SUD Treatment: According to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, from April 2020 to April 2021, Vermont saw a 70% increase in the number of overdose deaths — the highest percentage increase in deaths of any state. In collaboration with harm reduction advocates, Sen. Ram Hinsdale will introduce comprehensive legislation aimed at addressing the overdose crisis in Vermont. This includes decriminalizing opioid and substance use disorder (commonly shortened to SUD) and addressing barriers to recovery from SUD. Sen. Ram Hinsdale is partnering with Rep. Selene Colburn (P/D-Chittenden-6-4) on language to establish overdose prevention facilities to prevent fatalities.

“We have a responsibility to our fellow Vermonters with substance use disorder, as well as their families and loved ones, in preventing death by overdose. This means tackling the opioid epidemic at its root cause and also acknowledging the humanity of those affected by substance use disorder.”

Pensions: The Pension Task Force has been meeting over the past few months to discuss proposals to fund state employees’ pensions. Once a sustainable path forward for funding is reached, Sen. Ram Hinsdale will work to codify the retirement promises in her Government Operations Committee this session. She also plans to introduce a bill to remove taxation of pensions for retired low-income federal employees.

“Our frontline workers are our most critical resource. Vermont must keep its promises for their retirement security by committing to a sustained increase in pension funding, along with a meaningful one-time boost to make up for past underfunding.”

Ranked Choice Voting: Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale will be introducing a Ranked Choice Voting bill allowing voters to rank the candidates on their ballot in order of preference. This initiative has been enacted in Alaska, Maine, and more than 20 cities across the country, and ensures that the majority winner prevails, even when there are more than two candidates in the race.

“Ranked Choice Voting is a critical

democratic reform that will allow Vermonters to have true choice when they are filling out their ballot, encouraging a diverse candidate field that will take Vermont forward.”

Educational Equity: The Social Equity Caucus has made pupil weighting and its impact on low-income and English language learning students a major priority. The Pupil Weighting Task Force did not recommend an empirically derived weight for ELL students. Sen. Ram Hinsdale believes any legislation on this matter must include the empirically derived ELL weight supplied in Professor Kolbe’s Oct. 28, 2021 memo. If cost equity is not achieved, then Burlington and Winooski School Districts, and the hundreds of ELL students they serve, stand to lose significant ground.

“Our ELL students and the limited English proficient families that support their learning are some of our newest Vermonters, and contain immense potential to positively transform our state. They need and deserve the best possible start to becoming our future citizens and leaders. We lament the loss of workforce and population in government, while we have an incredible opportunity to invest in our young learners in a way that would give them the true foundation they need and deserve.”

Language Access Plan: Introduced in 2021, S.147, proposes that state agencies create language access plans and require that the Agency of Administration complete an evaluation of existing translated materials and interpretation services. There is commitment in Senate Government Operations to take it up as a priority this year.

“We cannot let language be a barrier to access. This bill is critical to building an inclusive community for all Vermonters and ensuring we all can access support resources from COVID testing to public transportation.”

Direct to Consumer Spirits Shipping: Sen. Ram Hinsdale will be introducing a bill to allow manufacturers or rectifiers of spirits or fortified wines to ship products directly to consumers in Vermont.

“This bill aims to cut through the red tape that many of our spirits manufacturers face in Vermont, reducing costs for our small business owners and supporting economic growth for this growing industry.”

CSWD

CSWD in 2022 and Beyond

ALISE CERTA, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Happy New Year! I don’t know about you, but I am eager for a fresh, new year full of possibilities. That’s why I’m excited to share a little glimpse of what the Chittenden Solid Waste District has in store for 2022 and beyond.

For CSWD, the new year will bring final considerations by our Board of Commissioners for a proposed new materials recovery facility; re-envisioning how our drop-off center network can best serve our mission and the needs of our member communities; and a renewed devotion to helping Vermonters reduce, reuse, compost and recycle.

We would love to hear from you about what we can do better in the new year. Please feel free to email me at certa@cswd.net with your feedback — the good, the bad and even the ugly (keep it clean, people!). I read all your emails and do my best to respond.

Writing this blog is a joy for me. Thank you to everyone who reads them and finds them valuable.

Wishing you all a happy, joyous new year!

Richmond Drop-Off Center Changes

Thursday, Dec. 30 was the last day the Chittenden Solid Waste District



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POLICE

Incidents

Nov. 11: 5: p.m. A traffic stop on Route 116 was conducted. The operator was cited for careless and negligent operation and driving with a criminally suspended driver’s license.

5:25 p.m. Officers responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on Route 116.

7:30 p.m. An officer investigated the report of a domestic assault on North Road.

Nov. 12: 1 p.m. A loose dog was turned into the police department. The owner was located.

Nov. 14: 11:20 p.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Route 116.

Nov. 15: 7:21 a.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

Nov. 16: w3:55 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a vehicle identification number inspection.

continued on page 8

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Know How to Detect a Gas Leak

Smell  <p>Natural gas is normally odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you will recognize it quickly.</p>	Sight  <p>You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.</p>	Sound  <p>You may hear an unusual noise like a roaring, hissing, or whistling.</p>
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If You Suspect a Leak:

Move immediately to a safe location. Call VGS at 1-800-639-8081, or call 911, with the exact location. Do not smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might ignite the gas or result in a dangerous condition.

Do not assume someone else will report the condition.

Protect Meters and Vents from Ice and Snow

Don’t push or pile deep snow around meters and ensure whoever removes snow from your property knows meter and appliance vent locations. Use extreme care when clearing snow surrounding, or large icicles above, meters and vents. If your meter gets encased in thick ice, please call us.



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► Police

continued from page 7

Nov. 18: 11:43 a.m. An officer assisted a disabled vehicle on CVU Road.

5:37 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a VIN inspection.

Nov. 19: 2:48 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a VIN inspection.

3:05 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

4 p.m. Officers recovered a stolen vehicle. The incident was investigated with area agencies.

Nov. 20: 12:50 a.m. A burglary at the Jiffy Mart on Ballard's Corner Road was investigated. The suspects smashed the front window.

10:25 a.m. An alarm activation at CVU was investigated.

12:53 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a VIN inspection.

Nov. 21: 8:45 a.m. Officers assisted citizens with a custody dispute.

9:35 a.m. Officers responded to the Jiffy Mart on Ballard's Corner Road for a reported theft.

7:30 p.m. An officer investigated the report of erratic operation on Route 116.

10 p.m. Officers responded to the Mobil Gas Station on Commerce Street for the report of a suicidal individual in the parking lot.

Nov. 22: 3 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a VIN inspection.

Nov. 24: 3:45 p.m. Officers responded to the Jiffy Mart on Ballard's Corner Road for the report of a disruptive customer. The individual was trespassed from the premises.

7:52 p.m. A single-car motor vehicle crash on Lavigne Hill Road was investigated.

Nov. 25: 5:15 p.m. An officer investigated the report of erratic operation on Pond Road.

Nov. 26: 6:18 a.m. A residential burglary alarm on Red Pine Road was investigated.

7:35 p.m. A single-car motor vehicle crash on Charlotte Road was investigated.

8:45 p.m. A single-car motor vehicle crash on Route 116 was investigated.

10:45 p.m. Officers assisted Hinesburg Fire Department with removing fallen trees from the driveway of the Howard Center on Hawk Lane. A Howard Center employee was also assisted with a disabled vehicle at that time.

Nov. 27: 5 p.m. Officers facilitated the return of a resident's packages that had been missing and were at another residence.

Nov. 28: 7:45 a.m. A report of a vandalized vehicle on Birchwood Drive was investigated.

11:10 p.m. A welfare check was conducted on Route 116.

Nov. 29: 12:30 a.m. Officers responded to Palmer Road for a domestic disturbance.

10:15 a.m. Suspicious circumstances on Place Road West were investigated.

10:25 a.m. Officers responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on Ballard's Corner Road.

Nov. 30: 11:50 a.m. Officers responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash at CVU.

1:40 p.m. An officer responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on Mechanicsville Road.

1:45 p.m. A stray dog was turned into the PD. The owner was located.

Dec. 1: 8:10 a.m. An officer responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on Mechanicsville Road.

1:30 p.m. Lost property was reported.

3:10 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a custodial issue.

Dec. 2: 9 a.m. Officers responded to Ballard's Corner Road to investigate suspicious activity at the Community Bank.

7:55 p.m. Officers responded to Shadow Lane for the report of a dead body discovered at a residence there. A death investigation followed.

Dec. 3: 4:31 p.m. A missing person was reported, officers responded and conducted a search and investigation.

Dec. 5: 8 a.m. Suspicious activity on Route 116 was investigated.

10 a.m. An officer responded to Birchwood Drive for suspicious activity. One individual was trespassed.

1:55 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a fraud case.

3:15 p.m. Officers investigated suspicious circumstances on Route 116.

7:20 p.m. An officer assisted Burlington Police with a welfare check.

Dec. 6: 5 a.m. A commercial burglary alarm on Ballard's Corner Road was investigated.

2:40 p.m. Officers investigated the report of erratic operation.

3:45 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a lockout.

Dec. 7: 8:13 a.m. An officer assisted the highway department with removing a tree from O'Neil Road.

8:25 a.m. An officer removed a traffic hazard from Shelburne Falls Road.

Dec. 8: 11:15 a.m. Suspicious circumstances at the Hinesburg Community School were investigated.

12:20 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a fraud case.

4:45 p.m. An officer assisted the Community Outreach Center by providing a juvenile with a ride to the emergency room.

5 p.m. An officer assisted Shelburne PD with issuing a trespass.

Dec. 9: 1:25 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a fraud case.

3:45 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a lockout.

4:10 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a lockout.

10:40 p.m. A welfare check was conducted on Farmall Drive.

11:18 p.m. Officers responded to Kailey's Way for a domestic disturbance. One individual was charged with domestic assault, unlawful restraint and interference with emergency medical services.

Dec. 11: 5:20 p.m. Officers responded to a traffic hazard on Route 116

Dec. 12: 5 a.m. An alarm activation on Kailey's Way was investigated.

8:55 a.m. An officer responded to Mechanicsville Road for the report of erratic operation. The vehicle was located, and investigation determined it was a medical emergency. EMS services were called to assist.

2:25 p.m. An officer assisted Richmond Rescue with a medical issue on Aube Ridge.

Dec. 13: 12:30 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

4 p.m. An officer assisted Williston PD with a theft investigation.

Dec. 14: 9 a.m. An officer responded to Pond Road for a two-car motor vehicle crash.

