



Volume 30 No.2

THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



May 2024 Issue

Totality Eclipses All

BY CATHI WILKEN

The Library celebrated the April solar eclipse with about 40 people. Early release brought students to the Library on the school bus. After some snacks, shadow tracing with chalk, and sun tag, everyone walked over to the BBCC for the main event—a 96.3% eclipse of the sun. A beautiful, sunny day (a rare occurrence in early April) invited us all outside on the grass, where we watched through our eclipse glasses as the moon covered the sun.

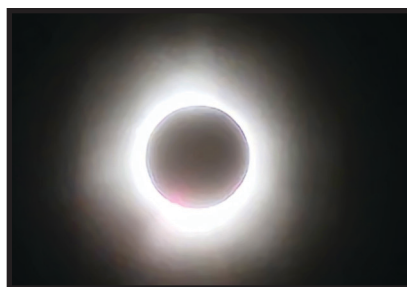
Richard Austin and Max Becker brought telescopes. Richard had his set up to project onto a paper box. At peak coverage, the mosquitoes buzzed around and the spring peepers started peeping...more than we expected from less than totality. And of course, a dramatic drop in the temperature.

BY MARY COLLINS

For those of you who didn't get to see the total eclipse, have solace in knowing you didn't have to sit in traffic for the great exodus. But if you talk with any of the people who sat in the traffic, you'll find them saying they would do it all over again for the experience.

"Witnessing totality exceeded expectations, as did the joy of being part of such a massive pilgrimage," said Lisa Kunneman.

"Local Cub Scout Pack 447 enjoyed totality at the scout camp up north in Eden Mills, viewing the crescent shape through a kitchen



Eclipse photo credit: Caitlyn Person

colander, ending with a snowball fight during the short darkness," said Lesley Malouin.

"It was stunningly awesome to see the totality, but the seven-hour drive home was kind of a drag," said John Shaw.

I myself will never forget the totality. We had two minutes and thirty seconds of totality when a curtain of darkness blanketed us, which looked like an ominous storm had appeared and the entire 360 horizon was a sunset of pinks, oranges, and hints of green. There was no way to capture the stunning image with my iPhone. The light was magical. The shadows were extreme. We could see the perfect orb of the moon with a ring of fire flaring from the edges. Jupiter to the left of the sun and Venus to the right were visible in the sky. We were at the edge of a field with many people we didn't know, and everyone was looking at each other, and then the sky and the surroundings, and expressing their utter delight.

My only regret is not going further north for the three-plus minutes. We decided on Lyndon,

Vermont, but knowing what I know now, I'd go the extra mile. It was out of this world, miraculous and made us speechless, except for the "oohing and aahing."

My next thought: "Where can I stay in Spain on August 12, 2026?" It's more than a car ride away!

E CLIP SING:

toward totality
the wood frogs clack.

Who cooks for you?
calls the barred owl

(a thing with feathers).
Famine in the forecast.

Can the World
Central Kitchen still
fill those cauldrons?
Have the martyrs given

pause or cover
for withdrawal?

Read the shadows—
fur edges any trunk
and limb.

20 crescent moons
slip thru
my crossed fingers.

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The *Guilford Gazette* was established in 1995 and was published by students at Guilford Central School, with support from the Town of Guilford, and is now published under the auspices of the Guilford Free Library.

Deadlines: We publish four issues per year: February, May, August and November. Deadlines are:

January 1 for February, April 1 for May,
July 1 for August, and October 1 for November.

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.

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Johnson Pasture eclipse viewer

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Celebrating Guilford's "Third Place"

BY MARY COLLINS

Can you believe a year has passed since Ali West and Wayne Warwick became the owners of The Guilford Country Store? You were probably too busy socializing to realize it as you stopped in for a delicious baked good, deli item, or last-minute dinner, or to meet a friend for coffee.

There has been no slowing down since Ali and Wayne reopened the doors on February 1, 2023. The first thing Ali said she wanted to do was make sure everyone felt welcome. "I don't care about your politics, I don't care who you are socially or economically," Ali told me as we sat for coffee. "We want you to feel welcome here at the Guilford Country Store."

For many Guilford residents the store has become their "third place." A third place is a sociological term that describes the place people choose to be in addition to home and work—a place where you can connect with others in your community. Every vibrant community has a third place.

"To be a vital country store, you have to be open longer hours and every day of the week," Ali said. She's right—stop by on any weekday morning at 6 a.m. and you'll see familiar faces "talking shop" over coffee before the start of the workday.



Guilford Country Store

The Guilford Country store employs 27 people, with six full time staff including Ali. "We have a lot of part-timers. People warned me about hiring highschoolers, saying they weren't reliable." She lit up and said, "I have the best group of highschoolers working here, who often work harder than many adults. These kids didn't know each other before they worked together, and now they are a tight group, the best of friends."

While we were sitting, a cheerful employee came over and handed Ali a water bottle. "They take care of me here," she said, "making sure I have what I need, always checking in." You can tell she also takes care of her employees. You can feel it when you enter the store.

The store also actively supports the Guilford Central School. "Kindness" was the word of the year at GCS, and the store donated 40 gift cards worth \$5 each, to award to a different student each week who showed a random act of kindness. If you go to the store, you may still find seed packets that students put together to sell as a fundraiser. "We're giving them the best display in the store," said Ali.

The store now hosts two monthly events: The GCSWTF (Guilford Country Store Wine Tasting Friends) and "Sip and Paint." Sign up for either by calling or coming into the store. Coming soon: live music on Sunday mornings.

Ali shared a story that proves everything happens for a reason: "I was eight years old when I moved to Guilford. At that time the country store had a beagle named Ali and the owners were Pat and Jim Good. My parents are Pat and Jim Haine. I said right then, 'Someday, I'm going to own this store,' and 42 years later I became the owner."

It's clear The Guilford Country Store is becoming Guilford's favorite third place because for Ali, this is her "Happy Place."



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Thoughts on Shade Gardening

BY ANNE RIDER

I live in an old house surrounded by majestic maples. They help to keep the house cool in the summer, and their beauty is a source of pleasure all year round. They do require some TLC (thank you, Anson Baldwin) mainly because they are very old and very large and we've had some big storms; we dread the day we lose one of them.

As much as I love those trees, they created some challenges for me when I first started gardening here. The sunny area was, of course, devoted to the vegetable garden. So, by default, the borders around the house became my palette for perennial shade plants—and I had a lot to learn. Over the years, I tried various combinations of plants and several times had to abandon an idea and relocate plants to a sunnier location. The peonies that I envisioned around the house simply needed more sun—now they border the vegetable garden. There have been many other mistakes and subsequent relocations as I learned to deal with shade. All these years later, I have come to love shade perennials—focusing more on the color and shape of the foliage than the bloom produced. I'll tell



you about some of my favorites.

I love the workhorses: Hosta, Epimedium and Ferns. I have a bed on the north side of my house devoted to just Hosta and Ferns—Maidenhair and Japanese Painted Ferns as well as a few stray wild geraniums. The Epimedium surrounds the entrance to the driveway. Epimedium is extremely tolerant of dry shade, and has pretty little blossoms in the spring; their leaves are coppery and beautiful through the fall.

