Cuba’s People, Birds, and Landscape
Forge Memories of a Lifetime
Chris Rimmer

An inconspicuous and little-known migratory songbird drew me to Cuba three winters ago. The island’s people and landscape captured me, and have kept me coming back.

Now, don’t get me wrong. Cuba’s birds – both resident and migrant – and the places they live are a huge draw for me. They’ve led me to the island’s highest peak at 6,476 feet elevation, and taken me to remote cloud forests where humans had probably never tread. But, my most enduring memories invariably involve my local colleagues, now my friends.

We’ve shared the thrill of discoveries; the humor needed for a fifth consecutive dinner of instant mashed

Heroes Honored
Vital Communities founders were honored at the Heroes & Leaders event

Every spring, Leadership Upper Valley, a program of Vital Communities, hosts its annual Heroes & Leaders Celebration to recognize individuals who make extraordinary contributions to the Upper Valley. This year’s 25th-anniversary event on May 30 honored 12 leaders who add immeasurably to the vitality of the region, including several inspiring neighbors from right here in Norwich.

Penny McConnel and Liza Bernard
Adapted from remarks by Allan Reetz of the Hanover Co-op Food Stores

If there were a book about The Norwich Bookstore and its founders and co-owners, Liza Bernard and Penny McConnel, it would impart lasting lessons of business and community. The dust jacket and inside pages would be lined with praise from organizational leaders highlighting how, for instance, Penny

Successes & Challenges:
Herbert Durfee, Norwich Town Manager
Frank Orlowski

With now two years into his position as Norwich town manager, Herb Durfee is able to look back at his time in Norwich and highlight the successful operations, as well as assess the future challenges for the town.

Durfee came to Norwich in 2017, after serving as town manager in Fair Haven, Vermont. In comparing the two towns, Durfee finds his tasks as town manager are quite similar. “I don’t think my current position with Norwich differs from my previous manager position with Fair Haven,” Durfee says. “Though constituent characteristics are different, and day-to-day administrative tasks are somewhat different, the positions both require working with community individuals and regional partners to accomplish what is best for each community.”

One unusual challenge Durfee faced in his two years in Norwich was the dramatic turnover involving the department heads in the town. Six departments have new

Continued on page 24
Continued on page 20

Continued on page 10
NORWICH WOMEN’S CLUB NEWS

Spring-Summer 2018

- June 12, 11-1pm
  Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon
  The Partridge House
- June 17, 5-7pm
  Summer Concert on the Green
  Brian Cook Band
- July 1
  Community Project Grants
  become available
- July 15, 5-7pm
  Summer Concert on the Green
  John Lackard Blues Band
- August 19, 5-7pm
  Summer Concert on the Green
  The Hobos
- August 27, 10-11am
  Coffee and Conversation
  Norwich Inn

Free!

Summer Concerts
On the Green

SUNDAYS at 5pm

June 23 • Michele Fay Band
July 14 • Rusty Berrings Brass Band
Aug 18 • The Flames

Visit norwichwomensclub.org

We’d be delighted to meet you. Please call Gretchen Stoddard at (802) 280-1910 or visit us at ValleyTerrace.net.

“We are so happy Mom is thriving again.”

“As Mom aged, we thought it best if she stayed in her house, but, we were wrong. Even with hours of expensive home care, Mom wasn't thriving. She needed more. She especially needed more socialization—not isolation. And more affordable and reliable access to care when she needed it. So she made the move to Valley Terrace. She truly loves her elegant new home! Life is more complete in a community with lots of friends and activities, chef-prepared meals, daily care, medication management, and even transportation to appointments and outings. I visit her often, so I know Mom is happier and more relaxed now…and I am too. We only wish she’d moved sooner.”