10:51 p.m. An officer investigated an animal complaint on Pond Road.

Dec. 15: 7 a.m. A stolen car was located on Route 116.

10 a.m. A citizen was assisted with a VIN inspection.

12:22 p.m. An officer responded to North Road for a single-car motor vehicle crash.

9 p.m. An officer assisted Vermont State Police with a commercial burglary alarm activation in St. George.

Dec. 16: 6:22 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a lockout.

8:45 p.m. Officers responded to Palmer Road to investigate a noise complaint.

Dec. 17: 12:40 p.m. A commercial burglary alarm activation on Ballard's Corner Road was investigated.

Dec. 18: 8:23 p.m. Officers responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on North Road.

10:23 p.m. Officers responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on North Road.

Dec. 19: 3:30 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

Dec. 20: 12:15 a.m. An officer assisted Vermont State Police with a motor vehicle crash in Charlotte.

10 a.m. An officer responded to Swamp Road for a single-car motor

vehicle crash.

11:54 a.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

2 p.m. An officer investigated littering on Silver Street.

5 p.m. An officer responded to a citizen dispute on Farmall Drive.

Dec. 21: 12:40 p.m. An officer investigated a motor vehicle complaint at CVU.

3:35 p.m. Officers responded to Charlotte Road for a two-car motor vehicle crash.

10:30 p.m. A traffic stop was conducted on Route 116. The operator was arrested for DUI.

Dec. 22: 11:50 a.m. Officers responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on North Road.

6:25 p.m. Officers responded to a single-car crash on Route 116. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

8:30 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a lockout.

Dec. 23: 10:34 a.m. A welfare check on North Road was conducted.

Dec. 24: 7:30 p.m. Officers assisted with a custody dispute on Hollow Road.

Dec. 25: 7:13 p.m. Officers responded to Shelburne Falls Road for a single-car motor vehicle crash.

Dec. 26: 3:15 p.m. An officer responded to Place Road West to investigate a motor vehicle complaint.

11:53 p.m. An officer responded to a single-car crash on Pond Road.

Dec. 27: 1:45 p.m. Found property was turned into the PD. The owner was located.

1:51 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a fraud case.

2 p.m. Found property was turned into the PD. The owner was located.

9:51 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

10 p.m. Officers investigated the report of loose dogs on North Road.

Dec. 28: 8:55 p.m. A traffic stop was conducted on CVU Road. The operator was cited for driving with a criminally suspended driver's license.

Dec. 29: 1:10 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

9 p.m. Officers responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Route 116.

Dec. 30: 4:40 p.m. Officers responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on Ballard's Corner Road.

10:45 p.m. Officers investigated a noise complaint on Billings Farm Road.

Dec. 31: 10:50 a.m. A citizen was assisted with a fraud case.

5:35 p.m. An officer responded to Lyman Meadows for a medical alarm activation.

8:35 p.m. An officer investigated a dog struck by a motor vehicle on Route 116.

Jan. 1: 1 p.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Richmond Road.

3 p.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Route 116.

10:40 p.m. Officers investigated suspicious activity at St. Jude's Church on Route 116.

Jan. 2: 1 a.m. A burglary at the Jiffy Mart on Ballard's Corner Road was investigated.

Jan. 3: 7:25 a.m. A citizen was assisted with a lockout.

8:35 a.m. A two-car motor vehicle crash on Commerce Street was investigated.

9 a.m. Officers investigated an animal complaint on Sherman Hollow Road.

2:40 p.m. Officers investigated a residential burglary on North Road.

Jan. 5: 5:22 p.m. Officers investigated a deer struck by a motor vehicle on Route 116.

8:50 p.m. Officers investigated the report of erratic operation on Route 116.

Jan. 6: 10:45 a.m. A citizen was assisted with a motor vehicle complaint.

2:30 p.m. A welfare check at Kelley's Field Road was conducted.

9:10 p.m. A citizen was assisted with a lockout.

Jan. 7: 9 a.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Richmond Road.

9:45 a.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Route 116.

10:15 a.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Shelburne Falls Road.

10:45 a.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Silver Street.

Jan. 8: 12:25 p.m. A single-car motor vehicle crash on Richmond Road was investigated.

7:35 p.m. Officers responded to the Mobil on Commerce Street where an individual was trespassed.

Jan. 9: 8:40 a.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Shelburne Falls Road.

8:50 a.m. An officer responded to a single-car motor vehicle crash on Route 116.

9:30 a.m. An officer responded to a two-car motor vehicle crash on Charlotte Road.

10 a.m. An officer responded to a single-car crash on CVU Road.

FIRE

Some Winter Safety Tips

After a storm, check your home exhaust vents to make sure they are clear of ice and snow. If they are blocked, the carbon monoxide exhaust will back up into your home.

If you own a generator, be sure it is placed away from your home. If it is near a window or vent, the exhaust and CO can enter your home.

Do not run or warm up your car in a garage that is located within your living quarters. The CO has nowhere to go but into your home.

If your CO alarms sounds, and it is not the end-of-life alert, call 911 and exit the home. Do not stop to open windows and doors. This will prevent us from finding the source.

Properly dispose of the ashes in a metal container, bring them outside and place them where the ashes will not catch anything else on fire. Please do not put ashes in an open container on a porch or near your home. The wind will stir them, and any hot ashes may start a fire.

In the event of a chimney fire, close the damper, doors and vents to your wood stove. If you are able to safely remove the wood, bring it outside out of harm's way. Call 911. We cannot assist you, and make sure the fire is out, if you do not call us.

Please be careful when shoveling snow after a storm. The exertion of shoveling, especially heavy wet snow, is a cause of heart attacks.

With the below-zero temperatures, and even colder wind chills, be sure to wear proper outdoor clothing and cover exposed skin. When the wind chills are as low as they have been re-

cently, it does not take long to develop hypothermia.

Please be safe and stay healthy.

Call Log

During November and December there were 41 medical calls and 35 patients transported.

Nov. 1: 1:10 p.m. St. George for a residential fire alarm. The residence was checked with meters. No cause found. Engine 1, Med 100 and six members responded.

1:23 p.m. Mutual aid to Shelburne for a structure fire.

2:56 p.m. Pond Road for motor vehicle crash into a tree. The operator refused treatment. Engine 1, Med 100 and six members responded.

Nov. 5: 8:17 a.m. Silver Street for a carbon monoxide alarm in a guest house. Our CO meter showed readings on both floors. The residence was ventilated to zero and owner advised to have the heating system checked. Engine 1 and five members responded.

8:47 p.m. One car rollover on Tyler Bridge. The vehicle rolled over, coming to rest on the driver's side. The passengers were assisted out the

rear hatch by responders, treated by Hinesburg EMS and transported by Richmond Rescue. Engine 1, Med 100 and nine members responded.

Nov. 8: 8:32 a.m. Hinesburg Community School for a juvenile stuck in a tree. A ladder was set up and the juvenile was assisted down. Engine 1 and six members responded.

Nov. 11: 5:29 p.m. Route 116 near Town Hall for a two-car crash. One vehicle rear-ended a second car stopped in traffic. There were no injuries. Engine 1 and five members

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► Fire Department

continued from page 9

responded.

Nov. 13: 11:01 a.m. Barberry Lane for a fire alarm. No cause found. Engine 1 and seven members responded.

Nov. 14: 11:20 p.m. One-car rollover near 9329 Route 116. A vehicle traveling north went off the road, sliding across the grass into a granite sign. The operator denied injuries and refused treatment. Engine 1, Med 100 and four members responded.

Nov. 20: 3:53 p.m. Mutual aid to Shelburne for a reported brush fire. HFD was canceled by Shelburne before leaving the station.

5:18 p.m. Two-car crash at Route 2A and Barber Road. All occupants were out of the vehicles on arrival. The occupants were checked over by Hinesburg EMS, and they refused transport. Engine 1, Med 100 and eight members responded.

7:04 p.m. Barberry Lane for a fire alarm activation. No cause

found. Engine 1 and four members responded.

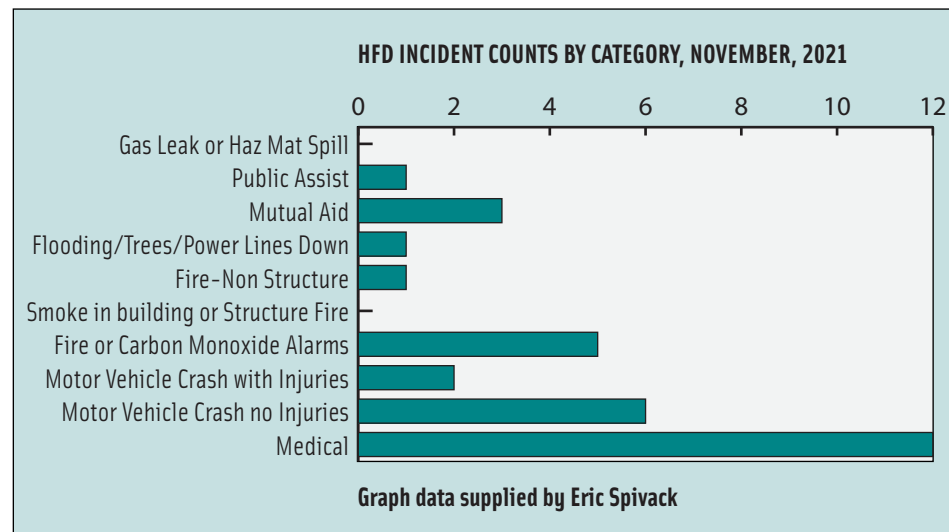
Nov. 24: 7:56 p.m. Motor vehicle crash, car into a pole. The operator was checked by Hinesburg EMS, the operator refused transport. Engine 1, Med 100 and 11 members responded.

9:09 p.m. Report of a two-car crash in the area of 6074 Route 116. The first member on the scene reported a car had slid off the road and was waiting on a wrecker. All apparatus and personnel were held in quarters.

Nov. 26: 11:17 p.m. Hawk Lane for trees down.

Nov. 27: 5:19 p.m. Huntington Fire Department requested Hinesburg respond with our tanker to Taft Road for a structure fire.

Nov. 28: 3:59 a.m. Hillview Terrace for a report of a structure fire. Dispatch updated HFD while en route with a corrected address and explained that the owner was burning trash. The property owner extinguished the fire and was reminded that it is illegal in Vermont to burn trash. Engine 1, Med



Hinesburg Fire Department responded to 31 calls in November and 41 in December.

