



Bridge Ceremony Marks Transitions

At the annual end-of-school-year gathering, Dummerston School students cross through the school's covered bridge to mark their learning and growth during the year. See more photos on page 15.

Dummerston School Graduates Seven

By Julianne Eagan, PRINCIPAL

Congratulations to Evan Jantti-Topping, Lightning Knudson, Rylee LaFarr, Gracia Lenois, Zawadi Long, Alexandra North, and Fallyn Wood, members of the Dummerston School 8th grade class of 2025! This class stands out, not only for their small size, but also for their exceptional dedication to service and their skill in building community. Thank you staff, families, and community members, for embracing these students' learning journey throughout their career at Dummerston School!

The following honors were awarded at our graduation celebration on the evening of June 10th.

Arlene G. Forrett Memorial Award: *Zawadi Long.* The Arlene G. Forrett Memorial Award is presented annually to a good all-around student and citizen. Arlene Forrett was a woman who, through her day care, helped raise the children of her friends and neighbors. She gave to her community generously and was the kind of person that every community needs.

Melinda Bussino Community Service Award: *Evan Jantti-Topping.* Melinda Bussino started a homeless shelter and food pantry in Brattleboro. The Melinda Bussino Community Service Award,

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Views Staff Eyes Paper's Future

By Roger Turner, EDITOR

At the halfway point of our fourth decade of publishing the *Views*, the current steering committee met to assess how we're doing. The main topics of discussion worked out to be (1) finances, and (2) continuity as this group ages and anticipates stepping away from our work on the *Views*, which is not imminent, but is not far off, either.

Finances: Over the years our sponsor and advertising rates enabled us to build up a good bank balance. We were able to easily pay our own expenses, and also made fairly-regular thousand-dollar contributions to our parent organization, the Community Center. Not only were we relying on the Community Center to manage our finances, but we were also using the building quarterly for "folding parties."

Prior to COVID, participation at folding parties was dwindling, and when COVID hit we became unable to meet. At that point, we began to contract with our printer, the C&S Printshop, to do the

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The *Views of Dummerston* is a quarterly newsletter published by a group of citizen volunteers since 1990, and has non-profit status through the Dummerston Community Center. Mary Lou McBean had the original vision for and was first editor of the *Views*, and Gary Blomgren created the original masthead art.

The current steering committee includes Roger Turner (editor), Michelle Cherrier (co-articles coordinator and calendar), Fred Lee (layout), Sara Ryan (ad coordinator), Linda Rood (co-articles coordinator), and Lee Ives Tice (mailing). We always welcome new interest in joining the committee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

The *Views* is mailed free of charge to all residents of the town of Dummerston. It is also available online at viewsofdummerston.org. We encourage people to help us save printing and mailing expenses by cancelling their print subscription and accessing the *Views* online at viewsofdummerston.org; to do so please email Sara Ryan at: subscribeonline@viewsofdummerston.org. If you are not a resident of Dummerston and would prefer to receive a paper copy of the *Views*, you may subscribe for an annual cost of \$5. Mail a check made payable to Views of Dummerston, with your name and mailing address to Lee Tice, 230 School House Rd., East Dummerston, VT 05346.

ARTICLES:

We welcome all articles related in any way to the town of Dummerston, including news of town organizations, personalities, history, or activities. Email Microsoft Word documents (preferred) to: articles@viewsofdummerston.org. Typed or hand-written articles can also be sent to: Michelle Cherrier, 72 Miller Rd., East Dummerston, VT 05346.

CALENDAR:

Any (non-commercial) event you would like listed on our Calendar of Events should be emailed to: calendar@viewsofdummerston.org, or mailed to Michelle Cherrier at the above address.

NEXT ISSUE:

Submissions due: September 16, 2025

Views will be mailed on: October 29, 2025

ADVERTISING:

Rates: All rates are for four issues, however a large or small box ad can be placed for just one issue at an adjusted rate. Payment should be by a check made out to the *Views of Dummerston*, and mailed to: Sara Ryan, 53 Greenhoe Rd., East Dummerston, VT 05346

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Dummerston Selectboard Meetings

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How the Views Gets Created

By Linda Rood

Four times a year, the *Views of Dummerston* is produced by our volunteer steering committee and our reliable group of correspondents. This is how it works: It starts with a planning meeting attended by our steering committee (listed in the column to the left). We set meeting times and deadlines, review the last issue for successes and failures, and brainstorm possible topics for articles in the next *Views*.

About a month ahead of the deadline, the call to the correspondents goes out from Linda Rood, to remind them of the deadline date for the upcoming issue. As that date approaches, the articles start to arrive in our inbox. For the winter issue, for example, which comes out before town meeting, the deadline is about midway through January. That may seem early for an edition that's not going to be mailed until late February, but you will understand when you see what happens next.

Do all the articles arrive on time? Mostly. But sometimes we have to allow for delays. For the winter issue, we need candidates' statements for the town meeting elections. Petitions aren't due until late January, so we often have to wait on some of those statements. Or, maybe somebody needs to make corrections to their article after it's been submitted, or the selectboard is waiting to get some information before they can send their article in. Things like that may cause an article to come in late.

Next, a day or so after the deadline, Michelle Cherrier gathers all the articles, formats them uniformly, and sends them to Roger Turner to be edited. It takes Roger two weeks to edit the articles and get them proofed by our volunteer proofers. Roger makes an "article chart" which is a spreadsheet compilation of all the articles and photos that should be included in the new issue. This chart, the edited and proofed articles, photos, captions, and credits are then all sent to Fred Lee, our layout person.

Two weeks later Fred has placed all of the articles and photos into pages and members of the steering committee meet for a final check on whether all the dates are correct, the headlines match the articles, and all the sponsors and advertisers are included. When we find things that need to be corrected, Fred makes the changes directly into the document. Because of all the pre-proofing, this final meeting is usually over within 45 minutes.

Fred then sends the electronic *Views* to the C&S Print Shop and to Kevin Ryan, who puts it on our website for our online subscribers (and the whole world for that matter). Lee Ives Tice maintains the mailing list, and notifies the printer how many issues to print. When the issue is printed and folded, she picks them up, and with the help of her husband and mom affix the labels and organize them in USPS mailing trays, and then delivers them to the post office where off they go to your mailboxes. After about a month and a half it's time to start planning again.



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**Town Office &
Committee Vacancies**

Planning Commission
3 openings

Development Review Board
2 openings

Assistant Zoning Administrator

Energy Committee

**Windham Regional
Commission Representative**

The Views of Dummerston Mission Statement

Providing reports of town organizations, and stories of townspeople and their good deeds, in promoting cooperation and understanding toward creating a more "ideal" Dummerston.

"All who read may also contribute!"—Mary Lou McBean, founder, *Views of Dummerston*

town government

Dummerston Selectboard

Selectboard Struggles to Fill Vacancies

By Todd Davidson

There are a number of appointed openings on town and regional boards, as well as other ways to assist us here in Dummerston. We are always looking for town residents who have an interest and are willing to volunteer their time and expertise. If you are interested please contact the town office and you'll be put in touch with someone who can talk to you about each position. The following are current needs:

Dummerston Planning Commission (*three openings*): The Planning Commission is a group of residents (not more than nine) appointed by the selectboard to take responsibility for the development and implementation of the town plan. The town plan, which is renewed at least every five years, is a guideline for public and private community development activities that seeks to ensure conformity with the wishes of the residents, to avoid the adverse and sometimes irreversible effects of random development, and to harmonize with the planning measures of the state, the Windham region, and neighboring towns.