NORWICH WOMEN’S CLUB

Valley Terrace
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(802) 280-1910
Physical location: Wilder, VT near Norwich

Wheelock Terrace
32 Buck Road | Hanover, NH 03755
(603) 643-7290

Woodstock Terrace
456 Woodstock Road | Woodstock, VT 05091
(802) 457-2228
Looking for a new way to get out and enjoy the Upper Valley this summer? Check out Valley Quest – more than 170 community-developed treasure hunts that celebrate the natural and cultural history of our region. Explore, learn, and have fun while you discover the Upper Valley anew!

Each year, Vital Communities – the nonprofit that runs Valley Quest – highlights a specific aspect of the region through its annual Super Quest. This year’s Super Quest celebrates Vital Communities’ 25th anniversary with the Top 25 Valley Quests – including the Gile Mountain Quest in Norwich. Each one written with care and charm, they deliver on beautiful locations, fascinating historical stories, and explorations into the ecology of our region.

Ready to get started?
1. Register your team and download your Super Quest booklet at vitalcommunities.org/superquest
2. Complete five of the Top 25 Quests, all available at vitalcommunities.org/quests
3. When you find the Quest treasure boxes, print their hand-carved stamps in your booklet
4. Submit your completed stamp sheet by November 1 to receive your commemorative patch and enter to win the grand prize! Either:
   • Like Vital Communities on Facebook or Instagram, then post a photo of your stamp sheet and tag @vitalcommunities, or
   • Mail or bring your stamp sheet to the Vital Communities office at 195 N. Main Street in White River Junction

Explore the Upper Valley and Celebrate Vital Communities’ 25th anniversary with these 25 adventures: beautiful places, local lore, and discovery await!

**Top 25 Valley Quests**
1. Herricks Cove Quest, Rockingham, VT
2. The Strafford Watershed Quest, Strafford, VT
3. Gile Mountain Quest, Norwich, VT
4. The Forest Quest, Woodstock, VT
5. Old City Falls Quest, Strafford, VT
6. Olcott Falls Quest, Wilder, VT
7. Wright’s Mountain Quest, Bradford, VT
8. Trees of Hanover Quest, Hanover, NH
9. Sally’s Salamander Meander, Hartford, VT
10. Chaffee Sanctuary Quest, Lyme, NH
11. Thetford Center Village Quest West, Thetford, VT
12. Quest for the Kestrel, Windsor, VT
13. 1764 – The Old King’s Highway Quest, Lebanon, NH
14. Crea Natural Communities Quest, Cornish, NH
15. Haverhill Corner Quest, Haverhill, NH
16. The Floodplain Quest, Haverhill, NH
17. The Fort at #4’s Past and Present, Charlestown, NH
18. Monadnock Mills Quest, Claremont, NH
19. Esther Currier Quest, Elkins, NH
20. Cornish Flat Quest, Cornish, NH
21. Pinnacle Hill Quest, Lyme, NH
22. Sargent Hayes Quest, New London, NH
23. The Quest for the Lonesome Pine, Thetford, VT
24. Bill Hill Quest, Thetford, VT
25. The Windsor Architecture Quest, Windsor, VT

Pick one and head off on a new adventure today!
As stewards of the Upper Valley, please leave the land better than you found it and pack out any trash you find. Happy Questing!

For 25 years, Vital Communities has brought people together to cultivate the civic, environmental, and economic vitality of the Upper Valley. Learn more at vitalcommunities.org.

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This is a recently completed extensive remodeling renovation project in Hanover which nearly doubled the square footage. G.R. Porter originally constructed the oak-post-and-beam home in 1978. The builders worked with Haynes and Garthwaite Architects in Norwich on the project.

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Drilling down to the Greater Good

The more time I spend producing these publications, the easier it is to see that what really, truly matters in life is that sweet spot where everyone benefits. I like to call that spot the Greater Good.

