

*Good News
Makes
A Good
Community*

17 YEARS

Mailed Free to All Vernon Vermont Residents
The **Vernon**
Newspaper

Volume 17 Issue 12

December 2010



CW2 Mark Wetherby flying his helicopter



Ava Paige and Cora Grace Wetherby Visit Disney World

CW2 MARK WETHERBY
by Frank Wetherby

On October 21st CW2 Mark Wetherby departed FOB Wolverine, Afghanistan, via helicopter to Kuwait. The next day he was able to take a US Government chartered flight into Atlanta, GA. Upon arrival he was greeted by his wife, Helen, and two daughters, Ava, age 5, and Cora, age 2½. Unbeknownst to the children, plans had previously been made to immediately depart from Atlanta, GA, for Orlando, FL, to go to Disney World. The two girls were mesmerized by all the Disney princesses and characters. Mark and his family were able to benefit from a quality vacation courtesy of the many outstanding employees at Disney World. According to Mark, "It was just a fun place to bring the children and to get a chance to fully relax from where I've been."

Mark returned to Afghanistan on November 4th. His current address is: CW2 Mark Wetherby, C Co, 1-101 Avn., TF Eagle Assault, FOB Wolverine, Zabul, APO AE 09383. Mark is currently serving as an AH-64 Apache Longbow pilot with the famed 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). It is expected that he will be returning to the United States sometime in February and is planning a trip to Vermont in the May/June time frame. An open house is being planned upon his return. Mark is the son of Frank Wetherby who resides with his wife, Betty, in Vernon.

**To all the men and women serving in the armed
forces near and far, we want to wish you a
Safe and Happy Holiday
Thank you for your service**

WE NEED YOUR HELP !!

In early November, nine boxes of books were left outside the Town Office Building with no information included. If anyone knows where these boxes came from and what they are for, could you please contact:

Vernon Free Library @ 257-0150

Thank you

ALL HAZARDS RADIOS

If you would like to receive an All Hazards/Weather Alert Radio, or if your batteries have run down Please call Chris Howe at 254-2497, and one will be delivered to you.

Dear Editor /Readers:

I want to thank the people who supported me and worked tirelessly on my campaign for the Windham 1 house seat, representing Guilford and Vernon in Montpelier.

I have a big job in front of me. I know that we do not agree on every issue. However, whether we agree or disagree, I will listen to your opinions and treat you with respect and dignity. I hope that you will work with me to move our communities forward.

Thank you,
Mike Hebert
Windham 1,
Representative Elect

Special Thanks Go To:

Shirley Mockler, who is my right arm, helps me in all aspects of getting the paper to you; Susan Miller and the Town Clerks' Office for copying all the flyers submitted, and to our local volunteers, listed below, who help collate the flyers for the Vernon Newspaper every month. Without each one of you, my task would be long.

November Volunteers:

Shirley Mockler Donna Fecto
Joyce Goodnow Julie Ball

Thank you all

Christiane Howe

ATTENTION HUNTERS

The Town Forrest Gate will be open through December 12 for Hunting Season.

Deadline for January 2011 Issue is December 20, 2010

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Out-of-town mailing subscriptions can be obtained for \$10.00 a year. Back issues are available at \$2.50 including postage. Vernon residents with a Brattleboro mailing address can receive The Vernon Newspaper at no charge. Contact the Town Clerk's office.

Disclaimer: The Town of Vernon assumes no responsibility for errors printed in this publication. Let it be known that the opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the staff, nor do they represent the Town of Vernon.

Ad Rates: \$40.00 for a flyer

\$50.00 a year for business card ad or \$6.00 per issue

\$5.00 per issue for a line ad of less than 10 words

TO SUBMIT: The Vernon Newspaper accepts stories and news submissions (with or without photos) relevant to Vernon and its residents. Limit general submission to 800 words, letters to 250 words. Please send all text in the body of an e-mail message without formatting, no attachments for text submissions. Supporting photos and images may be sent as attachments in the following formats: jpg, gif, tiff. We will delete all other attachments unread for security reasons.

Email to: vernonnewspaper@gmail.com or send to our USPS address

*****All submissions are subject to editorial changes for clarity and space when necessary. Submissions received after the deadline will be slated for next month's issue if still relevant. No exceptions. We reserve the right to reject submissions.**

The Vernon Newspaper
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Vernon, VT 05354

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VernonNewspaper@gmail.com

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And our wonderful volunteers

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Maxine Smith
Ruth Tripp
Mary Beth Hebert
Paul and Mary Miller
Seth Deyo
David Andrews

Have local news you want covered? Contact Christiane Howe at 254-2497

Vernon School News

NOTE: Because the Vernon Newspaper has no volunteers to report the school news, the following is from the weekly reports that are given to all staff members and students to bring home, and may be outdated, however every effort will be made so that won't happen.

From the October 29th newsletter: Greetings from Guidance by Mrs. Ray! Well, we are off to another full and non-stop year in the Guidance room. I can barely keep track of what day it is and was shocked to realize we are already at Halloween! Lunch groups are in full swing; I have some 5th grade girls coming in weekly to talk about "stuff" during recess and the usual meetings with students, friendship issues, Student Council, Christmas Stocking, Secret Santa, Second Step in third grade and on and on. The 4th annual Restorative Justice Program fall training was terrific. Both Mrs. Woodruff and I were so impressed by the insightful and respectful way your children took in the training and we are planning on expanding the presence of the program in school this year. So, stay tuned.

On another note, can you remember a time when you were a child and an adult; maybe a teacher, or relative or neighbor, paid particular attention to you and what you were doing, in a positive way? Do you remember what that felt like, and if your friends happened to be around, how extra important and special that made you feel? Because we believe that every Child benefits from that type of positive regard, we are beginning a new partnership this year with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters (BBBS) Program and Entergy Vermont to match some 2nd through 6th grade students with pals from the plant. In fact, Mr. Speno and I visited an employee meeting a couple of weeks ago at the plant and have had an overwhelming response from adults who work there wanting to pal up with a student once a week, on school grounds, during lunch/recess time. Of course, any volunteer will have to go through the BBBS screening process before they would be matched up with any students. So if you think you would be interested in having your child participate, or if you think would like more information about this program, please let me know. We are really excited to get it launched and grateful for our enthusiastic and community-minded neighbors across the road.

