

Volume 32 No.1

THE GUILFORD GAZETTE



February 2026 Issue

♥ Why We Love Guilford ♥

BY JOSLYN McINTYRE

As a flatlander who grew up in the nearby hilltowns of Western Mass, I've only lived in Guilford for nine years, so I'll never be a "true Vermonter." But my daughters are first-generation Vermonters. (Well sort of—they were technically born in Utah, but have lived in Guilford since the age of two. Does that count?) Watching them grow up in this place has been the greatest gift.

Why do I love Guilford? Why did my husband Jon and I choose to raise our daughters here?

Call it an act of destiny, or perhaps a happy accident. When we first moved Back East, we landed here simply because we wanted to live "somewhere near Brattleboro," and there was a house for rent in Guilford. Two houses later, we are still in Guilford, now happily lodged in our forever home on Tater Lane. Along the way, we've made incredible friends, been grateful for a small public school with big heart, and taken deep advantage of the privilege of living so close to



Guilford sheep from a pastel by Evelyn McLean

nature amidst a landscape that shifts from verdant to brilliant to stark to crystalline to muddy each year in rapid succession.

We've spent countless hours at the Guilford Free Library and checked out hundreds of books. We've lingered for just as many hours at the Guilford Country Store, where we never fail to run into beloved friends and neighbors. We've participated in the one-of-a-kind Halloween celebration in Guilford Center every year. We've eaten sugar on snow (and pickles) with our neigh-

bors, shoulder to shoulder, at the BBCC. We've participated in craft fairs, knitting circles, yoga classes, and celebrations for Independence Day and Winter Solstice there as well. We've played bingo and ridden rides at the Guilford Fair, where our drawings have won blue ribbons. We've played soccer at Guilford Community Park and GCS with volunteer coaches from the community. We've circled Sweet Pond on the trails, explored the woods near

our house, sat and watched the ducks land on Weatherhead Hollow Pond. And we've had the times of our lives swimming in Broad Brook swimming hole (the secret one, shhhh) and the iconic Timber Dam.

I'm leaving so much out, for we've truly embraced living in Guilford and feel so lucky to be here. But enough about my family. Here's what others have to say for our inaugural February Love Issue.



**Grateful for new friends
and the warm welcome to
beautiful Guilford**

Lauren Rader &
Elliot Diringer

**To my
beloved husband Gilbert:**

Happy Valentine's Day

I'll love you forever.

Susan



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♥ Why We Love Guilford ♥

BY BAY MAULUCCI, AGE 11

I love Guilford because it's such a close-knit neighborhood. Don't get me wrong, I love big cities like New York—I was actually there recently—but in the city it's noisy and crowded. In Guilford it's different. I love how you can walk to the river without hearing anything but the water rushing and the birds chirping.

Another thing that I love about Guilford is the food. The Guilford Country Store is the best place to eat. The Capresa sandwiches are the best! That's what I get there for lunch, usually.

In addition, the events are the best, such as the Guilford Fair, the Sugar on Snow supper, the Haunted Hayride, and the Haunted Maze (both at Gaines Farm). I love the Guilford Fair because of all the fun rides and the ice cream contest and lemonade is so good! I love the Haunted Hayride because this was the first year that I actually went. The masks and costumes were amazingly real looking. I got jump-scared so many times! My friend actually works there as a scarer, and she loves it, but sadly she was not working that night.

Last but not least, I love Guilford because of the neighbors. My neighbors are so fun. Say we're making pancakes and we need an egg. We can just go over to our neighbors and ask for an egg, and we'll get one! Those are just a few things I can think of about why I love Guilford! ♥



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♥ I LOVE the Guilford Compost Drop-Off ♥

BY ALEX LACY

L is for the way you lick your plate
 O is for the only Guildford drop-off to date
 V is very very convenient and not so scary
 E is even more of local compost we adore

Love is all that I can give to you
 Love is more than just compost for two
 Two in love can make it
 Take my artichoke heart and please don't waste it
 Love was made for me and you

Chilly Guilford

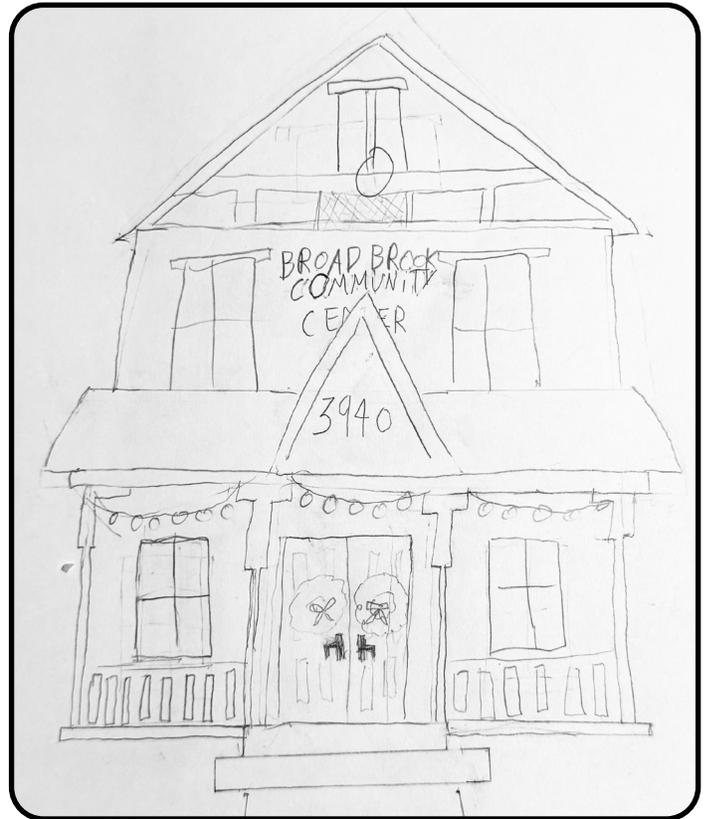
BY LUNA, AGE 9

*Rainbow trees are all around,
 as fiery leaves fall to the ground.
 dancing with each other in the wind,
 I hope this moment never ends.*