When humans are able to meet each other at that place where Greater Good is paramount, we can’t help but agree. Most people don’t want their children or loved ones killed by guns; most people don’t want planet Earth to ‘self-destroy; most people want to work and contribute. Each of these ‘themes,’ when discussed, can elicit very different emotions from individuals depending on a variety of factors. However, if and when people are willing to dig deep and find the underlying motivation behind the strong emotions, people’s humanity shows up, and that is the unifying factor. The opinions and beliefs are the paths but the foundational value is usually the same.

Just reading the cover stories inspires me to remember my Greater Good purpose of bringing positive and hopefully uplifting content to and about members of this community. Read Chris Rimmer’s story about what takes him back into the cloud forest of Cuba to protect songbirds and their habitats alongside his Cuban counterparts. And similarly, learn about the steps we can take to protect the world’s insect populations by reading the Norwich Conservation Society’s article on page 12. There is nothing more relevant to the Greater Good than seeing to it that Mother Earth and all of her creatures are protected and honored.

While zooming in the lens a bit, the Heroes & Leaders from Norwich honored at the Vital Communities event last month help us all see that when we engage in work that serves the Greater Good, the ripple effect comes into play. Whether bringing the world onto some young person’s computer through high-speed internet, or opening up a different view of the world through fictional novels, Norwich’s heroes do that and more.

As I did, read this issue and be proud to be part of this community so focused on the Greater Good and remind each other that we all want the same things!

~ Jen
To some, Unitarian Universalism may be a grammatical duo you don’t hear every day. But, for Reverend Jan Hutslar and her congregation of 115 members in Norwich, Unitarian Universalism means community, family, dignity, kindness, and justice for all – no matter who you may be. If you’re driving by the UU Church on Route 5, you may catch out of the corner of your eye the various banners hanging with pride in their windows. These signs support movements such as Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ Pride, and just plain LOVE. Reverend Jan and the members of her congregation prioritize community needs and the fact that all people deserve a community regardless of faith... or even in the absence of faith.

One of the pivotal connectors of a Unitarian Universalist Church is the diversity in theological belief, opinion, circumstance, and ideas. Everyone who is a part of the congregation is encouraged to have their own thoughts – which is something that cannot be said for all religious practices, and makes the UU church stand out from the rest. Difference in opinion is celebrated and often discussed between everyone in the congregation in search of community-based growth. Rev. Jan explains that when there is a disagreement, question, or concern regarding what the church or its people may be going through, or a movement they may be supporting, they make conversation a priority. They ask questions regarding the wellbeing of our future, the earth, the people, and everything in-between. They believe it is important to seek out one’s own faith and spirituality in constructive ways, such as in nature or music and positive conversation.

Besides communication and empathy, what binds Unitarian Universalists together as an association nationally are seven ‘guidelines.’ They believe in the freedom of religious expression, in the tolerance of religious ideas, in the authority of reason and conscience in the never-ending search for truth, in the unity of experience, in the worth and dignity of each human being, and in the ethical application of religion. Rev. Jan is this congregation’s sole minister, and she states that everyone – despite their personal theological and political ideas – is open to learning and educating themselves to better the community and future generations. Everyone wants to learn, and even those who may not necessarily be interested in changing their own opinion, listen. Unitarian Universalists center their faith on equality and acceptance.

The UU Church and its generous congregation are proud supporters of local businesses and community organizations in Norwich. The Family Place – which sits directly across from the UU site on US Route 5 – recently held an event at the church venue to raise money for local families. By utilizing their space seven days a week, the UU facility and its services have become beacons of support for individuals and organizations alike. For example, the UU Church supports community wellbeing by offering workshops, discussions, book clubs, and opportunities for families in crisis. LGBTQ members are celebrated and encouraged to share their experiences, with resources available to them all week long, and especially on Sunday mornings at 10am. Additionally, through the connection to the church, a family of four awaiting asylum was able to find resources like food, education, and safe housing.

The organization is always seeking new members. Rev. Jan shares that in the last year, the church gained 12 new members, and each one became a new addition to the family and was welcomed with open arms. She describes the UU church as a safe haven for all.

