5-2021

The Viking, May 2021

Town of Veazie

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Congratulations to the Veazie Viking Robotics Team for winning the Global Innovation Award and having the highest scoring robot at this year’s First LEGO League State Championship competition! The team won the Robot Performance Competition with a score of 455 points, which is an absolutely amazing total for FFL competition. “It’s the highest score anyone around here has heard of,” said VCS Principal and Superintendent Matt Cyr.

The team included four 8th graders, Lana Friess, Rachel Wheeldon and Olivia Buswell; one 7th grader, Sam Wardrop; and six 6th graders, Surya Vel, Patrick Carlisle, Manyuh Nepal, Aiden Taylor, Seth Rollins, and Colton Webber.

Brian Gonyar, Middle School teacher at VCS, was the robotics advisor.

Mr. Cyr said the team members started working on the robot last fall and spent many afternoons, evenings, and weekends designing and programming the robot.

“The robot may not look like much more than a toy running back and forth on a board pushing Legos around, but the competition involved hours and hours of programming, along with many additional hours of trial and error,” he said. In addition to winning the robot performance competition, the team (Please turn to page 10).

Veazie Town Meeting and Municipal Election set for June 8

Tuesday, June 8, will be a busy day in Veazie. 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 8, the Veazie Town Council will hold a regular council meeting at 7 p.m. at the Veazie Community School, followed by the Annual Town Meeting at 8 p.m., where citizens will vote on the municipal and school budgets for 2021-22, along with other items on the town meeting warrant (see pp. 14-15).

One candidate, Christopher Bagley, is running for one vacancy on the Town Council. He is running for re-election to a 3-year term.

Three candidates are running for the School Committee. Wilhelm “Alex” Friess and William Reed are running for 3-year terms, and Karpagavalli Vel is running for a 2 year term. All three are currently members of the School Committee. The only contested election is for Sewer District Trustee, where Anthony Michaud and Matthew Miller are running for one vacancy with a 3-year term to replace Jim Parker, who is retiring from the Board of Trustees (see p. 3).

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Office. They must be picked up by Thursday, June 3, although they may be requested later under special circumstances. Absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Office by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 8.

Citizens of Veazie are invited to attend the dedication of Bridge 3684 on Main Street, which will be named the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge in honor of Army Specialist Hayward Spencer, who was the only casualty of the Vietnam War from the Town of Veazie. The ceremony will be held on July 19, 2021 at 11 a.m. The bridge is currently known as the County Road Crossing Bridge.

The resolution renaming the bridge was approved by the Maine Legislature and signed by Gov. Mills on March 17, 2021. It was contained in H.P. 416 - L.D. 571.

The resolution was sponsored by Rep. Peter Lyford of Eddington, who represents House District 129, which (Please turn to page 15).

Bridge 3684 on Main Street, currently known as the County Road Crossing Bridge, will be renamed the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge, in honor of the only Vietnam War casualty from the Town of Veazie.
Municipal and School Department budgets, road projects, Town Meeting June 8

First, I hope you and your loved ones are healthy as we continued to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. I remain positive that better days are ahead but it has made it challenging to prepare the FY2021-2022 budget.

Much like years prior, we started the process early. Supt. Cyr and I remain fiscally responsible while preparing the budget and are certain we have met the directive of the Council which was presented to us at the February 8th Council meeting.

The Municipal Budget shows an increase of $82,917.00 and the School Budget shows an increase of $7,085,832.00 for the public hearing which was held on May 10.

Prior to the meeting you were provided with a copy of the final proposed budgets for both the Municipal and School Departments which had been previously approved by the Budget Committee. Included in the packet were summary sheets for both proposed budgets.

The Municipal Budget shows an increase of $82,917.00 and the School Budget shows an increase of $7,085,832.00 from monies requested in FY 2021.

All Departments met with the Budget Committee and upon completion of those meetings, the following budgets were approved unanimously by both the Budget Committee and then by you. In closing, with the budget and the projected revenues as presented, Assessor Birch and I project the mill rate will be $200.00.

This projection is based on receiving the amount of Revenue Sharing the State of Maine projected. I feel confident all departments have prepared budgets with the directives you provided early in the process. In closing, I believe we were able to achieve this by hard work and dedication from all involved in crafting this and prior year budgets.