Development Review Board (*two openings*): The Dummerston Development Review Board hears and issues decisions based on the Dummerston Zoning Bylaws on certain development applications. Most land development in Dummerston requires a zoning permit, and most zoning permits can be issued by the town's zoning administrator based on finding that the development is in conformance with the town's Zoning Bylaws.

Town Health Officer: By law, every town and city in Vermont has a local board of health. The local board of health consists of the town health officer and town selectboard.

Town health officers are responsible for:

- Investigating possible public health hazards and risks within the town or city.
- Taking action to prevent, remove, or destroy any public health hazards.
- Taking action to lessen significant public health risks.

- Enforcing health laws, rules, and permit conditions, and taking the steps necessary to enforce orders.

Energy Committee: The Dummerston Energy Committee supports the town in monitoring locally-important energy issues and developments, and promoting energy conservation, efficiency, and increased use of renewable resources.

Windham Regional Commission (WRC) Representative: Dummerston has two seats on the WRC, one of which is vacant. In the absence of county government, the WRC provides the essential link between local, state, and federal government. It is a public entity, constituted by law, and required to meet statutory obligations. Its core program of work focuses on assisting towns planning and zoning efforts, and creating and maintaining a regional plan which

addresses the following topics: transportation, including bike, pedestrian, transit, and rail; community development, including brownfield redevelopment and community development/block grant support; energy; project review; natural resources; GIS mapping support for towns; and all-hazards emergency planning.

Dummerston Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary: This group assists our fire department with ideas and events to raise money to support the great firefighters in our town. The more people and ideas, the better!

DVFiber Alternate Representative: DVFiber is a non-profit municipal organization working hard to bring high-quality internet to 24 communities in southeastern Vermont. It is managed by a governing board consisting of volunteer representatives and alternates from each of the member towns.

Planning Commission Seeks Volunteers

By Annamarie Pluhar,
Commission member

Have you noticed what's happening at the planning commission? In the past year, out of eleven meetings warned we have held exactly three. The other eight lacked a quorum so we couldn't hold an official meeting. This is happening because the commission is supposed to have seven members, and we have four. If one of us is unable to attend, we can't hold a meeting.

We need three new commissioners to fill the vacant seats.

Our planning commission is responsible for keeping the Dummerston Town Plan up to date and congruent with Dummerston's understanding of itself as a town. We also write the zoning by-laws. The work is not hard but needs to be done. We meet once a month on the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting is on August 11th. Come and sit in on a meeting and see if this is a way for you to serve our town. Or talk to any of us: Sarah

Bergh, Daniel Gehring, Maria Glabach, and Annamarie Pluhar. Contact us at: planning@dummerston.org

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town government

Dummerston Conservation Commission

Bluebird Box Building Boosts Bonding

By Jesse Wagner

Spring arrived on schedule this year, but hasn't taken the hint to move along and let summer in. I shouldn't complain. Born and raised a New Englander, I find comfort in 50–60-degree days and nights. By the time this issue of the *Views* hits your mailboxes we will probably all be sick of blazing hot car seats and the incessant drone of air conditioners.

The conservation commission has had a moderately busy spring and has some

exciting things on the horizon for summer and fall 2025. Back in April, commissioner and woodworker Lew Teich hosted a wonderful bluebird building workshop at his home on Schoolhouse Road. People gathered at his home and built high quality bird houses complete with t-post mounts and northern white cedar roofs for weather resilience. People were thrilled to learn woodworking from a seasoned builder and to have a peek at Lew's amazing custom-built home and property. Armed with the knowledge of our in-house veterinarian/ birder/ bluebird expert/ commissioner Ron Svec, Lew was able to pass along valuable information about caring and placement of the new boxes. One attendant reported that bluebirds were nesting within only a few hours of installing their new box, and another had bluebirds within a month!

Lew has also completed construction of a new "conservation station" similar to the existing one at the corner of Green Mountain Camp and Hague Roads. This new station will be installed near the walkway of the town office. Similar to a "wee free library," residents can borrow and return (or donate) conservation related materials on the honor system. If you have favorite books or other materials on conservation (or related) topics you would be willing to donate to put in the new conservation station, please email us at info@dummerstonconservation.com. Thanks Lew!

On May 7th, Cory Ross and Isabel Bowman of the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District (WCNRCD) hosted a rain garden workshop alongside the Park-and-Ride lot beside the covered bridge. People gathered with gloves and shovels, ready to dig holes for various plants provided by the WCNRCD. This event was aimed at introducing some new flora into the already established rain garden and removing unwanted invasives from the existing beds. It was a continuation of the larger collaborative project that began last fall, culminating in a dramatic rebuilding of the river access steps and stormwater management of the parking lot. We are thankful and appreciative of the hard work of Cory Ross and others with NRCD on improving one of Dummerston's treasured landmarks.

Trail booklets are available with an optional donation at the town offices. These spiral bound trail guides highlight ten trails in Dummerston that are accessible for most abilities and the booklets have been so popular that we have had to print more copies. Feel free to drop by during normal business hours and have a look through one.

Many conservation commission members also serve, along with the selectboard members, on the Prospect Hill Board of Trustees. We continue to strategize ways to manage woody invasive plants on the blueberry laden summit of the hill and plan a group hike in the next month or two to assess the site and clear the area around the bench at the top. Even if you can't join us, we encourage people to make the short hike up Prospect Hill and experience the multi-state views, blueberries, and wildflowers that can be seen there. We are sure that you will fall in love with the location. If you would like to volunteer time helping us steward the property, or have suggestions about land management, please reach out to us.



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A Great Place to Be a Salamander

by Catie G. Berg

Three cheers for the Dummerston Conservation Commission (DCC)! Dummerston Cares proudly celebrates the commission's board as our Volunteers of the Summer Season!

Dummerston is a verdant gem in nature's necklace of towns that roll serenely through the Green Mountains. We can thank the DCC for putting our town's natural beauty and ecology in focus since its founding in 1990. When people flock to Vermont to experience the peace and beauty of nature, we can happily say, "We're already here!"

Whether for a salamander or a moose, the DCC's mission promotes the community's awareness and responsibility for conservation, while encouraging stewardship of the natural habitat.

Have you seen the DCC's newsletter? It's a digital digest of each month's natural wonders! Read it to transform your walk to the mailbox from ho-hum to bee hum. Your ears and eyes will open to the ecology of the insects, birds, reptiles, mammals, and plants that surround you. Before you know it, you'll be walking the trails that lead you from curiosity to gentle healing. Yes, the DCC knows that walks in nature promote our physical and mental health!

The amazing people in the DCC bring much insight and expertise in service to the job. They see the big picture of climate, air quality, and the conservation of water, soil, plants, and animals. Plus, they focus on the "little things"

that keep the big things in balance: a healthy frog makes a healthy heron—and on up the food chain life goes.

Beyond the skills of naturalists, the DCC provides technical and educational expertise. And they have fun doing it! They're a welcoming bunch that enjoys getting together to solve problems, create programs, work with volunteers, and share delicious food.