As always, I look forward to each and every day; working with your children it really is a pleasure and a privilege. **Thank you to everyone who helped sponsor additional t-shirts. Because of your generosity we were able to make sure every students was ordered a t-shirt featuring our new logo.**

Note: there were no listing of awards this week.

From the November 5th Newsletter: From Mr. Speno; I am happy to say that our 2010-2011 student council is up and running. We have had a couple of meetings to date and I am very impressed with the ideas and excitement these students have brought to the council. I am certain that this group will be great representatives of all of our students. Our first initiative this year is to promote the local "Feed the Thousands" food drive. We have some ambitious goals and are planning to team up with our local radio station 96.7 WTSA. Together we will be working to spread the word about the need for "Feed the Thousands" within our communities. This exciting partnership will also give our students the great opportunity to have their voices, thoughts and ideas heard on the radio. Student Councils Representatives: Natalie Devincentis, Karissa Perkins, Caroline Merkle, Abby Buedinger, Lauren McKenney, Brie Rooks, Logan Affinito, Tyrus Cobb, Gabby Carpenter, Madison Tyson, Kyle Derosia, Devin Millerick, and Nate McKenney, Council Reporter. The PTC Spirit Club is accepting used roller skates for student use. If your child's roller skates are too small, please consider donating them to the PTC. You are also welcome to check out the supply and exchange your child's skates for a pair that fit them now. Skates can be dropped off in the office any time. Eighteen students participated in the 4th Annual Localvore Challenge October 11-18. Congratulations to Sarah Butterfield, Stephen Haskins, Nikolas Kritsas, Jacob Therrien, Reagan Shippee, Lauren McKenney, Matt Sorensen, Zoe Kritsas, Chris Dempsey, Evan Woodruff, Nicolette Rivas, Athena Fowler-Shaw, Stryker Morrison, Karissa Perkins, Bronson Finnell, Maura Dempsey, Erik Sorensen and Isaiah Squires-Garvin. All participants received a token for the school store. The winners of the VT. Maple Syrup and Winter Farmers' Market Coupon were; Maura Dempsey and Bronson Finnell.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

Vernon

PO Box 56

(802) 254-9251

Recreation Department

Vernon, VT 05354

Director: Seth Deyo

Aerobics

When: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
6:00-7:00

Where: Elementary Gymnasium

Fee: 8 week sessions

1 night week \$24.00

2 nights week \$48.00

3 nights week \$72.00

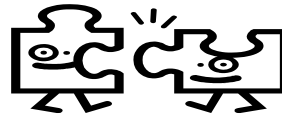
Walk ins: \$3.00/class

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Monday-Friday 3:15-5:30

\$10/day \$45/week

Snack, Homework, Games & More



Country Line Dancing

When: 7:00-9:00 pm (Monday)

Where: Elementary School Cafeteria

Fee: \$3/class

No registration required.

An on going program instructed
by Gary Castine. Stop in and join the fun.



Body Sculpturing/Fitness

When: Mondays & Wednesdays
6:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: Elementary Gymnasium

Fee: \$35.00 month

Class meets 2 x weekly

Walk Ins: \$5/class

This program is instructed by Sarah Deyo.
This is a non aerobic full body workout.
Free weights, aerobic ball and bands used
for toning and stretching.

Recreational Basketball

Vernon residents and their guests only.

A resident can bring along two
non-residents.

Elementary Gymnasium

Ages 16 & older

Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Recreational Volleyball

Vernon residents and their guests only.

A resident can bring along two
non-residents.

