



Volume 36 Issue 3

Summer ~ 2026

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PHOTO: JULIANNE EAGAN

The eighth-grade graduates join teacher Tina Deal for a photo. *Top row (left to right):* Maebel Wampler, Taz Hand, Grace Rosa. *Second row:* Gavin Robinson, Perry Gelke, Lily Arnold, Katje Feusi; Aleeah Moore, Phoebe Wagner, Charlee Popalowski. *Third row:* Abigail Farin; Gretchen Green, Peyton Thibault, Tina Deal. *Bottom row:* Christian Olmstead, Wesley Lahey, Benjamin Birchmore; Makenna Fox.

Dummerston School Graduates 18

By Julianne Eagan
Principal

On the evening of June 9, Dummerston School celebrated the graduation of its eighth-grade class in a ceremony filled with reflection, gratitude, and pride. The evening began with the middle school band performing

Pomp and Circumstance under the direction of band director Nathaniel Evans as graduates proceeded into the ceremony. Students Grace Rosa and Phoebe Wagner welcomed family, friends, staff, and community members before hearing remarks from guest speaker Riley Bristol, a Brattleboro Union High
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PHOTO: ROGER TURNER

Jesse Palmer hands a drink out to a customer at the Bigfoot Coffee wagon he has installed at the former Maple Valley ski area, now owned by North Chair Brewing.

Bigfoot Coffee Opens at Maple Valley

By Roger Turner

If you've driven by Maple Valley in the last couple of months, you will have noticed that a coffee truck has been parked and begun operation in front of the lodge. It is owned and operated by Jesse Palmer, a resident of Rice Farm Road. He'd been thinking that a coffee stand would be an interesting business after seeing them in the Pacific Northwest, and when the Bigfoot stand in Newfane came up for sale, he spoke to the owners, and decided to go for it.

"I spent a few days looking over the shoulder of the one owner as she operated it, and then she spent a few days looking over my shoulder as I operated it. I also was trained on my espresso machine by the espresso machine technician from Mocha Joe's, which was great. He's a true pro."

A condition of the sale was that he had to find a new location. He had been driving by Maple Valley and noticing the trucks of people working on the lodge renovation for the new brewery parked there. He stopped in one day to introduce himself, and 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 22 2026

Views will be mailed on: November 5, 2026

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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Considerations When Going For A Swim

By: The editor

The summer is almost half over, but we at the *Views* thought that our readers might be interested in how to get information about the quality of the water in the rivers and streams that we're swimming in. Readily accessible, if not the only, data is available for the covered bridge swimming hole on the West River, and only through the Connecticut River Conservancy website. To access this data, go to the Connecticut River Conservancy website (<https://www.ctriver.org/>), and in the drop-down menu for "Programs," select "Water Quality Monitoring." Then choose "Explore the Database," choose the appropriate state, county, and town selections in the menus, and a map with our town border will appear, with a blue icon at the site of the covered bridge. When you click on that icon, you will get a message saying if the river is safe for swimming or not as of the date of the water sample. You can "View more details" and see specific dates and results for water quality testing.

However, that data will be dependent on the weather in the couple of days prior to and of the testing. If there's been a lot of rain, the water may be considered unsafe for

swimming. A rule of thumb provided by the Conservancy and the state is to avoid swimming in the West River for 24 to 48 hours after heavy rainfall, as fast-moving storm run-off elevates both currents and bacterial risks. It's our observation, along the Quarry Road anyway, that this rule is often ignored. Swimmers should at least avoid putting their faces into the water for a couple of days after heavy rains.

Multiple sources in an AI search express the following cautions about swimming in our rivers and streams:

The primary water quality concern for swimmers is *E. coli* bacteria.

Dry Weather: During dry spells, bacteria levels at popular swimming holes (such as Salmon Hole in Jamaica or the West Dummerston Covered Bridge) typically test well below the state safety standard of 235 *E. coli* per 100 mL.

Wet Weather: Heavy rains wash agricultural runoff, wildlife waste, and stormwater (and non-compliant septic system discharges?) into the river. This causes bacteria spikes that can make the water unsafe for swimming.

Safety Rule: Always wait 24 to 48 hours after heavy rain before entering the water.

Windham County Historical Society Hosts History Fair

What: Windham County History Fair

When: Saturday, August 15: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Newfane Common, Newfane

Hear ye! Hear ye! The 2026 County History Fair will celebrate not only Windham county's heritage, but the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence as well.

The parade on the historic common in Newfane at 10 a.m. starts the day. Historic reenactors will demonstrate musket firing, spy crafting, and artillery usage. There will be exhibits by the Vermont Historical Society and historical societies and museums from around the county. Tours of the county courthouse, the old Newfane cemetery, the County

History Museum in the old county jail, and the West River Railroad Museum will be offered throughout the day as will demonstrations of telegraph operating, blacksmithing, bookbinding (bring your old books for an evaluation!), woodworking, crafting, and beekeeping. Vote for your favorite antique car and bring your genealogy questions. The Bills Band will provide entertainment, and the Vernon Creamie Food Truck will be present. Admission is free.

Check the Historical Society's website for updates on the day's schedule of presentations, tours, and demonstrations: www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org

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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

Fred Miller Fund Helps Needy Children

By Selectboard members

Did you know the town of Dummerston has a special, restricted fund dedicated solely to helping needy children? The Fred Miller Fund, established in 1931 in his last will and testament, designated \$20,000 “to be expended” by the Dummerston selectboard for “temporary care of needy minor children in the Town of Dummerston.”

The will states that the interest earned on that balance each year should be spent on helping

kids in town, but that doesn’t always happen. In the near century since the fund’s establishment, the balance has grown to more than five times the initial investment. In recent years, the fund has brought in more than \$3,000 annually, and this year only about half of that is spoken for.

Typically, the principal or school nurse at the Dummerston School recommend a few kids each year to get subsidized tuition for things like summer camps. In the past, the money has also gone to things like subsidizing lunches for children, a hot topic back then.

While the school typically recommends children to get grants from the Miller Fund, any family in town with minor children can approach the selectboard for consideration.

Today, thankfully, federal programs like SNAP or WIC cover expenses for children in low-income families. But with recent changes to those programs, your Dummerston Selectboard wanted to remind the town that there’s money available to help.

