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Town of Veazie, 1084 Main St., Veazie, ME 04401 • Veazie Community School, 1040 School St., Veazie, ME 04401 • SUMMER 2026

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VCS Attendance Efforts Lead to Remarkable Improvement

As schools across Maine continue to address chronic absenteeism, Veazie Community School is celebrating significant progress in student attendance during the 2025–26 school year.

This year, VCS adopted “GRIT” as its Word of the Year. Throughout the school year, students were encouraged to demonstrate perseverance, resilience and determination in all aspects of school life. While the theme was applied to academics, behavior, extracurricular activities and personal growth, it also became an important part of the school’s attendance efforts.

At VCS, staff members consistently communicated to students that showing up matters. Students were encouraged to demonstrate grit by attending school regularly, even on days when it might have been easier to stay home. Teachers and staff emphasized that learning, friendships, extracurricular activities and personal growth all begin with being present. The school’s efforts appear to have paid off. During the 2025–26 school year, VCS achieved an average daily attendance rate of 95.22%. Even more notably, the school’s chronic

absenteeism rate dropped to just 6.1%, a substantial improvement from 12.3% during the previous school year. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10% or more of the school year for any reason.

The improvement is particularly noteworthy when viewed against statewide trends. According to recent reporting by Maine Public, more than 23% of Maine students are considered chronically absent, meaning that VCS’s rate of 6.1% is less than one-third of the statewide average. While schools throughout Maine continue to work to address attendance challenges that emerged during and after the pandemic, VCS has reduced its chronic absenteeism rate by more than half in just one year.

To reinforce the importance of attendance, school officials reviewed monthly attendance data and recognized students who achieved perfect attendance during that period. Those students became eligible for tokens for the school’s popular book vending machine, allowing them to select a free book of their choice if their name was drawn. The monthly recognition program provided a positive incentive while helping students develop strong attendance habits.

While incentives played a role, school leaders believe the success is largely attributable to a shared commitment among students, families and staff. Parents prioritized getting students to school, staff worked to create a welcoming and engaging environment and students embraced the message that consistent attendance is an important component of success.

Superintendent and Principal Tim Tweedie noted that attendance is about much more than numbers: “When students are here, they are learning, building relationships, participating in activities and becoming connected members of our school community. We are incredibly proud of the efforts our students and families made this year.”

As VCS reflects on the 2025–26 school year, the school’s attendance success highlights the impact of a shared commitment among students, families and staff. Through a schoolwide focus on GRIT, consistent encouragement and positive recognition, students embraced the importance of showing up each day. The results demonstrate what can be accomplished when a community works together to support student success.

Welcoming Chelsea Bagley – the Newest School Committee Member

The Veazie School Committee is excited to welcome its newest member, Chelsea Bagley, elected



to join on Tuesday, June 9.

Mrs. Bagley grew up in Daphne, Alabama, and earned her bachelor’s degree in communication from Auburn University. She and her husband, Alex, moved to Veazie almost nine years ago. They have two children at Veazie Community School - Henry, who will be in third grade this fall, and Lila, who will be in kindergarten. She is a Senior Integration Architect with Oracle Health. Before joining Oracle, she spent many years with Northern Light Health primarily as Integration Architect.

Education has always been important to Mrs. Bagley. She shares about her interest in joining the committee: “I come from a family of educators, so continuing that tradition of service feels meaningful. While my career path took a different path than the classroom, I’ve

always had a deep appreciation for teachers and school communities.”

She’s already enjoyed being involved in the parent community at VCS and adds, “When a committee vacancy opened up, it felt like the right opportunity to give back in a different way and I am excited to step up and help.” She continues, “It’s an exciting time to be part of the VCS community and I’m grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I look forward to supporting our students, teachers, staff and families while helping the school continue to grow and shine. Mostly, I hope to listen, learn and work collaboratively to ensure VCS remains a place where every student can thrive. I’m always happy to hear ideas or chat about how we can continue making VCS a great place for our kids.”