Elementary Gymnasium

Ages 16 & older

Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm

Other programs offered by the Recreation Department

GINGER BREAD HOUSE BUILDING

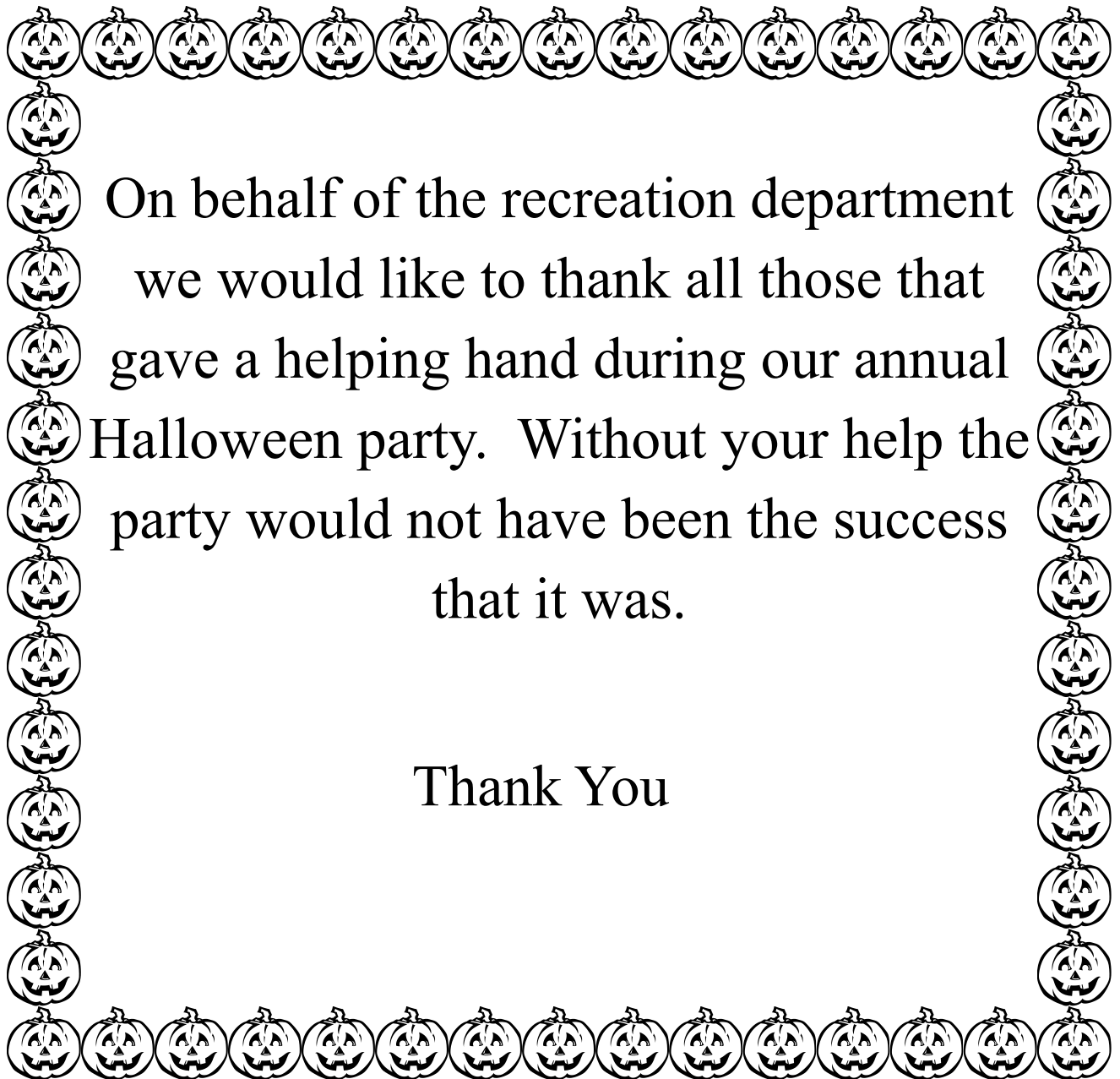
WHO: GRADES K-6
WHEN: DECEMBER 22ND
TIME: 3:15-5:00 P.M.
FEE: \$10.00

SNACKS, GINGER BREAD HOUSES, AND CRAFTS!

TEEN NIGHT

THE GYM IS OPEN MONDAY NIGHTS
FROM 7:00-8:30 FOR TEENS

GRADES 7-10.



On behalf of the recreation department we would like to thank all those that gave a helping hand during our annual Halloween party. Without your help the party would not have been the success that it was.

Thank You

WOODS SIDE WISDOM

by Mary Anne Deer

It has certainly been an unusual fall for us when it comes to animal sightings. The porcupine that I mentioned last month that was hanging around my driveway was unusual, but I did have one in my yard years ago when the boys were little. The groundhog was a tad out of the ordinary, too. However, the animal I saw at the end of October beat them both in the atypical category. As I turned out of my driveway to head to school that morning, I spotted a muskrat on the road!

Perhaps you live near the river or a pond and are wondering what is so unique about seeing a muskrat. Well, we don't live near either of those bodies of water. All we have is a little stream across the street. This summer, it was so dry that all we had was a streambed full of rocks. In other words, our home is not prime muskrat territory; it's not even sub-prime muskrat territory. However, this furry fellow didn't seem to know that.

When I turned up the hill, I spied him walking across the road. To be honest with you, I didn't know what it was. My first thought went to rat, because I had just been talking with some friends about a rat they had spotted recently, and indeed rats and muskrats are related. I knew that wasn't right, though, because the tail was dark and the animal was about the size of a football. When it noticed my car coming, it turned around and walked back to the side of the road, climbed up on the cement wall of the culvert, and walked down it to the brook. Since I wasn't walking, I couldn't investigate too closely. If I had been able to get a little closer, I might have been able to make a firm identification based on the smell: muskrats are so called because of the glands they have by their tails that give off a strong, musky odor.

Instead, I immediately dialed my husband and described this furry neighbor: dark brown fur, about a foot long, with a dark tail that looked to be even longer than the body. He confirmed that it was indeed a muskrat, but I was confounded to explain what it was doing in our neck of the woods. When I read a little about these animals, I discovered that they usually stay within fifty yards of their lodge. When the young move out, they usually stay with one hundred yards of their original den. For the life of me, I can't think of anywhere a muskrat could be living. A bank den is sometimes used, but our brook seems to lack the necessary accoutrements for muskrat happiness: food. There are no cattails along it, no underwater vegetation, no water lilies, pickerelweed, nothing. What could this unexpected visitor be eating? I have no idea.

According to the Stokes Guide to Animal Tracking and Behavior, there are two times during the year when muskrats might move from their home range: in April/ May and again in August/ September. My spotting was in late October. Why was he so late? Again, I have no idea. I do suspect that this was a young muskrat from this year heading out to establish his own territory.

Our winters get kind of cold for muskrats, though. The book said that even after muskrats disperse, they might head back in winter to live in a communal lodge where the animals tend to keep each other warm. Scientists have found as many as twelve muskrats in one lodge in the winter. Where could there be a big lodge like that? I honestly have never seen anything resembling a lodge around here. There might be some where Broad Brook enters the Connecticut, but that is a long haul from Tyler Hill Road.

At any rate, I haven't seen this fellow again, but I also haven't walked the brook to see if there is a bank den constructed or not. I suspect he was just passing through, and I was lucky enough to spot him that gray morning that followed a few rainy days.

I guess that is what is so cool about living surrounded by the woods: we never know what neat thing we might see next, so we always keep our eyes open. I hope you are doing the same!

Until next month.