100 and seven members responded.

Nov. 29: 3:44 p.m. Commercial fire alarm on Route 116. Dust from a workstation tripped the system.

Nov. 30: 1:55 p.m. Two-car crash at CVU and Mechanicsville Roads. There were no injuries. HFD contained leaking fluids and cleared debris from the road. Engine 1 and five members responded.

Dec. 3: 4:45 p.m. HFD requested to meet at our station and begin a search for a hiker lost on the trails between Buck Hill Road West and Lantman's Market. One team entered the trails behind Lantman's. As the second crew was traveling to the Buck Hill entrance, the hiker was located walking down Buck Hill Road West. The hiker stated they were fine and refused medical assistance. The person was provided a ride to their nearby residence by a Hinesburg police officer.

Dec. 4: 4:44 p.m. Winterbottom Road, St. George for a motor vehicle on its side. The operator was outside of the vehicle and denied any injuries. HFD

contained leaking fluids.

Dec. 7: 10:17 a.m. Hinesburg Community School for a fire alarm. There was no fire. A student pulled the alarm.

Dec. 10: 7:44 a.m. Lyman Meadows for a CO alarm. The resident stated the alarm had been sounding on and off since 1 a.m. The residence was checked with our meter. No readings were found. Engine 1 and four members responded.

Dec. 12: 12:51 a.m. Residential fire alarm on Farmall Drive. The resident stated the alarm started sounding as soon as the power went off. The residence was checked, and no readings were found on our meter. Engine 1, Med 100 and five members responded.

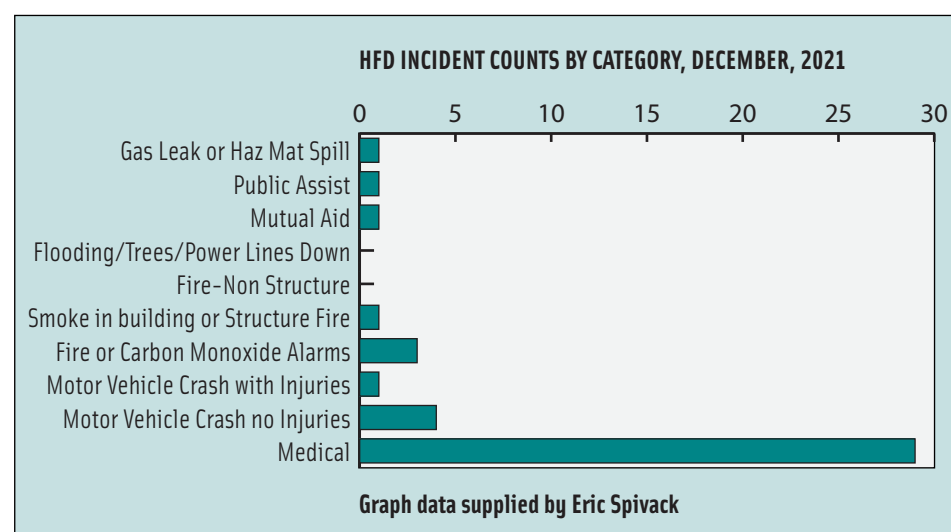
Dec. 15: 12:25 a.m. One car crash on North Road near Blackberry Hill. The operator refused treatment. Engine 1, Med 100 and five members responded.

Dec. 18: 5:55 a.m. Route 116 near Chambers Park Road, St. George for a one-car crash into the trees. A Bristol Rescue ambulance was pass-

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**an example of a non-structure fire would be a telephone pole, car, or grass/brush fire.*

ing the scene and stopped to assist. Hinesburg and Bristol EMS treated two persons. Bristol and Richmond transported the persons to the UVM Medical Center. Engine 1, Engine 2, Med 100 and 10 members responded.

Dec. 20: 12:14 a.m. One-car crash on Charlotte Road at the Hinesburg/Charlotte town line. The operator was checked by Hinesburg EMS and refused transport. Engine 1, Med 100 and seven members responded.

5:07 p.m. Evanson Road for a report of an odor of gas. On arrival, the property owner advised they had found one of the stove burners slightly ajar. They turned the burner off and opened windows/doors to ventilate. HFD checked the residence with our CO meter. No readings were found. Engine 1, Med 100 and seven members responded.

Dec. 22: 6:56 p.m. Charlotte Fire requested mutual aid for a full involved structure fire at the Charlotte Town Garage. Engine 1, Tanker 1 and 11 members responded to the scene. Additional HFD members stood by at HFD for coverage in the event of additional calls.

Dec. 24: 6:48 p.m. Report of a barn fire on Fletcher Farm Road. The call was immediately upgraded to a working incident and mutual aid requested. 911 received an additional call stating it was a bonfire, no structures were involved. HFD arrived to confirm an unpermitted bonfire. All mutual aid was canceled and HFD cleared the scene.

Dec. 27: 1 a.m. Motor vehicle crash. HFD assisted Hinesburg Police in locating the operator. Engine 1, Med 100 and eight members responded.

Vehicle Crash — No Injuries

On Sunday, Jan. 9 at 8:44 a.m., HFD was dispatched to a motor vehicle crash in the area of 8760 Route 116. Road conditions were reported to be icy. Engine 1 was responding with four members. As Engine 1 was passing Place Road West, and started down the hill, road conditions quickly deteriorated, causing Engine 1 to lose steering and braking ability. The engine slid approximately 500 feet down the hill, striking the guardrail and finally coming to a stop in the southbound lane across from Billings Farm Road. Our firefighters were seat belted and uninjured. There were no other vehicles involved.

Richmond Rescue was responding and handled the initial motor vehicle crash. There were several other minor accidents with no injuries after the engine-involved crash. Route 116 was closed in both directions for about 45 minutes to await the arrival of state Agency of Transportation sand trucks.

Thank you to everyone who slowed to ask about the well-being of our firefighters.

Follow us on Facebook at HinesburgFireDepartment and be sure

Have news? 999-2410 or news@hinesburgrecord.org.

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BUSINESS

to visit our website hinesburgfd.org.

Ma & Pembum Announces Their New Collaboration with Tasha Lansbury Designs

BY ELISABETH GARVEY

Locally owned and women-run business, Ma & Pembum announces their newest collaboration with local graphic designer, Tasha Lansbury of Burlington.

“The Bee Line” is a new handbag collection exclusively designed for Ma & Pembum. Each bag is crafted in Hinesburg, with Tasha’s colorful fabric designs that are paired with soft, genuine leather.

The new and stylish collection is offered at an affordable price point. This limited run is available in store at Ma & Pembum at 30 Kailey’s Way, online at maandpembum.com or by contacting info@maandpembum.com

Financial Focus: How Can Gig Workers Fill the Benefits Gap?

FROM EDWARD JONES PRESS RELEASE

Are you a “gig” worker? If so, you’ve got a lot of company — by some estimates, more than a third of U.S. workers participate in the gig economy as freelancers, independent contractors or moonlighters. And while gig work offers some attractive features, such as flexibility in setting your hours and no real limits on your income potential, it also comes with challenges. Specifically, you may miss out on the array of benefits available to full-time employees of many organizations. How can you fill this benefits gap?

Let’s look at some of the standard employer-offered benefits and ways you can acquire them on your own:

Retirement plan — When you work as an employee, you may have access

to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. These types of plans allow you to save for retirement in a tax-advantaged way. As a gig worker, you may be able to get these same benefits through your own retirement plan. You can always contribute to a traditional

or Roth IRA, but you can invest much more in other types of plans, such as a SEP IRA, a SIMPLE IRA and possibly even a “solo” 401(k). A financial professional can recommend the plan that’s suitable for your situation.

Life and disability insurance — Many employers offer life insurance as an employee benefit, and while this coverage may not be sufficient, depending on one’s family situation, it’s at least something. But as a gig worker, you’ll need to get your own life insurance, which is essential if you have anyone depending on you for financial support. You may also want to look for disability insurance to replace part of your income should you ever become temporarily unable to work due to illness or injury. It’s worth noting that some organizations for freelancers and self-employed individuals offer access to life and disability insurance, so you might want to do some research online to check out these groups.

Health insurance — As you know, health insurance is always a pretty big issue for just about everyone, regardless of their work status. Of course, many mid- to large-size employers offer health insurance to their employees, but as a gig worker, you’ll need to find your own, unless you’re covered by your spouse’s plan. In looking for health insurance, you may want to contact a “navigator,” the position created by the Affordable Care Act to help individuals find coverage. You can find someone in your area by going to healthcare.gov and following the prompts. Depending on your income, you may be able to receive subsidies through the ACA.

Paid time off and unemployment insurance — Many full-time employees are given paid time off for sick leave and vacation. They may also receive unemployment insurance if they lose their job. Since most gig workers won’t have access to these benefits, it’s important to have an emergency fund available for unexpected (or even expected) income dips. Ideally, you’d want three to six months’ worth of living expenses in your emergency fund, but even a few hundred dollars can help create a lot more security to cover life’s unexpected events.

Full-time employees receive something of great value in their benefits packages. As a gig worker, you’ll have to take the initiative to close this benefits gap — but the opportunities are there, so do what you can to find them. It will be worth the effort.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

BY JENNIFER MCCUIN

FlooringAmerica
where friends send friends
goodbye 2021
hello new floors!
friends deserve a fresh start.
Friends, it’s fair to say we’re all eager to put 2021 in the rearview, and start fresh. New floors can help. We offer our kid-proof, pet-proof, waterproof floors. Special financing available. Getting a great deal, and a new outlook. It’s why friends send friends to Flooring America.
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RECREATION

For all Hinesburg Recreation Department programs, register at www.hinesburgrec.com

Literature and the Arts With Susan Lepple

Join Susan for a creative approach to exploring children's literature. Through the use of fine art, movement, assemblage and music, students will experience books that are silly, thought-provoking, creative and caring. Students may create fairy houses, make hats like Madame Chapeau, be inspired to expressively cave paint like the Lion and the Little Red Bird, and move, groove and create to world music.

Who: Grades 1-4. **When:** Session 1: Tuesdays, Jan. 18-Feb. 15 (five classes). Session 2: Tuesdays, March 8-April 5 (five classes). HCS Art Room. 2:45-4:15 p.m. **Cost:** \$125.

