

The Athenian

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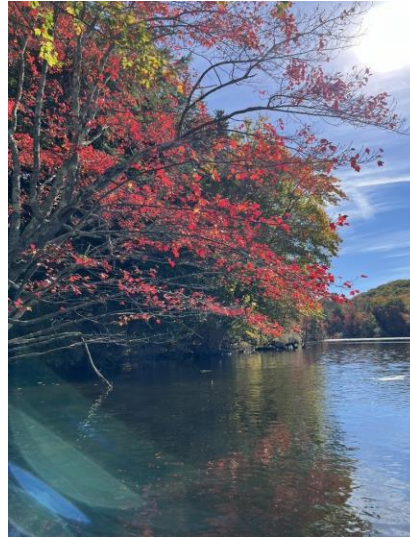
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NOVEMBER 2024

Fall Splendor all Around

As we look around at our unusually beautiful landscape, we are constantly reminded of things for which to be thankful. Colors with many different hues, sunlight through the trees and reflecting on water, vibrant contrasts of green fields against multi-colored hills. As we approach winter let us be reminded on dark cold days of these amazing fall days we have enjoyed. This has been a fall to remember with many warm and sunny days.

- *Ginger Maciejowski*



Select Board Meeting Tidbits

In addition to news in other pieces below, here are a few things from the October Select Board meetings including 2 special meetings that might be of interest:

- A special meeting was held on Oct. 1 to begin the process of seeking candidates for a sudden vacancy on the town road crew.
- Concerns about the need to deal with a culvert problem at the intersection of Brookline Rd., Mill Hill and Butson Circle was discussed. There was very dangerous ice build-up in the past, and this is a school bus stop, so there are significant safety concerns. In 2019 the Board had said in a regular meeting that the culvert would be replaced, but that has not happened. The Board will meet at the town garage on Oct. 20th to view the culvert.
- There was a discussion regarding insurance and the value of building contents and property in the open (such as the cemetery stonewall that was damaged last spring). The full payment was received for damages due to the school bus accident on Route 35.
- The new guardrails along the Randall property cost more than what was in the fund for guardrails. There is a question about a different kind of guardrail for the intersection of Brookline and 35 that wouldn't interfere with visibility.
- FACT TV will no longer film meetings for free. There was a discussion about getting an OWL instead, but in the end it was felt that the town would be better off having FACT TV continue filming

meetings, and a motion to pay for the service was approved.

- The Planning Commission is waiting to hear back from the Windham Regional Commission on the final draft of the Town Plan. There was a discussion about short term rental inquiries and how prevalent they have become in the region. The Planning Commission was tasked with looking into this issue to see how other towns are addressing it.

- On budget matters, replacing the 550 truck was suggested along with the Ober Hill bridge replacement and contracted services for highway

work. Ivor Stevens has indicated his availability to help out with the Town down an employee for the road crew, and a discussion followed about the policy as to when bids are required.

- A draft Sick/Safe Leave Policy was reviewed and discussed and approved.
- The scoping phase of the Community Center project with Jon Saccoccio is almost complete.
- The Board along with 5 members of the public gathered on Oct. 20th to view the culvert of concern. The minutes describe the culverts and intersections involved including a long culvert that may be undersized according to state regulations, and may be 45 years old. Much of the discussion revolved around ownership and responsibility for buying, replacing and maintaining the culvert. The Board will make a decision soon.

- *Sherry Maher*

Election Day - November 5th

The polls will be open at the Town Office from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm.

Please use the ballot you were sent in the mail to cast your vote, by either returning it in the absentee certificate envelope to the Town Office or bringing it in on Election Day. Voters who didn't receive a ballot in the mail, or have lost the ballot you received, will be able to sign a simple statement and receive a new ballot on the 5th.

- *Hannah Regier*

Notes from the School Board

The interview process for the Westminster/Grafton Elementary School art teacher is on going. There has been one interview. Unfortunately this candidate was unable to make the move to Vermont to meet the November time frame. At the writing of this article we have two interviews scheduled for October 25th. I'll keep you updated.