Continued from page 3

Vernon School News

November 5th continued: Students of the week - Alyssa Standeven, Nina Belliveau, Bronson Finnell, Jacob Therrien, Brie Rooks, Caroline Merkle, Karissa Perkins, Sarah Butterfield, Chris Cwikowski, Lauren McKenney, Isaiah Squires, Julie Hendricks, Jack Pattisoin, Lauren Carpenter; **Super Sneaker** - Hannah Perlberg, Kilee Smith; **Golden Sneaker**: 6W; **Crown of Achievement** - 2C; Reign Stick - 5P; Class of Note - 6W; Computer Bug - 3M; Reading - 3M.

From the November 12th Newsletter: Ac-Cen-tu-ating the POSITIVE or Do You Really Know What's Happening Under the Radar? From Mr. Loomis: I have to say that as a Special Educator used to working with small groups or one to one, I'm often not very good at managing larger classes. I'm just not used to keying in on what's going on just "under the radar". However, this year, all of us teachers are finding out that we are not necessarily good at spotting all the **great** stuff that goes on just "under the radar". We are learning to relentlessly attend to positive behaviors of those oft times forgotten children who work with independence and diligence, who wait their turn patiently, who are kind and considerate of others, who follow directions, who always try their hardest, who...well, you get the point. As teachers (and parents) we need to be WAY more focused on sending positive and explicit messages that we recognize those things that our kids are doing well and that we understand how those things make a huge, positive difference for all of us here at school and at home. **Students of the week** - Tanner Corbeil, Gabby Chisamore, Reagan Shippee, Madeline Belliveau, Mercedes Thomas, Amanda Goodnow, Chelsea Lee, Matthew Huard, Degan Gundry, Sarah Ellis, Zoe Kritsas and Joe Koes.

If you have an Elementary, High School, College or a Child that has received an award, made the honor roll, Dean's List, President's List or any other academic achievement, please send us the information and a picture, as we would be honored to print your child's accomplishments.

Cold Brook Stables News

By Carolyn Brown

Welcome everyone to Cold Brook Stables. We are located here on West Road in Vernon, VT.

We started our stable in March 2008, with four horses: Satin, Tuff, Duke and Riata. Currently we have twelve horses and are anxiously awaiting the arrival our newest addition, which should be on May 9th, 2011. Our mare, Riata, is going to have our first new baby on Cold Brook Stables.

We give horseback riding lessons to all ages, board horses, train horses and trail ride. We have also started a horse 4-H club called Solids, Stripes & Spots 4H. One of our favorite things we do is showing at horse shows, which include classes in halter, lead line, trail, English and Western, barrel racing and pole bending.

We sure have made some wonderful memories so far and we are always excited about making new ones. The cold weather may be approaching, but us, one of a kind horse people, provide our own warmth toward everyone.

So, come check us out at Cold Brook Stables at 88 West Road. Just listen for the whinnies and laughter.

 <p><i>No Job Too Small</i></p> <p>Slade & Brow ROOFING</p> <p>(802) 254-5052 (802) 380-1777</p> <p>Slate Shingles Snow Belts Rubber (EPDM) Metal Valleys Flashing Details Chimney Work</p>		<p>The same expertise you've had the past 30 years with Harry Slade Roofing Company.</p> <p>Co-owners: Harry Slade Jim Brow</p>
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The staff at the Vernon Newspaper would like to ask if anyone would like to write school news, town news, submit short stories of people that once lived here, or the history of our town, to please call Christiane Howe at 254-2497.

The newspaper staff would like to thank everyone who contributed to this month's paper by submitting their wonderfully interesting stories and informative articles.

DECEMBER 2010

567 Governor Hunt Road
Vernon, VT 05352
802.257.0150
www.vernonfreeibrary.org
vernonfreeibrary@comcast.net



WINTER HOURS

Monday 10
Tuesday 2:00-5:00
Wednesday 10-5
Thursday 10-5
Friday 10-5
Saturday 2:00-5:00

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Christine Federicks, Chairperson
Kathleen Harvey Joanne Knowles Sally May Carol Richardson

PROGRAMS

BASIC COMPUTER CLASSES

Call Kristi to arrange a class.

KNITTING GROUP

Every Wednesday 3:30 - 4:30

READING GROUP

Meets 2nd Thursday of every month @ 5pm

For the December 9th meeting we are reading

Hope Train by

Donna Woolf Kirkcoss.

Contact the library to get a copy.

Hope to see you there!

NEW BOOKS & MATERIALS SHS

can be found on the library website. Just click on the NEW MATERIALS tab on the left side of the home page.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our book sale in November. We really appreciate it!

We welcome your donations of any unwanted PAPERBACK BOOKS to our book sale.

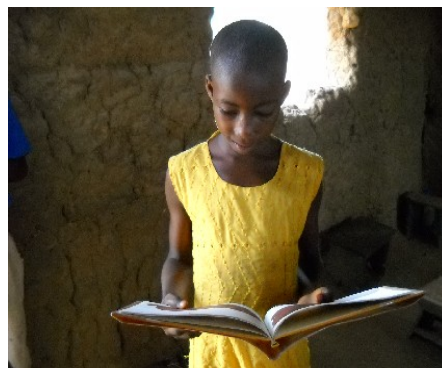
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

For the holiday season, the library will be closed December 21 & 23 and will re-open Monday December 27. We will also be closed December 31 & January 1 and will re-open January 2, 2011.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

LIBRARY BOOKS GO TO AFRICA!

On a recent trip to Accra, the capital of Ghana along the Ivory Coast of West Africa, Nancy Renaud of Vernon was able to distribute some of the children's books she picked out at the library book sale. Nancy visited little villages in the Accra area where the schools were very remote and had no running water. Nancy also purchased school books and workbooks, according to the school curriculum, and notebooks for all of the 85 students at the school, who ranged up to 6th grade. What a great thing to do! Credit to Nancy!



A Message From The Chief of Police



November 22, 2010

Hello everyone!

The holiday season is fast approaching, and during this time of year law enforcement agencies are challenged with an increase in call volume. The incidents of theft, suicide, driving under the influence, and domestic violence usually show a rise in numbers.

