



Volume 30 No.1

THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



February 2024 Issue

TOWN MEETING - TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Pre-Town Meeting & Meet the Candidates on February 27

BROAD BROOK GRANGE

Broad Brook Grange, in collaboration with the Guilford Selectboard, will hold the annual Pre-Town Meeting on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:30 pm. The event will be live-streamed on BCTV, but those interested in participating should attend at Broad Brook Community Center. Town Meeting Moderator, Rick Zamore, will facilitate the February 27 session.

Town Meeting itself will convene at 10 am on Tuesday, March 5, at Guilford Central School. Australian ballot will again be used to elect town officers, with polls open at the school from 10am to 7pm.

At the Pre-Town Meeting, the selectboard will present and discuss the articles to be voted at Town Meeting, and will answer questions and receive comments from townspeople present.

In addition, candidates for town offices are urged to attend to introduce themselves to the voters. This is the only time before the vote for the public to meet and hear the candidates together. One of the terms for Guilford representative to the WSESD School Board is up for election this year; voters will also cast ballots for reps from the other district towns, and candidates are

invited to attend Pre-Town Meeting to introduce themselves and answer questions. Those interested in declaring as a write-in candidate should take this sole opportunity to appear before a group of voters.

Guilford's reps to the WSESD Board will also be on hand to talk about school board business, and a brief update on Guilford Central School's year in progress will be given at Pre-Town Meeting.

Refreshments will be served. Broad Brook Community Center is at 3940 Guilford Center Road.

Selectboard Candidate Statements

Zon Eastes, 2-Year Selectboard Candidate

I live on Yeaw Road, just south of the Guilford Fairgrounds. My wife, Peggy Spencer, moved to this property 55 years ago. I've lived here for 40 years now. Our property is crossed by a few VAST snowmobile trails, and we welcome walkers on our bit of East Mountain.

I am a musician and community builder. I conduct Juno Orchestra, I teach cello at the Brattleboro Music Center, and I am a field worker for the Vermont Creative Network of the Vermont Arts Council.

I am running for re-election for a two-year seat on the selectboard. I was appointed to the selectboard in 2019 when a member needed to step away mid-term. I have since been elected twice by Guilford voters and have served as chair for the past two years. I am honored indeed to work with my selectboard colleagues and hold each person

Continued on page 3

Hannah Tustin, 3-Year Selectboard Candidate

Hello! My name is Hannah Tustin, and I am running for a three-year seat on the Guilford Selectboard. I have been a Guilford resident for nearly seven years at our home on Sweet Pond Road. Together with my husband (a lifelong Guilford resident), we operate Owl's Head Farmstead, where we make maple syrup, bake in our licensed home bakery, and harvest produce. I am also an independent consultant providing Clerk of the Works and Owner's Representative services for large construction projects in Vermont and Massachusetts. I am currently serving as Guilford's Assistant Town Clerk.

For over a decade, I served municipalities in Vermont. In Brattleboro, I was the Highway/Utilities Superintendent, which prepared me for the role of Director of Public Works in Hartford (Vermont). During my time in those positions, I was responsible for developing

Continued on page 3

Chip Carter 3-Year Selectboard Candidate

My name is Chip Carter and I am running for a three-year term on the Guilford Selectboard.

I would like to thank the Guilford Gazette for giving me this opportunity to introduce myself to those I have yet to meet and hopefully answer your question of "why vote for me?"

My wife Laurie and I moved to Guilford in 2016. Both of us were born and raised in New England. I grew up in Durham, NH, and my dad was a professor in Physical Education at UNH. Laurie grew up in Greenfield, Mass. You may remember her grandparents' Smead family farm. Laurie spent a lot of time helping her grandparents at Smead Brothers Dairy.

So we both value the history and character of Guilford along with the

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The Guilford Gazette

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Articles: The *Guilford Gazette* is happy to consider photos and articles submitted by the public. Send articles of no more than 600 words (500 if you include a photo) to gazettevt@gmail.com. You can send them in an email, text, or attach them in an editable word-processing format such as Google Docs or Word.

Please be aware that the *Gazette* staff cannot be responsible for photographs and names printed without the permission of participants. It is the responsibility of the writers and photographers to make sure they have permission to print.

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GCS 4th graders choose a spot for the wildlife camera. See story on page 4.

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Zon Eastes, continued

in high regard.

During my most recent term, the selectboard addressed a number of important issues, including:

- Overseeing key staff transitions
- Managing the transfer of over \$633,000.00 in federal funds into the community from the American Rescue Plan Act
- Guarding Guilford's interests during multiple legal allegations and suits
- Reframing financial accounting and reporting practices for great transparency and clarity
- Addressing issues of traffic and community safety
- Partnering with the Planning Commission for community strategic planning

I am consistently inspired by the selectboard's abiding commitment to the best interests of the town, as well as to fair-mindedness and openness. Looking ahead, I see many issues on the horizon. I hope the Selectboard can:

- Continue the work to increase the safety and well-being of all our residents
- Continue to engage in the necessary work to assure effective emergency management and preparedness
- Continue to increase transparency and clarity in financial accounting and reporting
- Continue to foster ways for every voice to be part of our community conversations
- Support the stability and capacity of Guilford's spirit of volunteerism and service
- Retain our current impressive town staff

Thank you to the town staff for hard work and dedication, to the town commissions for expertise and commitment, and to all community volunteers who contribute time and energy. Through all these collective

Hannah Tustin, continued

and implementing large operating (exceeding \$4m) and capital budgets. I have extensive experience in municipal management, grant funding (state and federal), and public engagement initiatives.

My goal as a member of the Guilford Selectboard is to bring my municipal experience to the table in an effort to serve our community in a transparent manner. I believe strongly that respectful public engagement and collaboration is an essential tool in operating any governmental organization. I've found that the best way to garner public support is to have a well informed and involved community.

Infrastructure holds a special place in my heart. I will continue to advocate and support all of the good, hard work that Danny Zumbruski and our road crews are already doing. I will also be advocating to improve the internet and communications infrastructure in Guilford, as this is a significant negative impact to our community's lifestyle.

After attending selectboard meetings both in person and remotely, I've observed significant mistrust and concern by members of our community. I believe that we can all work together to narrow this divide and bring people together. To quote Chris Voss, an FBI negotiator: "Negotiation is not an act of battle; it's a process of discovery. The goal is to uncover as much information as possible. To quiet the voices in your head, make your sole and all-encompassing focus the other person and what they have to say." Hannah Tustin

Zon Eastes, continued

efforts, Guilford is a great place to be.

If re-elected, I would serve with gratitude and energy. Thank you. Zon Eastes

Chip Carter continued

families whose lineage is a working thread through that heritage. It definitely hits home and feels like home.

I retired here after a 30-year career as a television sports anchor and then as a news anchor as well.

Preparation was critical. To be in front of the public with a professional reputation on the line, one has to be knowledgeable in a spectrum of subjects. I had to take complex issues, boil them down to critical points and communicate them clearly and concisely. Taxes, local government, budgets, legislative duties, statehouses were all part of my job requirement. That level of preparation would continue for me as a member of the Selectboard and agenda items in the Monday meetings. Not just prepared, but well prepared, with the ability to look at all sides of an issue and present them without judgement or bias.

There is a tradition of volunteering that sets Guilford apart. Currently, I volunteer for Guilford Cares and am grateful to be associated with and have the friendship of Leah Gessner and others in that organization. I am a member and past president of the Green River Village Preservation Trust; the board is dedicated to the preservation of the historical, physical and community resources of Green River Village. The board is a true "working" board (rakes, shovels, chain saws) of 11 volunteers.

Going forward, I would just like to add—I would welcome the opportunity to work for and with this community to support an engaged and constructive selectboard. I guarantee, no one will put in a larger effort than I will for Guilford.

Chip Carter



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Asset Management Program: Looking Ahead to Changes in Town Financial Accounting and Reporting

BY ZON EASTES FOR THE GUILFORD SELECTBOARD

After Town Meeting Day last year, the town's financial accounting and reporting transferred from Penny Marine to Elly Majonen, new Town Treasurer. Prior to this turnover, some community members had been speaking privately or publicly to the Selectboard about financial reporting and transparency.

The combination of Elly's appointment, concerns from the community, and a commitment from the Selectboard to increase transparency created the energy behind a thorough review and evaluation of the Town's financial accounting and reporting practices. With the help of professional accountants, dedicated staff members, and smart, spirited volunteers, we have developed a mechanism for representation of the Town's financial reporting going forward.

As we head toward Town Meeting Day (Tuesday, March 5), the Selectboard is introducing this new approach: an Asset Management Program. (NOTE: The Selectboard's Goal 5 for FY2023-2024 states: "The Selectboard will review 2018 Capital Needs Assessment and develop an updated plan." Our goal is that the Asset Management Program will be the next, strong step following the Capital Needs Assessment and Plan.)

The 2017-18 Capital Needs Assessment and its resultant Plan describe a set of Guilford assets, their needs, and a plan for addressing those needs. Fact is, Guilford has a still larger set of assets (including, for example roads, land, and financial)



that were not part of that earlier Plan, but which require ongoing oversight. The new Asset Management Program allows flexibility for change and growth while managing maintenance and improvements with clarity and solid reporting.

Background

The Town's budgeting process can be divided into two big buckets: 1) Operation = revenues and expenses over one budget year and 2) Capital = revenues and expenses to cover asset management projects. The Town pays for both Operations and Capital work through various sources of funds (collecting taxes, securing grants, saving money for specific purposes, reserve funds, etc.).

