

The Athenian

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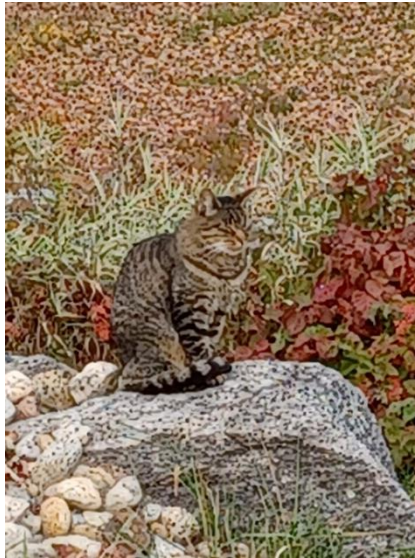
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NOVEMBER 2022

Breathe In, Breathe Out

The air is crisp, most days anyway, most of the leaves are down, except those stubborn oak leaves that hold on and on to fill our back porch, and many of us are holding our breath, anxious to see the end of this election cycle, and anxious to know the outcomes. But regardless of who wins or what issue prevails, we all come back to this little town of Athens, where many know everyone in town, and some know hardly anyone. But we're all neighbors and as David Bemis reminded us in October, we can respect each other's differing opinions and positions on issues. So just breath in, breathe out, listen and don't forget to vote! Oh, and remember to change your clocks. Enjoy that extra hour of sleep Sunday morning.

- Sherry Maher



Select Board Meeting Tidbits

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

- The Saxtons River Trustees attended the meeting to address concerns about the increased cost for fire service. The contract has been \$500 since 1994. The increase they requested last year to \$7500 came in too late. There has been a tremendous increase in the number of rescue calls. Taking the costs for that into consideration, they came up with a figure of \$15,000. An executive session was called to discuss the contract matter with the Trustees. No decisions were made.
- The Town office crawlspace is getting a moisture barrier and insulation.
- The Town Meeting Survey saw a 12% response from Athens voters. The responses seemed to suggest a slight preference for holding Town Meetings on Saturday, but not a large difference. A few noted the need for a ride to the meetings. There will be a report from the committee in the 2022 Town Report.
- Hannah Regier inquired about any progress on finding grants for vaults to protect Town records. A

discussion followed about possible resources for help with grants.

- The Select Board approved the Chair signing the final copy of the Conservation Easement for the Meetinghouse property as part of the funding provided by the Bruhn Grant from Preservation Trust Vermont and the National Park Service.

- Casey Haynes presented an overview of BDCC, one of 12 regional development organizations in Vermont. Programs and services of BDCC were noted, and the Board was asked to sign a letter of support for a federally recognized economic

development district. The Board approved and the Chair signed the letter.

- The Town Garage is in need of a new “man door”, the side door for individuals, not the overhead doors. Costs were discussed as well as temporary fixes to secure the existing door in the meantime.
- A second executive session was held for a contract matter. No decisions were made.
- The Chair noted reports of stolen and vandalized political signs. He said such matters should be reported to the VT State Police, and hoped that everyone can respect each other's opinions and choices of candidates.
- Additionally, there was a public hearing on the matter of Taylor Hill held on October 12th. The full hearing was recorded and can be viewed on FACT8 TV.

- Sherry Maher

Notes from the School Board

The PTO had a very successful food sale at the Fireman's Sale over Columbus weekend. They would like to thank all who volunteered time and goodies. And also, all who came and purchased goodies from the food booth.

The school has a busy schedule of activities coming up. On October 31st at 2:15 the students showed off their Halloween costumes with a parade down Main street.

Come enjoy the fun. The Grafton Elementary School Thanksgiving Feast will be back again this year after missing the last two years due to COVID. Hope many from Athens will be able to come out for this fun community event on November 10th at 1:00 pm. The students are excited to be participating in the Circus residency again this year, November 11th-18th. They are also looking forward to winter sports returning to normal with downhill skiing, snow-boarding, cross-country skiing and ice skating. If anyone would like to help chaperon one of these winter events contact the Grafton school.

- Lynn Morgan

A Note from the Weather Emergency Committee

New England could see its power grid exposed to reliability issues this winter that could necessitate rolling outages to ease the strain on the electricity system.