Dummerston Conservation Commission's Board

The chair, Christine Goepp, brings a wealth of interests and skills to the DCC. She grew up in the area and returned after living throughout the world. Being a lawyer, she combines organizational and analytical skills with her fervor for the natural world.

Lynn Levine is a co-founder of the DCC, having secured unanimous support for the DCC at town meeting in 1990. Lynn is a forester, nature educator, author, and town treasure. Many of us have attended her talks and accompanied her walks.

David Greenwalt brings expertise with maps to the DCC. He parlayed his former work on the Windham Regional Commission and town mapping to trail mapping. See DCC's website for a set of ten *amazing* trail maps. Get him talking about maple syrup!

Jesse Wagner contributes to DCC through a degree in environmental studies. He focuses on land conservation, including interests in bird watching, soil, invasive species, hiking and trail building, and fishing.

continued on page 14



The Cares Volunteers of the Quarter are members of the Dummerston Conservation Committee. Clockwise from top left, members are: Lynn Levine, Debbie Miller, Bill Conley, Jesse Wagner, Lew Teich, Christine Goepp, Ron Svec, and Dave Greenwalt.

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organizations

Evening Star Grange

Richard Hamilton Celebrated on Memorial Day

By Sallie May

On Friday, May 30, the traditional Memorial Day, the Evening Star Grange held their annual traditional Memorial Day observance on the Dummerston Common under a cloudy but dry sky. The program this year was dedicated to Richard Hamilton, late of Marlboro, Vermont. We are proud to say that all four of his daughters came and we had a table full of pictures of this beloved prisoner of war (WWII) who passed away in February at the age of 102. The American Legion Band played, we had a soloist and several people who did readings, recitations, and the like. Light refreshments were served outside after the event. We had a small but enthusiastic crowd, but they made a lot of noise and the band has us on their list to return next year. If you are a believer in celebrating this great holiday on its original, dedicated day and would like to participate in some way, please get in touch with Larry Lynch at 802-310-0799. He will get back to you shortly.

After saving our pennies this past winter we were able to repair both our handicapped ramp into the upstairs hall and the ramp and porch flooring into the downstairs. We sincerely appreciate those folks who donated their time and money to finish these projects, as it turned into more work than we anticipated, but the rot on the upper ramp handrail was completely replaced, support beams under the upstairs stairs were replaced or strengthened, and new flooring also had to be added to part of the downstairs porch. These will all be stained before the winter sets in. We have a couple more projects that need

to be done including replacing the retaining wall near the door going in downstairs. We are unsure whether it can make it through another winter, so we are beginning to get serious about its replacement.

We encourage you to attend a Grange Senior Lunch so you can see for yourself what we are dealing with, and your ideas as to what we should

do would be most welcome. By attending our public suppers, you can certainly help us as well. Our next public supper will be the Peach Shortcake Dinner on August 16. Mark your calendar!!

That's it for now. Remember, for information please call Larry at 802-310-0799 or secretary Sallie May at 802-257-0387. Leave a message and one of us will get back to you.

Compost Facility Expansion Timeline

By Michelle Cherrier,
WSWMD Supervisor

This past May the Windham Solid Waste Management District celebrated the grand opening of its expanded composting facility. Here is a brief outline of this project that the board and staff have been working on for the last seven years.

Seven years ago–December 13, 2018 board meeting: Our executive director Bob Spencer informed the board of an Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) Compost Infrastructure Grant award of \$410,518. He described the specifics of the grant for a covered, aerated, static pile compost system. Bob had been working on a business plan for the “organics” (food scraps) program for some time; he has a great deal of experience in these programs. The board requested further information.

Five years ago–March 12, 2020: Bob informed the board that we had a possible overage in the district's compost permit with the state, affecting the scope of the permit for the new facility.

May 14, 2020: The board discussed the Compost Facility permit amendment, which included a recap of the status for amending our current (small) permit, and cost estimates for expansion.

June 11, 2020: The board received a compost permit status update. The district had spoken with the state regarding the need to increase our proposed project to a medium-

sized composting facility. Bob was informed that WSWMD could apply for a variance to operate as a medium-sized facility with the improvements to be made over five years.

Four years ago–November 11, 2021: The WSWMD staff prepared grant applications for expanding the capacity.

Three years ago–May 21, 2022: The board discussed moving to plan B: to phase in this expansion over several years to spread out the spending.

August 8, 2022: Bob reiterated that we must expand and seek the medium-level permit.

November 10, 2022: The compost facility expansion got underway! The district spent money on final engineering plans including a drone survey.

December 8, 2022: RFP's (requests for proposals) were created for three projects: a fabric building, site work, and the installation of the air and heat recovery system for the upgraded facility. There will be different contractors for each project. The proposals actually went out on September 14, 2023.

Two years ago–January 12, 2023: WSWMD received the zoning permit from the Town of Brattleboro dated 12/21/22, but were still waiting for approval from the state.

August 10, 2023: We have the state permit for a medium-sized compost facility, and a stormwater construction permit.

One year ago, April 11, 2024: At our board meeting, we determined the contractors for our new facility will be: Zaluzny Excavating Corporation of Vernon for sitework; ClearSpan Fabric Structures International, Inc. of Glastonbury, VT for constructing a fabric building on concrete blocks; and Agrilab Technologies of Enosburg, VT for compost aeration and heat recovery. We broke ground on this project in 2024.

This year, May 2025: We have the grand opening to show off our new facility and our capabilities for handling compost. We hope you got to see the newest and greatest improvement to our district in its history!

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organizations

Dummerston Historical Society

The Stories These Stone Walls Tell of Town's Past

By Muriel Taylor, Gail Sorenson
& John Pinkney

As this article is being written, summer will be arriving in a few days. We share with you abundant, wishful thoughts of the warm, sunny days to come. Summer weather will make it easier to visit us at the Schoolhouse in Dummerston Center. By the time you read this we will have a new exhibit at the Schoolhouse through July, August, and September. See more below.

April quarterly meeting:

This meeting was an opportunity for our membership and interested others to make suggestions to the board of directors concerning our hours, programs, meetings, etc. It was clear that regular meeting times and dates would be preferred for quarterly meetings, that our current publicity is satisfactory and that inclusion of information about other Historical Society events would be appreciated. The following business meeting of the board, the Directors included a vote to hold our quarterly meetings, going forward, on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in April and July, and on the third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. in October and January. (Events in Vermont always require the caveat of "weather permitting!") Information about the events and addresses of other historical societies will be included on our website and on Facebook as is feasible. Ideas for programs are always welcome.

July quarterly meeting and continuing exhibits

On Thursday July 17, DHS presented a program entitled *Maps and Stone Walls of Dummerston*. This presentation and discussion, led by John Pinkney and David Greenwalt, concerned the early property lines and boundaries within the town, how they were indicated by dry stone walling, what remains of those walls today, and how those property lines were first surveyed. Featured were two large interactive maps, one which shows the stone walls throughout the town and another showing the current structures and residences. Our visitors were and will be encouraged to contribute by drawing in stone walls that are known to exist but not shown. Our second large map showed the current structures in town and provides the date each building was constructed. Many dates, however, are missing and we'd love help discovering

what year your home may have been built if you know it. Additionally, on display were many maps that DHS possesses including topographical maps, fire department maps, handmade maps of specific areas, and others. Copies of the maps were and will be available for purchase, along with our new DHS hats and tee shirts.