Proposed School Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Instruction</td>
<td>2,241,816.39</td>
<td>(91,104.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Ed Instruction</td>
<td>1,129,583.11</td>
<td>110,494.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CTE Instruction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Instruction</td>
<td>42,356.74</td>
<td>328.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and Staff Support</td>
<td>256,088.08</td>
<td>17,446.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Administration</td>
<td>148,630.32</td>
<td>3,769.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Administration</td>
<td>152,777.08</td>
<td>8,160.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>194,525.00</td>
<td>55,475.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Management</td>
<td>435,876.13</td>
<td>8,203.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (School Lunch)</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>(40,000.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Proposed Expenses: 4,601,652.85

Proposed School Revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
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<tr>
<td>State Allocation</td>
<td>1,033,329.98</td>
<td>177,563.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Debt Service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>State Agency Client Reimbursement</td>
<td>144,867.50</td>
<td>144,867.50</td>
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<td>Prior Year Balance</td>
<td>200,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Allocation</td>
<td>1,896,263.33</td>
<td>(15,675.33)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local w/s State Participation</td>
<td>1,327,196.04</td>
<td>38,459.39</td>
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</table>

Total Proposed Revenues: 4,601,652.85

Mark Leonard, Town Manager
Matthew Cyr, Superintendent and Principal
David C. Wollstadt, Editor (www.schoolnewsletters.net)

Town of Veazie, 1064 Main St., Veazie, ME 04401 • (207) 947-2781
Veazie Community School, 1040 School St., Veazie, ME 04401 • (207) 947-6573

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B Buffet message:

Municipal, School budgets approved unanimously by Council, Budget Committee

As I write this article the weather outside is beautiful and I feel comfortable in saying I see a light at the end of the tunnel from this pandemic which has turned the world as we knew it upside down. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for doing your part to keep our community and your families safe and helping us get to this point.

As in years past, I am confident both the Municipal and School Department budgets were constructed with the future in mind. We started the budget process early and worked in coordination with the School to have a completed budget to be presented to the Budget Committee and ultimately to the Council and then finally for presentation at the Town Meeting. By working together as a team, and under the guidance of the Council, I am happy to report we are projecting a 25 cent reduction in the mill rate. All of this being completed with no loss of services for any department. This is something everyone who prepared the budget should be proud of, as a reduction in a mill rate is commonly unheard of, and one of this size is even more unheard of.

As a reminder, last year we only completed one major road project. This was done because of the economic uncertainties. Although we are still uncertain what the future holds, the Council chose to take a more aggressive step towards road projects this year. The following roads will receive pavement work this year: Sunset Drive (Final Surface), Eagle View Drive (Shim/Overlay), Thompson Road Extension (Shim/Overlay), E. Sunset and Chickadee Lane (Shim/Overlay), Pflag Street from Old St. to Graham Senior Housing entrance (Shim/Overlay). These projects total approximately $175,000.00. Looking forward to next year, I will be proposing extensive work on Thompson Road which was supposed to occur this year but because of logistics outside the Towns control it isn’t able to be completed.

I urge each of you to attend the Town Meeting scheduled for June 8th, 2021, at 8 p.m. at the school. I assure you we will have a plan in place to ensure everyone’s safety. This is true for coming to the Town Office to vote on June 8th for the many candidates running for different offices. The Office will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., but if you are uncomfortable with coming to the Office to cast your vote, you may request an absentee ballot. Your vote will be counted the same as if you voted in person.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the 2021 graduating class of the Veazie Community School.

I look forward to watching each of you continue to grow as you transition into high school and beyond.

Finally, I always want to remind all citizens about the text message and/or email notification service we offer. Please go to the town’s website to sign up for these important notification services or contact the town office and we will sign you up. These are additional ways we can effectively communicate with you. As always if you have any concerns, comments or suggestions do not hesitate to contact me at 947-2781 or via email mleonard@veazie.net.

I wish you a happy and healthy summer.

Proposed Municipal Expenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Increase/Decrease</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive</td>
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<td>Police</td>
<td>317,520.00</td>
<td>(14,840.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>208,860.00</td>
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<td>Benefits</td>
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<td>76,665.00</td>
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<td>Community Investment</td>
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<td>Capital</td>
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<td>Reserve</td>
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<td>Fixed Cost</td>
<td>526,600.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1,747,004.00</td>
<td>30,161.00</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>3,265,083.00</td>
<td>7,001,917.00</td>
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Total Proposed Expenses: 7,005,832.00

Proposed Municipal Revenue:

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</thead>
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<td>Municipal Revenue</td>
<td>323,144.00</td>
<td>86,787.00</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
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<td>RE Tax Code</td>
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<td>PP Tax Code</td>
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<td>Homestead Reimbursement</td>
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<td>HRT**</td>
<td>4,601,652.85</td>
<td>41,622.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Proposed Revenues</td>
<td>7,005,832.00</td>
<td>82,917.00</td>
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**Place holder only. Number will not be finalized until taxes are committed.
Jim Parker retires after almost 50 years working with Veazie Sewer District, including 9 years as trustee

Jim Parker, who has been working with the Veazie Sewer District for close to 50 years, will no longer be a member of the Sewer District Board of Trustees after his term expires in June.

Jim has been a trustee for nine years and currently serves as treasurer.

Trustees are elected for three-year terms, and Jim says he doesn’t plan to seek another term.