Around the back door (our main entrance), I focus on shape and structure, and rhythm—not just color of blooms—to make an inviting entrance. Achillea, (Lady's Mantle), Asarum (Wild Ginger), and Heuchera (Coral Bells) are low growing beauties. The Heuchera now come in quite a variety of colors, making them excellent accents. Kirengeshoma

Palmata and Actea are taller growing perennials that bloom late in the summer and into the fall—a time when things are usually looking quite drab. I LOVE Aralia Cordata (Sun King) but, sadly, it doesn't do well in my garden. Bleeding Hearts (Spectabilis) put on a big show in the spring. By mid-summer they're a sprawling mess and I cut them back. There's a clematis vine that's great for shade and produces white blooms in the fall.

Shrubs bring structure and definition and after much trial and error, I've found a few that I really like: Clethera (wonderful smelling bottle brush flowers in the fall), and Fothergilla (Blue shadow) are favorites. There's also a grass that I love because its chartreuse green pops against our dark house. It's called Hakonechloa (all gold). It's so pretty tucked under the Fothergilla and Hydrangea.

I'm still learning and experimenting with shade perennials and I've begun scattering pots of annuals here and there to provide some color through the really dull days of late summer. I'm excited to discover new shade-loving treasures as we come into summer in Guilford.

Planning Commission Updates

BY JEANETTE TOKARZ

Since March, 2023, the Planning Commission has been working with the firm of Dubois and King on a Strategic Planning Process. The culmination of our public events in 2023 was the Visioning Workshop held in early November. Nearly 40 engaged and informed residents attended the six sequential mini-workshops that covered a range of topics, including recreation,

economic vitality, and others.

It was rewarding to witness participants listen respectfully to one another and share concerns, thoughts, and ideas. Each workshop generated abundant suggestions to enhance Guilford as a wonderful place to live. Many of those suggestions have made their way into a "Goals, Strategies, and Actions" spreadsheet to form the roadmap for the Planning

Commission's work over the next five years. The final Strategic Plan document should be available by late May or early June; in the meantime anyone is welcome to attend Planning Commission meetings to help us refine our goals. The final version will be available on the Town website. The hope is that this will be a 'living document'

Continued on page 5

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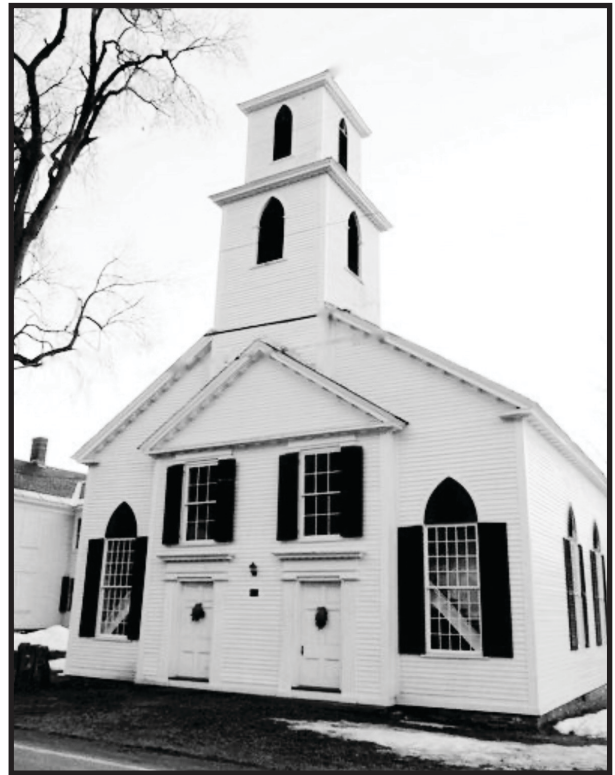
BY THE GUILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Guilford Historical Society is pleased to invite the town to celebrate the reopening of the Historic Meeting House in Guilford Center after completion of its major interior restoration.

Join us to tour the Meeting House, enjoy a brief program, the Friends of Music at Guilford musicians, and light refreshments catered by the Guilford Country Store.

Please join us for this event on Saturday, June 1
from 1:00-3:00pm

We look forward to seeing you at the Meeting House,
and in addition we welcome you to attend the opening of the
Guilford Museum for the season on
Saturday, June 8th, from 9am - noon.



Planning Commission, continued

that will provide a vision of what we as a community want to achieve, a timeline to do so, and accountability as to who will implement the actions. We on the Planning Commission are excited about the work ahead.

One goal in our spreadsheet is already being accomplished. Some attendees at the Visioning Workshop coalesced around the idea of creating a Guilford Handbook modeled upon the Town of Bethel's Operators Manual. Kudos to them for taking on this project—it will be a great resource for all of us.

The Strategic Planning process has highlighted the reality that unlike nearby towns, Guilford doesn't have an organization devoted to economic development. At the

Guilford Business Breakfast event held in July, local business owners shared the challenges small businesses must navigate to thrive in this economy, including financing, workforce housing, workforce development, and technical know-how. In order to continue the dialogue, the Guilford and Vernon Planning Commissions are co-sponsoring the second Business Breakfast on Saturday, June 8, at 9 am at the Broad Brook Community Center. The event will be devoted to two topics with time for open discussion. The first topic discussion will be moderated by staff from the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC). They'll discuss local, state, and federal resources for business support. The second topic will focus on how local businesses can

engage with youth to develop and grow our workforce. The BDCC's Pipelines and Pathways Program (P3) sponsors a wide variety of programs, including the Reality Fair, internship, and shadowing programs. Getting Guilford/Vernon businesses on students' radar is a win for everyone.

Our first Business Breakfast was thought-provoking and engaging and sparked many interesting conversations. Please consider joining us in June. If you do plan to attend, please RSVP to jeannettetokarzpc@gmail.com or go to the Town website. This will help us set up chairs and have plenty of food from the Guilford Country Store on hand for all. Childcare will be available with advance notice.

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A New Kind of Wildlife Crossing Sign in Guilford

BY THE GUILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

If you have traveled on Guilford Center Road recently, you might have noticed two new “Wildlife Corridor” signs. They were designed and ordered by the Guilford Conservation Commission. Both signs feature a fox and a bear, and announce that the area ahead is a “Wildlife Corridor.”



for wildlife. This is why the word corridor was chosen over crossing.

Working with Road Commissioner Dan Zumburski, we researched what kind of signage was currently available, and eventually designed and ordered two identical signs.

The signs were put in place in

February 2024, when the roadsides were thawed sufficiently.

We hope the signs will encourage travelers to slow down and be on the lookout for all kinds of wildlife that may be attempting to cross the road in front of them. Otters, bears, bobcats, turtles, and ducks have all been observed crossing here, some unsuccessfully.

We are grateful for the road crew’s help in protecting both drivers and animals from future collisions on this stretch of road. Do you know of other places where frequent wildlife crossings occur? If so, the Conservation Commission would like to hear from you: guilfordvtcc@gmail.com



Road Crew installing Wildlife Corridor Sign (Photo by Steve Soszynski)

Walking Some of Guilford’s Special Places

The Guilford Conservation Commission is planning a series of exploratory walks on lands that Patti Smith highlights in Guilford’s 2023 Natural Resources Inventory. Landowners have given us permission to host these walks on their land. We hope you will join us!