State-Funded Road Project Big Benefit to Dummerston

By Roger Turner

This past June and early July the town road crew has been working extensively on Rice Farm Road, from the head of the West River Trail parking lot heading north toward the green iron bridge, then continuing north on Quarry Road. Undersized culverts are being replaced, and with a rented excavator, graded ditches are being created along the sides of the road, or the side of the road is simply being graded down away from the edge of the road, so water can flow off of and away from the road without obstruction. Where the ditch grade becomes too steep, or the ditch ultimately cuts down to a culvert or off toward the river, it is lined with rip rap (large angular pieces of stone) to slow the flow of the water and allow some water to soak into the ground. Initially, the raw dirt of the newly-dug ditches is visually attention-

grabbing, but the grass seed and straw which is immediately applied, and the grass which quickly grows in, softens the effect.



PHOTO: ROGER TURNER

Tyler Lynch expertly uses the town’s rented excavator to create a ditch along the side of Quarry Road.

I spoke with road foreman Lee Chamberlin about the ditching, and learned that the town has been doing it with state funding for eleven years. It began a couple of years after tropical storm Irene devastated so many of our roads,

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Important Positions Need Applicants

The following opportunities are either open to be filled supporting our town or will be open in the future. Contact the town office if you have questions or if you want to pursue one of these positions.

Planning Commission (two seats, 4-year terms)

Zoning Assistant

Selectboard Assistant

Auditor (to serve until Town Meeting 2027)

Upcoming elected vacancies (Town Meeting 2027)

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town government

*Dummerston Conservation Commission***A Few Thoughts on That Favorite Summer Job: Mowing***By Christine Goepf*

Recently, members of the Conservation Commission met with the new librarian, Erin Riley, and the board of trustees of the Dummerston Community Center and Library to talk about having a display for the books we recommend (available at dummerstonconservation.com) in our monthly newsletter. The library folks were very nice and willing to give it a try. We are planning to put the next book we recommend in our newsletter on display at the library. Speaking of the newsletter, we have been experiencing issues with non-existent people signing up for the newsletter. With the help of our community volunteer, retired tech expert Phil Goepf, we are getting it sorted out, but please let us know if you have any issues receiving the newsletter or notice anything out of the ordinary with Conservation Commission communications.

Conservation Commission member Debbie Miller attended three days of intensive forest management training at a Vermont Coverts Woodlands for Wildlife cooperator training program. The Vermont Coverts (pronounced “cuh-verts” meaning a dense thicket) cooperator program started in 1985 and more than 800 Vermont landowners and community members have attended to become cooperators. They now manage more than 300,000 acres in the state, now including Debbie’s property here in Dummerston. Congratulations Debbie!

We thank Paul Catanzaro of UMass and the Family Forest Research Center for speaking

about forest management at the Dummerston Community Center in June. Paul is the co-author of a new book, *Tending Your Forest: A Guide to Ecological Forest Stewardship*, available at Everyone’s Books. He had great information about how to manage forests to achieve goals such as sequestering carbon, encouraging biodiversity, sustainably harvesting trees, or restoring old-growth characteristics to our relatively young forests.

Finally, the Conservation Commission is supporting efforts by Priscilla Svec to transform a small plot of land off Route 5 between Canoe Brook Road and the Sunoco station into a “pocket” wildlife meadow. We received a letter of support from the selectboard to plant the plot with native grasses and flowering plants, and Priscilla persuaded VTrans to start us off by planting the bare soil with a conservation mix. Stay tuned for more developments.

This time of year, a lot of people are wondering how best to mow to help wildlife. You may have heard of “No Mow May.” This is a well-intentioned movement that started in England, with the idea that delaying mowing in the spring could help feed early pollinators. However, this practice doesn’t really help wildlife and can unnecessarily damage your lawn. Cutting an overgrown lawn in June can cause the grass to go into shock just before the hottest, driest part of the summer. Also, small animals such as frogs, ground-nesting birds, rabbits, or snakes that may have been tempted to make a home in the tall grass will be disrupted or harmed when the lawn mower blades come through in early June.

So for lawns, mow anytime—but it does help to set the blades high (3 ½ to 4 inches) to allow small flowering plants like clover to bloom and provide food for bees and other insects. You could also consider leaving areas of lawn

as “meadows” throughout the whole summer before cutting them back in the late summer or fall. One of our members lets a ring of long grass grow around an old apple tree. This mini meadow provides a refuge for wildlife, allows naturalized daffodils to die back naturally, and looks pretty. Planting native shrubs and perennials in nearby non-lawn areas will support the local ecosystem.

The advice for mowing or brush hogging larger fields is to wait until August 1. Bobolinks, savannah sparrows, eastern meadowlarks, and wild turkeys build nests on the ground among the grasses and wildflowers. Deer fawns and other animals hide in the tall grass, and other birds, like bluebirds, kestrels, whip-poor-wills, and northern harriers rely on fields for food. Of course, if you’re managing the field for agriculture or conservation, other considerations may apply, like mowing earlier to prevent invasives setting seed, or mowing later to encourage a patch of rare or threatened plants.

Feel free to contact us through our website, info@dummerstonconservation.org if you’d like help identifying the plants on your property. Another great resource is the Windham County Natural Resources Conservation District’s grassland bird program, www.windhamcountynrdc.org. Their staff can visit fields, provide site-specific recommendations, and hook you up with financial incentives such as through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program program or Bobolink Project.

A final thought: Try a mosquito bucket to control mosquitoes all summer long! It’s cheaper, lasts longer, and is more effective than spraying, all without killing beneficial insects. Toss half a mosquito dunk (Blue Seal and Brown and Roberts have them) in container of water. Mosquitos are drawn to the still water, lay their eggs, and...that’s the end of that.

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Dummerston Cares Honors Catherine O'Callaghan

By Connie Evans

It's not surprising that Catherine O'Callaghan chose the Lydia Taft Pratt Library as the focus for her volunteer activities. It's nearly in her backyard! Catherine started with Lydia's Friends—the group that raises money and advocates for the Library—when she first moved to West Dummerston 20 years ago. Catherine believes strongly that there is a place for small rural libraries, as a good library fosters a love of learning and an appreciation of history.

After several years she took a break from Lydia's Friends due to the demands of work and family. But when her employer of 16 years—Marlboro College—closed, she had plenty of time and came back. She now heads Lydia's board, works tirelessly on their various fundraising efforts, and has been a strong advocate.

The Library has seen a long evolution. At first, it was just a small selection of books that Lydia Taft Pratt had gathered as a teacher. In 1914, town meeting voted to preserve the collection, in keeping with Pratt's wishes. It was housed in various homes for several years, until the West Dummerston Grange remodeled its tiny cloak room to accommodate the books. It wasn't until the mid-1990s, after the West Dummerston School closed, that the collection was moved to a room in the town-owned building at 150 West Street and the Library had a proper home.

