The Viking, August 2021

Town of Veazie

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Main Street bridge dedicated to Veazie man killed in Vietnam

Town Manager Mark Leonard speaks at the ceremony dedicating the Main St. bridge in memory of Hayward Carl Spencer.

Younger students at VCS were treated to a day of fun thanks to Mrs. Dority and middle school students. Field Day 2021 was a hit! 6th and 7th grade students planned and hosted outdoor activities such as relays and face painting followed by a BBQ with grill master Mark Leonard.

Some 75 people were in attendance while serving in Vietnam.

Veazie resident Cliff Wells played his bag pipes with inspirational tunes, and members of the Veazie Police Department presented the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Manager Mark Leonard introduced members of the Spencer family, including Donald Spencer, Hayward’s older brother, and Jill Spencer Milligan, a niece of Hayward.

Mr. Leonard then gave a speech telling about Hayward’s life growing up in Veazie and his service in the Army.

Monday July 19th was a memorable day for the citizens of the Town of Veazie.

The bridge that carries Main Street over the railroad tracks, formerly known as the County Road Crossing Bridge, Bridge No. 3684, was re-named and dedicated in memory of Hayward Carl Spencer, the only Veazie resident to be killed in action while serving in Vietnam.

Some 75 people were in attendance for this moving occasion. The Spencer family brought photos, along with Hayward’s Purple Heart and other service medals, for people to view.

Veazie resident Cliff Wells played his bag pipes with inspirational tunes, and members of the Veazie Police Department presented the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Manager Mark Leonard introduced members of the Spencer family, including Donald Spencer, Hayward’s older brother, and Jill Spencer Milligan, a niece of Hayward.

Mr. Leonard then gave a speech telling about Hayward’s life growing up in Veazie and his service in the Army.

Frank Jordan, who grew up across the street from Hayward, talked about their years growing up in Veazie and how much of a hero Hayward was.

John Simpson, who also grew up with Hayward, talked about his memories of growing up with him.

Mark Leonard read remarks from Veazie’s state representative, Peter Lyford, who was able to get the legislation passed to name the bridge in Hayward’s memory. He was very sorry he was unable to make the dedication but the Legislature was called back in to session and he had to go to Augusta.

(please turn to page 3)
**Town Manager’s message:**

**Town Meeting lightly attended, but budgets supported and mill rate reduced; paving update**

As I write this article summer is in full swing and although we have received some much-needed rain, the weather overall has been enjoyable. In the last article I reported seeing a light at the end of the tunnel and the light is still visible but is dimming of the late with a recent uptick in COVID variant cases.

I remind you to do your part to keep you, your family, and the community safe. If we each do our part, I’m certain we will continue to move in the right direction.

The Town meeting was lightly attended this year, but I am happy to report the budgets as presented were all supported and passed unanimously. Assessor Birch and I have worked extremely hard on assessments and ultimately were able to reduce the mill rate.

House sales continue to soar and we had to be mindful of this during the process as most houses are selling for much more than we had them assessed. We will continue to watch, as it’s unknown how long this type of market will last. I would like to welcome all the new residents to town who have purchased new homes and wish those who have left the community well. For new residents, I want to let you know that we offer a full-service town office which is open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please stop by so we can help with getting you settled into your new community.

Approved paving projects have started and most likely will be complete when you are reading this.

The following roads receive pavement work this year:
- Sunset Drive (Final Surface).
- Eagle View Drive (Shim/Overlay).
- Shore Road (Shim/Overlay).
- Thompson Road Extension (Shim/Overlay).
- E. Sunset and Chickadee Lane (Shim/Overlay).
- Flagg Street from Olive St. to Graham Senior Housing entrance (Shim/Overlay).

I have begun the work to present a plan to the Council to rebuild Thompson Road for next year’s major project.

Although I try to drive each of the roads on a weekly basis, I ask if you see something around town you think needs attention, please contact me so we can look at it. I would much rather address it early before it becomes a larger problem.

I would like to thank Code Enforcement Officer Larson and the members of the Planning Board for their hard work over the past several months in reviewing the Town’s Land Use Ordinance. The updated version will be presented at the August Council meeting for public comment and final approval.

In closing, I would like to welcome new businesses to Town, some of which are highlighted in this edition of The Viking. Korean Dad Restaurant, Sky Villa LLC, and Eastern Maine Sports Academy. We look forward to having you as part of our community.

