

The Athenian

Volume 12, Number 10

Sponsored by Grafton Cares

JUNE 2022

Summer Vacation

In the pre-COVID days, the Athenian took a needed break in the summer months, that included July and August. In the midst of the pandemic, we felt a need to keep publishing through the year as more and more of us were threatened by the virus. The COVID is far from over, but there is a greater sense of “normalcy”.

We will still put out updates as needed like we have done in the past. But look for full issues beginning again in September.

—Dennis Hunt and Sherry Maher

Select Board Meeting Tidbits

In addition to news in other pieces below, here are a few things from the regular May Select Board meeting that might be of interest:

- The 5-person Board elected David Bemis as Chair, and Sandi Capponcelli as Vice Chair.
- After discussion, the Board authorized David to sign the contract for the Meetinghouse Façade Project pending review by the Town Agent. Funds will be transferred from the historic society to combine with funds in the Meetinghouse account and the reimbursable \$50K Bruhn grant.
- Athens Weather Emergency Committee will be getting a questionnaire out to residents to update their volunteer list. A concern being discussed by the committee is how to provide a daytime cooling shelter during severe heat emergencies. The Board also approved plans for the committee to use the former school building to provide shelter for pets in a weather emergency, should there be a need to open the shelter in the church basement for residents.
- At the suggestion of the Windham Regional Commission, the Board approved exploring the option of joining with Brookline on creating a hazard mitigation plan.
- An ordinance is being created for matters related to driveways culverts. A public hearing is planned for 6:30 July 21.



- Andy Toepfer requested that the Board sign a letter of support for Bull Creek Common Lands. This is a 36 acre parcel that this 501c3 is seeking to purchase from David Bemis to create a community forest (David recused himself from the discussion and left the meeting). The land would be owned by the nonprofit group who will conserve the land and provide for community access. They are hoping for funding from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board to acquire and conserve the property. The Board approved signing the letter of support. - Sherry Maher

NOTES FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

I want to thank all who joined us for the School District Town Meeting on Tuesday May 24, 2022. By passing the warned articles that night we have completed the final plans for separating from Westminster and becoming a union school composed only of the communities of Athens and Grafton as of July 1, 2022.

The business office books for 2021 are back in order and the audit for 2021 has finally been completed. There was a fund balance of \$1,412,876 reported. According to the formula recommended by the WNUESD and the Westminster school boards, \$350,330 will be retained by WNEUSD and be applied to the 2024 budget.

The voters on the 24th passed Article 6 which expands the number of school board members for Grafton and for Athens from 2 to 3 each. Following the vote from the floor that night the Athens' School Board is now composed of Krista Gay, Lynn Morgan and Pastor Harold Noyes. We all desire to hear your questions and thoughts on the different plans that are/will be considered to strengthen the education of our students.

The federal ESSER I grant monies have been spent. The ESSER II grant monies have been earmarked for

projects within the goals of this grant. The APR ESSER grant has a wider reach of projects that they can be used on. The ESSER committee has completed its list of priority projects. This list contains more project ideas than we can afford to do, so we are seeking feedback and thoughts from the folks of Athens and Grafton. Once your ideas have been collected, the project list will be reduced to the most desired projects that fit within the budget of the grant. I am encouraging you to join with the SU's district school boards on Tuesday June 7th to discuss this list of projects. See the following notice from Andy Hass for the details of this meeting.

"We will also be hosting a Community Night on Tuesday, June 7 at 6 pm at Bellows Falls Union High School in the auditorium to review our plan, review thoughts, and review our strategic plan for the supervisory union. We will be offering childcare to those who need it. If you do need child care, please call the Central Office at 802-463-9958."

Last day of school has been moved to June 20th from June 17th due to a snow day we have to make up. Sixth grade graduation will be on June 13. - Lynn Morgan

Grafton Cares Update

Grafton Cares is delighted to announce that last month we hosted four wonderful community lunches providing great food and company for those in attendance as well as take-out meals for anyone who did not feel comfortable unmasked or close to others. Following a tradition of past years, there will be no lunches served in July since that is a time when many of us are away on vacation. The lunches will resume in August, and community dinners will resume in the fall.

