Students in PreK through Grade 3 have been rehearsing for their Spring Musical, “I NEED A VACATION.”

The musical will be performed on Thursday, June 13, at 6 p.m. in the gym. Everyone is welcome!

Election Day set for Tuesday, June 11; polls open from 8 to 8, Town Meeting at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 11, will be a busy day in Veazie and the rest of Maine. It’s Election Day for Municipal officers, School Committee members, and Sewer District trustees.

Voting will take place in the Council Chambers. The polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Also on June 11, the Veazie Town Council will hold a regular council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Veazie Community School, followed by the Annual Town Meeting at 8 p.m., where citizens will vote on the Municipal, School, and Capital Budget for 2019-20.

Four candidates are running for two vacancies on the Town Council, both with 3-year terms. The candidates are: Paul Messer, who is running for reelection to his second term on the Council; Karen Walker, who previously served one term on the Council; and Brian Lunt and Phil Bruins, who are seeking their first term. School committee candidates are Paul Dupuis, who is running for reelection for a 3-year term; and Wilhelm “Alex” Friess, who is running to continue as a school committee member for two more years.

Norman “Buddy” Webb is running for a three-year term as a Sewer District Trustee.

On Tuesday, June 18, voters will return to the polls to participate in a referendum vote to approve or reject the school budget that was approved at the Annual Town Meeting. The voters will also decide whether they want to continue holding the budget referendum vote.

Deputy Clerk Julie Strout honored by Maine Town & City Clerks Association

Julie Strout, who has served as Veazie Deputy Town Clerk for the last 6½ years, was honored by the Maine Town & City Clerks Association in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Municipal Clerks Week, May 5-11, 2019.

The association featured a clerk, deputy clerk, or assistant clerk from each of Maine’s 16 counties during a week-long email series to highlight Maine’s clerks and the excellent work they do.

Julie was named Penobscot County’s “Clerk of the Day” for May 7th, Day 2.

Julie said her favorite part of the job is being able to help Veazie residents with all of their needs—vital records, truck and auto registrations, boat, ATV, and snowmobile registrations, absentee ballots, and similar requests.

She’s currently getting everything ready for the town election and the annual Town Meeting in June.

Her advice for other clerks? “Always keep a smile on your face. It’s all about customer service and being able to learn something new every day!”
Paul Messer
I have been a Veazie resident since 2003 where I live with Erica Messer and my two daughters, Olivia and Avery. My wife and I are celebrating our 18th wedding anniversary this year. I am a graduate of John Bapst MHS and I earned my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Maine. I am celebrating my 24th anniversary working at Hannaford, where I am the Store Manager of the Airport Mall location. I believe in being involved and giving back to my community, and most recently I have supported the Veazie Community School PTO, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the American Folk Festival, and served my first term as a Veazie Town Councilor.

In my first term as Town Councilor I stood for creating a strong, full service town where people seek to live. I will continue to expand on the implementation of that long term vision for the Town of Veazie as a full service community with a police department, fire department, and neighborhood school. I would like to capitalize on our proximity to the larger Bangor and Orono towns and find opportunities to grow our tax base through responsible residential and business growth. The Town of Veazie has a long history of independence and local control, and as a Town Councilor I will carry on that tradition.

Karen Walker
I grew up in the Town of Veazie and have spent most of my life here raising two children. My daughter works with special needs children and my son is a wounded warrior.

I worked for over 25 years as a merchandising specialist for Hallmark, Hersey, Colgate, Kellogg and others. Before my retirement, I was the front end manager at Frank’s Bakery. I am a member of many different organizations and committees as well as a lifelong member of the American Legion Aux, and served as President in the past. I was also past matron of the Order of the Eastern Star, served on the Town’s Bicentennial Committee, Brownie, Girl Scout and Cub Scout leader as well as a Troop Greeter at Bangor International Airport.

Since my retirement 6 years ago, I have been able to give more of my time to the many organizations I am a part of. I currently serve as Vice President of the Senior and Friends of Veazie Group and I am on the Board of Directors for Gateway Seniors Without Walls as well as a member of the Thriving in Place Committee. I served one term on the Town Council and I am currently on the Cemetery Committee, Planning Board and Conservation Committee.

I wrote a history of the Town of Veazie in the mid 1970’s and am currently working on a photo history of the Town over the last 100 years. In my free time, I enjoy reading, cooking, sewing and gardening.

Brian Lunt
My name is Brian Lunt of 1110 Chase Road. I have lived and worked in Veazie since 1972. I was born in Bar Harbor in 1948. For the first 5 years I lived on an island off the coast of MDI. There I learned a strong work ethic, honesty and to always do what is right, not always what is easy. I went to elementary school in Tremont and high school at Perry in Southwest Harbor, both on MDI. I lettered in baseball and basketball at both.

I went to college at UM and lettered in baseball, graduated with a BA in education with a double major in science and history. I started teaching at the John R. Graham Elementary School in 1972 and started an open classroom concept for grades 4-6. This program was written about by the likes of Prof. Madeline Hunter of the University of California, the education guru of the time. We were also visited by many other education experts to study the program we created. In the late 1970’s I was a Tinderbox tobaccoist and then a GNC clerk at the Bangor Mall. I was also a certified official in baseball, softball and basketball. In 1981 I joined the Veazie Police department. I worked my way from patrolman to range officer, then sergeant and finally chief before I retired to start a contract security and private investigation company. Later I was a member of the Planning Board. At that time we were re-writing their ordinances. I was able to use my educational and police writing experiences to finalize the form and content of the final document. I was also briefly on the board in 2017 and in one reading of their new policy manual, found many errors of form and grammar that was being forwarded to the state for acceptance.