Asset Management

The two highest-level funds the Town manages are Reserve Funds: General Reserve and Highway Reserve. Each exists to take care of unanticipated but important expenses. Each has a clear policy describing how funds pass into these reserves and their possible uses. Nothing new here.

Next level down is a larger collection of Asset Funds that the Town manages to support its various assets (see below). Each Asset Fund stands as a source of funding for maintaining and improving the Town's

assets. Guilford is already in the practice, for example, of collecting taxes in the amount of \$12,500 per year to place in the Green River Bridge Fund. The monies in this fund account are an investment for major future GRCB bridge repair and will diminish the Town's need to go into debt when the new-bridge day comes.

Guilford's current assets include (in Asset Categories): Buildings (Town Office, Library, Garages, Museum); Infrastructure and equipment (Roads, Bridges, Green River Covered Bridge, Large Culverts, Equipment); Land (PlayScape, cemeteries)

So, without increasing taxes, but by adjusting the Town's naming practices, the Selectboard is naming one dedicated Asset Fund to support each asset. Reports will list each Asset Fund's beginning balance, incoming revenues, outgoing expenses, and ending balance.

Look for the initial execution of the Asset Management Program in this year's 2023 Town Report.

Fund Accounting

To complete all capital projects (those that meet capital project definitions), the Town creates individual Project Sheets showing funding sources and detailing expenses. Each Project will be funded by and tracked inside its appropriate Asset Fund (for instance, the recent Weatherhead Hollow Road and Hinesburg Road projects, though separate, would be tracked inside the Road Resurfacing Fund).

Continued on next page

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Two Run for Library Board

There are two five-year positions available this year on the Library Board and two candidates running: Joshua Nelson and Sandra Cortes. Voting for these positions takes place “on the floor” at town meeting. At presstime, the Gazette has a statement from one of the candidates, which follows:.

Sandra Cortes for Library Trustee



My name is Sandra Cortes. I seek my third term as library trustee. As

an elementary school teacher I serve as an important link between the town library and the community. If elected, I will continue to promote library use, diverse programming and fiscal responsibility. I have a special interest in finding and writing grants to help support the library’s educational programs. Recently, I collaborated with the Library Friends group to secure two grants—one from Vermont Humanities and the other from Ben and Jerry’s Foundation.

I have been connected with the Guilford Free Library in different roles for over 20 years! I started as a volunteer with the school age library program and later developed and taught the first summer camp with librarian Cathi Wilken. Working with the state of Vermont I also helped bring free lunches to library campers and the community.

When I see a need in our community, I work to fill it. I look forward to serving our town for another term.

Cathi Wilken Runs for Auditor

My name is Cathi Wilken, and I’m running for re-election as an auditor. This will be my 12th term, and I learn so much each year. Auditors (there are 3 of us) are responsible for examining the town books and records and putting together the Town Report.

The job has changed since I started in 1989. We used to perform an amateur audit of the books, but this became more difficult as the town’s finances grew.

Now the town hires professionals to do the audit, so our responsibility has changed. We work to make the professional audit understandable for everyone who reads the town report and help them understand all the work that happens in our town.

I still spend time inquiring about town expenses. One of my favorite parts of the job is “the interview”. I sit down with one of the people in the town office and ask about how things happen. How does a property

tax get calculated? What happens to the money when a dog tag gets issued? How did that bill get paid? How do you know it was ok to pay that bill? Why isn’t that a Capital Expense?

Putting together the Town Report, “the book”, gives everyone a picture of our town. We try to make it something that people enjoy reading.

I enjoy doing this work, and I hope you’ll vote for me.

Asset Management, continued

Final thought

The Selectboard seeks to keep track of three things:

1. What we said we were going to do.
 2. What we actually DID.
 3. What we plan to do in the future.
- Report. Repeat.

Footnotes, for reference

https://guilfordvt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Capital_Program_and_Budget_Policy_-_August_20151.pdf

https://guilfordvt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Accounting-Auditing-Financial_Reporting_Policy_-_Adopted_5-13-2013.pdf

https://guilfordvt.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Reserve_Fund_Balance_Policy_-_revised_4.11.16.pdf

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Sweet Dreams Are Made of Beans

BY BETSY BLOCK

Go ahead and bite into the cupcake. It's moist, chocolatey, not too sweet—a perfect balance of flavors and textures, all offset by a generous dollop of sweet, creamy vanilla frosting. You'd never guess this treat is gluten- and dairy-free.

There's something else you'd never believe about this cupcake by either appearance or taste: It contains, of all things, beans.

Beans in a cupcake? *Why?*

Kelsey Baumgarten had dreamed of becoming a baker since high school. She wanted to live in farm country and have her own bakery. But somehow, baking didn't feel like an acceptable career choice. She was meant to use her brain, not her hands, or so she thought. (Of course, owning your own business requires quite a lot of brainpower, but teenage Kelsey may not have known that.) And so, in college, Kelsey studied nutrition, but she never lost her love of baking.

Not ready to give up on her first love, but also wanting to help people meet their health goals, Kelsey managed to convince her advisor that she could turn a passion for baking into an academia-worthy honors project by writing a research paper on the health benefits of beans while also creating a cookbook that incorporated beans into baked goods. She even got a small grant to buy ingredients, meaning she could hand out samples and get real-world feedback from fellow students. The consensus was two thumbs up. After college, Kelsey spent a couple of years as a dietitian in a hospital, baking during her free time; but working in a windowless hospital basement office wasn't her happy place.

Not content with her lifestyle, Kelsey moved to Manchester, Vermont to work on Earth Sky Time Community Farm, but instead of farming in the field, as she'd envisioned, she mostly ended up in the kitchen, where between cooking meals for hungry farmers and customers, she was able to further experiment with bean-based treats. As she honed her recipes with the benefit of

pursuing yoga and contra dancing, where she met her husband.

"All the things I want are here," she says peacefully.

Customers feel the same way about Hidden Bean Bakeshop. Some have even cried with gratitude when they've learned that all her many offerings are gluten- and dairy-free. Her cakes, cookies, whoopie pies, breads and more don't taste "healthful," and they certainly don't taste like beans. They taste, quite simply, delicious. (Full disclosure: I was a regular customer and fan of Hidden Bean before getting assigned to write this article.)

Kelsey's business is steadily growing, a huge accomplishment for a small business, especially one that's food based. What started out in the kitchen of a farm in Manchester (or as a high schooler's dream) is now a full-fledged, full-time small business located in a sunny, bright commercial kitchen overlooking Kelsey's garden, where she grows and raises some of the ingredients for her baked goods. She still finds time to pursue her many "extracurricular" passions as well as being a self-admitted workaholic. "I have very little idle time," she admits.

Hidden Bean is all about the humble, nutritious, unexpected bean in baked goods. But there's so much more hiding inside these gem-like confections than some protein-rich legumes: Community. Connection. Service. The natural world. And, of course, binding it all together: so much love.

Hidden Bean Bakeshop is one woman's dream come true. If you really pay attention when you bite into that cupcake, you can taste the joy.



Kelsey of Hidden Bean

immediate feedback from her fellow farmers, she realized she was onto something. Hidden Bean Bakeshop was born.

A couple of years later, in 2019, Kelsey moved to Guilford and, knowing no one, built a beautiful life for herself by joining a women's chorus, taking a fiddle class, and

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Sugar-on-Snow Suppers in Guilford

BY FRED BREUNIG, GUILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Some readers may remember me writing an article several years ago—before the pandemic, for sure—about my conversation with Al Franklin and the boiling he did for Guilford’s Sugar-on-Snow suppers for so many years.

Al told me that it was he who set up the schedule for all of Guilford’s suppers. He said he took over the boiling from Lloyd Thurber after Lloyd decided that he couldn’t do it anymore—but there had never been any schedule for the dates! Al said, “People in the different groups were always wondering when the other suppers were going to be. I was farming still, and it was kinda hard to plan anything. And I sure didn’t want to have two of them on the same night.”

So, Al took matters into his own hands and dictated a schedule for all of the suppers: the Grange on the first Saturday, the church on the third Saturday, and the fire station on the night before Easter. “Oh, and I used to squeeze in the West Brattleboro church on a Wednesday in there somewhere.” This way, the suppers would be spread out enough so that he would also have a break in between them.

When I asked how many years he did the boiling, Al said he wasn’t sure. “Probably at least 20,” he finally confessed. When the time came for him to retire from the task, he bequeathed the boiling to his nephew, David, who has continued the tradition for another 20 years, more or less—neither of them remember exactly when the torch was passed.

So another sugar-on-snow season is upon us, and Guilford will once again be benefiting from the two Franklins’ labor of love. Details of the church supper are below. We hope to see you there!

When: Saturday, March 16, 2024 at 4:00, 5:30, and 7:00 PM

Where: Guilford Community Church, 38 Church Drive, Guilford

Menu: Ham, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs, fresh rolls, and maple sugar on snow, with dill pickles and freshly made donuts

Prices: Adults \$15, children (11 and under) \$7, preschoolers \$3

Reservations: call 802-254-9562 or email guilfordchurchsupper@gmail.com

First Sugar-on-Snow Supper of the Season

BY DON MCLEAN, BROAD BROOK GRANGE

Broad Brook Grange’s annual Sugar-on-Snow Supper, always the first Saturday in March, will take place March 2nd at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford. The meal features ham and the following homemade items: baked beans, deviled eggs, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, rolls, donuts, Guilford pickles, and Guilford maple sugar on (we hope!) Guilford snow.

There will be three seatings: 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 pm. At each seating, a half-gallon of Guilford maple syrup will be raffled.