As warm weather has become the norm, our activities, other than the lunches, have slowed a bit. During May, our Meals on Wheels volunteers served between 8 and 11 customers. We also sent out one sunshine basket and two welcome bags and provided \$285 in gas cards for those traveling to medical appointments

We're looking forward to seeing you at the lunches. They remain free of charge although donations are welcome. - Bill Toomey

Household Hazardous Waste Depot

No more waiting in line at a 4-hour household hazardous waste collection!!!

The So. Windsor/Windham Counties Solid Waste Management District is opening a seasonal HHW Depot to offer a more convenient way to dispose of bathroom cleaners, nail polish remover, paint, insecticides, chemical fertilizers, etc.

Starting in June, we will be open Tuesday and Thursday mornings and closing at the end of September. (We can't find any weekend help at present.)

Call Mary T. O'Brien at 802-674-9235 for an appointment and directions to the Depot.

SWWCSWMD residents only - \$10/car for up to 10 gallons of HHW (no charge for paint) Visit <https://www.vtsolidwastedistrict.org/> for a list of what we accept and don't accept. - Mary O'Brien

Green Up Day Report

I want to thank all those who were able to get out and help clean up 13.6 miles of roads here in Athens. A huge thanks goes out to those long-serving volunteers who did two routes or extra long routes to help us get these miles covered. We were down volunteers this year even though we had several new ones join our team. In 2021 we had 50 volunteers, this year we had 29. This is partly due to several long-serving volunteers who are no longer able to help due to health issues. A huge thanks goes out to their years of dedicated service. I encourage all Athenians to consider joining the Green Up team next year. It would be so exciting if we could get all roads in Athens covered. If every one helped by doing even their own road frontage we could accomplish this. Any one interested in helping out next year please give me a call or email me with your name and contact information so I can get you on my list of potential volunteers.

Here are the 2022 numbers compared to those of 2021:

miles: 12.42 vs 13.6; # of hours: 37.75 vs 29.5; # of bags: 63 vs 79.5; weight in lbs.: 703 vs 691; # of tires: 25 vs 17; # of large items: 12 vs 15.

Remember, Green Up doesn't have to happen only one day a year. - Lynn Morgan

Meetinghouse Façade Project Begins

5th Annual Plant Sale a Success

The long anticipated Façade Project at the Meetinghouse is finally moving forward! Stebbins Spectacular Painting in conjunction with Pinnacle Window and Door have been given the green light to proceed. They have already removed for restoration at

their shop fourteen 12 over 12 windows along with the palladium window on the back wall and the report is that the restoration is going very well. Soon you will see carpentry and painting activity as well. The project is in part being supported by a grant administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, combined with a very generous donation to the Historic Society from a friend of the Meetinghouse and designated Town





funds. The grantor requires signage for the duration of the project, which prompted members of the Meetinghouse Committee to give the bulletin board a facelift! Thanks to the “GPS” Crew!

The 5th Annual Plant Sale was another success, adding to Historic Society funds that will

go toward our next major goal of sprucing up the interior of the building. Thanks to all who donated plants and those who came by to purchase plants. We have begun discussing a possible joint garden tour for next summer with our friends at the Brookline Meetinghouse. Would you be interested in having your garden on the tour?
- Sherry Maher

Community Center Update

Things have been moving slowly towards the reopening of the old school as the new community center, but we are moving forward.

At this point in time we are planning to have another “UnTag Sale” similar to the one last year sometime in September (date will be announced). This time around we will be looking for donations from townspeople. We will be deciding at the June meeting what we will accept as donations. One thing we already know is clothing, curtains, material of any kind will not be accepted nor will furniture. That list may grow once we decide on our final list of acceptable donations. We will post dates in which we will take donations. We ask that nothing be left at the school.

As of yet the interior painting of the school has not begun due to the installation of emergency exit lighting and repairs to the sheetrock. Also, time has been an issue as most work is being done (except for the emergency lighting) by volunteers.
- Sandi Capponcelli

Grace Cottage Happenings

Registration is now open for Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital’s 17th **Annual Tour de Grace** bicycle rally, to be held on Saturday morning, June 25, using the original route, from Stratton Mountain to Grace Cottage in Townshend.