Since the *Artisans of Dummerston* exhibit in 2023, DHS has been featuring local artists' works during our quarterly exhibits. Linda Rood is the current featured artist with her works, *Watercolors by Linda Rood*, being exhibited through September. Many of you know Linda from her many years of teaching English at Leland and Gray before she retired. Upon retirement she used her time to do things that she never had time to do, among them, taking classes in watercolor painting. She "was immediately delighted by the way the paper, the water, and the paints worked together, and was hooked." A well-attended opening reception was held July 6 at which Linda shared her enthusiasm for painting and spoke about her own progress and improvement, and the satisfaction she finds in the meditative absorption that painting brings her.

The interactive map exhibit and Linda Rood's watercolors will be on display at our open hours in July, August, and September, on the first and third Sundays from 1-3 p.m. Special hours are always available by arrangement with a board member. Call us! We will open just for you! 802-380-7525

The Dummerston Historical Society always welcomes donations of historical interest to Dummerston, and we encourage you to join us in 2025 as a member, a volunteer, a participant in our programs or as a viewer of our exhibits.

Find more information and videos of recent programs at www.dummerstonhistoricalsociety.org. (Please note that you do not need to be a member of the Historical Society to attend any of our functions.) Our Schoolhouse is handicapped accessible. You are always welcome.

Remember when?

This is the verbatim text from a letter to DHS (dated 6/2/08) from Gordon Fletcher, relating his childhood memories, circa mid-1960s, in which he describes the management of the Twin State Gas and Electric Company power station at their timber crib dam on the West River:

"I was only 6 months old when my parents moved into the house on rt. 30 across the road from the north lift at Maple Valley. My father went to work as a powerhouse operator at the Twin State Gas and Electric dam and powerhouse near by. The house we lived in was owned by the electric company. Rent was \$10.00 per month. Dad worked an 8 hour day 7 days a week. They changed shifts each week. The shifts were from midnight until 8AM, 8AM until 4PM and 4PM until midnight. Every third week when they changed shifts, Dad had to work 16 hours. His pay \$24.00 per week. The other two operators were Ernest Tier and Ernest Putnam. Later, when they were given a day off each week Raymond Davis joined the operators. They were given a week's vacation in those early years. In later years my father had the 8AM to 4PM shift, with Thursday and Friday off. Ernest Putnam had Tuesday and Wednesday off as he was a Grange member and Tuesday night was Grange meeting. I think Ernest Tier's days off were Sunday and Monday."

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school news

Author, Illustrator Eileen Christelow Visits Kindergarten



Dummerston resident Eileen Christelow, author and illustrator of numerous best-selling picture books, including *Five Little Monkeys*, *Letters From a Desperate Dog*, and *Vote*, visited the Dummerston School kindergarten on April 23rd! Eileen read a monkey story aloud, taught kindergarteners how to draw one of her monkeys, signed books, and left the group with precious gifts. In the afternoon kindergarteners drew their own monkeys! Thank you, Eileen, for visiting our school!



Eighth Graders Take Part in Solar Sprint Competition

Dummerston School eighth graders participated in the annual Solar Sprint Competition hosted by Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center at Living Memorial Park on May 29th. Eighth graders worked with STEM teacher Keith Marshall to design their cars as part of this challenge and then

had the opportunity to race against student teams from across Windham and Cheshire counties. Dummerston School has participated for four consecutive years in the Solar Sprint competition!



Fourth Annual PRIDE March and Celebration

GLOW (Gender, Love, Open-Minded Warriors), Dummerston School's QSA, organized our fourth annual PRIDE March on June 5th. Following our all-school meeting, GLOW members led students, staff, and families in a parade around the school. Following the parade, students celebrated on the blacktop with dancing and face painting.

school news



Birds, Birds, and Birds!



Bird Study in First Grade

As part of their English/Language Arts study with teacher Beth Montgomery, first graders took a deep dive into the study of birds, focusing on the questions: how do birds use their body parts to survive, and how do we become researchers and share learning? After conducting research and developing scientific drawings of their birds, first graders practiced giving kind, specific, and helpful feedback to each other. Students used that feedback to complete their final drawings and then participated in expert science talks about their birds, explaining how their birds use their body parts to survive. Learning to listen closely, question, and respond to peers is an important part of the English/Language Arts curriculum in first grade.



Hatching Eggs in the Classroom!

Students in kindergarten and in seventh and eighth grade STEM hatched chicks in their classrooms this past spring as part of their science learning.



school news



PHOTO BY JULIANNE ECAN

Gathering outside of school between teachers Keith Marshall (STEM) and Tina Deal (Humanities) are (l-r) 8th grade graduates Evan Jantti-Topping, Rylee LaFarr, Gracia Lenois, Fallyn Wood, Zawadi Long, Lightning Knudson, and Alexandra North.

Dummerston School Graduates Seven

continued from page 1

funded by the Dummerston Congregational Church, is given annually to a student who embodies her spirit by doing community service for our school, their church, or the community.

Mentoring Award: *Gracia Lenois*. The Mentoring Award goes to a student who has shown special talent and commitment to mentoring younger students at Dummerston School.

Physical Education Award: *Fallyn Wood*. The Physical Education Award is given to a student who has consistently demonstrated a high standard of effort in regards to their physical fitness during PE classes throughout the school year.

Coaches Awards: *Alexandra North*. At the end of each sports season coaches nominate

8th grade players who display the following traits: strong physical skills, vast knowledge in the sport, passion for the game, dedication to the sport as well as their team and leadership.

Margaret T. Irsch Memorial Writing Award: *Lightning Knudson*. Every year, the Dummerston School Friends of the Library sponsors a writing contest for the 8th grade in honor of their founder Margaret T. Irsch. This year, the anonymous submissions were read by a panel of judges who enjoyed the 8th graders' work. The contestants wrote on a variety of subjects including Latin American folklore, upstanders during the Holocaust, and personal growth. The submissions included a variety of creative writing, literary analysis, and informative and argumentative essays.

Ruth E. Knapp Award: *Rylee Lafarr*. This

award is annually given to an eighth grader who has shown the most improvement scholastically, socially, and as a citizen in the class.

Timothy Garland Award: *Fallyn Wood*. Tim Garland was a Dummerston School student who, after many obstacles, continued his education and eventually began a 20-plus-year career at Bellows Falls Middle School teaching both math and science. The Timothy Garland Award is annually presented to a student who loves math.

Jean Shaw Creativity in Science Award: *Evan Jantti-Topping*. The Jean Shaw Creativity in Science Award is for someone who loves and excels in science and shows a great deal of creativity and curiosity.

Dummerston Women's Association Award: *Lightning Knudson*. The Dummerston Women's Association Award is given to the member of the 8th-grade class with the highest academic achievement.

Art Award: *Lightning Knudson*. The Art Award honors a student who has consistently shown high levels of dedication and growth in their artistic endeavors.

Music Award: *Zawadi Long*. The music award is presented to a student who demonstrates both talent and dedication to their instrumental study.

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school news

Bridge Ceremony Celebrates Transitions

ALL PHOTOS BY JULIANNE EGAN



New Staff Hired for Faculty Retirees

By Cindy Bacigalupo

While I'm writing this, there are many happy faces celebrating the last day of school, with celebrations of students heading on to the next grade and some teachers onto their new life of retirement. By the time the *Views* reaches your mailbox, the students will be in their new classrooms and the retired staff will hopefully be enjoying their new lifestyle and enjoying free time.