The SU was recently informed that its website is not handicap compliant. The web site needs to be formatted so all persons are able to access it with the special tools that are available to them. Ricky, the SU's IT Director, has been tasked to address this issue. He has noted that this will require new software, and then training for all teachers and staff who post items to the web site, so the new standards for accessibility will be achieved. The timeline for achieving these goals has been set and is in motion.

The SU is applying for a "21st Century" grant. If successful, this money will be used to pay for after school and summer school programming. Since COVID these programs have been limited due to the expense of them and the lack of grant money availability. We are in hopes that more access to both programs will become available in the near future.

The next board meetings are November 6 a special SU meeting regarding Kindergarten at 6:00 PM; November 14 the AthGraf board meeting at 6:00 PM; and November 20 the SU board meeting at 6:00 PM.



- Lynn Morgan

Grafton Cares News

Can it be that October has passed so quickly? Perhaps it's because we are breathless to see what November will bring. At any rate, we've been busy, and here's some of what we've provided: Meals on Wheels to 9 customers, \$125 in gas cards for medical appointments, 3 rides to medical appointments, 1 sunshine basket, and 3 shawls from our knitters. Concerning medical equipment, 2 wheelchairs, 2 shower seats, and 1 commode were returned to us.

The community meal program for November is:

Friday, Nov. 1, dinner at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 6, lunch at noon

Friday, Nov. 15, dinner at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 20, lunch at noon

All meals take place in the Chapel in Grafton. They are open to everyone and free of charge. Donations are accepted. If you have questions, call Kate Bova at 869-1527, or Bill Toomey at 843-2397. - Bill Toomey

Representative Chase to Athens Voters

During my term in the State Legislature representing the residents of the towns of Athens, Chester, Grafton and Windham, I have enjoyed spending time in Athens getting to better know you and your concerns.

I'd like to highlight some of our accomplishments from this past legislative session. Our State now has a suicide prevention law that requires a 3 day waiting period to buy a gun, which reportedly has already saved lives. A child care bill was passed that will have far reaching returns on investments and new employment opportunities for businesses and families alike. Vermont's workforce will be strengthened with funds allocated to educate and train

individuals in such employment areas as education, climate industry, technology, mental health, and nursing by providing forgivable loan programs, scholarships and certificate programs.

The outcome of this election will have a profound impact on us all. I hope to return to Montpelier as the Legislature reviews the manner of funding and administering our public school system, addresses the impact of climate change throughout our State and continues to provide essential services at a reasonable cost and in an efficient manner. - Heather Chase

News from Grace Cottage

Grace Cottage is Here to Stay!

Despite the alarmist and inaccurate recommendations of a widely-criticized report issued by Vermont's Green Mountain Care Board's consulting firm (Oliver Wyman), the CEO of Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital (GCFHH) wants you to know that they are busier than ever, caring for a record number of patients in our community, for a wide variety of healthcare needs. GCFHH knows that this area needs and deserves to have care close to home and that this report has the potential to cause harm to patients and to their community. Grace Cottage has been here for the past 75 years and will continue to be here for the long term. You can read more from CEO Olivia Sweetnam at <https://gracecottage.org/news/>.

Flu Vaccine Clinic Saturday, Nov. 2

Grace Cottage will host a flu vaccine clinic, on Saturday, November 2, from 9 a.m. until noon, at Grace Cottage Family Health, 185 Grafton Rd., Townshend, VT.

You do not need to be an established patient at Grace Cottage to get a flu shot at these clinics. Pre-registration is recommended (call 802-365-4331); walk-ins will be

accommodated as space permits. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Most insurance covers flu shots; please bring an ID and insurance card with you. If you are not insured, payment for your flu shot is expected at the time of service.