Riders start at Stratton anytime between 8-10 a.m. (it’s not a race); the ride generally takes about 90 minutes. It will be held rain or shine.

The \$30 advance registration (\$40 after 6/22) includes a Tour de Grace performance t-shirt (for the first 100 registrants), four wonderful rest stops with refreshments, beautiful scenery, great camaraderie, fabulous outdoor exercise on what will hopefully be a beautiful summer day, and a bus ride back up the

mountain (or park at Grace Cottage and reserve an early bus ride to the starting point).

Thank you to Tour de Grace sponsors: Linda Bastian, Cota & Cota, Equipe Sport, Howard Printing, People’s United Bank, Solstice at Stratton, Three Mountain Inn, and West River Provisions.

Grace Cottage’s **Tee It Up for Health** golf tournament will be “back at the ‘Stack’ ” this year, on Saturday, June 11, at the Haystack Golf Club in Wilmington.

All proceeds from this year’s event will help to pay for Emergency Department renovations. If you can’t golf this year, you can still support the event through sponsorship. There are just a few spots left, so register as soon as possible.

For more information or if you would like to participate in either event, call 802-365-9109.

The 72nd **Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Fair Day** will be back on the Townshend Common on Saturday, August 6. Hospital Fair Day features big tents, delicious food, toe-tapping music, bagpipers, plus all the other wonderful attractions that are part of this decades-old tradition.

Donations of items for the live auction, white elephant, jewelry, and book booths are gratefully accepted through mid-July. Call Eileen Fahey at 802-365-4030 for donation information. Pick-ups may be possible for large items.

Hospital Fair Day depends on volunteers. Between now and August 6, there is a lot of stacking, sorting, and storing to be done, and some of this has already started. Any and all community volunteers are gratefully accepted, whether you can donate an hour or two or more. Call 802-365-4030.
- C.J. King

TeleMed Neurology Care at Grace Cottage

Dartmouth Health Connected Care is partnering with Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital, an independent, nonprofit critical access hospital and family health clinic in Townshend, Vt, to provide acute care TeleNeurology services to Grace Cottage patients. Through this partnership, Dartmouth Health TeleNeurology can quickly bring a neurologist to the patient’s bedside to assist the local clinical team with prompt assessment and treatment recommendations via telemedicine. The service began on Monday, April 11, 2022.

“Using the latest technology to bring TeleNeurology services to Grace Cottage will ensure the very best care for our patients who experience neurological issues,” said Douglas DiVello, president and CEO of Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital. “This partnership allows us to provide world-class care from one of the nation’s leading academic medical centers to our patients and allows our medical staff to consult with

Dartmouth Health neurology specialists, right here in rural southern Vermont.”

Dartmouth Health’s TeleNeurology provides a board-certified neurologist 24 hours a day, seven days per week, to confer with the local bedside team. Through telemedicine, the local healthcare team can quickly connect with the Dartmouth Health’s TeleNeurology team to collaborate and assist with patient evaluation and treatment.

“It is important to us that the Center for Telehealth helps to deliver exceptional care to patients across northern New England, regardless of location,” said Kevin M. Curtis, MD, MS, medical director of Connected Care. “We are pleased to join the healthcare team at Grace Cottage to offer the TeleNeurology services 24/7 and allow patients to get even more care close to home.”

Studies show that early and effective stroke treatment can save lives and prevent long-term disability. The American Heart Association recognizes a telemedicine consultation by a neurologist as a standard of care in bringing the expertise of a stroke center to a patient’s bedside, thus improving outcomes, shortening hospital stays, and lowering costs with a prompt and accurate diagnosis.

Dartmouth Health’s TeleNeurology offerings also contribute to reduced patient transfers by keeping patients closer to home and their loved ones.

To learn more about Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital, visit gracecottage.org. For information about Dartmouth Health Connected Care and Center for Telehealth, visit dartmouth-hitchcock.org/connected-care.

- C.J. King

Food News You Can Use

Below is a list of local sites where food assistance is available at no or little cost to you. Please get the word out to your friends and neighbors about these programs as we go through these uncertain times.