This longtime annual fundraiser helps support the many activities of the Grange, which sponsors pre-town meeting, a community Thanksgiving dinner, this supper, and brunches, as well as Guilford Center Stage productions. The Grange organization also provides Christmas stockings for seniors and a college scholarship for younger seniors.

Broad Brook Grange is a partner of the Community Center, and continues to be based in the now-renovated building, which is at 3940 Guilford Center Road, 4 miles west of Algiers Village.

Tickets for the supper are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12, and \$2 for kids age 4 and under. Cash, checks payable to Broad Brook Grange and Paypal are accepted at the door.

Reservations for a particular seating are recommended, as the earlier seatings often sell out in advance. A waiting list will also be kept, and those with reservations who cannot make it are asked to phone in their cancellation. There are usually a few unreserved seats left for the 7:00 pm seating, for those who show up without a reservation. Reservations can be made by e-mailing (the preferred method) Thayer at thayertomlinson@hotmail.com. You’ll get a confirmation reply. Or you may text her at 202-247-5251. As a third choice, the landline is 802/257-5359.

When: Saturday, March 2, 2024 at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 PM

Where: Broad Brook Community Center, Guilford Center Road, Guilford

Menu: Ham, baked beans, deviled eggs, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, rolls, donuts, Guilford pickles, and Guilford maple sugar on snow

Prices: Adults \$15, children (5-12) \$5, children (4 and under) \$2

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Dave Franklin
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“sugar” for
sugar-on-snow



Milestones



Milestones is a new feature in the Guilford Gazette, and we invite you to tell us about important ones: losses, graduations, major achievements, big birthdays, etc. Send all milestones to gazettevt@gmail.com.

Barbara Anne "Barb" Baker, 76, of School Road in Guilford, died peacefully November 14, 2023 at the Jack Byrne Hospice Center in Lebanon. Barbara had been a resident of Guilford since 1983. She was born, raised, and educated in Brattleboro, graduating from Brattleboro Union High School, Class of 1965. Graveside committal services were conducted on Nov. 20 in the family lot in Baker Cemetery in Guilford.

Elena Carlson Bettini was born on January 4, 2024 to Hannah Lynde and Dylan Bettini.

Maia Fulton-Black, who grew up on Packers Corner Rd and authored several Gazette articles while a student at GCS, married Kate Baumann of Richmond on October 14, 2023. The wedding took place at Weatherhead Hollow Homestead with live music by Guilford's Dysfunctional Family Jazz Band and Verandah Porche and flowers from Tapalou Guilds. The couple currently lives in Durham, NC and will be relocating to Boston in summer 2024. Maia and Kate spent their honeymoon in New Zealand, where Maia is a dual citizen.

Hailey Bristol shot her first deer on her family's property in Guilford on November 26, 2023. It was a 130-pound five-point buck that she shot with only 30 minutes of daylight left on the last day of rifle season.



Hailey Bristol with her first deer

Joe Brooks, 70, died on December 2, 2023, in Wheeling, West Virginia, where he made his home. Joe taught at GCS between the years of 1992 and 2002. He started out as a paraeducator in the middle school and soon developed his own job, without a formal title, as essentially the "service learning coordinator." He took the lead in developing a program which got our students out into town, learning by performing identified tasks within the community. To that end, he and students polled townspeople at Town Meeting to learn what they felt were the needs of the community. Because lack of communication within the town was something mentioned again and again in the surveys that middle schoolers collected, Joe inspired and supported the students in launching The Guilford Gazette. After



Joe Brooks

he left Guilford, Joe went on to found and develop the "Community Works Institute," bringing service-learning programs to many communities across the country.

In 2023, **Joel Eisenkramer** released the first-ever album combining spoken word poetry and North Indian ragas, a collaboration with local poet Gordon Korstange called 'Raga Poems'. More info, liner notes and listening links here: <https://joelveena.bandcamp.com/album/raga-poems>. The CD version is available for order online from JoelVeena.com or at Turn it Up! in Brattleboro.

John and Taylor Franklin and their four children celebrated permanency on December 1, 2023! "We are now a forever family and all Franklins," says Taylor.

Congratulations to **Ryan Murphy** on joining the Board of Directors of Guilford Cares. Ryan's work over many years has been in non-profit human services programs offering support and advocacy within our communities. He states, "Services are provided by volunteers from within the community, what I think of as 'neighbors helping neighbors' programs. Guilford Cares is certainly in that mold, and I am looking forward to contributing to its mission."

On Monday, November 27, 2023, a fire broke out in the Adelaide and Addison **Minott** house, which stands just above the Green River covered bridge. Fortunately no one was living there at the time, though many family members had congregated to celebrate Thanksgiving in the family homestead just the weekend before. The cause of the fire is not known. The Minott family intends to rebuild the historic house.

Thomas Bramble "Tom" Ragle, 96, died peacefully, surrounded by family, on November 28, 2023. Tom was a poet, educator, philosopher, and perennial seeker of answers to life's most thorny questions. He will be remembered by many as president of Marlboro College for 23 years and by

Continued on next page



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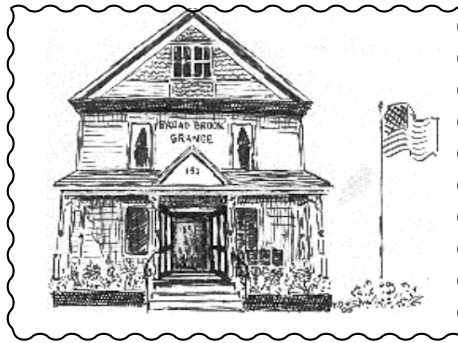
Broad Brook Grange is 150 Years Old!

BY LINDA HAY

Join the celebration on July 4, 2024!

A hundred and fifty years ago when Broad Brook Grange was founded, a favorite community gathering was a Fourth of July Picnic. We would like to expand on the old time Grange picnic by inviting the whole Guilford community to join in. Guilford farmers and purveyors of picnic fare can set up sales tables or booths. Nonprofits may also like to offer edibles or sponsor games or other amusements appropriate for a town-wide gathering.

There will be an exhibit on “the Grange, now and then” and kids’ games from the late 1800s. The more ideas which are tossed out, the more fun this event will be. Individuals are welcome to help plan, too. We have reserved the



Sketch by Nancy Detra

BBCC for the entire day and hope others in Guilford Center will join in, creating a variety of spaces and reasons for the whole community to participate.

In the beginning, the Grange was not just for farmers and their families, nor is it now.

One unusual principle for that time (1874) was that women were full members. The Civil War left many widows running farms, and some young women inherited their families’ farms. All were welcome in the Grange, not just male farmers. Good farmers knew their wives and daughters were farmers, too.

If you, your family, business, or organization would like to join in, you can help us shape this event by getting in on the planning. Contact Linda Hay (lahay@mac.com or 5805 Coolidge Highway).

Keep your eye on Front Porch Forum, which we will use to communicate with our community. In the May Gazette issue, we’ll fill you in on the details so that all will be invited and feel welcome.

Milestones, continued

countless others as the patriarch of a family that knew no boundaries. Joining was simply a matter of wanting to be a member. A memorial service celebrating Tom’s life was held at Guilford Community Church in December.

Shirley Squires’ family tree is large, and it’s growing! In 2023, Shirley and her family welcomed Brooklyn, who was just two weeks old at Christmas, and Avani, who was eight months old at that time. Shirley is 93 years old, and says, “It’s always great to be around all my family and I feel lucky to have lived long enough to see five generations.”

Vidhi Salla celebrates a very special milestone in her writing career, after moving to Vermont from India in 2018. She began writing a monthly column on Indian cinema in August 2023, published in the Brattleboro Reformer, Bennington Banner, and Manchester Journal. “From what my husband (who grew up in Vermont) tells me,” says Vidhi, “this is likely the first column on Indian cinema that someone from this area has written. Please see her website: <https://vidhiism.com/my-articles-on-bollywood>.

Gregory Urban, of East Mountain Road, turns 50 on February 18th of this year. Let’s wish him a Happy Birthday and another 50 years of love, fun and adventure!

This issue of *The Guilford Gazette* is our longest ever! When inaugurated at the Guilford Central School in January 1995,

the first issue had 8 pages of content. Since then, its length has increased as needed.

In 2015, 20 pages became the standard length. In 2021, a 24 page option was created and used as needed. But today’s issue needed even more space. So, for the first time, the Gazette is 28 pages long! We hope you enjoy it.



The Squires family - Christmas, 2023

The GCS Wildlife Camera Challenge

BY JOSLYN MCINTYRE

What creatures live in the woods around Guilford Central School? This is the question Jimmy Karlan has inspired.

For the past seven years, Jimmy has been filming the action around his Guilford home, where he has been living with his wife, Kathryn Mason, for four decades, raising sons Galen and Isaac, who attended GCS. Jimmy has eight trail cameras strategically placed around his property to reveal the “secret lives” of his wildlife neighbors “in ways that make me laugh, wonder, and feel inspired.” Recently retired from being a professor at Antioch, where he directed the science teacher certification for middle and high school science teachers, Jimmy is a career educator and wildlife enthusiast. He wanted to share this particular joy with, well, the entire student body of GCS.

Earlier in the school year, Jimmy made a generous proposition to the student body: He’d donate two high-tech wildlife cameras to the classes that came up with the best proposals for how they’d use them. Jimmy told me: “My real interest is in creating learning that is experiential, hands-on, engaging, conceptually rich, student-directed, and problem-based.”

The GCS wildlife camera challenge checks all the boxes. Guided by their teachers, each class submitted a proposal. Deciding how to cooperate and coordinate camera sharing was a big part of the proposal process. “It was

important to me,” Jimmy confided, “that every grade, regardless of age, have the opportunity to place and operate the cameras, along with sharing the images and clips with the rest of the school.”