In 1989, I went to work at The Lemforder Corp. in Brewer, which produced automotive parts, for about 3½ years. I was the Statisti cal Process Control Coordinator for all production. In this position I helped them earn the Quality 1 Awards needed to gain top contracts with several companies, both domestic and foreign. I then worked for the Maine Department of Labor for about 2 years. I then took the position of teaching principal in Eagle Lake for 2 years. After that I was the principal at the Southside School in Houlton for 2 years after that. I then took over the Day Treatment program in the Waldoboro School’s Special Ed Department. After one year there I was hired in Howland to start a Day Treatment Program there. After 15 years in that position I retired from teaching in 2015.

I feel a great affinity for this town and its people. Now that I am retired, I would like to represent the people so they can continue to enjoy the benefits of living in this historic community.

Phil Bruins
My name is Phil Bruins, and I moved to Veazie in March of last year from a small town in Illinois. I am currently employed at Northern Light Health in Brewer as a Decision Support Analyst, and I have other prior experience in healthcare and retail. I have a bachelors degree in international studies focusing in microeconomics from the University of Illinois, and a masters in business administration from Cleveland State University. I am the oldest of five siblings with two younger brothers and two younger sisters. My hobbies include brewing beer, hiking, and reading.

I am running for Town Council to get involved in my community and to meet new people in the area.

Brian Lunt
(Continued from preceding columns)
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The Viking is published by the Town of Veazie and Veazie Community School for the citizens of Veazie.
Mark Leonard, Town Manager
Matthew Cyr, Superintendent and Principal
David C. Wollstadt, Editor (www.SchoolNewsletters.net)
Town of Veazie, 1084 Main St., Veazie, ME 04401 • (207) 947-2781
Veazie Community School, 1040 School St., Veazie, ME 04401 • (207) 947-6573

Veazie building new website with easier navigation, improved search options, greater compatibility

The Town of Veazie is in the process of building a new website. It is anticipated the new site will be live by the end of June, if not sooner. Staff has been working diligently with the web design team, Civic Plus, in order to bring you the latest innovation and style. The new site will boast easier navigation, improved search options, more vibrant images, and compatibility through both desktop and handheld devices. It will also be capable of sending notices via text messaging as well as email. Residents will have the option to subscribe to all alerts or just certain ones (e.g. Council agenda, minutes, closing, etc.). The home page of the website will contain all the information residents need to stay informed on Town events. The calendar of events will be visibly larger than the one on our current site. Once the website is live, we will create a Twitter account for the Town. The homepage of the website will show live feeds of the new Twitter account as well as our current Facebook page. Therefore, individuals who do not have social media accounts will have access to these feeds. In an effort to promote local businesses, a points of interest map will be included on the homepage showing the locations of businesses located in Veazie. Additionally, there will be a section devoted to these local businesses where you will find a description of the services offered as well as their contact information. We look forward to sharing more great content with you moving forward. Please keep an eye out for the new site.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CANDIDATES
JUNE 11, 2019
TWO CANDIDATES
ONE VACANCY FOR 3-YEAR TERM
ONE VACANCY FOR 2-YEAR TERM

3-YEAR TERM

Paul Dupuis
Paul Dupuis is running for a second term on the Veazie School Committee. He’s spent 30 years in radio and is currently the morning announcer and general sales manager at Star 97.7 in Ellsworth. He’s also a board member of the Maine Association of Broadcasters, a volunteer with SCORE, and on the advisory committee at Beal College. He enjoys doing home projects and camping with his family. He’s lived in Veazie for about 15 years with his wife Sherry and two boys. Cody is a freshman at Orono High School and Dylan is a 6th grader at VCS.

Wilhelm “Alex” Friess
I would like to ask for your vote to continue on the Veazie Community School Committee for two more years. I am an engineering professor at the University of Maine and have a background in STEM and engineering education. Ever since relocating to Veazie I have been excited to contribute to our fantastic school. I am currently filling a vacancy on the School Committee, and now ask for your vote to continue supporting our school in this role. I have 2 children in the school (3rd and 6th grade), and greatly value the opportunities and support they are receiving at VCS and in our community. Thank you very much for your support.

2-YEAR TERM

VEAZIE RECIPIENT OF GOOD TURN—On April 16, the Town of Veazie was the recipient of a Good Turn by Scouts Ethan, Abigail, and Declan Wood of Belgrade, ME, who cleaned up bags of trash along Main Street near the athletic fields. These Scouts are the grandchildren of Clair and Marian Wood of Veazie.

30 DAY LIEN NOTICES
Just a reminder, 2018 outstanding taxes are approaching the lien process. To avoid additional certified mailing costs and demand fees of the 30 day lien notice, outstanding 2018 taxes should be paid in full no later than June 14th, 2019.

Veazie will be having its TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE June 14, 15, and 16. This Yard sale will be permit-free for Veazie residents. Yard sales will be at residences throughout Town.