Grafton Community Church Food Pantry: The food pantry at the Church is sponsoring free food pickup at the Church during the week. Staples such as pasta, tomato sauce, jam, oatmeal, and sometimes even frozen meat if available. Call Mary Feder at the Church at 843-2346 or email her at graftonchurch@gmail.com and leave your name and phone number to arrange a pickup time and please wear a mask. Delivery can also be arranged.

Townshend Community Food Shelf: This long-time food shelf is open and providing food to those who need it. They have limited fruit, vegetables, milk, frozen meats, and fresh bread. They also have canned food, pasta, rice, and shelf stable proteins. They are located in the Townshend Church and are open every Monday

from 6pm to 7:30pm. Masks requested but not essential. If you have questions call 365-4348.

Everyone Eats—Newfane: This program benefits our communities in several ways. It financially supports area restaurants and their employees, as well area farmers and other food producers. And we get to eat nutritious meals! Meals are prepared by the Newfane Country store and distributed every Thursday from 4:30pm to 5:30pm in front of the Newfane Congregational Church. All meals are free and there is a onetime registration at the site or call Jeryl at 802-348-7173. Deliveries can also be arranged.

Meals On Wheels: Senior Solutions in Springfield, VT sponsors a Meals On Wheels program for seniors and those with disabilities. Grafton Cares provides pickup and delivery three times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Sign up is straight forward. Call Senior Solutions Senior Helpline at 800-642-5119 for all the particulars and enjoy having meals delivered to your door in Athens and Grafton.

Veggie-van-Go: Free food is available for the months of June, July, & August on Thursday, June 26th from noon to 1pm at the Newfane Congregational Church on West Street. The July date is Thursday the 28th And for August the date is Thursday the 25th. The purpose of the program is to help people obtain fresh fruits and vegetables to sustain a healthy lifestyle. All are welcome and no proof of eligibility is required. This program is sponsored by Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital and the Vermont Food Bank.

EBT and VTSNAP Programs Multiply Your EBT Benefits at a local Farmers Market. Do you have 3 Squares VT/SNAP benefits? When you use 3 Squares VT/SNAP or P/EBT benefits at a local farmers market, you’ll get up to \$10 match in Crop Cash. That means \$10 in EBT buys \$20 of local food! The Brattleboro Area Farmers Market is open Saturdays, the Townshend Farmers Market on Fridays, the Putney Farmers Market on Sundays, and the Greater Falls Farmers Market opens on Friday, June 17. Look on this directory nofavt.org/find-organic-local-food/farmers-markets for farmers markets details. Or call the Senior Help Line at Senior Solutions 802-642-5119 for more food information.

--Dennis Hunt

Farm to Family Coupons – July 1

The State of Vermont will be making a limited number of free coupons available to seniors and those with disabilities for use at designated farm stands and farmer’s markets this season. Senior Solutions is preparing to help clients with transportation and mobility obstacles in obtaining these coupons to buy healthy, local, farm-fresh produce. The coupon books will provide a total of \$48 in buying power, in \$6 increments. They can be used at 17 locations throughout

our service area, but the closest one for Athens residents would be the Townshend Farmers Market at the West Townshend General Store. 6573 Rte. 30, on Fridays from 4:30-6:30 pm. (as well as the three other area farmers markets noted above).

These are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants must have incomes at or below \$2,096/month (household of one) or \$2,823/month (household of two.) The simple application and proxy form, which allows Senior Solutions to obtain the coupons on your behalf, hand-deliver them to you, and even assist with your purchase trips can be requested by calling our Helpline the last week of June at 802-885-2669.

- Thom Simmons

Library Corner

Smiles and Gratitude

Huge congratulations to library assistant, Angel Squires, who has fulfilled all requirements for the Vermont Certificate of Public Librarianship!! Angel will be awarded her certificate on June 1st. We commend her for her hard work and perseverance in achieving this goal.

Ray Lisai has been hard at work painting the porch and ramp railings, re-finishing the ramp and picnic table with sealer and washing the library windows. We are very grateful to Ray for all his help.