Piano Lessons

These private and semi-private lessons beginner to advanced-intermediate students. Participants must have a piano or keyboard to utilize for lessons and for practice to make this an optimal experience. Classes follow the school year calendar, broken into first semester (September to December) and second semester (January to May). Students retain their lesson day and time for the entire school year and subsequent years, unless they choose not to continue. Enrollment is based on availability. If there are no openings, you are placed on a waitlist and offered a date and time as available. A spring recital celebrates a yearlong commitment by students and instructor.

Who: Grades 2-8. **When:** Second semester lessons began the first week of January through the second

or third week of May. Lessons are prorated upon start dates. **Where:** Hinesburg Community School Piano Lab, virtual and private options. **Cost:** In-person, semi-private 40-minute lessons are \$22. Billed per semester. Private 30-minute lessons are \$30.

Currently, there is one opening on Wednesday at 3:10 p.m. and two at 3:50-4:30 p.m. Online registration is not available for this program. Please contact HRD at hinesburgrec@gmavt.net or 802-482-4208 to inquire about opening or to be placed on the waitlist.

Yoga With Peggy Dippen

Peggy's vinyasa yoga classes link breath with movement and are tailored to best meet the needs of each participant.

Session 1: Tuesdays, Jan. 18-March 1, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Session 2: Tuesdays, March 8-April 12, HCS Music Room. **Cost:** \$75.

Adult Pickup Basketball

Thursdays, 8-9:30 p.m. HCS gym through June 9.

Women's Pickup Basketball: Mondays, 8-9:30 p.m. HCS gym through June 6.

Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. Please note there is no cost to participate, but you must register at hinesburgrec.com and that the gym is unavailable when school is not in session.

Summer Driver Education with Kevin Browne or David Mitiguy will be available soon! Please keep checking hinesburgrec.com.

Library Hours

LIBRARY

Mon. and Sat.: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Tues. through Fri.:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Phone:** 802-482-2878 **Address:** 69 Ballard's Corner Road, Hinesburg 05461 **Website:** carpentercarse.org **Email:** library@carpentercarse.org

February at the Library

This month instead of highlighting new books, we wanted to highlight some of the recent additions to our library resources that you may have missed if you haven't visited the library lately. We recently added a bunch of new books to our Parenting Collection, thanks to funding from the American Rescue Plan Act grant for public libraries. Among the new books in this collection are: "Siblings Without Rivalry," "Positive Discipline for Preschoolers," "How to Raise a Boy," "Raising Good Humans" and "I Love You Rituals." These are just a few of the over 25 books we've recently added.

Additionally, our youth librarian, Jen, has added educational kits you can use to engage your young people while learning new things together: we have a chess teacher kit, an animal tracking kit, a kit for making friendship bracelets, and the already popular watershed explorer kits. Aspiring sewers can borrow our sewing machine for a week and stitch through our winter storms. Clear winter skies might make you want to watch the stars, and if that's your desire, we'd be happy to loan you our telescope. We've also added screen-free Yoto Players, which will read stories to your young people while you browse for books in the library.

February is Black History Month, so we'll be highlighting new books and classic titles in our catalog features and in the library. We'll also offer a variation on our take-home movie nights, Jen and Meg will be collaborating in February on Take-Home Activity Bags for families to engage in fun over February break, please read on, then visit our website for further details.

Youth Programs

Weekly Storytime

Join the fun every Tuesday in February at 9:30 a.m. for picture books, songs and rhymes that are designed to promote early literacy skills in a fun, safe and friendly environment! For the month of February, we will be meeting for online storytime via Zoom. Please check the library homepage for weekly storytime themes and updates, and contact jen@carpentercarse.org for a Zoom link and with any questions. Take-and-

make craft kits related to the week's storytime theme will be available at the library every week, and we are also open for post-storytime book browsing and catching up with friends! Adults and children over 2 years old must wear masks while visiting the library. We will continue to watch COVID-19 rates in our area and consult with the Vermont library community as we consider a return to onsite programming for our youngest patrons!

Take-and-Make Craft Projects for Children

All through February, take-and-make craft projects will be available for pick up in the library foyer. Families are welcome to take home a new craft project every week along with your favorite books and movies!

February Break Take-Home Activity Bags

Check our website for more information and to sign up to pick up a bag full of family-friendly activities, DVDs, audio books and snacks to help pass the time during your winter staycation!

Adult Programs

To register for any of the below adult programs and to get necessary links, email meg@carpentercarse.org. Check the library website (or email Meg) to see if the below programs will be taking place virtually or in person at the library; masks will continue to be required for all visitors to the library.

Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon Have a morning of creativity and conversation with Hands and Needles. Bring whatever project you are working on — quilting, knitting, embroidery, etc.

Thursday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. Whether you play an acoustic instrument or simply enjoy singing along with live folk music, come join the SongFarmers during their monthly gathering.

Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 10:30 a.m. The mystery book group will be meeting to discuss "Bellweather Rhapsody" by Kate Racculla. Request a copy from the library.

Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. Put on your thinking cap and join in for a bit of friendly Zoom trivia. We'll cover a variety of themes and topics over three rounds, and have a prize for the winning player/team.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. The evening book group will meet via Zoom to discuss "Stories of Your Life and Others," a science-fiction short story collection by Ted Chiang. Request a copy from the library.

EDUCATION

Access CVU Winter/Spring Semester Launches

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Happy New Year! We are excited to share that the winter/spring semester of Access CVU, your destination for community education based out of CVU High School, is ready to launch! With over 180 classes offered, and more being added monthly, there's something for everyone!

Some things of note:

- Wooden Bowl Turning is back! We have a new instructor (who got started at an Access class) who will offer four classes over the semester, with the first in February.
- Cooking classes are expanding with new instructors and topics, including pho and four Indian cooking classes — yum!
- There are several new yoga classes — ever heard of Kaiut? Check it out!

Below is a list of classes scheduled for February, organized by category. All classes meet in-person at CVU (masks required!), with the exception of a selection of online classes (identified with an "**"), which will meet over Zoom.

Authors, Speakers and Presenters

Wednesday, Feb. 9 Books of the World

Cooking and Cuisine

Wednesday, Feb. 2 Chocolate Specialties!

Monday, Feb. 7 Vietnamese — Traditional Beef Pho

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Hearty Winter Soups

Thursday, Feb. 10 Ethiopian/Eritrean Cuisine — Focus on Meat

Fine Arts and Crafts

Wed, Feb. 2 Pottery with Supervision Only — Plus Bonus Open Studio!

Thursday, Feb. 3 Open Lathe Workshop — Bowl Turning with Eddie!

Thursday, Feb. 3 Punch Needle Rug Hooking for Beginners

Thursday, Feb. 3 Cereal Box Book Binding*

Monday, Feb. 7 Beaded Earring Making for All Levels

Monday, Feb. 7 Introduction to Welding Fabrication

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Carving in Wood — The Love Spoon

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Basket Weaving: Two-Handled Lading Round

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Learn How to Turn a Wooden Bowl!

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Wheel-Throwing and Hand-Building for All Levels

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Sewing with Knit Fabrics: Skirt Edition

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Introduction to Drawing

Wednesday, Feb. 9 Make Your Own Cutting Boards

Wednesday, Feb. 9 Watercolor Studio with Ginny Joyner

Thursday, Feb. 10 Intro to Knitting — Super Bulky, Cozy Cowl

Thursday, Feb. 10 Basic Candle Making

Tuesday, Feb. 15 Beaded Earring Making — Next Steps

Fitness, Dance, Yoga and Mindful Movement

Tuesday, Feb. 1 Intro to Yang Tai Chi

Wednesday, Feb. 2 Zumba with Dillon!

Thursday, Feb. 3 Yoga Thursday with Ellen!

Thursday, Feb. 3 Thursday Yoga Flow

Wednesday, Feb. 9 Kaiut Yoga Method: Yoga for Functional Movement

Wednesday, Feb. 9 Get Back in Your Boots

Health and Nutrition, New Age and Holistic Well-Being Tuesday, Feb. 8 Reiki — First Degree

Wed, Feb. 9 Gluten-Free Baking Discussion

Home and Garden

Thursday, Feb. 3 Home Repairs — Be Your Own Handyman!

Monday, Feb. 7 Beekeeping Basics*

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Garden Color: Purple, Violet and Ethereal Blue*

Thursday, Feb. 10 Home Repairs — Be Your Own Handyman!

Tuesday, Feb. 15 Creating a Garden

Sanctuary*

Thursday, Feb. 17 Home Repairs — Be Your Own Handyman!

Languages, Literacy and Professional Development

Tuesday, Feb. 1 Spanish For Beginners: Part 1*

Tuesday, Feb. 1 Spanish For Beginners: Part 2*

Thursday, Feb. 3 Spanish Conversation: Advanced Level*

continued on page 14

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► Hinesburg Town Forest

continued from page 1

To learn more about the HTF project, check out the links and resources at: linktr.ee/HinesburgTownForest.

To join the walk, meet at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 29 at the HTF trailhead on Hayden Hill Road East, 0.3 miles from the intersection with Texas Hill Road. Please note that the Hayden Hill Road East trailhead is not accessible from Hayden Hill Road West, and that if you put "Hinesburg Town Forest" into your GPS it will send you to the incorrect trailhead. Please come prepared to spend two hours out in the elements, including some walking over slippery and uneven surfaces.



There will be a public walk this Saturday at the Hinesburg Town Forest.

► Access CVU

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Thursday, Feb. 3 Conversational Italian (Intermediate to Advanced) *

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Italian for Beginners & Travelers*

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Italian for Beginners II*

Thursday, Feb. 10 Creative Writing*

Music

Wednesday, Feb. 2 Guitar for Beginners

Wednesday, Feb. 2 Guitar for Beginners — Part 2

Tuesday, Feb. 8 Ukulele: Find Your Inner Musician with the Ukulele!

Thursday, Feb. 10 Singing for Ukulele Players: Building Joy and Confidence in Your Voice*

Photography and Technology

Tuesday, Feb. 1 Digital Photography 101*

Check out our website, cvsvdt.ce.eleyo.com (or Google “Access CVU”), for more information and to register for a class. As a reminder, early signups help us plan for popular classes and it ensures you a spot in the class. For classes with low enrollment, we make a decision a week ahead on whether to go forward with a class. If there’s a waitlist for a class you’re interested in, we encourage you to add your name since we will open up an extra section of a class if we get enough interest. You can always call or email us to be added to a waitlist; we do not require payment information if you contact us directly.

Need help getting signed up for a class, or getting setup for online learning? Have a question about a current class or a suggestion for a



Bowl turning is back at CVU!



Learn to knit a cozy cowl.

future class? Want to teach with us? We want to hear from you! Call 802-482-7194 or email access@cvsvdt.org.