It is because of people like Reverend Jan Hutslar and the congregation of The Unitarian Universalist Church in Norwich, that anyone – no matter who they are – can feel safe in a place of prayer and worship. By encouraging self-reflection through time in nature, through poetry and music, and other universally human endeavors, individuals may rejoice in who they are as a unique human while feeling the safety and security of belonging to an accepting congregation.

Indeed, there is goodness in this beloved Norwich Community!
Madysen Carter, Deli Manager
Dan & Whits General Store

What’s your favorite hangout spot in Norwich?
A bench in Norwich

What do you want to be when you grow up?
I want to be a historian

What do you want to be when you grow up?
I want to eat healthier

What do you want to be when you grow up?
I look forward to every new day.

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Which has been your favorite age/phase of life?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Siberian Tigers

Our Earth, which would it be?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
If you could save or protect one animal, plant or part of

What do you want to be when you grow up?
“Just keep swimming.”

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What is your motto in life?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Mary Poppins

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What is your favorite movie from childhood?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What’s a favorite recent book you’ve read?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What weird food combinations do you really enjoy?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What weird food combinations do you really enjoy?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What is your favorite hangout spot in Norwich?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What’s the best way to start the day?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What’s the best way to start the day?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What was cool when you were younger, but not now?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What’s a favorite recent book you’ve read?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What weird food combinations do you really enjoy?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What’s your ideal way to spend a weekend in Norwich?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
If you could only eat at one local restaurant and one

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What’s the best way to start the day?

What do you want to be when you grow up?
What charity or local organization do you donate your

What do you want to be when you grow up?
If I could only eat at one local restaurant and one

What do you want to be when you grow up?
Getting a lot of art projects done, bringing my boys

What do you want to be when you grow up?
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What do you want to be when you grow up?
What’s the best way to start the day?

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LIFE AT 531 FEET

Mark Lilienthal

When do you feel like you are home? Not in a day-to-day manner. Rather when you are returning from time away.

Norwich people travel a lot. Just in my children's classrooms, parents and families are zooming off... To Manhattan or Manchester or Bermuda for work. To upstate New York or South Newfane or the North Shore to visit family. To California and Florida to escape winter. When vacations arrive, we scatter to the four corners of the earth, from Lima and Moscow to Nairobi, Osaka, and Provence. We are excellent daytrippers (Montpelier is worth a gander, as is Portsmouth) and accomplished decampers to camp, whether on Lake Fairlee, Goose Pond, or a shelter on the Long Trail.

I wonder if we go away from here with such regularity just to pop the utopian bubble we live in, to push ourselves into a zone of discomfort that – frankly – we don’t experience too frequently. After all, when you are known by the town clerk, postal workers, various merchants, elected officials, public works team, the people who teach your children and grandchildren... and everyone seems to greet you with a smile, it is hard to complain too much around here.

Of course, I know why we go away. We go to seek out adventure, to test our world-view and see how it matches up with other people's. We yearn to taste new ingredients, hear new languages, see some of the oldest wonders of the world with our new eyes. We can never slake our thirst for the incredible.

As exciting as all that travel is, there is also a certain comfort – is there such a thing as subdued exhilaration? – when we arrive back home. My hunch is that Norwich residents feel ‘home’ at many different moments in their return journeys. Some people – perhaps some who write a column for this publication – honk their horn wildly when they cross into Vermont on I-91 North at the Massachusetts border. Or on I-89 North after crossing the Connecticut River. Or when they are driving from Saratoga Springs and cross into Vermont on Route 4 in Fair Haven.