ISO New England Inc, which operates the power grid in the U.S. northeastern region, warns that in case of a severe cold spell and amid global gas market volatility, consumers could face blackouts due to not enough gas for power generation.

Members of the Athens Weather Emergency Committee will contact the folks in their Zone of Responsibility if there are persistent outages to check on their welfare, and, specifically, if they have heat and water. Go to the Town website to locate the member of the Committee who covers your zone.



- Tim Stevenson

Cider & Donuts at the Meetinghouse

The finishing touches are about done on the Meetinghouse Façade Project, and so we decided an Open House with cider & donuts would be a great way to celebrate!

Join us on Sunday, November 6th, from 12 noon to 2 PM and see what's been done up close. The building will be open for tours, along with complimentary cider & donuts. We look forward to showing off the great work done on restoring the historic windows and more. Our hats are off to the crew at Pinnacle Window and Door! And we are extremely grateful to Don Capponcelli who has done yeoman's volunteer work shepherding us through with his extensive construction knowledge.

Hope to see you on the 6th

- Sherry Maher

Grafton Cares Update

Our big news this month has to do with the meals schedule which will be somewhat different starting in December.

Community dinners will remain the same--in Athens on the first Friday of every month, and in Grafton on the third Friday of the month. Wednesday lunches, however, rather than being held every week, will alternate with the dinners, so that in December, the first lunch will happen on December 7, and the second lunch on December 21st. The result of this is that a community meal will be held once a week--either a dinner or a lunch. Once again, this new schedule will start in December.

The last bit regarding meals--there will be no lunch on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

This past month was a quiet one during which we provided \$185 in gas cards for travel to medical appointments.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy November.

- Bill Toomey

A Howling Success!

A big thank you to Krista Gay and Tina White for all the effort they put in to making the Halloween party at the Community Center a howling success. Head count came in at 45, adults and children with our youngest attendee being a sweet little 2 week old baby girl.

Also a big thank you to all those that helped out on the food end of things and to our grill master, Matt Perry, for some lovely done hot dogs.

There are plans in the works for a winter gathering some time in February. We will keep you informed as the plans go forward.

Again, thank you to the all who came out and/or contributed to such a howling good time.

- Sandi Capponcelli

November Library Corner

Smiles and Gratitude

Many thanks to volunteer Pat Mack for retrieving a few of our library books that had gone on an adventure to the Townshend Library. We are so grateful to Grafton Elementary School teachers Miss Lizzie and Mrs. Stern for coordinating school visits to the library each week—it has been wonderful to work with the Grafton Elementary School students again.

Gingerbread House Extravaganza and Christmas in Grafton Festival

Announcing the return of Grafton event that filled the library with visitors, smiles, wonderful smells and heartwarming tableaus for our first extravaganza in two years.

Help us once again turn the library into a festive wonderland filled with sweet creations! Make a

gingerbread house and loan or donate it to the library for our Second (Annual) Gingerbread House Extravaganza. Confectionary creations will be displayed during library hours on November 28 through December 2 and then from 10am-4pm on Saturday, December 3, to coincide with the Christmas in Grafton Festival. During that time period there will be a Silent Auction of donated gingerbread houses. We invite you to bid on one (or more?) of the fabulous donated creations and take a gingerbread house home to enjoy during your holiday festivities.

Details about submission of gingerbread houses are available at the library, on our website and via our newsletter. Whether you construct a gingerbread masterpiece, visit the library to enjoy the houses on display, or bid on a donated house, we hope you will share in the return of a magical community event at the library—and we also hope you will mark your calendars for a full day in Grafton on December 3!

Come partake in the many fabulous offerings throughout the village and throughout the day (and into the evening) during the Christmas in Grafton Festival. Information and a full schedule for Christmas in Grafton is available online and will be posted in various locations in the village.

Programming Schedule

Spanish Group on Zoom, Tuesdays, 11:00am-noon, Hybrid, in person and on Zoom. Intermediate level.

Page Turners Book Group: We will take a break with this in-person program while our masking requirement is in place at the library.