From the Desk of Veazie Town Manager

What a wonderful spring and summer we have enjoyed in Veazie so far this year. While Maine weather always keeps us guessing, I hope residents have had plenty of opportunities to enjoy this beautiful weather we have been experiencing. As hard as it is to believe, fall will be here before we know it.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this year’s Town Meeting. While attendance remains lower than we would like, both the Town and School budgets were approved, allowing us to continue providing the high-quality services our residents expect. I appreciate the efforts of the Town

Council, School Department, Department Heads and Town staff who work diligently throughout the year to responsibly manage taxpayer dollars while meeting the needs of our community.

This has been a truly remarkable year for Veazie Community School. Earlier this year, the school was recognized as the top-rated elementary and middle school in the United States, an incredible achievement that reflects the dedication of our students, staff, families and community. The recognition is a testament to the outstanding leadership of Superintendent/Principal Tim Tweedie and the unwavering commitment of our educators and support staff.

We are also extremely proud of the Veazie Viking Robotics Team, which captured the Maine State Championship and earned the opportunity to represent our community at the FIRST World

Championship in Houston, Texas. Their accomplishment showcases the talent, creativity, teamwork and perseverance of our students and coaches, and they represented Veazie exceptionally well on the world stage.

Summer is also construction season. We are working with local contractors to complete several paving projects and stormwater improvements. These investments help maintain and improve the safety and reliability of our roads and supporting infrastructure. I appreciate everyone’s patience during construction activities and encourage residents to continue reporting any concerns they may observe throughout town.

As we are preparing for another school year and welcome new residents to our community, I encourage everyone to take advantage of the many services offered by our Town Office. Whether you need assistance

with vehicle registrations, tax information, permits or have general questions about the community, our staff is here to help. We are also always looking for residents interested in serving on boards and committees, and we welcome your involvement.

I would also encourage residents to sign up for the Town’s email and text notification system to receive important updates, announcements and emergency information. Staying connected is one of the best ways to remain informed about what’s happening in our community. As always, if you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 947-2781 or by email at mleonard@veazie.net.

Wishing everyone a safe, enjoyable and productive remainder of the summer and a great start to the fall season.



Mark Leonard
Town Manager

Town of Veazie
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Veazie, ME 04401
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Is published in partnership between the Town of Veazie and Veazie Community School for the citizens of Veazie.

Timothy Tweedie
Superintendent and Principal

Veazie Community School
1040 School St.
Veazie, ME 04401
(207) 947-6573



Upcoming Holidays and Council Meetings	
Council Meeting	August 11
Town Office closed	September 7
Labor Day	
Council Meeting	September 8
Town Office closed	October 12
Indigenous Peoples' Day	
Council Meeting	November 10
Town Office closed	November 11
Veteran's Day	
Town Office closed	November 26-27
Thanksgiving	
Council Meeting	December 8
Town Office closed	December 25
Christmas	

VCS Continues Upward Trend in State Assessment Performance

At Veazie Community School, student achievement is built through a commitment to continuous improvement. Over the past five years, VCS has steadily increased student performance on Maine’s state assessments, with the most significant gains occurring during the 2023-24 school year. Those improvements have continued, placing VCS among the state’s highest-performing schools.

In the 2021-22 school year, 66.5% of VCS students met or exceeded state expectations in English Language Arts (ELA), while 61.8% met expectations in mathematics—both figures exceeded the statewide averages. While those results reflected strong student achievement, school leaders and staff believed there was still room for growth. Rather than becoming complacent, they committed to strengthening instruction and refining their practices. That commitment led to modest gains the following year before a significant leap in 2023-24, when ELA proficiency climbed from 67.4% to 77.0% and math increased from 62.9% to 71.6%.

Those gains were sustained in 2024-25, when VCS reached 77.1% proficiency in ELA and 75.0% in mathematics. Preliminary 2025-26 results continue to demonstrate strong achievement, with 75.4% of students meeting expectations in ELA and 72.8% in math.

The improvements are even more impressive when compared to statewide performance. In 2021-22, VCS outperformed the Maine average by 4.2 percentage points in ELA and 14.2 percentage points in mathematics. By 2024-25, those margins had grown to 13.3 percentage points in ELA and an impressive 25.6 percentage points in math. State comparison data for the 2025-26 school year has not yet been released.