30 DAY LIEN NOTICES
Just a reminder, 2018 outstanding taxes are approaching the lien process. To avoid additional certified mailing costs and demand fees of the 30 day lien notice, outstanding 2018 taxes should be paid in full no later than June 14th, 2019.
Town Manager’s message:

Construction season underway; Bangor Natural Gas installing gas lines in Town; new website coming

Happy May! It’s hard to believe that now we are in May. The season is even harder for me to believe it has been over 5 years now since I was hired as Manager of the Town of Veazie, and I continue to be grateful to be the Manager of this wonderful community.

As you may have noticed, construction season is in full swing. We started with the rebuilding of Wedgewood Drive in early April and the project is moving along nicely. The FY2019/2020 capital paving plan has been approved by the Town Council. An article with more information can be found in this issue of the Viking.

The Ballymote Subdivision is coming along nicely and Bangor Natural Gas has begun work on installing natural gas throughout the Town. The gas line installation is a 2-year project with one section being completed this year and the other next year. I am aware of several homeowners who are taking advantage of this new offering. Anyone interested in adding natural gas to their home should contact Bangor Natural Gas at 941-9595.

Due to the numerous projects and growth occurring around the community, Code Enforcement Officer John Larson is now in the Office on Monday and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. On days he is not in the office, he tries to make himself available to answer Code Enforcement questions. He can be reached via email at cozzicco@veazie.net. If you have a question, you will also come to the Office on Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., but is always available to answer questions that homeowners may have about their property assessment. He can be reached via email at jblranch@veazie.net.

The FY2019-2020 Budget has been completed, and much like previous years, the Town was diligent in being fiscally responsible but still maintain and, in some instances, increase the level of service the Town provides. Again, this year we started the budget process early and worked in coordination with the School Department in order to have a completed budget to present to the Budget Committee. As of this writing, the Town has only seen a minimal increase in Municipal Revenue Sharing. The final amount we will receive for Revenue Sharing has yet to be determined by the State Legislature.

A recent report showed the Town of Veazie has lost over $750,000.00 in revenue sharing funds because the law has not been followed. I am hopeful the funding will be restored to the State and we can start capturing more money from the State of Maine. We were fortunate to have the positions filled on the Budget Committee this year. I’d like to thank each of the members for their dedication to the budget process. Working together as a team, and under the guidance of the Council, we are projecting an increase in the mil rate, but ultimately the final mil rate will not be known until we commit taxes.

Principal Matthew Cyr added the responsibility of being the Veazie Community Schools Superintendent to his duties. Even with these added responsibilities, he and I continue to work on numerous projects that benefit both the School and the Town as a whole. We are currently in the early stages of developing a committee to research increasing the size of the current playground to allow for a community playground instead of just for the School. Look for more information on this in the future.

I would like to thank the great employees I have working with me. From the Office Staff to the Firefighters to the Police Officers, the Community is very fortunate to have such dedicated and professional employees. They truly help make this community a great place.

Additionally, I would also like to thank the members of the many committees which help make the Town successful. They too are a wonderful group helping in moving the Town forward. I remind you that some of the committees have openings, so if you’re interested I would ask you to complete a Citizen’s Involvement Application, which can be found on our website or at the Town Office.

In closing, I would like to request each of you to view the Town’s new website, which will be online by June 11th. It will be found at the same address, www.veazie.net. Because of staff’s diligent work, I know it will be more user-friendly and will contain a lot more useful information. One of the new functions will be the ability to sign up to receive important alerts via text message. This will be in addition to the Town’s email list. We will also be able to communicate via the Town’s Facebook page, and will be adding other Social Media outlets upon the completion of the new website. We know how important communication is with the community, and this will give us more options.

As always, if you have any concerns, comments, or suggestions, don’t hesitate to contact me at 947-2781 or via email at mlemond@veazie.net. Again, thank you for allowing me to manage this wonderful community. I hope you all have a wonderful summer!

Budget message:

Municipal, School budgets approved unanimously by Council, Budget Committee

On April 22, 2019, the Council met for a final review of the proposed FY19/20 budget. The purpose of this meeting was to approve the numbers for the public hearing process regarding the proposed budget. The public hearing was scheduled for May 4, 2019, the Council Chambers. Prior to the meeting, participants were provided with a copy of the final proposed budgets for both the Municipal and School Departments, which were previously approved by the Budget Committee. Included in the packet were summary sheets for both the proposed Municipal and School Budgets. The proposed Municipal Budget shows an increase of $402,782.00, and the School Budget shows an increase of 5.5% or $55,908.58 from monies requested in FY18/19. All Departments have met with the Budget Committee and upon completion of these meetings, the following budgets were approved unanimously by both the Council and the Budget Committee. In closing, with the budget and the projected revenues as presented, the Assessor Birch and I project the mil rate will be 0.01870. This projection is based on the State providing 2.50% of Municipal Revenue Sharing. If the Municipal Revenue Sharing is provided at 3% like the law stipulates, the projected mil rate will be 0.01845. This will not be determined until the Governor approves the State’s budget.

In either scenario, I feel confident all departments have prepared budgets with the directives provided early on in the process.

In closing, the Town remains in good fiscal shape. I believe we are only able to achieve this by the hard work and dedication that has gone into crafting this and prior year budgets.