With the retirements come new staff to the school. Mary Ann Runge, the school nurse for the past 31 years, will be replaced by Melissa White. Kathy Evans taught third grade since 1982 and Logan Snow will be Dummerston's new third grade teacher. Lynn Cameron, the first grade paraprofessional the past ten years of her 30-year career in the district, is being replaced by Julianne Giordano. Finally, after teaching music for 37 years at Dummerston School, Rita Corey is being replaced by Nathaniel Evans.

During the upcoming school year, please remember to visit the school for different functions, including sport events, concerts,



Retiring staff from the Dummerston school, waiting to cross the bridge to their retirement, are (l-r): Kathy Evans, Lynn Cameron, and MaryAnn Runge.

and art shows. The classrooms are filled with many creative and talented children. Also keep in mind the need for donations of funds of any amount so the children can participate in outside winter sport activities, including skiing, ice skating, and hiking. You can write a check to Dummerston School with "Winter Activities" in the memo, then drop off the check at the school office, or mail to 52 Schoolhouse Road, East Dummerston, VT 05346.

As part of our annual Bridge Ceremony, Dummerston School students cross the covered bridge to symbolize all of their learning and growth throughout the school year. At the other end of the bridge, their new teacher awaits! A beautiful and bittersweet moment.

Rejuvenated Library Board Expands Event Planning

By Catherine O'Callaghan

"A public library is the most democratic thing in the world." —Doris Lessing

Lydia's Friends serves as the friends-of-the-library group for Dummerston's Lydia Taft Pratt Library. We are committed to promoting the success of our public library located in the Dummerston Community Center at 150 West Street.

Connections Grow at Lydia Taft Pratt Library

By Stacey Kripp,
LTP Children's Program Staff

As the new Children's Room staff at Lydia Taft Pratt Library, I might have the best job in Dummerston. I get to be surrounded by wonderful children's literature and toys. I get to engage with the families in our Dummerston community and stay on top of all the community happenings. Most importantly I get to see how much the library benefits Dummerston.

By the time you read this piece you all will hopefully have attended our summer programming events, such as the Kick-Off Carnival held June 21st. Maybe you have some new artwork decorating your house that the kids made at our Wednesday morning summer crafts camps, or maybe you made a playdate with friends you connected with at our sensory playtime. Perhaps you even made a coffee date with friends you connected with at coffee chat. Maybe you found some extra peace this summer when your child checked out the new audio story players and listened to a story, or felt content whipping up a

new recipe for our cookbook club. Did you get a date night while your teens were at Magic the Gathering Club, or did you mingle at the Lydia's Friends Scott Farm Crepe night fundraiser?

All of these things and more happened at or in partnership with the Lydia Taft Pratt Library this summer. Now it is time to look ahead to what is next for the library. The really great news is that all the programs will continue that we've been able to start thanks to funding received from the Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Fund. The grant has allowed us to pay for furniture in the children's room, supplies for programming, educational materials such as diverse books and audio story players, all of which will continue to be available in the library. Since the library now has someone dedicated to children's programming, there is also a person more available for adult programming. Dummerston adults can look forward to more author/speaker type events, our ongoing Coffee Chat program, and a renewed energy for outreach to our senior community members and organizations. Among other things, we plan to be an ongoing presence at the Dummerston Grange Senior Lunches throughout the fall.

The past few months have illustrated the ways in which our town library works to build community in Dummerston. If you haven't been by to check out our expanded hours and expanded space, do stop in, check out a book, or join a library program and continue to make connections. Now in 2025 more than ever we can all benefit from exactly the kind of community fostered at our town library.

Thanks to our many donors, especially Walker Farm, which provides the geraniums, we raised just over \$3,000 for our town library. The Geranium Festival is a Dummerston tradition held every year on the Saturday of the weekend before Memorial Day. This year, to everyone's delight, the Morris Dancers performed and even led a maypole dance. Fingers crossed this will become an established tradition.

In the early spring we were notified that we received a competitive grant to groups that support U.S. rural and small libraries. This grant, from United for Libraries, provides funding for our Ecological Speakers series. We have already hosted Meg Mott, also known as the constitutional wrangler, speaking on the importance of democratic deliberation in the face of natural disasters, and Tina Ellor, who graduated from Dummerston school, on the medicinal use of mushrooms. Both events were stimulating and well attended. Be on the lookout this year for a couple more presentations in this series.

Also, we recently filled the wonderful community room in the Dummerston Community Center, when we hosted the producers of the podcast *The Afghan Women of Brattleboro*. As you can see, in addition to fundraising, we are energized to coordinate events that bring us together to meet our neighbors, enjoy each other's company, and engage in collaborative learning.

Lydia's Friends meets the second Thursday of the month at 5 p.m. in the library and all are welcome. As a new nonprofit, we are actively recruiting members and welcome any level of involvement because no contribution is too small. If you are interested in helping out, call Catherine O'Callaghan at 802-380-7935.

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Demand and New Federal Policy Impacts Putney Foodshelf

By Hannah Pick
Executive Director

"What a great job the Putney Foodshelf is doing in providing supplemental healthy food to some Dummerston residents. Dummerston Cares has been supporting the Foodshelf for years to make this happen, and both Cares and the Foodshelf want to see this service continue in years to come."

Bill Schmidt, for Dummerston Cares

Federal policy and how it is impacting the Putney Foodshelf:

The Putney Foodshelf, along with food pantries nationwide, has been planning ahead for a potential rapid rise in food insecurity. At the time of writing this article in June, we are waiting for the U.S. House and Senate to finalize a budget that is threatening to bring

the biggest cuts to food assistance that we've ever seen in this country.

As daunting as this seems, we have been working to minimize the impacts on our extended community. This means strategically fundraising, budgeting, and expanding our capacity to respond to rising needs. We are being cautious about our overall spending, and are working to find new partnerships and sources of income. In May, the Foodshelf moved into the main hall of the Putney Community Center to create more space for shopping and food storage.

Hopefully in August, when you read this, the worst predictions have not come to pass, but it is very likely cuts to SNAP and Medicaid will be hitting home.

"Medicaid and SNAP are lifelines—for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, families with children, and anyone struggling to afford the basics... SNAP is not just a nutrition program—it is a cornerstone of stability for many of our neighbors."

Ivy Enoch, Hunger Free Vermont

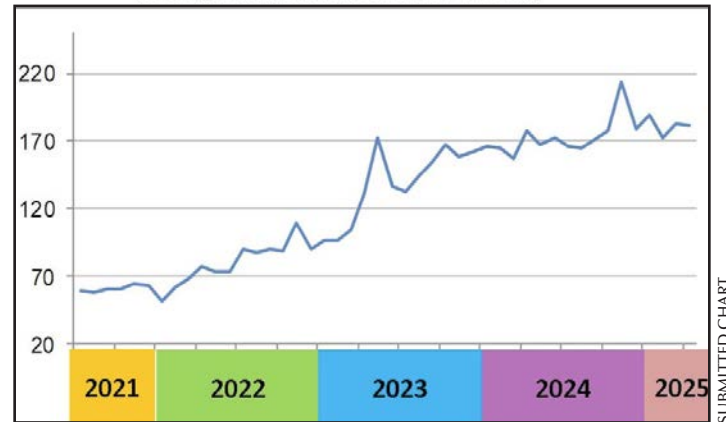
If federal funding is cut for these programs, then we expect the burden to fall on the states. Given the simultaneous requests for critical issues like housing, school funding, and emergency preparedness that our state legislature is facing, we're aware that the state would be unable to fill the gap that would be created. Ultimately, continuing to feed our neighbors will fall to local nonprofits like ours, and the communities that support them. We are working hard to be ready—and we hope you'll join us.