“T’m 73 years old; I’d rather give someone else the opportunity,” he said.

He added that he feels that the Sewer District is in good shape.

“They have good trustees and a couple of good candidates,” he said. “They have a good superintendent and assistant, a part-time accountant and bookkeeper who manages the office, and a very capable staff. I’m comfortable stepping away.”

Jim is a retired civil engineer. He started working for Sewall Co. in 1971 and in 1978 formed CES Inc. in Brewer with another civil engineer.

His “retirement” began in 2009, when he and the other principal sold their interest in CES to three senior people in the firm.

Jim was elected to the Maine State Legislature in 2010, serving as State Representative for District 18 in the 125th Legislature, where he was a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Special Select Committee for Regulatory Fairness and Reform.

He was appointed to the state Board of Environmental Protection by Governor Paul R. LePage in June 2013 and appointed to a second term in May 2017. He served as Chair from December 2014 to March 2019.

Jim’s term runs out in June. Board members who serve two terms have to wait a year before they are eligible for another term.

Jim’s affiliation with the Veazie Sewer District dates back to 1971, when he graduated from the University of Maine and went to work for Sewall Co. His initial assignment was to serve as the consulting engineer in Veazie.

When Jim formed CES, the sewer district approached him and asked CES to be its consultant.

“I’ve worked as a consulting engineer for the Veazie Sewer District for my entire career until my retirement in 2009,” he said.

Jim has lived in Veazie since 1972, initially on Highview Terrace and currently on Silver Ridge.

“When I first moved into town, I didn’t just do their engineering work,” he recalls. “When a sewer plugged up, I used to go help the crew clean things out. I wasn’t being paid for that—I just volunteered.”

Jim has also served as a trustee of the Orono-Veazie Water District for 35 years—seven five-year terms—from 1977 to 2012.

In addition to his engineering work, Jim operates a 33’ downeast lobster boat, the Susan Jane, running charters out of Milbridge for whales, puffins, and pleasure trips, and also working as a commercial lobster and ground fisherman.

“I still fish for lobsters, but these days I’m more interested in charters and pleasure trips,” he says.

Jim works with Robertson Sea Adventures, which maintains a website.

People interested in chartering the Susan Jane, which is licensed for six passengers, can call Jim at 944-3258.

Jim and his wife Susan have been married for 54 years. They have three sons and 12 grandchildren.

The youngest son, Jonathan, lives in Orono and runs Black Bear Lawn Care. Jeff, a pharmacist, lives in Holden and manages all of the Osco pharmacies in New England. Mike, the oldest, lives in Northport and works for Bank of America.

Upcoming Holidays and Council Meetings

May 31 .... Memorial Day, Town office closed
June 8 ..... Municipal Election, Council Chambers, 8 am - 8 pm.
Council Meeting, Veazie Community School, 7 p.m.
Annual Town Meeting, Veazie Community School, 8 p.m.
July 5...... Independence Day, Town office closed
Superintendent’s message:

End of Year Update:
State MEA testing for Math, Reading and Science has gone smoothly—we are proud of the effort and pride our students place in their individual growth as measured by these important assessments.

We have been screening incoming Kindergarten students (Pre-K) and will be screened in the fall—there are still openings in Pre-K.

Classroom teachers are preparing for a mini-step up day for students to meet next year’s teachers. Mrs. Dorrity is working with 6th and 7th graders to plan a field day on the last day of school for students in PK - 5 (note: grade 8 will not be in school on that last day, as they will have graduated the night before).

Speaking of 8th grade, this fine group of students will be going on a class trip, and on that same day (June 10), graduate from VCS! Following this year’s 8th grade graduation will be a community parade to celebrate VCS graduates, along with staff who are able to participate (see map elsewhere on this page).

Vaccination Clinic:
VCS held a vaccination clinic for staff in early spring, and most recently held a clinic for current resident students ages 12 and older. Both clinics had high participation rates which will be critical in addressing how we combat the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank the staff of Penobscot Community Health Care (PCHC) for running our clinics.

Federal Food Service Program:
The federal government announced this winter that the current national nutrition program will be extended for all of the next school year. This means that all VCS students will receive free breakfast and lunch throughout the 2021-2022 school year.
Please still complete the Free/Reduced Lunch Application that goes home next fall at registration time. As explained in my budget summary, this greatly helps our overall financial situation.

Summer Learning:
Veazie Community School will be hosting two summer learning experiences. The Extended School Year (ESY) program will specifically target students receiving special education services. We are also offering a Summer Enrichment Program, which is available for all students currently enrolled in grades K-8.