Sunday, May 19, at 10am: The Old Gallup Farm We will walk up a quiet back road rich with spring ephemerals and through an 11-acre abandoned orchard that is now home to many kinds of wildlife.

Sunday, June 9, at 10am: The Ashworth Forest Block Our host will guide us around his 72-acre property within this forest block. We will explore the wetlands, forestlands, and the VELCO powerline right of way that are all part of an important wildlife corridor in Guilford.

Sunday, July 21, at 10am: The Roaring Brook Forest Block We will walk deep into the heart of one of Guilford’s largest forest blocks to view the plants that grow in the calcium-rich soils of northern hardwood forests.

Sunday, September 15, at 10am: Governor’s Mountain We will explore the southern and eastern faces of the mountain as we work our way to the top, where a beautiful summit ridge features an open oak-hickory forest with a lawn of sedges.

Look for more details on these walks (location, parking, length of walk, difficulty) on Front Porch Forum closer to the dates.



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What's Going on at Wendy's?

BY EVELYN MCLEAN

Can you name a Guilford living room with a baby grand piano, a harpsichord, and a portative organ? Why of course, it's Wendy Redlinger's (circa)1840s Tater Lane home. She's been opening her home for house concerts for more than 25 years.

Wendy's life activities have long been centered on music. Classical, jazz and world music are all represented in her concert programs. Wendy said, "I graduated college with a degree in piano performance from the University of Colorado Music Department in Boulder. A semi-professional performer of early music, I switched to harpsichord some thirty years ago, playing and singing medieval, Renaissance and baroque music in the Brelsford/Redlinger duo for 12 years." Her interest in world music was strengthened by spending time in the Peace Corps after college. For two years she taught English in a small village in Nepal, followed by another year working in its capital city, Kathmandu.

"My living room has lovely acoustics and can seat 50+ listeners," said Wendy. The series began, she explained,



Wendy Redlinger in her livingroom

"When I invited my friend, Bob Stabach, to host a drum circle welcoming a recent arrival from Africa. Bob, a jazz saxophonist, asked if he could next play in my living room with friends, suggesting I could invite a few people over to listen. The series was born!"

At first, the house concert was a monthly event, presenting jazz and world music preceded by a potluck dinner, later reduced to snacks at intermission. Nowadays, the series runs from April through October—winter parking is too difficult. For years, the house band, which performed two or three times

a season, was the Bob Stabach 4tet: Bob on saxophone, pianist and Vermont Jazz Center Director Eugene Uman, longtime New York-based George Kaye on bass, and several local percussionists taking turns playing with the quartet.

"Even though I've never had a website," Wendy said, "some musicians have found me by googling 'performance venue between New York and Boston'—including performers such as Luca Ciarla, world-class violinist, who performed last summer at Mass MOCA, and artists such as mbira players from Zaire; an oud player from Thessaloniki; Paddy Keenan, an Irish player of the uilleann pipes, who gained fame as a founding member of the Bothy Band; and many others."

Even COVID didn't stop the house concerts, "During COVID, we found my backyard was a pleasant place to perform during warm summer evenings—and the audience would bring their own lawn chairs. Even though these days I present concerts in the living room again, I find that some performers actually prefer to do an outdoor concert here in the summer!" Wendy explained. If you'd like to attend a concert at Wendy's, you can get on her House Concert email list by emailing: wendy@asteriamusica.com.

House Concert Schedule 2024

May 11th - Hiroya Tsukamoto
Japanese guitarist/singer song writer

June 15th - Miro Sprague jazz trio
Pianist Miro Sprague with Marty Jaffe, bass and Jason Ennis, guitar

July 21st - Samirah Evans Jazz Trio
with Anand Nayak on guitar and Ben Kohn on keyboard

August 19th - Joel Veena on Indian slide guitar with Mir Naqibul Islam on tabla

September 20 - Trio Mambo
Dan Dewalt on keyboard with trombone, Julien Gerstin, percussion and Wes Brown, bass

October - TBD Julian Gerstin Sextet
Julian Gerstin, percussion with Anna Patton, clarinet; Don Anderson, trumpet; Eugene Uman, piano; Wes Brown, bass and Ben James, drum set



Wendy has presented an eclectic mix of artists

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.

Benjamin Vincent Brooks was born on March 18, 2024, to Maggie Brooks and Derrick Brooks, weighing 8 lbs. 8 oz. and joining big sister Vivian Brooks.

Mary Wallace Collins and Chuck Collins became the grandparents of Morgan Harper Hannon, born February 15, 2024, and weighing 6 lb. 2 oz.

Ollin Immanuel Frederik Johnson-Montuclard was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023, to Jeremy Johnson and Astrid Montuclard of Hale Road, and weighing 5 lb. 10 oz.

Rosetta Zetty Weber, daughter of Eric and Dale Morse, sister of Skye and Geneva Morse, lost her life in a tragic car accident on April 11th. She leaves behind her husband, Parker, and her two-year-old little girl, Bridger. A GoFundMe account

was set up to provide for Bridger's future: <https://gofund.me/e5c98ed2>.

Tilden Remerleitch graduated on May 13, 2024, from UC Berkeley with a Master's in Public Health and a concentration in

global environment.

Guilford town librarian Cathi Wilken turns 80 and will resign from her library position in June!! Cathi says she is "not retiring, just going to do something different".



6th Grade Graduates — Guilford Central School

Ignazio Bennett
Liliana Bogert
Allison Earp
Raize Hebson
Jovie Kiesler
Brody LaRock

Kayden O'Connell
Emma Petty
Bradley Remillard
Anders Smith
Korbin Tkaczyk
Andrew Wasserlein

8th Grade Graduates — BAMS

Daven Alamed
Maxwell Becker
Liam Conathan-Leach
Briar Sameuel Cutting
Aliza Jane Evans-Mahoney
Louise Frehsee
Deja Fritts
Elodie Hoskins

Alysia Johnston
Anastasia Moshovetis
Jordan Paquette
Rosalie Schneski
Brian Tripodina
Kennedy Unaitis
Logan Wiltz

12th Grade Graduates — BUHS

Jesse Ackerman-Hovis
Miles Ackerman-Hovis
Thomas Bell
Skyler Bellville
Lucas Betit
Evan Bywater
Jett Emery

Bryanna Finnell
Emmett Hoyer
Kaidyn Jarvis
Quinn Nebelski
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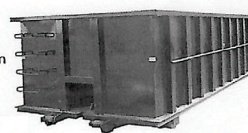
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The Friends of the Guilford Free Library Update

BY JUDITH SERKIN

The Friends of the Guilford Free Library work to support the Library Director and the Board of Trustees through fundraising, volunteerism, and advocating for the library's programs. Recently, several committees have been formed to focus on particular aspects of what the library can offer.

One of these committees, the Programs and Services Committee, is generating a lot of exciting ideas with the Library Director in the way of programs. Already scheduled is a Rear Defrosters concert for a "Send a Kid to Camp" fundraiser/raffle event at the Guilford Fairgrounds on Friday, June 7th, from 5 to 7 pm. Please come! It should be a wonderful community event—great music, a chance to see and meet our neighbors, and a way to help Guilford kids attend wonderful camps for free.

