



# The WIKING



Town of Veazie, 1084 Main St., Veazie, ME 04401 • Veazie Community School, 1040 School St., Veazie, ME 04401 • February 2020

## VCS Robotics places 2nd in state championship, proposes bat houses for Veazie

The Veazie Community School Robotics Team has had quite a year, and there's more to come.

The team started the year by taking second place in the Robot Performance category at the First Lego League's regional qualifying competition in Jay in November.

Then, at the state competition in Augusta in December, the team placed second once again in the Robot Performance category but won the Innovative Solution Award for their project to help control the flying insect population around Veazie by introducing bat houses.

The project was based on First Lego League's theme for the year, "City Shapers."

Through this theme, middle school robotics teams are asked to identify a need in the community, create a

solution to that ongoing problem, and then pitch their ideas to judges using models, maps and written materials.

The VCS team made a presentation on their bat house proposal to the Town Council on February 10. It was the same presentation they made to the First Lego League judges at the state competition.

Town Manager Mark Leonard said the Council approved the plan and asked him to work with the students on the best location for the bat house or bat houses.

"We'll probably look at Riverside Park, along with other locations around the town that the Robotics



VCS Robotics Team members present their bat house proposal to the Veazie Town Council.

Team might think are beneficial," he said.

Robotics Team member Lana Friess, a 7th grader, said the team brainstormed about the City Shapers project.

"We were asked to think about real-life problems that communities face," she said. "We said bugs are a real-life problem, and bats can help the town get rid of them."

*(Please turn to page 2)*



The VCS student body dressed in blue for a photo with the school's Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School banner.

## VCS honored as Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School

Veazie Community School has been named a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School, based on a lengthy assessment process by the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence (BRSE) that involved administrators, teachers, parents, and students.

The assessment covered nine different performance categories, and VCS met the criteria for all of them.

"We are deeply honored to receive this recognition," said VCS Principal and Superintendent of Schools Matt Cyr. "This is truly a reflection of the dedication, hard work, and support of our students, staff, parents, and the entire Veazie Community."

*(Please turn to page 7)*

## 'Veazie's Got Talent' April 3

Seniors and Friends of Veazie are sponsoring an exciting event you will not want to miss.

The event is called "VEAZIE'S GOT TALENT," and it's set for April 3, 2020, at 7 p.m. at the Veazie Community School

You will not want to miss seeing your friends and neighbors show off their talents.

To date we have five acts signed up. We are looking for another 5 to 8 to sign up.

We hope if we get more that we can look to have a second talent night in the fall of 2020.

So if you have a talent you would like to share call Karen Walker 947-0458. The deadline to sign up is March 15, 2020.

## Peter Metcalf promoted to Veazie Fire Chief

Pete Metcalf, Assistant Fire Chief in Veazie for the past five years, has been promoted to Fire Chief, effective January 1, 2020.

Previously, Town Manager Mark Leonard had also served as both Fire Chief and Police Chief. Now, Pete is formally in charge of fire and emergency medical service (EMS) protection for the community, while Mark retains his Police Chief responsibilities.

Chief Metcalf says the change will have minimal impact on the Veazie Fire Department.

He said the Town Manager (who he always referred to as "Chief") had left most decisions regarding day-to-day operations and fire operations to Pete and the other full-time firefighter, Lt. Nick Sirois.

"Last year, he felt it was time for him to step back from the fire

responsibilities and put them onto me to ensure more continuity within the department," Chief Metcalf said. "If people have questions or concerns, they can come to me directly rather than go to Chief [Leonard]."

Chief Metcalf says one of his priorities as the Fire Chief will be to continue the department's efforts at recruiting and retention.

"Staffing will always be an issue in the fire service," he says. "We see part-time and volunteer firefighting on decline across the country. We hope we can beat that and still maintain a good level of on-call firefighters. We look forward to recruiting new firefighters and retaining who we have."

Chief Metcalf said the department is also looking for ways to enhance our presence and engage-

*(Please turn to page 2)*



Chief Peter Metcalf

## VCS Robotics places 2nd in robot performance, proposes bat houses for Veazie

(Continued from page 1)

Rachel Wheelden, also a 7th grader on the Robotics Team, said Veazie has a lot of bugs in the summer.

"They're really annoying," she said.

Lana said the team wanted to address the bug problem by doing something natural without using chemicals. "Bats eat a lot of insects, and they're a natural solution," she said.

In developing their project, the Robotics Team members talked with scientists at the University of Maine about bats and asked Town Manager Leonard about requirements the town might have related to constructing bat houses.

They also wrote a children's book on the project and made a presentation to the students at VCS in grades PK-4.

Mr. Cyr said First Lego League is a worldwide organization that includes schools from all over Maine, as well as the U.S. and the world. Student participants design and build robots using Lego equip-



Lana Friess (left) and Rachel Wheelden of VCS compete through a 2½ minute robot run at the First Lego Robotics regional competition in Jay in November.

ment and write programs so that the motors that power the wheels, levers, and gears in the robots work in unison with the other motors.

Each year, Lego comes out with a new competition table for the robots, which includes a variety of challenges for the robots to perform. Each challenge or mission is worth a certain number of points, and the students have to program the robots so that they can move auto-

mously on the competition table and perform the challenges.

Mr. Cyr says the Robotics Team members spend hours and hours programming the robots—figuring out exactly what the robot has to do and then entering code into the robot's program to tell it exactly how to accomplish that task.

"It's a trial and error process," he says. "The kids get dropped off at school as early as 7:15 and they

stay after school as late as 4 every day that they can. They're very passionate about this."

In addition to Lana and Rachel, Robotics Team members include Shawn-Anthony Jones, Patrick Carlisle, Surya Vel, Olivia Bragdon, and Manyuv Nepal

Faculty coaches are Brian Gonyar and Nicole Spinney, teachers at VCS, and Superintendent and Principal Matthew Cyr



Robotics Team members met with Veazie Town Manager Mark Leonard in the VCS Makerspace room after school to discuss their project to introduce bat houses in Veazie. From left: Surya Vel, Manyuh Nepal, Patrick Carlisle, Shawn-Anthony Jones, Rachel Wheelden, Town Manager Leonard, and Lana Friess.

## Peter Metcalf promoted to Veazie Fire Chief

(Continued from page 1)

ment in the community.

"We're looking at life safety inspections for business and apartment complexes," he says. "We'd also like to expand off our school program and offer community programming such as CPR/First Aid, Stop the Bleed training, and other safety related topics"

Chief Metcalf says the department is also in the early stages of developing a program to check on residents who have come home from the hospital.

"We already do blood pressure clinics each month at our senior housing apartments," he says. "Our new concept is an affiliate of a bigger program called Community Paramedicine."

He says the concept is to work with the hospital and a patient's primary care physician to check in with the patient within a few days of returning from a hospital stay. Areas that the department would focus on are vital signs, medication reconciliation, and updating a medication and medical history list for responders.

"We would also check on overall home safety," he says.

The department currently has an emergency room physician on our staff—Dr. Jonnathan Busko—a medical responder who helps us make sure that we're trained appropriately from a medical standpoint."

Chief Metcalf says it will be a while before the public sees any changes.

"We're still working on this," he says. "We're about a year away from implementation."

Chief Metcalf joined the Veazie Fire Department as a part-time on-call firefighter in 1995 and became a full-time fire captain in 2002.

During that period, he served as Fire and Life Safety Educator for the Bangor Fire Department, a full-time job that took him out of the active firefighting ranks.

"I didn't want to leave firefighting altogether," he said. "To keep my fire experience active, I came to Veazie as a part-time on-call firefighter."

Chief Metcalf started as a volunteer firefighter in Berlin, Massachusetts, near Worcester, in 1988, after graduating from high school. Later that year, he enrolled at the University of Maine and joined the University Fire Department. When UMaine

discontinued the student-run fire department, he transitioned to the Orono Fire Department as a call firefighter. He then completed some fire science classwork at Eastern Maine

Community College and was hired full time at Orono from 1993 to 1995.

In 2018, Chief Metcalf completed his B.S degree in Fire Administration at Columbia Southern University.

