Veazie develops new marketing plan to highlight positive qualities of town, school, location

“A community connected by choice.”
“A friendly small town with full municipal services.”
“Small school, BIG heart.”

Those are the three themes of a new marketing plan for Veazie that’s designed to highlight the positive qualities of the town and to encourage both residents and prospective residents to recognize those qualities.

The plan, which was presented to the Town Council at its

50 turn out for VZ Day 5K; Toni Anderson, Andrew Goupee are women’s, men’s winners

Fifty people turned out for the VZ Day 5K Run/Walk and Kids Fun Run, which was held on Saturday, August 11.

Toni Anderson and Andrew Goupee earned $25 gift cards to Hannaford as the first female and male runners to cross the finish line.

Age group winners, Female and Male, were:

• 10 and under—Meredith Cyr and Surya Vel.
• 11-19—Madelyn Weston and Even Merchant
• 20-29—Adrianna Kinder and A.J. Cappuccio
• 30-39—Tonya Pickering and Matthew Revitt
• 40-49—Robin Clarke and Kris Garcia
• 50-59—Pamela Beam and Tim Pearson
• 60-69—Sheri Smith and Tom Kirby
• 70 and older—Robin Emery and Bill Hansen

46-unit subdivision being developed southeast of Chase Road

A family that has owned property in Veazie for eight generations has started work on a residential subdivision off Chase Road that will include 17 duplexes and 12 family homes.

The developers are Tom Davis, Kevin Tilton and his wife, Cathy Davis-Tilton. They are being assisted by Emily Tilton, daughter of Kevin and Cathy and granddaughter of Tom.

The Tiltons, who live in Orland, own 275 acres in Veazie, which include the subdivision southeast of Chase Road and a large tract of land northwest of Chase Road which is not being developed.

The subdivision, called Ballymore Crossing, is located between Wedgewood Drive and Longmeadow Drive.

A new road, Galway Drive, is being built to access the development.

Cathy says the duplex units will be part of a PUD (planned unit development), which is similar to a condominium but allows for more variation among the homeowners. The difference between a PUD townhome and a condominium townhome is that the PUD homeowner actually owns the land on which the townhome sits, as well as a small front and back yard.

She said the first five single-family homes in the subdivision, which will be located on Davis Drive between Wedgewood Drive and Galway Drive, may not be part of the PUD.

The single-family homes will be on lots ranging from 0.37 to 0.39 acre. The 17 duplexes (34 residential units) will share a 20-acre lot bounded by Galway Drive, Chase Road, and Longmeadow Drive.

The new subdivision will be located off Chase Road between Wedgewood Drive and Longmeadow Drive.
Marketing plan

(Continued from page 1)

June 12 meeting, was developed by Sutherland Weston, a marketing firm in Bangor, in conjunc-

tion with an advisory group led by Town Man-

ager Mark Leonard and Veazie Superintendent of

Schools Matt Cyr.

The final plan also includes a brochure that

will provide material that would be of interest to

prospective home buyers, head hunters, real estate agents,

business owners, and others who may be looking for

the best place to relocate in the Bangor area.

The brochure, an 8½x11 tri-fold with six pan-

els, is organized so that one or two panels can be

revised in the future to insert community infor-

mation that will give people a better snapshot of

what Veazie has to offer.

The brochure is enclosed in a folder, which will

allow local businesses and community groups to

provide material that would be of interest to

prospective residents or businesses.

The new logo, which appears in the upper left

corner on the front page of this newspaper, will

give Veazie a mark that uniquely expresses the
town’s character. Within the logo, the river and

element evokes the letters V and Z, while the

forested hillside reinforces the V in its base. The

skyline is a balance of rooftops and trees, much

as Veazie itself is a balance of old and new, his-

tory and modernity, and tradition and progress.

The new marketing plan is the culmination of a

multi-year effort by the Town Manager, the Su-
pervisor of Schools, and a group of concerned

citizens to foster a sense of collaboration and shared

purpose between the town and the school in Veazie.

“We want to enhance the Veazie ‘brand’ within

the Greater Bangor area,” Mark said.

The citizens group has included Town Council

Chair Chris Bagley, School Committee Chair Kristin

Bagley, Jeff and Angela Wheelden, Ryan

Lynch, Todd Zorcher, Peter and Alison Worster, and

Jeramy and Molly-Jean Parker.

Mark said the group is trying to get the com-

munity set up from a marketing standpoint for

the next 5 to 10 years.

“We’re trying to do this in such a way that the

school and the town are working together and not

at cross purposes,” he said. “We recognize that

the school system is one of the key factors that people

consider when they decide where to relocate.”

Both Mark and Matt say the community has a lot

to be proud of.

“Look at Veazie,” says Mark. “We’re centrally

located. We’re not just a strip of road between Bangor

and Orono—we’re a vibrant, active community with

a very low crime rate, and we have a reasonable tax

rate that’s lower than the communities on either

side (Bangor and Orono). We also have full-service

municipal police and fire departments and an

excellent PreK-8 school where students can choose

which high school they want to attend.”