We offer discounts for our community members over 65 years old. We provide enrichment and learning opportunities for anyone, anywhere and anytime! Come explore new passions, ignite your imagination, learn a new skill and connect with lifelong learners.



Students from the fall cutting board class.

ORGANIZATIONS

SCHIP Announces Autumn 2021 Grant Awards

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Shelburne, Charlotte, Hinesburg Interfaith Project has announced its autumn 2021 grant awards. Recent monies in the amount of \$15,010 were awarded to 11 nonprofits in our towns that met the criteria of serving the people of our communities in a variety of ways. The recipients for this cycle included: Champlain Housing Trust; the Charlotte Food Shelf; Chittenden County Young Life; Friends of Lyceum Schoolhouse; Hinesburg Community Resource Center; Kidpower Vermont; ReSource; Shelburne Nursery School; St. Catherine of Siena; Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and Vermont Humanities Council.

These awards are made possible as a result of SCHIP’s mission to raise funds through the sale of donated, gently used clothing, household items, accessories, art and collectibles at its resale shop in the distinctive yellow building on Route 7, next to the town offices. Since the first grants were given in April 2005, more than \$779,000 have been distributed.

SCHIP accepts grant applications twice a year. The deadlines are April 15 and Oct. 15 of each year. The maximum grant size is \$3,000. Application forms are available on the “Contacts” page at schipstreasure.org.

As a member of our communities, you too are an intimate part of our mission. Come shop, donate, volunteer and help us continue to meet our objectives for the future. For more information on grant recipients or the organization, please visit our website or our Facebook page (SCHIP’s Treasure Resale Shop) or call the shop for volunteer or donation inquiries at 985-3595.

Our participating faith communities are: All Souls Interfaith Gathering, Shelburne; Ascension Lutheran Church, South Burlington; Charlotte Congregational Church; Hinesburg United Church; Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Charlotte; Shelburne United Methodist Church;

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Shelburne; St. Jude’s Catholic Church, Hinesburg; Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne; Vermont Zen Center, Shelburne.

2022 Lake Iroquois Ice-Out Challenge

BY SHANNON KELLY, LAKE IROQUOIS ASSOCIATION

The Lake Iroquois Association announces its second annual Ice-Out Challenge. The contest is accepting entries beginning Jan. 3, 2022, through 11:59 p.m., March 1, 2022 on the association’s website at lakeiroquois.org/news/ice-out-challenge. To purchase tickets, click on “Enter the Challenge.” Ice-Out Challenge tickets are \$1 each, with discounts for 20, 30, 40 or 50 tickets. The winner receives 50% of the proceeds after expenses. In the event of more than one person guessing the winning time, the 50% portion of the proceeds will be evenly split among those holding winning tickets.

One year ago, the LIA successfully inaugurated its first annual ice-out contest. The contest challenges participants to guess the date and time a concrete block mounted on a pallet will break through the ice on Lake Iroquois. A line attached to the pallet and cinder block loops around a power cord that disconnects and stops a clock that’s mounted on shore when the entire assembly sinks. Valarie Patten of Hinesburg won the contest with a winning ticket of March 27 at 1:41 p.m.

The LIA Greeter Program helps to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species into Lake Iroquois. This important program not only protects the lake, but it also serves to educate and inform lake users on best practices to prevent the spread of aquatic invasives. The Greeter Program has been supported in part by grant funding from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation as well as by the members, donors and volunteers of the LIA. However, this grant funding is decreasing due both to the increasing number of greeter programs across the state and to reductions in available funds. At the same time, with boating traffic on the lake growing, the need to have greeters



The Lake Iroquois Association announces its second annual Ice-Out Challenge.

on duty for more hours has become necessary. The LIA plans to use funds raised from the Ice-Out Challenge to help offset the grant funding reductions and to provide more greeter hours for the 2022 summer season. More information about the LIA’s Greeter and Boat Wash Program can be found at lakeiroquois.org/invasives/greeters-boat-wash.

Ice-out dates recorded on Lake Iroquois since 1987 may be found on LIA’s website: lakeiroquois.org/enjoying/ice-out-dates. If you are interested in learning more about the LIA’s efforts, or would like to get involved with any of LIA’s projects, please visit our website at lakeiroquois.org or send an email to lakeiroquoisassociation@gmail.com.

Flowering Rush, a Nonnative Invasive Species, Is Spreading in Town Farm Bay

BY KATE KELLY, LCA PROGRAM MANAGER

In Charlotte’s Town Farm Bay, another nonnative invasive species is spreading. Flowering rush is an emerging threat to wetlands and floodplain forests of Lake Champlain’s direct drainage streams. Lewis Creek Association’s related work in 2015-2018 alerted us to the growing presence of flowering rush in our priority wetlands. Research in other states showed that this species could be a serious threat to the diverse natural communities of the Town Farm Bay, a 53-acre wetland complex. Lewis Creek Association then applied for and received grant funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program in 2019 for a multiyear

study that has now wrapped up.

What is flowering rush? It is a reed-like wetland plant with pink flowers that can grow along shorelines and in water up to nine feet deep. Although beautiful, it has been classified as a Class B noxious weed, meaning that the sale, movement and distribution of the plant is prohibited in Vermont. It can outcompete native aquatic plants, and may provide unsuitable shelter, food and nesting habitat for native animals. In addition, its dense growth along shoreline areas makes it difficult to access open water for recreation.

LCA was interested in learning more about this plant’s growth locally and if the plant could be easily controlled with volunteer help. With the help of Robert Hyams of HRS/Riverscape Ecology and local volunteers, we surveyed the Town Farm Bay wetland to determine flowering rush’s distribution, and set up some test plots to look at different treatments (pulling out flowering plants by their roots, or cutting plants back multiple times a year). We also collected samples of plants for genetic analysis. Interestingly, there are two types of flowering rush: one is sterile (triploid plants with three sets of chromosomes that don’t produce viable seeds) and one can produce seeds that produce new plants (diploid with two sets of chromosomes).

We learned that the plants in Town Farm Bay are likely diploid, so seeds can produce new plants. Flowering rush is distributed throughout much of the emergent plant community within the bounds of the Thorp/Kimball wetland, with the highest concentrations along the north shore of the Thorp Brook wetland. We discovered that plants bloom throughout the growing season, so that several surveys would need to be completed over the season to fully estimate the number of flowering rush plants present. Visual evidence suggests that flowering rush is increasing in density, but this was hard to determine conclusively due to year-to-year differences in populations and water levels.

Unfortunately, the portion of the study that looked at if cutting plants back would minimize their growth the following year was inconclusive; plants did not seem to regrow from the same cut area, but may have



Flowering rush grows in Town Farm Bay. Photo credit: Kate Kelly.

resprouted from the same rhizome. Further study (perhaps in a lab) would be necessary to determine if multiple cuttings per year impact the plant over time. In the area we hand-pulled plants out by their rhizomes/roots, there was a reduction in the number of plants in both the test plot and in the control plot (where plants were not removed). It is unclear why this is. It is possible that hand-pulling of plants will reduce the population over time, but unfortunately, it is a very difficult job requiring getting out of (and back into!) canoes in knee-deep muck, and may also disturb other sensitive plants in the wetland if it were to be instituted on a large scale. In conclusion, although we learned quite a bit about our local flowering rush population, this study did not conclusively demonstrate a good method for control. LCA continues to investigate and control nonnative invasive species in our high quality and priority wetlands, and hopes to learn more about and apply possible control methods through future studies.

For further information or questions, please reach out to Kate Kelly, LCA program manager, at lewiscreekorg@gmail.com or 802-488-5203.

This project was funded by an agreement awarded by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program. NEIWPCC manages LCBP’s personnel, contract, grant and budget tasks and provides input on the program’s activities through a partnership with the LCBP Steering Committee. The viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily represent those of NEIWPCC, the LCBP Steering Committee, or GLFC nor does mention of trade names, commercial products or causes constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Audubon Vermont Announces New Director of Conservation

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Audubon Vermont is pleased to announce that Jillian Liner will serve as the organization’s new director of conservation. Jillian is moving from her current role as director of conservation for Audubon New York, bringing her extensive experience and knowledge to the Vermont state office. On behalf of the board and staff, please join me in welcoming Jillian!

In the words of Audubon Vermont Executive Director David Mears, “I could not be more pleased to have someone with Jillian’s level of experience and knowledge in conservation, and her proven leadership skills, joining the Vermont team.” He continues, “in keeping with the fact that birds hold little regard for borders, Jillian’s migration to Vermont aligns well with Audubon’s need to develop conservation strategies that transcend artificial

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► Audubon Vermont

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lines, working across state and even national boundaries.”

Audubon New York Executive Director Mike Burger adds, “Though I am very sorry to lose Jillian from Audubon New York, I am thrilled that she will have the opportunity to lead Audubon Vermont’s conservation program. I couldn’t imagine a better partner or colleague across Lake Champlain. Our two state offices have a long history of collaboration and I am looking forward to working with Jillian and her new team as we build on that history to find new opportunities for protecting bird habitat across our two states, the region and the Atlantic Flyway.”


Jillian has ties to Vermont, having earned her master’s degree at the University of Vermont. In her words, “this change is a wonderful chance to return to and help protect a place and a landscape that I have always loved, while continuing to be connected to all of my many amazing colleagues within the National Audubon Society.”

Jillian has served the National Audubon Society in New York for just over two decades, first as the Important Bird Area coordinator, then as director of bird conservation. Since 2018 Jillian has served as the director of conservation. At every step, Jillian has demonstrated a commitment to protecting birds and



Jillian Liner, director of conservation, Audubon Vermont.

bird habitat and to using science to inform on-the-ground conservation strategies. She is a proven and collaborative leader who has built strong partnerships throughout the wildlife and environmental protection communities. Among her many accomplishments, Jillian was instrumental in revamping New York’s Important Bird Area program. She co-authored the book “Important Bird Areas of New York: Habitats Worth Protecting,” which has served as the focus for Audubon and partner conservation efforts. Further, Jillian launched New York’s Coast Program and has worked to advance climate resilience for New York’s coasts, for both birds and people.



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OUTDOORS

Two Misconceptions About Forests

BY ETHAN TAPPER, CHITTENDEN COUNTY FORESTER

As I write this, Chittenden County is settling into winter, last night’s rain notwithstanding. This past December, you have heard the buzzing of chainsaws and the thrum of skidders in the woods, logs piling up by the side of your road. You might see a forest that you know and love change; the forest floor dotted with bright-topped stumps and scattered with the tops and branches of trees.