For some, the holidays are a stressful time, which bring on feelings of depression and anxiety. For others, it is a time to party and have fun with friends and family. Both situations however can lead to excessive consumption of alcohol and/or drug abuse.

Police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel know all too well how quickly a life can be taken, leaving behind a devastated family and community.

I urge everyone to please be responsible when enjoying the holiday festivities.

Here are some holiday travel tips to remember:

1. **Plan ahead.** Before you start your trip, make sure your vehicle is in good shape for driving in winter conditions.
2. **Buckle up!** It's the law and it's also the smart and safe thing to do.
3. **Be flexible in setting your travel plans.** Do your best to avoid peak traffic hours and if snow is predicted, change your schedule.
4. **Don't drink and drive.** Assign a designated driver before you head out. And remember, buzz driving is drunk driving.
5. **Stay fresh and alert** when driving. Take plenty of breaks and don't rush. If you're feeling tired, pull over and don't hit the road again until you're refreshed.
6. **Slow down.** Accidents are more likely when you combine icy roads with high speeds.
7. **Focus on the road.** Distractions are a major cause of accidents... and that includes texting, eating, drinking, changing CD or radio station, reading maps, and even having conversations when conditions are hazardous.
8. **Be aware.** You know that it's not safe (or smart) to put make-up on while you drive, but not everyone does. So be aware of distracted drivers. Always expect the unexpected and leave yourself a way out.
9. **Don't be a "rubbernecker."** Let your passengers be the sightseers.
10. **Concentrate on driving.** If conditions are hazardous, like heavy traffic or bad weather, refrain from talking to your passenger. The road needs your attention.
11. **Develop a driving emergency kit. This is especially important during winter months when snow and black ice cause accidents.** Carry a blanket, flashlight, candles, matches, jumper cables and a shovel in your trunk. Kitty litter or sand is also useful to gain traction if you happen to get stuck.



Happy Holidays. Be safe out there.

Chief Mary Beth Hebert



TOWN BUS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Benefit Raffle & Bake Sale - December 4th @ 82 H.H. Bus trips = weather permitting otherwise listen for school closings.				Holyoke Mall P/U @ 8:30	Franklin Tech Lunch @ 11:00 P/U @ 9:45	N/A
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Sand./Business Meet @ 11:00 P/U @ 10:30	Make Your Dr. App. Transportation Comm. Meeting @ 2:15	Dummerston Lunch/Groc @ 12:00 P/U @ 10:45		Brattleboro Shopping P/U @ 8:30	Bernardston Roast Beef @ 5:00 P/U @ 4:15
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Christmas @ The Four Leaf @ 12:00 P/U @ 10:30		Brattleboro Shop. P/U @ 8:30 American Legion Concert	Make Your Dr. App Kurn Hattin	P/S	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Mall Snow Day		Brattleboro Shopping P/U @ 8:30			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			Keene Shopping Banks/Bread/Sears MB / PC P/U @ 9:00 - 3:00			HAPPY NEW YEAR 2011
<p>Please sign up for trips at meetings/on trips AT LEAST 24 HOURS BEFORE scheduled trip for more info call Cookie @ 257-1275 (6) Pre-pay Christmas Dinner; (15) Am. Legion Christmas Concert @ 7:00 P/U @ 6:15; (16) Kurn Hattin Lunch/ Concert @ 12:00 P/U @ 10:00 donation. Watch for special trip of Lights / Carols / Cookies</p> <p>O.T.E. = Out to Eat M.B. = Market Basket P.C. = Price Chopper N/A. = No rides available P/S. = Pre School</p>						

**DECEMBER 2010
ACTIVITIES @ 82 HUCKLE HILL ROAD
COME JOIN US**

For more information call **Carol Shippee @ 254-4928 (Apt. #212)**

Bus **NOT** available **USE YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION**

Bingo - 3rd Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 **FREE**

Transportation Committee Mtg - date on calendar and Always open to ALL

Movie Night - on 46" screen TV Friday @ 6:30pm. Snacks too!

Walking - Monday – Saturday @ your discretion (inside/outside 5 – 30 minutes weather/your health permitting)

Huckle Hill Potluck - @ 6:00pm – date to be announced.

Quilting/sewing - Thursday weekly @ 6:00pm (exception 3rd Thursday)

Card/Game Playing – most weekday evenings @ 6:30pm.

Music Night – sing-a-long or listen to the organ music Wednesday @ 6:30pm.

Bone Builders Exercise Class – Monday and Thursday 10:00 – 11:00am.

BE ACTIVE ENJOY EVERY SEASON HAVE FUN

SPECIAL EVENT

DECEMBER 4TH

SATURDAY 8:00 - 3:00

**BENEFIT RAFFLE
&
BAKE SALE**

To benefit
***YELLOW RIBBON
&
82 Huckle Hill
Apartments**

*Yellow Ribbon is a project that sends care packages to our service men and women.



Vernon Union Church

2631 Ft. Bridgman Rd.

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 AM

Nursery and Children's Church available.

Communion and fellowship lunch on first Sunday of month.

Call for information on home Bible Studies.

Beginning July 11, 2010 the Church will have an Interim Pastor; Reverend George Nye

Scissor Masters Salon

Tanning, Manicure, Pedicure, Cut, Color, Perms, Facials and more!

Scissor Masters 22 Harmony Place
Brattleboro, VT 05354 1-802-257-4450

ScissorMaster.Webs.com



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www.tastefullysimple.com/web/mpartrick



A Unique Acquisition

by Phil Nelson

Richard Michelman gave a small account journal to Barbara Moseley for the Historians, some time ago. She displayed it at the July meeting. The owner, or writer, is not identified, but there are a total of 29 individuals named, all from Vernon or nearby, with accounts of buying and selling, as well as notations the cost of farm products, as well as the selling prices. I looked at it at the July meeting and expressed interest in locating the owner.