In September, Jimmy visited each classroom to share inspiring pictures from his own trail cameras and pitch the project. First, each class earned puzzle pieces by answering specific questions.



Caught in action by a GCS wildlife camera

Once all the puzzle pieces were earned, each class completed their puzzle. Every individual puzzle featured an animal captured on Jimmy’s camera that was then manipulated with an online artist tool, and, once completed, the puzzle revealed a unique word. Representatives from all the grades got together to turn their words into a sentence that they hoped matched Jimmy’s. Assembled into one big mural—which was hung on the lobby wall in the fall—the puzzle spelled out “Guilford School protects and conserves its wild neighbors.”

Jimmy tested and chose cameras that are blue-tooth-enabled, so the photographs they capture can be sent directly to teachers’ phones. Teachers don’t have to manually handle the cameras, but can simply check the feeds. The second and fourth grades won the proposal contest and are

currently keeping an eye on the wildlife they catch on camera.

Sarah Landers, the GCS fourth-grade teacher, told me, “Seeing the kids come together, solve puzzles, and answer deeper thinking questions was a great experience! Now that we have the camera set up, seeing them care for it and be proud of the pictures we get has made the

whole challenge come full circle. I am so appreciative of what Jimmy did for our school, and I look forward to the education we get through what our camera captures. I am already brainstorming ways to bring the pictures into our learning!”

And according to Kristin Deslauriers, the second-grade teacher, “The challenges presented at the beginning of the school year to ‘win’ the cameras were great for team building and getting to know one another. We spent a lot of time talking about the wildlife that lives right in our backyard, and having that place-based connection is so important for learning. We can’t wait to see what pops into our forest classroom when we aren’t there!”

Once the GCS wildlife-camera experience was put in place, Jimmy went on to propose a similar project district-wide, and the WSESU district has agreed to fund cameras for all the schools to continue this valuable exploration of the wildlife that surrounds our schools—and the ways all the kids in the district can learn from our wild neighbors.

Thank you, Jimmy!

g u i l f o r d } o u n d

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GCS 3rd graders point to their suggested spot for a wildlife camera



The fully assembled puzzle in the hallway of GCS



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We Need to Talk About Jumping Worms

BY ANNE RIDER

I have always drawn huge comfort and joy from my gardens; especially during the pandemic. I could eat healthy foods and enjoy the beauty of the flowers in spite of everything. But last summer, that sense of peace was shattered by a hard truth: There were invasive jumping worms in all my gardens and in our compost pile. Everywhere!

After I emerged from my shock and grief, I dove into research and many conversations with gardeners. I'm going to share what I've learned below but, spoiler alert, there's no silver bullet. There are ways to mitigate the spread, but once you've got them, you're not going to get rid of them using the tools currently available. But mitigation is a good start.

Jumping worms have been in North America for over one hundred years. But they're spreading much more rapidly in recent years—perhaps because of warming winters. With that rapid spread, there is increased concern about the effect on our forests as well as gardens. Worms haven't inhabited forests before, preferring gardens and lawns. But now they are in our forests.

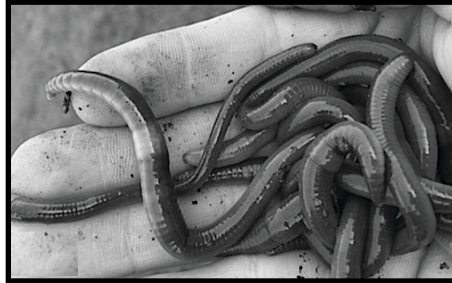
How did they get in my garden?

Many travel as tiny cocoons. Perhaps they entered on your shoes. Maybe you bought a plant that had some cocoons in the soil surrounding it. Maybe a cocoon was on a tool you used elsewhere.

Here's their lifecycle: In the spring, when temperatures reach 50° for a while, the tiny eggs hatch from cocoons that have overwintered. During the spring/early summer, the worms grow—they're small and reddish. After about 70 to 90 days, they reach maturity and start producing many cocoons. They continue to grow until they're big and fat. The first hard frost will kill the adults, BUT the cocoons live on through the winter, hatching the following spring, therefore your population of jumping worms increases rapidly each year.

How can you tell the difference between a jumping worm and a regular earthworm? Both kinds of worms have a band (clitellum) around their bodies, but earthworms' bands are reddish, in the

middle of their body, and don't actually go all the way around. Jumping worms have a whitish band much nearer their heads that DO go all the way around their body (except for the juveniles). Jumping worms live in the top two inches of the soil, earthworms deeper. Another huge difference is the way they move: Jumping worms thrash around when disturbed, like snakes. They are much more lively than earthworms.



What's so bad about them? Jumping worms are voracious eaters, devouring all organic material in the top couple inches of the soil. Their castings (poop) contain only mineral soil—which is loose (doesn't clump), contains no nutrients, and doesn't retain water well. It looks like coffee grounds. This makes it hard for small seedlings to take root, raising concerns about young trees growing to adulthood.

What can we do about them: Well, we can't get rid of them ...yet. But we can control their spread to some extent. Try to prevent infiltration by being careful about your shoes (have only one pair you wear in your garden) and washing your equipment. If you buy potted plants, repot them with sterile soil.

Once you've got them, you have to change tactics. You can draw them to the surface (they're not very deep) by mixing 1/3 cup of mustard powder in a gallon of water. That irritates them, and they rise. Then you can pick them up and toss them in a vinegar solution (not very appealing).

You can also cover an infected area with plastic. They will die if the temp under the plastic gets above 104° for three days. We'll try that with our compost heap and veggie garden, but it's impossible in the perennial bed.

Here are some other (organic) options:

Tea seed meal contains saponins, which are toxic to worms—irritating their skin and, eventually, killing them. Apply in the spring when cocoons hatch and then again later in the season to get the adults. Agway has it. Diatomaceous earth can be worked into the top of the soil. It's very hard on worms. I read about the benefits of applying alfalfa sprouts, but then read that they didn't work. Sigh.

If you have free-range chickens, they will eat them as they find them, but I don't like to let my chickens roam around in my garden. I may need to rethink that.

There is no silver bullet. The best we can hope to do is keep them under control and not spread them to other gardens. Also, report to the Extension Service that you have them.

I read several articles while researching this. I also contacted Mary Hayward who, with her husband, Gordon, has beautiful gardens in Westminster West, (haywardgardens.com). Mary shared her extensive research with me, which I used in this article. Other good sources: Wisconsin DNR, Charlie Nardozzi, Syracuse and Cornell Universities, Fine Gardening, Rural Sprout.

I'll keep you posted if/better solutions become available.

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Historic Meeting House Repairs Begin

GUILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

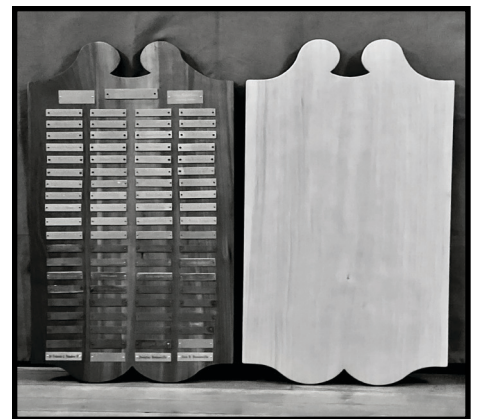


Historical Society in front of the Meeting House to receive ARPA funds. Photo by Craig Blum

As you drive through Guilford Center, you may have noticed work going on at the Meeting House. The Guilford Historical Society is pleased to have been awarded APRA funds from the town to move forward with repairs to the plaster ceiling that have rendered the beautiful space unusable since 2019. Thanks to all involved in this project, especially the town of Guilford and Dolores Clark for her support and encouragement to apply for ARPA funds from the town to bring back this staple of Guilford Center.

Memory Board

We would like to publicly thank Steve Soszynski for making and donating a new Memory Board to the Museum. Addie Minott will be the first addition to the new Memory Board. It will continue on as a place to honor those who were involved and have actively contributed to the Guilford Historical Society.



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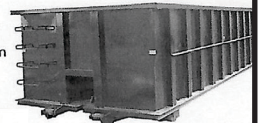
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Know Thy Neighbor: Mutual Aid Softens Disasters' Blows

BY GEORGIA SMITH

Emergency management and disaster response professionals often say "All disasters start and end locally." In times of disaster and its aftermath, people unite to become each other's keepers amid the disruption caused by catastrophe, often finding purpose and closeness in the midst of chaos and loss. This is mutual aid.

At its fundamental level, mutual aid boils down to neighbors helping neighbors in times of need—usually during times of great disruption. Self-organized and egalitarian, it's a voluntary exchange of goods, services, and support that helps everyone.

So many of us in Guilford already practice this and haven't even heard the term for it—it's part of our innate humanness. We check on our elderly neighbor up the road. We share shelter, our heat, and electricity with those who need to charge

their cell phones or stay warm. If a tree falls across our private road, a few of us head out with a chainsaw to clear it. We make a huge pot of soup or batches of cookies and share them with whoever wants or needs something cozy to eat.

At the same time, so many of us don't. In a time and culture that emphasizes self-reliance while rejecting interdependence, it's easy to not know one's neighbor. Or worse, casually hate them because of their political allegiances, or because of their kid who bullied your kid years ago, or because the junk in their yard offends your eyes.

Rising above social divides and petty disagreements comes naturally in times of chaos; in times of peace and planning, putting differences aside is not only wise, but bolsters the whole community's resiliency.