*Snow is swirling round, and round,
 beautiful flakes fall to the ground.
 We cuddle up nice and warm,
 as we watch the silver storm.*

♥ I Love the BBCC ♥

A drawing by Phoebe McIntyre, age 10



♥ Why We Love Guilford ♥

BY LIAM EATON AGE 10

I was born in Brattleboro! I moved to Guilford when I was born! Something I love about winter in Guilford is snowball fights! In spring I like flowers! In summer I like pools! In the fall I like leaves! I think Guilford is different from other places because it's awesome! I love Guilford! Yes I do! I think Guilford is awesome! Yes I do! I think it is the best! When I'm here I feel as free as a bird! I love it! Guilford is the best place ever! (Definitely is!) Ssssoooooo ggooooodd!!!!!! Definitely!

♥ Why We Love Guilford ♥

BY CYRUS EATON AGE 8

I was born in the Brattleboro hospital in Brattleboro [near] Guilford VT in the USA on Planet Earth. I moved to Guilford [when] I was around 1 day old around midnight. I like winter because of the 3-foot high snow. I like spring because jumping in the flowers. I like summer because it [is] a perfect time for water balloon fights. I like fall because I love love love my fat cow costume. I think Guilford is different because I'm in it.

My name is Cyrus (pronounced S-i-ris). Anyway I love to read. Like love, love, **love**, to read. It's like [my] favorite thing to do besides DnD (Dungeons and Dragons). Here are all the things I read*: Dog Man (all), Cat Kid Comic Club (all), D.N.D. books...

* That I know of.





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Dear friends, this year's poem celebrates life on earth, our "small blue marble," as seen from the moon. I drew on the endangered flora and fauna from the Natural Resources Inventory, compiled by Guilford's Conservation Commission.

Fun fact: My daughters think peepers sound like Jingle Bells. Don't you?

Wild Guilford Greetings: 2025

Shiver me timbers! That wind is rocking.
Must be time for your Christmas stocking.
Far too big for your chilly foot,
It's fit for a mantle, away from the soot.

What gifts for you? "A Small Blue Marble,"
Our speck in the cosmos, a tender marvel;
And Space to daydream, study, ponder—
Precious Wild Things, near and yonder—

Broad beech ferns on Governor's Mountain,
Local wonders well worth counting;
On Owl's Head, autumn coralroot,
Tiny orchids on slender shoots.

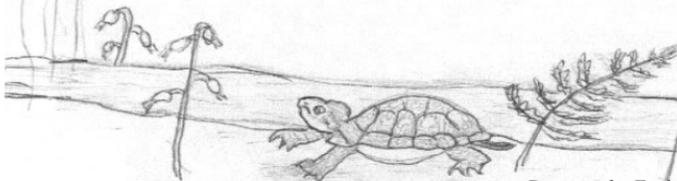
Our wood thrush arrives in a single day:
No walls detain these émigrés!
Back home, a song defines his place.
She dances in circles and dares him to chase.

Our wood turtle's lingered for 10,000 years,
Chilling in rivers; in spring, reappears.
Slow is their motion as luck will allow,
If we nurture our forested habitat now.

*

Solstice lights in Guilford Center
Welcome us to calendar-winter.
We'll ease through the hours till April Fool's
And "Jingle Peeps" in vernal pools.

Verandah Porche



Drawing by Evelyn McLean

By Nancy Evans for Harry Evans

2-14-11

Harry—
I can see it in my heart.
I can feel it in my soul.
I have a life I never thought I would.
Happiness...
Our yellow daffodils and white narcissus,
Our morning glories and lilies,
Our pink peonies when I wake up,
There they are.
Life blossoms into more than this:
All nature we share.
Our long walks in the woods
And through the fields.
We work side by side.
I bring you switzell in the heat
Of the day. You take a break
From stacking hay.
So many years I worked away.
And now we have this time together:
Our glasses sweating,
Our brows sweating.
Our life is a gift.
Love, Nancy



With love from Sibby
(grey)
and Spunky (black)
Photo: Nancy Detra



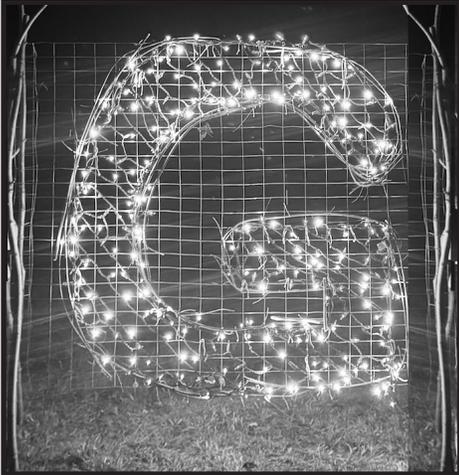
Winter Solstice Celebration at the BBCC

BY JOSLYN McINTYRE

Enormous gratitude to Uriel Najera and the Recreation Committee for launching a new tradition in Guilford: the Winter Solstice Festival, held in and around the

BBCC in late December. On winter solstice itself, Uriel led a storytelling tour of the illuminated wooden sculptures lining Guilford Center Road between the BBCC

and the Guilford Free Library, as children carried paper lanterns under a cobalt-blue evening sky.