A couple of weeks ago, Barbara brought the book to the Town Office, so I could try to find the author. The time span of entries is from 1832 to 1863, but not all years are covered. The author was apparently a farmer or farm worker, as he hired himself out to various farmers, many references to shoes, boots, and repairing the same, and a few items that demanded some research.

The first possible lead was an entry April 16, 1863, with the notation "Fred Schooling \$2.00." As we have very good school records for the period, I looked up attendance records for the school year 1863, and found 4 children named "Fred" in Districts 2, 4, and 9. Which Fred?

The second lead concerned entries for doctor costs in April and December, 1862 and the notation July 1863 of \$5.00, for "lettering monument" and \$4.00 for "Head Stone". Obviously, I thought someone had died, so I checked the Vital Record Cards. I was looking for a late 1862 death, so I referred to Vital Records Book A, and found an entry "Nattel Washburn, Sr. died November 26, 1862, age 81." Those same records indicated that he was a shoemaker by trade, and resided in District 2.

Now I could go back to the school records and find the two "Fred's", who were Fred P., son of Amos Washburn, and Fred, son of Charles Jackson. Now I knew Amos Washburn was the name I sought, but to clinch the finding, I went to the Grand List for 1863, and found that Amos Washburn had a house and 6 acres of property, and was assessed taxes for that as well as Poll taxes and a tax for owning a watch (taxable in those days).

What more can we say about Amos Washburn? There is no record of his birth, marriage or death. He first appears on the Grand List in 1850. The first year of paying taxes for acreage was in 1862. In 1863 he sold those 6 acres for \$1,300.00 November 27, 1863, and appears until 1867 paying only Poll taxes after 1863. There is no record of him ever being appointed or elected to any Town position. The last entry in the book is December, 1863.

Civil War records were checked and the Town Draft Board found Amos Washburn to be ineligible for the Draft, as he was 45 years of age. Further records are blank. We know nothing more of either Fred or Amos Washburn, but he left us with an intimate glimpse of what it cost for living in the 1860's in Vernon. There is much more in that little book, and we thank Mr. Michelman for saving it for us.

NOTE: This article was featured in the October 2010 Vernon Historian paper called "The Vernon Postboy" and used here with permission.

What a great job Phil Nelson did researching this and ultimately finding this journals' rightful owner.

Thank you Phil!

Happy Holiday Puzzle

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Senior Jaunts

By Maxine Smith

September

This year instead of going to the Big E, we decided to go to a smaller fair, closer to home like the Greenfield Fair. Some of us bought tickets for Friday, at Foster's Market for only six dollars. Unfortunately, that gave us only a few hours from 12-4PM. But, we did enjoy a Pig Race, and Beano, and just walking around the Fairgrounds was a treat.

On the 9th, the show "Beauty and the Beast" was cancelled.

At Agway, on our regular trip to Keene, a cat decided she liked our bus so much that she came in and curled up on a seat to sleep. Someone called "Lucy", and she went into the store.

It was raining and we were late the day we visited the Emily Dickinson Museum. I think she was a very complicated woman, and some of her poetry is hard to understand. She didn't live to see her poetry published. She had a marriage proposal, but never married and died at age 55.

We had our lunch at the Atkins Farm, where many of us bought fruits and veggies before visiting the Museum.

October

On the Second of October, we went to the first Roast Beef Supper of the season at the church in Bernardston because the church had a wedding on the 9th, the usual night for this event.

The River Boat Cruise was cancelled because of high water and winds.

Although there was little sun, our Fall foliage trip for apples was great. The color was even better in Mass. We made a circle coming home by way of Hogback. On the way, we counted 22 turkeys crossing the road, ducks in ponds, brooks flowing over their banks, high water at the river. We stopped to read the date on the old stone at the Shelbourne Library. In a field was an Appaloosa horse, tan with small black spots as if someone had shaken the pepper shaker on him, he was beautiful. Then we saw more turkeys.

We passed a house on a knoll that had windows all across the front and in each window a jack-o-lantern with different faces had been placed. We thought we counted 20.

We ate lunch and bought our apples at Pine Hill Farms, where we sat by the windows so we could watch the ducks plus a rooster that were playing outside. The apples were so good, I am still eating them and they are still fresh.

Coming home from the Tech. School lunch, we stopped at a small bake shop on Second Street in Turners Falls, where one of the girls had learned her trade at the school.

Going through Bernardston, we saw the Halloween display in the park. Then Cookie took us to Fairview Gardens to see their display. A large black moving cat was new this year.

"Annie" at the Shea was a sell out. There was a great cast and a live dog, Sandy. He even came down stairs with the cast to receive his accolades. The mistress of the orphanage was outstanding.

Come have fun with us!



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Your response is wonderful. Please keep those old cells coming in!

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CARAMEL ROLLS / STICKY BUNS

By Betty (Sak) Barrett



- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 loaf frozen white baking dough, thawed | 2 T. light corn syrup |
| 1/4 Cup firmly packed brown sugar | 1/2 Cup chopped or whole pecans |
| 2 T. Butter, melted | 2 T. soft butter |
| 2 tsp. water | 1 tsp. cinnamon |

Let dough rise until almost double in size. Combine 1/4-cup brown sugar, melted butter, water and corn syrup and spread in a 10 X 8-inch or 9 X 9-inch pan. Sprinkle nuts over brown sugar mixture. Stretch and roll dough to a 16 X 12-inch (or so) rectangle. Spread with soft butter, 1/4-cup brown sugar and cinnamon. Roll up tightly, jelly roll fashion, starting with the long edge. Seal edge by pinching dough together. Cut into 15/16 pieces. Place on top of brown sugar mixture in pan. Let rise in warm place until doubled in size, about one hour. Bake in a 375 degree oven for 25-30 minutes. Cool for one minute. Loosen edges and turn out onto wire rack lined with waxed paper. (This recipe is found on page 15 of the Vernon Cookbook)

Betty also wrote this small story of her childhood in Vernon.

