The Viking, May 2018

Town of Veazie

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Joe King Jr. of Veazie (standing) with two other Honor Flight Maine veterans at the World War II Memorial.

**Korean War vet Joe King Jr. visits D.C. as guest of Honor Flight Maine**

Joe King Jr., who served in the U.S. Army in Korea 65 years ago, spent two days visiting most of the monuments in Washington, D.C., at the end of April as a guest of Honor Flight Maine.

He said it was a wonderful experience and a fantastic trip.

Honor Flight Maine is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their service and sacrifices. The group provides free transportation and lodging for veterans so they can tour, experience and reflect at their memorials in our nation's capital.

Top priority is given to terminally ill veterans of all conflicts and World War II survivors. Korean and Vietnam Veterans are also transported on a first-come, first-served basis.

The class received a basic introduction to law enforcement, including what is required to become a police officer, the equipment used, and information about some procedures, such as a felony traffic stop, OUI investigation, and room clearing.

The class also attended a demonstration day at the Maine State Police Barracks in Bangor where (Please turn to page 2)
Korean War vet Joe King Jr. visits D.C. as guest of Honor Flight Maine

(Continued from page 1)

space-available basis.

Joe was accompanied on the trip by his son Steve.

“It was unbelievable,” said Steve. “It was very well organized. They treated everyone with so much respect. It was great.”

Joe said the trip came as something of a surprise. He had been in-
vited to go on an Honor Flight Maine trip three years ago but had to turn it down because he was caring for his wife, who had Alzheimers. After she passed away, he said his son insisted that he apply again, and he was approved for the trip in April.

Joe and Steve were escorted from Veazie to Bangor International Air-
port by the Veazie police and fire de-
partments, and a number of residents lined the the streets to wish Joe well and thank him for his service.

They left on Friday, April 27, and returned on Sunday, April 29.

The veterans flew into Baltimore-Washington Airport and spent the
next two days touring all of the
memorials in Washington—the Washington, Lincoln, and Jeffer-
son memorials, the World War II and Korean War memorials, the
Vietnam wall, and the Tomb of the
Unknown Soldier at Arlington Na-
tional Cemetery.

Joe’s favorite activity was the
Changing of the Guard at the Tomb
of the Unknown Soldier.

“That was an emotional time for
me,” he said. “I was pretty choked
up. No question about it.”

He said he had visited the Tomb a
couple times when he was in Wash-
ington for business, but he never
succeeded in timing his visit to coin-
cide with the changing of the guard.

On the flight back from Wash-
ington, a mail call was held for the
veterans. He received 107 letters
from schoolchildren and townpeo-
ple—more than any other veteran on
the flight, and more than double the
old record of 31. Thanks to all the
schoolchildren and citizens of Veazie
who sent Joe mail.

Joe served in Korea in 1953 as a crew chief for the 13th Helicop-
ter Company, 2nd Infantry Divi-
sion. He was in the Army a little
over three years.

After military service, he worked
for Bangor Hydro-Electric Co. for 37
years, including the last 25 years as
director of purchasing.

Joe says the trip is very much
worth taking, and he urges Vietnam
veterans to apply now in the hope of
gaining near the head of the line.

He notes that there are very few
World War II veterans left, and the
ranks of Korean War veterans are
also thinning.

“Every time I go to Bangor for
one of those parades, there are few-
er Korean War vets marching,” he
says. “The last time, I think there
were only seven of us who walked.”

The April Honor Flight Maine
trip was limited to World War II
and Korean War vets, but he says
Honor Flight Maine will probably
start taking some Vietnam vets in
its next two flights, which are
scheduled for June and October.

For more information, go to www.
honorflightmaine.org or visit Honor
Flight Maine’s Facebook page.

Veazie Police, State Police help VCS 7th graders learn about law enforcement, CSI

(Continued from page 1)

they received presentations on
various specialties available in
law enforcement. Members of MSP
Troop E, Major Crimes Unit-North,
and Bangor Regional Communica-
tions Center provided presenta-
tions on Dispatch, Detectives, Dive
Team, Evidence Recovery Team,

For science, the students
learned about various types of
evidence that may be left behind
at a crime scene. They learned
how to process and document a
crime scene properly and collect
the various types of evidence, such
as fingerprints, footwear impres-
sions, DNA, hairs and fibers, and
handwriting.

For social studies, they visited
Bangor District Court and observed
during criminal arraignments. They
also learned about the levels of
proof required for different proceed-
ings, from civil to criminal.