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Town Meeting Section

Pre-Town Meeting and Meet the Candidates Thursday, February 19

BY DON McLEAN

Broad Brook Grange will hold the annual Guilford Pre-Town Meeting on Thursday, February 19, 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 session.

Town Meeting — the floor meeting — itself will convene at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, at Guilford Central School. Per Vermont Statute, Australian balloting will still be held on the Tuesday following (March 3) to elect town officers, with polls open at the Broad Brook Community Center from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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. Although neither of the terms for Guilford representative to the WSESD School Board is up for election this year; voters will 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.

Broad Brook Community Center, fully accessible, is at 3940 Guilford Center Road.

Refreshments will be served.

Guilford's Town Meeting is Saturday, February 28

BY ERICA ELDER

At the 2024 Town Meeting, voters approved Article 15: "*Shall the Town of Guilford hold its annual meeting on the Saturday immediately preceding the first Tuesday in March at 10 a.m. (17 V.S.A. § 2640)?*". Guilford's first Saturday Town Meeting was held in 2025. This year, Guilford's Town Meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 28, at Guilford Central School (374 School Road). Coffee, baked goods, and a hearty lunch will be offered by the Guilford Country Store.

What is voted "from the floor" at Town Meeting?

Budget Articles

Public Questions

Local Officials: Moderator (1), Library Trustees (2), Trustees of Public Funds (1), Cemetery Commissioners (1)

Come join your neighbors for this 200+-year-old Vermont tradition, where residents have a say in local government.

REMINDER: Australian Ballot voting will take place at the Broad Brook Community Center on Tuesday, March 3. Australian Ballots for the March 3 election will not be available at the Saturday Town Meeting.



Residents at the 2024 Town Meeting

Election Day is Tuesday, March 3

BY ERICA ELDER

Australian (paper) Ballot voting will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Elections for Selectboard, Town Clerk, Town Auditors, Listers, and School Board positions will be by Australian Ballot at the Broad Brook Community Center, 3940 Guilford Center Road. Polls will be open 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Early and absentee ballots may be requested and returned at any time prior to 5:00 p.m. March 2 at the Town Clerk's office.

NOTE: Ballots will NOT be available at Town Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Australian Ballots may be requested online at vote.vermont.gov, in person at the Town Office, or by contacting the Town Clerk at 802-254-6857 or

townclerk@guilfordvt.gov.

Positions for local officials to be voted by Australian Ballot on March 3, 2026:

- Selectboard (one 3-year position and one 2-year position)
- Town Clerk (one 3-year position)
- Town Auditor (one 3-year position)
- Lister (one 3-year position)
- School Board Representative for Brattleboro (one 3-year position)
- School Board Representative for Putney (one 3-year position)
- School Board Representative for Dummerston (one 3-year position)

Erika Elder can be reached at 802-254-6857 ext.105 or townadmin@guilfordvt.gov.

Meet the Candidates

Mike Szostak for 2-Year Term



Patty and I moved from Pennsylvania to Guilford about 26 years ago. My kids and grandchildren are currently scattered around in Maine, Illinois, Maryland and Florida. Although Patty has sadly passed on, Elizabeth and I continue to love being in this unique and wonderful community.

I am currently on our Selectboard trying to utilize my 50+ years of experience in technical, management and board roles, with both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations, for the benefit of our community. Throughout this time, I have placed equity and just treatment of people as my guiding principles. It is the working-class who are the heart of any organization. My personal priorities are my health, my family, my friends, and our community. In terms of politics, I consider myself to be an Independent, guided by these priorities. To be equitable means meeting the basic needs of our community members in terms of housing, food, and safety which must be considered in all decision making, always taking into account

Mike Szostak continued on page 8

Kim Frost for 3-Year Term

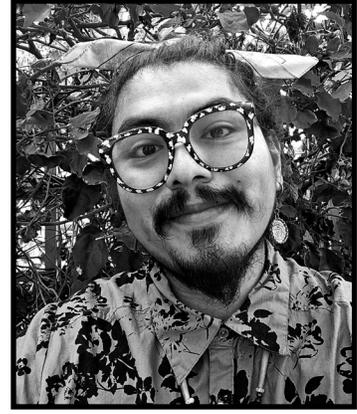


My name is Kim Frost, and I am running for a three-year seat on the Guilford Selectboard. After moving from New York to Brattleboro, my wife and I settled in Guilford in 2024, where we now live at the old Borkowski Farm. We have come to deeply appreciate this special town—for its people, its landscapes, its agricultural roots, and the way neighbors show up for one another. Whether it's the Guilford Fair, the coffee klatch, or events at the BBCC, I have felt welcomed and genuinely connected, and I'm grateful to call Guilford home.

I'm running for the Selectboard because I want to give back to a community that has given us so much. My professional background is in accounting, finance, and administration, with experience spanning union work, healthcare, and municipal government currently as Sr. Director of Revenue Cycle at BMH and previously as Finance Director for the Town of Brattleboro. I have also served on nonprofit boards and

Kim Frost, continued on page 8

Uriel Najera for Town Clerk



Hello fellow Guilford Residents,

After a full year of being your elected Town Clerk I have decided to run again. The last time I asked for your vote I was running to finish the last year of the previous Town Clerk's 3-year term. Now, I am asking for your vote to be your Town Clerk for a full 3-year term.