The Friends group is always looking for new folks to join. We meet three times a year (usually via Zoom) on a Saturday morning. We are a fun group and always welcome new ideas!

For more information call the Guilford Library at 802-257-4603. We look forward to your involvement with us in this important task of supporting the Library Director in continuing to build a vibrant town library.

Strawberry Festival

The Guilford Free Library Trustees and Friends
invite the community to attend a
Strawberry Festival
Saturday, June 22
1- 4 pm at the Library

Please help us celebrate the spectacular twenty-five years Cathi Wilken has served as our town's Library Director. The Festival will feature an overflowing of strawberries and a treasure trove rich with Cathi-Librarian stories.

Please bring strawberries to the Festival along with your own stories of Cathi's creative and dedicated librarian work.

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Guilfordites watch the eclipse at St Augustine's Cemetery in Montpelier

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A Handbook to Guilford Coming Later This Year

BY THE GUILFORD HANDBOOK GROUP*

Would you like to know more about the town of Guilford and the many resources available to those who live here? A group of volunteers is putting together a comprehensive “user’s manual” for our town. It’s meant to benefit everyone, whether a newcomer or an old-timer, looking for information about businesses, services, and opportunities. While not an official town publication, the guide will be available at no cost. When finished, it will be printed and available online so information can be kept current. The purpose of the Handbook is to:

- Promote economic development in

Guilford by publicizing town businesses

- List social, educational, emergency, and other services available to residents
- Promote opportunities to volunteer by showcasing the many organizations in Guilford
- Provide information about town government, services, and facilities
- Showcase Guilford’s unique features and recreational opportunities
- Answer frequently asked questions about living on the land in a rural community

If you own or operate a business in Guilford and haven’t already done so, you may email the following information to rick.zamore@gmail.com:

- Business name and owner’s name
- Type of business and, if desired, a sentence describing what makes the business special
- Business address, phone number, email address, website, social media pages

We hope to have this Guilford guide ready for you to use by fall. It’s a big effort, since the result will likely be 50 to 80 pages long. Stay tuned!

* Susan Bonthron, Steve Lembke, Sheila Morse, Evelyn McLean, Verandah Porche, Marty Ramsburg, Jodi Solomon, Richard Wizansky, Rick Zamore

Join an Old Fashioned July 4th Picnic

BY LINDA HAY

The Broad Brook Grange will celebrate its 150th anniversary this year and invites the whole town to a community picnic on July 4th. Like gatherings in the past, there will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence, various games (bingo, for sure), and other surprises still in the planning stages. The former Grange Hall is now the Broad Brook Community Center (BBCC) and will be at the heart of the festivities, with help from Ada Brown, who is both a Grange member and the Events Manager of the BBCC.

You’re welcome to bring a picnic, but we’ll also have local vendors offering food for purchase, including

the Guilford Country Store’s “grill on wheels” with Guilford-raised beef hamburgers and other “grab and go” options. The village of Guilford Center will be open on the 4th: the Library, the Historical Society, the Broad Brook Community Center, and the Playscape.

We are still in the planning process and invite other Guilford organizations and individuals, especially our farmers and gardeners, to help plan for our 4th of July celebration, honoring the values at the root of the Grange and its continued role supporting democracy, families, farms, and our heritage here in our hometown.

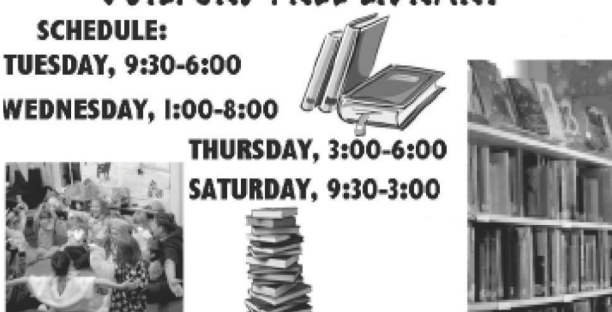
To get involved, please contact Linda Hay at lahay@mac.com or Ada Brown at

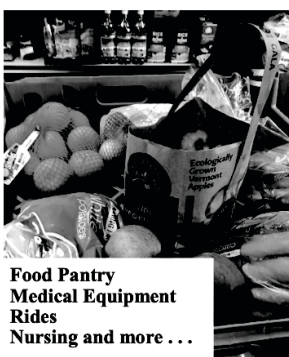


broadbrookcc@gmail.com.

To keep abreast of our plans for the big 4th of July celebration, go to www.broadbrookcommunitycenter.org.

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Broad Brook Community Center Home to Joyous Community Dancing with Live Music

BY RACHEL BELL

One Sunday a month, the beautiful upstairs hall at Broad Brook Community Center bursts with the joyous dancing and live music of Brattleboro Bal Folk. Brattleboro residents Becky Tracy and Rachel Bell started this series in January 2023, and it is growing in leaps and bounds. The dances, done in circles, lines, spirals, and pairs, are extremely accessible and really fun, ranging from meditative and beautiful to raucous and energetic. All are welcome, even those with no prior dance experience. All the dances are taught, it isn't necessary to come with a partner, and the crowd has a reputation for being welcoming and helpful.



A Brattleboro Bal Folk dance at the BBCC

Rachel and Becky, known together as the band Eloise & Co., provide exciting live music and often bring special guests to the

stage, including many of their students. They are enjoying this opportunity to get to know many folks from around here better and have been thrilled to welcome people of all ages and walks of life, including members of our local refugee community. You are always very welcome to show up and just check it out and listen, or dive in and dance right away!

Upcoming dances will be on May 19, 6:30-9 pm, Broad Brook Community Center (suggested donation \$12-\$25); June 13 at the Guilford Community Park Pavilion; and August 25 at Scott Farm. More details and more dates will be released

soon! Watch www.broadbrookcommunitycenter.org and www.rachelbellmusic.com/eloiseandco for details.

Three Guilford Scholarship Applications Have May 24 Deadline

BY DON MCLEAN

There are three annual college scholarships available to Guilford graduating seniors from BUHS. This year, all three of the scholarships have a May 24 application deadline.

The Broad Brook Grange Scholarship is one \$1,000 award. Eligibility: The applicant must be a BUHS graduating senior, accepted to a two- or four-year college or trade school, and have lived in Guilford for at least two of the past four years. Contact Grange Scholarship Chair Mike Szostak: school phone 802-

451-3434 or preferably his email address mszostak@wsesdvt.org.

The Bullock Scholarship, a Guilford Town award, gives \$3,000 either to a single recipient, or divided between two or more applicants. Students planning on attending two- or four-year higher learning institutions, including tech school and post-grad work, are eligible. First-year and continuing students may apply. Contact Town Clerk Danielle Latulippe at townclerk@guilfordvt.gov or the Bullock Scholarship Committee: Kathryn Mason at

kathamason@gmail.com.