Both the ESY and Summer Enrichment Program will run every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 - 11:30: June 29 - July 29. VCS will provide bus transportation for those who request it. All participants will receive free breakfast and lunch on days they are present.
In addition to targeted interventions, students will experience drop-in guest speakers, and work in our school garden to help plant and cultivate vegetables for next fall’s lunch program. Contact VCS Special Education Director Debra Jean Schiebel (delschiebel@veaziecs.org) with ESY questions; and Mr. Arell (marell@veaziecs.org) with Summer Enrichment questions.

Staffing Changes:
VCS will be losing two dedicated staff members to retirement.
After 42 years of teaching in Veazie (43 years total), Mrs. Susan Logan announced her retirement at the end of this school year.
Mrs. Logan has spent the majority of her career teaching at the primary level, with specialized focus in the area of literacy intervention (Reading Recovery). She is excited about spending more time with her grandchildren!
After 23 years of teaching in Veazie, Mrs. Diane Smart announced her retirement effective September 30, 2021. Mrs. Smart has taught in Veazie for 23 years at the primary and intermediate levels and also looks forward to spending time with family.
Mrs. Smart will return in the fall for the month of September and assist our school’s implementation of Citi—A Multi-Tiered System of Support.
VCS will be hiring a new Grade 3 teacher to start the school year next fall.

Summer Projects:
Several projects will be completed over the summer to improve the overall safety of our school. If you recall, last year VCS was awarded a School Revolving Renovation Fund ($99F) grant to replace the cafeteria patio. Due to COVID, we were not able to complete this project last summer.
The new patio will solve the drainage and safety issues, and provide a safe outdoor learning/eating area.

The skylights over the primary and intermediate common areas have exceeded their life expectation by despite several efforts to extend their lives. During last fall’s driving rains and winds, what were once slow leaks expanded to a real problem.

These skylights were on our capital improvement plan, so it was not a surprise for the School Committee when the decision was made to replace them this summer. I have recommended that we use capital roof repair funds for this project so there will not be direct impact to the FY22 budget.
Finally, the floor tiles and classroom carpets will be replaced this summer. Also on our capital improvement plan, our flooring was more than 23 years of use, and it shows. Many classroom carpets have worn so thin that threading is exposed. Floor tiles have become brittle, and while Smitty has given his best effort at replacing broken tiles individually, the amount of time involved in this process is not feasible to continue. We are excited to give our school’s busy hallways and classrooms a fresh new look.

That old song “School’s Out for Summer” certainly doesn’t apply to VCS! While the 20-21 school year may be coming to an end, projects and learning programs will very shortly start right back up!
I could take up the next 4 pages of this newspaper talking about the past school year. The amount of change our school and community experienced is mind boggling. The challenges seemed insurmountable at times, but our students, staff and families faced the adversity head-on.
I am proud of our school and community for all we have accomplished over the course of this pandemic. I think we are all looking forward to the light at the end of the tunnel!

Enjoy your summer!
Respectfully,
Matthew D. Cyr
Superintendent of Schools
Veazie Community School
FY22 budget development began early last summer when state revenue projections did not match up with previously forecasted figures. This dark cloud set the stage for an ultra-conservative school year. We also very quickly recognized that in order to safely start the school year, we were going to need significantly more staffing and resources than what we had budgeted. We were very fortunate to receive federal grants to help pay for additional staff, purchase PPE, and provide resources for us to conduct significantly more outside learning than we ever had before. We will continue to require these federal funds next fall and beyond, but must also be mindful to not create a financial cliff as they do expire in two years.

The school committee has recognized that despite being in a pandemic, we must continue to be mindful of short and long term goals so that we do not try to solve problems today by creating challenges for tomorrow. At a time when many area districts saw enrollment declines, VCS actually grew for the 4th consecutive year—this was huge in the development of our FY22 budget. Most school systems in Maine saw significant enrollment declines directly related to the pandemic. Here is an oversimplified explanation of how the funding formula works:

- The more students you have, the more money you receive.
- The more special needs those students may require (such as Special Education, English Language Learning, or Free & Reduced Lunch Status), the more money a school receives.

The challenge is the money is always one year-later than the actual need. (For example, the “enrollment snapshot” taken on October 1, 2020 are the figures used by the DOE to calculate how much money a school receives for the 2021-2022 school year.)

On the expenditure side of budget development, we created savings in Article 1, the single largest cost center in the school budget. This was accomplished by a reduction in high school tuition needs and the elimination of ¾ of a teaching position (¾ of the position vacated through retirement).

Article 2 (Special Education) increased due to costs associated with specialized student services. Article 3 saw a slight increase to support the technology needs of our students and school. More than 100% of the increase in Article 7 was due to increased copier/paper usage stemming from the pandemic. Article 8 increases were because of increased need for specialized transportation for out of district placements.

Article 11 is a bit confusing. Articles 1 - 11 are articles that are calculated in the state funding formula (ED279--our ‘State Allocation’). Food Service was previously part of that calculation, but is no longer.