Grace Cottage will collect donations for the Townshend Food Shelf during the clinic. If you wish to support the Food Shelf in this way, you can bring a non-perishable food item to the clinic.

Giving Tuesday at Grace Cottage

After Black Friday and Cyber Monday comes Giving Tuesday, a worldwide day of philanthropy during the season of gratitude. This year, Giving Tuesday falls on December 3.

Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital is asking for Giving Tuesday donations for the purchase of two pieces of equipment for their newly renovated Outpatient Rehab clinic building: a Biodex Gait Trainer and NxSTEP Unweighing System. This state-of-the-art equipment is designed to help patients return to optimal health faster.

For more information about this or other Grace Cottage news and services, visit gracecottage.org or call 802-365-4331.

- Alysabeth Simon

From the GES PTO

A huge THANK YOU to everyone that supported the GES PTO recently at the Fireman's sale! Whether you bought something to donate for the sale, baked or made a crockpot dish or purchased items at the sale, we TRULY appreciate you! Thank you to Kevin Neathawk who dropped off an enormous amount of baked goods and cakes! He really went above and beyond and we are truly thankful! Thank you to all the parents and to the staff members from the school for the hard work under the tents and to those who played a part in planning!

Thank you to Grafton Fire and Rescue for allowing us to do the food booth every year. We truly appreciate you!

The total in the donation jars and cash box at the end of the day was \$2,637.44! THANK YOU to all who showed up and your support is VERY APPRECIATED!

This fundraiser will fulfill the PTOs contribution towards Wunderle's Big Top Adventures again this year for the students!

Keep your eyes out for the invitation to the final performance in November!

The fall season wouldn't be complete without our community feast sponsored by the GES PTO and all of YOU!

Please join us for the 2024 Community Thanksgiving feast. November 25th at 12pm in the Grafton elementary school gymnasium.

If you are interested in donating items, cooking turkeys or volunteering your time, please keep an eye on

our Facebook page and the weekly newsletter from GES! We look forward to another amazing feast with our community.

- Krystal Johnson

Geology of Eastern Windham County, VT with Roger Haydock

On Friday, November 15 at 7 PM, join Bull Creek Common Lands and event co-host The Grafton Nature Museum for a fun and informative presentation focusing on the fascinating geology of this corner of Southern Vermont. Longtime self-taught geologist, Roger Haydock, will present a 1-hour slideshow of the geologic history of eastern Windham County. This presentation will cover the last 500 million years of geologic history. From volcanoes to land collisions, ice ages to tundra, and even dinosaur footprints in nearby counties. This presentation welcomes all who are curious. No geology knowledge required!

Presenter Roger Haydock is a longtime self-taught naturalist, geologist, and recreational trail-builder. Presently retired, he worked for forty years in television and documentary filmmaking.

This event will be held at the Athens Community Center from 7PM to 8:30PM.

Admission is by donation - you can register here: <https://tnm.regfox.com/geology-of-eastern-windham-county-vt>

- Hannah Regier

November Library Corner

Smiles and Gratitude:

This is a great time of the year to express how grateful we are for all our hard-working volunteers: Donna Alexander, Maryanne Donald, Ellen Goldstein, Deanna MacEachern and Pat Mack. Their service is invaluable to the library. We also are so grateful for the on-going kindness of our community. New book donations from Wendy Martin and Tania Evans for our collection and book sale room, program set-up assistance from Austin Powers, Chris Wallace, Nelson Cooley, and many more, gifts such as a decorative hooked rug house from Laura Lester, fall leaf clean-up from the Windham Foundation, and picnic table weather proofing by neighbor Jacq are all recent examples of gifts and support that we appreciate very much. Finally, hats off to Sarah Yarosevich, our fantastic gardener. Because of porch re-construction this summer, not only did she dig up and relocate the entire library garden and then put it all back—she made time in her busy schedule to run a pop-up sale here at the library, with some of the plants that needed to be divided. Her sale garnered \$165 dollars to be used for future garden upkeep. Thank you to all who supported the plant sale and huge thanks to Sarah for her amazing grace and work.