Matt adds that VCS is what he would call a

“destination school.”

“We have that small-school feel, but we have

diverse offerings and programs,” he says. “The level

of support that we receive from the com-

munity enables us to do things that other schools

don’t always get to do, such as our FLEX pro-

gram on Fridays.”

“Veazie currently has students attending eight

high schools,” he says. “The town runs a bus
to Orono, John Bapst provides bus service for

Veazie students, and Bangor High School picks up

students at a couple locations in town.”

Mark noted that as the group worked through

the process, they learned that what they’re trying
to do is unique in the area.

“The school and the town are working together

to promote and advertise our town,” he said. “We

have a ready-to-go packet for prospective home-

buyers and school-searchers. This is not something

that other communities are doing. We’re cutting-

gle—we’re a couple steps ahead of other commu-

cities.”

Mark points out that Veazie’s municipal services

include curb-

side trash pick-up and

recycling. Portion of

the town are on the bus

route that also serves

the Greater Bangor area,

including Orono, the

University of Maine, Old

Town, and Hampden.

Excerpts from Veazie’s new marketing brochure

Connected by Choice

The Town of Veazie has a rich history, deeply connected to the northern forest and the Penobscot River. The

Veazie Railroad was one of the first commercially successful railroads in the United States and its lumber mills

played a critical role in the success of Maine’s most famous industry.

Modern Veazie offers a close connection to two worlds—the modern and the natural. Its proximity to major

roads and highways provides quick, efficient commuting and easy access to destinations near and far. Its proxim-

ity to trails and water provide opportunities to connect with nature for recreation and relaxation. With a full range

of municipal services, including 24/7 police and fire, Veazie provides its residents with benefits usually found

in larger towns and cities.

A wide-reaching and advanced curriculum connects K-8 students to unique learning opportunities rarely found

in a community of Veazie’s size. In a time of school consolidation and decentralized academic administration,

Veazie residents showed their pride and voiced their choice to keep and support their community school. In an-

other echo of connection, Veazie residents have school choice, giving 8th grade families access to a wide range

of high school options.

With its welcoming and friendly character, exceptional scholastic environment combined with school choice,

and connections to employers, Veazie is a favored residential destination for both young families and work-

ers professional relocating to the area.

Veazie also has two large senior housing complexes and is a senior-friendly community with meal delivery to seniors available 4 days a week and a food commodity distribution center open for seniors once a month. The police and fire department have a “Good Morning” program, where seniors can sign up to have a police officer or firefighter call them every morning.

Welcome to the Veazie Community School! VCS is a beautiful, cutting-edge public school offering a full spectrum of learning opportunities for students in Pre-Kindergarten through the 8th grade. Our amazing facility, along with overwhelming community support, enables specialized access to Art, Physical Educa-

tion, Health, STEM, Library Media, Spanish, and Music (including instruments in grades 4-8) . . .

We are a 1:1 technology school with iPads for all early primary grades. Chrome books for the interme-
diate ages, and MacBook Airs for Middle School. Stu-

ents utilize a variety of STEM resources, including 3-d printers, hydroponic growing labs, and a school-
garden that is part of our farm-to-table program . . .

Our community, school, and students are second to none! If you are new to the area and looking for

the right community to settle, look no further. Veazie Community School is where it’s at! —Matthew Cry, Superintendent
Construction activity at Ballymote Crossing, a subdivision southeast of Chase Road that will have 17 duplexes and 12 single-family homes.

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(Continued from page 1)

Town Manager Mark Leonard said he was very pleased that the Tiltons had decided to proceed with the subdivision.

“This is the first subdivision like this to be developed in Veazie,” he said. “We’re delighted that people who want to enjoy the convenience and benefits of living in Veazie will now have more opportunities to do so.”

Cathy said she’s hoping the subdivision will attract both young families and retirees.

She said planning for Ballymote Crossing has been underway for almost a year, and town officials have been very helpful.

“The Planning Board has been really supportive, and the Conservation Commission has been wonderful,” she said.

Cathy said they have been working with the Conservation Commission about developing a walking trail that would link the trail systems in the two town forests—the Buck Hill Conservation Area, McPhetres Forest, Davis Forest, and the Manter Wood area.

“Our land is the acreage between the two land trust areas,” she said. “We’re going to find a way to do it.”

She says she’d also like to extend the trail system even further—to the Veazie water tower and beyond to the Orono town line.

Cathy said the subdivision is called Ballymote Crossing because Cathy’s forebears, Hugh and Mary Davis, immigrated to Veazie from Ballymote, Ireland, in the early 1800s. Hugh came to Veazie through New Brunswick with his father John and six brothers in the early 1800s. Hugh settled in Veazie, while the father and brothers moved on to Michigan. A short while later, Hugh’s wife Mary followed with two daughters in tow. They arrived in Searsport and walked to Veazie to save the passage.