Proposed Municipal Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Increase(Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
<td>381,770.00</td>
<td>50,430.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>391,690.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>292,840.00</td>
<td>47,190.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Investment</td>
<td>35,300.00</td>
<td>1,800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>231,000.00</td>
<td>12,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>69,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed Cost</td>
<td>565,100.00</td>
<td>14,020.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1,576,500.00</td>
<td>56,051.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3,158,442.00</td>
<td>184,101.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Expenses</td>
<td>$6,643,649.00</td>
<td>$402,782.00</td>
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Proposed School Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Instruction</td>
<td>2,176,752.34</td>
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<td>Special Ed Administration</td>
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<td>91,290.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTE Instruction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Instruction</td>
<td>43,104.11</td>
<td>5,067.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student and Staff Support</td>
<td>208,718.99</td>
<td>9,992.51</td>
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<td>Capital</td>
<td>130,616.85</td>
<td>931.99</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Administration</td>
<td>131,916.69</td>
<td>14,667.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>118,250.00</td>
<td>(13,750.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities Management</td>
<td>989,200.00</td>
<td>21,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (School lunch)</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Expenses</td>
<td>4,267,125.37</td>
<td>155,908.58</td>
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Proposed Municipal Revenue:

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<th>Increase(Decrease)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Revenue</td>
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<td>134,588.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue</td>
<td>555,980.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>RE Tax Commitment*</td>
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<tr>
<td>PP Tax Commitment*</td>
<td>7,192.00</td>
<td>86,193.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homestead Reimbursement*</td>
<td>108,606.00</td>
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<td>HRET*</td>
<td>4,970.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Revenues</td>
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<td>$402,782.00</td>
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Proposed School Revenue:

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<td>State Allocation</td>
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<td>State Debt Service</td>
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<td>Prior Year Balance</td>
<td>400,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Allocation</td>
<td>1,922,616.00</td>
<td>50,002.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local wis State Participation</td>
<td>1,535,825.99</td>
<td>234,102.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Revenues</td>
<td>$4,267,125.37</td>
<td>155,908.58</td>
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</table>
VCS, Cemetery Committee partner for Memorial Day

VCS Middle School students partnered with the Veazie Cemetery Committee and planted flowers, cleaned gravestones, and posted flags in preparation for Memorial Day Weekend.

News from the Veazie Congregational Church

By Mary H. Bagley, Church Clerk

Song Sunday
The fifth Sunday of any month is Song Sunday at the Veazie Church. The worship service revolves around music in all forms. You might hear David and Dean on their banjos, some lovely anthems from our choir, a children’s song or two, or a beautifully played piano piece. On June 30th, there will be a special Song Sunday with special guests—Kence and Kate—who are the son and daughter of our organist, Kaiye Holt. We expect some beautiful music from this family trio. Please join us!

Plant and Yard Sale
The church’s last fundraiser until the fall is our June 1st Plant and Yard Sale. Our knowledgeable gardeners will have several perennials for sale as well as great yard sale items, books, bake sale goodies and handmade knits etc. These fundraisers are so important to our church as it takes a lot to keep these doors open and make the church a part of the community.

Sunday Morning Services
If you are looking for a church home or just want to join us for a worship service or two during troubled times, services are held every Sunday morning at 10 a.m.

The Veazie Congregational Church is a small congregation, housed in an historic 174 year-old meeting-house. Congregational Churches in America began with the Pilgrims in 1620, and we will celebrate our 400th anniversary next year. We invite you to share in that celebration. For more information about the Veazie church, please contact the Church Clerk vzchurchclerk@gmail.com.

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947-4271
The Town Council has approved paving and road reconstruction projects totaling about $300,000 for the 2019 construction season.

The projects include a complete rebuild of Wedgewood Drive and paving of Buck Hill Loop, Silver Ridge, Randolph Drive, and Birchwood Drive.

Crews from Lou Silver Construction have completed the reconstruction of Wedgewood Drive. Work began in April; paving will be scheduled after the roadway is allowed to settle.

The four paving projects will be done over the next few months.

Town Manager Mark Leonard told the Council that he recommended an aggressive paving list as current paving prices continue to remain low.

“We should continue to take advantage of the pricing and tackle the above recommended roads for FY 2019/2020,” he said. “This will not resolve all of our paving issues, but each year we continue to get closer to returning the roads to a good condition.”

In addition to the $200,000 that the Council will be requesting at the Town Meeting, he recommended transferring $100,000 from the undesignated account into the Highway Capital account.

“We currently have $758,000 in the undesignated account, which doesn’t include any potential carryforward that may be added from FY 18/19,” the Town Manager said. “This is in addition to the $57,000 we currently have in the highway project account, for a total of $815,000. With the requested transfer I feel comfortable we will have contingency monies available for unforeseen highway projects which may occur during FY 2019/2020.”

Gardeners!

Six newly constructed raised beds and a water supply are available for use by Town of Veazie residents. The garden is located in a sunny spot off Main Street and adjacent to the school soccer fields and Town tennis courts. The soils were tested by the University of Maine extension, and they are ready to be used. The raised beds are first-come first-serve until they are gone! All that is needed is to sign up in the Veazie Town Office.

Gardeners!

Six newly constructed raised beds and a water supply are available for use by Town of Veazie residents. The garden is located in a sunny spot off Main Street and adjacent to the school soccer fields and Town tennis courts. The soils were tested by the University of Maine extension, and they are ready to be used. The raised beds are first-come first-serve until they are gone! All that is needed is to sign up in the Veazie Town Office.
An important attribute of a strong community school is the coordination of purposeful partnerships supporting the overall mission of the school, all while serving the greater good of the community. Veazie Community School lives by its name. Whether it be municipal partnerships, FLEX Friday volunteerism, or diverse facility use agreements, VCS is much more than a school building; and, serves our community in many, many ways.