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 at mleonard@veazie.net.

Please remember to be kind, and I hope you are able to enjoy the rest of the Summer.

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Upcoming Holidays, Council Meetings

Aug. 23 .... Council Meeting
Sept. 6 ...... Labor Day, office closed
Sept. 7 ...... Council Meeting
Oct. 11 ...... Indigenous Peoples Day, office closed
Oct. 18 ...... Council Meeting
Nov. 8 ...... Council Meeting
Bridge dedicated to Hayward Carl Spencer of Veazie (Continued from page 1)

A representative from Senator Collins’ office read remarks from the senator.

Donald Spencer thanked everyone for coming. He talked about Hayward growing up and what a hero he was.

Jill Spencer Milligan read the letter her grandparents received from Herbert O. Graeser, LTC Infantry Sector Advisor, TT. He sent his sympathy and told of how their son died a hero when their headquarters was attacked by a superior force and the compound was being heavily mortared.

John Thompson played taps. This was followed by members of the Spencer family unveiling the sign naming the Hayward Carl Spencer Memorial Bridge.

The ceremony renaming the bridge in Spencer Hayward’s memory was covered by the Bangor Daily News, WABI-TV (Channel 5), WLBZ-TV (Channel 2), and FOX 22 News (Channel 7).

Jill Milligan told WABI that Hayward died when he attempted to cross an unprotected area to give first aid to some of his wounded comrades. “As he neared his goal, he was killed instantly by an exploding enemy mortar shell,” she said.

Frank Jordan, a Veazie resident who grew up across the street from the Spencer household, told WABI that his friend Hayward “was a good kid who got into some trouble and raised a lot of hell.”

Frank added that he started thinking a couple years ago about renaming the bridge in honor of Hayward. He contacted Veazie’s state representative, Peter Lyford, who sponsored legislation.

Hayward’s older brother, Donald Spencer, said the bridge dedication was an important moment for the Spencer family.

Donald also told the Bangor Daily News that the dedication of the bridge marked an important moment for him and the rest of his family.

“It means a hell of a lot really,” he said. “And I feel really good about giving the Vietnam veterans the recognition they deserve.”
Pastor Seymour, Veazie Congregational Church:

‘Remembering Christa McAuliff and John Glenn’

Julia Richards joins Vezzie Police Dept.

Julia Richards is the newest officer in the Vezzie Police Dept.

She joined the force on March 3, after serving internships with the Penobscot County District Attorney’s office and the Orono Police Dept.

She also served as a security assistant at Eastern Maine Community College. She has an associate’s degree in criminal justice from Eastern Maine Community College, and she’s working on her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice at Husson University.

Julia was born in Edmundston, NB, but grew up in Madawaska and graduated from Madawaska Middle High School.

She came to Bangor so she could participate in the criminal justice program at EMCC. “They offer a lot of hands-on learning related to law enforcement,” she said. “That was very appealing to me.”

She said she was attracted to a career in law enforcement because she had really good interactions with police officers in Madawaska. “They always treated me with respect, and I really admired that,” she said.

Julia is single and lives in the Bangor area. She says she likes tending to indoor plants, and she loves art—drawing people and plants, and she loves art—drawing people and plants. She also enjoys spending time with her dog, a pit bull.

She says the best part of being a police officer in Vezzie is her interactions with the community. “I really love getting to know everybody there,” she says. “I love being involved with the kids.”

Christa McAuliff summed it up this way: “If I can get some student interested in science, if I can show members of the general public what’s going on up there in the space program, then my job’s been done.”

John Glenn, in an interview with the Cincinnati Inquirer, once stated, “To me, there is no greater calling, if I can inspire young people to dedicate themselves to the good of mankind, I’ve accomplished something.”

And, you may have seen this recently, Glenn also stated - while looking through the window during his second space flight (upon the shuttle Discovery, 1998): “To look out at this kind of creation out here and not believe in God is to me impossible.” Yes, Mr. Senator, I agree.

Let us go forth with the same confidence, so valiantly displayed by these phenomenal people, into the unknown future. Trials will come and the pandemic will frighten but, with the Creator’s help, we can overcome these challenges. “That’s one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind (N.A.).”

May God give us peace, confidence and grace as we move forward…. Be well, my friends.

—Rev. Patrick Seymour, Pastor, Veazie Church

May the Peace and Grace of God be upon us all.