School leaders credit several intentional initiatives for the dramatic gains beginning in 2023-24. The implementation of the UFLI Foundations literacy program in Grades K-3 strengthened early reading instruction through explicit, systematic phonics. At the same time, teachers completed a comprehensive curriculum audit to ensure that classroom

	VCS ELA	VCS Math	State ELA	State Math	% above state ELA	% above state Math
2021-22	66.5%	61.8%	62.3%	47.6%	4.2%	14.2%
2022-23	67.4%	62.9%	64.6%	48.7%	2.8%	14.2%
2023-24	77.0%	71.6%	65.4%	47.2%	11.6%	24.4%
2024-25	77.1%	75.0%	63.8%	49.4%	13.3%	25.6%
2025-26	75.4 %	72.8%	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

instruction is fully aligned with Maine’s learning standards. Just as importantly, the school has made a purposeful commitment to staying focused on the fundamentals, emphasizing strong reading, writing and mathematics instruction rather than chasing educational trends.

“There is certainly no shortage of people eager to sell schools the next game-changing program or initiative,” said Superintendent/Principal Timothy Tweedie. “We’ve been very intentional about not getting distracted or implementing change simply for the sake of change. Instead, we’ve stayed focused on what happens

in our classrooms every day, strengthening our curriculum, supporting teachers, improving instruction and making thoughtful decisions based on what’s best for our students. That consistent approach seems to be paying off.”

While school officials are pleased with these results, they recognize that a new school year brings a new group of students and new opportunities for growth. Mr. Tweedie said, “We’re encouraged by the progress we’ve made, but our work is ongoing. I believe we have the staff, the students and the community support to continue moving in the right direction.”

VCS Summer Program Helps Students Learn, Grow and Have Fun



For many students, summer is a time to relax, spend time outdoors and enjoy a break from school. At Veazie Community School, however, dozens of students chose to spend part of their summer continuing to learn alongside their friends. Throughout the month of July, the Veazie Community School Summer Program welcomed approximately 55 students each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. While the program places a strong emphasis on strengthening literacy and math skills, it also includes a wide variety of engaging enrichment activities that make learning enjoyable.

To learn more about what makes the program special, students were asked to share their thoughts:

- Meleena wrote, “The summer program is different. We have amazing staff that help us get ready for the next school year. This summer, I’m working on multiplication strategies, such as mental math and Times Tales.”
- Stanley said, “I know I’ve gotten better at math, reading and writing...and also basketball.”
- Brooklyn wrote, “I think if someone was thinking about coming next summer, I would tell them that you learn a lot. The teachers are also so kind!”

• Reese shared, “There are so many fun things to do. On the first day of the week, we get to do a craft. The next day, we get to go to the garden, which is so much fun. The last day of the week is water day. I love summer school!”



Judging by the students’ responses, the Veazie Community School Summer Program continues to provide an experience students genuinely look forward to each year, strengthening academic skills, building friendships, encouraging new interests and keeping them connected to their school community throughout the summer.



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New School Funding Formula Will Require Long-Term Planning in Veazie

Earlier this year, the Maine Legislature approved LD 2226, the first comprehensive revision to the state's school funding formula in more than 20 years. The legislation includes an additional \$44.7 million in annual state funding for public education while modernizing the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula used to determine how those dollars are distributed among Maine's school districts.

Under the previous formula, state education funding was driven largely by a community's property valuation and student enrollment. While those factors remain important, the new formula places greater emphasis on student need, including the number of economically disadvantaged students a district serves. It also updates the regional cost adjustment used to account for differences in labor costs across the state and changes how the required local contribution is calculated by replacing a single statewide mill rate with a variable local mill rate based on a community's or region's relative wealth. Together, these changes are intended to make the formula more reflective of both a community's ability to pay and the needs of the students it serves.