Library volunteer David Ross assembled the stand for our new smart screen—purchased with a grant from the Grafton Improvement Association (GIA) for use with library programming. Thank you very much David and the GIA!

The flowers in the urns were purchased at Tim's Greenhouse—thank you to Tim for his expert assistance. Sarah continues to tend to the flower beds and they are spectacular once again. A large portion of her work is done pro bono for the library. We have a great deal of kindness and talent in our village!

Beach Worthy Reads and More

A large and diverse number of books have been ordered for the summer reading months and will be arriving soon. Adults will find bestsellers, gripping mysteries and absorbing non-fiction. Children will discover a plethora of new graphic novels, picture books and early readers. Contact us if you would like to receive a list of new books from the library via email.

A reminder that we have a number of puzzles and board games that can be borrowed from the library for those rainy summer days. When you are ready to adventure—check out the available events and museum passes that allow borrowers free or reduced admission to concerts and other cultural sites around Vermont. More information can be found on our website.

Traveling or working on a project at home and need a downloadable audio book to enjoy? Inquire about the

use of the Libby app—where you can download audio books and e-books for free 24/7.

Want to join others for outdoor adventure, enriching conversation about books or some language learning? Check out the library programs listed below.

Programming Schedule

Spanish Group on Zoom, Tuesdays, 11:00am-noon

Walks of Wonder, Sunday June 5—informal adventures around Southern VT. Contact the library for information.

Page Turners Book Group, Tuesday, June 7, 12:30-1:30, Hybrid, in person and on Zoom

June Theme: *Rising Out of Hatred*

- Michelle Dufort

Notes From A Weather Journal

At this time of year Memorial Day should feel like the beginning of summer with nice, warm weather, with little fear of frost. But as you look more closely anything is possible.

Memorial Day, 2007. “Beautiful rain overnight. We need it for the garden. Beautiful summer day. Temps: 57.7 to 77.4.”

Two Days After Memorial Day, 2012. “Massive thunderstorms yesterday afternoon. Golf ball size hail, massive downpours. Still assessing damages to the garden. Cloudy, cool, wet now. Temps: 60.4 to 83.3”

Memorial Day, 2013. “Sunny, dry, low humidity. Temperatures rising. Saw frost on the porch roof and orchard grass. Temps: 35.2 to 52.0:

Memorial Day, 2016. “Another very hot, sunny, humid day in store. Feels like mid-summer. Temps: 50 to 77.

Knowing these yearly differences and what can happen, now you must decide when the garden can be safely planted.

--Dennis Hunt

--Trea Pichette also writes about changing weather.

Every year I have an issue in my garden that is related to our new weather norms. My late-blooming jonquils & daffodils put out lots of flowers buds, but almost never open, instead turning brown & dying up. Initially, the green stems look healthy as do the buds themselves. So, what is happening? This is called “flower blast” & the research shows that sudden heat waves can be the reason this occurs.



Given our current climate changes where we might suddenly get a few days of record heat as we did this May, especially if it alternates with cold & frost, can cause this to happen. Unfortunately, this may become common because daffodil species like it consistently on the cool side to produce those beautiful blooms. If

anyone has considered a solution to this problem, please let me know.

Thoughts To Ponder

Memorial Day is much more than the beginning of summer fun with the desire to get outside. It is a holiday to remember our armed services heroes, and it is in this spirit these quotes are offered. All quotes selected by Dennis Hunt.

“Never was so much owed by so many to so few.”
--*Winston Churchill*
“Courage is not the absence of fear, but the capacity to act despite our fears.”
--*John McCain*

“Whenever the world makes you cynical; Whenever you seek true humility and true selflessness, look to a veteran.”
--*Barack Obama*

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Select Board Meetings: 3rd Thursday 7:00 PM

Budget Committee: 2nd & 4th Tuesday 7:00 PM

Meeting House Committee: 2nd Monday 10:00 AM

School Board: 2nd Thursday 6:30 Grafton School

Do you have a news item for The Athenian or a favorite family story to share? Or would you like to be on our email list and get the newsletter in your inbox?

CONTACT US at theathenianvt@gmail.com.