VCS and the Bangor YMCA have an agreement that has enabled Y-works—a State approved after school child care program housed within the school. YMCA staff use our cafeteria as a ‘home base’ to do small projects, help kids with homework, and have a snack. This incredible partnership greatly helps families by eliminating transportation challenges immediately after school lets out. Students arrive at school in the morning, and through Y-Works, can remain as late as 6 p.m. Please contact the Bangor YMCA if you are interested in enrolling your student. Through our FLEX Friday program, VCS has partnered with numerous parent volunteers, businesses and non-profits including the Bangor Humane Society, Eastern Maine School of Self Defense, Mary Drew School of Dance, Bangor Area Wrestling, Veazie Police, Fire Department, and SeaCoast United Soccer Club (just to name a few). All of these partnerships have exposed our students to safe, healthy, and life-long programs/skills.

Speaking from a facility standpoint, VCS runs a year-round schedule. Being one of the only schools in our athletic league with a beautiful gym and locker room setup, we annually host all Mid-Maine League basketball tournaments. Recent growth of privatized youth basketball programs needing gym space has created mutual partnerships between VCS and nearly half a dozen club teams. During the current school year, we will have rented our gym (basketball court) for 112 evening practices, and 14 weekend tournaments. Rentals are required to have liability insurance, and are assessed a nominal fee to cover incidental costs. They love our facility and wanting to rent our space—so do we—supporting healthy living, and receive a little revenue to offset the cost of annual gym resurfacing (which happens to be the only reason we don’t rent our gym in the summertime). And that’s just our gym. In the past, our athletic fields have been used by Veazie/Orono Little League, SeaCoast Soccer, and Bangor Area Lacrosse. Our excellent field drainage and turf conditions has led Orono and Dedham schools to host some of their ‘home’ baseball/softball games in Vezzie. In addition, we are currently working out details for a new partnership with the University of Maine Ultimate Team (formerly known as Ultimate Frisbees), and as soon as next fall, they will be using our gym for their new FLEX Friday program and using our fields for matches on evenings and weekends.

VCS collaborates with many non-profits to provide a beautiful host site for events such as American Red Cross Blood Drives, the Veazie Garden Club meetings, the Greystone Planning Group, Regional Robotics Qualifier, and the Bangor Area Zumba Instructors and Participants annual fundraiser for their Relay for Life Team. VCS also hosts numerous municipal functions such as the annual Town Meeting, Community Breakfasts, the Veazie 5K, and all municipal gatherings that require a larger venue.

And, of course, we host PTO events, such as the annual craft fair. As you can see, VCS is much more than four walls and a chalkboard. Thanks to your support, our PreK-8 students have an amazing facility that, in most eyes, is second to none. We take great pride in our school and our ability to foster community relations through shared projects.

A resolution signed by then School Committee Chair, Peggy Lewis; Town Council Chair, Rod Hathaway; and School Building Committee Chair, Mary Bagley, stated the following: “Whereas the town of Veazie has been waiting for 30 years for a multi-use school facility; and, Whereas the citizens of Veazie have shown strong support for this building project; and, Whereas a school facility is the focal point for Maine communities; and, Whereas the school community will continue to provide excellence in education. Let it be known in the history of the town of Veazie that on June 18, 1997, ground was broken for our new... Veazie Elementary School.”

The school opened one year later (fall, 1998) under the name Veazie Community School....20 years ago today. While a lot has changed in our world over the past 20 years, VCS is still the ‘focal point’ for our community, and in many cases, the communities around us.

Superintendent’s message: VCS—a true Community School

Matt Cyr

The FY20 school budget supports a short- and long-term capital plan geared towards maintaining and improving our beautiful learning facility. The budget also presents maintenance programming needs—a common thread in schools throughout Maine.

The new Governor’s proposed budget did provide some relief in the form of increased State revenue, but the dollar amount was assessed a nominal fee to cover costs are actually less next year as a favorable 5-year transportation savings. And, finally, $20,000 was added to our long-term savings project for a roof replacement—a recent inspection indicated that we should plan to replace the school roof in 10 to 15 years. We are also beginning a series of smaller capital projects, including the repair of a wall showing early stages of water damage/penetration and construction of a much needed storage garage.

I want to thank the School Committee, Budget Committee, Town Council and Manager Mark Leonard for their support and collaboration throughout the budget development process. I also want to thank the entire community—because of you, the Veazie Community School is an amazing place for children to grow and learn.

Planning Committee sought for Children’s Playground at VCS

Veazie Superintendent Matthew Cyr and Veazie Town Manager Mark Leonard are organizing a planning committee examining costs and benefits associated with repairing, replacing and/or renovating the current playground at Veazie Community School.

In addition to serving the students of VCS, the school playground and its large play area is a safe and healthy attraction for many children and families in our region. With more than 20 years of use, the playground is showing signs of wear and tear, and it is time to begin planning for the future.

Please contact Mr. Cyr or Mr. Leonard if you would like to serve on this committee:

Mr. Cyr: mcyr@veazies.org, or call 947-6573.
Mr. Leonard: mleondard@veazie.net, or call 947-2871.