The Guilford Recreation Club Scholarship is open to BUHS seniors who are Guilford residents planning to attend a two- or four-year college or trade school for the fall semester after BUHS graduation. Contact Carol Schnabel at petecar86@comcast.net or by mail to: Guilford Recreation Club, PO Box 2679, West Brattleboro VT 05303.

BUHS students can also obtain applications for the scholarships at the BUHS Counseling Office.



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Meeting the Needs of Our Students and Our Neighbors

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SARA COFFEY, WINDHAM-1 DISTRICT/GUILFORD & VERNON

In Vermont, our schools are the bedrock of our communities. They provide our children the opportunity to reach their potential and succeed in life and are vital hubs of community connection. With the additional demands placed on our schools from the impacts of addiction, mental illness, and poverty, strong schools are more important than ever. Public schools give all children a fair shot at a



bright future and attract working families to come to Vermont and lay down their roots here.

Many Vermonters are hearing about the potential for a large increase in property taxes this year due to proposed increases in education spending in districts across the state. There is a perfect storm at play here, with labor shortages, 16% increases in health care costs, the end of one-time federal pandemic-era funding for schools, construction needs, and the unintended impact of a 5% cap that was part of Act 127 (pupil weighting).

There is a lot of complexity in the way Vermont funds education. Vermont has a long and deeply valued tradition of local control. Our school budgets and spending decisions are hashed out by our local school boards and decided by local voters. We also share the cost of educating all our students to ensure that every student has equal access to a quality education.

can find ways to help.

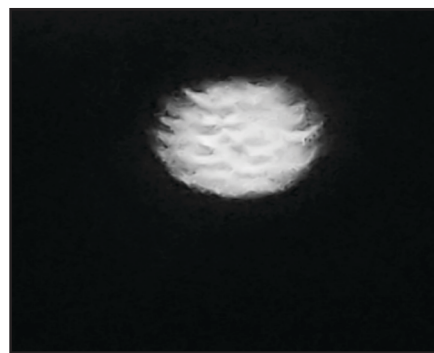
It's been nearly two decades since Vermont rethought how we fund our public schools. The needs of our students are evolving, and it's time to find a new solution to uphold our support for great public schools, with local accountability. There are a few things the legislature could do to bring down property tax rates a bit this year (although unfortunately, not nearly as much as we all would want). We also need to have some hard, honest conversations about school spending.

This is not easy work, and there are no simple answers. We will need to work together—the legislature, school boards, communities, teachers, and the Governor to find equitable solutions

I have been hearing concerns from constituents about the impact of rising education costs on their property taxes. Meals, sales, and room tax also contribute revenue to the education fund to fund the budgets that are passed by voters. There have been many meetings and hearings, and I am grateful to school boards and superintendents for their work and for engaging lawmakers in the process so that we

that support both taxpayers and the needs of our students. As Guilford's State Representative, I am committed to working to find innovative, cost-effective models that will balance the complex needs of our schools with the needs of our taxpayers. Through collaboration I believe we can find solutions that will foster a strong future for all of us.

It continues to be an honor to represent Guilford and Vernon and, as always, please reach out anytime via email SCoffey@leg.state.vt.us or leaving a message at my home phone: 802-257-0288.



Eclipse photo credit Kelly Young

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Embracing Community Spirit: Volunteering at the BBCC

BY ADA BROWN

One of the most rewarding aspects of working at the Broad Brook Community Center is the opportunity to witness the positive impact of this space firsthand. Whether it's seeing the smiles of folks walking through the door for the first time or witnessing the joy on children's faces during a holiday event like the Winter Craft Market, every moment spent here reaffirms my belief in the power of community.

As the space continues to grow, volunteers will play a pivotal role in sustaining the center. For example, our lovely board member Alan Overman currently mows the lawn all by himself all summer. Are you an avid gardener with some free time on your hands? Alan would love some help with yard maintenance if anyone is willing. Or maybe events are more up your alley? We are currently seeking folks interested in helping out with the planning for the Fourth of July in Guilford Center. This would entail attending some meetings, planning events, and/or helping us connect with other businesses, organizations, and individuals interested in sponsoring or hosting events.

We would also love any and all baked goods you are willing to donate. We will be holding our annual bake sale fundraiser at the Vermont Welcome Center on May 17th. While baked goods are much appreciated, so are items such as eggs, bread, or cheese for breakfast sandwiches, or canned sodas and bottled water.

Community Days, which are fun or

Vermont Means Community

BY HARPER WRIGHT, AGE 10

Vermont is less like a town and more like a community. What I like about Vermont is the ability to make friends everywhere you go. I know everybody working at the Co-op checkout counter and have met people at River Garden Market Place who gladly invited me to participate in a game they were playing. They did that not knowing me but trusting me.

Vermont has been a community for a very long time and has traditions that shouldn't be forgotten, like contra dancing. Every month at the Broad Brook Community Center (BBCC) in Guilford there is a contra dance, and I went to one last November and met a lot of great people there. This was my first contra dance and it was really fun. There was a lot of variation of dances introduced and I had fun with a bunch of adults plus kids my age, which is proof that everyone can

have fun together. They worked hard so people like me could enjoy dancing!

That same month, I also went to a knitting gathering at the BBCC where people taught each other to knit. My younger sister really likes to knit, so that was really fun for her. Guilford holds a lot of community activities and is great at bringing people together.

So I hope that Vermont continues to grow together instead of apart, and Vermonters continue to care about the land in the fall when the leaves turn into sunsets and in the winter when the trees are sprinkled with glitter and frost, in the summer when it's nice to feel the sweetness of a watermelon lingering on your tongue and in the spring too, so the birds can find comfort in Vermont just like I do.

educational monthly free events hosted by Guilford residents, could always use a few extra pairs of hands. Or perhaps you'd like to host a Community Day yourself? We are always excited to hear ideas for free community events. The only rules are that the event must be free to attend and welcoming to all.

Volunteering isn't merely about lending a helping hand; it's about fostering connections, enriching lives, and nurturing the collective spirit of the community. Volunteering offers a unique chance to forge meaningful relationships with neighbors and grow new friendships. Through collaboration and teamwork, individuals not only contribute to the center's mission but also cultivate a sense of belonging and purpose within the community.

We can each be a powerful catalyst for positive change as individuals, but

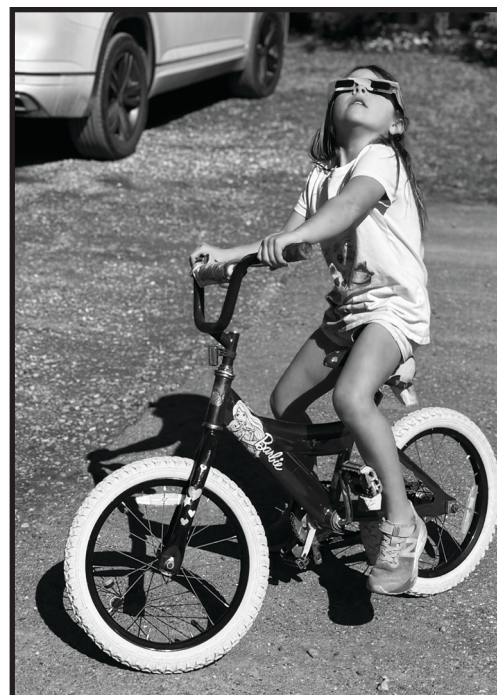
together we can accomplish so much more. If you are interested in volunteering at the BBCC, please email me at broadbrookcc@gmail.com. Let's make some change!