Mary spoke only Gaelic, so when she signed the deed to a farm, she did so with a “X.”

Cathy said her great-great-grandfather, Peter Davis, was born after the family arrived in Veazie. He served about a dozen terms on the Board of Selectman and the School Board.

She said the family lived, for a while at least, in a sod house built in the woods on a hill east of Chase Road.

Cathy said her father, who is now 82, remembers finding the rock foundation in the woods as a child, but the sod house has long since fallen down.

“There are still some lilacs there,” she said. “It’s about a half mile from the closest road.”

Anyone who would like more information about Ballymote Crossing should contact Kevin, Cathy, or Emily at 44 Concord Drive, Hermon, ME 04401, or call 735-8272.
JC Auto Body expands, to open ‘express repair’ business in former Johnson Monument building

JC Auto Body has expanded into the former Johnson Monument building on State Street, where it is starting an “express repair” business. The idea is to provide express service—one to three-day turnaround—for relatively minor repairs. Jeff Lacombe, owner of JC Auto Body, says the new business, which will be called JC Autobody Express, will focus on repairs involving three panels or less and eight hours or less of body work.

“If you have a broken headlight, a dented fender, and a broken bumper cover, we’ll fix that overnight and have your car back to you the next day,” he says.

Jeff says he’s been working on the project since last September. He took the Johnson Monument building completely apart and rebuilt it.

“We used the existing cinder block structure, but everything else is new,” he says. Although the new building is fully functional, he’s not advertising the express repair business yet.

“T’m using it for overflow right now,” he says. “We’re booked so far ahead at JC Auto Body, and August is a big holiday and vacation month for us.”

Town Manager’s message:
Chase Road subdivision, Davis Drive project, Code Enforcement, re-branding project

By Mark Leonard

Happy Summer! It’s hard to believe that it is already the first week of August. Before we know it, the kids will be back in school and we will be wrapping up our home projects before winter. This is the third edition of The Viking and I am happy with the response we have received. I would like to extend a thank you to Superintendent Cyr as well as Dave, editor of The Viking, for all the work they put into making this paper successful. I would also be remiss if I didn’t thank everyone that contributes a story or pictures. Without all of you, this paper would not be what it is.

As summer is in full swing, and so are numerous projects around Town. Probably the most visible project is the new subdivision located on Chase Road. Although somewhat sad to see the hay fields we have all come to love disappear, it is exciting to watch the Town grow. The developers have been great to work with and truly have the Town’s best interest in mind as they move forward with this project. We have already received a great response from interested parties, so it will be exciting to have new family and friends move to our beautiful community.

The Town also has some projects taking place. The first phase of the complete rebuild of Davis Drive (off Chase Rd.) that was featured in a previous edition of The Viking has been completed. The next phase of this project is to complete Wedgewood Drive as well as Sunset Drive and finish up back on Davis Drive. This is the first complete rebuild of roads the Town has done in numerous years. We will also be paving Chase Road from State Street to Longmeadow, which will complete the paving of Chase Road, and additionally we will be paving Buck Hill from Jackson Drive to the cul-de-sac. This road has needed repair for some time and since we have addressed a surface water issue it is now ready to be completed.

As you may have noticed, the Cemetery now has street names and signs which will help in locating graves. Most of the street names have an association with the Town of Vazie. I would like to thank the Cemetery Committee members for all their work on this project.

Another project that is nearing completion is the remodeling of the former Public Works space which will become the new Police Station. Once completed, the current Police Station will then be remodeled for the Fire Department. Both departments have outgrown their current offices so the additional space will be beneficial. Matt’s Property Management was awarded the contract for this project and has been outstanding to work with and has done a great job. We are excited to share the new space with the public once completed and the offices relocated.

The Town’s Code Enforcement Officer will now be in the office on Mondays and Fridays from 7:30 am to 4 pm. It was necessary to add an additional day to the schedule due to all the current projects occurring in Town. The CEO has spent a considerable amount of time enforcing the Town’s Property Maintenance Ordinance. He is looking for voluntary compliance but is able to take action if the property owner does not comply with his request. If you have questions or concerns please don’t hesitate to contact Code Enforcement Officer John Larson at veazieco@veazie.net.

Assessor Benjamin Birch and office staff have worked diligently to finalize tax bills for this year which will be mailed out in the near future. The due date for taxes is September 30, 2018. Assessor Birch’s knowledge to a very complex process is greatly appreciated and he continues to be a great asset to the Town. Assessor Birch can be reached at the Town Office on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and can be reached at bbirch@veazie.net.

As you will read in other portions of this paper, the re-branding project for the Town has been completed and we have received a significant amount of positive feedback on the new logo. I would like to thank everyone involved in this yearlong project as well as a special thank you to Sutherland Weston, who was our consultant.