The program concludes with a
simulated crime in which the class
is responsible for investigating on
their own, with only occasional
guidance from instructors. The
students have to secure the crime
scene, properly document the scene
with photographs; identify, docu-
ment, and collect evidence; inter-
view witnesses and victims; iden-
tify and interview a suspect; and
develop probable cause to “arrest”
the suspect, if possible. Finally,
the suspect is brought to trial. The
program ends with a mock trial
with students assuming the roles of
defense attorneys and prosecuting
attorneys, and students’ parents
serving as jurors.

The CSI course is a great op-
opportunity for the students to learn
about law enforcement and our
system of justice with help from
experts in the field.

Brian Nichols of the Veazie
Police Department volunteers a
significant amount of personal time
and energy to make this program
a success. Special thanks go out
to Trooper David Yankowsky, who
made several visits to our school,
and many other State Troopers
for their support. Special thanks
also go to Erik Black and Bren-
den Trainor, both former Veazie
students and now practicing at-
orneys in the area, who gave the
students a first-hand view of being
an attorney in a trial. Erik works
with a law firm in the area and
Brenden works with the Penobscot
County District Attorney’s office.
Veazie Cemetery Committee seeks volunteers to plant flowers, place flags on veterans’ graves

The Veazie Cemetery Committee is looking for volunteers to help plant flowers and place flags on the veterans’ graves prior to Memorial Day 2018.

Committee members and volunteers will meet at the Veazie Cemetery on State Street on May 22, at 8:30 a.m. The rain date will be May 24. If May 24 is also rained out, the Cemetery Committee and volunteers will gather on the 25th to plant flowers and place flags, no matter what the weather.

Volunteers who want to plant flowers should bring a trowel or something they can dig with. To participate, volunteers don’t have to do anything except show up at the cemetery. If you have any questions, call the town office at 947-2781.

The town has improved the tennis courts, and we’d like to see more residents put the courts to good use.

For residents interested in participating in a tennis ladder, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Town Office or you can email veazietennis@gmail.com. Residents should provide their name, phone number, email address, and the league they would like to play in, plus a self-assessment of their abilities. All ages and abilities are welcome. The purpose is to have fun. Depending on the level of interest, there may be a men’s league and woman’s league. At this point, we are assessing the level of interest and number of players, and we will try to provide the leagues that work, depending on the response. We expect to have a professional website subscription manage the ladder. Most of the administration will be online, by the website. A reasonable expectation is a game a week. A small fee in the range of $5 to $10 will be collected to cover costs of the website subscription, etc. We’ll probably start with leagues for singles, as the website appears to handle singles tennis best. If there’s a strong demand for doubles, we’ll see if that can be accommodated.

One of Veazie’s tennis courts has been painted for pickleball, as well as tennis. If you’re interested in pickleball, please note that in your email response. If there’s enough interest in a pickleball league or ladder, we’ll try to accommodate that.

Please be aware that the ladder will be run by volunteer, and additional volunteers willing to help will be more than welcome!
Veazie town budget goals: cut expenses, do more with less, spend money wisely, find additional municipal revenue

Over my years as Town Manager, I am proud of all we have accomplished and the progress we have made in terms of making municipal government more innovative, efficient and enjoyable. We commit ourselves to the betterment of the individual, the organization, and the community by fostering a spirit of trust, cooperation, integrity, respect, and quality service.

As we have over past years, the administration has worked tirelessly to reduce spending in all area of Town government.

We continue our efforts to:
- Cut expenses throughout all Town departments
- Do more with less
- Utilize taxpayer money wisely
- Find new and/or increase sources of revenue

The FY 18-19 budget reflects the Town’s established priorities and maintains core services while responding to the impacts of the current economic climate on the Town’s financial position. The largest component of the Town’s budget is the School Department. For FY 18-19 we will see a reduction in State allocation for education which will result in Veazie being responsible for an increased share of school funding. The School assessment to the Town for this budget will be $320,294.09. Superintendent Cyr and the School Committee have worked tirelessly to look at all options to reduce the assessment but due to reasons beyond their control this is the final assessment figure they arrived at. For further details on the School’s Budget please refer to Superintendent Cyr’s article.

The Municipal budget shows an increase of $95,457.76, which is due to increases in health care costs, software licensing, fuel, maintenance agreements, etc. While there is an increase, I am confident we have crafted the budget to provide the best services to the Town, while being able to keep the tax rate low. With the proposed budget, we project the mil rate will increase slightly from 0.01815 to 0.01830 (approx. $1.5 per $1,000).

I would like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated staff, Council members as well as the Budget Committee members and Superintendent Cyr for all their hard work on this budget.