There are many other moments when things start to feel like home. Who hasn’t arrived at the traffic light on the exit ramp by the Montshire – late at night, exhausted at the end of a long drive home from Logan, which followed a busy week of travel to North Carolina, Yosemite, or Big Sky – and felt the stress of bad weather, pitch-black driving melt away, knowing that you have made it home? Who hasn’t felt that swell of pride when walking into Dan & Whit’s and finding it mercifully unchanged since you last saw it one day, one week, or one month ago? Even though you are not yet in your house, don’t you feel at home the moment a friend or neighbor or acquaintance waves at you on Main Street? Do you feel a sense of relief the instant your tires are across Ledyard Bridge, safely away from the Live Free or Diers?

I grew up in Norwich. My memory is flooded by little signs of home. The water fountain at Huntley Meadow whispers stories to me, a voice that made my parents laugh. Ghosts of departed homeowners gather around their old dwellings. They remind me of moments hilarious and devastating, inspirational and disappointing. At those same houses, my kids are making their own memories. They laugh where I trembled, they cry where I rejoiced. It is sometimes surreal, sometimes awkward, always wonderful.

My wager is that you have many indelible images in your head from Norwich as well. Taken together, they serve as a reminder that, no matter where the world takes any of us on our journey, there will always be parts of this small, inconsequential, picturesque village in the middle of nowhere that welcomed us home. Aren’t we fortunate.
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directors since Durfee began his tenure. (Roberta Robinson, head of the Finance Office, retires from her position this June 30th). Durfee points to the transition from the experienced staff to the new department heads “without (enduring) too many hiccups,” as a definite administrative achievement.

Durfee adds that the previous department heads had combined over 150 years of experience. “In my 35-plus years of public service in Vermont, I’m not aware of any other leader that has witnessed such change in less than two years.”

Though the changes resulting from the departure of the heads of the town departments was consequential, Durfee finds the transition proved smooth and positive. “Despite the overwhelming change, the new department heads are awesome,” he says. “They all have amazing backgrounds, they’re all committed to Norwich.”

Transparency is a word Durfee uses in describing his successes thus far in office, and when discussing the challenges ahead. He’s worked hard to encourage transparency and communication between his office and the Selectboard, and finds continuing that effort to be a future goal. “The continuum of collaboration with the board on transparency, communication, policy update... is important,” Durfee says.

Effective public works projects are important to residents of any community. Durfee cites last July’s devastating storm as an important and significant occurrence during his tenure. “The July 1 storm wreaked havoc on the Town’s public highway infrastructure.”

He commends the town’s response to the storm, and looks to “becoming more resilient to more intense storm events (in the future).” This summer, more work continues as a result of that storm. “One of the last repair projects from the July storm event will most likely occur in July (2019),” he says. That project is the culvert replacement on Needham Road, likely resulting in the closing of both lanes of the roadway for about a month. Other upcoming public works projects Durfee says residents should be aware of include installation of an EV charging station at the Huntley Meadow parking area, installation of flashing crosswalk signals downtown, and the paving of a portion of Union Village Road.

Overall, Herb Durfee finds being a part of Norwich’s progress very fulfilling. “(I enjoy) serving as a small cog in the successes that Norwich continues to attain related to community involvement, engagement, and participation.”
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Where Have All the Insects Gone?

Michael McCarthy in his book Moth Snowstorm remembers evening drives when moths filled the headlights like snowflakes in a blizzard. Memories of summer always include sounds of insect life, children happily chasing butterflies and catching lightning bugs.

Insects have undergone a severe, largely unnoticed decline over at least three decades. Scientists have now documented the decline and studied its causes. A 2017 study in Germany, revealed a shocking 76% decline in insect biomass in nature preserves. Fewer insects are present, and their ranges are restricted. A review study published this month in Biological Conservation reports that 40% of insect species worldwide are threatened with extinction. Butterflies (Lepidoptera), wasps and bees (Hymenoptera), and dung beetles (Coleoptera) are most affected. The reasons for the decline include habitat loss to intensive agriculture and urbanization, pesticides, fungicides and fertilizers; invasive species; and climate change. A few common and generalist species are increasing in number, occupying vacant ecological niches, but they are unlikely to be adequate substitutes.