In closing, I encourage you to follow the Town’s Facebook page as another way to keep up to date with what is happening in the Town. If you don’t have Facebook you may join the Town’s email list serve which will notify you via email on Town events.

If you have any concerns, comments or suggestions don’t hesitate to contact me at 947-2781 or via email at mleonard@veazie.net. Please enjoy the rest of your Summer.

Mark Leonard
Veazie Town Manager

JC Auto Body has rebuilt the former Johnson Monument building (above), which will be the home of JC Autobody Express.

JC Auto Body’s main building on State Street in Veazie.

JC Auto Body has rebuilt the former Johnson Monument building (above), which will be the home of JC Autobody Express.

Employee buffs a panel after it was repaired.
VCS expects improved communication with new website, App, Twitter

By Matthew Cyr
Superintendent of Schools

Veazie Community School invites you to explore its new website, phone app, and Twitter account (if you Tweet).

Our web address (www.veazies.org) has not changed, however we now have a fresh new look that incorporates a beautiful design and an intuitive interface. The ‘News’ section will be reserved for larger stories and press releases while the ‘Live Feed’ section will serve as a window into our school with typical day-to-day snippets and photos. All ‘Live Feed’ posts will also be shared on Facebook as well as Twitter (@VeazieCS). The addition of Twitter will help to expand our social media presence with the goal of sharing our story!

Even more exciting is the addition of a Veazie Community School App that can be downloaded to your phone from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. (Search Veazie Community School to download today!) Users of the App will have access to much of the same content from the website with the addition of communication features such as ‘Push Notifications’.

The company we are working with (Apptegy), also integrates a mass-communication tool (those ‘robo-calls’ you receive for school cancellations and other important announcements). The greatest part of these recent changes is that we are able to do all of this at a cost savings when compared to our previous contracts for web hosting and mass-communication tools.

Check us out! Download the app and stay connected to the amazing things happening at Veazie Community School!

Superintendent’s message

Summer programs expanded; capital improvements completed; website redesigned

By Matthew Cyr
Superintendent of Schools

Back-to-school season is always an exciting time for staff, students and families! I myself enjoy summer projects in preparation for the upcoming school year, but usually by early August, I truly miss the presence of a full staff and building filled with students, and this year is no different. I sincerely look forward to the start of Veazie Community School’s 2018-2019 school year.

Over the summer, VCS staff have continued to expand program offerings with our first ever Coding Boot Camp run by VCS Spanish teacher, Adrian Arias-Palomo, and a variety of literacy and STEM focused programs run by our Library Media Specialist, Martha Shan- non. The VCS Extended School Year program, run by Special Education Teachers Tara Frazier and Jessie Murphy (with support from Marian Weston), led students on a wide range of experiential learning opportunities including tending to the school garden and taking field trips into the community to learn how stores and restaurants rely on and utilize fresh produce from the area.

Shifting to our capital improvement plan, several facility projects were addressed—most notably the replacement of all operating windows in the building. The previous 20 year-old casement windows were poorly (or not at all), and had significant energy loss. Our new fiberglass, double-hung windows were professionally installed and should last many, many years. We also re-paved the back parking lot and continue to chip away at landscaping and aesthetic appeal to our beautiful school. Some new signage will also help with traffic flow and help emphasize the pride this community shows for its school. I have spent much of the summer rethinking how we communicate through the redesign of our website, the development of a phone/tablet app, and the addition of Twitter to our social media outreach.

Staff have been in and out of the building all summer preparing their classrooms and supporting the hiring of two new Educational Technicians, Molly Smith and Katie Saunder. We are also excited to announce our new nurse, Tiffany Howard.

While it is still too early to give hard numbers, I can say with confidence that our school enrollment has continued to grow over last year marking two consecutive years of increased enrollment. The success of our STEM programs, accelerated classes and small school appeal have been a draw for non-resident, tuition students at all grade levels! Our all-day Pre-K program continues to shine with only one remaining opening as I write this letter.

Our first student day is Wednesday, August 29. Our back to school community dinner and open house will be held on Wednesday, September 12, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Once again thank the Town of Veazie for your continued support and look forward to a successful school year!
**Report from the Veazie Sewer District**

Dear Residents of Veazie:

This summer has been very busy for the Veazie Sewer District. There have been a lot of construction projects all around Town. Manholes have been adjusted for road construction on Chase Road and Buck Hill Drive and the sewer main and manholes are being replaced on Oak Grove Street. In addition, inspections have been performed for new infrastructure going in at the Ballymote Subdivision off of Chase Road. As well as at a new house lot in the Buck Hill Subdivision.

With the growth of new housing and infrastructure, the District has been addressing any unwanted inflow to the plant. Residents have been notified that it is illegal to attach any type of floor or roof drain to the sewer system. House inspections have been performed and will continue to be performed in areas with known floor drains. The District will also be investigating potential illegal connections by means of smoke testing. We ask the public for their cooperation in reducing illegal connections to the sewer.