Over the past year I have had the opportunity to meet so many of you in person, over the phone, or through an email. Your questions and inquiries have allowed me to grow as a Clerk and pursue useful information. I've also had the chance to work with so many amazing people in the Town Office, on different boards, and various commissions. Through the help of the Town's collective wealth of knowledge I've been able to find my way in the position.

It would be an honor to continue to serve as your Town Clerk. Together we make up Guilford and together we will continue to take care of this town we call home.



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Mike Szostak continued

the legal and financial impact on people at all income levels. At the same time, we need to preserve the exceptional physical beauty and environmental health of Guilford. Achieving such a challenging balance is what I see as my primary role as a Selectboard member and as a citizen. Doing this requires listening carefully, respectfully and openly to everyone, while also considering those who may not have a voice at the table. If reelected to the Selectboard, this is my commitment.
Mike Szostak, 586 Stage Road

Kim Frost, continued

currently chair an international LGBTQ human rights organization. These roles have taught me the importance of thoughtful decision-making, collaboration, and accountability.
What matters most to me, though, is using those skills in service of my neighbors. I believe strongly in ethical leadership, fiscal responsibility, and clear communication. I value practical problem-solving and respectful discussion, especially when

issues are complex or opinions differ. If elected, I would focus on affordability, transparency, and a town government that listens and responds to the people it serves.
Guilford has a unique and caring community spirit. I'm running for the Selectboard to help preserve that spirit and to contribute to a responsive, open, and trustworthy local government.

Broad Brook Grange Distributes Christmas Stockings

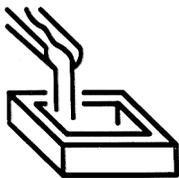
BY EVELYN McLEAN

Each December Broad Brook Grange organizes Christmas stockings for Guilford's elderly or infirm residents. In 2025 they delivered 35 stockings filled with useful items and sweet treats, along with a poem by Verandah Porche (see page 4).

This year, volunteers from the Fiber Arts group that meets at the BBCC generously donated their time to sew many of the stockings.



Santa's helpers fill stockings at Broad Brook Grange. Photo credit: Don McLean



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State Representative Report

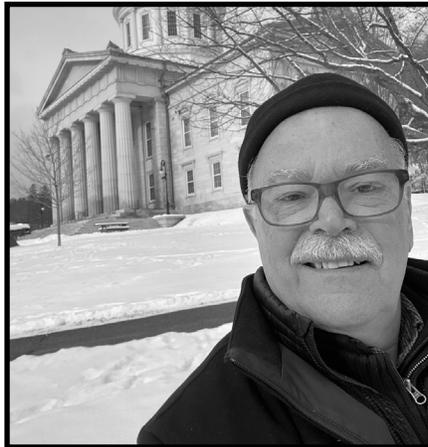
BY ZON EASTES

My second year as representative for Windham-1 (Guilford and Vernon) began on January 6 as the state legislature opened its second session of the biennium. Unlike the first session, which unrolled relatively slowly with its combination of pomp and circumstance, this session took us straight to work, with immediate focus on four top issues: property tax burden, education transformation, housing, and health care. I would say that ‘affordability’ is the key backdrop to most discussions I’m part of.

Fact: Over 60 bills were introduced into the House on the first day! More followed each day. You can track the progress of any bill by visiting www.legislature.vermont.gov.

I will continue as a member of the Human Services Committee. I have been appointed reporter of the first bill coming out of our committee. H. 545 is a bill to protect Vermont’s capacity to offer recommended immunizations. The bill was crafted by Rep. Theresa Wood, chair of the Human Services Committee, in anticipation of changes at the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In fact, the day on which the bill was introduced in the House was one day after the CDC distributed a new, recommended vaccine schedule, decreasing the number of recommended immunizations from 17 down to 11.

For a bill to reach the Governor’s desk, it must first pass through the House and the Senate. A bill may begin in either chamber, and must be ‘read’ three times in one or the other chamber (for this example we will use the ‘House first’ version). On **first hearing**, the bill is introduced in the House and assigned to a committee. The assigned committee ‘takes charge’ of the bill, meaning that it oversees the bill’s detailed



consideration (expert witnesses are brought in to testify on the pros and cons of the bill; the committee receives advice

from legal and financial teams on technical aspects; and sometimes the bill is referred to other committees for consideration and input). When the bill is ready, it is sent back to the House for its **second reading**, a structured debate process of question and answer. Then, in its **third reading**, the bill is voted upon. (These three readings happen on three different days, all constrained by rules in Vermont statute.)

If the bill passes, it goes to the Senate, where the three-step process is repeated. Then, if the bill passes through the Senate unchanged, it heads straight to the Governor’s office (where it must be addressed within five days). If the Senate passes the bill but with substantive changes, then a Committee of Conference works to develop a compromise version of the bill that must pass each chamber (no changes allowed at this point). If that happens, then the bill heads to the Governor’s desk.

Last year, that bill-creation process happened about 100 times. Ultimately, all but five bills were signed by the Governor. (I would characterize the Vermont legislative process as collaborative and cooperative, in spite of what might be heard from the press.) I wonder how many bills will be signed into law this year?

I continue to be grateful to voters who reach out to me to share issues and express concerns. While I may not have ready answers or solutions to every question, I am ready to listen and hopefully to find a path to a proper response. Because I hold the well-being of all Vermonters close to heart, I value opportunities to learn how state government supports or frustrates Vermonters. Thank you. It is my privilege to do this work.