What's Happening @ the Library

The renovation of the porch is complete and we thank you all for your patience and positive feedback about the work. We also replaced the upstairs emergency door and finished several insulation projects in the attics—furthering the goal of making the library more energy efficient. We hope you will enjoy a safer, renovated porch, as well as a cozier library building, well into the future.

The library hosted a concert in September at the GES with musician Marcos Levy, using both library funds and a summer performer grant. This infectious event had the students singing along and even dancing—as Marcos led K-6 in a few contra dances to end the session. We've brought Marcos back to the school for several years now and he has a wonderful rapport with the students. A few graduating 6th graders even asked for autographs!

This autumn, look to the library for lots of new books on the shelves, the return of the Nature & Books Discussion Group on Zoom and the Gingerbread House Extravaganza during Christmas in Grafton!
- Michelle Dufort

Chester Wreath Workshop Early Bird Discount

Reserve your place now for the Wreath-Decorating Workshops scheduled for November 21-23 in Willard Hall at St. Luke's Church, 313 Main Street (Route 11 West) in Chester, VT. Those who register and pay by Friday November 16 may take advantage of a \$5 discount on the price of \$55 per wreath. Since the number of wreaths and workshop sessions is limited, participants must register early to ensure both a wreath and choice of workshop.

To take advantage of the \$5 early-bird discount on the fee of \$55 per wreath, register and pay by Saturday November 16. 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 email to a friend, please contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or lbwillisct@comcast.net. The workshops will benefit both the church and the Chester Conservation Committee's youth environmental-camp scholarships.

- Lillian Willis

Senior Solutions - Annual Meeting

Join us as our staff, volunteers, and the older adults we serve, gather to share and reflect on the past year on December 4, 2024. There will be a Coffee Hour from

4:00pm – 4:30pm with the Annual Meeting from 4:30pm – 6:00pm.

The Featured Speaker will be Dr. Jill Bowen, Commissioner, Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL). She will speak about DAIL's mission: Make Vermont the best state in which to grow old or to live with a disability - with dignity, respect and independence.

RSVP by email to kgolden@seniorsolutionsvt.org or call 802.731.9468.
- Kevin Golden

Reed Road Weather Report for October

October delivered us a dry and warm month. We had our first frost on the 15th with the first few snowflakes in the last week (no accumulation). Then on the last day, here comes record warmth again! The sparse rainfall continued the late summer trend, and in looking back over the

growing seasons of 2020 to 2024, I saw that total precipitation alternated each year between higher than normal and lower than normal. The low years were in the 20+ inches, the high years in the 40+ inches.

High temp.: 76.1 degrees

Low temp.: 26.7 degrees

Total rainfall: 2.6"

- Treah Pichette

Thoughts to Ponder

"Fear not November's challenge bold. We've books and friends, and hearths that never can grow cold. These make amends"
Unknown

"Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to what we already have". *Unknown*

"How beautifully leaves grow old. How full of light and color are their last days."
John Burroughs

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Select Board Meetings: 3rd Thursday 7:00 PM

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

Planning Commission: 1st Tuesday 10:30 AM

Meeting House Committee: 2nd Monday 10:00 AM

School Board: 2nd Thursdays 6:00 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: NOV 4 & 18