If there are any questions or concerns, or if anyone would like assistance to determine whether their floor drain is connected to the sewer system, please feel free to contact the Veazie Sewer District.

Respectfully,

Dana McLaughlin, Superintendent

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**Invasive Plant Educational Walk**

Curious about invasive plants in Veazie and how to control them? As part of our Maine Forest Service Project Canopy grant, the Town of Veazie is sponsoring an invasive plant species walk and talk with Town Forester David Wardrop and Kate Locke, an Orono Land Trust board member and forester who has lead several invasive control efforts in the area.

Both foresters will identify over a dozen invasives along Veazie Street, with discussion on potential control options. Please note, if customers have TV(s) without equipment issued by Spectrum, you will lose the ability to view channels.

---

**Spectrum switching its entire channel line up to a digital-only signal this fall; Veazie access channel to move from Channel 7 to Channel 1303 effective Sept. 17**

This fall, Spectrum is switching its entire channel lineup to a digital-only signal. As part of this nationwide project, Spectrum will be relocating the Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access channels to the 1300s section of its channel lineup.

In Veazie, the PEG access channel is currently Channel 7. Starting September 18, viewers who want to access the municipal TV signal will no longer be able to view Channel 7 but will have to go to Channel 1303.

When Spectrum switches to the digital-only signal, customers will be required to have a Spectrum receiver on each TV. If you have an existing set-top-box, digital transport adapter (DTA), or retail device with a CableCARD on each TV, you will be unaffected by this change. Otherwise, to order your Spectrum receiver(s), please go to Spectrum.com/digitalnow or call 1-844-278-3409 and Charter will ship a self-installation kit directly to your home at no additional cost.

There is a bill pending before the Maine Legislature that would require cable providers to retain Channels 2, 5, and 7 as the PEG access channels. However, the Legislature will not be able to act on that bill until sometime in 2019.

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Veazie Congregational Church pastor recounts a unique story about ‘Amazing Grace,’ which was written by a former slave-ship captain

By Rev. Dr. Patrick Seymour  
Pastor, The Veazie Church  
Sunday Worship at 10:00 A.M.

I have been pastor of the Veazie Church for some time now, my wife, and I moved to this community two years ago but we’ve lived here five years (having been here briefly a decade ago). But, before moving away to Connecticut back then, a strange, unique thing happened. While the setting was rather typical, that which occurred was not. Here’s what happened: My wife, Sally, was holding a Saturday morning garage sale. People were talking and laughing and enjoying the moment. It was a vibrant atmosphere.

Abruptly, however, all the conversation ceased. Not a whisper could be heard; neither could whispering be seen. The radio, which was playing softly in the background, suddenly took center stage. Everyone was listening intently as the bagpipes boldly, and with precision, sounded forth the familiar notes of “Amazing Grace.” I’ll never know exactly why everyone suddenly stopped ‘in their tracks’ so to speak, but for some reason the music connected with us all in some significant way. Music can do this. Quite often the melody will ensnare us and the message will capture us. We have all had those moments.

Fast-forwarding 12 years: This is how our Veazie community Church found itself emergent out of a strange moment. Newton—who eventually, he wrote those stirring words: “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound — that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.” Newton’s story is incredible! But there are many other very moving stories of hymn writers like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.

Veazie Holidays
The Town Office will be closed the following upcoming holidays:
Labor Day—Sept. 3rd  
Columbus Day—Oct. 8th  
Veterans Day - Nov. 12th

September 10  
November 17  
October 13

Veazie Congregational Church - Fall Calendar
Greetings from the Veazie Church.
We are a small group dedicated to Christian fellowship and honoring the Christian tradition through our faith and our actions. We welcome one and all to our Sunday worship services led by our pastor, Rev. Dr. Patrick Seymour. Services are held at 10:00 Sunday morning—we hope you have heard our church bell ring, announc- ing time for worship!

Below is a list of some of our activities for this fall and beyond. Please consider joining us for a delicious church supper or the annual Christmas Hymn/Song Sing-A-Long. We’d love to see you here! Also, our kitchen and dining room facilities are available for meetings, social occasions, etc. You can contact the church clerk at vzchurchclerk@gmail.com for more information about availability and fees.

September 29 – Basket Raffle – Buy raffle tickets to take chances on the many baskets we will have on display.
September 30 – Song Sunday – the regular worship service is given over to music—from banjos to piano solos to the joyful voices of children.

October 13 – Bean Supper—beans, coleslaw, casseroles and homemade pies!

And, while our singing is sometimes challenging and inspirational throughout the centu-
ries. This is part of our heritage, all of us. While we sing those memorable hymns each week throughout the year, in the months that contain five Sundays, we dedicate the fifth Sunday as Song Sunday. We celebrate with gratitude the goodness of life and the blessings of God. On Song Sunday, in addition to the modern keyboard, we often have banjos and guitars, we are also pleased to welcome violinists, saxophonists, flautists, bagpipers, etc. And, while our singing is sometimes done acapella, it is always done joyfully. We’d love to welcome you! Please join us, anytime.