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Area's First Sugar on Snow Supper in Guilford March 7

BY DON MCLEAN

Broad Brook Grange's annual Sugar on Snow Supper will be held Saturday, March 7 at the Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford—returning to the traditional first Saturday in March.

The meal features ham, pickles, and the following homemade items: baked beans, deviled eggs, mashed potatoes, cole slaw, rolls, donuts, and Guilford maple sugar on Guilford snow.

There will be three seatings: at 4:30, 5:45 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. Volunteer help for the supper is welcome.

Tickets for the supper are: \$15 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5-12, and \$2 for kids age 4 and under. 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 their cancellation. There are usually a few unreserved seats left for the 7 pm seating, for those who show up without a reservation. Reservations may be made by the preferred method of e-mailing Thayer at: thayertomlinson@hotmail.com; you'll get a confirmation reply. Or you may text to 202-247-5251, or call if you need more help.

The Community Center is fully ADA-accessible and is at 3940 Guilford Center Road, four miles west of the Guilford Country Store.

Sweet News

BY TOM GREEN, GUILFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

On March 21, 2026 at 4:00, 5:30, and 7:00 PM, Guilford Community Church will carry on its delicious and joyous tradition of the Sugar on Snow Supper. David Franklin has graciously volunteered to be our sugar master, seeing as he "is still on the right side of the sod." Ham, deviled eggs, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh-baked rolls, donuts, dill pickles and, of course, sugar on snow will be served. Please put the date on your calendar and reach out to invite friends and family to join you, especially those who have never experienced the delight of sugar on snow. As you see in the quote below, this tradition has been enjoyed for a long time and not just in Vermont. I have always appreciated the permission given in bold:

"Grandma stood by the brass kettle and with the big wooden spoon she poured hot syrup on each plate of snow. It cooled into soft candy, and as fast as it cooled, they ate it. **They could eat all they wanted, for maple sugar never hurt anybody.** There was plenty of syrup in the kettle, and plenty of snow outdoors. As soon as they ate one plateful, they filled their plates with snow again, and Grandma poured more syrup on it...They all ate till they could hold no more..." *Little House in the Big Woods, Laura Ingalls Wilder, New York: Harper, 1953*

Please join us! We look forward to seeing you!

Prices: Adults \$15; children (11 and under) \$7; preschoolers \$3 Reservations: call 802-254-9562 or email guilfordchurchsupper@gmail.com



Dave Franklin prepares the sugar



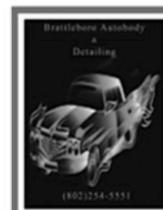
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Beaver Program Series at the BBCC

BY THE GUILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Beavers are built for the water and they can't live without it. That is why they are so dedicated to building dams to keep it in place. As beavers move upstream and down creating new ponds, the areas they leave behind become meadows and shrublands. These are all important habitats for many plants and animals, from moose to mink. This makes beavers a "keystone" species—one that is essential for other species to thrive. Unfortunately, in the process of changing the landscape to meet their needs, beavers can cause some real problems for people, especially road crews. This year the Guilford Conservation Commission and the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC) received funding to form a Guilford Beaver Working Group to help solve beaver problems in a way that also allows beavers to create their valuable wetlands.

The grant from the Broad Reach Fund includes a series of educational programs for the community in the winter/early spring of 2026. Here are a few of the events coming up at the Broad Brook Community Center:

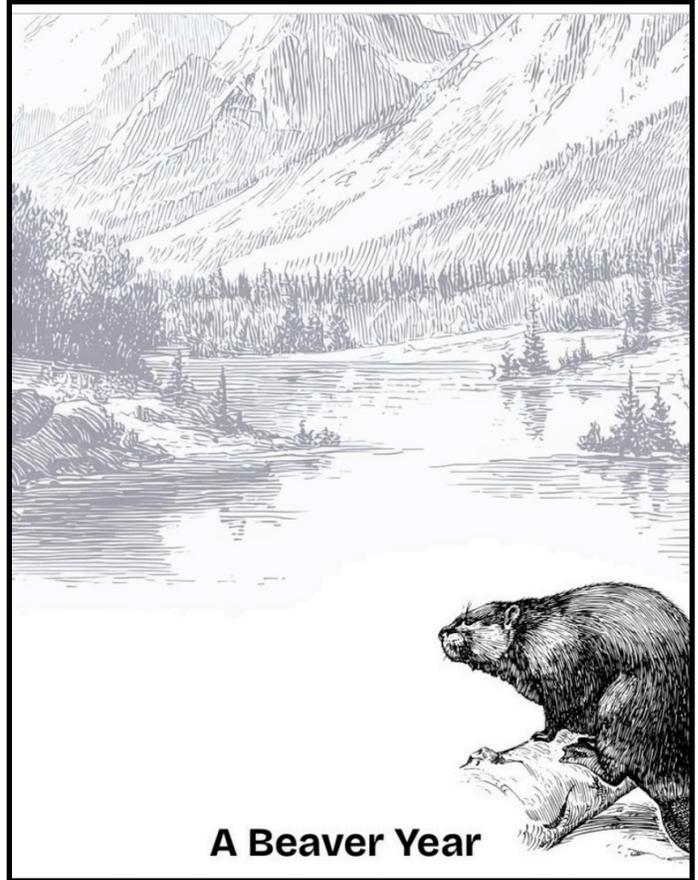
A Beaver Year on Wednesday January 28, 7:00-8:30 pm. BEEC naturalist Patti Smith has studied a beaver colony in her backyard for 18 years.

She has also cared for injured and orphaned beavers. In this presentation she will share photos, videos, and stories about the beavers and other animals she has met along the way.