## Town Meeting, Election June 9

The Town of Veazie will be holding its annual Town Meeting/Municipal Town Election on Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Nomination papers for municipal vacancies will be available at the Veazie Town Office on Monday, March 16th and can be picked up Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Vacancies include two positions on the Town Council which will be three year terms, two positions for School Committee members, one for a two year term and a three year term and a Sewer District Trustee for a three year term. To be qualified for an office the State requires that the candidate must be a citizen of the United States, a Maine State resident and at least 18 years old. In addition to the State requirements, the Town of Veazie requires the following: elected officials and/or candidates for the

Town Council and School Committee must be registered voters and shall reside in the Town of Veazie during their term of office.

Nomination papers must contain signatures of no less than 25 registered Veazie voters and no more than 100. The filing deadline for nomination papers is by the close of business on Monday, April 27th. If you have any questions please contact Julie Strout, Deputy Clerk, at the Town Office at 947-2781.

### Real Estate Taxes

Any Real Estate taxes left unpaid after April 17, 2020 will be printed in the Town's Annual Report.

## Historical Committee receives Class of 1951 ring

The Historical Committee has been receiving items from several people as of late. One of interest was the donation by Mary Oakes Reese of her Veazie John R. Graham School ring. As you can see she was a member of the class of 1951. The committee has heard from several other people who also had class rings. Joe King said he has one and Frank Jordan had one. It seems to have stopped in the mid 1950's



If anyone has any knowledge of just when it started and stopped or anything else about the rings please let the committee know.



is published by the Town of Veazie and Veazie Community School for the citizens of Veazie.

**Mark Leonard, Town Manager**

**Matthew Cyr, Superintendent and Principal**

**David C. Wollstadt, Editor (www.SchoolNewsletters.net)**

Town of Veazie, 1084 Main St., Veazie, ME 04401 • (207) 947-2781

Veazie Community School, 1040 School St., Veazie, ME 04401 • (207) 947-6573

## Town Office, Police, Fire Employees of the Year



**TOWN OFFICE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**—Julie Strout, Veazie's Deputy Clerk for the past seven years, has been selected by her peers as the Employee of the Year for the town office for 2019. Julie is responsible for a variety of clerical functions, including voter registration, vehicle registration, vital records, and payroll. She also serves as Town Council secretary. This is Julie's second year in a row as Town Office Employee of the Year.



**POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**—Sgt. Gene Fizell was chosen by his peers to be the Police Officer of the Year for 2019. Gene joined the Veazie PD four years ago after 13 years as a patrol sergeant in Holden. He's been in law enforcement for 48-plus years, starting in 1971 as a reserve officer in the Freeport Police Department while he was in college. In 1975, he joined the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department as a full-time officer and was promoted through the ranks. In 1981, he was promoted to lieutenant and was put in charge of the patrol division. From 1991 to 1994, he served as Police Chief in Brewer. In 1994, he moved to the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department as training sergeant, and in 2000, he became a patrol officer for the University of Maine Police Department. Gene lives in Brewer with his wife, Anna, who was the first female state trooper in Maine when she joined the State Police in 1977. She retired in 2006.



**FIRE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**—Lt. Jacob Reese, a part-time on-call firefighter, has been selected by his peers as the Veazie Fire Department's Employee of the Year for the second year in a row. Jacob works from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mondays, and he's on call on weekends. From Tuesday to Friday, he's a student at Southern Maine Community College in South Portland, where he's studying Fire Science. Jacob and his father, Anthony (Tony) Reese, both joined the fire department in 2016. They live on Main Street in Veazie, next door to the town office and fire station.

## Bangor Band coming to Veazie Aug. 4

The Bangor Band will hold one of its summer concerts here in Veazie on Aug. 4, 2020.

The band is one of the oldest in the country. It is made up of people young and old from the greater Bangor area. If you have not heard them in the past you have missed a great concert. The concert will be held at the ball field behind the Veazie School at 7 p.m. This is a free concert; however, the band will have a drum in place for donations to help support its expenses.

This is the first time the Bangor Band has preformed in Veazie. We hope this event will see a lot of support from the town so they might consider coming back again.

This will be a great opportunity for the young people in town to see a live band and see that the skills they learn in the band program are lifelong.

Plan to come early and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy before the concert. You will need to bring your own chairs for this event.



VCS students welcome Veterans and thank them for their service.

## Gateway Seniors Without Walls looking for volunteers

Gateway Seniors Without Walls is looking for volunteers to help plan activities, reach out to other senior groups, fund raise, assume future leadership roles, do website maintenance, and serve on the Board of Directors, Advisory Board, or Advisory Committee.

The mission of Gateway Seniors Without Walls is to sponsor a broad range of activities for Seniors in the Veazie, Orono,

Old Town, and surrounding area.

Gateway's ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for older people and help area seniors stay in their own homes as long as possible- by promoting the activities that we offer and the services we publicize.

If you think you can help or have an interest in serving for more information check out our website: [www.GatewaySeniorsWithoutWalls.org](http://www.GatewaySeniorsWithoutWalls.org) or call 207-889-3031.



## Community Center Room Available for Activities

The downstairs meeting room at the Veazie Community Center at the corner of Main Street and Olive Street is available for community use for activities such as children's parties, craft fairs, and meetings.

The room just received a new coat of paint and high efficiency LED lighting. There is a sink, restrooms, and parking.

Please note that the room is only available at certain times, and sign up in advance is required.

There is a modest fee to rent the room. The room and facilities must be left as you found them.

Please contact the Veazie town office at 947-2781 to inquire about using the room.

## VCS welcomes Veterans

VCS hosted it's annual Veteran's Day Celebration on November 8. It was a wonderful event that included many special guests from all branches of the armed forces.

Our keynote speaker was Master Sergeant Dawn Schaller, who has been serving for more than 37 years and was scheduled to retire the very next week! Students sang songs, the band performed music, and Kylee Barker read her written piece from a recent 'Interview a Veteran' project.

The best part is that every student got to shake hands with the Veterans as they exited the gym. Afterwards, all of our guests were treated to a Thanksgiving style lunch with the students.

Our students were an incredible audience!!! We ended the celebration with an American Red Cross Blood Drive in our school gym.



VCS students and local Veterans enjoy lunch together.

## Town Manager's message:

**Mild winter; 3 named Employees of the Year; Budget planning begins; Commodity boxes and meal deliveries; Davis Field; Bangor Gas; Stormwater permit audit; Facebook, Twitter, and listserve**

Happy Winter!

The groundhog saw his shadow, so they tell us Spring will be here sooner rather than later. I would



Mark Leonard

like to take credit for this mild weather, as I bought a new snowmobile this winter and to date I only have just over 200 miles on it. Possibly a new motorcycle may have been a better

purchase. With all that said, we have been fortunate—or unfortunate if you like snow like I do—this winter with low amounts of snow-fall.

Although we haven't had much snow, we have used a lot of salt due to ice. The Town's contractor, Lou Silver has done a good job clearing the snow and making the roadways passable. If you have a comment or concern regarding snow plowing, I urge you to contact the Town Office or the contractor directly.

As a reminder, if your mailbox is damaged or destroyed by the plow, the Town has a Mailbox Replacement Policy in effect. The contractor will make every effort to temporarily fix the mailbox so you will continue to receive mail. The permanent repairs and/or replace-

ment will be taken care of once the weather allows.

\* \* \*

During the staff Christmas party, employees from the Town Office, Police Department and Fire Department were recognized for their hard work and dedication to the Town of Veazie. I would like to congratulate Julie Strout from the Town Office, Jacob Reese from the Fire Department, and Eugene Fizell from the Police Department, who were selected by their peers as Employees of the Year. All three do great work and go above and beyond for the community. A plaque showcasing these recipients is displayed in each department.

\* \* \*

Department Heads and Members of the Budget Committee have met with the Council and received direction on FY 20/21 budget. This year we are focusing on building our reserve accounts. The Budget Committee has 5 active members who will do an outstanding job. Bill Masters was selected to Chair the Committee and Jon Plummer was selected as the Secretary. I encourage residents to attend the Budget Committee meetings, as they are open to the public. If you would like to attend a future meeting, the schedule is posted on the Town's website.