In recent years there has been an explosion of growth. The Library has developed an online presence and now offers a range of digital services including inter-library loans, e-books, and audio books. In 2024, the Library received a grant to expand children's programming. With this grant and increased funding from the town, the Library has been

able to rent a second room, acquire new materials and furniture, augment the children's book collection and early literacy programming, hire a part-time children's librarian, and nearly double the Library's open hours. Catherine reports that the new children's

tion, Catherine is even doing scheduling for the space. As she wrote recently in Views of Dummerston, "As a rural community we need our own space to gather, sip tea, catch up on local news, and build friendships. Lydia's Friends . . . looks forward to creating and celebrating community in Dummerston."

Lydia's Friends became an official non-profit two years ago. This has helped them get grants for events such as a series of ecological speakers, and the group has also sponsored other talks and videos. Last year, Lydia's Friends co-hosted a crepe night with Scott Farm, and the annual Geranium Festival is always a big success.

Museum passes available through the Library are made possible by Lydia's Friends, and the group supported a recent Red Cross blood drive. In December 2025, they collaborated with the Community Center to ensure that the annual gingerbread house decorating party would be held. They have also hosted regular social gatherings, and they collect food for the Putney Food Shelf year-round.

Catherine describes her role with Lydia's Friends as mainly one of getting people involved and nurturing relationships. There are four people on the Friends' board, but their work would not be possible without support from the community. A good example is the Geranium Festival. This event

requires a lot of work with the flower sale, children's activities, a book sale, and a silent auction. Volunteers came forward to solicit donations—Walker Farm donated the geraniums, and many others donated auction items—and to help run the various activities.

This network of volunteers has been bolstered by four students doing community service hours with Lydia's Friends. Christy

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PHOTO: CONNIE EVANS

Catherine O'Callaghan holds a geranium from the Lydia's Friends Geranium Festival fundraiser.

room has become a big draw. The extra space and open hours also allow for enhanced adult programming, and participation in these activities has grown apace.

Most recently, the Library and the Community Center merged into a single organization—the Dummerston Community Center & Library (DCC&L). Lydia's Friends advocated for the merger in order to foster greater community involvement. During the transi-

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Dummerston Cares and Putney Foodshelf Food Drive Successful

By Meg Lyons

You did it! Thanks to your incredible generosity, Dummerston's Spring Food Drive was once again a huge success. Your contributions at all three drop-off locations in town helped fill the Putney Foodshelf pantry to the brim and made an important difference to local families who rely on the Putney Foodshelf each week for healthy meals. From all of us at Cares as well as our friends at the Foodshelf, thank you

Dummerston residents (you know who you are!) for your food and financial contributions.

Special recognition goes to the eighth grade students of the ASSET Team who organized both food drives this past year at the Dummerston School location. This spring their enthusiasm and energy brought in the bulk of the food collected—an amazing, 1,003 pounds to be exact! We're so grateful to the students, their faculty advisors, and, of course, to Dummerston School families

for their tremendous support.

As part of this project, last spring the ASSET Team took a field trip to the Putney Foodshelf to see for themselves where all of the food collected actually ends up and to understand how it's distributed. When asked what they learned, one student remarked how he had no idea that the need for groceries in our area is so great. He's not alone. We're all learning and we're also taking action on behalf of our Vermont neighbors. Thank you Dummerston.

Dummerston Cares Honors Catherine O'Callaghan

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Jackson, a board member who works at the Brattleboro Area Middle School, recruited these students and Catherine hopes this will be a continuing support. In addition, Dummerston resident Jack Webster-Rose, a CCVT student who is working toward a leadership certificate, is currently working with Lydia's Friends as a student intern. Catherine says Jack is a big help and is really talented. She is working to arrange for another intern when Jack is finished. This is the first time there have been so many people involved in supporting the Friends.

What does Catherine want people to know? The DCC&L is everyone's space, with many resources for the community. Many aren't aware that they can rent space for public and private events. There are big plans now for the outdoor space, including a playground and park. There are lots of other ideas floating around as well, such as crisis support,

community events, and even showing the work of local artists. Catherine also wants to build connections among the various organizations in town, including Dummerston Cares, the Historical Society, and the Conservation Commission. One idea is to have an event for Dummerston residents to learn about the work of these organizations and get involved.

It is important for people to contribute to

the community, she believes. Even small steps make a big difference. Lydia's Friends is always open to new volunteers and new ideas.

If you are interested in getting involved, even in a small way, call Catherine at (802) 380-7935 or email catherineocallaghan32@gmail.com. Lydia's Friends meets at the Library on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. All are welcome!

Covered Bridge Receives Historical Marker

By the Covered Bridge Historical Marker Committee

Late in the fall of 2025, Bill Holiday, local historical researcher, approached the Dummerston Historical Society suggesting a collaboration to create and erect an historical marker at the West Dummerston Covered Bridge. With the support of the board, a committee of John Pinkney, Gary Miller, and Muriel Taylor joined Bill and set to work. Bill did all the extensive research to create the text and the related video, while the committee developed ideas for logo options, size, location, and production of the marker itself. The board was called upon for suggestions along the way, and final approval for its placement at the bridge was granted by the Selectboard on April 15th, 2026. So many details! Who knew? The marker was installed in late May 2026 with the help of Wesley Ethier, champion post hole digger, from the Dummerston Highway Department.

The sign itself contains a history of the bridge

and also displays a QR code, plus directions to the DHS YouTube channel. Both take



John Pinkney, Bill Holiday, and Muriel Taylor stand behind the historical marker. The marker has been installed next to the covered bridge.

the viewer to a recording and video of the history of the bridge. The official dedication of the sign was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Thanks to Tom Bodett for the use of his recording studio and to Bill Holiday for the text, video creation, photos, and all of his support along the way. It is our hope that you will visit the marker at the bridge and view its accompanying video via the QR code or the YouTube website, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BQQGmYHqhA>.

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organizations

Dummerston Historical Society

Charles Fish Chronicles Vermont Life

By Dummerston Historical Society
Board

The spring exhibits at the Schoolhouse included Leonard Oppenheim's display of photos, Faces and Places, Snap, Snap, Snap, and Julie Johnson-McGrath's display of pharmaceutical advertisements over the years. Len's opening reception was standing room only as was Julie's presentation at our April quarterly meeting.

We found ourselves wishing for a larger facility as more and more programs are very well attended by both Dummerston residents and other visitors.