Putting it all in context:

Over the past five years, there has been a 250% increase in the number of people visiting the Foodshelf. This period of rapid growth has changed the scale of the organization and the way we are thinking about long-term sustainability. Due to the number of people being served and the rising costs of food, the food budget has gone from \$12,000 in 2020 to \$103,700 in FY 2025. While we have been able to keep up, and built

savings during the pandemic due to an influx of financial support, the Foodshelf's budget has been stretching. While the Putney Food-

Average Households Served Weekly



The rising need over the past five years at Foodshelf open hours.

SUBMITTED CHART



The new shopping room in the Putney Community Center main hall.



Putney Foodshelf and Dummerston Cares board members standing together in supporting Foodshelf services. (Left to right) Sheena Tesch, PF Operations Manager, Bill Schmidt, Cares Vice President, Meg Lyons, Cares President, Zach Hebert, PF President, Deb Carpenter, Cares Secretary, Hannah Pick, PF Executive Director

shelf isn't directly federally funded, it is being indirectly impacted by cutbacks that affect the Vermont Foodbank and the food security network as a whole, such as reduced access to USDA foods (especially meat).

During the past years of growth, the percentage of people coming to the Foodshelf from the surrounding area has increased significantly. At this point, Putney Foodshelf is serving far more than Putney. Shoppers have come from: Putney (30%), Brattleboro (31%), Westminster (8%), Dummerston (6% -- 477 visits to the Foodshelf and 1,419 people served in FY2025), and other towns (25%).

Seeking support:

At town meeting next March, with the *continued on page 15*



Plants donated from Walker Farm brought joy to shoppers on opening day of the new space, and throughout the spring.

PHOTO BY AMY SMIDUTZ

PHOTO BY HANNAH PICK

PHOTO BY HANNAH PICK



Good Food, Good Company, Great Cause at Scott Farm Crêpe Night

Scott Farm Crêpe Nights are held May through August. They are opportunities to celebrate the harvest, and enjoy community and good, simple, picnic-style food in a stunning setting. Outdoor and indoor tables and chairs are provided, and a sprawling grassy hillside is perfect for picnic blankets, folding lawn chairs, and bare feet. Each month is co-hosted by a different local non-profit which benefits from the evening's proceeds. Local music adds to the ambiance. For more information and tickets, visit scottfarmvermont.com/crepe-night

Births

Malcolm Timothy Wood	4/29/25
Taran James Miller	5/01/25

Passings

Stuart William Strothman	4/12/25
Eric M. Kohler	5/01/25
Elizabeth Burnham	5/17/25
George Steven Bevis	5/18/25
Charles Andrew Dunn	5/19/25
John Rhodes Barker	6/12/25
Colonel Llewellyn Sorenson	6/24/25
Bernard Lawrence, Jr.	7/7/25
Charles Alden White	7/8/25

A Great Place to Be a Salamander

continued from page 5

Christine says, "He can do everything."

Lew Teich has broad experience as a firefighter and first responder. Add his skill for search and rescue with high-angle ropes and swift water, and you'll understand his love of nature. Lew also works as a general contractor and cabinetmaker.

Ron Svec brings a broad variety of service to the DCC, having worked as a vet, girls' soccer coach, and planning commissioner. His boyhood interest in nature continues with interest in birds, wildlife medicine, and preservation of woods, wetlands, and habitats.

Bill Conley brings a diverse background to the DCC. He became an environmentalist as a young teacher. Service on the school board and the energy committee have honed his interest in environmental conservation. Bill

is an enthusiastic bird watcher.

Debbie Miller helps the DCC manage invasive plants. Whether Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, oriental bittersweet, or buckthorn, invasive plants threaten native plants by overtaking their habitats. Natives need our help to survive!

We can't forget the longtime past chair of the DCC! Hats off to Mary Ellen Copeland, who now serves as a steward of the Green Mountain Conservancy. We also honor John Anderson, a walking encyclopedia of everything wild in Dummerston. He contributes to the monthly newsletter with timely commentary on all things native.

The DCC is made of local heroes! Don't take my word for it. Check out DummerstonConservation.com. You'll find an invitation from nature that welcomes you home.



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The Phantom Crane Fly: Now You See It, Now You Don't

By John Anderson

The natural world is vastly complex. On occasion it shows us things that seem to defy categorization. Things that we just can't explain. It's easy to write off such encounters. Forget them. Deem them unknowable. However, some are so memorable, so puzzling, that they linger on in memory.

Some decades ago while eating lunch at a remote construction site my attention was drawn to what appeared to be a bit of airborne detritus. It wafted along as slowly and as randomly as a soap bubble would on a day that had little to no discernible air movement. I was not even sure if it was a bit of thistle down or cattail fluff or an insect or if it was something else entirely. Making it more puzzling was the fact that it seemed to repeatedly disappear and then reappear as it slowly, slowly wandered through the dappled sunlight of the nearby forest understory. I was both intrigued and baffled.

Many years later I finally learned that the mysterious airborne mote had in fact been animated. It was *bittacomorpha clavipes*, the phantom crane fly.

Imagine a slender little fly with wings so disproportionately small that the chances of it even getting airborne would seem improbable if not impossible. Add extremely gangly daddy longleg-like legs with flared tarsi (ankles) that are concave on their lower surface and that provide aerodynamic advantage. The winglike tarsi help the insect stay aloft; even light air currents moving over them provide some degree of lift and control. Band this fly's legs black and white so that when it moves into shade only the scattered white bands are visible, and the insect in its totality seemingly dissolves, it just seems to blink out. In sun it reappears. In dappled sun and shade it seems to appear and disappear in random slow motion. A more perfect optical illusion would be hard to devise. This little slow-flying creature is indeed deserving of being called the phantom.

Phantom crane flies remind us of overly large mosquitoes, but they're harmless. They don't bite. As a matter of fact, as adults they eat little or nothing. Larvae eat decaying organic matter found in saturated mud or in shallow water. A tube on the tip of the abdomen can be extended snorkle-like to the surface to obtain oxygen. This breathing tube earned the larvae the common, if unflattering, name rat-tailed maggot. Pupation occurs in moist soil.

Small mating swarms of adult phantom crane flies can be seen (if you are lucky) in damp wooded areas, often near water. They are a sight worthy of close attention. Slender little insects that appear and disappear right



PHOTO BY C.C. DEREK PARKER, COURTESY OF FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

before our eyes aren't encountered every day. Insects that use their flared ankles to help them fly certainly seem worth a close inspection. A mating swarm will dance slowly, slowly before your eyes, each fly seemingly disap-

pearing and reappearing as it moves from shade to sun. Each earning the name phantom. Each making us question just why evolution shaped such a unique and fascinating little life form.