### Town of Veazie FY19 Proposed Budget

**Expenditures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 17/18</th>
<th>FY 18/19</th>
<th>$ change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$311,050.00</td>
<td>$331,340.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>$344,900.00</td>
<td>$354,300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>$231,300.00</td>
<td>$245,650.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>$12,500.00</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comm Investments</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
<td>$33,700.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>$215,000.00</td>
<td>$219,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$64,500.00</td>
<td>$69,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Cost</td>
<td>$480,480.00</td>
<td>$491,080.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>$1,369,823.15</td>
<td>$1,405,531.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$2,766,047.04</td>
<td>$2,974,341.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses** $5,825,600.15 $6,129,442.00 $303,841.85

**Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 17/18</th>
<th>FY 18/19</th>
<th>$ change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Revenue</td>
<td>$111,267.00</td>
<td>$111,267.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>$474,210.00</td>
<td>$545,080.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>RE Tax Commitment*</td>
<td>$2,515,970.44</td>
<td>$2,638,233.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP Tax Commitment*</td>
<td>$2,631,280.02</td>
<td>$2,741,232.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestead Reimbursement*</td>
<td>$84,238.69</td>
<td>$84,935.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETE*</td>
<td>$8,634.00</td>
<td>$8,695.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue** $5,825,600.15 $6,129,442.00 $303,841.85

**Projected Mill Rate** 18.15 18.30 0.15

*Place Holder Only. Number will not be finalized until taxes or committed*
VCS budget drivers: planning, increased enrollment, reduction in state subsidy

By Matthew Cyr, Superintendent of Schools

Development of the FY19 school budget has been driven by several important factors including our school strategic plan, capital improvement plan, increased enrollment, and a significant loss of State subsidy.

For the past two years we have focused on fiscal responsibility through the elimination of non-essential programming, creating new efficiencies and partnerships, renegotiating almost all contracted services, and significantly reducing staff so that our staff-to-student ratio was proportionate to enrollment and programming requirements.

Having said that, during this same time period, we have created new programs and updated or modified existing programs. We have been very successful at ‘doing more with less’ while balancing the local tax contribution along with creating a progressive educational experience that rivals most if not all schools in the area.

For the first time in many years, our enrollment is growing. I attribute this largely to the incredibly productive and progressive working relationship between school and town leadership. In addition to people moving into our community for the school, we are also accepting and enrolling students who live in other communities.

The budget being presented to you accounts for an increase in high enrollment, an increase in special education needs in primary and intermediate levels, and the replacement of failing windows, as well as re-paving the athletic field and parking lot. Continued attention will be paid to our curb appeal as this is vital to Veazie’s community marketing plan going forward.

This year’s EES275, or State Educational Funding Formula, didn’t fair well for Veazie. The State valuation of town property led to a 12.9% shift in funding responsibility from State to Local. Veazie is now responsible for 77.35% of school funding, compared to 64.45% in FY18. Changes in the funding formula along with this valuation shift resulted in a 24.54% reduction in State Allocation. Fiscal responsibility during previous budget years has significantly helped to reduce local tax burden in FY19. The School Committee, Town Budget Committee and Town Council exhausted multiple scenarios for cautionary school fund balance use including the financing of capital projects. In the end, it was determined that it was in the best interest of all to proceed with the use of $500,000 of school fund balance for FY19.

The Town of Veazie has recently paid its final debt service payment for the construction of the Veazie Community School—you own the school free and clear! Hard to believe how fast 20 years can go….the new school isn’t so new anymore.

I want to thank the School Committee, Town Budget Committee, Town Council, and Manager Mark Leonard for their forward thinking collaboration throughout this process.

Veazie Community School FY19 Budget Proposal to School Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19 Proposed</th>
<th>inc/(dec)</th>
<th>% inc/(dec)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Article 1 - Regular Instruction</strong></td>
<td>$2,041,913.17</td>
<td>$2,147,288.89</td>
<td>($105,375.72)</td>
<td>5.16%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 2 - Special Ed. Instruction</strong></td>
<td>$679,978.35</td>
<td>$877,276.22</td>
<td>($198,297.87)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 3 - CTE Instruction</strong></td>
<td>$25,080.47</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>($25,080.47)</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 4 - Other Instruction</strong></td>
<td>$36,094.64</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>($36,094.64)</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Article 5 - Student &amp; Staff Support</strong></td>
<td>$208,228.38</td>
<td>$198,726.48</td>
<td>($9,501.90)</td>
<td>-4.56%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 6 - System Administration</strong></td>
<td>$139,977.54</td>
<td>$137,239.36</td>
<td>($2,738.18)</td>
<td>-2.01%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 7 - School Administration</strong></td>
<td>$104,516.52</td>
<td>$117,238.36</td>
<td>$12,721.84</td>
<td>12.17%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 8 - Transportation</strong></td>
<td>$143,300.00</td>
<td>$132,000.00</td>
<td>($11,300.00)</td>
<td>-7.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 9 - Facilities Management</strong></td>
<td>$409,684.65</td>
<td>$367,700.00</td>
<td>($41,984.65)</td>
<td>-10.25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 10 - Debt Service</strong></td>
<td>$269,165.12</td>
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<td>($269,165.12)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Article 11 - Other (School Lunch)</strong></td>
<td>$410,000.00</td>
<td>$400,000.00</td>
<td>($10,000.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses:** $4,096,938.84