Veazie Seniors and Friends Barbecue

June 16th saw us with a wonderful sunny day for our barbecue.

It was wonderful for us all to be able to get together. Everyone was very happy to just get out of the house.

We were very happy to have Town Manager Mark do the cooking for us. The club presented him with an apron to wear when he does his cooking. He did a great job as always.

He did get some helpful hits from fireman Nick who was on hand. (It was also Nick’s birthday and we wished him well).

It was nice to have such a nice crowd. The club is growing in size and are always looking for new seniors to join.

Anyone wishing information call the town office to get in touch with the group.

Plannng Board approves 2 projects

The Vezzie Planning Board has approved plans to construct a four-unit apartment building at 72 Oak Grove Street and to redevelop a portion of the Qualey Granite property on State Street.

The Oak Grove Street project includes demolition of an existing three-unit apartment building.

The owner is Nattapong Kongsiuru of Hampden. Work on the project was scheduled to begin in August 2021 and be completed by June 2022.

The Qualey Granite project includes construction of four climate-controlled storage units on three new slabs and one existing slab on the south side of the property.

The first phase of the project involves two 6,600 sq. ft. storage units; the second phase includes a third 6,600 sq. ft. unit and one 5,000 sq. ft. unit. Work on the project was scheduled to begin in August 2021, with completion projected for December 2022.

The owner is David St. Germaine of Veazie, DBA Sky Villa LLC of Hampden.

This 3-unit apartment building at 72 Oak Grove St. will be demolished to make room for a new 4-unit apartment.

The projects were approved following public hearings by the Planning Board on Thursday evening, July 29.
Superintendent’s message (Continued from page 1)

to the start of the school year.

Enrollment History:
This fall, we are projected to begin the year with 515 students. Four years ago, we began the year with 136 students. I attribute our steady increase in enrollment to the dedicat-
ed staff at Veazie Community School, and the unmatched support we receive from our school committee, townspeople, and citizens. Of course increasing enrollment comes with “good problems” such as increasing staff. The school committee discusses this regularly, and maintains the goal of addressing our enrollment increase strategically and intentionally.

Staffing Changes:

VCS will be seeing many staffing changes this year. Mrs. Smart will be retiring on September 24 after 23 years of dedication to the students of VCS. She is very excited to start a new chapter in life as a brand new grandmother—congratulations, Mrs. Smart, and best wishes!!!

Replacing Mrs. Smart in the 3rd grade will be Erin Daigneau. Erin comes to us with 10 years of experience in multiple grade levels and Reading Recovery teaching experience, with the last two years teaching 3rd grade in North Carolina. Erin has a master’s degree in literacy and is currently participating in the Multisensory Structured Language Education training program hosted by the Bangor Children’s Dyslexia Center. Leigh-Anna Sirois will be joining the VCS team as an Ed. Tech. III internist. Now in our third year as a 3iST school, we are taking a huge leap in transitioning how we support struggling learners. Leigh-Anna is taking on a brand new position that will provide tier 2 intervention for stu-
dents in the areas of Math and ELA.

Jessica Freeman is no stranger to VCS—last year she supported our COVID efforts as a co-teacher in Kinder-
garten. Jessica will be starting a brand new position as an Ed. Tech. III on our special education team. In order to support the staff of VCS and other COVID related health services, we are using some of our federal funds to provide a full-time nurse at VCS.

Jessica Girsa, our new nurse, is a recent graduate of the UMFK nursing program and has worked the last year in the cardiac unit at Norwalk.

Shelby Pyrzyk will be the new VCS art teacher. Shelby is brand new to the field of teaching and brings incredible passion to our students. We are excited to offer two days/week of art programming this year.

Snow Days this year:
Last year, our hybrid/remote pro-
gramming provided an opportunity for us to experiment with remote/fo-
tual snow days. There were certainly many pros to the concept, but there were also complications—mainly around ensuring equity of access to our food service programming.

This school year, we will revert back to “traditional” snow days, meaning if we cancel school, there will not be an academic day, and we will make up the day at the end of the year. The school committee dis-
cussed this at length and did support the idea of revisiting the topic should there be an extraordinary amount of snow days, or down to mother light winter like last year!