Now that food service is not in the state calculations, Veazie needs to raise these additional funds separately (just as we do with Adult Ed). The $40,000 that we previously had in Article 11 has to be moved to additional local funds being raised to support our budget.

Note: Veazie (like most small schools) has to do this because we do not generate enough revenue in our food service program to appropriately fund the costs associated with operational costs.

The final figures: VCS operating cost increased by 1.59%, or $71,896.53; however, our revenues (which include State allocation and State Agency Client Reimbursement, Food Service and Adult Ed) exceed our operational costs resulting in an actual reduction in local contribution (VCS is requesting $8,916.53 less than last year). All of this was accomplished while also significantly reducing our reliance on the fund balance (Prior Year Balance) which will serve us well in future budget years. I want to thank the School Committee, Budget Committee, Town Council, and Manager Mark Leonard for their support and collaboration throughout this budget development process.

Matthew D. Cyr
Superintendent/Principal
Veazie Community School

“Small School, BIG Heart!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures Covered By State Funding:</th>
<th>FY21</th>
<th>FY22 Proposed</th>
<th>% inc/(dec)</th>
<th>% inc/(dec)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Article 1 - Regular Instruction</td>
<td>$2,332,920.90</td>
<td>$2,241,816.39</td>
<td>$91,104.51</td>
<td>-3.91%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article 2 - Special Ed. Instruction</td>
<td>$1,019,088.56</td>
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<td>$104,494.55</td>
<td>10.84%</td>
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<td>Article 3 - CTE Instruction</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>Article 4 - Other Instruction</td>
<td>$42,028.19</td>
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<td>Article 5 - Student &amp; Staff Support</td>
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<td>$17,446.93</td>
<td>7.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article 6 - System Administration</td>
<td>$145,737.81</td>
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<td>1.98%</td>
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<td>Article 7 - School Administration</td>
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<td>Article 8 - Transportation</td>
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<td>Article 9 - Facilities Management</td>
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<td>Article 11 - Other (School Lunch)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses Covered by State Funding:</strong></td>
<td>$4,529,756.32</td>
<td>$4,601,652.85</td>
<td>$71,896.53</td>
<td>1.59%</td>
</tr>
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| Revenues for Items Covered by State Funding: | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| State Allocation                              | $855,762.23     | $1,033,325.98   | $177,563.75     | 20.75%          |
| State Debt Service                            | $0.00           | $0.00           | $0.00           | 0.00%           |
| State Agency Client Reimbursement             | $0.00           | $144,867.50    | $144,867.50     | 100.00%         |
| Prior Year Fund Balance                       | $400,000.00     | $200,000.00    | $-200,000.00    | -50.00%         |
| Local Allocation                              | $1,911,938.66   | $1,896,263.33  | $-15,675.33     | -0.82%          |
| Local w/o State participation                | $1,362,055.43   | $1,327,196.04  | $-34,859.39     | -2.56%          |
| **Total Revenues for Items in State Funding:** | $4,529,756.32   | $4,601,652.85  | $71,896.53      | 1.59%           |

**Additional Local Funds needed for expenses not in State Funding:**

| Food Service                                  | $0.00           | $40,000.00     | $40,000.00     | 100.00%         |
| Adult Ed                                      | $0.00           | $1,622.87      | $1,622.87      | 100.00%         |

**SUMMARY:**

**Grand Total Expenditures:**

| $4,529,756.32 | $4,643,275.72 | $113,519.40 | 2.51% |

**Total State Revenue:**

| $855,762.23  | $1,178,193.48 | $322,431.25 | 37.68% |

**Total From Prior Year Fund Balance:**

| $400,000.00  | $200,000.00   | $-200,000.00 | -50.00% |

**Total Local Revenue:**

| $3,273,994.09 | $3,265,082.24 | $-8,911.85 | -0.27% |

**Grand Total Revenue:**

| $4,529,756.32 | $4,643,275.72 | $113,519.40 | 2.51% |
After making kimchi, bulgogi and other Korean dishes for family and friends in Maine for several decades, Changsu Kristopher Lee has opened a new restaurant, Korean Dad, in the former Stone Sparrow Cafe building at 1492 State Street in Veazie.

Changsu, who also goes by Kris, will continue to be a full-time faculty member at Eastern Maine Community College, but he's excited about his new venture.

“Cooking is a passion of mine,” he says. “I’ve been thinking about this for a long time. I’ve never cooked professionally—mostly for family and friends, but they’ve liked my food.”

Changsu says his mom was a good cook—his family still lives in South Korea, outside of Seoul—and he’d frequently call her to ask how to make Korean dishes.

“She’d say a little bit of this, a little bit of that,” he says. “Over the years, I’ve tweaked her directions here and there, and I’m finally close to cooking what she used to make for us. I still don’t have a recipe, but I’ve found the formula.”