**Revenues:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19 Proposed</th>
<th>inc/(dec)</th>
<th>% inc/(dec)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Allocation</strong></td>
<td>$764,429.78</td>
<td>$576,875.61</td>
<td>($187,554.17)</td>
<td>-24.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Debt Service</strong></td>
<td>$268,297.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>($268,297.00)</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State SRRF Project Share</strong></td>
<td>$92,925.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>($92,925.00)</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total State</strong></td>
<td>$1,062,651.78</td>
<td>$576,875.61</td>
<td>($485,776.17)</td>
<td>-45.71%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prior Year Balance</strong></td>
<td>$270,000.00</td>
<td>$500,000.00</td>
<td>$230,000.00</td>
<td>85.19%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Local Allocation</strong></td>
<td>$1,895,508.50</td>
<td>$1,972,618.00</td>
<td>$77,109.50</td>
<td>4.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local w/o State participation</strong></td>
<td>$1,870,538.50</td>
<td>$1,972,618.00</td>
<td>$102,079.50</td>
<td>5.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Local Share</strong></td>
<td>$2,766,047.06</td>
<td>$2,974,341.15</td>
<td>$208,294.09</td>
<td>7.53%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenues:** $4,098,698.84

**Total Local Share:** $2,974,341.15

**Total Local Increase:** $208,294.09

Superintendent’s message

By Matthew Cyr

Administrative changes in Veazie are balancing consolidation and growth

Since the withdrawal from RSU 26, Veazie School Department (Veazie Community School) has progressively been streamlining administrative infrastructure to benefit students, teachers and taxpayers alike.


2012—Veazie contracts the services of Glenburn School Department for Business Office Services and Superintendent Services. RSU 26 contracted for Special Education Administration (at this time, Orono was the only remaining member of the RSU). A ¾-time Curriculum Coordinator Position was created within Veazie Community School.

2014—Veazie contracted with RSU 22 (Hampden) for Business Office Services and Superintendent services. RSU 26 (Orono) continued to provide Special Education Administration.

2015—Veazie Community School Principal position absorbed a part-time Curriculum Coordinator position.

2016—Veazie Community School hired its own Special Education Director (2-days/week) and a part-time Special Education Office Assistant. (Veazie no longer contracted RSU 26 for any services). The Principal/Curriculum position absorbed a part-time Technology Director position. Technology Support services were contracted out through RSU 22.

2017—Principal/Curriculum/Technology position absorbed the Superintendent position (Veazie no longer contracted RSU 22 for Superintendent Services). Veazie continued to contract RSU 22 for Business Office and Technology Support services.

2018—Veazie hires its own Business Office Director. The newly created position will absorb Special Education Assistant responsibilities (the new Business Office Director starts in July). At this point in time, only Technology Support Services will remain as a contracted service.

Each of these moves and changes has provided Veazie with cost savings, efficiencies and capacity to grow as an independent school system.
Veazie Historical Committee getting its own room at the Town Office; reviewing items from home of Frank Todd and Helen Hawthorn Todd.

The Veazie Historical Committee has begun work on a project to upgrade historical records, photos, and other artifacts that have been donated to the town.

Committee members are cataloging items and putting them in boxes and three-ring binders so that they will be easier for townspeople and historians to find.

Historical Committee member Karen Walker said the group’s long-term goal is to make digital copies of as much of the collection as possible so that historical information about the town will be accessible by computer.

To assist in this effort, the Committee is being given a room at the town office. The room is currently being used as sleeping quarters for the Fire Department’s live-in firefighting student. Once this area is relocated, the room will serve as a location for the town’s historical artifacts to be displayed. Currently they aren’t easily accessible to either citizens or visitors.

The Committee’s most recent acquisition has been a variety of items from the home of Frank Todd and Helen Hawthorn Todd, including a history of Veazie; a photo titled “Veazie School - June 10, 1897”; and a program for “Graduating Exercises, Class of 1900, Veazie Grammar School, Katherine C. Leary, Principal.”