Disaster preparedness is most effective when it includes neighborhood-based mutual aid planning. If a huge storm

hit right now, would you be ready? Do you know everyone who lives within a short walking distance from you? Who has an extra generator? Who's good with a chainsaw? Who can turn shelf-stable pantry items into a neighborhood feast? Do you have skills or resources that could help keep your neighbors safe? Save their lives?

It's up to all of us to take care of each other in times of peril. Start by talking with your neighbors. Identify who is most vulnerable. Find out who has what skills, and which resources. Collect email addresses and phone numbers. All of our lives depend on it.

Guilford's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which addresses natural and human disasters, is available at <https://guilfordvt.gov/emergency-management> or call the Town Office at 802-254-6857.

Resiliency and Individual Preparedness for Local Disasters

BY GEORGIA SMITH

The beauty of rural life comes with its own set of challenges in the face of natural disasters. With the common threats of heavy flooding, snowstorms, and heat waves (and the power outages that frequently come with these weather events), we all need to be proactive in preparing for local disasters. Mutual aid is invaluable—and so is individual preparedness, especially for those with unique health or mobility needs, or anyone living alone in our town's more remote areas.

Stay Informed:

During an extreme weather event, it's

important to stay informed about local weather conditions and emergency alerts. Sign up for VT-ALERT (vtalert.gov), which provides real-time information during emergencies. Staying connected to neighbors through informal channels such as frontporchforum.com is helpful as well.

Have a Household Emergency Plan:

Develop a comprehensive emergency plan for yourself and your family. Include evacuation routes, designated meeting points, and a communication strategy. Consider the specific needs of elderly individuals or those with unique medical and

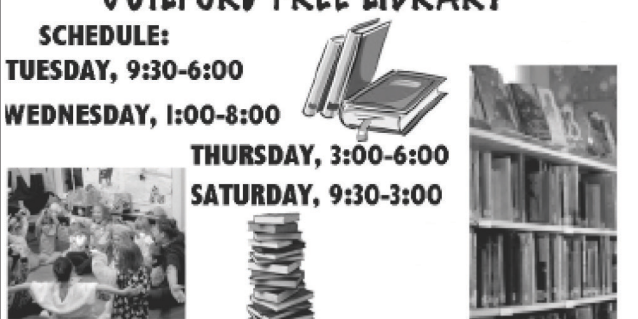
mobility needs.

Create an Emergency Supply Kit:

Assemble an emergency supply kit that includes essentials like non-perishable food items, water, a flashlight, batteries, first aid supplies, and important documents. Periodically check and update the kit to ensure its effectiveness. In the case of power outages, many of us do not have running water (unless we have a generator to power our well pump), so having bottled water on hand is critical.

Continued on next page

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Resiliency, continued

Have Backup Power:

Generators provide a reliable source of electricity during emergencies, ensuring that essential appliances and medical equipment remain operational.

However, it's crucial to use generators safely to avoid potential hazards. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Position generators outdoors on flat ground in a well-ventilated area, away from doors and windows, to prevent carbon monoxide buildup inside your home.

Maintain and Improve Your Home:

Assess the structural integrity of your home and perform any necessary maintenance, including proper insulation for colder months, and routine maintenance of roofs and gutters to prevent water damage.

Stay Warm/ Stay Cool:

In the case of a winter power outage, will your house lose heat? If so, be sure to have a woodstove or other non-electric heat source to keep your home safely warm, as well as extra blankets on hand. Similarly, consider how you'd cool your home in the case of a power outage during a heat wave; for example, using strategic cross-ventilation, shading windows, or having battery-powered fans on hand.

As we embrace the charm of small-town life in Guilford, it's crucial to acknowledge and prepare for the challenges that come our way. By taking individual preparedness seriously, we can not only protect ourselves but also contribute to the resilience and strength of our close-knit community. Together, with proactive planning and a commitment to mutual aid, Guilford can weather any storm that comes our way.

If your household would like help in assessing and improving your emergency preparedness, please contact Guilford Volunteer Fire Department at 802-254-4413 or guilfordfire@gmail.com.



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Fire Department Statistics

October:

11 fire
19 medical calls
2 mutual aid

November:

4 fire
15 medical calls
0 mutual aid

December:

6 fire
9 medical calls
0 mutual aid

2023 Totals: ...for a total of 337 calls, of which 194 were medical. This is a dramatic increase in calls in the last few years. For a full listing of calls for 2023, refer to the Guilford Fire Department Facebook page or to the 2023 Town Report. For additional information on emergency preparedness, read "Resiliency and Individual Preparedness" in this Gazette.





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A Week in the Life of a Pantry Director

BY CATHERINE VARGES

Many of you have read articles about a day in the life of some celebrity (“How does Taylor Swift spend her Sundays?” “What does Harrison Ford do on his day off?”), but for us Guilford folks, a more interesting question is: What does Pat Haine do all week?

The answer has to do with Pat’s volunteer work for the Guilford Cares Food Pantry. A little history here: more than 10 years ago, Pat was part of a group that first established Guilford Cares as an organization that provided health care and transportation to locals who needed help. Several years later, it became apparent that a need for a food pantry existed. Pat worked with others to establish what has become a vital resource for all who need supplemental food assistance. As of this writing, the all-volunteer Guilford Cares Food Pantry offers groceries every Thursday to anyone who asks for them. The groceries include produce, meat, canned goods, dairy products, and the occasional paper product or special treat. The food comes from local grocers like Hannafords, organizations like

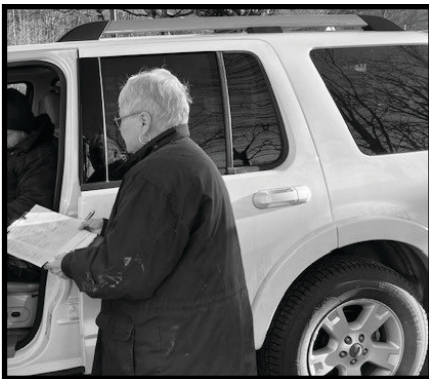
Project Feed the Thousands and the Vermont Foodbank, and individuals including summer farmers and gardeners. The pantry operates out of the Broad Brook Community Center, although during recent renovations, Pat and her volunteers operated out of the first aid building at the Guilford fairgrounds.

But back to what Pat does all week! First, she sets up a schedule for the volunteer workers at the pantry (two or three volunteers help out every Thursday). Pat maintains a running list of 27 volunteers. On Wednesday, she inventories what is already in the pantry and makes a shopping list. Then she shops at local grocers and the local Vermont Foodbank with help from her husband, Jim, and occasional volunteers who load and carry the groceries. All food donated or purchased (sometimes as much as 400 pounds) needs to be unpacked and shelved in the basement of the BBCC. Thursday, Pat checks in with those who need to have groceries delivered. In the afternoon, she heads for the pantry, where she meets with the assigned volunteer workers. Everyone who

arrives at the BBCC waits in their car for Pat to bring out a shopping list of all the items available. People check the items they want, then Pat and the volunteers pack up bags and boxes to fill the orders. Another volunteer wheels groceries out to the shoppers waiting in their cars. During holidays, gift cards for groceries also get distributed. In 2023, the pantry served 1,070 households, totaling 2,523 individuals.

Pat speaks from her heart when she says, “The majority of those served are senior citizens who have worked hard all their lives and now could use a little help. Offering good, nutritious food is one way to make life a little easier for them.”

Finally, to sum up Pat’s week, she places another order at the Vermont Foodbank for the following week, sends out notices about the program, and takes recycling materials to the dump. And although we have no way to confirm this, we suspect that Pat goes home, puts up her feet, and thinks about doing it all over again next week!



Bringing pantry lists to shoppers



Pantry delivering cart on the BBCC porch



The pantry shelves

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Guilford Center Stage Season: Vermont Playwrights

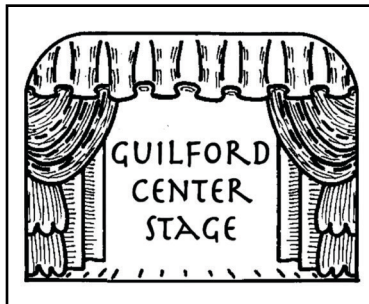
BY DON MCLEAN

Guilford Center Stage returns for 2024 with spring and fall productions in its home at Broad Brook Community Center, with both shows featuring the work of Vermont playwrights.

For its 12th production on May 3-5, local audiences will be introduced to the work of Hardwick, Vermont playwright, Marc Considine. *Love Lost Diaries* is a story about three high schoolers who find the diaries of a woman who has recently died. They glean much advice about relationships from these memoirs. The play was written in the late 1980's for student actors in the drama club. Considine coaches at Hazen High School. Guilford's Julie Holland will direct the May production.

Stage and Stream, a summer theater camp program, free for Guilford kids,

was originated by Guilford Center Stage. It is now part of the nearby Guilford Free Library lineup of camp programs, and will again use the stage at the community center.



Rounding out the 2024 season, Guilford Center Stage will present a revival of Guilford poet Verandah Porche's *Broad Brook Anthology*, a play for voices with projected photographs by Jeff

Woodward and music by Don McLean. An ensemble of actors reads recollections by Guilford elders, which Porche collected as told history. The work premiered during the Town's 250th celebration, and Guilford Center Stage performed it again in 2019. The author has added new material for this October 25-27 production, which will be directed by Michael Fox Kennedy.

Broad Brook Community Center is at 3940 Guilford Center Road. The building is fully ADA-accessible, with an elevator to the theater space.

More info about the program is at facebook.com/GuilfordCenterStage, and at broadbrookcommunitycenter.org.

For further info, contact:

Don at don.inscape@gmail.com or Laura at 802-257-7024.