Changsu says Korean Dad is a small restaurant with a cozy, peaceful environment. “I want to be able to know my customers by their first name down the road,” he says.

“I’ve been thinking about this for a long time. I’ve never cooked professionally—mostly for family and friends, but they’ve liked my food.”

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“I want to be able to know my customers by their first name down the road,” he says.

Changsu Kristopher Lee has opened a new restaurant, Korean Dad, in Veazie.

He says there aren’t a lot of menu items to start with, but they include such Korean favorites as:
- Kimchi—fermented napa cabbage with various seasonings, gochugaru (chili powder), spring onions, garlic, ginger, and jeotgal.
- Bulgogi—grilled, marinated beef in soy sauce—a signature menu item in Korean cooking.
- Bibimbap—rice with mixed vegetables and gochujang sauce.
- Japchae—gluten-free sweet potato noodles with different vegetables and toppings, such as bulgogi or tofu.
- Dubu Buchim—pan fried tofu sizzled with soy sauce and served with garlic and warm rice wrapped in fresh green lettuce.
- Haemulpajeon—a seafood pancake with scallions.

Changsu says Korean Dad will have daily specials, and everything will be homemade. He says it will be the only Korean restaurant north of Portland, except for a food shack that operates once a month at a farmer’s market in Belfast.

“I realized that sometimes I miss a nice Korean dish cooked by someone else,” he says. “If I wanted that I had to go to Portland or Boston. I figured that if I can’t do that every weekend, maybe I’ll do the cooking myself.”

Changsu, who has lived in Bangor since 2003, came to the U.S. in 1994 after completing his military service in South Korea in the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command.

Inspired by American friends he’d made, he decided that he wanted to move to the U.S. and learn English so he could become a diplomat for South Korea.

Instead of moving to a city with a large Korean population like New York or Los Angeles, however, Changsu and his wife, Juyoung, wanted to move somewhere more remote, where they could immerse themselves in American culture, and they decided on Preque Isle.

“It was a perfect fit,” he said. “Luckily, the University of Maine at Presque Isle offered me a full scholarship.”

The Lees spent six years in Presque Isle and four years in Auburn before moving to Bangor.

Changsu said the people of Veazie have been really wonderful. “They’ve been ready with a pat on the shoulder and lots of encouragement,” he said.

Changsu has been teaching mathematics at EMCC for 18 years. He also teaches some business courses. His wife teaches anatomy, physiology, microbiology, and pathophysiology for nursing students and allied health majors at the University of Maine at Augusta.
Veazie student places 6th in nationwide Regeneron Science Talent Search, earns $80,000 in scholarship awards

Vetri Vel, a Bangor High School senior from Veazie, has earned $80,000 in scholarship awards by placing 6th in the nationwide Regeneron Science Talent Search competition.

In the February 2021 issue of the Viking, we reported that Vetri was a finalist in the Regeneron competition, which has been run for decades and is widely considered to be the most prestigious of its kind in the U.S.

Vetri's project was an infrared monitoring system to detect when someone has fallen and to automatically sends a text message for help.

His project also won $2,000 for the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) program at Bangor High School.

Vetri told the Bangor Daily News that he got the idea for his project when he heard that his grandmother, who lives in India, had fallen. While Vetri’s grandfather noticed what had happened quickly and drove her to the hospital, Vel wondered what would have happened had he not been there. Then, Vetri heard about a neighbor who had fallen and wasn’t found until the next day.

Vetri said the money he won in the competition will be a big help when he goes on to college, but being able to meet other seniors from across the country during the virtual talent search competition was just as valuable.

“They’re all really interested in using science to improve the quality of life across the world,” he said.

Cary James, former head of STEM at Bangor High School, told the Bangor Daily News that Vetri’s success lies in the combination of his intelligence, his work ethic, and his passion for science.

“He doesn’t just do it for the sake of competing in a competition,” James said. “He does it because he likes to understand things at their most absolutely fundamental level.”

Vetri told the BDN that he hopes that he can inspire other young people to become interested in science by focusing on what they like and running with it.

“Of course, learn what’s in the textbooks and what other people have already done,” he said. “But always be asking why and how stuff works.”

Vetri Vel holds the device that won him sixth place at the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

Vetri Vel will attend MIT in the fall.
Pre-K experimenting with techniques used by artist Dale Chihuly

Pre-K has been exploring the work of the artist Dale Chihuly. Chihuly creates vibrant glass art work as well as paintings and drawings. The preschoolers learned all about blowing glass and the different techniques Chihuly uses to paint such as using brooms, squirt bottles and plungers. They tried to draw with large bunches of pencils, and wrote a letter to Chihuly telling him how much they enjoyed his work.
Painting with a plunger.

Painting colorful flowers.

Painting with droplets, rather than brush strokes.