While many districts across Maine are projected to receive additional state aid under the revised formula, Veazie Community School is among those that would receive less. According to the Maine Department of Education's preliminary funding simulation, VCS would have experienced a reduction of approximately \$40,700 in annual state subsidy under the new formula.

Recognizing that some communities would be negatively affected by the changes, the Legislature included a hold-harmless provision in the law. For Veazie, that means state subsidy is expected to remain level at current enrollment levels rather than immediately decreasing by the projected \$40,700. The preliminary estimates also show that Veazie is not alone. Many school districts throughout Penobscot County are expected to be flat-funded or see only modest increases in state funding over the next several years, while other regions of the state see increases to educational funding. The provision gives districts time to adapt to the new funding model while avoiding sudden reductions in state aid.

"I appreciate that the Legislature recognized the

impact these changes would have on communities like Veazie and included a hold-harmless provision," Mr. Tweedie said. "Overall, this legislation is a positive step for Maine students. However, Veazie was one of just 41 communities (out of 261 statewide) projected to receive less state funding under the revised formula. The hold-harmless

provision gives us until 2030 to plan responsibly. As we develop future budgets, we'll need to be thoughtful in our financial planning and make strategic use of our reserve funds when appropriate, so we can continue providing the high-quality educational opportunities our community expects."

You're Invited

The Veazie School Committee generally meets at 6:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month in the school library. The agenda is posted at least four days in advance of each meeting on the Veazie Community School's website.

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chelsea Bagley
Bruce Hall
William Reed
Bethany Tocci
Valli Vel

VEAZIE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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OUR WEBSITE

www.veaziecs.org/

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/veaziecommunityschool

TWITTER

<https://twitter.com/VeazieCS>

MORE FUN FOR YOUR KIDS, MORE CONVENIENCE FOR YOU!

Enroll your child today for the Bangor Region YMCA After School Program at Veazie Community School | For Pre-K to 6th Graders



- Expanded hours: 6 pm late pick up
- Competitively priced
- Free Family Membership!* (\$975 value)
- Swim time
- Experienced, energized, and fun staff!
- Enriching curriculum program
- Multi-child & military discounts are available.
- We also offer financial assistance & accept state subsidies!

For more information, visit bangory.org or call 941-2808.

*Families enrolled 5 days a week in our Before & After School program OR After School program will receive a free Family Membership!

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SPOTS ARE
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FAST!**



Lifting People. Strengthening Community.

Bangor Region YMCA | 17 Second Street, Bangor, ME 04401 | 207-941-2808 | bangory.org



VEAZIE COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2026-27 BUS ROUTES

White Bus - Morning Run
7:20 AM Thompson Rd.
7:22 AM Birch St. and Randolph Dr.
7:23 AM Prouty Dr. and School St.
7:24 AM Oak Grove S. area
7:25 AM Olive St. area
7:26 AM Main St. to State St. by Silvers
7:28 AM State St. from Orono Townline to Highview Terraces
7:30 AM Highview Terrace
7:32 AM Ridgeview Dr.
7:35 AM Greystone Park (Mutton Lane & Coal St. Bus Stop)
7:36 AM State St. to Riverview St.
7:40 AM On Riverview St.
7:43 AM On Hobson Ave.
7:45 AM On Arbor Dr.
7:50 AM Veazie Community School

White Bus - Afternoon Run
2:30 PM Departure from Veazie Community School
2:40 PM State St. to Riverview Dr.
2:45 PM On Riverview Dr.
2:48 PM On Hobson Ave
2:50 PM On Arbor Dr.
2:55 PM Veazie Community School
3:00 PM State St. from School St. to Greystone
3:00 PM Greystone Park (Mutton Lane & Coal St. Bus Stop)
3:05 PM Ridgeview Dr.
3:07 PM Highview Terraces
3:10 PM State St. from Highview Terraces to Orono Townline
3:12 PM Main St. from State St. by Silvers to Olive St.
3:15 PM Olive St. area
3:15 PM Olive St. to Oak Grove St. area
3:17 PM Thompson Rd.
3:20 PM Randolph Dr. and Prouty Dr. area