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What's Happening at GCS This Spring?

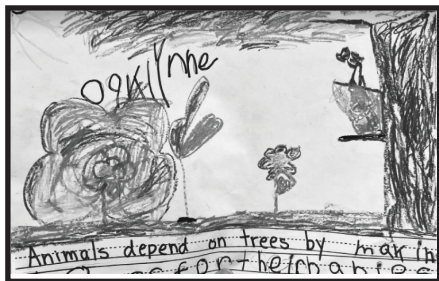
Pre-K, Lauren Perlstein



Pre-K has been busy exploring through the wet, snowy, sunny, rainy, windy, and wonderful early spring! Ask any Pre-K student if they are a sugar maker, and with excitement they will say, "Yes!" We learned all about the process of making maple syrup. We tapped a tree, tasted the sap, learned about all the tools, visited Farmer Sarah while the sap boiled, and enjoyed the delicious pancakes in the end. Each new sign of spring brings joy and newness to our days.

Kindergarten, Maggie Hansen

Kindergarteners have been busy studying how people and animals depend on trees. We have read many books that have taught us about trees and done countless writing and art projects to showcase our knowledge. Next we will be studying signs of spring,



ponds, and gardening!

1st Grade, Ashley Moorhouse

First graders celebrated National Lemon and Orange Day by eating oranges for a snack and making their own fresh lemonade. We also took advantage of the beautiful weather and did some writing outside. Lastly, first graders have begun to explore teen numbers and place value using base ten blocks to visualize how larger numbers are made and grouped into ones and tens.



challenges are: Create An Obstacle Course, ABC Nature Hunt, and Build The Tallest Tower.

3rd Grade, Ruth Venman-Clay

Third graders at GCS are studying frogs this spring. These third graders are rehearsing a play they created from a student's story, "Why the black rain frog has bumpy skin."



2nd Grade, Kristin Deslauriers

This spring, second graders have been studying place value, time, and money in math. In literacy, we are reading all about pollination and pollinators, which is so appropriate for springtime in Vermont! Included is a picture from our most recent Forest Friday. Our current



4th Grade, Sarah Landers

Fourth graders have been working so incredibly hard on mastering fractions and decimals! Every Friday we've been cooking to put our skills to the test. Looking ahead to the spring, we will be studying a book called The Hope Chest to learn about women's suffrage and the 19th amendment. We will also begin our weekly Eagle News Broadcast to keep everyone in the know. It'll be produced by 4th graders! We can't forget all the fun we've been having in our outdoor classroom. Cooking over the fire while learning is one of our favorite things to do! Looking ahead in science, we will also be finishing our unit on erosion.

Paintings of People & Pets

by Evelyn McLean



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We've learned about weathering, rocks, and volcanoes. To end this unit we will make our own volcanoes! Go fourth graders

5th Grade, Hannah Wilson

This spring, fifth grade has been learning about fractions and decimals in math. In literacy, the class studied Jackie Robinson, focusing specifically on the factors that helped him gain success in breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball. Each student is now studying their own athlete, learning about how their athlete has led social change. Students are also creating



presentations to share with their classmates.

6th Grade, Mickey Parker-Jennings

The sixth grade class just finished up their rates and percent unit in math and will begin working on fractions for the next unit in math. In L.A., they will begin reading the book *Two Roads* about a native American boy and his father. Additionally, the sixth grade will begin to work on a study of the Civil War with a culminating project/presentation of some sort.

All-District Band Festival 2024

BY VEGA VALENTINE AND RUBY MASTERSON
5th GRADE BAND MEMBERS, GCS

March 12, 2024 was the first Band Night in four years! The last was in March of 2020, right before Covid hit. Tom Nasiatka, the BAMS band teacher, said, "All-District Band Night happened in March of 2020, and then two days later Covid hit. If we knew what was going to happen, we probably wouldn't have ended up having All-District Band Night then."

Band Night is when everyone in 4th to 12th grade comes to play songs together with their instruments. The elementary band (with high school "mentors") performed, as did the middle school band (once again, with high school "mentors"). The high school concert and jazz bands also played that evening. Then, all those band members performed "Star Wars" together, with the eight WSESU band directors conducting the approximately 200 students. With this new format, the long-running "All-District Band Night" became an "All-District Band Festival."

The band teachers encourage middle and elementary students to keep playing their instruments, no matter how hard it is and how much you want to quit at times. "Keep playing," as Bunny Saranita, the band director at BUHS, said at the concert.

The Band Festival of 2024 was very fun (we were both there), and it was an exciting experience for new and older band members. Thanks for reading!

GCS sent eleven young musicians to the WSESU All-District Band Night 2024 on March 12: Ruby Masterson (flute); Owen Malouin (oboe); Korbin Tkaczyk and Bernson Urban (alto sax); Vega Valentine, Jett vonFeldt, and Eliza Nelson (trumpet); Sorrel Sharma (trombone); and Kayden O'Connell, Zeb Doku, and Miles Becker (mallet percussion).



All District Band Night performers from Guilford



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Windham Aging and Guilford Cares Listening Session

BY JULIE HOLLAND

On May 9th, Windham Aging and Guilford Cares held a Listening Session at the Broad Brook Community Center



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to discuss the challenges of aging in place in rural Guilford. All town residents, especially those middle aged and up, and anyone inspired to care for and help elderly people in town, were invited.

Residents face changing needs as they get older. The community will need more health care, adapted or different housing, help with transportation, more caregivers, and new ways of social engagement. The community must work together to share ideas about how to adapt, both personally and with the organizations that serve Windham County.

A listening session is a community conversation to share thoughts on the needs, concerns, and ideas around caring for our older population. Windham Aging has been holding a series of such listening sessions throughout the county over the past few months, with more scheduled in the coming months. I facilitated this session as Windham Aging's Listening Session Coordinator/Facilitator, leading conversations about strategies for aging in place and thinking about future needs in our town. Listening sessions are an opportunity for the community to get connected with programs and services in the area to help everyone age well in Windham County. They can also inspire the organizing of new local programs that go further for residents who identify the need.

Guilford Cares is a non-profit, community-funded, volunteer-run program that offers services such as transportation, medical equipment lending, a weekly food pantry, and tai chi for fall prevention. Windham Aging Collaboration is a group of medical field retirees and current local workers

who care about the needs of the aging population. One of the collaboration's founders is our very own Guilford resident and retired MD Carolyn Taylor-Olson. Phase one of the project resulted in a report released in November 2022 that can be viewed online at WindhamAging.com. Phase two is focused on strategies and goals for all seniors to age well in Windham County over the next 20+ years.

Some good resources of note: The Guilford Library has computers and a tech person to help people use them to stay connected to family and friends. The Discover Guilford Facebook group and Front Porch Forum are two more places where we let people know about upcoming events in Guilford.

The 37th Walk for Life

It's that time of year again! Once more, Shirley Squires (aged 93!) will join the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont's annual Walk for Life in memory of her son Ron. This is the 37th time she will do so.