And it was the same for the July quarterly meeting as Charles (Chuck) Fish spoke on chronicles of Vermont life: farm, rivers, fairs, and public works, along with the opening of his photo exhibit entitled the same—again, standing room only. Chuck shared his experiences from living many years in Vermont and Dummerston and is well-known in the area. For decades Chuck has found physical and intellectual adventure in exploring these and other features of his native state with pen, recorder, and camera in hand. From these happy efforts have come thousands of photos, reams of research notes, hours of recorded interviews, and four books with another on its way. The books and a sampling of the photos will be on display July through September. Some of the pictures please the eye, but their main purpose is documentary, for example to tell something of how rivers work and how they become features of our human habitat. You won't want to miss this intriguing exhibit with the inspiration of and extensive research by Bill Holiday, a collaboration between the board and Bill resulted in a new West Dummerston Covered Bridge historical marker installed in late May adjacent to the path going down to the West River from the bridge parking lot. Please see the separate article with additional information

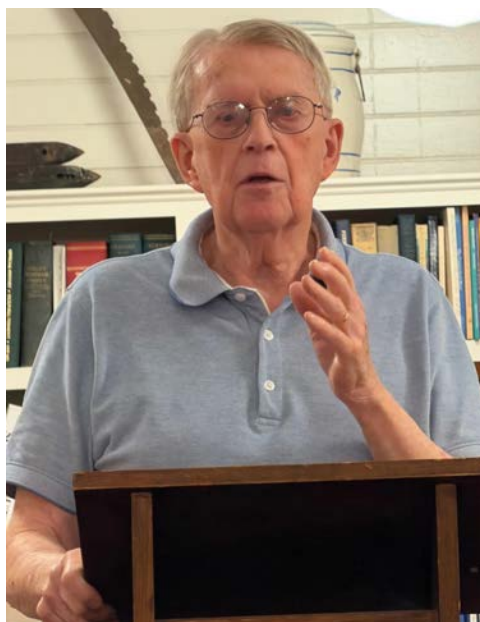


PHOTO: ALAN SEYMOUR

Chuck Fish, who recently celebrated his ninetieth birthday, tells stories about the farms, rivers, and fairs of his life, which are pictured in the photos currently on exhibit at the Dummerston Historical Society schoolhouse, and in the books he has published.

in this issue of the *Views*.

The Dummerston Historical Society (DHS) has been busy this summer, participating in planning the Covered Bridge Celebration on August 4 at the Creamery Bridge in Brattleboro, organized by the Brattleboro Garden Club with participation by the Brattleboro Historical Society and other groups. We were proud to share our album on the history of our own covered bridge in Dummerston, the longest one totally within Vermont, and information on our new historical marker in the parking area off Route 30. And on August 15, we will have a booth at the Windham County History Fair in Newfane, celebrating not only Windham County's heritage but also the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. All are invited and admission is free.

Our next big event will be the celebration of Dummerston Historical Society's 50th anniversary! The historical society was founded in 1976 as an inspired transformation of the Dummerston Bicentennial Commission. At the Sunday afternoon October 18th quarterly meeting, we will rediscover its history, recognize many names from the past, show photos of the relocation of the Schoolhouse, our current home, and may even hear from several who were actively involved in making this all happen.

Our local historical society has had a number of interesting exhibits this year along with speakers at the quarterly meetings. If you missed the presentations, please take a look at the society's website www.dummerstonhistoricalsociety.org to view some of the programs.

The Dummerston Historical Society welcomes all visitors to our accessible Schoolhouse in Dummerston Center during its open hours on the first and third Sunday afternoons of the month, 1–3 p.m., and other times by appointment. One does not need to be a member to attend any of our activities (though we encourage membership) and there is no admission charge (though donations are also encouraged). Board members are always present and glad to share information and respond to your questions. And we always welcome new volunteers to assist with programs, exhibits, and open hours! Hope to see you soon!

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school news



Kindergarten Performs with Theater Adventure Program

This past May, Dummerston School kindergarten students performed “How Full is Your Bucket?” for our whole school community as part of the school’s year-long collaboration with the Theater Adventure Program. Part of our exploration of inclusion and disability justice, this partnership included theater workshops for buddy classrooms kindergarten and 5th-grade, trips to see TAP performances including Stone Soup and Anansi, whole-school performances, and exploration of themes that highlight the diversity of our community and the gifts that each individual brings.



Spring Arts Night Features Music, Art, Theater

Spring Arts Night on June 2 began with a Gallery Walk featuring incredible artwork from students in PreK–8, including sculptures, paintings, collages, original stuffies, and curriculum-based projects connected to EL literature, science, and social studies themes and content. Families then gathered in the gym to enjoy performances from every class, PreK–6, showcasing the confidence, talent, and musical skills of our students. The night also featured outstanding performances by Middle School Chorus, Beginner Band, Intermediate Band, Advanced Band, Jazz Band, and Modern Band. Student musicians delighted the audience with a range of selections from the Beatles to the jazz classic *Sing, Sing, Sing* and the crowd-pleasing anthem *Don’t Stop Believin’*. Thank you to Art and Enrichment teacher Ben Ferguson and General Music and Chorus/Band Director Nathaniel Evans for their creativity, work, expertise, and vision in supporting all students in achieving excellence in the arts at Dummerston School!



school news



BUHS Graduate Parade at Dummerston School

The Dummerston School Class of 2022, now graduates of the Brattleboro Union High School Class of 2026, returned to Dummerston School on June 11 for one final walk through the halls of their elementary and middle school. Students in grades K-8 lined the hallways, cheering and offering high-fives as the graduates made their way through the building. It was a joyful celebration of their accomplishments and a chance to honor the connections that began right here at Dummerston. Congratulations, graduates, we are so proud of all you have achieved and can't wait to see what comes next!



New Hügelkultur Beds at Dummerston School!

Hügelkultur is a German word meaning "mound culture" which is a permaculture practice where we are mimicking or mirroring natural forest systems.

Hügelkultur beds gave us the opportunity to clean up the main garden area and upcycle the materials to grow our gardens more efficiently. While digging down almost three feet below the original raised beds, the material we found was almost all sand. We layered the largest logs and boards toward the bottom, then the smaller branches and compost on the next layer, and



finally mixed and filled with the dugout material and then the richer compost on top.

Now we have a growing area which is much more self-feeding and maintaining as the range of wood material and composting organic matter increases the area's water-holding capacity and releases more nutrients into the surrounding soil during the process of decomposition.

Students have been helping with transplanting the perennials that were in the original raised beds. We also seeded the full surface of the mounds with Dutch white clover and sowed watermelon, cantaloupe and cucumber along the top which can grow and cascade down the south sides of the mounds. We will be seeding pumpkins along the top as well.

Huge thanks to Jonathan Royce who volunteered his time, mini excavator and expertise to make this project happen! Many thanks to our Tara Gordon, our Farm to School Team, and the Dummerston School community for their enthusiasm and support in growing our school gardening program!!!