In Betty's words: When I think of friendly food I remember Doris Alexander's doughnuts and cookies at Phyllis Brown's. When my sister Noni and I were going to the West School, we'd walk back and forth to our house at the end of Arling (Sak) Road. The roads were dirt then. There were only four houses on that stretch: the Brown's, Cleveland's, Stetson's and Alexander's. It could be scary when you were only six or eight with a vivid imagination, so we usually stopped at one of these houses daily and asked for water. What we needed and got, was a friendly smile and a snack. Back then you could knock on a neighbor's door and know you'd be welcomed. We just took it for granted and any excuse would do; wind, rain, snow, heat, monsters in the blue-dark of winter, we were never turned away. No one ever complained about muddy boots or soggy snowsuits that messed up entryways or kitchens. I've attempted to recreate those doughnuts of my youth. I cannot. This recipe is easy because there's no scratch dough to make. Please try them and enjoy, and wait for my knock on your door because it is a long walk home.

Note from the managing editor: I know of what Betty speaks, as that is how I remember Vernon as well. All these wonderful women including Betty's mom Bea, would always welcome a child that needed rest or, as Betty puts it, just a friendly smile and a snack, into their homes. Trust me, many times I went to their homes for just that, the cookies, doughnuts and let us not forget the apple pies.

SQUASH MUFFINS (ROLLS)

By Carolyn Martel

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 1/2 Cups milk, scalded | 2 T. melted shortening |
| 2 Eggs, beaten | 2 pkgs. yeast |
| 1 1/2 Cups Sugar | 1 tsp. salt |
| 3 Eggs | |
| 3 Cups or 1 large can Squash | Flour |

Scald milk. Remove from stove to cool to lukewarm. Mix all ingredients, except flour and milk. Mix with big heavy spoon, and then gradually add flour until stiff dough. Cover with towel in warm place until double in bulk. Grease hands to make rolls. Grease pans. Let rise again. Bake at 350 to 375 degrees for 45 minutes.

Carolyn adds; "This recipe was passed down to me from my Aunt and it is a once a year treat at Thanksgiving. It's a tradition I give each grown child for their family meal if we're not together. Usually I make a double batch and freeze some for our family Christmas Buffet."
(This recipe is found on page 20 of the Vernon Cookbook)

Carbon Monoxide Kills

From the men and women of the Vernon Fire Department

With winter storms and cold weather affecting much of Vermont, the need for supplemental heating is on the rise. Reports of deaths and injuries from around the country associated with alternative heating products has prompted the Vernon Fire Department to warn consumers to exercise extreme caution when using space heaters, kerosene heaters, and fireplaces. We have already had multiple calls for carbon monoxide detectors sounding. In one case, the detector sounding alerted the family to levels that may well have proven fatal.

Home heating equipment is one of the most common causes of residential structure fires, second only to cooking fires. Portable heaters, including space heaters, are the leading cause of deaths in home heating equipment-related fires. Space heaters can cause fires if placed too close to flammable materials such as drapes, furniture or bedding. Fireplaces can cause fires if the chimney is cracked, blocked or coated with creosote, or if sparks and embers reach flammable materials.

Carbon monoxide (CO) from gasoline-powered generators used during winter weather-related power outages can kill in minutes. Consumers should never use a generator, charcoal or gas grill in an enclosed area. In addition, fuel-burning appliances can cause carbon monoxide poisoning if they are improperly installed, poorly maintained, have defective or blocked venting systems, or are misused.

To help prevent deaths and injuries, the Vernon Fire Department and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission urges consumers to:

1. Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
2. Install CO and smoke alarms in your home. Locate CO alarms outside the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area. Locate smoke alarms on each level of the house and inside every bedroom.
3. Replace smoke and CO alarm batteries in the spring and fall when you change the time on your clocks.
4. If an alarm sounds, leave your home immediately and then call 911.
5. Seek medical attention immediately if you are feeling dizzy, lightheaded or nauseous as these are symptoms of Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Fireplaces: Have flues and chimneys inspected before each heating season for leakage and blockage by creosote (an oily deposit that readily ignites) or debris.

Open the fireplace damper before lighting the fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. Never close the damper if the ashes are still warm. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home. Store fireplace ashes outdoors in a fire resistant container and cover it with a lid.

Keep the container outdoors and away from combustibles.

Never use flammable liquid to start a fire.

Space Heaters: Place the heater on a level, hard and nonflammable surface (such as ceramic tile floor), not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes.

Keep the heater at least three feet from bedding, drapes, furniture and other flammable materials. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.

To reduce the risk of fire, NEVER leave a space heater on when you go to sleep or place a space heater close to any sleeping person. Turn the space heater off if you leave the area. Never use extension cords to power electric heaters.

Use a space heater that tested to the latest safety standards and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. These heaters will have the most up-to-date safety features. A newer gas space heater that meets current safety standards will shut off if oxygen levels fall too low.

Charcoal Grills: NEVER burn charcoal inside a home, vehicle, tent, or camper. Do not burn charcoal indoors, even if you provide ventilation.

Consumers who would like more information can visit the following web pages:

Vermont Division of Fire Safety at: www.dps.state.vt.us/fire/

CPSC's web site at: www.cpsc.gov

Christmas, it's all about the love of family and friends

By Christiane Howe

"So this is Christmas, what have you done," taken from one of my favorite songs, "War is Over". I love to hear Sarah McLaughlin sing it to me, she has such a beautiful voice. However it is not about who has recorded it; it is about the message of the song.

December is a month that has some exciting things happening: winter begins, winter solstice, Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, and many religious holidays. Christmas is my all time favorite, not because of the gifts but of my memories, thanks in part to my mother. It's a time to enjoy your family and friends and a time of wonderful food, gift giving, telling stories and laughing and remembering those who are no longer with us in body but are forever with us in our hearts and our memories.