Guilford's Beaver Past on Wednesday, February 25, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. River scientist Denise Burchsted has studied the way beaver dams and log jams shape rivers and streams, and helps us imagine how different our rivers would have been pre-European colonization. Dr Burchsted has mapped the formerly beavery parts of Guilford.

Beavers Among Us: A Community Forum on Wednesday April 22 (Earth Day), 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Bring your beaver questions and frustrations to this

event. A panel of experts will provide answers and help problem-solve. We hope to see you there!



A Beaver Year

Ode to a Fox

BY MADILYNN RUTHERFORD

I found a beautiful fox on my road in Guilford back in early October. She had been hit by a car, but she looked like she was peacefully sleeping. I picked up her body and carried her deep into the woods and then covered her with what little flowers I could find. I stayed with her for a while to draw her, talk with her, write a poem, and contemplate life, death, and the coexistence between us and the many creatures of the Guilford woods.

Crimson fox,
all covered in clover.
Your life was cut short,
but it is not over.

Every bit of your being remains in the forest;
the woods will live on,
the creatures will flourish.

She fell in the Autumn,
but I promise come Spring,
flowers will bloom from her body.
All remain Living.



Magic & Gain

BY MATT VALENTINE

A typical session of “Poetry & Sound” begins with kids taking the bus to the library, where Amber and I welcome them in. We decompress by listening to records, 78s, cassettes, streaming. Free-form chatter about the day unfolds, and as that open space takes shape, someone might bang on a conga, strike a guitar chord, play an instrument they brought with them, share a story, or take the initiative to wire up the PA system. An ad-lib on the mic might emerge—like our imaginary “tea shop,” which evolved into a PSA, a fictional public service announcement. The skit appeared, took shape, and BOOM—we captured it and exploded the concept, everyone playing a part. Mic placement. Setup. Execution. Archive.

This is a hip mind nook of Guilford when the kids really tap into it—which is every

time we meet! They run the tapes, import the files, make the tea, wire the sound, and create the content. Sometimes we’re left with a gargantuan amount of material. Is that a problem? Yes and no. Storage. Editing. Decisions. These are life treasures. I guide the kids without imposing too much, nudging toward strong editing choices. The central question is always: Does it resonate? What’s the “vibe”? This is big-time stuff—creating, recording, working together.

Magic and gain—that’s what we seem to find in the Poetry & Sound workshops, which are free for kids and funded by Vermont Humanities. Gain, in a sonic sense, is what happens when you turn up an amplifier to increase volume. Your stereo has a volume knob. Your phone, iPad, nature, etc...do too! What happens if we plug into this guitar amp and turn

it up? There’s a science to that magic: knowing how to juxtapose a nasty tone against ugly, how to juxtapose a nasty tone against something beautiful so the sweetness lands. We hear sounds with gain—distortion—every day: music, car horns, radios, phones, art. Harnessing those sounds is challenging, and acceptance varies widely with taste.

We can also attenuate a signal—turn it down. We might “attenuate the vibe,” I’ll joke, if we’ve eaten too many clementines and everyone’s gotten overenthusiastic. Some good art has come out of snack-fueled moments. One rager we captured titled “Sweet Cookie Noise” comes to mind. We recorded some wild feedback with a resonant filter where the sweep was controlled with an expression pedal, then over-dubbed a chant with the word “sweet” and looped it. Big fun, and it gave a sensational focus to an electrified wigout!

There’s science to it, but there is also poetry. I like the idea of building bridges with sound and words—structures that can hold allegory and thought. I allow an environment where kids can tap into the inventory of imagination: eyes and mind wide open. Encouraging the ability to find elegance in a basic idea and act on it. To love the hunt for an idea and put it into motion—no matter how thrifty. To delight in navigating a path with others, and to stay open to the evolution of the idea itself.

Poetry and sound have changed a great deal over time. It’s rarer now to discover Rimbaud through “underground” music, or to be handed a mixtape by someone you admire. And yet, rewind is still the



Continued on next page

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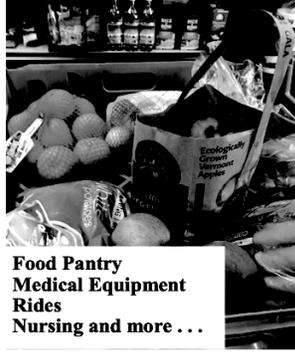
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Magic & Gain, Continued

same icon on the tape transport. A playlist is just as valid as a dub. Poetry is still words. Slow forward.

Juxtaposition and energy are what we do well in the workshop. The kids love noise, and so do I—but they also have a deep, intuitive sense of harmony with words and sound, even the non-musicians. The truth of this work is that it invites a tactile, hands-on approach to the process.

And that's the magic.

Explore Local History Stream Far Out

vimeo.com/ondemand/faroutdoc



Thank You from the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department

BY WANDA ATOMANUK

The Guilford Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank everyone who donated to our fundraiser at the Welcome Center "Coffee Break". Your support in this endeavor is what makes it such a success. We have heard from some visitors that say they look forward to stopping in each year and hope we are there. The variety and quality of goods says it all. Again, a big Thank You from all of the members of the fire department and the Trustees.