Free/Reduced Lunch Applica-
tions—WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

During this upcoming school year, the federal government will be fund-
ing our breakfast and lunch programs for all students. As excited as we are about this wonderful opportunity, we are also extremely nervous. We are hoping that families continue to com-
plete Free/Reduced Lunch application forms during fall enrollment.

On the one hand, I completely under-
stand that this may seem silly—"why do I need to complete the form if my child gets a free lunch regardless?" The answer to that question is quite simple. We must ask families to complete these forms because it con-
tinues to be the way the state and fed-
eral government gauges our financial needs. The number of students we have who qualify under these forms becomes a multiplier in all of our state and federal funding, and serves as the baseline for whether or not we qualify for most grants.

For example, if 30% of our school qualifies for some form of financial assistance under these forms, state and federal funding formulas multiply 30% of funding access. The greater our % of need, the more money we receive from the state and federal government. Of course the less money we must ask for from local tax-
ayers. In short, your collec-
tive participation in completing the Free and Reduced Lunch forms not only provides opportunities for our students and school, it helps to keep tax rates down.

Thank you in advance for getting these forms back to school this fall!!

Projects—floors, cafeteria patio, skylights:
There were many capital projects completed over the summer—each of which were on our short/long-
term capital improvement plan. All classroom and hallway carpets and floor tiles were replaced, providing a fresh new look for the school. The carpets and tiles were due for replace-
ment after more than 20 years of use.

Our light fixtures, ventilation and electrical systems were replaced as well. This was supposed to be part of our long-term roof replacement project (to be completed down the road); however, delamination of the materials caused by good mother light and the winter weather created several leaks, which posed potential to cause significant interior damage. We had received a Maine School Revolving Renovation Fund grant to replace our cafeteria patio. This unique feature of our school became unusable through the years as it could not handle the rain water and snow loads. With the help of architects at WBRC in Bangor, our new design will quickly remove most water from the surface and mitigate erosion and frost heaving issues. We hope to make outside dining a regu-
lar option on nice weather days!

Fall MEA Testing/NWEA:

Last year, the Maine DOE adopted
NWEA testing as the official Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) program for Math and ELA. This was welcome news for schools around the state which were looking for a way to test students this robust program for progress monitoring and tracking longitudinal growth of students and the impact of programs. This year, the Maine DOE requires that we administer the assess-
ment once in the fall, and in the spring which would kind of be the way we had already been using the NWEA. Our fall testing window will be during the month of October.

Reserve Accounts:
Veazie Community School now has three separate reserve accounts which serve one for large-scale capital repairs (such as replacing a boiler or the school roof), one for high school tuition (to create a cushion for balancing un-
predictable high school enrollments, which are more than 25% of our total operating budget), and one for technol-
ogy (now that we rely heavily on technology for teaching and learning as well as all business functions).

These accounts are very similar to savings accounts that each of you may have. When we can, we add money to grow these reserves so that they are available to us in a time of need.

As an example, many home-
owners have a savings account for unanticipated emergencies such as buying a new furnace. When that furnace breaks down, those savings funds are used for the purchase and installation of a new home-
owner is able to complete the project without having to take out a loan, or find another source of funds.

From a public school perspective, we have reserve accounts just like your savings accounts. When we have emergencies, or when we are building a budget for the upcoming year and are in need of unexpected funds for a large project, or increase in enroll-
ment, we access those funds instead of asking the taxpayer for more money, or cutting school programs to offset the expenditures. Reserve accounts are a fiscally responsible way to take care of a large capital investment such as the Veazie Community School.

I am thankful for the support of our school committee and town council provide, and will continue to ensure that the citizens of Veazie have a safe and beautiful school at the heart of the community. — Matthew D. Cyr

Superintendent of Schools
“Small School, BIG Heart!”

ERIN DAIGNEAU
I have just completed my
ninth year of teaching. I have
evolved with 160 students
at Veazie Community School!

JESSICA GIRSA
My name is Jessica and my
role at Veazie Community School
will be the school nurse. I
received my degree from the
University of Maine at Fort Kent with my
Bachelors of Science in Nursing along with a
Certificate in Coaching. I have a passion for
youth athletics, learning, and
caring for others. I enjoy being
outdoors on our family farm,
working with you all!

SHELBY PYRZYK
Hello, my name is Shelby
Pyrzyk and I am excited to be
joining the Veazie Community School team as the new art
teacher! I will be the art teacher
in grades 3-6. I received my degree from
Carmel Levant Elementary School. I am very pas-
sionate about art and making
career/designer. My favor-
it-thing to do in my free time is
looking for unique ways to teach art, such as
becoming a multiplier in all of our state and
federal funding.