The items were donated to the town by William and Sally Arata, who were next door neighbors of the Todds and who lived in the Todd residence after Professor Todd passed away.

In addition to Karen, Historical Committee members are Gail Remis, Esther Bushway, and Michael Smart.
The Orono-Veazie Water District contracted with Lou Silver Construction to upgrade the 6-inch water line on Davis Drive to 8 inches, according to Superintendent Boyd Smith.

Boyd said the upgrade will help with water flows at the fire hydrants and the quality of water by looping the water line on Davis Drive with water lines on Sunset and Wedgewood Drives.

Work on the project began on April 2 and was scheduled to be completed by May 1.

Boyd said the contractor did a great job.

“Barney and his crew are a pleasure to work with,” he said. “They’ve done great by us over the years. Sometimes I don’t think he gets enough credit for what he does.”

In addition to the Davis Drive project, Boyd said the spring flushing of the water lines began in April and will be completed in May.

The district will also be doing its annual routine well redevlopment at the Filter Plant on Bennoch Road.

The Orono-Veazie Water District upgrades 6” water line on Davis Drive to 8”

Crews from Lou Silver Construction tying the old house service from the old water main to the new main (left photo) and do clean up.

Two of the six new raised beds await soil. At right is the new water supply container.

Grant funds 6 new raised beds, water supply container

The Town of Veazie has received a grant from the Maine Community Foundation to improve and expand the existing Veazie community garden, which was established by garden club volunteers.

The existing garden is located adjacent to the school soccer fields and Town tennis courts.

Working with volunteers and grant funds, the town has acquired six raised beds and a water supply container. Some additional work needs to be done to prepare the site, and new soil has to be obtained.

The University of Maine Extension has offered to assist with the garden, including obtaining appropriate soils, similar to the one set up in Orono.

The intent is to make the new raised beds available to town residents. Please stay tuned for more information.

::: *

The Veazie Historical Committee hosted a talk on “Walking the Old Veazie Railroad” by Rhonda Savage and Liz Ashe at the Veazie Town Office on May 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The presentation was very interesting, with lots of history about the railroad, General Veazie, and the mills.

The talk was followed by a question and answer session.

Veazie Historical Committee hosts talk on “Walking the Old Veazie Railroad”

Crews from Lou Silver Construction tying the old house service from the old water main to the new main (left photo) and do clean up.

Two of the six new raised beds await soil. At right is the new water supply container.

Real Estate Tax lien information

The lien process for all overdue taxes for the 2017/2018 fiscal year will begin this month. In order to avoid additional fees, payment in full will be required before May 17, 2018.

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VCS PreK-grade 2 students visit Old Town YMCA for 5-week enhanced PE program

By Angel Nelligan, PE/Health Teacher

The Veazie Community School offers students many unique opportunities in all subject areas—even P.E.! The PreK-2nd grade students enjoyed a 5-week enhanced physical education program, during which they had the opportunity to use the swimming and gymnastics facilities at the Old Town-Orono YMCA.

Every Tuesday, the students and their teachers traveled to the Y to participate in swimming and gymnastics lessons. Each class spent 45 minutes in the pool and 45 minutes in the gymnastics field house.

While participating in swimming lessons, they gained skills in water safety and basic strokes. Even students who were at first timid about entering the pool gradually developed confidence and an appreciation for water activities. Learning how to swim surrounded by familiar friends made the experience even more enjoyable for the students.

Gymnastics, a new activity included in the VCS physical education curriculum, turned out to be a huge hit with the students. The Old Town-Orono YMCA field house has top notch gymnastics equipment, including balance beams, spring floors, uneven and parallel bars, and a trampoline track. Each of these areas allowed the students to develop a variety of skills in balance, strength, agility, and flexibility.

For example, on the balance beam students learned to walk forwards and backwards, jump, march, and turn. A favorite activity was an obstacle course that allowed students to practice different skills at each station. Students also reported having lots of fun bouncing on the trampoline track and jumping into the foam pit.

The opportunity for students to receive swimming and gymnastics lessons from certified coaches as part of the VCS curriculum was an incredible experience. The skills the students gained throughout the program will benefit them for the rest of their lives.
By Matt Cyr

On Friday, March 30, grades K - 8 rented out the Old Town-Orono YMCA for a FLEX Friday Wellness Afternoon. Students got to choose from a variety of rotating activities including swimming, wallyball, basketball, zumba, the climbing wall and the gymnastics tumble track/foam pit. VCS staff and students enjoyed this opportunity to focus on physical fitness and simply being active! THANK YOU TO OUR PTO for funding this activity! …and don’t you worry, Pre-K didn’t miss out on the fun! They had the ENTIRE school to themselves while K - 8 visited the Old Town Y. Our youngest learners got to run in the halls while screaming at the top of their lungs….they all tried out Mr. Cyr’s chair in the office….and even pretended to be Middle Schoolers while visiting all the empty classrooms in the building!