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947-4271
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 at the April meeting.

This year, club members and fellow gardeners received a guided tour of the Orono Bog Boardwalk on August 1, after which they went to Lisa Colburn’s beautiful gardens on Mainewood Ave. in Orono for a tour and pot luck dinner.

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.

Garden Club members tour Orono Bog Boardwalk

Our tour guide, Christa, was very informative! The boardwalk’s new decking is a huge improvement!

Can you see the cranberries?

Orchid

Pitcher plants
The VCS Library stayed busy this summer offering programs to 37 children and more than a dozen family members on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in June and July. Over 65 books were signed out throughout the summer, and many more were read during the open library time.

Pre-school and primary aged children participated in our Read With Me program, reading cooperatively with a bookworm buddy. Christian and Madison Zerfoss attended each week as guest readers, sharing some of their favorite stories with our littlest library patrons.

“Little Vikings” was one of our best attended programs. During one session we had over 16 children and 8 adults participating in story time, songs, rhymes and movement activities followed by STEM, literacy, and sensory activities giving families a chance to interact together.

Students of all ages participated in our Makerspace time. They used this time to explore, create, tinker, and build with STEM challenges, LEGOs, KEVA plants, and more. They learned new skills through computer programming, coding, and our newest edition—a Creation Station, featuring a make and take activity each week, such as friendship bracelets, collages, and magnets.

We have lots of exciting Library Media activities planned for the school year, and while it’s only August, we’re already brainstorming what to do next summer!

Until then ... welcome back to school and happy reading!

— Martha Shannon
Library Media Specialist
Veazie Community School

William Roy uses LEGOS to problem-solve literacy challenges.

Christian Zerfoss reads a story to Kirk Barber and his ‘Little Viking’ sisters.

Sara Nepal programs code into her STEM mouse.

Madison Zerfoss shares a good book with Daphne McGovern.

William is sorting and grouping.

Christian explores programming with modular robots called Cubelets.
This summer the Extended School Year program met three mornings per week throughout the month of July. Students explored the life cycle of plants, animals, and insects. While learning about life on a farm they harvested vegetables from the garden, followed with the making of BLTs, ice cream, and their own butter.

We visited Treworgy’s to see a local farm in action and explored the Orono Bog boardwalk to find the carnivorous plants in our area. In other weeks, the students took field trips to Uno’s to see how local farm in action and explored the Orono Bog boardwalk to find the carnivorous plants in our area. In other weeks, the students took field trips to Uno’s to see how the Bangor Humane Society to practice their reading and singing skills on a very friendly cat audience. We all were amazed to see the plants we had started as seeds getting taller and stronger.

Many yummy snacks were made from the harvested veggies, and the students anticipate the harvest of many more when school starts up again.

Kim Bragg
John R. Graham School 8th grade Class of 1996

Tell us a little bit about what you are doing now. I am living in Adams, MA with my fiancee Jamie Rogge enjoying some frozen yogurt in Pittsfield, MA.

What did you do right after you left Veazie Community School? After attending Orono High School, I graduated from Rivier College with a Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Math Education, and a minor in Women’s studies. Then I taught 7th grade math at a large public middle school in Nashua, NH for 12 years.

What do you remember most vividly about your time at VCS? I remember the 8th grade play, Oddesses of the Mind, awkward middle school dances, paper airplane contests, holiday concerts, and most of all classmates who felt like siblings.

What are some lessons you learned at VCS that served you well in life? At VCS I learned that you have to learn to work well with others even when it is difficult.

Alexandria Aucoin-Scheidt and family!
Veazie Community School, 8th grade Class of 2004

Tell us a little bit about what you are doing now. I am currently living in Las Vegas, Nevada! I just recently established my very own non-profit called A Better Place Foundation. Join us in helping the youth of America.

What did you do right after you left Veazie Community School? Right after I left Veazie Community School I attended High School in Orono. I remember the transfer from John R Graham into the new Veazie Community School. I remember the awful event of September 11th happening while we were attending school.

What do you remember most vividly about your time at VCS? The passionate teachers!

Tori Fletcher
Veazie Community School 8th grade Class of 2004

Tell us a little bit about what you are doing now. I remember strolling through the Veazie path to go to friends houses. I remember going to all Veazie sporting events and how much pride everyone always had. Of course 7th grade science camp was a blast! I especially remember all my teachers caring so much for me and my friends. It was definitely family I felt I was around, not staff.

What are some lessons you learned at VCS that served you well in life? The number one thing instilled in me while I was at Veazie was to care for one another. Veazie is an extremely close community and everyone is very much family there.
Veazie Community School holds first Coding Boot Camp

A couple weeks after the last day of school, VCS held its first ever Coding Boot Camp. It was a great experience in which participating students learned the basics of physical computing using Raspberry Pi and moved from block-based programming languages such as Scratch to text-based programming languages such as Python.