Red Bus - Morning Run
7:20 AM Chase Rd.
7:20 AM E. Sunset Dr. and Chickadee Dr.
7:24 AM Continue on Chase Rd.
7:25 AM Silvers Trailer Park
7:30 AM Continue on Chase Rd.
7:30 AM Silver Ridge Area and Hillside Dr.
7:30 AM Jackson Dr. and Buck Hill
7:33 AM Left on Chase Road
7:35 AM Corner of Chase & Mtn. View Dr.
7:40 AM Long Meadow Dr.
7:43 AM Sunset Drive
7:45 AM Veazie Community School

Red Bus - Afternoon Run
2:30 PM Departure from VCS
2:40 PM Chase Road
2:40 PM Chickadee Dr.
2:45 PM Sunset Dr.
2:46 PM Silvers Trailer Park
2:48 PM Silver Ridge Area and Hillside Dr.
2:55 PM Chase Road to Jackson Dr.
2:55 PM Jackson Drive
2:58 PM Buck Hill area
3:03 PM Corner of Chase Rd. & Mtn View
3:04 PM Long Meadow Dr.

VEAZIE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026-2027

August					September					October				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23
31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30
November					December					January				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4					1
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11	4	5	6	7	8
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18	11	12	13	14	15
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25	18	19	20	21	22
30					28	29	30	31		25	26	27	28	29
February					March					April				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				1	2
8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23
					29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30
May					June					July				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7		1	2	3	4				1	2
10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	5	6	7	8	9
17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	12	13	14	15	16
24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	19	20	21	22	23
31					28	29	30			26	27	28	29	30
= Teacher Only Day					175 Student Days					Mid-Trimester 1: Oct 2, 2026				
= Holiday					7 Teacher Only Days					End of Trimester 1: Nov 20, 2026				
= School Vacation Day										Mid-Trimester 2: Jan 15, 2027				
= Parent-Teacher Conferences: November 9 & 10 - 3:00 - 6:30 PM										End of Trimester 2: March 5, 2027				

First Student Day (PreK - 8) Thursday, August 27, 2026
Last Student Day June 9, 2027* - **Students will be dismissed at 11:30 AM on the last day of school**
*Additional days will be added at the end of the school year to adjust for snow days or unexpected school cancellations.
Adopted 1/5/26

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

Each year, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires public schools to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and develop a School/District Consolidated Plan. VCS 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 Interventions 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 August 3, 2026, Veazie School Committee meeting.

Substitute Teachers Need

**Are you looking to earn
extra money while enjoying
a flexible schedule?**



**Join our education team and
become a substitute teacher at
The Veazie Community School.**

Requirements: At least 18 years old;
Completed fingerprints and valid Criminal History

Record Check: If interested, please find the substitute application packet on the VCS website (www.veaziecs.org) and submit to Superintendent Tweedie at ttweedie@veaziecs.org or HR Manager Lisa Swift at lsswift@veaziecs.org.

Compensation: \$125/per day
You decide what days you work — Help your community

We would love to have you join our team!



VEAZIE WORD SEARCH



E Z L D F V P T T R R M H Z F E R R Y M H K K D S
A T W W E A H O A Y E P M A X F B R G W U J K D H
L I H R W X U C B E T W S I C C K Z M A H A R G Q
O O Q X F X X S U D S I N T I H U N K K Q B L R Q
M U I Q G F H B N R B B O W L U E H E V M W R U T
R X U L A B H O N N E S O Y T H X Y L L R J N N K
P B S V P E T N Y V W A V X G K F E E G P J W Q O
S S M D U P I E L U S X L I L Y D Y G R S E W B I
Z T X Z G D M P A U I X M M X O V M A V Z V Z V S
Y G Y E W A S K N W C Y B F V D G E P R W D D N G
M O R G M K E V C N N T D R Y O Z D H H A A Z C G
J V H D X M H R A E A H B I C R C A P B N M I Q A
A I K O E D C W S R R Y R V D Y N C E I E G Y Z L
Y S M L P Z N J T O F L E E K Q C A S I H D B Y F
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D L E C T C L U R Z V L A F T Z Q T J E I E A G R
A I N C D Z B H Q X I W W S G R F R G A F W A A E
O M D U S K G D Y H V O L S V E U O J D H K T B V
R W B T F K D A F B D S L D O X B P T H H O L E T
L A X S Z V I C D P C F I U W V P S T R I A I Y O
I S K Y Z S V N E I E R T E X G T M F J C X Z G U
A I Z D A H E D N X K G S D A O R E S A H C M G V
R M L Y K A D D I E W E E D S E R E H W B N P K R
J L R Z T Q P Q I D R G T G P Z A Y B D O K H L D
C V P I H V C S A L M O N C L U B U P C Y N R D T