Grades one and two took a short walk through the woods to learn first hand how maple syrup is made. Tom and Melissa Stone, parents and community members, showed students how to locate sugar maple trees and tap them. Children, and adults, were amazed to see how fast the trees were running! The best part was getting to try the syrup afterwards!

By Laurie Kimball, Grade 2 Teacher

1st and 2nd graders learn about maple syrup
Veazie firefighters work with VCS students on fire safety

By Laurie Kimball, Grade 2 Teacher
We are very fortunate in Veazie to be able to work closely with the fire department. Firefighter Pete Metcalf comes in to speak with PreK through Grade Four students four to five times a year. He works with Grades Five through Six students through our Flex Friday program. The younger students learn how to stay safe and be proactive when it comes to fire and burns. They get to visit the fire station and see how the firefighters put on their equipment. This is key to keeping children safe in a fire. They learn not to be afraid and hide if a firefighter is trying to help them get to safety. Of course another highlight of that visit is getting to sit in the fire truck! Older students get to work on being safe and how to help others be safe. Each Friday, if they select the Flex option, students work to learn what real firefighters and police officers do. They get trained in First Aid and CPR.

This year all students were fortunate to be able to go inside a portable "smoke house." This allowed children to see what it would look like if they were ever in house that was on fire. Students chose to go out the window of the "house" or to stay low and go to the door.

The strong relationship between the fire department and our school is something to proud of!

Tiffani Lindsey
Veazie Community School, 8th Grade Class of 2000
Tell us a little bit about what you are doing now (where you live, what you do for work, etc.)
I purchased my first home in Veazie 4 years ago. I am now the Director of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Afterschool Program at the Fairmount School in Bangor.

What did you do right after you left Veazie Community School?
After VCS, I went to Bangor High School, then on to Champlain College to study to be a teacher. Immediately upon graduation, I went to UMaine for my Masters in Education with a focus on leadership in higher education, and worked in Residence Life there. In 2010 I took a job at Southwestern Michigan College. In 2012 I moved home for a job at EMCC. Then I was approached by an old friend and asked to take over management of Great Skates in Bangor, and I took the plunge into a new career! Four years later, and I am back in education and combining all of my prior experiences to run the afterschool program at Fairmount.

What do you remember most vividly about your time at VCS? The sense of community - having deeply rooted relationships with your classmates (I am still best friends with Grace Livingston, going on 26 years!) and extra care from teachers who really knew us well. We also had so much opportunity to fully invest ourselves in a variety of sports and extra-curriculars and try a little of everything.

What are some lessons you learned at VCS that served you well in life?
I think I learned to push myself and take commitments seriously from my time in sports, especially under the mentorship of Mrs. Evans.
‘Soup for the Soul’ community luncheon raises $363 for Bangor Homeless Shelter

By Ashlee Curtis, VCS Art Teacher

Much preparation went into our first successful Soup for the Soul community luncheon. Middle school students learned how to create clay vessels. Once they honed in on their sculpting skills, they used a paper bowl template to make a uniform shape and were challenged to mold as many soup bowls as they could. Since many bowls looked the same at that point, our artists gave them their own unique looks by decorating them with colored glazes, including specialty confetti burst designs.

We then talked about what it means to do something for people in need and how to share our art with the community. Students made a list of potential charities to receive our profits and democratically decided on the Bangor Homeless Shelter. We had generous donations from the Hogan Road Hannaford, Old Town Hannaford, Broadway Hannaford, Old Town Governor’s Restaurant, VCS staff, family, and friends. Many students, their families, VCS staff, and even some folks just stopping in for lunch attended the Saturday afternoon event. Those 30 guests raised $353 for the Bangor Homeless Shelter!

The art program sends out a huge thank you to everyone who got involved. We look forward to our 2nd annual Soup for the Soul next year.

A sample of the bowls by the students. Soup was then served in these bowls as part of this fundraiser.

A great turnout of family and friends for the Soup for the Soul community luncheon.

Brothers Hayden, Luke, and Seth Rollins enjoy some soup and chili.

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**Reading Recovery**: effective intervention for struggling readers

By Susan Logan
Reading Recovery Teacher

Reading Recovery is an effective short term intervention of one-to-one instruction for the lowest achieving 20% of a first grade class. These students are who aren’t catching on to the reading/writing process. This intervention is a supplement to good classroom teaching. Individual students receive a half hour lesson each day tailored to their needs for 12-20 weeks. The teacher is a specially trained Reading Recovery teacher. At the end of the intervention it is expected the child will be able to meet grade level expectations and work independently in the classroom. Another round of students are picked up to begin instruction as the first round discontinues.