Teddy Bear Tea

Children gathered in the Early Learning Center to hear a story with Principal Julianne Eagan during Teddy Bear Tea. Co-sponsored with Early Education Services, this annual event offers families of children birth through 5 years old an opportunity to meet PreK and kindergarten staff, connect with each other, and play together!

Destiny Thibault Awarded 2026 BACC Success Scholarship

By Rachel Ebersole

The Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the recipient of the Jerry Goldberg Skills for Success Scholarship for 2026. This year's recipient is Destiny Thibault of Dummerston, a graduating senior from Brattleboro Union High School and the Windham Regional Career Center.

Thibault has focused her education on entrepreneurship, merging her lifelong passion with business skills that she has actively cultivated through the career center's two-year business and management program and leadership in Future Business Leaders of America, while also running her own small specialty baking business, launched when she was twelve years old. Thibault is also an honor roll student and athlete. Her plans are already underway for expanding her business post-graduation.

As one of the leading business and community organizations in Windham County, the Chamber established the scholarship in 2009 to support area students who are seeking to further their education in technical training, trade certification, or other non-traditional post-

secondary education.

The scholarship will provide Thibault with \$1,000 to help offset the costs of furthering her business and baking education through classes at King Arthur Flour and Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation.



Jonas Murray, board president of the Brattleboro Regional Chamber of Commerce, presents the 2026 Jerry Goldberg Skills for Success Scholarship to Destiny Thibault of Dummerston.

"We are excited to use this scholarship to build on the excellent foundation that the career center lays, especially for our students who are seeking entrepreneurial pathways after high school," says Rachel

Shields Ebersole, executive director of the Brattleboro Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Destiny's passion and dedication are truly inspiring, and we couldn't be happier to support her post-graduation path."

Since its inception, the scholarship has been awarded to graduating seniors from Brattleboro Union High School, the Windham Regional Career Center, Hinsdale High School, and Leland and Gray Union High and Middle School.

Grassroot Perspectives

John Anderson

In an area that
I long maintained
as lawn
wild turkeys have
established seven dust baths.

In form fitted
depressions they
wallow and scratch
and shake
powder dry soil
deep into their feathers.

What once I thought
was lawn is now
a sprawling,
sepia tinted moonscape
of shallow dusty craters.

While I had never
once imagined
any such development,
seven turkeys made the case
that growing grass was
not the highest use
for that resource.



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Lydia's Friends Energizes the Community Center & Library

By Catherine O'Callaghan

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; it's the only thing that ever has."
Margaret Mead

Lydia's Friends, Inc. serves as the friends-of-the-library group for Dummerston's Community Center and Library. We are committed to promoting the success of the Dummerston Community Center & Library (DCC&L) located at 150 West Street.

We are grateful and delighted with the turnout and participation at this year's Geranium Festival, Silent Auction, & Book Sale! We especially want to thank the many donors to our auction as we know that folks are asked to support many organizations. Their donations created a wonderful array of items with something for every budget. We also thank our steady patron, Walker Farm, for providing gorgeous geraniums year-after-year. The funds we raise help keep Dummerston's library growing and vibrant.

This spring we screened the documentary *Gone Guys* to a packed house. *Gone Guys* describes the struggles of boys and young men in Vermont. The producer, Angela Snow, joined us and moderated a panel of educators, including Julianne Eagan, principal of Dummerston School, teachers Peter Siegal and Ryan Kripp, as well as Djeli Forchion, founder of the IM

Project (Inspired Men Project). Everyone came away from the discussion with a challenge to support boys and young men in our community.

As a balm for our challenges, we also hosted a workshop with Dianne Clouet on the medicinal properties of the ubiquitous violet. As always, we are grateful to the folks who present programs at the DCC&Library for the enrichment of our community.

On that note, now that the DCC&L is one entity, there are many ways to contribute and get involved. As always, every effort is welcome and nothing is too small.

This summer we will host two forums; one will solicit ideas on creating a remembrance reflection garden in the field along with a new playground. We have begun raising funds for the playground project. The outdoor space is just waiting to be developed as a park for Dummerston. The second forum will begin plans to create a resilience center at the DCC&L, ready to serve our community even in times of stress. A resilience center in a community is a place that can help support us during crisis. For example, it might have a generator so the building could be powered during blackouts, or be a place where people could charge phones, or act as a cooling or warming station when weather is extreme. An informative website about resilience centers is: <https://gocros.org/resilience-hubs/>. We are grateful to have received

seed money to begin this project. Watch the Front Porch Forum online and town emails for information about these forums. We look forward to your participation. Also, feel free to contact me at 802-380-7935 or catherineocallaghan32@gmail.com to get involved.

Births

John Cooper Waite	4/04/26
Evelyn Anne Simeon	5/12/26
Calvin Brook Mohr	5/29/26

Passings

Virginia Ruth Carlson	3/19/26
Richard Paul Levesque	3/20/26
John A. Lindsay	3/20/26
Ray Shannon Harris	3/27/26
Joan Nancy Berzoff	4/08/26
Kiersten Joy Hoag	4/14/26
Nancy H. Durborow	5/11/26
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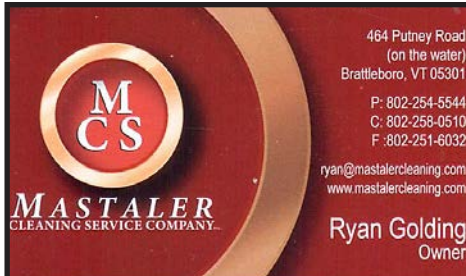
Librarian Erin Riley Introduces Herself

By Erin Riley

Hello! My name is Erin Riley, the new library director at the Dummerston Community Center and Library (DCC&L). My love for libraries started in elementary school where every trip to the school library was so exhilarating that I started volunteering at the library during one recess a week. As I grew older, I started to try to find myself represented through books, and I ended up going to the public library as often as I could in order to read most of the LGBT+ books I could get my hands on. The first time I read a book from a Native American author, I realized that I had never seen myself represented in such a way; even though I still couldn't find stories with Inupiaq characters anywhere in the library at the time. That love for seeing myself represented transferred to my love of giving that gift to other people through working in libraries.

I can still remember the many different libraries that have accompanied me throughout my life, and the many books I have explored thanks to recommendations from librarians. Not only have I used the library to discover books to read for pleasure and for school, but I also have fond memories of the different events that I have attended in libraries on things such as astronomy, cooking, knitting, board games, and author signing events. One of the first things I do when I move to a new place is to find the library because not only is the library a great way to learn about the town with local books, but it's often the place to learn about what's happening in town.