It is also time to start thinking about paving projects. I have

met with the paving contractor to determine which roads need to be paved. I will present the findings to the Council at a future meeting so a decision can be made as to which roads will be addressed in the spring. Last year, we were able to rebuild Wedgewood Drive and will continue this project with the complete rebuild of Sunset Drive this year

\* \* \*

We continue to pass out commodity boxes to residents who are 60 years and older. The commodity boxes contain approximately 30 pounds of food and are provided by Eastern Area Agency on Aging at no cost to residents. We currently provide food to 12-14 citizens. I would like to see this program grow. If you would like more information, please contact either Eastern Area Agency on Aging or myself.

Another program I would like to mention is the meal delivery program the Police Department participates in. The meals are prepared by Eastern Maine Community College and distributed from the Parker Dining House in Orono and delivered by the Police to seniors 4 days a week (every weekday except Thursdays and holidays). This program is open to anyone, not just seniors. For more information you can contact Rosemary Freese at Parker Dining house at 207-866-4374 or myself at the Town Office.

\* \* \*

The development of the Davis Field continues to grow and several of the new homes are occupied by new residents to Veazie. I would like to personally welcome them to Town and ask that you do the same. I drive through the development numerous times a month and am amazed at the transformation.

\* \* \*

As most are aware, Bangor Gas is supplying natural gas to residents throughout Town. This project is being done in two phases. Bangor Gas is happy with the results from phase 1, and phase 2 is scheduled to begin in the spring. The Town Office and Community Center have been converted to natural gas. If you are interested in converting to gas, I would recommend you contact Bangor Gas soon for this Spring install.

\* \* \*

In a previous issue I spoke about preparing for a stormwater permit audit. I am happy to report that we passed the audit. This is due in part to the hard work of staff and Stillwater Environmental Engineering.

I'm confident that without all the hard work leading up to the inspection it would not have been as successful as it was.

I will use this chance to remind you if you see something that appears to be an illegal discharge

*(Continued in next column)*

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## Sarah Hutchinson, Veazie's 'live-in student firefighter' prepares to graduate in May

Sarah Hutchinson of Linneus, ME, has been the Veazie Fire Department's "live-in student" since August and will continue in that role until May.

Sarah, who graduated from Hodgdon High School in 2018, is in her last semester at Eastern Maine Community College, studying criminal justice.

As a live-in student, Sarah works regular shifts around her school schedule during the week and works every other weekend. During her time here, Sarah gets practical work experience, training, and school credit towards her degree. In return, she gets a free room at the fire station, which is her home away from home during the school year. Although the fire service is not her final career, it has given her exposure to public safety and the interaction between police, fire and EMS.

Fire Chief Pete Metcalf says it's

a win-win situation for both Sarah and the town.

"It works out really well for us, because our live-in student gives us an extra person during the day and also someone here at night who can respond to calls while the remaining crews are coming from home," Chief Metcalf says.

Sarah started in August, when she spent two weeks at the Penobscot County Fire Academy. Then she had a week off, and started classes at EMCC in September.

She says she's enjoying her experience as a firefighter, but at this point, her career goal is in law enforcement, probably as a patrol officer.

"I don't know exactly where I want to go in the law enforcement field yet, but I'll probably start as a patrol officer," she says.

When she's on duty at the fire station, she works from 7 a.m. until she has to go to class. At night,

she's at the fire station—doing school work, relaxing, and sleeping—but she's available to respond to night calls.

Chief Metcalf says she does have time off, with days away from the fire station.

"We encourage students to make sure they have time for themselves," he says. "We want them to get some firefighting experience, but we also understand that they have a life, and we don't want them to get burned out."

When she graduates in May, Sarah says she is thinking about attending the police Reserve School, which means that she could work part-time for a police department to see if that's what she wants to do for a career choice.

She says she'd like to stay in the Bangor area, but notes that she doesn't have anything holding her to one place and is keeping her options open.



Sarah Hutchinson

## Town Manager's message

(Continued from previous page) into either the water ways located throughout Town or the storm drain system please call 207-922-5970 to report this.

Calling will activate our team and we will inspect the concern and address it if necessary. The sooner we are notified of a potential issue, the sooner we can resolve it.

\* \* \*

In closing I would again like to remind everyone to follow the Town on Facebook and now Twitter or sign up for our list serve which sends out periodical messages on important topics occurring in Town. The sign up for list serve is located on the Town's website or by calling the Town Office to provide us with the required information to sign you up.

As always, I am open to having healthy discussions with any citizens. I can be reached via email at [mleonard@veazie.net](mailto:mleonard@veazie.net) or by calling 207-947-2781.

Enjoy the rest of your winter.



## Veazie Seniors, Friends hold Halloween party

Seniors and Friends of Veazie held their Halloween Party October 16, 2019 at the Town Office. Firefighter Nick cooked a wonderful beef stew for the seniors. Several of the group came in costume. Nick and members of the office staff judged the costumes and chose the witch on the left (aka) Jill Savage as the winner. The judges also chose as the most unique the 5th person in the photo the devil eggs (aka) Rhoda Bemis.

The seniors presented Firefighter Nick with an apron and chef's hat.

## You are Invited!

The Veazie Historical Committee would like to extend an invitation to all to visit the Historical Committee room at the Town Office. The room is a work in progress. It is already filled with information and items pertaining to the history of the Town of Veazie, its citizen, families and organizations.

Please visit and if you have any historical items or information you would like to donate, the Committee would graciously accept your donation.

The Committee meets usually once per month on a Thursday morning. Contact Karen Walker at 207-947-0458 for actual meeting dates.

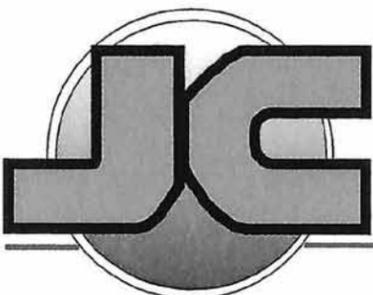
Again, please feel free to visit and learn about the history of Veazie.

## Upcoming Council Meetings

Mar. 9..... Council Meeting  
 April 13 ..... Council Meeting  
 May 11..... Council Meeting

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## Veazie Seniors and Friends to display 'Tools for Everyday Living' on May 13

The Veazie Seniors and Friends will host a display of "Tools For Everyday Living", on May 13, 2020 at the Senior Housing (aka) the Old John R. Graham School.

The tools will be on loan from the Healthy Peninsula's Age Friendly Coastal Communities. They were able to purchase the tools from a grant funded by an AARP Commu-

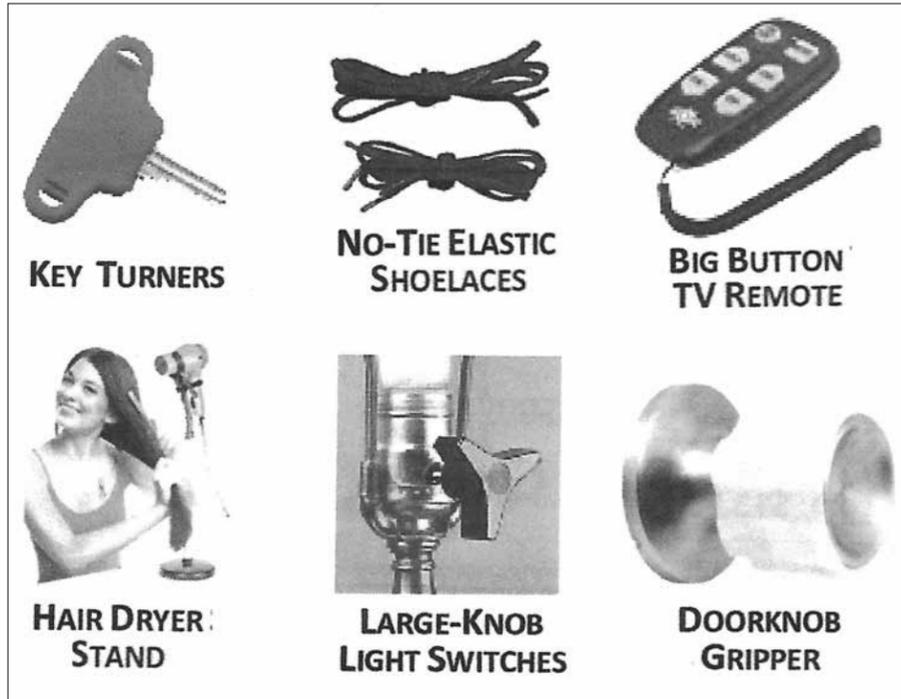
nity Challenge grant.