Three broad categories of insects – decomposers, carnivores, and herbivores – support life on earth. Decomposers feed on dead or rotten plants, animals, and excrement clearing waste, recycling nutrients, and building humus. Carnivores prey on or parasitize other animals. We rely on insect carnivores for integrated pest management. Herbivores include pollinators and leaf-eating insects. Pollinators are necessary for plant regeneration, including many foods we eat. Leaf-eating insects and the insects that prey on them are essential diets for a wide range of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Indeed, our nesting birds feed leaf-eating insects to their young in spring when no seeds are available. In addition to documented decreases in animal life because of fewer insects, scientists anticipate further cascading effects on animal populations. A mass extinction of insects will result in a mass extinction of animals and affect human populations, too.

What can we do to stop the insect decline?

We can increase insect habitat by:

a. **Planting native species.** While some generalist pollinators will visit non-native plants, leaf-eating insects and specialist pollinators rely often exclusively on plants they evolved with. Without those native plants, they starve. Plant many different species in a succession of bloom times from early spring to late fall. Think shrubs and trees, not just flowers. Find some of the best native plants by visiting Doug Tallamy’s website Bringing Nature Home or the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Look for our insect display coming soon to the Norwich Post Office.

b. **Do not spray with herbicides, fungicides, or pesticides,** especially neonicotinoids, which are highly toxic to bees. Use the Xerces Society website to print out the names of neonicotinoids so you can avoid them. Insist on plants and seeds that are neonicotinoid-free. Use horticultural oils if you have to spray.

c. **Leave bare ground.** Many native solitary bees are ground-nesting and require bare soil. These are not yellow jackets. They do not sting.

d. **Reduce your lawn and increase edge habitat.** Raise your lawn mower as high as possible, mow infrequently, and leave clippings on the lawn. Leave as much ‘natural’ edge as possible.

e. **Reduce deer overbrowse** by using repellents such as Liquid Fence, fencing, or support measures to reduce local deer populations to sustainable levels.

Support agricultural practices that benefit insects. Buy organic as much as possible. Buy from farms that use regenerative and pollinator-friendly farming practices.

Remove invasive species and avoid planting non-natives as much as possible.

Adopt practices and support policies and procedures that reduce climate change and pollution. Although insects in New England are somewhat less susceptible to climate change than those in the tropics, they are under stress from many sources. Pollution from sewer plants and farming have serious effects on insects, especially aquatic insects.

Participate in citizen science projects involving insects. Vermont Center for Ecostudies is starting a bumblebee surveying project that should include our area by 2020. You can contribute to iNaturalist Vermont and eButterfly. Details are at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies website.
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Much has been written about Alden Partridge, who established Norwich University (first known as the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy) on the town green in 1819. He was a great leader and an innovative educator. But what was life like for the teenage scholars attending the University who left their homes hundreds of miles away and sought an education in rural Vermont? Where did they live? What did they study? What did they think of Norwich?

Fortunately, many of the early school catalogs, student letters, and diaries have survived to this day, and from them, it's not difficult to sketch out the daily life of the students while they studied in Norwich nearly 200 years ago.

"Here I am in the region of snow drifts once more!" Edward Stanley Abbot wrote his mother in late March of 1862 soon after he arrived to begin the spring term. "I got here this afternoon and have established myself to my satisfaction in this frowsy country village... I am to board close to the Academy ("Barracks" they call it here) at Mrs. Dowe's, a comfortable house and clever people apparently. I am to have a nice large parlor and a snug little sleeping room at the enormous sum of half a dollar a week!"

Once Abbot arranged his housing and meals he began his classes. With Partridge as the superintendent, the cadets were introduced to a "vigorous course of study." The faculty was a talented one and offered over a dozen courses that included everything from astronomy to civil engineering as well as five foreign languages. In addition, the cadets were "correctly instructed in the elementary school of the soldier..." with a system of discipline that was "strict, but correct."