The walk will take place on May 25, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., beginning at the Centre Congregational Church on Main Street in downtown Brattleboro. In the past 31 years, Shirley has raised \$465,118, with a goal of reaching \$470,000 this year.

This money goes a long way in helping the Project provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS and those at highest risk of contracting the virus. If you would like to give a tax-deductible donation this year, please make your check payable to "AIDS Project" and mail to Shirley Squires at: 1890 Guilford Center Road, Guilford, VT 05301. Please feel free to call the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont at: 802-254-4444 if you have any questions.



East Mountain eclipse viewers

Photos Around Town



*Guilford Central School Chorus
Photo credit: James Rayno*



*Guilford kids at an impromptu, dad-organized
Easter egg hunt. Photo credit: Carol Ann Urban*

*The York family at the White House
Easter Egg Roll*



*Auden York on skis for
the first time
at Memorial Park,
Photo by Meg York*



*Easter egg hunt at
Christ Church Cemetery,
Photo credit: Carol Ann Urban*

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Guilford Recreation Corner

The Guilford Recreation Commission is proud to announce its new website, a recreation resource for the community, with a Guilford-wide community calendar of events (you can add yours, too).

Here you can find:

- Information about upcoming events
- Links to trail maps and maps of area parks
- An inventory of recreation activities, parks, and natural resources
- Sports options in Guilford
- Ways to connect with others with shared recreation interests



We are also excited to introduce:

Guilford Groups! A way to connect with other people with similar interests, like pick-up sports, language-learning, exercise groups, and arts and crafts.

Guilford Teams! Join a recreational adults' or kids' sports team. If you want your team listed or want to coach a new team, contact the Recreation Commission.

Guilford Learns! Have a skill to share with your neighbors, like how to put on tractor chains, prune pear trees, or play pickleball? Share your ideas, and we can help you create a workshop. Email your ideas or questions to contact@guilfordrecreation.org.

Recurring Events:

Tai Chi, Thursday mornings, 3 classes available starting at 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 am, hosted by Guilford Cares

Senior Support Group, 1st and 3rd Thursday at 1 pm at the Broad Brook Community Center

Story Time children's book group, Tuesdays at 2 pm and 3rd Saturday at 10:30 am at the Guilford Free Library

Talk About Books adult book group, 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the Guilford Free Library

Bal Dance, once per month on a Sunday, at the Broad Brook Community Center (\$)

Contra Dance, 2nd Sunday of each month, at the Broad Brook Community Center (\$)

Conservation Walks, once monthly, hosted by the Conservation Commission

Youth Soccer Club, Thursdays at 5 pm, May-Sept, ages 4-9, at Guilford Community Park

To go directly to the site, use the QRcode

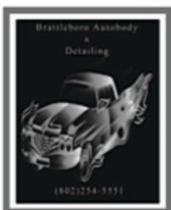
Recreation Information

www.guilfordvt.gov/guilford-recreation



Eclipse photo credit Daniel Hermansson, formerly of Guilford, from up in St. Albans

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Fire Department Update

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

Please join us: The Guilford Volunteer Fire Department will be holding its second annual Open House Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come meet the volunteer firefighters; enjoy seeing the station and the equipment demonstrations; try on firefighter's gear. Bring your cameras and make family memories.

In addition, there will be a signup sheet for a CPR class (no age limit). Reflective signs with your house number will be available for purchase. Learn safety information and so much more. Get to know your fire department while enjoying hotdogs and best of all—Sugar on Snow!!!. Who would expect that in June? What a treat!

Fire Department Statistics

January:

- 6 fire
- 9 medical calls
- 2 mutual aid

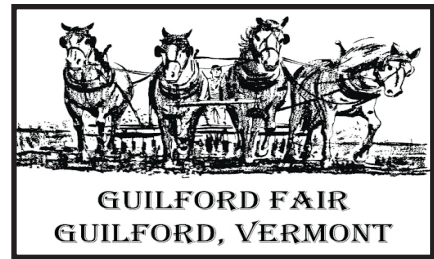
February:

- 5 fire
- 7 medical calls
- 6 mutual aid

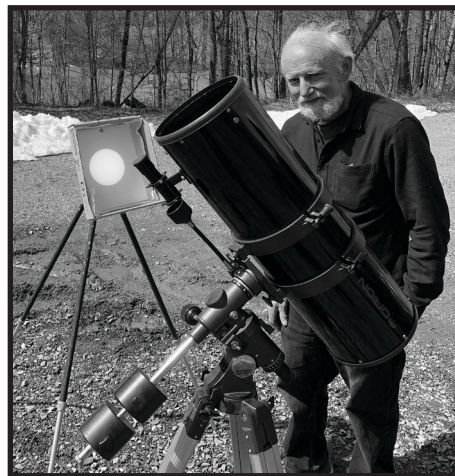
Guilford Fair Committee is Looking for Volunteers

BY MARIANNE LAWRENCE,
TRUSTEE

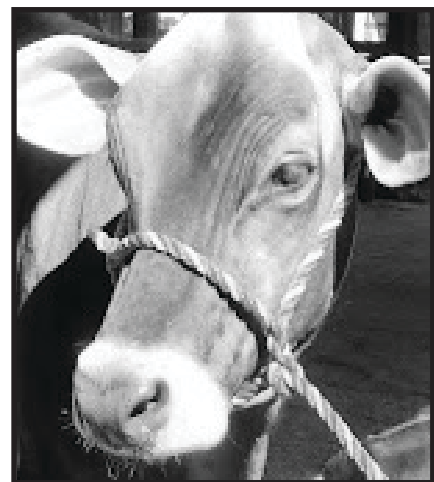
We know it's early, but summer will flash by and the Guilford Fair will be here in no time. The Fair Committee is always looking for help with preparing for, running, and supporting the fair, all year around. If you or someone you know is interested in



helping out or becoming a trustee, please reach out to any one of the trustees for more information! You can find contact information on the fair's website: www.guilfordfairvermont.com.



*Richard Austin and his telescope
the Library's Sun Party at the BBCC*



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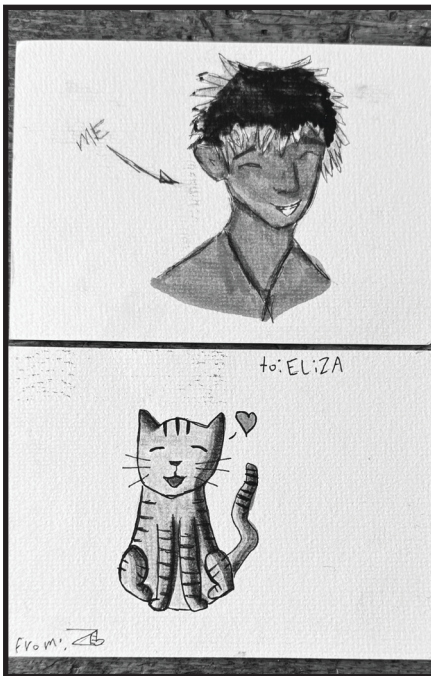
Guilford Winter Pen Pals

BY RAGAN ANDERSON

We had another wonderful year (our third!) with the Guilford Winter Pen Pals. Over 30 people participated, from ages 7 to 87. In April, we were able to meet each other face to face and share about our experiences writing to one another over the last several months. Some shared about how becoming a pen pal helped them open up to meeting new people in the community, some shared about how the ritual of sitting down to write a letter and putting a stamp on an envelope was a nice change of pace, and almost all shared that it was a great way to get to know our neighbors and connect in an intimate way. We look forward to next winter, when we can do it all over again.