LEIGH-ANNA SIROIS
I am your school’s new
Title I/Ci3t Ed. Tech. Intervention-
stive. I live in Old Town with my hus-
bond and I have three daughters.
I love to teach, exchange ideas with you all,
and I am students and I am happy to
forward to a great year!”

I grew up in Hermon, Maine,
which made my decision easy
and easy to come back to work where my
roots reside. I currently work
at Timeless Tile & Designs, a
local ceramic tile business, as a
tile carver/designer. My favor-
te-thing to do in my free time is
playing with my two kitties, and
enjoying a good cup of tea. I
look forward to meeting and
working with you all!
2 Bangor men converting School Street building to basketball, sports performance training facility

Two Bangor-area men have purchased the former Collabric building on School Street and are converting it into a 28,000 sq. ft. basketball and sports performance training facility.

The owners are Matt MacKenzie of Holden, a former all-conference basketball player at Husson University, and Shawn Demaray of Bangor, an all-conference football player and assistant football coach at the University of Maine.

Matt is currently co-owner of Results Basketball in Bangor and runs an AAU basketball program with 11 teams. He is also a former teacher who taught at the Cohen School in Bangor for 10 years and coached three sports there and at Husson.

Shawn is the founder of Queen City Athletics, a personal training facility in Bangor.

The facility in Veazie—the Eastern Maine Sports Academy—will feature a variety of facilities for basketball and other sports, as well as personal fitness.

These will include:
- Two full-size basketball courts.
- A half-size basketball court for training.
- Two full-size basketball courts.
- A 2,500-square-foot weight room.
- A 4,500-square-foot artificial turf surface for soccer and football practice and skill development.
- A health and welfare wing with offices for physical therapy, massage therapy, infrared saunas and nutritional drinks, and a spot for Shoot-A-Way rentals. (A Shoot-A-Way is a machine that re-

The target date for opening is October 1. Matt says the new facility will create a lot of opportunities for anyone interested in basketball and other sports, as well as fitness and training.

“We’ll be able to have full team practices and games along with tournaments,” he said.

The new facility will have men’s and women’s leagues, youth leagues, and it will be available to the community for before- and after-school programs.

Initially, Matt expects the new facility to start with up to 10 employees, most of them part-time, plus several independent contractors who will rent space.

The building was originally a manufacturing plant for Dennis Paper Co. For a number of years, it was occupied by Collabric, which manufactured fabric for trade show banners, which were printed in the facility and shipped all over the world.

The plant shut down early in 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic curtailed business operations. Matt bought the building from Mark Sampson in May 2021.

‘Korean Dad’ says new restaurant on State Street is doing very well

In the May issue of the Viking, we ran a story about Changsu Kristopher Lee and his new restaurant, Korean Dad, which he was in the process of opening at 1492 State Street in Veazie.

Two and a half months later, Kris says his restaurant, which serves all homemade Korean dishes, is doing very well.

“We’re busy almost every day,” he says. “We’re humbled by num-

Korean Dad is open Thursday through Saturday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Kris says 99% of the business is pre-order, with most customers calling in or e-mailing in their orders the night or the day before.

“It works well for both us and our customers,” he says. “We can plan ac-

Korean Dad’s Facebook page.

Korean Dad’s famous Kimchi, a side dish of fermented napa cabbage with vari-

Kalbi—Korean BBQ short ribs.

Kimbap—Korea seaweed rice rolls

And, of course, there’s Korean Dad’s famous Kimchi, a side dish of fermented napa cabbage with vari-

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.

Bulgogi—Korean BBQ short ribs.

Bibimbap—Korea seaweed rice rolls

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Bulgogi—Korean BBQ short ribs.
VCS summer students make 5-hole mini-golf course with boxes, tape, other recyclable materials

What can a group of talented VCS students make with cardboard boxes, packing tape, STEM materials, decorative tools, and other recyclable materials? How about a five hole mini-golf course!

The kids are all part of this year’s Summer Enrichment Program with students ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade.

Imagination and creativity were in abundance as five groups designed, built, and decorated the challenging course. Each hole presented a different test: go through the rotten log in “the Forest”, stay on the elevated green of “The Idea Hole”, dodge the giant Lifesavers and Twizzler pieces in “Candyland”.