Good forest management is more than just cutting valuable trees: it



seeks to be regenerative, to improve conditions for wildlife, to make forests more resilient in a changing climate, to protect biodiversity, to benefit our communities and future generations. The ability to tell healthy forests from unhealthy forests — and responsible forest management from irresponsible forest management — is unintuitive to most people. It’s not something we’re born with — it’s something we need to develop. As such, we sometimes evaluate the health of our forests and the quality of forest management based on a couple of misconceptions.

The first common misconception is that forests should look neat and tidy.

Nothing could be further from the truth: forests that are resilient and adaptive in a changing climate, which provide diverse habitat for wildlife, which clean our air and our water, which sequester and store carbon, often defy our sense of order and aesthetics. Features that look “messy” to most people — like dead wood on the forest floor; dead-standing trees; big, old declining trees; an irregular, gap-filled canopy; and pockets of young trees and shrubs — fundamentally support the expansive web of life that is a forest. This doesn’t mean that any messy forest is good (a forest which has been poorly managed will probably also look messy), but it does mean that a forest isn’t unhealthy because it looks messy.

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The second misconception about forests is that they never change.

Because trees grow so slowly and live for such a long time, it’s tempting to think that forests are defined by their *stability*, their ability to resist change. In reality, forests are *dynamic*, always changing and they are defined by their *resilience*, their ability to stay healthy while they change. As much as the death of trees may seem sad and scary, it is a normal, natural, and even beautiful, part of how forests work.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

7:00-9:00 p.m. Economic Development. Third Floor Conference Room, Hinesburg Town Hall.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Hinesburg Historical Society Meeting. St. Jude Parish Hall.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

First Day of Black History Month.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Community Writers’ Group. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballards Corner Rd., Hinesburg. Calling all local writers! All genres are welcome. 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@beecherhillyoga.com.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Energy Committee. Remote Meeting-online Meeting platform.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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. <https://meet.google.com/vru-hvxh-xuw>. Third Floor Conference Room.

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, FEBRUARY 7

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

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

7:00-9:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting. Zoom Meeting or 3rd floor Town Hall. Join Zoom Meeting<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85303058417?pwd=RURUTkZkV3E0YndmZkZEYzFec3lkQT09MeetingID:85303058417> Password: 321494. Dial by your location +1 929205 6099 US (New York) Meeting ID: 853 0305 8417 Password:. 321494.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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. Town Office, Lower Level Conference Room.

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10

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.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Valentine’s Day.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Village Steering Committee Meeting. Hinesburg Town Hall. Contact George Dameron, Chair, 482-3269.



hard to understand how this could ever be part of something beautiful.

While you can appreciate some of the benefits of forest management, like local renewable resources, right away, the ecological benefits take time to reveal themselves. Forest managers in Vermont rely on natural regeneration rather than planting trees, and so — as in a forest following a wind-storm — there is a lag between the disturbance and when its benefits are realized. This lag can be a stressful time, and so in the years following management we need to remind ourselves to be patient, to let the forest’s

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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, Hinesburg. Contact Laura Gurdak at 802-482-2877 or hinesburghair@gmail.com.

7:00-10:00 p.m. Development Review Board Meeting. Town Office, Lower Level Conference Room.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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. Remote Meeting-online Meeting platform.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Trails Committee. Remote Meeting-online Meeting platform.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Presidents’ Day.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Washington’s Birthday.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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, FEBRUARY 24

7:00-9:00 p.m. Economic Development. Third Floor Conference Room, Hinesburg Town Hall.

7:00-9:00 p.m. Hinesburg Historical Society Meeting. St. Jude Parish Hall.

natural resilience work.

This summer, I walked through an area managed three winters ago at the Hinesburg Town Forest. In July the area was exploding with life, with greenery filling every space. Raspberry and blackberry canes looped around young trees, goldenrods and asters bloomed in yellow and purple. Birds nested in the thick understory and dove through canopy gaps, catching insects on the wing. Salamanders wriggled into rotting wood as the trees above them reached their limbs up into the blue sky.

Of the many lessons that forests can teach us, cultivating patience and equanimity are perhaps two of the most important. Like many of the best things in life, forests and forest management are complex and nuanced, and learning to appreciate them takes time.

Ethan Tapper is the Chittenden County forester for the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. See what he’s been up to, check out his YouTube channel, sign up for his eNews and read articles he’s written at linktr.ee/ChittendenCountyForester.

continued on page 18

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

Town Meeting Day

irst Day of Women’s History Month.

7:00-8:30 p.m. Community Writers’ Group. Carpenter-Carse Library, 69 Ballards Corner Rd., Hinesburg. See Calendar entry for February 1 for details.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

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. <https://meet.google.com/vru-hvxh-xuw>. Third Floor Conference Room.

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, MARCH 7

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

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

7:00-9:00 p.m. Conservation Commission Meeting. Zoom Meeting or 3rd floor Town Hall. See Calendar entry for February 8 for details.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

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

► Outdoors

continued from page 17

Conservation Camp Registration Is Open

FROM VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE PRESS RELEASE

If you are 12 to 14 years old and want to learn about Vermont's wildlife and gain outdoor skills, consider attending one of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Green Mountain Conservation Camps this summer.

Specific details about what protocols relating to COVID-19 will be in place will be communicated via the department's website as they become clear.

The one-week camp programs are held at Lake Bomoseen in Castleton and Buck Lake in Woodbury. Campers participate in hands-on learning about fish and wildlife conservation, ecology, forestry, orienteering, safe firearm and archery techniques, swimming, canoeing, fishing and more. Natural resource professionals come to the camp to share information on their programs and to take campers out for field activities.

"Whether kids come alone or with friends, they are guaranteed to meet new people and form new bonds while experiencing Vermont's natural resources to the fullest," said Fish and Wildlife Education Coordinator Alison Thomas.

"We would love to have all of the advanced sessions filled for girls who have already attended a basic session," added Thomas. "Advanced sessions are for campers who have completed a basic session the summer before and who are 16 years old or younger. Advanced sessions include more in-depth activities about backpacking, camping, natural resources, and unique hunting and fishing techniques."

Conservation Camps open June 19 and continue until Aug. 19. Tuition is \$250 for the week, including food, lodging and equipment.

Applications and information are available at vtfishandwildlife.com.

COVID-19 remains an unknown factor in planning for the 2022 Conservation Camp program. Keeping staff and campers safe and healthy could mean last-minute changes. While registration is open, and with all camp weeks available to the full number of campers, the specific details of how camp may run are subject to change based on guidance from the Vermont Health Department and the Governor's orders. This could include and is not limited to, reducing the number of sessions held, reducing the number of students in each session, or canceling the program for 2022.

PEOPLE

Outstanding Girl Scouts Honored as Young Women of Distinction

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE GREEN AND WHITE MOUNTAINS PRESS RELEASE

Dozens recognized for service to community and making the world a better place

Nearly 100 Girl Scouts were honored by Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains for their remarkable achievements in making the world a better place at the Young Women of Distinction ceremonies, which took place in Bedford, New Hampshire on Sunday, Nov. 14.

The Gold Award is earned by Girl Scouts in grades 9-12 who demonstrated extraordinary leadership in developing solutions to local, nation-



These are just some of the 29 Girl Scouts who earned the prestigious Gold Award in the past year, gathered at the Young Women of Distinction celebration hosted by Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountain on Sunday, Nov. 14, in Bedford, New Hampshire. Second from left is Cassandra Guillemette of Monkton. (GSGWM photo.)

al and global challenges. They have answered the call to drive lasting, impactful change. They earn college scholarships, demonstrate high educational and career outcomes and are active in their communities. Each spends at least 80 hours in service to their community to change the world for the better — and for good.

Twenty-nine Girl Scouts achieved this goal in the 2020-2021 membership year.

Dozens more earned the Girl Scout Silver Award, available to Girl Scout Cadettes in grades 6-8, and the Girl Scout Bronze Award, available to Girl Scout Juniors in grades 4 and 5. Cadettes give at least 50 hours of service, while Juniors give at least 20 hours.

Also honored were the top Girl Scout Cookie entrepreneurs, and Girl Scouts who earned the Journey Summit Award, Community Service Bar and Service to Girl Scouting Bar.

Patricia K. Mellor, CEO of the council serving girls throughout New Hampshire and Vermont, noted that the awards are the result of leadership, dedication and hard work.

"Today's celebration is a testament to the dedication and hard work necessary to accomplish the highest achievements in Girl Scouting," she said. "These remarkable young women are a result of what Girl Scouts offers — programming that develops Girl Scouts of the utmost courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place."

The event was sponsored by Benson Consulting and Delta Dental.

Additional Girl Scouts were honored at a ceremony in Vermont in August, and more will be recognized in January.



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Girl Scouts is a shining opportunity for girls to become their best selves. Find out more at girlscoutsgwm.org.

Some Vermont Honorees Include:

Gold Award recipient **Cassandra Guillemette of Monkton**, for her project "Monkton Elementary School Compost and Educational Plan." Silver Award recipient **Nora Perry of Burlington** — Tables for Tots

Bronze Award recipient **Elenore Mullins of South Strafford** — Bronze Award Books

Bronze Award recipients **Chanelle Bella and Ariah Pacht of Essex Junction** — Masks for DCF

Bronze Award recipient **Alana Nash of Johnson** — PPE Group Project

Recognized as one of the council's top Girl Scout Cookie sellers: **Liliane Gordon of Hinesburg** — 2,121 packages

Higher Education Honors

Madeline Baker, Samantha Haviland and Alix St. Hilaire, all of Hinesburg, have been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2021 president's list.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum GPA of 3.70 and above are named to the president's list.

Deona Proulx of Hinesburg has been named to Southern New Hampshire University's Fall 2021 dean's list. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum GPA of 3.50 to 3.70 are named to the dean's list. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits.

Ethan Provost of Hinesburg has been named to the Plymouth State University (Plymouth, New Hampshire) president's list for the Fall 2021 semester. To be named to the president's list, a student must achieve a GPA of 3.70 or better for the Fall 2021 semester and must have attempted at least 12 credit hours during the semester.

Hinesburg Students Named to the University of Vermont Dean's List

To be named to the dean's list, students must have a GPA of 3.00 or better and rank in the top 20% of their class in their respective college or school.