RECYCLE PICK-UP: NOV 11 & 25



Charles Perham October 1873

Transcribed by James Trimble

1. Have been to Newfane to cattle fair alone. Paid for admission .25 for Dinner .50 for whey .70.
2. Husked corn in the forenoon. In the afternoon went to Saxtons River. Sent a post card to Henry Allen about the Smith heifer.
3. Have been digging potatoes today. Jim Smith to work here today. Put in the cellar 13 bushels this makes 31 bushels of potatoes in the cellar total. Husked some corn.
4. Have husked a little today. Mended some fence.
5. Went down to Jim Eagers a little while this morn. Mr. Whitney got my mare. Sent by him post card to Josephas Dunham for Taxes and Record and Farmer Brattleboro. (a newspaper)
6. Mr. Curtis and Henry Fletcher here after his cattle. Helped them get them. Husked corn the rest of the day.
7. Husked corn all day a very rainy day.
8. Finished cutting up the corn and dug potatoes. Jim Smith workers here today. Mother has been down to T.H. Ball to the ladies sociable. Elizabeth (his wife) taken sick tonight. Went to get Mrs. Whitney and sent Mr. Whitney after the doctor.
9. Elizabeth has been sick all day until 8 o'clock when was born a little girl for us. Dr. Chapin here most all day. Mrs. Whitney and Mrs. Edwards here. Sent letters to Mrs. Carista Reed Grafton. Paid Dr. Chapin part pay \$2.00.
10. Have brought in corn and carried down into cellar 10 bushels of potatoes. This makes 41 bushels in the cellar besides little ones. Went and got Ella Edwards this morn. Helped Jim Eager with his pig.
11. Have thrashed out the beans and got in corn today and three bushels of potatoes makes it 44. Mr. Allen from Walpole here. Jim Smith works here part of the day. Helped Mr. Cobb get his cattle.
12. Have been down to Elisha Edwards and had him cut my hair.
13. Dug potatoes today. Jim Smith works part of the day.
14. Have dug some potatoes. Picked up what was dug yesterday and have now got in the cellar 64 bushels.
15. Picked apples in the forenoon over in the Ball lot. Brought in corn.
16. Have been digging potatoes and getting in corn. Dug 22 bushels this make 86 bushels of potatoes in the cellar besides the little ones. Jim Smith works here today. Uncle James Rawson and wife here from ----- New Hampshire.
17. Have been up in the pasture and over to the Stickney place with Uncle James. They went away after dinner. Picked apples in the afternoon. Elizabeth not so well today.
18. Have been over to the Ball lot and picked the rest of the apples. In the afternoon went down to the ox pasture and got a few. In the evening husked corn.
19. Went and carried Ella home and went to see Eliza. In the evening wrote to Ingalls Shattuck.
20. Husked corn all day a very rainy day.
21. Husked and brought in corn today. George Eager here after saw. Charlie Wyman here to settle. Did settle with him and paid him all up. Mr. Barnes here and sold him the Smith heifer for \$28.00. He offered for the Phebe cow \$80.00.
22. Have finished digging potatoes today. Put in cellar 13 making 99 bushels and there is a few more to dry. Jim Smith works here today.
23. Went down to the mill with two logs. Went to invite some here to a Husking this evening. In the evening there was John Oaks, O.R. Edwards, Elisha Edwards and wife, George Hudson, Ralph Whitney and Jim Smith here.
24. Carried in the corn there was 30 baskets. Carried Ella Edwards home and paid her \$4.00. Mr. Barnes came after the heifer this morn. In the afternoon went up on the hill twice.
25. In the forenoon went down to the mill with 2 logs. Went on the hill and got one big log. In the afternoon went over to see my sheep and invite the Merrills over to the Husking. Went down to the mill. In the evening Lennia and Wallace, Jim Eager, Jim Smith, and Mr. Whitney here to a husking.
- 26-27. To home all day. Jim Eager and wife here. Turned the cows into the lower mowing behind the barn. A very pleasant day. Have put up the husk and brought in the corn on the barn floor. Carried up the corn husked Saturday evening.
28. Have been getting down logs to the mill. In the evening Frank Oak came to Husk. Drawed home two loads from the mill.
29. Have been up the hill twice and down to the mill once. In the afternoon went over to Henry Twitchell after a sheep but did not find her.
30. In the forenoon fixed up the barn. In the afternoon went down to Cambridgeport to the auction. Elizabeth sent letter to Carista Grafton.
31. Mr. Wright came here after my sheep. Helped him get them down to Mrs. Bennetts.