FY20 school budget supports short- and long-term capital plans

The FY20 school budget supports a short- and long-term capital plan geared towards maintaining and improving our beautiful learning facility. The budget also reflects a spike in special education programming needs—a common thread in schools throughout Maine.

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Veazie Veterinary Clinic embarks on $1.5 million expansion project to provide space for additional patients, services for next 10 years

The Veazie Veterinary Clinic has begun a $1.5 million expansion project that owner David Cloutier says will allow the clinic to care for additional patients and provide additional services over the next 10 years. “We’ll be able to provide whatever the community needs,” says Dr. Cloutier. “We’ll be able to keep growing for a long time.”

When the project is completed, the clinic will have a number of new and improved spaces, including:

- Six new exam rooms, bringing the total to 10. Two existing exam rooms will be upgraded.
- Ultrasound will have its own room.
- A laparoscopic surgery suite will be added, allowing many surgical procedures to be performed using a thin, tubular device called a laparoscope, which is inserted through a keyhole incision.
- Chemotherapy will have its own room.
- Dentistry will have a two-station dental unit, instead of just one station.

The current project began with the purchase of an adjacent house on Highview Terrace owned by Ann and Mike Kenney. The house and garage are being removed, and the lot will be excavated to match the elevation of the clinic’s main building and used for parking.

The former Always Flowers building, which houses the clinic’s rehabilitation center and rooms for chemotherapy, reproduction, and ultrasound, is being raised four feet to match the elevation of the main building.

When both buildings are on the same level, two additions will be constructed—a 12’x50’ addition on the back side of the main clinic and a 46’x40’ addition connecting the main clinic with the rehab center. Both additions will be one-story.

At the ceremony, a member-authored poem called Roger’s Salmon, written specifically for the salmon-shaped weather vane and cupola, was publicly shared. In addition, the poem gave special recognition to all deceased members of the Veazie Salmon Club.

The Silver Salmon points to the wind Against clearing or stormy sky And gazes toward heaven with vigilance Spinning yet holding it’s lie

Bright link to the past, helps memories last Of members who’ve bid us good-bye The Salmon swings to point to them all With caring and watchful eye

It points to where they are fishing today To left behind rods, reels, and flies It points to where they lived and were loved To where they were born and died

The Silver Salmon representing them all Brings their message from way up high Life’s for the living, live the most of each day Brings their heart’s with love high

Each time you walk up, or drive down the hill Roger’s Salmon will help you recall Of the good times and runs, we’ve all enjoyed Look up and remember us all

On opening day, when you make your first cast Think of us, the good times and fun Feel our presence good friends, on the river today Know our best fishin’s still yet to come

Dedicated in fond memory of deceased members of the Veazie Salmon Club
Feb 8, 1997 Tom Hartranft Greenville, South Carolina

After decade of silence, Veazie Salmon Club is back in operation

Saturday, May 11, was a monumental day for the Veazie Salmon Club. The Opening Season Angler’s Breakfast & BBQ began very early! After almost a decade of silence, the Veazie Salmon Club roared back in its 41st year of operation.

Club members, Veazie residents, and many others from surrounding communities came to reunite. So many even came to see the inside of the Club for their first time. Attendees were treated to some great home-cooked food plus an assortment of great raffle prizes, a 50/50 drawing, plus ending the day with a heartfelt cupola dedication.

At the ceremony, a member-authored poem called Roger’s Salmon, written specifically for the salmon-shaped weather vane and cupola, was publicly shared. In addition, the poem gave special recognition to all deceased members of the Veazie Salmon Club.

The clubhouse and deck overlooking the river was a buzz of vibrant activity until late into the afternoon. Many attendees spent time enjoying the rich history of fishing photos and memorabilia throughout the Club, sharing their own stories or those of past relatives and friends who participated at the Veazie Salmon Club.

Not only were there plenty of fishing tales, but there were as many stories about epic cribbage tournaments and other social events that took place. It was truly amazing to hear how the Veazie Salmon Club has touched so many people in different ways.

After well over 125 fishermen, sportsmen, local merchants, and citizens attended Saturday, it was very evident that The Veazie Salmon Club holds a special place in a lot of hearts.

With a growing membership and plans for expanding activities, the Veazie Salmon Club is positioning for the future. Many thanks go out to all who attended and especially to the dedicated Club Members who helped make this event a reality. Maine’s rich fishing heritage is well captured and will continue to spawn at the Veazie Salmon Club. The Club also serves as public access to the river for fishermen and others looking to enjoy the Penobscot River.
next door to the family camp. They have two sons, Mark and Matthew, who attended Orono schools. Mark is an attorney; he and his wife Emilie live in Boston; Matthew is in medical school at the University of New England in Biddeford.

Dr. Cloutier is one of four veterinarians at Veazie Vet. The others are Dr. Julie Keene, Dr. Michael McCaw, and Dr. Laura Tardiff. The clinic is one of the largest employers in Veazie with more than 30 employees, including about 14 licensed veterinary technicians (the veterinary equivalent of a nurse). Dr. Cloutier says he’s a big advocate of providing a good workplace, so Veazie Vet offers 100% paid health care and four weeks off even during an employee’s first year. “Employees need time to recharge,” he says.