Bradley draws a stick man.

Handprints and streams of paint.

Painting colorful flowers.
also received the Global Innovation Award for an app they designed titled “Veazie Moves.”

The app, which was created using MIT App Inventor, was designed for Veazie residents of all ages and skill levels to meet up in places around Veazie to exercise.

It included maps of all of the walking trails in the community.

People go into the app, say what they’re interested in doing, and then other people could go in and find people that they don’t know but who have the same interests.

Then, the app would allow users to schedule times for exercising—in effect, inviting other app users to join them for a walk on one of the trails in town or some other exercise activity.

“It’s a really cool design,” Mr. Cyr said. “The kids literally started with a whiteboard, drawing a storyboard with different screens. They worked through the complexities and then created a working app.”

By winning the Global Innovation Award, the team was eligible to submit the project for the FLL world competition. However, they decided not to take the app to the next level because the timeline was too short.

“The students felt they wouldn’t have enough time to do justice to the app project,” Mr. Cyr said. “Besides, the kids were more proud of their victory in the robot performance category with a score of 455 points. That’s an incredible, off-the-charts score.”

The robot, which is made using Lego equipment, includes:

- A brain.
- Four motors, including two large motors that power the robot and two medium motors that power the attachments.
- Four sensors, including a gyro sensor, a color sensor, a distance sensor, and a touch sensor.

The team designed the robot to accomplish a variety different tasks on the game board.

“The kids had to program the robot,” Mr. Cyr said. “They used Legos to design gears and arms to perform actions to solve problems around the game board. They had to get the robot physically to the right spot and then get it to accomplish the task.

They did that with a combination of sensors. The game board has different colors and the robot is programmed to follow certain tracks of color. When the robot touches certain things, it knows to turn a certain number of degrees left or right.

“There was a lot of trial and error—countless hours of trial and error that started last fall,” he said. Every item on the mat is a mission; the more missions the robot completes, the more points it scores.

A video of the team’s award-winning robot run can be seen at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVCUjyVeSNE.

A video describing the app can be seen at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnSRCJ1IzRI.

(Continued from page 1)
Dr. Jonnathan Busko, an emergency medical specialist at St. Joseph’s Hospital and a part-time firefighter for the Veazie Fire Department, gave a presentation to VCS 6th graders on survival techniques for people who get lost in the wilderness.

Dr. Busko showed students how to stay warm using a heavy trash bag and a small piece of ground mat. He said staying warm was the first concern if someone gets lost in the woods overnight, as one’s body temperature can drop to a dangerous level in just two hours.

He said the second concern of someone who is lost is to stay in one place. It’s easier to search for someone who stays in one location and doesn’t move around. Water, food, and other things are also important for survival.

Dr. Busko’s presentation was facilitated by Veazie Fire Chief Pete Metcalf.

Dr. Jonnathan Busko shows VCS 6th graders how to stay warm with a heavy trash bag and a small piece of ground mat.

Grade 6 students practice preparing their own “shelters.”

Dr. Busko brought safety whistles, each of which included a compass, signal mirror, flint, and small storage.

Susan Logan, who has taught at the John R. Graham School and the Veazie Community School for the past 42 years, will retire at the end of the school year. Mrs. Logan has been teaching for 45 years, as she taught in Lincoln for a year before coming to Veazie.

A native of Eastport, she attended the University of Maine at Orono, graduating in June 1978 with her bachelor’s degree in education.

In Veazie, she taught first grade for 21 years and then became a Reading Recovery teacher. She later split her time between Reading Recovery and grade 2-3 reading support and, for five years, grade 6 literacy.

During the past year, she returned to the first grade, sharing the teaching responsibilities with Laurie Kimball, as the class had to be split because of Covid social distancing requirements.

Mrs. Logan has lived in Veazie (Please turn to page 13)
Writing poems by the river

By Laurie Kimball, Grade 1 Teacher

What a great day to spend on the river!

First Graders have been learning about rivers in science and poetry in writing. They combined both subjects as they observed the Penobscot River, drew sketches and used their five senses to write adjectives. They used their information the next day to turn what they saw into nonfiction poetry.

We are so lucky in Veazie to have such a beautiful place to observe and enjoy nature.
First Grade River Poetry

First graders took their river study down to the Veazie Riverside Park where they spent time writing and drawing their observations. They later used what they saw to write acrostic and haiku poems. Acrostic poems spell a word vertically as each letter is used to start a word or sentence. Haiku poems work with a 5,7,5 syllable pattern. Here are a few examples.

The River
By Willow Barter
The river sparkles.  
It feels so nice to look at it.  
I love the river.

Penobscot River
By Stanton Libby
Glorious beauty. 
It has big rocks to throw in. 
The river is fun.