Ashton Barbeau (biology major, College of Arts and Sciences)

Michaela Buscher (business administration major, Grossman School of Business)

Alice Drew (environmental studies major, College of Arts and Sciences)

Miro Gohacki (computer science major, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences)

Julia Grant (elementary education — K-6 major, College of Education and Social Services)

Julia Hillier (exercise science major, College of Nursing and Health

Sciences)

Dylan Laberge (computer science major, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences)

Aidan May (biochemistry major, College of Arts and Sciences)

Olivia Morton (biology major, College of Arts and Sciences)

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COMMENTARY

Vermont Men Need to Understand and Support Prop 5 to Advance the Equality and Privacy of All Vermonters

BY BILL SCHUBART

The Vermont Constitution, dating from 1793, has been the basis of several pioneering events in Vermont history, The Marriage Equality Act and the Equal Educational Opportunity Act (Brigham Decision).

Article 7 of our constitution (the “Common Benefits” clause) reads: “That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single person, family, or set of persons, who are a part only of that community; and that the community hath an indubitable, unalienable, and indefeasible right, to reform or alter government, in such manner as shall be, by that community, judged most conducive to the public weal.”

Vermonters are now considering another landmark decision with regard to the equality of its citizens, Prop 5, again based on the “Common Benefits” clause.

Prop 5 adds a 22d amendment to the Vermont Constitution: “That an individual’s right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one’s own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means.”

When fully approved by the Legislature, it will go to Vermonters for a vote, and if supported by a plurality, will become part of the Vermont Constitution and thus the law of the land. It will also make Vermont the first state in the US to embed such a right in law.

It’s noteworthy that the law nowhere

mentions family planning, birth control, sex education or abortion. The law is not about sexual and medical practice it’s about the equality of its citizens — a majority of its citizens, one might add, as Vermont women outnumber Vermont men.

Sadly, Prop 5 has been dragged into the antiabortion battle roiling the country all the way to the Supreme Court, which will this year consider whether to limit the reproductive rights of over half the country and seriously compromise all our privacy rights.

The amendment effectively protects every Vermonter’s right to become pregnant, carry a pregnancy to term, choose or refuse sterilization, contraception or abortion care.

Another deeply troubling element in this debate is the focus on women, as if they alone were responsible for sex education, birth control, family planning, conception and birth itself. As a friend often reminds me “conception begins with an erection.”

When mankind needs to invent a word like “complementarianism” to provide cover for his belief in the inequality of the sexes, every thinking person of any gender should pay attention.

Complementarianism is a male-serving religious and tribal belief that, although all of us may be equal in the eyes of God, God created men and women for different purposes and that men must retain leadership in church and home. It is how many religions deny religious leadership to women and justify male dominance within the family and the economy. In

fact, the religious right praised Roe v. Wade when it first appeared in 1973. When Roe was first decided, Southern Evangelicals generally felt that abortion was a personal issue in which government had no role, seeing it as a “Catholic issue.”

Throughout history men have interpreted religion to favor their own power and authority. In Catholicism for example, it has meant that only men can be priests. But at its most harmful it has justified involuntary sterilization, denial of education, male-favored compensation, leadership opportunities, property rights, denial of family planning tools, enforced hiding of women’s bodies, sexual and physical abuse, domestic subservience and eugenics. Vermont’s eugenics frenzy, between 1931 and 1941, led to 253 mandatory sterilizations, two-thirds of which were performed on women deemed “mentally deficient.”

Complementarianism is to gender as racism is to race.

We can’t have it both ways. All human beings are either equal or some are less so than others. Prop 5 addresses equality, not medical practice. It states simply that people of all genders (including cisgender and gender nonspecific) have the right to determine their own reproductive choices.

As an experienced OB/GYN, Dr. Lauren MacAfee notes in a recent op-ed in VT Digger, “Health care providers practice medicine under the guidance of both ethical principles and practice regulations at the individual, clinic, hospital, state and federal level. There currently are no state restrictions on the practice of abortion in Vermont and, simply put, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment will not change how medicine is practiced in Vermont.”

As a civilization, we’re either going to have to embrace the concept of gender and racial equality in everything we do, from civics and governance to economic opportunity, housing, religious practice, and reproductive rights, or we must acknowledge openly a diminished role for women and our own embedded sexism.

What if the federal government were to mandate vasectomies, sterilization, chemical castration or limit family size as China did so disastrously for

35 years, leading to the killing of newborn female babies, as the preference was to bear male children who would be wage earners and care for their parents in their old age.

While preserving the principle of free exercise of religion, we must also maintain the clear Constitutional separation of church and state and reaffirm the equality of all our citizens. Religious practice must remain accountable to legal principles as expressed in law.

This is not a “women’s issue.” We either believe in equality or we don’t. We are partners in families, our children’s education, our health care system and we initiate the conception of children. Prop 5 is as important to us as it is to the women we may love. This is not a feminist moment, it’s a human one.

And we men need to understand and support Prop 5 to advance the equality of all Vermonters.

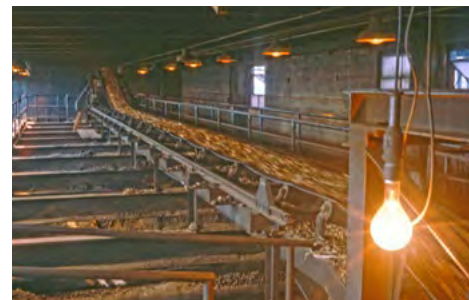
Behold Moran Station’s Quasimodo

BY ROGER DONEGAN

Thirty-five years of benign neglect of the J. Edward Moran Municipal Generating Station provided penthouse sanctuary for its own incarnation of Quasimodo, the one singularly performing mechanical coal trolley, before the structural steel frame on the waterfront was rendered meticulously clean, lean and more erect, then preserved with a cherry-red paint job in the recently completed FRAME Project, phase one.

The plot of Victor Hugo’s French Gothic novel, “The Hunchback of Notre-Dame,” (1831) is centered in Paris in 1482. Quasimodo is the fictitious, tragic or comic, character cast as a “hunchback” and the lone enigmatic bell ringer whose physical prowess allowed him to ring the giant bourdon bells that hung in the belfries of the world-famous Notre Dame Cathedral. This may not be the only theme from Victor Hugo that’s applicable to the endgame for the former electrical generating station. Hugo championed the preservation of French Gothic architecture, which was disappearing in his time. We also have Hugo to thank for the literary origins of the city of Burlington’s entertaining Festival of Fools event held annually.

As a long-ago station worker turned spectator who thought the structure had unique design features worth preserving, I anticipated the last-ditch plan with angst. Before the FRAME Project started, I privately hoped a peregrine falcon would simply appear one day perched at a corner of the roof, like the miniature gargoyles they resemble, to turn the 176-foot-high bunker house into a cliff-like aerie as these birds of prey do on bridge tow-



Coal trolley filling Hopper No. 1 with wood chips in 1981.

ers and skyscrapers along the eastern seaboard. There would have been a very sustainable supply of pigeons for the feisty birds to consume. Plus, the confirmed presence of the protected species just might have caused the structure to be decreed off-limits to wrecking ball and truant graffiti artists alike.

In 1942, war rationing and shortages of labor, coal and fuel oil constrained the city’s first little-known steam electric plant’s capacity for production. Severe droughts in 1945 and 1947 encumbered the hydroelectric plants that provided Burlington with supplemental power. A monthlong shut-down of Burlington’s first steam plant in 1948 due to a fuel oil shortage advanced the proposal to build a larger facility to burn coal to meet the city’s needs as advocated by Mayor J. Edward Moran. While there is a retroactive “never coal” mentality in the body politic, it’s obvious the waterfront once glistened with coal and cinders underfoot. This would have been around the same time that Elias Lyman-like coal towers fueled locomotives daily, but before those same waterfront coaling stations mushroomed into tank farms, which they did in the next era.

The Moran Station was scarily ugly in addition to being an air polluter.

It was removed from service in 1986 and shorn of its three stacks, a necessity opposed by citizens in 1987



Moran FRAME Project Phase One

who opined “the stacks were historical artifacts, enriching the landscape with a reminder of the waterfront’s industrial past” (Burlington Free Press editorial, “Smokestacks of Power Plant Just Plain Ugly,” May 30, 1987). In the long dormant period that followed, the outsized dimensions of the power house marred the view of the shoreline. Just one example of the pragmatic beauty in the beast that couldn’t be ascertained from a distance came with the big reveal of November 2020 when the upper 40-foot-high brick masonry es-carpment, that had previously boxed in three coal hoppers, was pulled down and away from the highest elevation of the structural steel frame that kept them hidden.

The long-gone spindly network of exterior conveyors, that once fed a continuous stream of coal and wood chips up their ever-rising inclines, brought the solid fuel to the brims of these triangular 260-ton capacity coal hoppers that hung unseen in the crossbeams of the attic-like bunker house. Before gravity could have its role, the coal trolley’s job was to pour every ton of incoming coal or wood-chip fuel into the hoppers once it was correctly positioned right above them on horizontal rails. Ideally up-sets wouldn’t happen, but when they did the supersized bunker storage enabled one, two or three station generators to keep producing the needed uninterrupted electrical power.

In the end, what to do with the three ruggedly built-in coal hoppers presented an insurmountable problem to

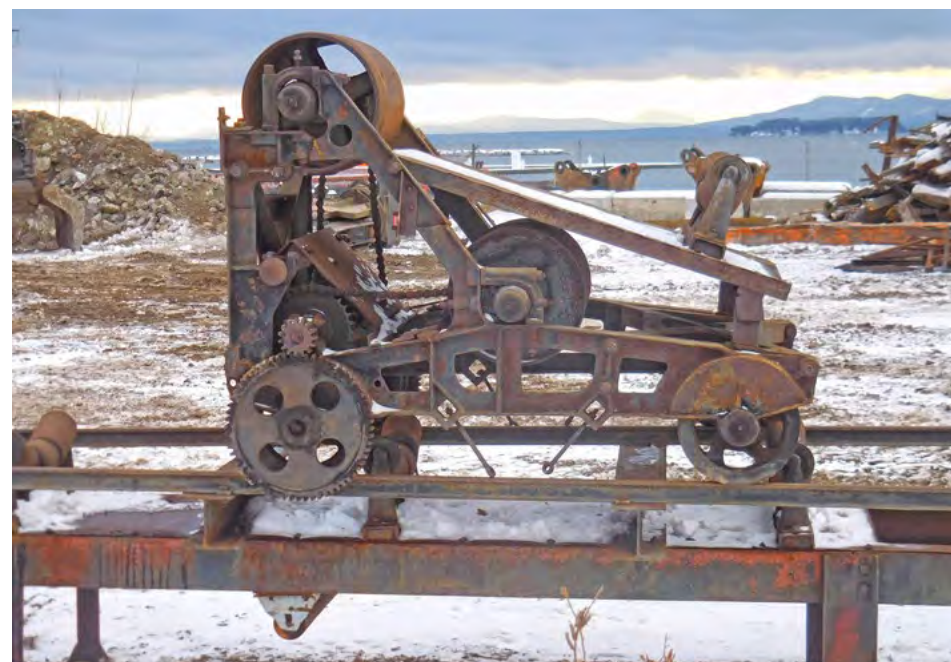
all the imaginative formerly proposed station reuse plans. The methodical takedown of these welded steel hoppers in the end was akin to a high wire trapeze act requiring nearly two and half months to complete in winter of 2021.