Let There Be Light!

BY MARY COLLINS

If you want to go back in time and feel like you are living in *It's a Wonderful Life*, you don't have to leave Guilford; all you need to do is attend the annual Green River Church Carol Service that the Green River Village Preservation Trust holds in December. After a three-year pause, the 60th Carol Service was held this year on December 17th at 5pm with a special dedication to the Loving Memory of Adelaide (Addie) Minott.

Steven Lembke, a trustee of the Trust, introduced the evening with the history of the church and the acknowledgement of the founders of the Trust, Addison and Adelaide Minott, who created the trust to maintain the three iconic symbols of Green River Village: the covered bridge, the timber crib dam, and the church, which is used for special occasions in the community. Contributions from the Carol Service support the work of the Trust. Addison Minott was in attendance with his family and Mr. Lembke shared that the

Minott's family home, which had suffered a fire in late November, would be restored. He instructed the audience carolers "to raise their candles high in the air" to honor Adelaide during the singing of the final hymn, Silent Night.

The church was a beacon on the dark rainy evening with the glass lanterns lit, the festive greenery hung, the woodstove radiating warmth and the hum of the 1880's Estey organ which was both repaired and played by Ned Phoenix. Michael Becker, a trustee, tended the fire.

We were greeted by four ushers: Max and

Miles Becker; and Fiona and Iris Murdie, granddaughters of trustee Diane Murphy.

There were nods, knowing glances, and warm smiles as neighbors greeted one another. Rev. Michael Mario read from the scripture and led us in song. One highlight was the vigorous singing of "Go Tell it on the Mountain." We pumped along in unison with a few kicks from a preschooler in the pews. The ushers helped light everyone's handheld candles and gathered the offerings from the audience to support the Trust that maintains our treasured icons of Guilford. We all raised our candles high and sang sweetly "Silent Night" in honor of Mrs. Minott.

Delicious refreshments were offered after the service and Ned Phoenix shared the workings of the Estey organ to curious folks. We all went home smiling and feeling full of cheer and gratefulness for our community, the Minotts, and the Green River Village Preservation Trust and all they do to keep the village charming and well-loved.



Green River Church

Don't Forget to File Your Homestead Declaration!

BY LISA BARRY, ASSESSOR CLERK

Beginning with the 2024 Property Tax bill, the Town of Guilford will be reinstating the penalty for late filers of the Homestead Declaration. In 2018, the Town stopped assessing this penalty. In the five years since, the number of non-filers and late-filers has been increasing annually.

So, what does this mean to the taxpayers of Guilford?

By Vermont law (Statute 5410 - Declaration of Homestead), property owners whose homes meet the definition of a Vermont homestead must file a Homestead Declaration annually by the April 15th filing deadline. If eligible, it is important that you file so that you are correctly assessed the homestead tax rate on your property. In Vermont, all property is subject to education property tax to pay for the state's schools. For this purpose, property is categorized as either non-homestead or homestead. A homestead is the principal dwelling and parcel of land surrounding the dwelling, owned and occupied by the resident as the person's domicile.

All property is considered non-homestead, unless it is declared as a homestead. The education property tax rate levied on non-homestead property differs from the rate levied on homestead property. Currently, in Guilford, the homestead education tax rate is higher than the non-homestead education tax rate. It is your responsibility as the property owner to claim the property as a homestead if you meet, or expect to meet, the following requirements:



- You are a Vermont resident
- You own and occupy a homestead as your domicile as of April 1 of the current tax year

Property is considered non-homestead if one of the following applies:

- Your property is leased for more than 182 days out of the calendar year.
- The property is used exclusively for commercial, including rental, purposes.
- The property is used for a second home, camp, vacation, or summer cottage.

One significant benefit to the taxpayer as a result of filing the Homestead Declaration is the potential for State Credit towards their tax bill. Calculation of this credit is done by the State, and the funds are transferred directly to the Town on the taxpayer's behalf. This credit is income sensitive, and uses property information from the previous year. Form HI-144 Property Tax Credit Claim is required for this assistance.

Late filing occurs when a taxpayer files the Homestead Declaration after the April Vermont income tax filing deadline. As a result of late filing, the taxpayer will incur a penalty which will be 8% of the education tax liability on the property, as

per State Statute.

October 15 is the final date for late filing. If the owner of a Homestead fails to declare the homestead, the law dictates a revised bill be issued with the correct education tax. The 8% penalty will be included on the new tax bill.

If the Commissioner determines that the failure to declare was with fraudulent intent, then the municipality shall assess the taxpayer a penalty in an amount equal to 100% of the education tax on the property, plus any interest and late-payment fee or commission that may be due.

Methods for Filing:

- Online via myVTax.vermont.gov
- Paper returns: Form HS-122, the Homestead Declaration and Property Tax Credit Claim

Many people file their Homestead Declarations at the same time they file their Vermont income tax returns. However, if you apply to extend the time to file your income tax return, the Homestead Declaration must still be filed by the April filing deadline. Even if a person is not required to file a Vermont Income Tax Return, the declaration must be filed by the deadline. If one is filing to receive a State tax credit, they must also submit form HI-144, Property Tax Adjustment Claim.

Please be aware if your accountant is from out-of-state, they may be unaware of this requirement. You may wish to communicate and be certain the Homestead Declaration (HS-122) is completed and on time.



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Photos Around Town



The ancient maple in the center of Blanchard Cemetery needs to come down due to disease. Anson Baldwin's crew will take extra care to preserve the surrounding gravestones. Photo credit: Nancy Detra.



Do you know where Burrows Plain Cemetery is?

Learned Through Necessity

By "HARLEY CHARLIE" BANIS, aka Stephen Roy Banis,

*as told to Verandah Porche
in his garage on Carriage Road.
Banis, 75, passed away on January 24, 2023, at the
home he built with his partner Lynn Tobey.*

Got a vanity plate, says USED. That's my philosophy. I know how to make something out of nothing. Learned through necessity; came from a poor family. If I wanted a bicycle, I just went to the town dump, found parts and pieces and built one. I can honestly say I've never owned anything mechanical that wasn't at least secondhand. I hate to see anything reusable shredded and melted down. My whole life I've been fixing what other people have discarded because they're out of style or in need of minor repair.

I've always been like this. My mother, when I was five or six, got so mad because I dismantled her Singer sewing machine. I wasn't smart enough to put it back together. Had a couple of small tools and took it apart to see how it worked. I just analyzed the way things moved.

As a kid I hung around service stations watching old timers. By fifth or sixth grade, I repaired my teachers' automobiles. They knew I was crafty and bored. Wasn't a grade A student, by any means. I'd rather be home tinkering. I have sort of a photographic memory. I found everything in school so repetitious, drummed over and over in my head. I only had to be told once. I also realize some kids needed it, the repetition, in order to learn...

I ask which antique vehicle he's working on these days.

This here is a 1928 Ford roadster with a 1950 flathead Mercury motor. Engine came from one guy. The body was a piece of flapping metal from someone's freakin' back-forty. It has one the prettiest motors: three deuces, two-barreled carburetors. Some of these are old nostalgic aftermarket racing parts, stuff fifty years old; it's not new. Back in the 50s, 60s, the hotrod was a big part of America and a lot of guys were building these. You took an older car which came with a four-cylinder, and you put a V-8 in it and hopped it up. It's like freedom: fast cars. Always been part of our culture. Still is. Of course, there's a time and place for it. You can't be crazy... I don't intend to race this car. I'm just gonna drive it around like a human being. This summer you might see it out and about touring the country. They've got a sound all their own, these motors, just a sweet, sweet sound.

Celebrating Guilford Artists at the BBCC

BY ADA BROWN & JOSLYN MCINTYRE

If you haven't been to an event lately at the Broad Brook Community Center, you may not have seen the art exhibit we had on the walls from November to February. Local artist Lesley Malouin treated us to an exhibit of her richly colored abstract paintings—over 30 canvases of work and her first solo show in eight years.

Lesley is a full-time art director and hockey mom as well as the Cub Scout Pack 447 Committee Chairperson, Guilford Town Auditor, CCCA member (Christ Church Cemetery Association), and more. She uses acrylics, markers, pencils, fireplace charcoal, nails, and spray paint to create the wildly colorful abstracts that lined the second floor walls. Her work touches upon moments of manic urgency and harsh

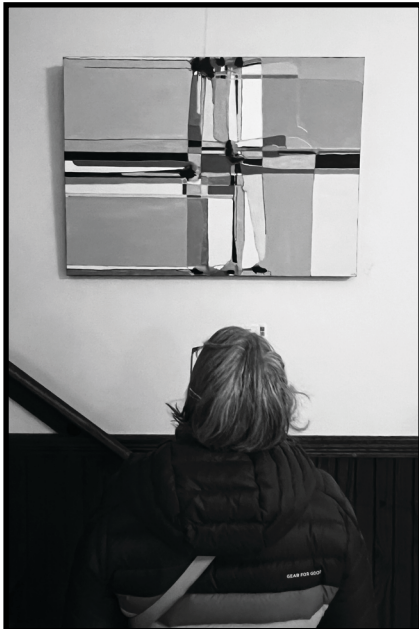
reflection, with topics ranging from world events and vivid dreams to backyard landscapes.

Starting on March 1st, you can stop by and see the new art exhibit "Guilford Vistas and Vignettes"—a collection of landscape photos by talented Guilford photographers Paula Marks and Steve Soszynski celebrating the natural beauty of our town.

We will also be hosting a town-wide group art show in May and June on the theme of "Our World," to coincide with the spring theater production by Guilford Center Stage, Earth Day, and Green Up Day. If you're interested in exhibiting your artwork in this group show please email broadbrookcc@gmail.com.