Find these terms:

Graham	Skinner	EM Sports Academy
Penobscot	Joseph Page	Francis Webster
Chase Road	Salmon Club	Bunny Lancaster
Stillwater	Sawmills	Addie Weed
Railroad	RM Flagg	Blanche Smith
River	Hachey	Stucco Lodge
Dam	Ferry	

Made by VCS Students



Enjoy unlimited access to our tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts, all of which are available for your use! Please be courteous to others.

Veazie Honors Revolutionary War Veteran on Independence Day



On July 4, as communities across the country celebrated America's 250th birthday, the Veazie Historical Committee marked the occasion in a meaningful way close to home. Members gathered at the gravesite of Col. Jonathan Lowder, Veazie's only Revolutionary War veteran, to place a wreath in his honor and read the Declaration of Independence.

Col. Lowder holds a special place in local history. In addition to his service during the Revolutionary War, he operated a trading post near the present-day Veazie Sewer Treatment site, where he traded with local Native Americans.

The Lowder family was also closely connected to the land that helped shape the community. Their large farm once stretched from the area of Hobson Avenue to the main gate of Mount Hope Cemetery.

The Historical Committee has additional information about the Lowder family and welcomes anyone interested in learning more about this important chapter of Veazie's past.

Greetings from the Veazie Congregational Church

Mary Bagley - Church Clerk

Community members may have noticed some work going on at the church. The high winds and storms this past winter tore siding off the steeple and it needed to be replaced. It was discovered that there was never any weather proofing put on before the siding, so that has been added as well. Veazie Congregation Church's small but devoted congregation has pledged money for these repairs and as there is always something else to be done, we welcome any and all contributions from the community. This historic 181-year-old meeting house has deep roots in the Veazie community and is all that remains of the many churches located here in the 1800s. It is important to the community's identity to keep the building in good repair.

Other work is taking place this summer as well: New crossing signs are being installed. This should make it much safer for folks to cross the increasingly busy Route 2. It will be wonderful to have new signs when VCC suppers resume this fall. Thank you also to the Veazie PD for providing

an officer to help individuals and families cross the road on Sunday mornings. It is wonderful to have their support, and it makes a difference for our members and friends coming for the worship service.

VCC Suppers will start up again this fall. We had a wonderful turnout for the supper in April and want to use that menu again. We called it a buffet and what a spread the members prepared for the occasion. There were casseroles of all sorts, beans, meatballs, a salad bar, mac & cheese and breads. The dessert table was loaded with a great variety as well: A wonderful meal was had by all. We invite you to stop in for one of our suppers and enjoy the fellowship and great food. The dining room is downstairs, and we have a stair lift for those who need help negotiating staircases. The dates and menu are:

- October 17 - Beans and casseroles
- November 14 - Buffet
- December 12 - Turkey pie

For updates to the menu and other news, visit our Facebook page or email vzchurchclerk@gmail.com.

Upcoming General Election

The upcoming General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in the Council Chambers. Polls will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are expected to be available at the Town Office beginning Monday, October 5. Voters may also request an absentee ballot online up to three months before the election. The last day to change party enrollment before the election is Friday, October 16. We encourage all eligible voters to make a plan and participate—see you at the polls!

Emerald Ash Borer Expected in Veazie

The Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect that kills ash trees, has been detected in nearby communities and is expected to reach Veazie if it has not already arrived.