The goal of Reading Recovery is to reduce the number of first graders who have extreme difficulty learning to read and write and reduce the cost of the learners to the system.

Reading Recovery was developed in New Zealand and began in the United States in 1984. 75% of the students who complete the 12-20 week intervention can meet grade level expectations. The few students who continue to have difficulty are recommended for further evaluation.

Professional development is an essential part of Reading Recovery with support to the teacher from a teacher leader. Reading Recovery teachers continue to develop observational skills, teaching skills and procedures to fit the child’s needs.

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WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GARDENING?
JOIN THE VEAZIE GARDEN CLUB

The Veazie Garden Club is open to men and women from Veazie and the surrounding communities who love to garden and those who would love to learn more about gardening! The club is affiliated with the Garden Club Federation of Maine, Inc. and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Organized in 1957 and federated in 1977, the club meets monthly on the second Tuesday from September through June (January excluded) at 7 p.m., at The Veazie Community School on School Street in Veazie.

Monthly programs are educational and membership is diverse, with young gardeners just learning to Master Gardeners and the young at heart, who offer considerable knowledge and experience.

Recent programs have featured presentations on dahlias, hostas, flower arranging, new plant introductions and the history of the Orono Bog Boardwalk.

The club often tours members’ gardens or public gardens, such as the Rogers Farm in Orono.

The annual plant auction each May, which is open to the public, is a highlight of the spring season and a major fundraiser for the club.

Club projects include the plantings around the town welcome signs and flower boxes at the cemetery, along with the planters in the foyer of the Veazie Community School.

The club also donates to district and state projects and other worthy causes locally that support gardening, conservation and beautification efforts. The Veazie Community Improvement Award is also a club project which recognizes local businesses or organizations who have made significant improvements to their buildings and grounds or public spaces within Veazie.

Join the Garden Club for a fun time, meet fellow gardeners, and expand your gardening knowledge! Guests are always welcome at meetings! We bring out the green thumb in everyone!

For more information, visit our Facebook page or email: barbie81@gmail.com.
Middle school students bring smiles to PreK-5 audience with acrobats, unicycle riders, plate spinners, magicians, clowns, and other circus acts

By Angel Nelligan
PE/Health Teacher

As circus founder P.T. Barnum once said, “To me there is no picture so beautiful as smiling, bright-eyed, happy children; no music so sweet as their clear and ringing laughter.”

The Veazie Community School gymnasium was certainly filled with smiling, bright-eyed children on Thursday, March 27, as they gathered to watch the middle school students present a circus of their own. The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders put a great deal of effort into practicing and perfecting various acts to present to the school.

Throughout their training, they not only learned new skills, but also gained confidence when performing in front of a crowd.

The circus provided an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their athleticism through artistic performance. There were over a dozen different types of acts that included acrobats, unicycle riders, plate spinners, magicians, clowns, and many others.

The audience, who were the students from grades PreK-5, thoroughly enjoyed the event and can’t wait until it is their turn to put on a circus for their school. Faculty and staff were genuinely amazed by the skills and creativity of the middle school students. The circus is just one of the many activities that makes the Veazie Community School unique!
6th graders shine at VCS Invention Convention

By Nicole Spinney
Middle School Math/Science and Chapter 104

Invention Convention has been a part of the 6th grade experience at VCS for the last three years. Students learn about the process of developing an invention to include the patent application process, what patents are, and great inventions throughout history. Students work together to brainstorm solutions to problems and to develop ideas for inventions of their own to solve those problems.

Through a variety of group and individual lessons and activities, students perform patent searches, create a prototype, marketing materials, and a presentation. All of their hard work culminates into a school-level Invention Convention, where local business owners are invited to be judges for our students.

Rachel Eupley from Raganuffins Bakery, Bernie Lynch from Viking Glass, and James Dunning from Casella were our volunteer judges this year!

Lily Chandler, Christian Zerfoss, Avery Measser, Tristan Martin, and Laurali Parker won the 2018 VCS Invention Convention and had the opportunity to participate at the Maine State Invention Convention on March 17, 2018, where their hard work paid off!

Lily Chandler with the Sit and Stay Bowl won the STEMIE Choice Award, and an invite to the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo (NICEE 2018).

VCS swept the awards for the 3-6 grade level! Tristan Martin with Elevated Snacks won 1st place, Christian Zerfoss with the Selfie Sac won 2nd place, and Avery Messer with the Magic Cutter won 3rd place. All three were also invited to the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo. Laurali Parker won for Best Design Process.