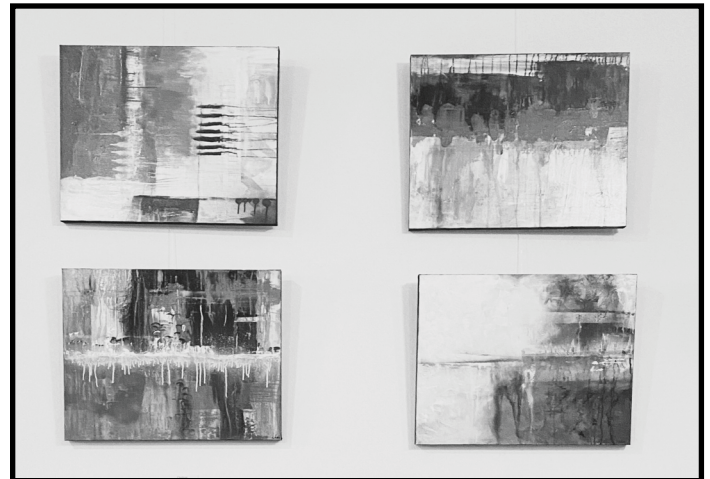


Lesley Malouin and Sara Coffey at Lesley's opening reception



*Left:
Viewing a
painting at
the exhibit*

*Right: More
paintings from
the show*



Paintings of People & Pets by Evelyn McLean



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It's Been an Amazing 2023!

BY THE GUILFORD COMMUNITY PARK BOARD

Guilford has a beautiful new public park on Bee Barn Road off Route 5. Here are some memories of the Guilford Community Park board members from this building season.

Elizabeth Christie commented, "Almost every time I drive up, I see folks enjoying the park: dog walkers, children playing under the pavilion, teens shooting hoops. I love it!"

Helping plant the 60 yews that surround the labyrinth was a personal thrill for Elizabeth. She said, "It's like we gave the labyrinth a big hug!"

Dunham Rowley said, "This is my favorite picture and moment in our whole park project. Dwayne is pounding a peg

project together. The peg helps keep the building from falling apart, and he has been the lynch pin that has unified and tied all the other elements of the process: the timing, the coordinating, the power company, the telephone poles, the seeding of the grass, the planting of the shrubs around the park, etc. The other members, we all played our various parts, yes, but Dwayne was the "pin" who inspired us and kept us on track to get this project done. Thanks Dwayne—Well done." Dunham loved helping to install the new park kiosk.

Peter Amidon comments, "The Guilford Community Park: timber frame pavilion, walking labyrinth, grassy playing field, half basketball court, children's play area, and fire pit, not even a year old, has already hosted a potpourri of events: public dances, a pageant of storytelling and music, a regular meeting place for homeschoolers, an all-day participatory singing event, a festive public concert/celebration of the park itself, and more—not to mention local folks and families visiting the park to relax and recreate. This is your park, made possible largely by over two hundred donations from the citizens of greater Guilford.

Dwayne Johnson remembers, "What a thrill it was to host the Grand Opening of the Guilford Community Park on September 24. It was a rainy afternoon and evening but it was just AMAZING! Zara Bode's Little Big Band entertained with splendor."

Dwayne presented Kitsie

LaRock with SENIA's (Special Education Network for Inclusion Association) World Changer Award!

The event was attended by Guilford Selectboard Chair Zon Eastes, Jamie Durham from the ARPA committee, and Cameron Greer representing the VT Dept. of Housing and Community Development.

Brad Amidon of Arlington, MA spoke of his mother Joy and father John and their posthumous gift to the GCP and how now seeing this community project succeed spoke about the future of the entire Guilford community.

Jim Haine loved keeping the database correct of all the donors and coaching the raising of the Basketball backboard! Thanks Jim!

We are taking reservations for next spring, summer & fall events. You can book your event at www.guilfordcommunitypark.org.



here, and this is symbolic of his role and importance in bringing this important



*The pavilion was lit with Rachel Bell's
Balfolk dance.*



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Our Town Returns: 2023

BY VERANDAH PORCHE

Friends, consider timely scenes
that followed lonely quarantines,
when the chance to gather face to face,
was an unfamiliar state of grace.

Mid-March, an epic snow blew through,
swallowing the world we knew.
Rescuers saved stranded neighbors,
shrugging off their risky labor.

Ali's crew at the Guilford Store
whipped up a feast, and opened the door
to unplugged orphans of the storm—
"Stay for days, boot up, keep warm."
*

In budding May, we reengaged
to watch young lovers cross the stage.
From "Our Town" toward eternity,
they reached to our community.

Pause to notice, savor, cherish.
Those who touch us never perish—
Addie, the heartbeat of Green River;
Lila, whose laughter will outlive her;
Tom, the poet, adored and respected;
Tommy, woods-wheeler, his loss, unexpected....
*

Share this trove of holiday wishes.
Multiply with loaves and fishes—

Wealth for the farmers who provide.
Range for the creatures who abide.
Joy to the kids who study and slide.
Ease for the teachers who deftly guide.
A sound hurrah for our volunteers
who fill whatever cracks appear.

And one last prayer for all we're worth,
to keep the faith in peace on earth.

Verandah Porche
December 12, 2023

Rest in peace: Addie Minott,
Mary Lila Gregg,
Tom Ragle, Tommy Benson;
others, too numerous to name.

BBCC Hosted Two Craft Fairs in December

BY MARY COLLINS



Verandah Porche, Ella Fotopulos-Iacona, and Mellissa Morgan, fairyhouse building at the BBCC Craft Fair; Photo credit: Mary Collins

Guilford's got talent! The Broad Brook Community Center hosted 2 craft fairs in December. On Saturday, December 2nd, the BBCC had a fun(d)raiser Winter Craft Market with local artisans selling their crafts. You could find weavings, fiber arts, stained glass, jewelry, and artwork among the vendors. Mary Ellen Franklin ran the raffle that offered wine from Windham Wines, a handwoven scarf by Carol Schnabel, maple syrup from the Franklin Farm, and two hours of consulting from Providence Computer Services, to name a few prizes. The smell of fresh-baked bread greeted you as you entered the downstairs, where Mary Ellen Franklin made her amazing bread for the stew that Julie Holland made with beef donated by Franklin farm. The Guilford Recreation Commission sponsored the activities downstairs: Verandah Porche and Chuck Collins assisted with the fairy house building. Mary Collins and Mellissa Morgan assisted folks with building gingerbread houses from graham crackers. There was hot glue and frosting everywhere at the end! It was

a heartwarming scene with smiles and glee. Everyone had a great time. The Artisans were surprised at how well they did and would love to come back. Sherry Providence and Julie Holland managed to serve all the food. And Carol Schnabel, along with the fabulous Ada Brown, helped find and organize the Artisans. The BBCC raised a lot of good cheer and more money than expected!

The following Sunday, December 10th, Guilford Folk, with Hanna Jenkins and Sarah Haydock taking the lead, organized a Children's Craft Fair with over 40 local kids tabling their creations for sale from 2 to 5pm. It was a highlight of my holiday shopping; I walked away with a potholder, some one-of-a-kind greeting cards, a hand-whittled spreader, a yule log, some jewelry, a wool-felted butterfly ornament, fidget beads, and other stocking stuffers. It was a delight to see all the amazing talent and the young artisans. There were warm drinks and free craft activities downstairs. Hanna Jenkins held a workshop

Continued on next page

Statehouse Acknowledgment for Rick Zamore and the BBCC

BY JOSLYN MCINTYRE

On January 4, Vermont Governor Phil Scott gave his 2024 State of the State speech. The first half of the speech addressed various crises facing Vermont, while the second half was reserved to acknowledge volunteer efforts from people and groups around the state over the course of 2023, including a shoutout to our little corner. An excerpt:

"Folks in Guilford also wanted to reconnect and decided to refresh an old idea. After the Civil War, grange halls became an important part of civic life in agricultural areas across the country. A place to get together, hear candidates speak, and work to solve the issues of the day. As small farms and membership dwindled, underused grange halls could be found all over the U.S.. So in Guilford, they worked to bring this historic community space back to life. These days, you can see their renovated grange hall bustling with students, full of people for Thanksgiving dinner, the Apple Pie social, or raising money for a neighbor in need."

Former BBCC Board President Rick Zamore was invited to the State House to hear the Governor give the speech and to receive an award for Rays of Kindness, an initiative recognizing acts of kindness, selfless service, and goodwill in Vermont. Alongside him in the

Statehouse balcony sat two young sisters who had raised over \$700 from a lemonade stand benefitting 2023 flood victims. After describing the nature of each volunteer's project, the Governor asked everyone to stand for a standing ovation from the House Chamber: House and Senate members, the Governor's staff, and much of the administrative staff and department heads.

Rick brought news of the experience back to the BBCC Board members past and present, with the message, "It was quite moving and gratifying. I carried you all to the event in my heart."

Guilford Representative Sara Coffey said, "It was wonderful that the BBCC was singled out. I am so proud of the work we did and continue to do in Guilford, and Rick is the poster child—so deserving of this recognition! So nice to have you at the State House!"



*Rick Zamore and Sara Coffey
at the State House*

Craft Fairs, continued

on wreath making with vines and dried flowers from her farm, Tapalou Guilds. There was live music. Chris Beebe provided the space and talent for the "holiday photo booth."

I do hope these two new Guilford craft fairs return next year! It was such a delight to see so much of the Guilford Community come out and enjoy the holiday festivities. The BBCC is providing what we hoped for—a center for the community!