Property owners are encouraged to identify and monitor ash trees on their property, especially those located near homes, roads, sidewalks and utility lines where falling limbs or trees could pose a safety risk.

Signs of infestation include thinning branches, increased woodpecker activity, D-shaped exit holes in the bark and dying treetops. As infested trees decline, they become increasingly brittle and hazardous.

Residents who have ash trees should begin planning for monitoring and management. For more information, including how to identify ash trees and recognize signs of infestation, visit the Maine Forest Service website or scan the QR code.



Garden Club Beautifies Veazie One Flower at a Time



If you've admired the planters around the "Welcome to Veazie" signs or the patriotic petunias along the fence at the Veazie Cemetery, you can thank the members of the Veazie Garden Club! Each year, the club provides these plantings for the enjoyment of residents and visitors driving by. Both welcome signs got a total makeover this spring and are looking gorgeous. Garden clubs around the country were asked to honor the nation's 250th with red, white and blue plantings and the cemetery boxes are really showing their spirit.

In addition to maintaining these plantings in town, the club also agreed to help rehab a courtyard garden at the Breast & Osteoporosis Center at Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor this year. Neglected for some time due to budget cuts, members have worked hard to return the garden to a beautiful setting for

patients and staff to enjoy. More improvements are planned over time and volunteers are excited to see the growth of the perennial plants they've added when they emerge next spring.

The Veazie Garden Club welcomes men and women from Veazie and the surrounding communities. The club was organized in 1957 and will celebrate its 70th anniversary next year. It became affiliated with the national and state garden clubs in 1977, offering more opportunities for members to participate in events and attend tours statewide. Club meetings are held monthly from September through June on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Veazie Community School. Monthly programs feature speakers on various gardening topics. Each May, the club holds its annual plant sale to raise funds for projects throughout the year. Social events and garden tours are held during



the summer months. Annual dues are a bargain at just \$15! Anyone interested in learning more about gardening

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is invited to reach out to the club president, Barb Dalton, via email: barbiebd81@gmail.com. Follow the club's activities on Facebook!



Community Garden Beds Ready for Planting



Planting is a little easier this year thanks to the newly reconstructed raised garden beds now available for community use. Four of the Town's six garden beds are currently open for residents who would like a place to plant, grow and enjoy fresh flowers, vegetables or herbs. Anyone interested in reserving a bed is invited to call the Town Office at 947-2781 or stop by and add their name to the sign-up sheet at the office counter.



Veazie Resident Medals at the Special Olympics

Michael Mooney, age 23, of Veazie, Maine, recently had the opportunity to compete at the 2026 National Special Olympics Games in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In fact, he not only competed, but he medaled!

Mr. Mooney has ADHD, but he doesn't see this as a hindrance to his life. He views it as an advantage that helps him stay active. He is always on the move, and for Michael, swimming comes naturally. He fell in love with the water at a young age and started competing when he was 12. After graduating from Orono High

School in 2021, he didn't stop competing but continued to swim in various events.

At the national competition in June, Mr. Mooney's goal was to do his best, no matter what the results were. He placed third in the 50-yard butterfly, third in the 100-yard freestyle, and second in the 4x25-yard freestyle relay. "It was a great experience," he shares. "I got to meet people from all 50 states, and swimming in front of 80,000 people was an honor." He was surrounded by Team Maine who took home a total of 18 medals this year.

He wanted to give a special thank you to his mom, Claire Mooney, for always supporting and encouraging him. He also wanted to thank his teammates Raymond Brewton, Aspen Somers and Martha Noddin for their encouragement and his girlfriend, Kelsey Tripp, another Special Olympics athlete, for her support.