Before the putters were passed out, students from each group described their team’s creation and answered any questions about it. Then it was time to tee off and every student took a turn around the course. It was obvious by the laughter, shouts, and smiles that a great time was “par for the course”.

“Mario Hole” offered many different levels on it’s long road to home; there were gravestones to get past in “Bob’s Graveyard” (as well as a giant zombie)!
And if you don't already have it, now is the time to download our app in the app store. In the app you’ll have quick and easy access to website information you need like the dining menu, sports schedules, and so much more!

**VCS continues graduation parade; Susan Logan honored as Grand Marshall**

This year’s 8th grade class continued our new graduation tradition with a parade around town. The 2021 Grand Marshall was Susan Logan, in celebration of retirement after 42 years teaching in Veazie.

**New VCS website up and running . . .**

The Veazie Community School is pleased to debut our website’s new look! You’ll find all the content you’ve come to rely on, but in a more visually appealing and easy to navigate way. Check it out for yourself at [www.veaziecs.org](http://www.veaziecs.org)!

. . . and while you’re at it, check out our app

And if you don’t already have it, now is the time to download our app in the app store.

In the app you’ll have quick and easy access to website information you need like the dining menu, sports schedules, and so much more!
2nd grade at VCS ends ‘wonderful year’ with a week of theme days

By Holly Humphrey, 2nd Grade Teacher

Second grade had a wonderful year and never let Covid get us down! We ended our year with a week of theme days. We had Beach Day, Pirate Day, Stem Day, and Camping Day.

Our favorite day was camping day! The kids planned their camps with their groups and brought in all the materials they needed. It was great to watch them work together to set up their tenting areas. They also read camping books, wrote about their camping day, and best of all... made s’mores!

It was a great way to end a great year!

In order to maintain this level of support for VCS, there is a HUGE need for more help. Support doesn’t necessarily mean attending every PTO meeting (though we’d love to see you there). It could be something as simple as liking and sharing our Facebook page, signing up to run a concession stand at a sporting event, or even just picking up supplies we’ve stated we need while you’re out running your own errands.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS when it comes to contributing to the success of our school!

Our next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, September 15 at 5 p.m. in the VCS library (we hope to have a Zoom option as well). If you are interested in helping out, even if you just want to see what it’s all about, we would LOVE for you to attend!

Look for updates on upcoming events, ways you can help and meeting dates on our Facebook page! We can also be contacted at pto@veaziecs.org.

Thank you for your support!
VCS says ‘thanks’ to’ Veazie FD

We’d like to extend a huge thank you to the Veazie Fire Department for talking with us, letting us check out a fire truck, and the best part... helping us cool off during summer programming!

SUN AND S’MORES—VCS summer program students harnessed the sun’s power to create their own solar ovens out of tin foil, cardboard, plastic wrap, and black paper. These came in handy for making delicious s’mores!
I’m back!! I’m back!!! Did you really think you’d get rid of me that easily? Last spring I informed Mr. Cyr of my intention to retire at the end of the year due to some changes in my family, which involve me spending a great deal of time in South Carolina starting this fall. After learning of my plan to be in Maine until October, he offered me a limited contract to help Mrs. Sirois get the new interventionist program up and running. Of course I accepted… so I’m back… just for a bit.

It is bittersweet leaving Veazie. I started my teaching career late in life after my children were 2 and 8 years old, subbing at many surrounding schools, ending at the John R. Graham School. I started as a long-term sub in First Grade and moved into the Kindergarten position with Mrs. Harrison as my helper. I ended up staying in Kindergarten for 16 years before asking to try another grade. Fortunately, Mr. Nichols took a chance on me and let me move into a 2nd/3rd grade Math/Sci/SS position, which later changed into a regular 4th grade position. I absolutely loved the new level. I also loved having “my kids” again as they cycled through the years.

Many years ago I started working with kids while providing day care at my house. This ended up lasting 16 years while I finished my degree and helped raise many children, including my own. After 16 years in Kindergarten, I didn’t think I’d have 16 more years for intermediate level but planned to put in a few more years before retiring. However, life has come full circle for me. My dream of becoming a grandparent is coming true in October, and I will be going back to at-home day care… albeit in South Carolina!