Nature & Books Discussion Series: Wednesday, November 30 (The Bald Eagle, The Hawk's Way) and Wednesday, December 28 (The Book of Eels) 6-7:30 pm on Zoom

Wreath Workshop Early-Bird Discount November 10

Reservations are coming in for the Wreath-Decorating Workshops scheduled for November 17-19 in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main Street (Route 11 West) in Chester, VT. Those who register and pay by Thursday November 10 may take advantage of a \$5 discount on the price of \$50 per wreath...the same as the price for last year in spite of all costs having risen. Since the number of wreaths and workshop sessions is limited, it's important to reserve early to ensure a wreath and choice of workshop.

At the workshops, participants choose from an array of especially collected greens, berries, nuts and other natural materials, bows, and different embellishments

that they would like to add to their premade evergreen wreath. Wire, glue guns, and other supplied equipment will make the decorating easy and successful. Open to the public, the workshops will benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.



To be assured of a wreath and preferred session, participants **must preregister** early for one of eight different workshops: Thursday November 17, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM or 6:30-8 PM; Friday November 18, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM or 6:30-8 PM; and Saturday November 19, 9-10:30 AM or 1-2:30 PM. Each session will offer all the essentials to create a very personal, one-of-a-kind wreath. Men and women are welcome to come alone or register with a friend or group, and participants are encouraged to bring clippers and glue guns if they have them.

To take advantage of the \$5 early-bird discount on the fee of \$50 per wreath, register and pay by Thursday November 10. Checks should be made out to St. Luke's Church, designated in the memo line for the Wreath Workshop, and mailed to Lillian Willis at PO Box 318, Chester, VT 05143. For additional information, registration, or a flier you could mail to a friend, please contact Lillian Willis at lbwillisct@comcast.net or 802-875-1340. Or visit stlukeseiscopal.org

This is a great opportunity to support two good causes, start getting ready for the holidays, and have fun doing it! Please spread the word to family and friends.

- Lillian Willis

A Vermonter's Garden Notebook

November may seem to be a strange month to begin a garden column just as we are putting all our tools away. But throughout the years of The Athenian publication, Dennis Hunt & I have shared many weather-related facts here which obviously relates to gardening. So, in honor of the efforts Dennis has made on behalf of this little paper & the community as a whole, I decided to write a few monthly weather & garden notes dedicated to him.

In November there is still time to plant some garlic. It is very easy to grow, relatively pest-free, & you won't find any supermarket garlic that can compare to the flavor of your own homegrown. Find some hardneck garlic bulbs at a local



farmer's market or grower, & break them into individual cloves. Plant each 4 inches deep & 6 inches apart. They will start to grow roots over the winter, & next spring, you'll see the strap-like leaves pushing through the surface. Clip off the flower stalks (or "scapes") as they appear in summer so that all the plant energy goes into forming the bulbs. Dig the plants in mid-summer when the leaves have started to yellow, curing them under cover for several weeks until the tops are thoroughly dry. Then trim & store the bulbs in a cool, dry place. Make sure to save some for next year's planting!

*Reed Rd. weather notes for Sept. : High temp. 84.3 degrees / Low temp. 33.2 degrees / Total precip. 6.3 "
If you have questions or would like me to cover a specific Vermont garden topic, send an email with Garden Notebook in the subject line to theathenianvt@gmail.com.

- *Treah Pichette*

Thoughts to Ponder

Some quotable quotes on the season, gratitude and this strange thing we do with our clocks!

"Daylight saving time: Only the government would believe that you could cut a foot off the top of a blanket, sew it to the bottom, and have a longer blanket."
- *Anonymous*

"I don't mind going back to daylight saving time. With inflation, the hour will be the only thing I've saved all year."
— *Victor Borge*

"The turkey. The sweet potatoes. The stuffing. The pumpkin pie. Is there anything else we all can agree so vehemently about? I don't think so."

- *Nora Ephron*

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving."

- *W.T. Purkiser*

"No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds—November!"

- *Thomas Hood*

- *Selected by Sherry Maher*

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

Grafton Cares Lunch – Wednesdays at noon in the Chapel in Grafton. All welcome. No lunch Nov. 23rd.

NEXT ATHENS COMMUNITY SUPPER:

Friday, December 2, 2022, 6 PM in the church basement.

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: NOV 14 & 28

RECYCLE PICK-UP: NOV 7 & 21

Grafton Elementary School PTO



Thanksgiving Feast

Please join us on Thursday, November 10th, 2022 at the Grafton Elementary School at 1PM for a Community Thanksgiving Feast and Celebration of our Veterans. Everyone is welcome!