I'm excited to be a part of the DCC&L, and I look forward to being a part of this place of community engagement and connection. Feel free to stop by the library to say hello! For more information about our hours and events, go to our website at: <https://DummerstonLibrary.org/>



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The Earwig's Hidden Assets

By John Anderson

Worldwide there are nearly 2,000 species of earwigs (Dermaptera). About 25 of these can be found in North America and none of them seem to be in any way admired or beloved. They are often seen scurrying away when damp decaying plant matter is disturbed, and they have very formidable looking pincers on their rear ends. They just don't seem designed for lovability.

Earwigs are nocturnal and spend their days hiding communally in cracks and crevices,

often well above ground level. Any disturbance of their daytime lair will result in a torrent of earwigs going into defensive free fall, dropping to the ground and scurrying away. It happens fast. They drop, they scurry, they disappear into another crack or crevice. It can all seem a bit startling and even a bit revolting.

I had never been inclined to take a closer look. Small, scurrying, pincer-tipped Dermaptera had never piqued my curiosity. I knew that they were earwigs. I knew that scurrying was their chosen means of locomotion. The possi-

State-Funded Road Project Big Benefit to Dummerston

continued from page 3

but Lee believes the program was initially set up when the big effort began to clean up Lake Champlain. The road crew has already worked on the roads with the most serious erosion problems, and is now working on the roads with less serious needs. After finishing on Quarry Road, they will move on to the west end of the East-West Road, and the flats on Camp Arden Road.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) reimburses Dummerston through a Grant-In-Aid (GIA) program for up to 80% of allowable, documented expenses for bringing our roads up to the standards to withstand flooding, using such techniques as: creating grass and stone-lined drainage ditches; installing stone check-dams in the ditches to slow water flow; lowering high road shoulders; installing or replacing undersized drainage and driveway culverts; and installing culvert headwalls and stabilizing culvert outlets.

Lee explained that all town roads are divided up into 300-foot segments, and to qualify for a grant-funded repair, the water or runoff from a segment has to discharge into a stream or discharge within 100 feet of a stream. "Any sediment coming off the roadway, which makes it to the stream, is a definite no-no," Lee observed. A section of road may not have the proper crown, or not have enough gravel to make the proper crown. There may be a high road shoulder causing the water to run down

the road instead of into a grass or stone-lined ditch. "It's all about getting the water to run off everywhere, because once it runs down the road, it, of course, gains volume and velocity, and will gouge the road or cause erosion." Lee continued, "This work is not done necessarily for half-inch or one-inch rain storms. We're looking to protect the roads from four or five-inch rain storms. So a lot of times our repairs look maybe bigger than what they need to be. But when we get the real big storms, we need as many segments as possible to hold up so we can concentrate on the real problems."

The town's hill roads used to always wash out, and "You filled them in after every storm. We couldn't afford an excavator to do ditching. We couldn't afford the ditch stone. This program is allowing us to go out and make these problem spots so they now really aren't problem spots during the big storms. Yeah, it's been a big success. Now we'll get a two-inch rainstorm and we might get one spot that washes or something like that. But for the most part, you know, they stay pretty good."

Residents sometimes get concerned about the work being done on their roads, particularly on roads that may not seem like they need the work. "We are willing to work with people to try to do less in some areas or if they would like something else done instead, to try to mitigate their concerns," Lee said. There are also exemptions for road segments with such features as stone walls or historic trees. But in general, he concludes, "I'll say this program has really helped the town of Dummerston."

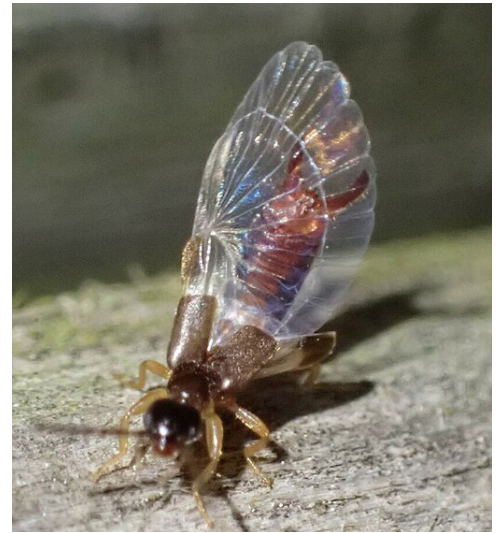


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The repulsive earwig has a surprisingly beautiful wing arrangement..

bility that they might also be able to fly never really registered with me, until I saw a picture of one with its wings on full display.

An earwig has two sets of wings. Its forewings are short and leathery and serve only to protect the hindwings, described as "membranous and folded beneath the forewings."

In the photo, the flight wings were semi-transparent, shimmering and iridescent, and the protective leathery forewings were extremely abbreviated. They were short. The complexity of the foldings that the earwig's flight wings would need to undergo in order to be concealed under and protected by those stubby forewings was a bit mind boggling. The fact that the flight wings, when unfolded had to also be structural enough for flight was equally amazing.

How tissue-thin and delicate those wings must be. After being folded multiple times in multiple directions, the cumulative layers can be stored under those completely inadequate-looking, stubby little forewings.

In the literature, the flight wings of earwigs are described as being unique and distinctive among insects. I would add that they are surprisingly attractive.

Ask almost anyone about earwigs and you will get a lot of negativity. Ask them if they've ever seen an earwig's wings and you'll probably get blank stares. Earwigs seldom fly. They seldom expose their wings. Although I've seen untold numbers of earwigs, the first earwig wing I ever saw was in a book. I'm glad I saw it. I used to think that pincers were an earwig's most unique trait.

The beauty of an earwig's wings is unlikely to make you enamored of these scuttling little pincer-tipped detritivores. However, once you've seen those wings it's hard not to admire their shimmering, iridescent complexity. It's a shame that the earwigs keep them so well hidden.

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Dummerston School Graduates 18

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School Class of 2026 graduate, Windham Southeast School District Board member, and Dummerston School Class of 2022 alum. Bristol praised the community that helped shape the graduates, noting that “Dummerston is the kind of community that creates and empowers capable and driven students.”

Graduates Katja Feusi and Lily Arnold shared humorous memories spanning their years together from kindergarten through eighth grade, while class speaker Taz Hand reflected on the strong bonds formed within the class. Taz reminded classmates, “We’ve survived the most awkward years of our lives, and we are far more than the next class of Dummerston to graduate. We are a class that learned how to adapt, support one another, and keep moving forward—and that’s something worth carrying with us wherever we go next.”