The tools will be on display for the day from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. All are welcome to drop in and see what they have to help make life easier as we age. Even if you are not of an age you will be surprised what you might find to help even younger people live better lives.

At 1 p.m. Cav Kelly from Husson University will talk about the items and how they can be used. Information will be given on cost and where the items can be purchased.

At the time of this writing we are trying to also have a second talk for the evening of the 13th but at this time do not have it confirmed. If you have

an interest in the evening event call Karen Walker 947-0458 for information on if this is going to happen.



### Historical Committee sponsors talk by Mary Bagley on history of church's stained glass windows

On September 12, 2019, the Veazie Historical Committee sponsored a talk given by Mary Bagley at the Veazie Congregational Church on the history of its stained glass windows.

Mary also gave a brief history of her own family here in Veazie, with her grandson now the 6th generation of her family to live in Veazie.



### Seniors and Friends of Veazie sponsor pot luck supper for police and fire personnel

On September 11, 2019, the Seniors and Friends of Veazie put on a pot luck lunch to honor our police and fire personal. They were presented a very large basket of snacks that they

be able to use on a "grab and go" basis.

It was nice that several police officers and firefighters came in on their day off or from another job to join the Seniors.

## News from Pastor Seymour of the Veazie Congregational Church

2020 is a year of celebration for the little Veazie Church, with March being especially busy. First, we join with all Maine citizens in celebrating the 200th anniversary of statehood. Listen for the ringing of the church bell on

March 15th as the bells rang all over Maine in celebration 200 years ago.

March 29th is the 175th anniversary of the dedication of our meetinghouse. Our little church has stood by the side of the main

road for 175 years. Only eight years after the church was gathered by a group of prominent North Bangor citizens, enough money was raised to build their church. It was first named the First Congregational Church of North Bangor and became the Veazie Congregational Church after Samuel Veazie caused Bangor's Ward 7 to become the Town of Veazie. At one time there were as many as five churches in town and now only this church remains.

We invite everyone to help us celebrate 175 years as we rededicate this beautiful old meetinghouse. On Saturday, March 28th, we will be holding a community potluck supper buffet from 4:30 until 6:00 p.m. There will be a mini museum of historical artifacts on display. Everyone is invited to bring a dish to share, have a nice meal and tour this wonderful old building. Sunday morning, March 29th, during our 10:00 a.m. worship, we will rededicate the meetinghouse with a special service. There will be a celebratory coffee hour afterwards.

Finally, in November, we will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's arrival in present day Massachusetts. That arrival not only gave us the Mayflower Compact, a cornerstone of American democracy that helped to establish self-government in America, but it was the beginning of the Congregational church in the New World as well. The independent nature of the men and women who traveled on the Mayflower to find religious freedom is evident still in the Congregational Church today. We look forward to celebrating this anniversary.

We invite everyone to join us for these celebrations. And you are very welcome to attend Sunday morning worship services at 10:00 a.m. For more information, you can contact the church [vzchurchclerk@gmail.com](mailto:vzchurchclerk@gmail.com).



Rev. Dr. Patrick Seymour

# BLACK BEAR LAWN CARE



**& LANDSCAPING**  
**207.945.3414**

[jonparker@blackbearlawncare.com](mailto:jonparker@blackbearlawncare.com)

Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Seymour

## Superintendent's message:

### Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School, Budget Outlook, Playground Update, Gym Floor, other topics

#### Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School

The Blue Ribbon assessment process highlighted many areas where our school shines bright, including technology integration, our means of communication through our website/app/social media, our student achievement levels, and our clean, safe and inviting school facility. It also exposed some areas for improvement which I have embedded in my annual administrative evaluation process. My action plan included the addition of resource links on our school website demonstrating how staff at VCS differentiate instruction, as well as an education acronym link intended to assist parents and staff with learning and understanding meanings of educational terms.



Matt Cyr

A second action step has been to embrace a professional culture that recognizes staff who improve student achievement. To accomplish this, we now make staff recognition the first agenda item at every staff meeting, and I then publicly share these accolades at the next school committee meeting.

A third and major action step has been focusing on the school's use of disaggregated data by relevant subgroups to guide instruction. To achieve this we have fully committed to the Ci3T grant co-authored by researchers at Kansas University. We will be the first school in Maine to implement Ci3T models which are data-informed, graduated systems of support constructed to address academic, behavioral and social domains. The overarching goal is to have all learners in inclusive environments by maximizing available expertise through professional collaborations among school personnel. Federal funds are allowing us to send a small team to Kansas at the end of the month to visit schools currently using Ci3T models, as well as attend a live research discussion at KU. This year is year one of the grant. Next year will focus on training staff, and the third year will be focused on implementation.

#### Budget Outlook for Fiscal Year 2021

The School Committee and I met recently to discuss short and long-term goals as they relate to budget development. Those include special attention to the upkeep of our school facility, reducing our reliance on the fund balance, paying close attention to staffing ratios, the significant increase in special education costs, and our ability to attract and retain excellent part-time or specialized staff. Governor Mill's supplemental budget proposal fares well for public education and includes some notable changes, including additional funding for special education and an increase in the State's contribution by one percent from 50.78 to 51.78 percent—another step closer to the 55 percent required by state law. These increases in aid provided by the State allow for a lowering of the required mill rate from 8.28 to 8.18. While all of this news is great, the additional funding still does not cover annual increases in fixed operational costs. I look forward to working closely with the School Committee, Town Council and Town Budget Committee to draft a responsible budget that addresses needs and promotes a safe school that embraces our motto—"Small School, BIG Heart!"

#### Playground Update

After being advertised in the past two editions of the *VIKING*, a playground committee was formed to discuss ideas and options for the replacement of our existing playground. Twenty-two years of wear and tear, along with some unexpected structural shifting due to mother nature are key factors in the decision to replace our playground during the upcoming summer. We have been expecting this for several years now and had previously started a capital reserve explicitly for this playground project. I am pleased to share that we have nearly half of the funds already in reserve, which significantly reduces our reliance on FY21 funds. It is our goal to have the project completed prior to the start of the 2020-2021 school year!

#### Gym Floor

The gym floor had experienced water damage many years ago,



estimated to have begun several years after the school was built. That damage seemed to be contained for quite some time, but as of recently, it has gotten worse and to the point that replacement is necessary. I am presently working with our insurance company and getting pricing estimates from multiple flooring companies throughout New England. We are working to locate the cause of the water damage so any renovations would be safe from further exposure. The School Committee and I will be analyzing estimates and findings in the upcoming months in hopes to have more information available by our May edition of *The VIKING*. I have recommended to the School Committee that portions of this project not covered by our insurance claim be paid for with Capital Reserve funds so there would be no bonding or special tax increase. Once again, I hope to have more information to share in the upcoming months after the scope of this project becomes more clear.

#### MEA Test Results and Attendance

Student achievement levels continue to be an area of strength for our school and community. Veazie Community School is the only school in the region whose students demonstrated growth in both Math and ELA for a third consecutive year! Since the first year of the eMPowerME test in 2016, VCS Math scores have risen 45%, ELA scores have risen 46%, and Science scores have risen 38%. When compared to the State of Maine average, VCS students score 81% above the State average in Math, 30% above the State average in ELA, and 31% above the State average in Science. In fact, the new DOE monitoring system has our school meeting and exceeding in

all key categories with the exception of student attendance. Despite our best efforts at improving student attendance, we continue to receive the lowest possible score in this area. Last year we had 19 students deemed "Chronically Absent." Reasons for some of these absences vary but mainly include reports of student illness and family vacations. Our ability to receive State and Federal funding is directly tied to both student achievement and attendance. We hope that by providing our school calendar to families six months prior to the start of the next school year, that families will have ample time to schedule trips during school vacations. Keeping kids healthy and attending school is critical to our home/school partnership.

#### Student Drop-off, Pick-up Reminders

As noted by signs, our drop-off and pick-up loop is not for parking vehicles. This lane is reserved for parents whose students are old enough to safely and efficiently enter and exit the vehicle on their own. Parents should not be exiting a vehicle while in the pick-up/drop-off loop. If you need to exit your vehicle, please use one of the parking spaces as this is a much safer option and assists with orderly traffic flow. Also, with the exception of early morning student council meetings (or other teacher-led team meetings), we do not have staff available to supervise students before 7:45. It is not safe for parents to drop-off students prior to 7:45. We ask for your patience in waiting for our doors to open at 7:45. Thank you for your help with this!