Once FRAME Project work began, I often placed myself outside the fence line as a spectator. The hopeful vigil of keeping the building intact was over. Although the station was emptied of saleable capital equipment in the late 1980s, some of its larger exterior extremities brought to ground by controlled detonation, and repeatedly given the once-over by a multitude of environmental investigations, it was time to just savor last hurrahs. Happiness would be wire brushing off a few more equipment nameplates to note the names of their American manufacturers if possible.

The on-site DEW Construction work crew and I became mutually acquainted. They could clearly see that Moran Station was an extraordinary structure since even a river once ran through it. DEW staff had an appetite for insights into station design, respective floor uses and anecdotal information. A Moran Station shift supervisor once stoked coal on the Ticonderoga for instance. Photographs of the Moran Station in early construction, and in its heyday, made the rounds electronically and generated interest in the site.

The subterranean basement of Moran was also below lake level some of the year and flooded beginning in the late 1980s. Often several feet of water remained in the basement as solid ice well into June. No equipment exposed to this punishing cycle, let alone the walls themselves, could remain unscathed. The space of the highest reaches of the station on the other hand might have had as close to a high and dry controlled ambient environment as possible for a neglected building. When the brick exterior was finally removed from the bunker house in late 2020, the hunched profile of the coal trolley still up there was recognizable and it was accentuated by a swath of rubber conveyor belt bent over its rollers. In early January 2021, the coal car trolley and a section of its horizontal track, but less the conveyor belt, was lowered to the ground by crane.

It’s likely the coal trolley was never replaced. Moran Station had neither personnel nor a freight elevator. The closest floor to the bunker house was six flights of stairs down. A replacement trolley would have had to pass through the roof. Whereas some of the affixed bearings, rollers, gears and sprocket chains were likely replaced, close examination reveals a broken frame marked by signature brazing and welds. If Moran Station still possessed an artifact of worthy testimony to the plant’s service to Burlington and the industrial past of the waterfront, this coal trolley is it.



Coal trolley, less the conveyor belt, on the ground in January 2021.

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Pastor: Rev. Jared Hamilton

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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. Sunday Worship is now in-person.

Choir practice: 9:00 a.m. Sunday

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

Saint Jude the Apostle Catholic Church

Pastor: Fr. James Zuccaro

Pastor's Residence: 425-2253, stjude@gmavt.net.

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, 879-3446, Rectory, 482-2290, marietcookson@aol.com

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

Parish Council Chair: Dennis Casey, 453-4054

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; Wednesday: 8:00 a.m., Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Charlotte

Sacrament of Baptism: Call the Pastor for appointment

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday following the 5:15 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church; Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Friday following the 8:00 a.m. Mass 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

Religious Education Coordinator: Marie Cookson, 879-3446

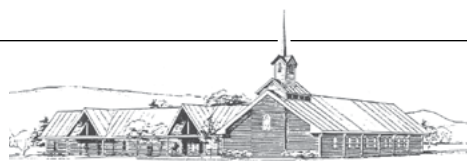
Religious Education (CCD): The first Sunday of each month following the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Students and parents meet each month.

Please call Marie at 482-2290 (Parish Office) or 879-3446 (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.



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.

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.

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.

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



Town Meeting Day Rules

continued from page 24

gross alteration. What we're trying to do is deal with the pandemic here and I don't think that anybody means for deliberative democracy to take these hits," said Clark.

"I am looking from the 30,000-foot view at Vermont, and if Hinesburg felt that was an appropriate process, then I'm worried that other towns will see that as well, and my concern would be that the Legislature needs to realize what they have done," said Clark.

To assure that other towns in Vermont do not follow in Hinesburg's footsteps, an amendment was added Jan. 4 that disallows towns to make permanent votes using an Australian ballot.

Vermont town meetings, where in-person voters act as citizen-legislators, is one of the few modern examples of direct democracy — not dissimilar to the democratic decision-making born in ancient Athens.

Merrily Lovell, selectboard chair in Hinesburg, told Seven Days that the vote was held because the town was worried they would not have guidance from state lawmakers in time for Town Meeting Day, and they wanted to be sure a vote could be held safely.

"As far as we could understand it, we were very clearly following the law as it was written at the time," she said. "If it's not permanent, that's fine with me."

Lovell said she values the Town Meeting Day format, according to Seven Days.

"I hope this COVID turns out to be something that guides us in ways to keep that going. It's real democracy," she said to the paper.

Town Manager Todd Odit said the town relied on the opinion of the town's attorney to hold the December vote authorizing the move to Australian ballot.

"He is pretty confident in his opinion," Odit said. "Maybe the Legislature wasn't as clear in their legislation as they thought they were."

Hinesburg voters could move back to an in-person town meeting should they vote to do so, Odit said. Voters can petition to redo a vote, he said.

The move to balloting is unsettling to Hinesburg resident Richard Watts, he said.

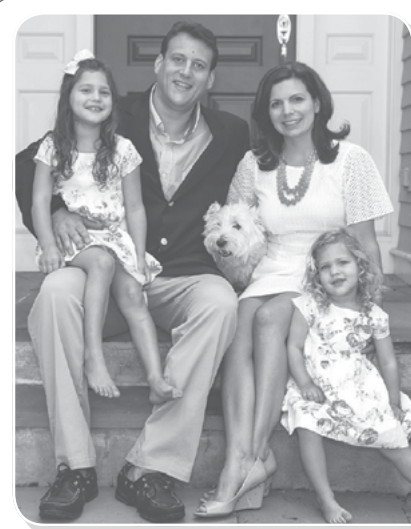
Watts has lived in Hinesburg for 30 years, and has long valued town meeting's capacity for face-to-face deliberation.

Before the vote was held, Watts turned to Front Porch Forum to voice his concerns about losing town meeting.

"Specifically, town officials could convene a special committee on the future of town meeting and involve town citizens in this decision before taking the irrevocable step of ending one of the oldest and purest forms of real democracy in the world," wrote Watts.

After posting his point of view, Watts received some pushback from other Hinesburg residents on the platform.

"I had a couple of people email me really unpleasant things, and that wouldn't happen at a town meeting. It would be very hard to say really unpleasant things to somebody who's three feet away from you,



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BACK STORIES of Hinesburg

To Meet, or Not To Meet (in person)

Lawmakers Clarify Pandemic Town Meeting Day Rules After Hinesburg, Rockingham Vote To Stop In-Person Meeting

BY JOIA PUTNOI, COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Hinesburg's recent vote to stop holding an in-person town meeting and move all town votes to a ballot instead of a traditional town meeting has caught the attention of state lawmakers and Town Meeting Day advocates, who say the town improperly applied a pandemic-era safety measure.

Governor Phil Scott passed a bill Jan. 14 updating last year's Town Meeting Day guidelines, with a provision that specifically disallows a town asking its residents to adopt an Australian ballot on a permanent basis, as

Hinesburg's vote did. The bill now moves to the Vermont House, which will likely send it to the Governor's desk soon.

Seven Days first reported the story, and noted that Rockingham also misinterpreted last year's law, according to bill author Sen. Jeanette White (D-Windham).

Hinesburg's early December 2021 vote determining whether or not to hold all votes by ballot item passed by wide margins among the 407 people who voted in the election, representing about a quarter of the 1,700-person town electorate.

The decision to hold this vote was brought about by the town selectboard in early November.

Hinesburg town officials say that they held the vote for several reasons — they were worried they would not have guidance from state lawmakers in time for Town Meeting Day, and they wanted to be sure a vote could be held safely. Town Manager Todd Odit said the town's attorney signed off on the vote.

Hinesburg's choice to hold this vote using an Australian ballot was prompted by last year's Act 162, which gave towns agency to hold COVID-19-safe town meetings during the pandemic.

White said the law was intended to be used as a temporary measure to help towns adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.



State senator Jeanette White. Vermont legislature photo.

As intended by the law, towns must hold an in-person floor meeting when voting on making the permanent switch to the Australian ballot, White said.

"I am just appalled at towns that want to do away with town meeting and just have Australian ballot. It's just the worst thing for democracy," said White.

White said that before being asked about it by the Community News Service, she was unaware of the vote in Hinesburg.

Before White worked in the Vermont Senate, she served as a Putney selectboard member for nine years.

"Being in the Legislature is hard because you're dealing with huge issues that affect the entire state, but it isn't nearly as personal as being on a selectboard," said White.

"We do not want to see the end of town meetings, we might need to change the way we do town meetings," said White. "We may need to give more authority to towns, because I firmly believe that democracy is best when it happens closest to home."

Susan Clark, town moderator of Middlesex, and coauthor of the book "All Those in Favor," said she believes that Hinesburg should have waited to discuss the change in-person.

"It is contrary to the spirit of the law as written," said Clark. "They were passing a public health emergency law, and inadvertently, they made a

continued on page 23

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

Hinesburg Community School is looking for Mentors! Mentors are distinct members of a team of caring adults who show up to spend an hour a week with a 5-8th grader during the school year.

Mentors bring with them a sense of shared fun, new experiences and great listening skills. Mentors bring encouragement and options for expanding a young person's regard for themselves and their world. By sharing yourself with your mentee you can inspire them to create a richer future for themselves. Contact Program Coordinator Livy Bulger at lbulger@cvsdvt.org or 482-6226 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 Jane Sheldon at elcabi2@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
- Economic Development Committee
- Planning Commission
- Recreation Commission
- Village Steering Committee

Check town web site hinesburg.org for the most current committee openings, descriptions and instructions on how to apply. For more information contact Joy Dubin Grossman (Assistant Town Manager) at 482-4207 or jdubingrossman@hinesburg.org.

The Hinesburg Record

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