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of diplomas and congratulations from family, friends, staff, and WSESD Board member Deborah Stanford. Following graduation, guests gathered under the school pavilion for a reception hosted by the seventh-grade class. Congratulations to the Dummerston School Class of 2026, and best wishes as they begin the next chapter of their educational journey.

Class of 2026 Graduates: Lily Arnold, Benjamin Birchmore, Abigail Farina, Katja Feusi, Makenna Fox, Perry Gelke, Gretchen Green, Taz Hand, Wesley Lahey, Aleeah Moore, Christian Olmstead, Charlee Poplawski, Zoe Provo, Gavin Robinson, Grace Rosa, Peyton Thibault, Phoebe Wagner, and Maebel Wampler.

Eighth Grade Graduation Awards

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

Arlene G. Forrett Memorial Award: *Taz Hand* 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 child 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: *Makenna Fox* Melinda Bussino started a homeless shelter and food pantry in Brattleboro. The Melinda Bussino Community Service Award, 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: *Perry Gelke* The Mentoring Award goes to a student who has shown special talent and commitment to mentoring younger students at Dummerston School.

Student Leadership Award: *Phoebe Wagner and Peyton Thibault.* The Student Leadership Award recognizes students who have risen within their class as leaders, advocating for their class and the rest of the students in the school, and bringing positive changes to their community.

Citizenship Award: *Katja Feusi* The Citizenship Award goes to a student who lifts others up and recognizes the strength of each individual in their community through practicing all aspects of positive leadership and dedication to learning.

Dummerston Community Award: *Abigail Farina* The Dummerston Community Award recognizes a student who shows an admirable level of community care and attends to relationships both with peers and adults within the school community.

Physical Education Award: *Wesley Lahey* The Physical Education Award is given to a student who has consistently demonstrated a high standard of effort in regard to their physical fitness during physical education classes throughout the school year.

Margaret T. Irsch Memorial Writing Award: *Phoebe Wagner* Every year, the Dummerston Friends of the Library sponsors a writing contest for the eighth grade in honor of their founder Margaret T. Irsch. This year, the anonymous submissions were read by a panel of judges who enjoyed the eighth 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.

Coaches Awards: *Charlee Poplawski, Peyton Thibault, and Gavin Robinson* At the end of each sports season coaches nominate eighth 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.

Academic Excellence Award: *Lily Arnold* The Academic Excellence Award is given to the member of the eighth-grade class with the highest academic achievement.

Ruth E. Knapp Award: *Grace Rosa* 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: *Benjamin Birchmore* 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: *Christian Olmstead* 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.

Jenny Rubenstein Award: *Maebel Wampler* This award is given in honor of a former Dummerston School student who loved to read and write. It is awarded to one student who has shown strength and distinction in various elements of English language arts.

Passion for Science Award: *Zoe Provo* The Passion for Science award recognizes a student who always shows a high level of curiosity, enthusiasm, and interest in the subject of science.

Academic Dedication: *Aleeah Moore* This award goes to a student who shows a level of consistency, dedication, perseverance, and focus that is exceptional in a middle-level student.

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

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

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Local Author Wetherell a Great Recent Find

By Linda Rood

I recently discovered a local (New Hampshire) author, who's been around for a while, but who had remained unknown to me. W.D. Wetherell, born in 1948, lives in Lyme, New Hampshire, and has written 25 books, including nine novels, five short story collections, as well as quite a bit of writing about fly fishing and nature. He has won the O. Henry Award for short fiction three times! He also publishes a monthly Substack column, called "Wetherell On Writing." So far, I have read and enjoyed two of his novels.

I got interested in Wetherell when I stumbled across the novel *A Century of November* (University of Michigan Press, 2005) in the Moore Free Library in Newfane. This story takes place as World War I is coming to a close. Charles Marden, a farmer in Vancouver, BC, receives news that his son has been killed in battle in Belgium. His spontaneous response is to travel to Europe to find the place where his son died. Apparently, masses of parents and spouses did exactly this after the war. When he arrives in England, Marden learns that his son had a girlfriend, now pregnant, and that she has recently left home, presumably to go to the battlefield as well. Marden goes after her to Belgium where he finds a hellscape, encountering soldiers trying to recover from their traumas, battlefields still polluted with poison gas, and others wandering to find their loved ones. This vivid story is a compact, laser-focused novel, only 176 pages, which is a stunning portrayal of love and grief.

After that, I wanted more, and I found another novel, *The Wisest Man in America*

(University Press of New England, 1995). This one was fun. It consists of the intertwining stories of two men who have known each other for 42 years. One, Ferris, is an ornery New Hampshire logger, living in "the Notch," who has an uncanny knack of correctly predicting who will win the New Hampshire primary every four years, starting with Eisenhower. The other main character is Max Thomas, a famous newspaper columnist who discovered Ferris and made him famous. Max comes to New Hampshire every election year to see Ferris and find out his pick for that year. In the fall of 1996, Ferris is waiting for Max to arrive and is refusing to name his choice to anyone other than Max.

As the novel progresses, the two men reflect on their lives, their marriages, offspring, mistakes, and secrets. Their musings are filled with political commentary that can be entertaining, and surprisingly relevant to current times, as well as reflections on events of the 20th century. Critics describe the book as "full of sharp insight." City Lights Books says both Ferris and Max face the hardest test: "confronting the truth about themselves, their lives and loves, and a society that has declined painfully during their half century of friendship." Though I found some of the commentary to be long-winded, I thoroughly enjoyed both the premise and the execution of this novel: great characters, astute observation, and overall good writing. A good read for an election year.

In another kind of discovery, Roger and I traveled to South Africa this spring, and I did a lot of reading in preparation for the trip. The main focus of the trip was a five-day safari at a remote game lodge, so a friend recommended that I read *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony (Thomas Dunn Books, 2009). This is a silly title for a fascinating book about the establishment of a 5000 acre private game preserve, similar to the place that we would be visiting. Anthony and his French wife, Françoise, establish the preserve, build a lodge, and in 1999, agree to rescue a small herd of "rogue" elephants. If Anthony had not accepted these animals, they would have been

killed. In the next few years, Anthony is able to establish a unique bond with the elephants, and the book is the story of how he was able to do that.

The book is filled with fascinating information about elephant behavior, which was very relevant to our travels, and entertaining stories of life in the bush with all sorts of wild creatures. It also tells of struggles to combat poachers, who seek not only ivory, but also the horns of rhinos, which are highly prized in China for medicinal purposes. In addition, Anthony must maintain diplomatic relations with local tribespeople, and it is impressive to see how he is able to enlist his native neighbors in the cause of protecting the wildlife of the area. This story is highly readable and touching.