My husband has already retired so we will now have the flexibility to travel the 20 hours between Maine and South Carolina whenever we want to. I do not foresee moving south permanently, as our son lives close by, as do a number of family members. Besides, I am a Mainer and will need to introduce my grandson to his Maine heritage. Maine is a special place, and it will always be home for us.

I have loved my time in Veazie, both at the John R. Graham and Veazie Community Schools. I love the people I have worked with over the years, and especially all my kids!! I’m sure I’ll be back to sub whenever I’m in Maine for any amount of time. You can’t really get rid of me! :)

Back-to-School Open House Aug. 31

The Veazie Community School will hold an in-person Back-to-School Open House on Tuesday, August 31, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. The open house is for VCS families only; we are not able to host a spaghetti supper this year. More information will be shared with VCS families as the date gets closer.

Substitute Teaching at VCS

Have you ever thought of being a substitute teacher at Veazie Community School? Here is a short list of some of the benefits:

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

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

VCS Community School Fall Online Auction

This is Veazie Community Schools largest fundraiser of the year… and we need YOUR help! We are collecting donations of gift certificates/cards, coupons for services, memorabilia and much more!

Please contact VCS PTO if you would like to donate: pto@veazie.org

Thank you for your support!

Veazie Community School 2021-22 Calendar

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Title IA, Title IIA, Title IV, and Title V - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires public schools to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and develop a School/District Consolidated Plan. Veazie Community School has followed all federal guidelines supporting this process. VCS stands to receive federal grant funds and will use Title IA funds to support salary/benefits related to our new CI3T Interventionist position; Title IIA funds will be used to support professional development costs including travel fees and contracted/purchased services; Title IV funds will support further development of our STEM clubs, after school programs, and robotics team; and Title V funds will help to support technology learning needs as well as the purchase of new library books. Opportunity for public comment was provided during the July 13, 2021 Veazie School Committee meeting.
Our VCS students have “GROWN” into little gardeners this summer. Together we have planted eight garden beds in hopes to provide home-grown vegetables for our cafeteria.

In May, Mrs. Humphrey’s 2nd graders started some cucumbers, gourds and flowers in our greenhouse. They were able to take their gourds home to personally care for while the cucumbers and flowers were planted and are flourishing here at school. This crew also planted two pots of peas, which became a delightful treat during the summer program.

In June, Mrs. Kimball’s 1st graders planted potatoes. During the summer program we discovered our precious crop was being enjoyed by the potato beetle larva. The first graders learned about the stages of the potato beetle and saw first hand how destructive they can be. It became our mission to eradicate those little pests. We hunted them down and squished them. Gross, I know, but we were looking forward to Mrs. Brooks and Mrs. Thibeault’s potato salad, we had to save our potatoes!! This gang was super anxious to dig up their treasure which they will be able to do in the fall as 2nd graders.

Also in June, Mrs. Chandler’s Kindergarteners planted sunflower seeds along with zinnias and bachelor buttons. These seeds were harvested last fall from our previously planted flowers. This coincides with Mrs. Chandler’s plant cycle lesson.

The Barber family so generously donated their time after school got out to help get the cherry tomato and cucumber seedlings planted. We also planted watermelon, butternut squash and pumpkins from seeds along with dill, parsley and basil.

In the course of the summer program, we were able to get the rest of our garden beds planted. Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Frazier’s crew planted carrots. The radishes and green beans were planted by Mrs. Kimball’s group. Mrs. Hillerman’s bunch started lettuce and spinach. Gabby and Evie LaMontagne accompanied Mrs. Freeman for a school wide discussion about beekeeping and why honey bees and other pollinating insects are so important. Mrs. Freeman modeled her beekeeper’s suit and brought in a piece of honeycomb. Gabby and Evie shared many pictures of themselves caring for their hives. The students were able to taste honey on biscuits, delicious! The same day we made models of a flower blossom out of playdough, learned about the parts of a flower and discussed the importance of pollination. The kids also enjoyed making grass heads and bringing home their own cactus. We continued to pull those pesky weeds and constantly monitor the growth of our fruit and vegetables during the five weeks of the summer program.

A special thanks to Smitty, Mr. Pete and the Fraziers for helping care for our garden after school hours. And also a shout out to Ms. Jen for “veggie sitting” our hanging cucumber baskets for the month of August. Thank you ALL! I encourage the Veazie community to stop by and view the remarkable work your young residents have done here in Veazie Community School Garden.