Students slept in large barracks that were located on the green. According to the school manual, "The students (were) required to sleep on mattresses, or straw-beds; no featherbeds... allowed..." Cadets boarded (ate their meals) "at respectable and genteel houses in the village." The quality of the meals varied greatly and the young men were never hesitant to critique the local fare. In 1824 in a letter to his family, John Hancock described his New Year’s day meal. "This day we had a turkey at our boarding house for the first time since I arrived here. It weighed ten-and-a-half pounds and ten boarders soon demolished it and went off complaining of being hungry. For my part, I only had one tuff drumstick – slim dinner for all of us..." By the end of April, young Hancock had moved to another boarding house run by the Emerson family. "I went to dinner for the first time at this place and must acknowledge I did not think there was any house in the village that could produce such good victuals... Warm cakes at breakfast and supper and... the butter, too, must not be passed over without giving it the eulogy it deserves. It is yellow, cut handsome and stamped very handsomely."

While meals were definitely on the mind of the cadets, a tight military schedule kept them busy. A typical day was outlined by William Davis in 1842. He woke at 5am to the beating of a drum and attended roll call. Breakfast was at 6:30, followed by "prayers and lecture by Capt. Partridge. Classes ran from 8:30 until the noon meal. At 3pm, "...We were paraded in streets by Adjutant (Partridge)... until 5. He marched us to the Hotel and treated us to a glass of wine. Went upon guard at 1/2 past seven – and staid on until 10. I came into my quarters this evening more fatigued than usual. Studied until nearly 12 and then retired to rest-taking soldier comfort lying upon the hard floor. Quite a luxury..."

But outside of classes and hours of marching, many cadets learned to enjoy what Norwich had to offer. In the winter, the young men skated on the flooded parade ground and some ventured out on the Connecticut River "where there is elegant skating." The cadets purchased maple syrup from the villagers, others swapped "old pantaloons, coats, etc." for the syrup. Often winter dances were planned, but due to the fickle weather, many were canceled as was the case in late February of 1824. "This is Washington's birthday and the cadets contemplated having a ball tomorrow eve... but owing to the fresher and several other
disasters, the bridges being carried away and no girls are in place...we shall have to abandon the idea."

For cadets like Abbot who grew up in Boston, Norwich quickly lost its appeal during mud season. "As for the place itself, Norwich may be best described as an enormous pig sty," he wrote. "Filth, nothing but filth, all over town owing to the fact that we are thawing out. I stay in the house all the time since it is sheer impossibility to walk the street, and the weather is too cold as yet for me to wear nothing but swimming drawers and paddle round town." Yet his mood changed, as it does for most Vermonters when spring finally arrived. "I no longer live in a pig sty," he began in a late May letter. "Norwich is most beautiful, within the last three days, the bare unsightly trees have put on the verdure of the soft spring foliage, the grass and flowers have risen from their graves..."

Once the weather warmed up, skirmishes often erupted between the cadets and the students at Dartmouth College. The 'Darties' were not impressed by the marching and uniforms of the Norwich students and often pelted the cadets with eggs when they ventured into Hanover. And the cadets were disdainful of the civilian college across the Connecticut River.

In June of 1839, 100 Dartmouth students in a long column of fours, marched into Norwich and attempted to enter the Norwich University grounds before they returned to Hanover. "Our gate was guarded," recalled one cadet. "The sticks and canes carried by the invaders proved ineffective in the assault against the bayonets of the guard. The invaders, after a short struggle, broke in retreat and were not pursued. Spoils of the history consisted of cursed silk hats and two or three walking sticks."

The cadets did not take the "nighttime invasion" lightly and returned the favor a few weeks later by marching in full uniform to the Dartmouth campus. With 150 men, three snare drums, three fifes, and a bugle, they formed one column and "struck out for the land of our enemy, Captain Partridge in command."