—Matthew D. Cyr  
Superintendent of Schools  
and Principal,  
Veazie Community School

## Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School

(Continued from page 1)

BRSE recognized 31 schools in the U.S. as Blue Ribbon Lighthouse Schools in 2019.

Mr. Cyr said BRSE has requested that VCS attend next fall's national conference to give presentations on the school's FLEX Friday program and farm-to-table learning garden. VCS will be formally recognized as a Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School at that time, so the school will appear on the 2020 list of Lighthouse schools instead of the 2019 list.

BSRE said VCS is one of the first schools in Maine and New England to go through the Blue Ribbon assessment process.

The process started last fall with a comprehensive survey of all parents, staff, and students. A team of evaluators at BRSE analyzed the data generated by these surveys and conducted an in-depth

study of test scores and school operations at VCS.

The assessment focused on nine performance categories, including

- Student Focus and Support
- School Organization and Culture
- Challenging Standards and Curriculum
- Active Teaching and Learning
- Technology Integration
- Professional Community
- Leadership and Educational Vitality
- School/Family/Community Partnerships
- Indicators of Success

Mr. Cyr pointed out that the Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School recognition is separate from the National Blue Ribbon Award, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and focuses exclusively on test scores.

"The BSRE assessment process provides a much broader, in-depth study of all school opera-

tions and provides actionable insights to guide our school improvement plan," Mr. Cyr said.

However, he pointed out that the test scores compiled by Veazie students in the past four years have been outstanding.

"Student achievement levels on the eMPowerME MEA (Maine Educational Assessments) exams are certainly something to be proud of," he says. "Our scores are significantly above the state average and have been improving on a yearly basis," he said.

A school assembly was held on Friday, January 31, with a "Blue Ribbon" theme. Students were asked to wear blue, and the PTO purchased blue bracelets for all students and special Blue Ribbon t-shirts for all staff members.

Mr. Cyr said the Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School designation will last for five years, at which time VCS will be eligible for renewal.



## VCS Student Council sponsors coin war to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House



By Nicole Spinney,  
8th grade teacher,  
Student Council Advisor

The VCS Student Council sponsored a middle school coin war shortly before the holiday break. In a little over a week our middle school students raised \$925 to benefit The Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Our student council members delivered the check and volunteered as chef's to make a meal for the guests at the Bangor Ronald McDonald House. This was a great experience for all involved!!

## Those emergency route signs around town? They come with specific instructions

*Editor's note: Veazie Town Manager Mark Leonard says he gets asked all the time about the meaning of the Emergency Route signs that are posted at a number of locations in Veazie. He said the best explanation he's seen came from a recent article in the Bangor Daily News. The Viking has received permission to reprint the article, which appears below.*

By Eesha Pendharkar,  
BDN Staff  
September 4, 2019

Since April, drivers have noticed signs for emergency routes pop up all over the Bangor area and beyond. They're big green signs with a letter — or a double letter — and an arrow under the words "Emergency Route."

But it's not clear from the signs when drivers should follow them, where the emergency routes start, where the signs lead and why they're there.

Drivers don't have to worry about learning a new set of routes, though. The bottom line is this: If drivers need to follow the emergency route signs, there will be signs on the road telling them to do so.

The emergency signs went up from Pittsfield to Medway in April, and the Maine Department of Transportation more recently installed the same signs in the Augusta area. They start on local roads within a few feet of



Sign for "Emergency Route FF" on State Street southbound near Stucco Lodge.

any interstate exit. Signs with a single letter lead north and those with double letters lead south. Their placement is sporadic, with more signs on main roads such as Stillwater Avenue and Broadway in Bangor, and fewer signs located farther apart on back roads.

The signs are meant to function as permanent detours in case part of the interstate is blocked, said Steve Landry, the Maine Department of Transportation's state traffic engineer. If a section of the highway has to be closed for a few hours at a time — for a serious traffic accident, for instance — it takes almost that length of time for crews to put up temporary detour signs, he said, which diverts resources



Sign for "Emergency Route M" State Street northbound across from Stucco Lodge.

away from dealing with traffic and cleanup on the interstate.

"If there's a crash on the interstate we don't want people sitting in traffic," Landry said. "They're in place because we don't have the staff or the time to put [temporary detour] signs up."

With the recent addition of signs in the Augusta area, the emergency route signs now stretch from Richmond north to Medway. Eventually there will be signs across the entire length of Maine's interstate highways, Landry said. The department is currently working on expanding the detours south of Richmond.

The emergency routes in both directions lead from one exit to

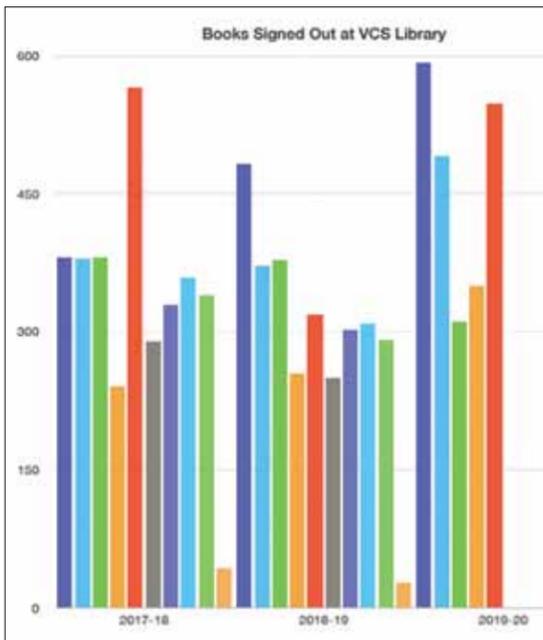
the next one along the interstate.

When it needs to activate an emergency route, the Department of Transportation will use bright pink signs on the interstate to lead drivers to the correct detour route and eventually back to the highway. Electronic signs located along interstate highways that usually warn drivers about traffic and weather conditions will also be changed to tell drivers which emergency detour to use.

The signs have no indication of the start and end points of each lettered emergency route. In some cases, the Department of Transportation's emergency route maps show that a flagger will have to be present to direct traffic toward the interstate ramp after the signs end to avoid confusion.

The Department of Transportation has used the emergency routes only a handful of times since the Bangor-area signs went up in April.

"The first time we actually used them was the day that [Maine State Police] Detective Ben Campbell died on the road," said Paul Merrill, a Department of Transportation spokesman. "That was the first time we actually activated the signs to alert people to follow the detour routes."



MONTH	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
September	381	482	592
October	379	372	491
November	381	378	311
December	241	255	350
January	565	319	547
February	289	249	547
March	329	302	
April	359	308	
May	340	291	
June	43	27	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3307</b>	<b>2983</b>	<b>2291</b>



**OVER 2200 BOOKS HAVE BEEN SIGNED OUT THIS SCHOOL YEAR FROM THE VCS LIBRARY!** Graphic novels, LEGO books, new fictional series, cookbooks, picture books about dinosaurs playing sports, and nonfiction titles about mindfulness are some of our most popular recent checkouts. In the past three years, our library collection has completely flipped. We often weed through the stacks, identifying what is no longer circulating and then research the latest and greatest as well as

survey students and staff for their requests. We've been able to place multiple orders throughout the school year, staying current with our student's interests. Through book talks, facing books out as you would see at a bookstore, teaching students how to independently look for a book on the online catalog, rotating displays, and providing comfortable seating options for students to get lost in a book, we will always continue to cultivate a love of reading amongst our VCS students.

## At Home Maker Challenge asks students, families to have fun with pumpkins

The VCS Library has been offering a series of At Home Maker Challenges during the three trimesters of 2019-20 to encourage students and families to have fun together working with free or recycled materials that they have at home.

In October, families were invited to participate in the Storybook Pumpkin Challenge by decorating a pumpkin based on their favorite book character.

Library Media Specialist, Martha Shannon, said about 20 families decorated pumpkins, which were put on display in the Library. Families were allowed to use anything they could find at home to decorate their pumpkin—paint, fur, fabric, string, pom poms, wiggly eyes, feathers, buttons—anything. And they did. On October 31, the pumpkins



Second grader Lauren Myrick with "Nightmare Before Christmas" pumpkin.