Fire Department Statistics

Oct:

6 fire
11 medical calls
32 mutual aid

Nov:

8 fire
7 medical calls
3 mutual aid

Dec:

8 fire
8 medical calls
3 mutual aid

Emergency Management Announcement

Guilford's team of Emergency Management volunteers seeks to serve the community, particularly residents who might be vulnerable during power outages, have difficulty securing medications, or need visits to health care services. We want to be careful to respect HIP-PA rules, ensuring the privacy of any information shared. To that end, Guilford Cares will maintain a private list,

which would be used by Emergency Hub managers (your neighbors) only in cases of emergency. If you wish to be covered by this service and included on this list, please be in touch with Leah Gessner at Guilford Cares, 802-579-1350 or guilford-caresvt@gmail.com. You can also contact through the website, www.guilfordcares.com.

Upcoming Offerings from the Guilford Recreation Commission

Scan Me for the



Guilford Recreation
Calendar

- Community Yoga, most Mondays at 5 pm at the BBCC
- Fibers Arts Craft Group, 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4 pm at the BBCC
- Arts and Craft Supplies Swap, January 25th, 4-5:30 pm at the BBCC
- American Sign Language (ASL). TBD
- French Speaking Group, 3rd Sunday at 3-4 pm at the Guilford Free Library
- Spanish Speaking Group, 2nd and 4th Sundays from 3-4 pm at the Guilford Free Library.



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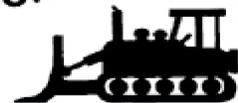
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Saturday 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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Milestones



Milestones is a 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.

We were sad to hear of the passing of longtime mail carrier Sharon

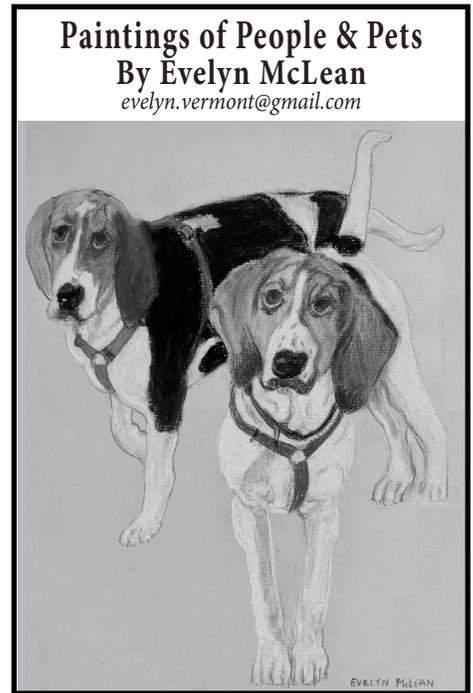
Theresa Dunn, 79, of Westmoreland, New Hampshire, from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Her longer obituary in The Commons states, "For a time, Sharon was a rural mail carrier in West Brattleboro, and if you were near your mailbox when she arrived, you could be sure she would stop for a chat. Later, when she became 'the passport lady' at the Brattleboro Post Office, you left often only after a lively conversation about your travel plans." Sharon also founded Twice Upon a Time in Brattleboro and was very involved with Brattleboro Area Hospice, Brattleboro Area Affordable Housing, and Keene Montessori School. Rest in peace, Sharon.

Guilford has also said goodbye to **John Neuhauser**, who died last September 30th; **Donald R. Allen, Sr.**, who died in October; **Clayton L. Harvey, Jr.**, who died on November 27th; **Patricia Jane Miller**, who died on December 22nd; and **Sara Rose Kotkov**, who died on January 4th.

In October 2025, **Cara Michelle Silverberg and Devin Hickman** had their wedding at home in Guilford. They sent us this: "So many Guilford businesses helped to make it a meaningful day! Thank you to D&E Tree Care for woodchips to make our gathering site, Footbridge Flowers for gorgeous blooms, Guilford Country Store for delicious catering, Peter and Sarah Noble for hay bale seating, and Kelly Fletcher Photography for magical memory making. Shout outs to other area businesses: Yalla, Luke and his amazing crew at Green Mountain Tent Rentals, and Rich Earth Institute. We are so grateful for all the local businesses that helped



The wedding of Cara Michelle Silverberg and Devin Hickman



make this moment in our life special and beautiful!" Congratulations!

Also married in the second half of 2025: **Whitney Marie Lynde and Kyle Christopher Holmquist-Parker** (married in August) and **Rebecca Joy Van Ness and Steven Manning** (married in September).



2026 is the 25th anniversary of the John D Shaw II + Anna Klein duo.

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Photos Around Town

BY JOSLYN McINTYRE



Skating on Melendy Hill



Mary Collins serves soup at the annual Winter Craft Market at the BBCC



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The Children's Craft Fair at the BBCC, held on December 7th, featured dozens of crafts and goodies set to the tune of live fiddle music.

Downstairs, young vendors served sweets and wholesome treats, while upstairs, shoppers browsed tables of handmade soaps, earrings, scrunchies, headbands, dog treats, illustrated cards, incense, slime, snow globes, and much, much more.

This newer tradition in Guilford, started by our strong town's homeschooling community, invites all kids to participate in showcasing their creativity and imaginations while they learn about economics and trade.



3 Town Announcements

BY URIEL NAJERA

**Remember to Renew
your Dog License
starting January 1st**



**2026 Dog Licenses are
due April 1st, by 5pm, to
avoid a late fee.**

New Guilford Town Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday from 8 am - 5 pm

Please note that some departments in the Town Office have their own hours listed below:

Town Assessor Clerk

Wednesday: 8:30 am - 3 pm

Available by email on weekdays
listers@guilfordvt.gov

Town Clerk/ Notary Public

November - March	April - October
Monday: 10am - 4pm Tues -Thurs: 8 am - 4pm	Monday: 10am - 4pm Tues -Thurs: 9 am - 5pm

REMINDER

Annual Town Meeting 2026 will be on:

Saturday February 28th, 2025

At 10am at the *Guilford Central School*

The Local Election will be on:

March 3rd, 2026 from 10 am - 7 pm

At the *Broad Brook Community Center*

*An Official Warning with all the Articles for the meeting will be posted by January 29th at the Guilford Town Office and website, The Guilford Country Store and The Green River Covered Bridge.