All 5 of our participants walked away winners and showed what hard work and determination looks like at VCS!! We are all wishing good luck to Avery and Christian as they prepare for NICEE in Detroit, MI, at the end of May!

Intermediate Wing celebrates March Madness with Poetry Tournament

By Melissa Hileman
Grade 4 Teacher

In taking advantage of the enthusiasm for the March Madness Tournament, the Intermediate Wing decided to hold a Poetry Tournament. Eight rounds were held to determine the first set of winning poems. Each poem is on YouTube with some incredible readers, including some being the actual authors. Maya Angelo was a favorite speaker, although the crowd’s favorite was definitely Kobe Bryant. It was awesome!!

We showed each poetry reading to the group, discussed meaning, writing style, speaking style, and other elements of writing, then each person voted for their favorite. The next day the winner was announced before viewing the next set of poems.

We were pleasantly surprised as a few of the oldies but goodies made their way to the Final Four. “The Road not Taken,” by Robert Frost, evoked deep discussions, as well as “The Rose that Grew from Concrete,” by Tupac Shakur, and “Still I Rise,” by Maya Angelo.

Eventually, four favorites surfaced for the “Poetry Play-offs.” As the students gathered, Ms. Glunt got her best speaking voice ready as some of the poems were really involved in length or tempo. A very timely poem, “Touch Screen,” by Marshall Davis Jones, was an early contender but the final came down to a battle between “Dear Basketball,” by Kobe Bryant, and “Mother to Son,” by Langston Hughes.

“All this and a part of the 6th grade experience at VCS for the last three years. Students learn about the process of developing an invention to include the patent application process, what patents are, and great inventions throughout history. Students work together to brainstorm solutions to problems and to develop ideas for inventions of their own to solve those problems.

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Veazie Community School
School’s Out ... Reading is In!

The VCS Library will be open the following Tuesdays and Wednesdays:
June 26, 27 – July 10, 11, 24, 25, 31
9:30am – 1pm

Stop by, check out books, and enjoy some of our NEW summer reading programs.

Read With Me
Tuesdays 9:45-10:30 All Ages Welcome

During this time, students will have the opportunity to read cooperatively with some of our middle school and intermediate students who have volunteered to attend as guest readers. They have selected a few of their favorite stories to share, but students will also be given choice to explore their interests. Our younger readers can practice reading and/or summarizing the text with their reading buddy.

Brown Bag Bookworms
Tuesdays 11:00-12:15 All Ages Welcome

Bring your lunch and join us for read alouds, book clubs and discussions, virtual book tours and talks, crafts and activities, and more!

Use this time to log your Scholastic Reading Challenge Minutes online. Enjoy a cool and quiet place to read, and get lost in a book of your choice in our comfortable flexible seating options. What is your summer reading goal this year, and how can we help you meet it?

Little Vikings
Storytime and STEM
Wednesdays 9:45-10:30 Ages 2-7 (Must be accompanied by an adult)

Join us for stories, songs, rhymes and movement activities, followed by sensory stations for families to interact and explore the concepts of science, technology, engineering, art, math and literacy together.

Makers Gonna Make
Wednesdays 11-12:15 All Ages Welcome

Come explore, create, tinker and build in our Makerspace adjacent to the library.

3D Printing, STEM challenges, robotics, KEVA planks, computer programming with Scratch, LEGO’s, and our newest addition - the Creation Station which will feature a make and take activity for you to complete each week.
VCS students help Mr. Cyr teach college students at UMaine

By Matt Cyr

Thirteen VCS students from grades Kindergarten through the 8th grade helped Mr. Cyr teach his University of Maine EDT 400 students one evening this spring. Veazie’s future engineers showed pre-service teachers how VCS uses a variety of STEM programs within their daily curriculum as part of Library Media classes. Martha Shannon, our Library Media Specialist worked with our VCS students in preparing how to teach, future teachers! The UMaine students were very impressed with the skill level of our students and the amazing access to STEM resources at our school!! VCS is a very special place to grow and learn!

Pre-K-Grade 2 students celebrate Read Across America

By Laurie Kimball, Grade 2 Teacher

Pre-K through grade two students celebrated Read Across America day on March 2nd. Read Across America day started back in 1998 as a way for the country to celebrate literacy. It takes place on the school day that is closest to Dr. Seuss’ birthday each year. Mr. Cyr started our day off by reading us GREEN EGGS AND HAM. After the story students were treated to a Seussical breakfast which included green eggs and ham. Primary Buddies then read and worked together on Seuss related activities. It was an exciting way to share our love for literacy!