PreK students peek at the pumpkin contest entries. As a class, they created The Hungry Little Caterpillar.

were displayed at the Student Council's Hullabaloo, a "trunk or treat" activity for Halloween.

People who came in for trunk or treat voted for the pumpkins they liked best from the primary, intermediate, and middle school grades, and the winners received prizes from the VCS Scholastic Book Fair.

The winners were:

- **Primary:** Aislynn Myers grade 1, My Little Pony.
- **Intermediate:** Reed Stenzel grade 5, Harry Potter.
- **Middle School:** tie between Hunter Seguin grade 6, Chewbacca, and Adam Cowing grade 6, Harry Potter and owl.

During the holiday break, the Library sponsored the Snowman Disguise Challenge, in which a template

of a snowman was sent home, and families were asked to help the snowman make it through the winter by disguising him or her as a character.

By the end of January, a total of 25 families had sent in their snowmen. There were a variety of disguises, including a Veazie Viking, Thing 1 and Thing 2, Dr. Seuss's Cat in the Hat, a Christmas Tree, and others. The snowmen were posted in the Library's hallway window.

Mrs. Shannon said she's still working out the details of the Maker Challenge for the third trimester, which will probably be scheduled for April vacation.

"We want to get students and families thinking about what types of recycled materials they have at home that they can work with and

connect to literacy," she said. "Most importantly, we want to encourage them to work as a family to do something fun—and then share it



"My Little Pony," by Aislynn Myers



"Harry Potter," by Reed Stenzel.



"Chewbacca" by Hunter Seguin.



"Prince Fly Guy," by William Roy.



"Harry Potter and Owl," by Adam Cowing.

## Veazie Community School Organizes Successful Instrument Drive

By Mike Arell  
VCS Music Teacher

Our school's music ensembles have seen great growth this year. Fifty students are now participating in band and 19 in chorus. This means that about 70% of all 3-8th grade students are choosing to be involved in an ensemble.

In the midst of this enthusiasm, Superintendent and Principal Matthew Cyr and music teacher Mike Arell decided the time was right to expand music offerings at the school, and they worked together to create a modern band program as part of Flex Friday offerings.

Modern Band focuses on music instruction through chords and melodies on rock band instruments like guitar, bass, keyboard, and drums. Students learn how to play a variety of popular songs and the patterns that make music work in an environment that is different than traditional band.

After already investing quite a lot on new equipment and refurbishing instruments for the music



Four Complete Drum Sets were donated!



Abigail Graham and Hazel Rodriguez try out two donated electric guitars.

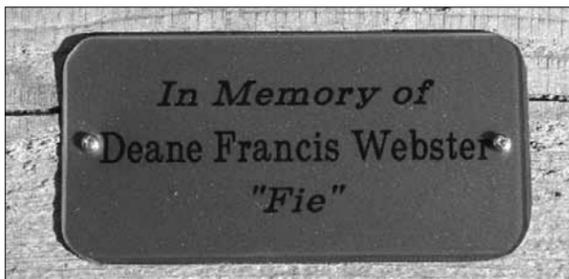
program at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, the administration knew that buying instruments for every student that wanted to try a band instrument was not a possibility, but did not want to wait to try something new. At that point, Mr. Arell suggested contacting local media to see if any community members would be willing to donate instruments to a local music program. Within a couple of weeks, the information began to spread. Announcements were made through

the Bangor Daily News, many area radio stations, and social media. Much to his surprise, Mr. Arell was interviewed by Newscenter Maine, WVII/Fox Bangor, and Q106.5. Word spread not only around the state but across the country.

By the beginning of December, Veazie Community School had received 35 donated instruments and other musical equipment. Caring people from Maine, as well as Massachusetts, Utah, Colorado, Washington DC, Illinois, Michigan, New

Jersey, and Pennsylvania sent donations to the school. Many others that did not have instruments, but wanted to contribute, mailed in monetary donations that totaled about \$2,000. Because of this generosity, students at VCS can continue to have years of musical enjoyment with high quality instruments and equipment.

A new session of Flex Friday, including the modern band class began February 7. Our Spring Concert featuring PreK-8 students will be May 28 at 6 p.m. in our school gym.



This plaque was placed on one of the raised beds made possible by donations made in memory of Daniel 'Fie' Webster.

## Raised bed at VCS dedicated to 'Fie' Webster

Earlier this fall, we dedicated one of the raised beds in our school garden to former Veazie resident, Deane Francis Webster, who passed away during the spring of 2019.

VCS first grader Tucker Clapp referred to his grandfather as "Fie." Mr. Webster had a passion for gardening and it was the wish of he and his family for donations to be made in his name to the Veazie Community School Garden.



Mrs. Richard helps Tucker Clapp secure the plaque in memory of his grandfather.

We graciously received dozens of donations totaling more than \$1,400, which helped to build three additional raised beds as well a

wonderful outdoor classroom.

Thank you, "Fie," and thank you to your family for this generous donation.



Tucker Clapp sitting next to the plaque.



'Fie' Webster's family in attendance at the dedication ceremony.



**WORLD READ ALOUD DAY**—In honor of World Read Aloud Day on Feb. 5, sixth graders read a Robert Munsch book to first graders.



Veazie Vikings girls soccer team.



Veazie Vikings boys soccer team.

## Viking soccer teams win league titles; girls undefeated and unscored upon

Both the boys and girls soccer teams had outstanding seasons this fall, winning their league championship.

The girls went undefeated and unscored upon in league play this season. They were led by a trio of strong 8th graders—Lily Chandler, Avery Messer, and Laurali Parker.

“The team’s focus on working hard and playing as a team paved the way to a great championship

season,” said Coach Brian Gonyar. “Our keeper, Olivia Bragdon, was outstanding in net right through the playoffs.”

Lily told the *Viking* explained the team’s success by saying that the girls had “great communication and played hard throughout the season.”

The boys were led by 8th graders Ben Francis, Matt Needham, and Dom Ondo. They tied Penobscot Christian twice during the regular

season but beat them in the championship game, 2-0, as goalie Matt Needham led the team with a shut-out in net

Jill Chandler and Mr. Gonyar were co-coaches of the two soccer teams.

The girls team included Avery Messer, Lily Chandler, Laurali Parker, Ava Taylor, Olivia Bragdon, Ari Baron, Isabelle Ireland, Dalaney Horr, Emmaline Hyde,

Kylee Barker, Brylee McCollett, Piper Parker, Abby Graham, Aurora Richardson, and Brayleigh Judkins. The boys team included Dom Ondo, Ben Francis, Matt Needham, Will Francis, Duncan Carlisle, Camden Brown, Nick Needham, Dylan Dupuis, Keegan Burke, Adam Cowing, Wyatt Chandler, Vincent Chen, and Aiden Taylor.

## Viking Basketball finishes with another great season!

The Veazie Vikings had another great basketball season, with the boys winning the Mid-Maine League championship and the girls finishing as the runner up.

The tournament was held at VCS.

The boys team was able to complete an undefeated season with a 14-0 record and a championship victory! Ben and Will Francis led the way with contributions from Tristan Martin, Hayden Rollins, Dom Ondo, and Josiah Cross.

In the title game, the boys defeated Beech Hill, 50-35, Will Francis led the scoring with 20 points, followed by Ben Francis with 15 points and Tristan Martin with 9 points.

The girls team went all the way to the championship game. They worked hard and played well but had to settle for Mid-Maine League Runner-up. The team was led by two strong grade 8 student athletes, Lily Chandler and Laurali Parker, and a group of returning players anchored by Olivia Bragdon and Dalaney Horr.

The girls won their semifinal against Dedham, 39-16, but lost to Greenbush, 65-33, in the tournament finale. Lily Chandler scored 18 points and Dalaney Horr scored 7 in the championship game. The girls’ final record was 14-3, with all three losses coming against Greenbush.



Veazie Vikings boys basketball team.



Veazie Vikings girls basketball team.

## 6 raised garden beds available with water supply

Six raised garden beds and a water supply will be available for summer use by Town of Veazie residents again this year.