Thank You, Sustaining Members!

This past summer, we introduced a new way to support the Guilford Gazette—by becoming a sustaining member for \$100 a year. This generous contribution helps us pay for printing and mailing costs (our only expenses as a fully volunteer-run local paper). We are so grateful to our inaugural sustaining members! If you would like to become a sustaining member, let us know by emailing gazettevt@gmail.com.

- Richard Wizanksy & Akiva Mandell
- Elliot Diring & Lauren Rader
- Linda Hay
- Sharon Levenson
- Rick Drawert
- Thayer Tomlinson & Amit Sharma
- Benjamin Kligler & Susan Karwoska
- John & Amber Hunt
- Sheila Morse
- Martha (Marli) Rabinowitz
- Don & Evelyn McLean
- Christopher Brown
- Art McEvily & Davida Bagatelle

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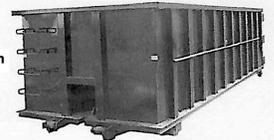
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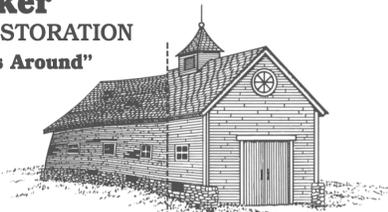


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GUILFORD SELECTBOARD UPDATE: WINTER 2026

BY VERANDAH PORCHE, CHAIR

This winter Gazette issue highlights Love, so we'll begin with gratitude and praise. Our hometown knows how to celebrate, with new traditions like the Solstice Lights and the Children's Craft Fair, and treasured standbys: Holiday Stockings from Broad Brook Grange, carol singing in Green River, the children's pageant at the Community Church, treats from the Guilford Store, and more. Looking forward, as our nation prepares to honor 250 years, our venerable town, having observed our own semiquincentennial in 2011, will surely participate and shine.

Let us praise our skilled staff in the town office and the crew on our roads who serve our community with diligence and compassion. The Selectboard works closely with them; we rely on their expertise and guidance. These are times of uncertainty, from the winter rains of climate change to shifts in governance from the state, and beyond. We are grateful for the rural tradition of mutual aid that keeps us safe and connected.

- **Road Foreman Jim Freeman** continues to educate the Selectboard about the challenges of dealing with winter storms of ice and rain. Guilford seems full of micro-climates so road conditions vary across town. Residents should call the town garage to report dangerous conditions.
- New **Tree Warden Matt Stinchfield** organized an expert panel on beech leaf disease. This well-attended meeting included suggestions for residents, and is available on BCTV. <https://www.brattleborotv.org/public-information/guilford-beech-leaf-disease-community-awareness-10-10-25/>
- **Alex Lacy from Windham County Solid Waste Management District** has



set up a town-wide composting station at Guilford Central School. Selectboard members continue to work with Alex on making the project sustainable.

- **The Guilford Guide**, a wide-ranging directory to life in town, is finally complete. Several volunteers, including Selectboard members, were active participants in its development. The Guide will be mailed to each household in town. The online version will be periodically updated. <https://guilfordvt.gov/available-now-the-guilford-guide/>
- **Emergency Management:** Selectboard members are integral partners in an extensive plan. The team has adapted a hub management model from Seattle, Washington, dividing the town into geographic areas with volunteer coordinators to facilitate neighborhood preparedness.
- **The Guilford Free Library** reports to the Selectboard on their services to the community, including free afterschool and summer programs, interlibrary loan; snowshoes and the electric bike to borrow, in season.
- **The Recreation, Conservation, Planning, and Cemetery Commissions**, staffed by volunteers, report to the Selectboard on their activities, which enhance

the quality of life in town from the cradle to the grave. The Conservation Commission's Natural Resources Inventory, a guide to geology, flora, and fauna, has been reprinted as a popular holiday gift. The Planning Commission has created an informal study group on future housing in town.

- **Broad Brook Community Center**, an independent nonprofit, has an important partnership arrangement with the Town. The BBCC houses essential official functions: elections, Pre-town Meeting, and commission classes. It is the center for the **Guilford Cares Food Pantry** and **Neighborhood Roots Food Collective**, **Broad Brook Grange**, **Guilford Center Stage**, and community gatherings like the weekly Coffee Klatch and monthly pot lucks.

Our Selectboard is diligently focused on the challenges of municipal financing and reduced federal and state funding. Our goals for the 2025-26 year conclude with this statement: "Neighbors elected us... to ensure the quality of life in the town we share." We hope that the tone of communication, and thoughtfulness of our decisions, reflect our devotion to this responsibility.



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ABOUT THE GUILFORD GAZETTE

This quarterly newspaper, produced by volunteers, aims to bring the community of Guilford together and highlight all the wonderful things happening in our town. We welcome submissions, advertisers, and new volunteers. Email gazettevt@gmail.com. You can also drop paper submissions in the Gazette box at the Guilford Free Library.

Deadlines for article submissions are January 1 for the February issue, April 1 for the May issue, July 1st for the August issue, and October 1st for the November issue.

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*Guilford's first-annual Winter Solstice Celebration
Photo credit: Joslyn McIntyre*