TRASH PICK-UP: JUNE 13 & 27

RECYCLE PICK-UP: JUNE 6 & 20

Charles Perham Journal (transcribed by James Trimble)

June 1863

1. Practiced some the Teaches were here today.
3. This forenoon helped father mend the Denshe fence. In the afternoon I practiced. In the evening ella come up here. The Teaches went over to----- today.
4. I went to Saxtons River today. Mr. Hayden had gone to Chester today. I come up to Port and found Jennie I carried her home. In the evening the Teaches and I went down to Mr Dodges.
5. Washed sheep this forenoon. In afternoon practiced. Viona and Miss Smith here today. In the evening Mr Wells and wife, Mr Dodge and wife, Ella and Jennie and the Teaches come here.
6. Mr. Ball does not work today. I went down to Dodges to see Jennie, Ella and the rest of the folks.
7. Father and I went to meeting today.
10. In the forenoon worked in the afternoon I practiced.
12. In the morn practiced. The rest of the time I helped father. About night I went fishing.
13. This forenoon had a very good practice. In the afternoon worked on the road. Ella come up here a little while.
15. This forenoon I worked on the road. In the afternoon practiced. Jessie come up here this evening I went down to the Dodges with her. The Teaches are here this evening.
18. Father went with me to Saxtons River today in the afternoon I practiced.
19. Practiced about all day today. Wrote a letter to Emma.
21. Father and I went to Meeting today. Come home and the rest of the day practiced.
22. I went to Saxtons River today to recite my 16 lesson come home and practiced.
24. Practiced about all day today. In the Evening Sarah Ball and the Teaches come up here.
25. Went to Saxtons River and took my 17 lesson in afternoon practiced.
26. Helped shear sheep today. In the evening went down to Port with Ella to hear July Woods play.
27. Helped shear sheep today.
28. Stayed to home in the forenoon. In the afternoon went down to Dodges then went to prayer meeting with Ella.
30. Practiced in the forenoon. In the afternoon went down to see Miranda with Ella had a good time

July 1863

1. Practiced a good lot today.
3. Practiced in the forenoon. In the afternoon helped clip the lambs. In the evening went down to the Dodges.
4. Stayed to home all day and practice on my piano.
5. It rained so I could not go to meeting so I practiced on my piano in the evening Bill Farr, Miss Ware, Ella, Osie come here.
6. I went to Saxtons River today to take a lesson very much discouraged today.
7. Stayed to home all alone today as the Folks have gone with Mr Ball to work for Mr Edwards. A nice practice today.
8. Practiced in the forenoon. In the afternoon worked some the folks were here today.
10. In the forenoon practiced some. In the afternoon worked hard hoeing potatoes. Father and Mother have gone to Brookline today.

12. Went to Meeting today. Stayed with Jessie then went up to Dan Wells. Then went to prayer meeting had a good time.
13. Went to Saxtons River today a very rainy day today.
15. Father and Mother went up to Alvins today. I practiced some and worked some in the evening went down to Mr. Dodges.
17. Worked about haying this forenoon. In the afternoon practiced some.
18. Went to Mr Dodges a little while in the Morn then come home and practice. In the evening Father and Mr. Ball go to Port.
19. Mother and I went to meeting today Mr. Cushman preached.
20. I went to Saxtons River to take a lesson. Had ----- cut my hair.
21. A very rainy day today. I practiced about all day today.
22. This morning I practiced about two hours then the rest of the day I helped hay.
23. Practiced three hours today. Worked at haying today.
24. Practiced about three hours today worked at haying the rest of the time.
25. Practiced about thee hours. The rest of the time worked at haying
26. Mother and I went to Meeting. In the evening went to prayer meeting with Ella.
27. Practiced a good lot today. A rainy day. I went down to Powers after some cherries today.
28. Went to Brookline to get the horses shod. Brought Mary home with me. Jenny Perham died last night. In the evening Miss Dodge was here.
30. Went to Saxtons to take a lesson. Went up to the Dodges and stayed a little while.
31. Practiced a good lot today for it is a stormy day today.

Charles Perham has started using Port as an abbreviation for CambridgePort.

Enjoy more scenes from the 5th Annual Meetinghouse Plant Sale