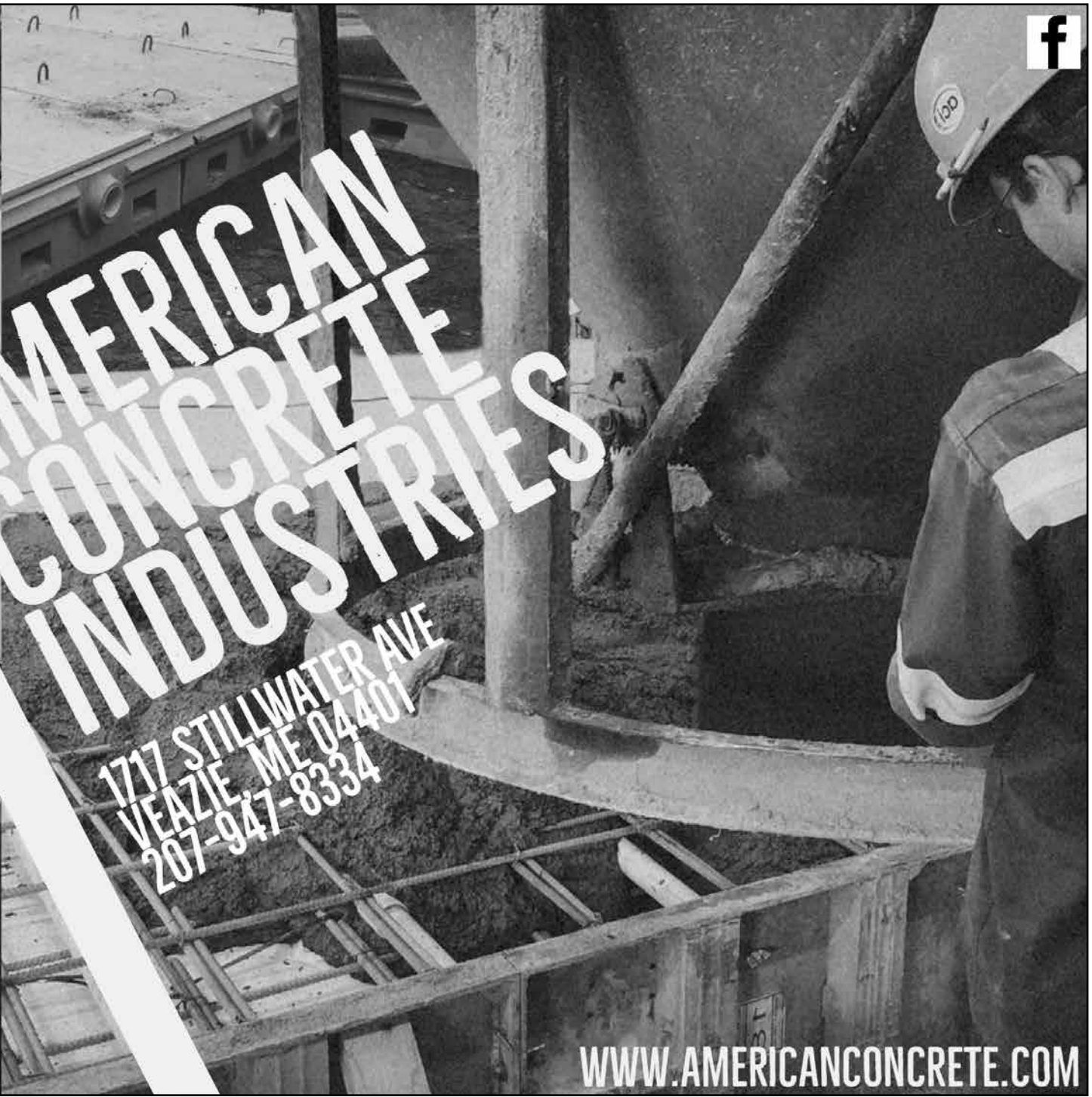
Claire Mooney is bursting with pride for her son. She shares, "Michael is an inspiration. Despite the challenges and obstacles he has encountered on his journey, he has beaten the odds. He is a kind, strong, compassionate young man.

I could not be more proud of him and all his successes."

Looking ahead, Mr. Mooney plans to use his free time to train for the Maine State Regionals and eventually the 2030 National Special Olympics Games. He adds, "If you want to push yourself, go for it. If you have a dream, chase it. You never know where it will take you!"

Congratulations, Michael Mooney! The Town of Veazie wishes you all the best as you follow your dreams!





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