Demand and New Federal Policy Impacts Putney Foodshelf

continued from page 13

support of Dummerston Cares, we will be requesting \$3,000 from Dummerston to support Foodshelf services to Dummerston residents. This is a value of \$1.92 for each Dummerston resident fed. The surrounding towns of Putney, Westminster, and Brattleboro have been contributing to the Foodshelf for multiple years, and it makes sense that we extend this request to Dummerston at this time. The current town social service contributions are: Putney—\$7,830, Brattleboro—\$7,500, and Westminster—\$5,000. As the Putney Foodshelf provides food security to the extended community, we hope that Dummerston residents will see the Putney Foodshelf as their own at town meeting.

Partnership with Dummerston:

The Putney Foodshelf deeply appreciates the support we receive from individual donors and businesses in Dummerston. We are also grateful for the support and growing partnership in recent years with Dummerston Cares, and for their efforts to raise awareness about

the Foodshelf. We are in this together!

During Hunger Action Month, in September, stay tuned for details about how you can participate in a community-wide food drive sponsored by Dummerston Cares.

Foodshelf Services:

Weekly Foodshelf Open Hours: Fridays 12:30-3:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9-10:30 a.m. at Putney Community Center

Monthly Food Drops: 4th Thursday from 9-9:45 a.m. at 48 River Road South, Putney.

Learn more: putneyfoodshelf.org or by emailing putneyfoodshelf@gmail.com.

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French Stories for a Trip to France

By Linda Rood

When I travel, I like to read books that have some connection with the place I am exploring, usually written by an author native to the place or set in a location that I will be visiting. This practice tends to enhance both my travel and my reading experience. This past May, Roger and I traveled to France, visiting Paris, Normandy and Brittany. As usual, I had a book with me for the trip, but I also travelled in places that evoked other books that I had read in the past.

The book I took with me was *Almost French: Love and a New Life in Paris* by Sarah Turnbull (Gotham Books, 2002). This is a memoir which tells the story of a young Australian TV reporter who comes to Europe to work, and meets Frenchman Frederic, who invites her to visit him in Paris. She arrives expecting to stay a week and ends up falling in love with the man and the place. The book is not focused on the romance between Sarah and Frederic, however; it's about the struggles Sarah experiences trying to adjust to French culture. To start, she speaks little French; she's a loud, casual Aussie, who is most comfortable in sweat pants and sandals. She has to learn that it's considered rude to be a sloppy dresser, and that French social life can be formal and unfriendly, especially for foreigners. All this is told with great humor and a good deal of self-deprecation. Paris emerges as the fascinating and beautiful place that it is, and Turnbull does a wonderful job of detailing the pleasures of living there. Eventually she makes her way, marries Frederic, and settles into a happy life. It was a good book for a travel companion, light but also substantive and interesting.

I did a little research about Sarah Turnbull, to see what she has been up to since that book was published in 2002. I found that she wrote a follow-up memoir in 2013 called *All Good Things: from Paris to Tahiti: Life and Longing*. This book tells of how Frederic is transferred to Tahiti for work, and the three years they spend there, which include Sarah's quest to have a child. I will be looking for that one.

On our trip this spring, Roger and I joined a small tour group in Brittany that was based in Saint-Malo, which many of you may recognize as the setting for Anthony Doerr's wonderful novel, *All the Light We Cannot See* (Scribner 2014), winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize and one of my favorite books. I was thrilled to be staying in this beautiful walled city, and it was easy to see how Doerr might have gotten his idea for the miniature wooden model of the city made for main character Marie-Laure, the blind girl who learns to find her way around the city by "studying" the model with her hands. The old

walled city sits on an island that juts into the sea and could appear like a toy model when seen from a distance.

While we were there, we learned that the people of Saint-Malo are a little annoyed with Doerr's book, because it turns out that the city was completely evacuated during WWII, due to fears of Allied bombing. There were no people living there, and the German soldiers were stationed across the bay in Cité D'Alet. Doerr's story as it is told could not have actually occurred, so is not strictly historically accurate. The Allies did actually bomb Saint-Malo, because they misunderstood the intelligence they had received, so that part of the story is true to fact. Although the city was 80 percent destroyed by the bombing, it is possible to still see some of the ancient buildings, and the city has been restored to its medieval self. We did search out the address of Uncle Etienne and Marie Laure at Number 4 rue Vauborel. Of course, there is no old house there now, just a fairly new and unremarkable apartment building, but the location near the city walls is right. We enjoyed our walks on the city walls, looking out to sea. It's a beautiful place, and Anthony Doerr's book did come even more alive for me there.

While we were in Normandy, we spent a lovely afternoon driving "La Route du Cidre," the Normandy Cider Route. This is a twenty-five mile "trail" that follows a loop of country lanes that connect a series of picturesque villages to the east of the city of Caen. Along the way there are over twenty cider farms where one can stop and sample the wares. We drove on narrow roads, passing ancient stone barns and farmhouses, villages lined with half-timbered buildings, and fields of blooming apple trees. As we drove, I realized that this was the world of Emma Bovary, the central character of Gustave Flaubert's classic 1857 French novel, *Madame Bovary*. Emma was the pretty, spoiled daughter of a prosperous farmer. She filled herself with the fantasies she found in the romance novels of the time and thought herself to be deserving of a thrilling life away from the farm. The best she could do was to marry the good-hearted but boring and bumbling local doctor, Charles Bovary. She rebels against the boredom of her life and things do not end well. As we passed through these charming villages in Normandy, I could imagine pretty Emma tripping down the village streets, and as we passed the old farms, I thought, "This is where Emma came from." It was a fun discovery.

Of course, there are many books about French life, and these are only a few. If any of you have more suggestions for me, I'd love to know about them.

Hard Looks

By John Anderson

I saved a life
before breakfast
this morning.

A small life,
but a life
nonetheless;

that of a painted
lichen moth entangled
in a spider's web.

I dis-embroidered
the fine sticky stitchery
entangling the moth
carefully, carefully,
using the tip of
a number 2 pencil,

and then
watched it fly.

I saved a life
before breakfast
this morning.

A small life
but a life
nonetheless.

And I was feeling
pretty darn good
until...

until I began
contemplating
the plight of
the spider.

That poor
hungry spider.

And I imagined
that I could read
deep dark bitter
arachnidian
reproach
in all eight
of her glittery
hard little eyes.

Views Staff Eyes Paper's Future

continued from page 1

folding. The necessity for taking this step ended up relieving a lot of the stress around organizing often lightly-attended folding parties and keeping stocked with supplies. We now simply pick up boxes of the folded *Views* from C&S, and Lee Tice, our mailing coordinator, then only has the relatively simple task, with the help of husband Mark and her mother Linda Ives, of applying the mailing stickers, organized by zip codes, and putting the sealed, addressed *Views* into post office mailing trays ready to be turned over to the Putney Post Office. This convenience obviously comes at a cost.

Since we've put the *Views* online, we've also picked up the costs of a website hosting platform, and PDF management. These expenses were going to rise significantly this year, but fortunately Kevin Ryan, our tech angel, has figured out work-arounds to keep essentially our same online features without paying the higher costs of the restructured PDF management services.