My mother was a very busy woman who worked very hard to support her family. She was very strict throughout the year except for Christmas she would shine. Mom and I would go out into the woods to gather our Christmas decorations. All things evergreen went into our bags, all acorns and most definitely all pine cones. When we got home my brothers Dick and Frank, my mother and I would make our decorations with what we found in the woods. We would also pop popcorn to string with cranberries and cut out strips from construction paper to make chains. What a beautifully decorated house and tree we had. My sister Lolly was the artist and would draw and paint the door panels and some wall decorations. One year she made a Santa, another year the three wise men; her drawings were always so beautiful they added just the right touch for the outside of our door that welcomed all in.

On Christmas Eve, my mother would have us light our candles and we would sit around the living room, singing Christmas carols led by Mom. She made Christmas a very happy time for all of us.

I remember one time when my brother Ed came home for the holiday from the Air Force. I was very young at the time that Ed had dressed up like Santa; I knew it was him because of the loafers he wore, even though he was wearing a Santa coat and hat trying to disguise himself. I remember him picking me up with a hardy "Ho! Ho! Ho!" and taking me outside to show me that there really was a Santa because, "Oh look there it is, Santa's sleigh flying around the sky, stopping at all the houses with good little boys and girls." I swear to this day he was so convincing that I can still see Santa in the night sky on Christmas Eve.

My brother Dick and I would laugh all night trying to sleep. I remember one Christmas Eve we came up with gooooooo night; how we laughed over that for hours, sleep would not come very easily for us.

On Christmas morning we would have to wait for our brother Frank to wake up. Believe me when I say Frank could sleep and you certainly didn't want to be near him if you were trying to wake him as he would wake up swinging. This one year, Dick and I came up with an inventive way to wake him and still be able to escape down the stairs before he could catch us. I was taking trumpet lessons when I was in elementary school, needless to say he caught us and after he taught us a lesson on how not to be so rude, we would have to wait until he ate his breakfast, which seemed like forever before we would be able to open our presents.

On Christmas morning our understanding of all the hard work my mother did all year came to light as she always made sure we had a fantastic Christmas. We would get, sleds, skis, and ski boots and skates, I know they came from a ski swap because I remember going there after the first of the year to swap what we had gotten the year before, so that someone else could enjoy what we had. I loved all my presents and I am not sure if I ever really thanked her for all her hard work but I am sure she knows we loved them all and appreciated her. One thing mothers do, is to be sure their children are happy on Christmas morning, and my mother was no different.

My older brothers and sister would come home with their wives/husband and all their children for Christmas dinner and more gift giving. We would sit around and listen to them talk while we played with our games. There was one year my brother Bob walked around the house singing "Lord it's hard to be humble, when you're perfect in every way." Another time when my brother George talked about his teletype job at the reformer that he was so proud of. My sister would sing while we sat around the piano being played by a friend that my brother Bob would bring home from the Navy in earlier times, his name was Paul Sholtz. I would sit on his knee as he tapped his foot to the music he was playing. Mom would cook a big dinner and after dinner was finished, all my sister-in-laws would do the dishes and I would go into hiding at this time until dishes were done. I hope they never noticed. What a great day it was for all.

This year was a hard year for us. I allowed the stress and worry to take over, until my precious granddaughter, Latisha, gave me a bit of my own advice saying, "Nana, all things will work out, everything will be okay." She is correct, all things will work out, we will have a great time with family and friends and I hope you will too.

This was probably a tough year for some of our Vernon families as well; many of us are having financial problems, some health and some of us have lost loved ones that are sorely missed, more so during the holidays; whatever our difficulty or hardship, I hope and pray for peace and comfort for all of our neighbors and friends in our community and beyond.

To finish the great song; "Another year over, and a new ones just begun, let's hope it's a good one without any fears."

"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!"

...and to my brother Dick "a gooooooo night!"



Andy

Scott

Steve

Linda

Cindy

Jan

Becca

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If you cannot attend the Select Board Meetings, please watch them on BCTV channels 8 and 10 on the Comcast Cable.

The Select Board's website:
www.vernonvt.org to read the Select Board minutes, polices, composting info, and the newspaper.

You may also request a written copy of the Select Board minutes by calling the Town Clerk's Office at 257-0292 X 4.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

**ELDERLY ASSISTANCE BOARD
 TOWN OF VERNON, VT 05354**

Mary Lynn Scherlin	258-3955
Phyllis Newton	257-4226
Susan Miller	254-6652
Sharon Richardson	257-2788
Linda Shippee	254-4162

FOR BURN PERMITS CALL

Vernon Fire Wardens:

**TOM FOX
 380-1628
 WALTER ZALUZY
 254-5658 (Home)
 254-5758 (Work)**

All outdoor burning needs a permit. These are the rules:

1. Only clean wood and brush may be burned.
2. The burn must be attended until the fire is out.
3. Any burning that gets out of control is the burner's responsibility.
4. Permits will be issued if the weather conditions are okay.

To contact Vernon Police Department

in the event of an emergency, please dial 911.

If you do not have an emergency but need to speak to an officer right away, contact our dispatch at 254-6962 and an officer will be notified by radio to contact you. If you do not have an emergency and are requesting information, or to speak to a particular officer, call 257-2638. If no one is in the office, leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

If you cannot attend the School Board Meetings, please go to

The School Board's website:
www.vernonschool.org follow the links to the WSESU website or go to the following website:

www.wssu.k12.vt.us/boards/vernon.html to read the School Board minutes and adopted policies.

You may also request a written copy of the School Board minutes by calling the school at 254-5373.

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THE VERNON SENIORS

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 Please join us!**

All Seniors are welcome at our activities and all Vernon residents are welcome on any and all bus trips

Vernon Select Board

**Michael Courtemanche - Chair
 Christiane Howe -Vice Chair
 Leonard Howard - Clerk
 Robert Miller - Clerk**

Vernon School Board

**Mike Hebert - Chair
 Mary Ann Gardner - Vice Chair
 Walter Breau, Clerk
 Kelli Lee-Allen
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