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There are Many Activities at Guilford Central School

BY SARAH ROSOW

After School Program

Afterschool programming at Guilford Central School has existed in many configurations over the years. In recent years, the school has offered afterschool care three days a week for students in grades PK-1. This year, the newly formed PTO worked to create opportunities for older students as well. The resulting afterschool clubs have been hugely popular and well attended.

In the fall, students in grades 1-6 participated in soccer and Lego robotics clubs run by parent volunteers. Parent Jaime Durham received grant funding and sourced materials from the FIRST

Lego League. She teamed up with parents Peter Welch and Robin Nilson to lead a club for grades 1-3, and Hannah Tus-tin and Andy Loughney helped lead the club for grades 4-6.

Many soccer-enthusiast parents joined the soccer coaching crew: Meg York, Ashley Kane, Peter Welch, Josh Nelson, Amit Sharma, Robin Frehsee, Robin Nilson, and Michael Becker. The soccer and Lego clubs were a smashing success! According to Principal John Gagnon, these clubs provide an important opportunity for students to get to know kids in other grades and to practice

cooperation and kindness, which is a current district-wide goal.

In the winter, afterschool offerings included yarn club with parents Carrie Nelson and Sarah Rosow; indoor soccer with Amit Sharma; basketball with parents Ashley Kane, Peter Welch, and Josh Nelson; newspaper club with teacher Molly Sauvain; and two different art clubs, run by visiting art educators. We're currently working on our spring line-up, and plan to offer Girls on the Run, soccer, more art clubs, a garden club, and more!

Thank you to all the volunteers and staff who are helping with these wonderful clubs! If you have questions or would like to lead a club, contact Sarah Rosow, at srosow@wsesdvt.org.

Winter Activities

The winter activities program at GCS is a longstanding tradition that offers students unique and challenging experiences to enjoy our wonderful winters through a variety of activities. This year, the PTO fundraised to ensure that this program could be offered free of charge to all students. The fundraiser was overwhelmingly successful and raised \$7,516.32, which fully funded this year's program! Any extra funds will go to afterschool clubs and next year's winter activities.

As a result of this successful fundraiser, and with the support of many dedicated parent volunteers, students in grades K-6 were able to spend six Friday afternoons this winter enjoying either snowboarding or downhill skiing at the Brattleboro Ski Hill, ice skating at the Nelson Withington Skating Rink, cross country skiing at the Brattleboro Outing Club, studying nature in winter with educators from the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center, or doing creative art with our wonderful art teacher and dance with a teacher from Brattleboro School of Dance. It's been a fun-filled winter!



Lego robotics afterschool club



Afterschool soccer club at GCS in the fall

Farm to School Program



Families gather to make Stone Soup over the fire in the Wildwood Forest.

The Farm to School Program at Guilford Central School helps students understand more deeply where their food comes from, through gardening, cooking, sugaring, and more. In the winter, this involves lots of indoor cooking projects as well as cooking over

the fire in outdoor classrooms. Some favorite projects from this past winter included a Stone Soup celebration with students and families from grades PK, K, and 1; bread on a stick; a 3rd-grade solstice fire; latkes and gingerbread cookies during the holiday season; pumpkin pie with pumpkins that we grew;

observing the red wiggler worms in our composting worm bin; designing our own herbal tea blends; and 6th graders cooking Malawian food to deepen their understanding of a book they were reading, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*.

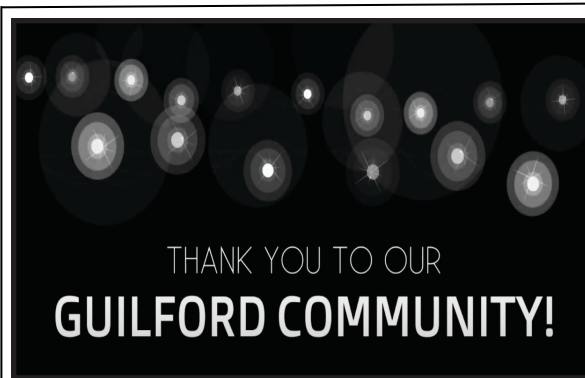
Students Name Plow Trucks

Inspired by the VTrans “Name a Plow” program, Guilford Central School teamed up with the Guilford Town Highway Department to name our town’s plows. Each class submitted a suggestion for a name, and all students cast a vote. Thanks to Danny

Zumbruski’s cooperation and our young children’s creativity, our three town plow trucks now have fantastic names, with magnetic bumper stickers designed by Lesley Malouin. You’ve probably seen them plowing your roads: Ice Spice, Mr. Big Boy, and Scoop Dogg.



Town plow logos



The school put together a video to thank donors, which can be viewed at [www.youtube.com/watch_v=UHFztZvZk48](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHFztZvZk48)

My Priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session

BY SARA COFFEY

I am proud of the work we accomplished last session on investments in childcare, workforce development, rural broadband and affordable housing. These will all continue to be among my top priorities as we work to create an economy that works for everyone, not just the select few.

With the very recent experiences of the July 2023 flooding, many communities are still working to recover. The flooding demonstrated that the threat of climate change is not in the distant future but is here impacting us today. The dual challenge of reducing our emissions while building resiliency and adaptation to climate change is a priority for the 2024 session.

In Vermont, transportation contributes nearly 40% of our greenhouse gas emissions, so it is here we must address climate change. This biennium, I am the Chair of the House Transportation Committee, and in the coming session my focus will be on how we can develop and sustain a 21st-century transportation system that is clean, affordable and accessible for all Vermonters. We will be looking at how to best help municipalities adapt and prepare for climate change, ensure equitable access to affordable and reliable electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging, support innovation in public transit service to better serve rural communities, create more walkable and bikeable communities, and take bold steps for meeting Vermont's carbon-reduction requirements.

As the former Co-Chair of the

Women's Legislative Caucus, I have helped pass legislation that improves the lives of women. This session I will be working to build energy around H.154, a bill that I introduced. The bill aims to expand access to doula care as a tool to improve health outcomes for women and infants, improve experience of care and lower costs by reducing non-beneficial and unwanted medical interventions. With 22 additional co-sponsors, we hope to get this bill across the finish line.



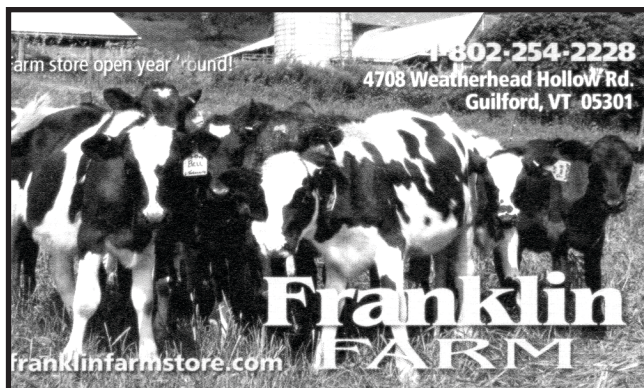
Sara Coffey at the State House in November

Back in 2021 I was the lead sponsor of the legislation that created the Better Places Program, which is a non-competitive, community-matching grant program that empowers Vermonters to create inclusive and vibrant public places that contribute to the health, well-being and vibrancy of downtowns, village centers and neighborhoods across Vermont. We have seen

great projects in Windham County that have been supported by the Better Places program, including the High Street mural in Brattleboro and the community park in Algiers Village in Guilford. This session I will be working to advocate for ongoing funding for this program, as we see that these kinds of projects can have such positive impacts on communities.

Last, I will be advocating that the House Government Operations Committee take up H.59, a bill that proposes to allow the immediate family of a deceased veteran to apply for the correction, completion or amendment of a death certificate to accurately record that the death was caused or hastened by a service-connected injury or illness. Last summer I met with a group of veterans who raised this issue. Passage of this bill would ensure that immediate family of a deceased veteran have access to the benefits to which they are entitled.

I look forward to seeing folks on March 5 at Town Meeting. Please stay in touch with your priorities or if you need help with an issue. Constituents can always reach out to me via email SCoffey@leg.state.vt.us or come to one of my Coffee with Coffey hours, which take place on the second Saturday of the month at 10a.m., alternating between the Vernon Free Library and the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford. A complete schedule is on my website, www.saracoffeyvt.com. It is truly an honor to serve and represent the people of Guilford and Vernon in the Vermont House.



Guilford Central School Students Perform in the Nutcracker

BY LEAH HURST, Age 8

Six Guilford Central School students performed in the Brattleboro School of Dance production of The Nutcracker at Brattleboro Union High School in December. The

six students were Eloise Smith, Phoebe and Eliza McIntyre, Ida York, Brooke Moorhouse, and me!

Eloise was in the party scene and part of the Chinese dragon. Phoebe, Eliza, Ida, and

I were gingerbread Polichinelles who skipped out from underneath Mother Ginger's enormous dress. And Brooke was a toy airplane in the battle scene. It was a great experience!



Polichinelles skip out from under Mother Ginger's skirt. Photo credit: Meg York



BUHS senior, Genevieve Redmond, as the Dew Drop Fairy, Photo credit: Zachary P. Stephens, www.zacharypstephens.com.



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ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

This newspaper is for you! We (the community volunteers) put together this newspaper for the community. We welcome your comments and questions. We hope that the Gazette provides a way for people in the community to communicate about local interests and goings on. Anyone can submit an article or letter to the editor--just put it in the Gazette Box at the library or the school, or mail it to The Guilford Gazette c/o Guilford Free Library, 4024 Guilford Center Rd, Guilford, VT 05301.

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Second graders enjoy potato soup cooked over the fire.