The River
By Maya Belvue
Green, blue, white water 
Animals live there 
River beautiful

Driftwood
By Grant Tocci
Drifting down the river 
Rushing down stream 
Island for tiny things 
Floating down the currents 
Terrific types of wood 
Wood is smooth 
Other humans like it 
Other fish live in it 
Driftwood.

The Penobscot
By Makenna Slauenwhite
Penobscot River 
Erosion on the river 
Noisy rapids 
Oxbow lakes form 
Bend in the river 
Slippery algae 
Currents in the river 
Outside 
Treasures in the river

River Rocks
By Liam Mullins
Rocks in the river are rough 
Ocean is at its mouth 
Can I swim in the river? 
Kick hard through the currents 
Slippery algae

Susan Logan retiring after 42 years of teaching in Veazie

(Continued from page 11) for 45 years. She and her husband Tom, a guidance counselor in the Bangor school system who has been retired for the past seven years. They have a son Ryan, who attended the John R. Graham School and the University of Maine and is now an associate professor at Boston University. Mrs. Logan says she and her husband have no particular retirement plans except for traveling back and forth to visit their son and two grandchildren in the Boston area. “I probably won’t have a schedule, which I’m looking forward to,” she says. “I may do some volunteer work in the area after Covid. If I find that I miss teaching, I can always sub.”
Veazie Town Meeting Warrant and Town Budget and School Budget

TOWN CLERK’S REVENUE
Total Town Clerk’s Revenue ...................... $3,800.00
Recommended non-property tax revenues by the Town Council & Budget Committee: $904,351.00

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to establish the interest rate to be paid to a taxpayer who is determined to have paid an amount of real estate taxes in excess of the amount finally assessed for 2021-2022 at 3.0% per year on the amount of overpayment.

SCHOOL BUDGET ARTICLES
ARTICLES 14 THROUGH 24 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES AND SERVICES CATEGORY

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction. School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommends: .................................................. $2,241,816.39

ARTICLE 15: To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Special Education. School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommends: .................................................. $1,129,583.11

ARTICLE 16: To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education. School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommends: .................................................. $42,356.74

ARTICLE 17: To see what sum the Veazie School Committee will be authorized to expend for Facility and Support. School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council Recommends: .................................................. $0.00

ARTICLE 27 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 28 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURE OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 29: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Committee be authorized to expend any other receipts such as federal and/or state grants or any other receipts for the Fiscal Year 1921-1922 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in non-state funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

ARTICLE 25 THROUGH 26 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 25 (requires a recorded vote): To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate in additional local funds as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council.

ARTICLE 30: Shall the Town raise and appropriate $4,601,652.85 for the Capital Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE 26 (Requires a Written Ballot): To see what sum the Town will raise and appropriate in additional local funds as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Committee/Budget Committee/Town Council.

ARTICLE 31: Shall the Town raise and appropriate $1,327,196.04 which exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services allocation model by $1,327,196.04.

ARTICLE 27: Shall the Town raise and appropriate $40,000.00 for the school nutrition program with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the school nutrition program?

ARTICLE 30 AUTHORIZES A TRANSFER TO THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 31: Shall the School Committee be authorized to transfer up to $2,241,816.39 from available fund balances to the Capital Reserve Fund and to expend said funds only upon express authorization of the Town voters?
Hayward Spencer
(Continued from page 1)
includes Clifton, Eddington, Holden, Veazie, and part of Brewer. The possibility of renaming the bridge was first suggested by Frank Jordan, who asked Karen Walker what might be done to make it happen. Karen took it up with the Historical Committee and then brought it to the attention of Town Manager Mark Leonard. Mark contacted Rep. Lyford and wrote a letter supporting LD 571.
At this time, Karen says Hayward’s brother Donald is planning to attend the dedication ceremony, along with his daughter, Jill Spencer Miligan. Other members of the family are also expected to attend, as well as fellow classmates, residents of the Town of Veazie, and Vietnam War era veterans.

Veazie will be having its TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE June 18, 19, and 20. This Yard sale will be permit-free for Veazie residents. Yard sales will be at residencies throughout Town.
First graders celebrate ‘Dragon Days’

By Laurie Kimball
Grade 1 Teacher

First Grade celebrated the end of reading the entire Dragon Masters series of books by Tracy West.

Their celebration consisted of two fun filled days of dragon immersion. They wrote about dragons, read about dragons, created dragons, illustrated story map posters, graphed dragons, ate dragon food and played Guess Box.

We were even able to figure out what kind of dragon we would be if we were a dragon. We had a dragon-ite time!

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing P.T.O. for helping with the cost of these activities. We couldn’t do what we do without you!

VCS Pre-K students are worm rescuers

By Loyann Worster

Pre-K students were worm rescuers on April 30! After a spring rain storm, they found worms on the tar and brought them into their outside classroom in hopes they could stay dry!

Their rescue mission was a success!!!