He added that Veazie Vet is the only veterinary hospital to receive Worldblu certification as a freedom-centered work place utilizing democratic work practices. About five years ago, Dr. Cloutier said the clinic installed a separate entrance for cats only. “One of our vets, Dr. McCaw, is very focused on cats,” Dr. Cloutier says. “Dr. McCaw advocates for quiet spaces for cats. In the new building, we’ll have three separate areas, including one cats-only area, so cats will have their own waiting area, their own exam rooms, their own treatment area, and their own cat ward, all in one self-contained section of the building.”

In addition to the cats-only area, the building will have a mixed-population area, with dogs and cats together, and a separate wellness and rehab area.

Dr. Cloutier says he’s very pleased that the clinic is located in Veazie. “As a community, I feel that the police and fire departments look out for us and our building,” he says. “There was a time when we had some break-ins—people trying to steal drugs—and the police had a presence around our building on a regular basis.” He added that on those occasions when the clinic proposed additions to the building, the code enforcement officer, Planning Board, and Town Council have been supportive and great to work with.

“In turn, we try to be a good supporter of schools and kids and whatever the town needs as well,” Dr. Cloutier says. “It’s been a great community.”
The VCS Civil Rights Team—Top row (l. to r.): Sarah Hartford, Lily Chandler, Rebekah Jaksa, Joshua LaGrange, Ben Francis, Mikayla Nguyen, and Halie Buxton. Bottom row: Arianna Baron, Ava Taylor, Rachel Wheeliten, Avery Messer, Madision Brown, and Emily Adams.

VCS Civil Rights Team presents at state Civil Rights conference

The VCS Civil rights team was invited to present at the State-wide Civil Rights Team Conference on May 17, 2019. This is the first time VCS has presented at the Statewide Conference. The team talked about the VCS Welcoming Board and Community Outreach Project.

At the beginning of the year, the Civil Rights Team sent home flyers, posted on Facebook, and posted on the blog introducing ourselves and asking families to send in family pictures. These pictures are featured on a bulletin board that states all families are welcome at VCS.

We included a special message welcoming families of different races, ethnicities and nationalities, families with diverse abilities, families who are LGBT, families of all family structures, families who are English language learners, families of all religions, and families from all socio-economic backgrounds. The CRTP invited our team to present because they believed our message of inclusion is important and should be shared with other teams throughout the state.

First graders demonstrated their builds.

First graders worked on their Engineer-ing Design Standard this March by creating leprechaun traps. Students read books on trap building, brainstormed ideas with classmates, sketched out ideas before actually making their own trap. Traps were made, tested and remade in hopes of success.

One of the favorite parts of this activity was when the builds were shared with Pre-K through Fifth Grade students. You could tell how much pride and skill went into each leprechaun trap. Although no actual leprechauns were caught, there were many smiles and lots of ideas already in process to build even better traps next year!

5 from VCS represent school at District V Honors Festival

Five VCS students were selected to represent our school at the District V Honors Festival at Mattanawcook Academy in Lincoln on April 26 and 27. Maine Music District V represents about 25 school districts in this region of the state from Millinocket in the northern part of the district to Searsport in the southern part of the district. Students are selected to participate in the festival based on several factors including the range of notes they can sing/play, note reading ability, and what instrument they play.

Sixth grader Halle Buxton participated in a chorus of about 100 fifth and sixth graders, directed by UMaine professor Dr. Webb Parker. Fifth graders Isabelle Ireland (flute) and Brylee McCollet (trumpet) participated in a band of about 100 fifth and sixth graders, directed by Dean Neal of Maine Central Institute. Eighth graders Emily Adams (clarinet) and Martin Skacel (alto saxophone) participated in a band of about 100 seventh and eighth graders, directed by Sarah Dow of Leavitt Area High School.

Each student received the music selections for their group in February and had to learn the music before the festival in order to be prepared.

Several students stayed after school with Mr. Arella a couple of days a week to work on the music. The chorus festival was on the Friday, while the band festival was on the Saturday. Both days involved about four hours of rehearsal and one concert at the end of the day. It was very impressive to hear the progress that these students made in just one day.

A festival like this one is a great opportunity for students to play in large ensembles. It is also nice for music teachers, many of whom are the only music teachers in their schools, to get together with colleagues. Our five student participants were great representatives of Veazie, and we are all very proud of them.
Cooking and crafts with books a blast

Cooking and crafts with books has been a blast during our recent FLEX Friday session! We have a wide range of ages and it is great to see the older students helping with our younger students. We have created beautiful pictures after reading many Eric Carle books.

Today we listened to If I Were a Banana and then made some delicious banana bread!

—Jill Chandler, Kindergarten Teacher
—Holly Humphrey Grades 3/4 Teacher
Sixth grade students kicked off our Earth and Space Unit with a trip to the Emera Astronomy Center and the Challenger Learning Center! Students explored space at the Emera Astronomy Center and then took a mission to space at the Challenger Learning Center to find a comet! Students had to work together and communicate to complete the mission and accomplish their goals!

Ladybug

On the puddle
She stays
Watching her strawberry red reflection
She is still as a word in a book
Quiet as the sun
The waiting is over
The wish has come
She has to go
Taking her journey through the day
Over the mountains
Her wings with black sprinkles shining in the sun
When her journey is complete
She will say
goodnight
To the sunshine

—Avery Messer, Grade 7
VCS students propose solutions to everyday problems at annual Invention Convention; 3 from VCS place 1st, 2nd, 3rd at state event

By Nicole Spinney, VCS Math/Science Teacher

The VCS Annual Invention Convention was held on March 8th! Students spent several weeks researching and finding solutions to many everyday problems. They all worked hard developing their inventions to solve some of those problems and to market them.