The garden area is located in a sunny spot off Main Street and adjacent to the school soccer fields and Town tennis courts. The soils in the raised beds were tested by the University of Maine extension. The six raised beds are first-come first-serve until they are gone.

There is no charge for using the raised beds and water supply, which were paid for by a grant. However, we ask that each gardener must keep their raised bed area weeded and tidy.

One bed per gardener. A sign-up sheet is located in the Town Office.





Left: Mrs. Shannon uses green screen to put Mercedes Mitchell in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Right: the result, showing Barrett Worster with parade marchers, floats in the background.

## 1st graders complete balloon floats

First Graders took information they received from the book, *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet, to make their own balloon floats.

Students brainstormed ideas and listed materials needed before setting to work, and there were many retries before their engineering was complete.

When the floats were completed, they were paraded down the hall to the library, where Mrs. Shannon taught students how to use a green screen to actually put their floats into the "Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade."



## Student interview: Abigail Dorrity, Health and PE teacher at VCS

By Olivia Bragdon, Grade 7

"You have to take what life gives you, roll with the punches, and take things one step at a time."

This is a quote from Abigail Dorrity, our health and P.E teacher here at Veazie Community School.

Mrs. Dorrity, as we call her, grew up in Bass Harbor, Maine, where she found out she loves kids. But she isn't all prim and proper. Mrs. Dorrity competed in karate, soccer and basketball until high school. In high school she played basketball, softball, and volleyball, one of her favorite units that she has taught so far in P.E.

When asking Mrs. Dorrity why she chose the path of becoming a teacher, she said it was because she loves kids and their energy, which is why she is now teaching pre-K through eighth grade. Though it was not always like

this; she had to wait three years working as an ed tech at Dedham until she got where she is today. She was also a camp counselor and worked at Olympia Sports before her teaching career.

Mrs. Dorrity says that her biggest influence is Dr. Standford, a professor at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. "She was a good teacher who taught me a lot of great teaching techniques."

Just like how Mrs. Dorrity's favorite subject to teach is P.E, her favorite class in school was P.E. and math. Mrs. Dorrity thinks it was an easy transition from her old job to here and that we have been welcoming. She loves the closeness of everyone. The fact that we

are small but with big hearts is a reason she teaches here as well.

As you may or may not know, Mrs. Dorrity is pregnant but still doing a magnificent job of teaching us everything we need to know.

"I wasn't as tired as I thought I would be..... until the end of the day," she says.

Though Mrs. Dorrity wanted

a boy, she says she is very happy with her soon-to-be little girl. And we are very pleased that Mrs. Dorrity works at Veazie Community School.



**MATHCOUNTS**—VCS recently competed at the regional MathCounts competition held at ReedsBrook Middle School in Hampden. Our young team performed incredibly well against schools from all over the region. VCS 7th grader, Nicholas Needham, placed 10th out of 78 entries. Pictured from left to right: Nicholas Needham, Sam Wardrop, Halle Buxton, Lana Friess.



**SMALL SCHOO (AND TOWN), BIG HEART!**—Thank you, Seniors and Friends of Veazie, for generously donating snacks for students at Veazie Community School! Above, Karen Walker and Sandra Patterson



## VCS Primary wing travels the globe

The Pre-K, Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade students had fun traveling the globe to visit many countries in hope to learn about their culture. VCS Primary Classrooms became the following places: Israel, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Sweden and U.S.A. Student traveled in mixed grade level teams each day. Students were sure to carry a passport as they experienced games, food, music, pictures, crafts and information about the countries they visited. "This was the best day ever," was heard often throughout each trip!

## Student interview: Sarah Moon, art teacher at VCS

By Ben Francis, 8th Grade

One of our new faces here at VCS is art teacher Sarah Moon. Also a teacher at Dedham, Mrs. Moon graduated from Bangor High School and later attended the University of Maine. She graduated with a degree in art education and is also a certified herbalist.



Mrs. Moon teaches at Veazie every Friday. When Mrs. Moon was asked what her favorite part of teaching a VCS and she said, "Working here has been busy but fun." Mrs. Moon is a teacher who loves to see her students do well. When asked what her favorite part about teaching is she answered, "My favorite part about teaching at any school is seeing a student go above and beyond their own expectations."

Mrs. Moon has not always been an art teacher. Before she became an art teacher, she was a preschool teacher and gave private art lessons. She also does art in her spare time; she enjoys painting, fiber art, and likes to sculpt.

Mrs. Moon was asked which of her art pieces is her favorite and she answered, "My favorite art piece I have ever made was a piece with my daughter. We painted her whole body and put her against a canvas. We took the piece to an art show and won an award. It was really cool."

Mrs. Moon gave us some fun facts about her personal life. Her father's name is Bruce Wayne, also the name of the popular superhero Batman. One of Mrs. Moon's best friends is a stunt man in Hollywood. He has done stunts in movies such as Iron Man and recently did a stunt for the famous actor Brad Pitt.

Sarah Moon is a great teacher and an all-around exceptional person. We are pleased to have her with us at VCS.

## Veazie Community School Soccer Camp

Veazie Community School Field

**Grassroots**  
June 22-25<sup>th</sup>  
July 20-23<sup>rd</sup>

**Ages: 3-6**  
**Time: 9am-10am**

Seacoast Grassroots objective is to learn while having fun. Players will be appropriately challenged with specifically designed developmental games and activities.

**Price: \$35 for Residents/ \$70 for Non Residents. Includes Nike T-Shirt**

**SEACOAST**



**Soccer Camps**

**MAINE**

**Full Day Camps**  
June 22-25<sup>th</sup>  
July 20-23<sup>rd</sup>

**Ages: 7-14**  
**Time: 9:00-12:00pm (Half Day)**  
**9:00-3:00pm (Full Day)**

This camp is specifically designed to prepare all players for the upcoming season to come.

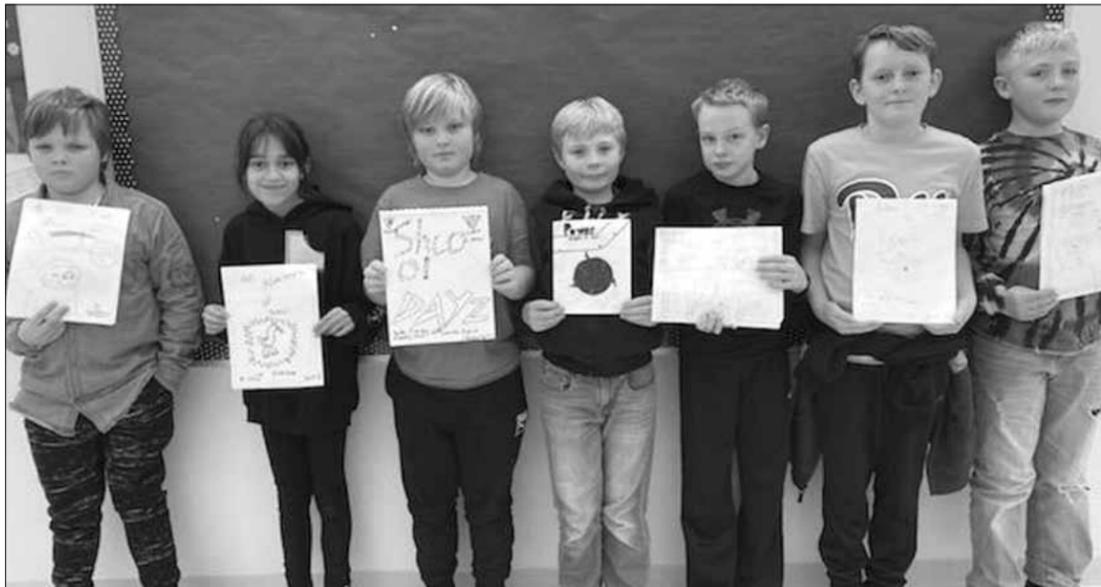
All age groups will be trained by licensed, experienced coaches. Small group play, including a king and queen of the pitch tournament

**Price: Half Day \$55 for Residents/\$110 for Non Residents. Full Day \$100 for Residents/\$200 for Non Residents. Includes Nike T-Shirt.**



Visit [www.seacoastunitedmaine.com/camps](http://www.seacoastunitedmaine.com/camps) to register!