When the Community Center reorganized a couple of years ago, we took the step of creating a separate *Views* checking account, relieving them of the task of writing checks, making deposits, and producing annual financial statements for us. We remain accountable to the Community Center and provide them with our annual accounting information, but they no longer have the hassle of managing our checking procedures. We are also no longer using the Community Center for folding. As a consequence, and in consideration of our increased costs, we haven't made contributions to the Community Center for a couple of years.

Because of all these factors, our bank balance, though still healthy, has been shrinking, which has caused us to consider slight increases in our advertising and sponsor rates. Therefore, when sponsors and advertisers next renew, the prices will be five dollars higher. These rates haven't changed in a long while, so we consider this a reasonable ask.

Next—**Continuity:** Our team is aging, and has been together for a number of years. We work well together, and there is a lot of satisfaction for us individually in producing this informative quarterly newsletter that seems to be well-appreciated in town. We're reprinting an article here from the 30th anniversary issue, with editing to reflect current practices, which explains how the *Views* is produced.

The biggest crisis in the history of the *Views* was in the late 90s because of financial difficulties as well as a lack of volunteers, both to do all the production jobs which needed to get done and to write articles. As described above,

the financial issues have been addressed, and technology has reduced the number of people needed for production.

Currently we have a good group of correspondents who write regularly about their organizations. People in town have generally responded willingly to requests that the planning team comes up with for articles on particular subjects, and we get occasional, and greatly appreciated, unsolicited articles which we are happy to print.

So at this point, the *Views* operation is well-defined, and goes pretty smoothly. What initially got me and continues to keep me interested in working on the *Views* are my interests in writing and photography, and the pleasure that I get from community service. The time I put into planning and editing the *Views* is maybe a total of 24 hours over the course of six days each quarter. The time I spend on photos and writing stories is additional to that. It is helpful to have my wife Linda working along with me on the organizational details. She is sending out due-date reminders to our regular correspondents, and helps me put together the article chart as she sees the submissions come in. She is also great at keeping track of little details, like a meeting time change needed for the listing of town organizations. She puts in five to six hours per issue, in little increments over the period of a month, as essentially the *Views* editorial assistant.

Managing the advertisers and sponsors requires on average three hours a quarter. Sara Ryan reports, "most of the time is in December with the mailings then recording and depositing income in January/February. There are bits and pieces other times." It takes Lee Ives an average of five hours a quarter to manage

the mailing lists, print out labels, and work with her team to apply the labels, then get the *Views* to the post office. She is also treasurer, and maintains our checking account. Her two helpers put in about two and a half hours each quarter. Kevin Ryan manages our online presence, a job which requires some in-depth computer skills. He also provides proofreading "final eyes" for the otherwise ready-for-print PDF of the upcoming *Views* issue, then creates the full-color final PDF for online publishing. Finally he performs quarterly updates of the *Views* website to add the newest issue and transfer the last issue to the Past Issues folder. He spends about three hours a quarter helping us. Lastly, Fred Lee averages about 12 hours an issue laying out the *Views*. He has done this work professionally, which accounts for how great each issue looks, but also for how efficiently he's able to create each issue.

So, if any of these job descriptions sparks some interest for you, we'd love to hear from you, and have you attend one of our planning meetings to learn more. It would be good for our current team to have some replacements ready to step in as we step away. We'd also welcome anyone interested in simply joining our steering committee to contribute to our discussions about upcoming issues, and *Views* business in general. If interested, contact Roger Turner at editor@viewsofdummerston.org

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Practicing Holistic Physical Therapy
126 Main Street, Putney
387-4799

Dummerston Notable Events

AUGUST	16	Grange Annual Peach Shortcake Supper Evening Star Grange, 5-7 p.m. No reservations, take out available
	20	Town property taxes due Scott Farm Crêpe Night for Ethiopian Community Development Council Naulakha, 5:30-7:30 p.m., \$20/adults; \$10/children
SEPT.	13	Encore Chicken Pie Supper Evening Star Grange, 5-7 p.m. No reservations, take out available
	21	International Peace Day celebration https://internationaldayofpeace.org/
OCTOBER	12	Apple Pie Festival, Pancake Breakfast, Indoor Craft Fair At the Center: Congregational Church West Dummerston Fire Department, .Evening Star Grange
	31	Halloween Celebration Dummerston Community Center



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THE CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 17

USEFUL STUFF TO KNOW

Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Dummerston Cares and WDVFD are providing and installing **free** smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Call the DC Message Line at (802) 257-5800 and leave your name and phone number for callback.

Senior Lunches *Evening Star Grange; Second & fourth Wednesday, noon. Suggested donations: in-house meals \$4 for age 60 and up; \$5 for age 59 and under. Take-out \$5 regardless of age. For Take-out call: 802-254-1138. Leave name, phone number; number of meals desired, whether Eat-in or Take-out.*

The Front Porch Forum: online at www.frontporchforum.com

Heating assistance: Fuel options listed on Dummerston Cares website. For assistance, call Cares Message Line at (802) 257-5800. Leave name and phone number to receive a callback.

NAMES & TIMES & NUMBERS

Community Center Randy Hickin 802-257-0784
Conservation Commission

Web site: www.dummerstonconservation.com

Dummerston Cares Message line & Fuel Assistance
802-257-5800, email: info@dummerstoncares.org,
web site: www.dummerstoncares.org

Dummerston School 802-254-2733
Web site: dummerston.wsesu.org

Fire Chief Larry Pratt, 802-579-9494

Fire Warden Ted Glabach, 802-384-6994

Deputy Fire Warden Allen Pike, 802-258-0100

Lydia Taft Pratt Library 802-258-9878

Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10–3; Tue. & Thu. 1–7;
Sat. 10–2

Web site: library.dummerston.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/dummerstonlibrary

email: dummerstonvlibrary@gmail.com

Vermont Theatre Company 802-258-1344
Evening Star Grange

Larry or Carol Lynch, 802-310-0799

Meals on Wheels Cynthia Fisher, 802-257-1236

Selectboard selectboard@dummerston.org

Senior Solutions Carol Lynch, 802-254-2517
Springfield Office 800-642-5119

Town Garage Lee Chamberlin, 802-254-2411

Town Office Laurie Frechette, 802-257-1496
email: townclerk@dummerston.org

Veterans Assistance Contact Dummerston Cares
message line or email

Views of Dummerston
views@viewsofdummerston.org

WSESU 802-254-3730

Websites: Official Town: www.dummerston.org

Calendar: calendar.dummerston.org/

Local Interest: www.dummerston.com

Dummerston Meetings

Please note that these meetings may not be taking place at their usual locations.

*Please refer to the town web site,
www.Dummerston.org,
for updated information.*

Town Meetings

Selectboard 6 p.m.

Every other Wednesday

Planning Commission 6:30 p.m.

2nd Monday

Conservation Commission 6 p.m.

2nd Thursday

Energy Committee 5 p.m.

1st Monday

Development Review Board 6 p.m.

3rd Tuesday at the town office

Community Center 7 p.m.

1st Monday at the Community Center

PTFO 6 p.m.

3rd Thurs. at the Dummerston School Library

WSED 6 p.m.

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, revolving locations

Historical Society

*3rd week of Jan./April/July/Oct. at the Dummerston
Historical Society*

OPEN HOUSE: 1st & 3rd Sundays 1–3 p.m.

Exact dates posted at dummerstonhistoricalsociety.org