Students also learned how to program the micro:bit, a microcontroller that is packed with neat features like a temperature sensor, a light sensor, an accelerometer, a compass, bluetooth and a 5x5 LED array.

While it was fun to see the kids work through the challenges that were presented to them, the best part was to see their creativity unfold when they were given free time. Some of the projects that were created at Coding Camp included a Morse code translator that beeped with a buzzer and flashed different colors for dashes and dots; a fast-reaction game using buttons and an LED wired to the computer; a fast-reaction game using buttons and an LED wired to the computer; a random music generator that flashed differently colored LEDs to the rhythm of the music; a colorful spaceship race; and beautiful spiral art coded in Python.

The fun will continue at the VCS Code Club, which will meet at the school every Friday afternoon at 2:45 starting this fall.

Lisa Swift joins VCS staff as Business Manager; will handle accounting, budgets, payroll, HR, and special ed secretary

Lisa Swift has joined the staff of the Veazie Community School as Business Manager, effective July 3, 2018.

She will be responsible for the full range of business services at VCS, including accounting, budgets, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and human resources. She will also serve as assistant to the Special Education Director.

As a result, VCS will no longer have to contract for payroll and benefits, which have been provided by RSU 22 since 2015.

Previously, when Veazie was part of RSU 26 along with Orono and Glenburn, business services were provided by the RSU.

Lisa comes to Veazie from RSU 22 in Hampden, where she was responsible for payroll and benefits for both RSU 22 and Veazie for the past five years.

Before that, she worked at RSU 34 in Old Town, where she served as the Special Education Secretary for 10 years. She was originally hired by the Old Town School Department, where she took care of payroll and benefits for six years.

A native of Old Town, she graduated from Old Town High School and Eastern Maine Technical College. She now lives in Bradley with her husband Bill. They have two children, twins Natalie and Nicholas, who graduated from Old Town High School in June. Natalie will be attending the University of Maine to study Wildlife Ecology; Nicholas will study Sports Management at Husson University.

Lisa and her family enjoy outdoor activities, including camping, fishing, and four-wheeling.
The Veazie Fire Department wants to remind residents that smoke alarms are available, free of charge, to anyone that needs them for their home. The American Red Cross has partnered with fire departments across the state to install smoke alarms in homes. Red Cross mission is about getting these important devices into homes that do not have any working smoke alarms.

A working smoke alarm reduces the chance of dying in a home fire by 50% and is the only way to know if you have a fire in your home.

Smoke alarms save lives. Please call the fire department at 945-5627 if you need a smoke alarm. A firefighter with a Red Cross team member will come to you and install these in your home.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives

The Red Cross and Veazie Fire Department are installing FREE Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms reduce your chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50 percent.

Fire Safety teams will install FREE smoke alarms and help you create an emergency escape plan.

Need smoke alarms in your home? Veazie Fire Dept., American Red Cross will install them for free

The Veazie Fire Department wants to remind residents that smoke alarms are available, free of charge, to anyone that needs them for their home.
Veazie Community School’s Pre-K through Second Graders worked together daily to put on CIRCUS, CIRCUS on Thursday, June 7th. Students performed two shows for their classmates, families, and the public.

To get the kids in the Circus mindset Anah Shrine Temple circus clowns Jappo, Papi, and T.C. came to visit. Jappo is actually a Veazie resident! They showed us how they put on their clown faces and even taught us a few tricks! It was an amazing visit!

Darling’s Ice Cream Truck was on hand after our show to help us raise money for the Veazie Performing Arts Fund. It was great to see all our families and community members enjoying ice cream and taking the opportunity to connect after a great show!

Veazie Community School recently earned top honors at the State Invention Convention with 4 students qualifying for the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo (NICEE), hosted by the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan.

Two VCS students, Christian Zerfoss and Avery Messer, were able to make the trip and promote their inventions on the big stage!

Lily Chandler and Tristan Martin also earned top honors at the State competition and qualified for Nationals.

New Bikes for Books!!

The Mechanics Lodge of Orono has sponsored a reading incentive program at VCS for the past 8 years. K thru Grade 5 participated again this spring. The children are required to read at home! They bring in slips with book titles or chapters read to be put in a drawing for a new bike. Each classroom has the opportunity to win two bikes. There were shining, happy faces the day of the drawing! Thank you to the gentlemen of the lodge who put the bikes together and delivered them to school!!! We look forward to next spring!!
Veazie Fire Dept. to continue Fire Science ‘live in’ program, which has been a win-win for both Veazie and the students

The new school year is upon us and the Veazie Fire Department will continue to participate in the Fire Science live-in program. Students selected for the Live-in Program live at the fire station while attending school to gain their degree. This opportunity allows the student to learn and grow in a fire station atmosphere and gain valuable experience, thereby making them more desirable when looking for a full-time fire service career.