In case you haven't heard, there are some exciting new books that have been published this spring or are about to be published. Elizabeth Strout has a new book, *The Things We Never Say*, which introduces a whole new character to her body of work, Artie Dam, a high school history teacher, and Strout makes a break from Maine for a seaside town in Massachusetts. Colson Whitehead has released the third volume in his Harlem Trilogy, *Cool Machine*, set in the 1980s, and I am looking forward to Ray Carney's latest exploits, as the series comes to a close. Ann Patchett has just published a new novel, *Whistler*, and I have already heard raves about it. Last but not least, Barbara Kingsolver will publish her new novel, *Partita*, in October, the story of a passionate love affair. I am looking forward to reading all of these.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy what's left of summer.

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Bigfoot Coffee Opens at Maple Valley

continued from page 1

new owner happened to be there. Jesse is a carpenter by trade, and offered to help install the new flooring in the lodge, and the owner was happy to allow Jesse to park his coffee truck in front of the lodge. He told Jesse that his plan is to have food trucks on the property, and the coffee truck fits in perfectly with his plan.

Jesse winterized the cart and intends to run it year-round, while the previous owners closed it from November through March. Currently he has it open Friday-Monday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. His coffee, which a sign at the previous location claimed is “Your Last Good Coffee Ever!” is organic and comes from Honduras, though his vendor is confidential information. He is using the same drink recipes as the previous owners, and said his maple latte is his best seller. He also sells food. “The donut waffles are my most popular food item. That’s unique to this business. I don’t know anywhere else you can get those. The cheddar biscuit breakfast sandwiches are made by Mama T’s Sweet Spot in Vernon, and they get rave reviews as well and they typically sell out.”

Jesse also wanted to give a shoutout to the Brattleboro Rural Development Credit Corporation. He was a bit intimidated by starting a business, but noticed an ad for the



PHOTO: ROGER TURNER

Bigfoot Coffee has opened in front of the former Maple Valley Lodge, now about to open as North Chair Brewing. Hours are Friday–Monday, 7 a.m.–2 p.m.

BRDCC Launchpad series for new business owners.

“I signed up for that, and went to weekly two-hour long sessions about starting and running a new business. It was supremely helpful, and I continue to go to their weekly lab series for new business owners. It’s where

I do my accounting and get help with any questions I might have.”

Business has steadily been picking up. He plans to hire another person to substitute for him, and possibly to extend his days open. The coffee I had when I visited the truck was delicious!

Scott Farm’s Crêpe Night Benefits Green Mountain Camp

*By Jeremy Ebersole,
Public Outreach Manager*

These monthly gatherings, held regularly throughout late spring and summer, are times to celebrate the harvest, good simple food, and community in the stunning setting of Scott Farm—picnic style. Outdoor and indoor tables and chairs are provided as well as a sprawling grassy hillside ripe 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 www.scottfarmvermont.com/crepe-night.

Where: Scott Farm, 707 Kipling Rd., Dummerston

When: 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

\$25/adults, \$12/children

August 19–Green Mountain Camp

Dummerston Notable Events

AUGUST	15	Annual Peach Shortcake Supper Evening Star Grange, 4:30–6 p.m., take out available. Adults \$15, Children 5-12 \$7. Reservations strongly recommended but not mandatory: call (802) 254-1138 & leave a message.
	19	Scott Farm Crêpe Night to benefit Green Mountain Camp 707 Kipling Rd., Dummerston. 5:30–7:30 p.m.; Adults \$25, kids under 12 \$12. Reservations required: https://www.scottfarmvermont.com/crepe-night
	15	Dummerston Historical Society at Windham County History Fair Newfane Common, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; www.historicalsocietyofwindhamcounty.org
SEPT.	12	Chicken Pie Supper Evening Star Grange, 4:30–6 p.m., take out available. Adults \$15, Children 5-12 \$7. Reservations strongly recommended but not mandatory: call (802) 254-1138—leave a message.
	11	Dummerston Congregational Church Apple Pie Festival, Grange indoor Craft Fair and Lunch, Dummerston Fire Department Breakfast Dummerston Center; Breakfast at Center Station, 7–11; Pie Festival 10 a.m. at Congregational Church until sold out—pies \$25, slices \$6
OCTOBER	18	Dummerston Historical Society Meeting—50th Anniversary Celebration Dummerston Historical Society Schoolhouse, Dummerston Center, 2 p.m.
	31	Annual Harvest Dinner Evening Star Grange, 4:30–6 p.m., take out available. Adults \$15, Children 5-12 \$7. Reservations recommended but not mandatory: call (802) 254-1138 & leave a message.



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USEFUL STUFF TO KNOW

Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Detectors: Dummerston Cares and Dummerston FD 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*

Putney Food Shelf: *Putney Foodshelf serves Dummerston residents. Open Hours: Fridays 12:30–3:30 p.m. Saturdays 9–10:30 a.m.; Putney Community Center, 10 Christian Square, Putney*

NAMES & TIMES & NUMBERS

Conservation Commission website: www.dummerstonconservation.com	Vermont Theatre Company 802-258-1344
Dummerston Cares Message line & Fuel Assistance 802-257-5800, email: info@dummerstoncares.org , website: www.dummerstoncares.org	Evening Star Grange Larry or Carol Lynch, 802-310-0799
Dummerston School 802-254-2733 website: dummerston.wsesu.org	Meals on Wheels Cynthia Fisher, 802-257-1236 Selectboard selectboard@dummerston.org
Fire Chief Larry Pratt, 802-579-9494 website: https://www.dummerstonfire.org/	Senior Solutions Carol Lynch, 802-254-2517 Springfield Office 800-642-5119
Fire Wardens Leon Dunbar, Allen Pike	Town Garage Lee Chamberlin, 802-254-2411
Deputy Fire Warden Allen Pike, 802-258-0100	Town Office Laurie Frechette, 802-257-1496 email: townclerk@dummerston.org
Dummerston Community Center & Library Community Center booking: 802-380-7935 or email catherineocallaghan32@gmail.com Library: 802-258-9878; Hours: Mon., Wed. 10–3; Tue., Thu. 1–7; Sat. 10–2 website: dummerstonlibrary.org email: dummerstonvtlibrary@gmail.com	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 Ctr & Library Board 7 p.m.
2nd Wednesday 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
QUARTERLY MEETINGS: 3rd week of Jan./April/July/Oct.
OPEN HOUSE: 1st & 3rd Sundays 1–3 p.m.
Meetings at Historical Society; See additional meetings at DummerstonHistoricalSociety.org

Lydia's Friends 5 p.m.
2nd Thursday, Lydia Taft Pratt Library