Branden Noltkamper | [bnoltkamper@seacoastunited.com](mailto:bnoltkamper@seacoastunited.com) | [seacoastunitedmaine.com](http://seacoastunitedmaine.com)



Fifth graders display comics they have drawn, written in their free time.



Fifth graders Seth Rollins (left) and Colton Webber.

## 'Very artistic class' enjoys comics, 'Food Fight' card game during 5th grade free time

If you visit Diane Smart's 5th grade classroom when students have free time, you're likely to see a lot of them drawing comic books, reading comic books, or playing cards.

And if they're playing cards, it's not just any card game, it's likely to be "Food Fight," game that has been developed—and is being continually enhanced—by 5th grader Seth Rollins.

"They're a very artistic class," says Mrs. Smart.

The idea of drawing comics actually began with Colton Webber and Chase Ashby. They shared the idea with Seth, who shared it with Aiden Taylor. Then it took off, and when the books were posted on a "comics wall" in the classroom, more students in the class joined in.

Mrs. Smart says the comics aren't part of the curriculum, but they're welcome in the classroom.

"The students enjoy writing them, as well as drawing them, and they also enjoy reading them," she says.

The card game started independently of the comic books but quickly became a popular activity among 5th graders.

Colton said he was over at Seth's house one day, and Seth told him he was making a card game called Food Fight.

"As soon as he [Seth] released it, everybody started playing it," Colton said.

Mrs. Smart says the students continue to draw and write comics, and then read them. But they also play cards whenever they have the opportunity.

"It's taken on a life of its own." Mrs. Smart says. "They play at lunch, they play at recess, they're always battling each other and changing amounts. I don't understand what's going on [in the card game], but they all do."

Seth organizes periodic Food

Fight tournaments, one of which he said was going to be a "battle royale," with players moving their cards around the board and attack-

ing each other, and collecting cards that they win from their opponents.

Seth said he's had the idea for

the card game for about a year and a half, but started actually developing it just before Christmas this year.

### Seth Rollins describes the card game he invented, 'Food Fight'

Food Fight is a turn-based card game. Each card features a character and displays its unique stats: HP (health points), SP (speed points), DP (damage points) and AS (ability stats).

On your turn you choose to dodge, attack, or to use your ability. Most abilities have a "cool down" (wait time until you can use it again) or "use limit" (maximum amount of uses per battle). Certain abilities are identified as Perks. Perks don't have a "cool down" or "use limit", they are always active.

An ability is marked with an A with: a "cool down" marked with a T, a "use limit" marked with a B, nothing to show a perk, or an X to show that it has no use limit or cool down, T and B with a number to show the wait time or use limit. The card describes the effects of the ability.

When you attack, your opponent loses your DP amount of HP, if your HP gets to zero or below your card is out. Your level goes up when you win a fair battle, your stats are multiplied by your level.

If you dodge on your turn it improves your DC (dodge chance) by 200 for your opponents next attack, only if you want to dodge it. If you want to dodge first calculate your "chances". Your opponent adds their SP and DP to calculate their HC (hit chance). Then you find your SP to calculate your DC. now if your DC is higher than their HC you successfully dodge, if it is equal they do half of their DP. If their HC is higher than your DC, you have made an unsuccessful dodge and it does double the damage.

There are about one-half-month long "seasons". Each season brings new aspects, cards, and challenges to the game. Every "event" has 4 new cards created for it, such as Christmas, there were 4 cards made for Christmas. And Chinese New Year was on Jan 25th, so there are 4 Chinese cards, and 1 Chinese villain to defeat. (Not all holidays are considered events.)

In Food Fight you collect your own personal cards to use in battle against other players. You do dif-



Seth Rollins (standing, center) oversees 5th graders playing "Food Fight."

ferent challenges to earn new cards or get more levels to upgrade your cards you already have. Most players compete in tournaments, hoping for very large rewards. So far Season 3 has had the largest rewards. (Which was just recently.) In Season 3 the reward was almost unfair. (Luckily, a new player stuck a large amount of luck.) The usual reward is 4 levels to add to your cards, but Season 3's rewards were: 5 or more levels, 1 item, (Items are by pretty much abilities.) and 2 cards, but only for first place.

All of the "legal" cards ever made I made by myself. But probably about 98% of the ideas come from my friend Aiden.

— Seth Rollins, 5th grade  
Veazie Community School

## VEAZIE COMMUNITY SCHOOL — PRE-KINDERGARTEN/KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION — 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten registration packets are now available at the Veazie Community School for the 2020-2021 school year. If you are considering sending your child to Pre-K or Kindergarten next fall, please stop by the school to pick up registration materials.

Your child's birth certificate, records of immunization, and two forms of proof of residency need to be submitted with the registration packet. Screen-

ings will take place in June; you will be contacted to schedule an appointment for this process.

If you have any questions or would like to see the school before the screening process, Mr. Matt Cyr, our school Principal/Superintendent would be more than happy to set up a tour.

Thank you.

Veazie Community School, 1040 School St.,  
Veazie, ME 04401, 207-947-6573

**FYI** - Any person with a disability who requires auxiliary aids or services in order to fully participate in an activity at the Veazie Community School is requested to contact the office of the principal at 947-6573 (TDD Relay #1-955-3323) at least 72 hours in advance of that activity.





Rachel Lane offers a platter of mudslide amazeballs, a Raegamuffin's specialty.



Raegamuffin's Gluten Free Bakery at 1552 State Street, Veazie.

## Raegamuffin's offers gluten-free goodness at Veazie bakery

What do mudslide amazeballs, moon pies, blueberry gingerbread cake, 16 flavors of donuts, 27 flavors of muffins, and a birthday cake with moose antlers have in common?

They're delicious.

They're made at Raegamuffin's bakery on State Street in Veazie.

And they're all gluten-free.

Gluten-free isn't just an option for Rachel Lane, the owner of Raegamuffin's for the past six years.

She's celiac, so she personally understands both the struggle with finding delicious and safe gluten-free foods—and how important it can be to someone whose body can't tolerate gluten (a protein found in grains such as wheat, rye, and barley).

"I have to eat gluten-free, or it destroys my small intestine," she says.

Rachel attended New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, VT, to earn her associate's degree in baking and pastry arts. When deciding on a culinary career path, her focus was strictly on safe gluten-free foods.

She did an internship in Franks Bakery in Bangor and then moved to Boston, where she worked for two years at a gluten-free bakery in Belmont called Glutenous Minimus.

A native of Greenfield, Rachel wanted to be closer to home, so she opened Raegamuffin's in April 2014.

"I wanted to be in Orono or Bangor," she said. "This location [1552 State Street] and Tradewinds went up at the same time. Locating in Veazie meant the bakery would be right in the middle, between Orono and Bangor."

Rachel says gluten-free safety is important, but it's not her only concern at Raegamuffin's.

"We're a dedicated gluten-free facility, but we are also a dedicated tree-nut and peanut-free facility," she says. "We love to help people with food allergies and restrictions. As a result, about



half of our items are dairy-free, and we also offer a couple of vegan items every day we are open."

(The blueberry gingerbread cake that was mentioned in the opening paragraph of this story is vegan.)

Does being gluten-free restrict what Raegamuffin's can make?

"Yes and no," she says. "There are a lot of things we can alter to make them gluten-free, including donuts, breads, muffins, etc."

The same holds true for vegan items—the bakery just has to find substitutes for eggs and dairy products.

"But we can still cater to someone's sweet tooth," she says.

Rachel says business has been good, although January tends to be a slow month as families recover from the holidays.

She enjoys running the bakery in Veazie because it's close to both Orono and Bangor.

She says there's a fair amount of traffic between the two communities, and a number of the commuters are regular customers on their way to work in the morning or on their way back home in the evening.

In addition to donuts, muffins, and other standard bakery items, Raegamuffin's has some signature items that customers are particularly fond of, such as "Amazeballs."

"They're really popular," she says, holding up a tray of mudslide amazeballs. They come in many different flavors, including double

(Please turn to page 15)



Donuts come down the line.



Vegan blueberry gingerbread cake.



Moon pies with marshmallow buttercream filling sandwiched between two graham-cracker flavored short bread cookies and dipped in chocolate.



A display of elaborately frosted cupcakes.



A moose-antler birthday cake.



Frosting flowers on a cupcake.



A tray of mudslide amazeballs.