This fall, FF Dan Freitas, who started with us last year as a part-time on call firefighter while attending the University of Maine, transferred to Eastern Maine Community College to pursue a degree in Paramedicine. This opened the opportunity for him to become our new live-in student, replacing FF Drew Long, who graduated in May. Additionally, FF Jeff Burt is finishing his Fire Science Degree requirements and will be our second live-in student. Finally, FF Jacob Reese will be interning one day a week while he also is completing his Fire Science degree.

The live-in program has had a positive impact on the community. Not only does this provide extra staffing during the day, it provides staffing at night by having a crew member in the station. This coverage, which only happens when school is in session, has proven to be invaluable with quicker response, better patient care, and community involvement.

Live-in Firefighter Dan Freitas began his journey as a firefighter by attending the Penobscot County Fire Academy. For two weeks in August, Dan and all the other Fire Academy candidates learned such skills as search and rescue, ventilation, laddering, safety and survival and fire attack. Once complete, they will have the opportunity to take the written and practical exams to become a certified firefighter.

Your ad could go here!
for more information, call Mark Leonard at 947-2781
My School Bucks...

...is a simple online payment service that provides a quick and easy way to add money to your student’s meal account using a credit or debit card or an electronic check.

You can also view recent purchases, check balances, and set-up low balance alerts for FREE!

MySchoolBucks provides:
• Convenience - Available 24/7 on the web or with the Mobile App for your iPhone, Android or Windows phone!
• Efficiency - Make payments for all your students, and eliminate the need for your students to take money to school.
• Control - Set low balance alerts, view account activity, make recurring/automatic payments and more!
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• Security - MySchoolBucks adheres to the highest security standards, including PCI and CISP.

Enrollment is easy! Just do the following:
2. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account.
3. Add your students using their school name and student ID.
4. Make a payment to your students’ accounts with your credit/debit card or electronic check.
5. A program fee will apply. You will have the opportunity to review any fees and cancel if you choose, before you are charged.

If you have any questions, you may contact Betsy Brooks at the VCS Food Service Office, 947-6573, or email her at bhbooks@veaziecs.org. You can also contact MySchoolBucks directly by calling 1-855-892-5226, by emailing parentsupport@myschoolbucks.com, or by visiting the website at myschoolbucks.com and clicking on Help/FAQs.

2017-2018 Title IA, Title IIA, and Title IV Applications under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Now that the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) era is behind us, schools operating under the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) have worked hard over the past year to conduct a Comprehensive Needs Assessment and develop a School/District Consolidated Plan. Veazie Community School has followed all federal guidelines supporting this process. VCS stands to receive federal grant funds and will use Title IA funds to support salary/benefits related to our Reading Recovery Program; Title IIA funds will be used to support professional development costs including travel fees and contracted/purchased services; and Title IV funds will support further development of our STEM clubs, after school programs and the expansion of our summer library program. ESSA maintains the parental right to request professional qualifications of teachers at any time. Such requests shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools.

Substitute Teaching at VCS

Have you ever thought of being a substitute teacher at Veazie Community School? Here is a short list of some of the benefits:
• A second income that can certainly come in handy for the upcoming heating season.
• Flexibility: You get to pick the age level of the students, and which days you’d like to work!
• An excellent opportunity to gain experience in the teaching field—especially if you are considering teaching as a career.
• You will quickly become immersed in the school community and truly have an impact on the lives of children.
• There is no better job reference than one that involves working with children.
• The kids are amazing!!!

Applications are available at the Superintendent’s Office at Veazie Community School. Call 947-6573 for more information.

American Red Cross

The need is constant. The Griffith is instantaneous. Give blood.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Veazie Community School Veteran’s Day Blood Drive

Gymnasium @ 1040 School Street, Veazie, ME

Thursday, Nov. 8, 1-6 p.m.

Blood Drive Coordinator: Matthew Cyr, mcyr@veaziecs.org

947-6573 (call or email to schedule an appt.)

Veazie Community School 2018-19 Calendar

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Veazie had a productive Arbor Day celebration on May 25 with Veazie Community School. The kids worked hard and did a great job!

We planted 20 erosion control seedlings along Veazie Street and 5 much needed red maple shade trees in Riverside Park, as well as raking clear the walking path and picking up litter along the paths and shoreline.

Noah Stone won both a sugar pine cone from California and a Tree City USA hat (the cone for guessing “erosion control” for one of many benefits trees give us and the hat for the “kindness” prize).

Council Chair Chris Bagley read the Arbor Day Proclamation and was given a Tree City USA pin. Thank you to Conservation Commissioner Andy Brown for assisting with the project and to the Sewer District for use of the excavator for digging shade tree holes. Thank you also to the teachers, police and fire who contributed toward this celebration, as well as Lowes & Home Depot for their donations and support of our community projects.

Orono Land Trust - Veazie Lands Committee reimbursed the town $300 for the cost of 4 shade trees. This group effort will add to further enjoyment of our new Riverside Park, for all to enjoy!