A big thank you to this year’s judges, James Dunning, Dr. Julie Keene, and Valli Vel.

Our top participants—Will Francis, Camden Brown, Olivia Bragdon, and Duncan Carlisle—moved on to the State Invention Convention.

VCS students did very well at the Maine State Invention Convention! Olivia Bragdon earned 1st place honors in her category, while Duncan Carlisle placed 2nd and Camden Brown placed 3rd.
By Emily Adams

On May 6th, you may have seen a group of kids walking down the side of your roads with bright orange vests and three giant trash bags. This group of kids was the Veazie Community School 8th grade class. An organization called the Bangor Area Stormwater Group asked the class to participate in walking around Veazie to pick up any trash or recyclables they found along the way. This included cigarette butts, cans, bits of plastic, and gum wrappers. They ended up filling three bags with trash, and one bag with recyclables. This was very important work because much of the trash gets washed into the stormwater drains, and eventually makes its way to the Penobscot River and the Atlantic Ocean, contaminating it. We hope in the future the citizens of Veazie will use the proper methods for disposal of trash and recyclables, instead of throwing it out their car windows and into the streets.

We’d like to thank the BASWG for letting us help keep our beloved rivers and oceans clear and clean.

Spring clean-up day with Veazie 8th graders

By Emily Adams, VCS Grade 8 Student

Welcome to Hogwarts! Twenty six witches and wizards recently received their letter inviting them to attend Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, which is held every Friday morning in the VCS art room. These students were welcomed to take part in a sorting ceremony. Next up was the choosing of the wands. But as we all know it’s really the wand that chooses the wizard. The wands were hand crafted with their wizarding powers. Using their wands to practice, spells were added to their spell books. Marauder’s maps were created with “invisible ink” in order to keep them from falling into the wrong hands. Each wizard discovered their Patronus and learned how to summon them, as you never know where a dementor may be lurking. The wizards and professors are looking forward to ending the Hogwarts year with a rousing game of Quidditch followed by a hearty feast in the Great Hall, aka the art room.

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry on FLEX Fridays

By Emily Adams, VCS Grade 8 Student

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4th graders finish unit on life during Europe’s Middle Ages

By Melissa Hileman, Grade 4 teacher

The VCS fourth grade class just completed a unit on life during Europe’s Middle Ages. After learning why and where castles were built, we focused on the community that lived both inside the castle walls and those nearby. Our classroom became our castle, and each student played a role in our kingdom’s society. We learned how each member played an important part in the survival of the community and allowed it to flourish.

As a culminating activity the class researched the preparations for a royal feast. We then experienced a feast ourselves! Under the protection of our knights, archers, and crossbowmen, the royal taster sampled the fare and the feast began! Lords and Ladies, falconers, bishops, spinners, cooks, and more ate a bountiful meal while the musician, juggler, and jester entertained.

Students recorded what they had learned by making a slideshow and share the information with the third grade. Perhaps this will insure the survival of the castle for another year?

7th grade math students finish taco truck unit—with lunch at taco trucks

By Nicole Spinney, Middle School Math/Science Teacher

Seventh grade math students finished their taco truck unit and celebrated by taking a trip to the Bangor Waterfront to try some of the food truck options for lunch!!

Thank you VCS PTO for supporting and funding our trip!!

The 7th graders created and designed their own taco trucks, to include a business name, logo, and slogan. They also designated the hours of operation and created detailed menus with designer tacos and platter options including prices.

Students calculated orders from classmates and staff based on their menu prices. Finally, students created a blueprint for an actual truck and created a paper 3D version of their truck with accurate measurements of each truck component.

As an extension for the taco truck unit, Ms. Spinney’s math students took a field trip to the Bangor Waterfront to visit the food trucks for lunch and to talk with food truck business owners about their food trucks!!
Cafe Reading in Grade 6

By Sue Logan, Literacy Specialist

The Book Cafe was open in Grade 6 for tasting many genres of books. The cafe was set up like a restaurant with checkered tablecloths, candles, snacks and books by different authors. Each table had different genres of books. The class traveled to different tables to “taste” the books while filling out a menu of their favorite choices. This way I can encourage them to step out of their comfort zone and self select something new. Selecting their own book helps make the investment in reading valuable.

VCS Playground to close for 4-6 weeks

The Veazie Community School Playground will be closed beginning July 1, 2019, while repairs are made to the exterior wall of the school building. The timeline for the project is estimated to be 4 to 6 weeks. For the safety of everyone, we ask that individuals respect this playground closure.

Firefly

Keep watching or you’ll miss it
The tiny gleam of a beating heart
The flash of a wandering soul
It’s there lighting up the air
Then gone in a blink of an eye
Drowned out by the dark of night
Then breaks free of the darkness
And glows yet again
The repeating cycle
A beauty to be cherished
For the few seconds of glow
Like a flashing light
On, off, on, off
Working past midnight
On, off, on, off
You can chase it with a jar
You can capture it
But it’s never enough to have the light
If it’s dimmed by fear
Trapped in the clear prison
Blinking till the end
Let the light free
Let it continue flashing
Let it be free

—Lilly McBreairty, Grade 7

- Sarah Hartford (left) and Ava Taylor (right) caught “feasting” on some good books!