Winter Pen Pals gather at the Guilford Free Library in April



Pen pal art by Zeb Doku



Pen pal art by Eliza McIntyre



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Free Youth Soccer League Kicks Off Guilford Community Park 2024 Season

GUILFORD COMMUNITY PARK MANAGEMENT

Join us at the Guilford Community Park on Thursday, May 16, as we kick off our first full season of the GCP Youth Soccer League!

Bring your children (ages 4-9) for an evening filled with fun, camaraderie, soccer excitement, and maybe even a picnic. The league is completely free and open to all skill levels.

GCP Youth Soccer will be coached by Blessed Ngoma, who played soccer as a youngster in Zambia. Practices will be held every Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Guilford Community Park, 24 Church Drive, adjacent to the Guilford Community Church. This soccer club will practice weekly from May 16 through

the end of September.

Register at <https://forms.gle/ynhpC7JxwSkeCbtU9>.

Also be looking for information about the Neighborhood Roots' Seed Swap, coming to the Park Pavilion May 4, and an All City Picnic featuring the Brattleboro Morris Dancers under the Park Pavilion at 11:30 a.m. on May 26. We look forward to seeing you there!



Guilford Community Park



Sun Party at the BBCC

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Sugaring at Guilford Central School



A kindergartner hammers in a spile



First graders gather around the boiler to learn about sugaring tools



Fourth graders enjoy pancakes in the pavilion!



John and David Franklin explain the sugaring process to Kindergarten and 6th grade students on a field trip.

Learning to Knit: A Visual Timeline

BY JOSLYN MCINTYRE

This was to be the winter I took up knitting. Couldn't I just picture it! Cozy, contemplative afternoons spent by the wood stove as my daughters quietly played, watching the snow come down softly through our French doors. A nice little life on a country road.

But the snow rarely fell, and I never managed to sit down this winter. And once again, a season passed without becoming the knitter I envision my best self to be. I did give it a fair go. "What are you making?" people would ask on the rare occasion I pulled the project out of the basket.

"I'm just learning to knit," I would say, sheepishly.

"But what's it going to be?"

"A scarf," I'd say, for lack of a better answer.

It all started at the Broad Brook Community Center Knitting Day, where a bunch of folks across generations came together to learn and share their love of knitting and crocheting. What a great day that was! If you look closely at my "scarf," you can parse the stoic determination in the beginning rows at the very bottom, how I counted them carefully, and lined them up neatly. Sure, I dropped a stitch or two here or there, but the vision was evident, and it had corners at right angles.

Around row 13, as you can see, things went a bit sideways—literally. The rows constricted, then they expanded. Twice, I undid a bunch of rows and reknit them, no better, at which point I finally succumbed to the Japanese concept of *wabi-sabi*: to find beauty in imperfection.

My daughter Eliza was keenly invested in how I was spending my time, and eventually wanted a turn with my knitting project. You can see where her enthusiastic handiwork took over. My Capricorn daughter finally handed the knitting project back to her Virgo mom with an eager "How did I do?"

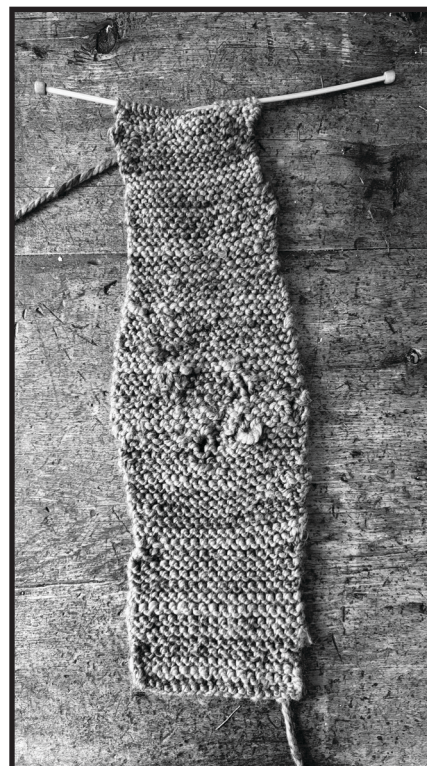
I confirmed, "Perfect."

I thought about redoing those rows, full of holes and bulges, but I couldn't quite get myself to erase her contribution. Once I got back on track, things

improved. A few rows in late February while I waited at piano and ballet lessons. Then, in early March, Town Meeting. As I sat on the floor of the GCS gymnasium, nestled in among all my water bottles and snack tubs and members of my community for nearly seven hours, I managed to almost finish the project.

You can see, in those final rows, the tension of Town Meeting, the emotional ups and downs, the moments when my friend's sweet young daughters helped me knit by unraveling and handing me string straight off the gym floor (sometimes passing it through their mouths along the way), the drive and anxiety with which I gripped the bamboo knitting needles until they were permanently warped, the times I had to force the frayed yard through the too-tight hole (come on out, Jack!), the moments in which I was holding on much too tight, and then subsequently letting go. The story that is woven into this "scarf."

Do I unravel it and start again? I shouldn't waste good yarn, right? Or do I tuck it into my cedar chest as a keepsake from the winter I "learned to knit" at 52 years



old, while raising 8-year-old twins in Guilford, Vermont?



Guilford eclipse viewers upstate at Miles Pond in Concord

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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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In This Issue...

Totality Eclipses All.	p.1
About the Gazette.	p.2
Thank You For Your Donations.	p.2
Celebrating Guilford's "Third Place"	p.3
Thoughts on Shade Gardening.	p.4
Planning Commission Updates.	p.4-5
You Are Invited.	p.5
Wildlife Crossing Sign.	p.6
Walking Some of Guilford's Special Places.	p.6
What's Going on at Wendy's?	p.7
Milestones / Guilford Graduates.	p.8
Friends of Guilford Free Library Update.	p.9
Strawberry Festival.	p.9
Join An Old Fashioned 4th of July Picnic.	p.10
Guilford Handbook Coming Later this Year.	p.10
Joyous Community Dancing with Live Music.	p.11
Three Guilford Scholarships.	p.11
State Representative Update.	p.12
Embracing Community Spirit.	p.13
What's Happening at GCS this Spring.	p.14-15
All-District Band Festival 2024.	p.15
Windham Aging & Guilford Cares Listening.	p.16
The 37th Walk for Life.	p.16
Photos Around Town.	p.17
Guilford Recreation Corner.	p.18
Fire Department Update & Guilford Fair.	p.19
Guilford Pen Pals.	p.20
Free Youth Soccer League.	p.21
Sugaring at Guilford Central School.	p.22
Learning to Knit.	p.23



Second graders gather around a maple tree after a lesson on tree identification and tapping