After crossing the bridge, the cadets marched up the hill. Around the green, "the roads and grounds were filled and progress was difficult, and here was where we expected trouble... We would not resent jeers, hisses, or insulting remarks, but drew the line at stones and brickbats. We knew why we had fixed bayonets and why our arms were at carry. We were ready for an emergency - none came... Emerging from the crowd, we marched to the end of the village, then we countermarched and took our way homeward; our band playing Yankee Doodle."

The hostilities ebbed as the Civil War approached. Students from both schools met and formed political clubs and presidential candidates were jointly supported. At a mixed meeting held in Hanover shortly before the war, a Dartmouth student proclaimed, "We must acknowledge that you are not only our equals in classic and scientific attainments, but our superiors in this, that you can buckle on the sword and lead men in this conflict, while we must shoulder the musket."

Cadets left Norwich University to fight or help rebuild the military school. By the end of the war, over 600 Norwich alumni served in the Union Army while 40 cadets fought for the Confederacy. One of those who fought for the Union was Edward Abbot, who wrote so eloquently about his experiences in the "frowsy" little village of Norwich. Within weeks of his graduation in the summer of 1862, he became an officer in the Union Army. The next summer, while leading his men near Little Round Top at the battle of Gettysburg, he was shot and died soon afterward from his wounds. He was 22 years old.

The story of cadet life in Norwich came to a close on the evening of March 14, 1866, when a fire broke out in the South Barracks. The cadets scrambled to save the books and furniture and set up a bucket brigade; but the blaze was too powerful and the building was a total loss. Soon after the fire, the University moved to Northfield, Vermont, where the prosperous railway center made a generous offer to help rebuild the military school.

Never again did young cadets march up Main Street to hear Partridge speak from his home or protect the campus from an invasion of Darties. No longer did the citizens of Norwich visit with cadets at the village store, watch them skate on the river, or have them as guests for a New Year's meal. The University was in Norwich for less than 50 years, but it made an impact. One has to wonder what the town would be like if it had remained.

Drop into Norwich Historical Society this summer to see the exhibit "The Education of Citizen Soldiers: Norwich University turns 200." Several of the photos in this article were used courtesy of Norwich University Archives, Northfield, Vermont.
Molly is 3-year-old Golden Spaniel Mix and a relentless tennis-ball chaser. “I enjoy daily belly rubs and meticulously organizing my stuffed animals on the floor.” See below.

Antonia (Tony) Richie with Tessa and Lainee
Both dogs are 10 years old. Lovers of their mom… and treats!

A flock of sheep on Upper Turnpike Road
Shannon and Molly, Prospect Street
One of the horses on Upper Turnpike Road

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Over 3,000 participants walk, run, bike, or row in The Prouty each year; one of those is Norwich’s David Lemal. Most who participate in the fundraiser have a personal connection with the fight against cancer, either as a patient themselves, or having had someone they love stricken by the disease. David is no different.

“In May of 2015, I lost my wonderful wife, Lee, to lung cancer,” David said. “I decided to honor her, and raise funds for the Norris Cotton Cancer Center that treated her by participating in The Prouty.”

And participate he did. Though he said, “I had hardly ridden a bicycle in almost 30 years,” David took on the monumental task of riding the 100-mile course. Working hard in a limited amount of time to train and raise funds, David’s maiden venture in the event proved successful. “Slow as I was, I managed to complete it.”

The 100-mile course – which includes an impressive elevation gain – is no easy ride for a seasoned cyclist, let alone one who is inexperienced, making David’s achievement all the more impressive.

One of the great benefits participants and volunteers experience taking part in The Prouty is the fellowship, the spirit of the event. “Our common purpose engenders a sense of camaraderie that helps the miles go by,” David said.

The meaning behind the effort, the memory of Lee, and the special feeling among the Prouty participants, turned David Lemal into a Prouty regular. “In the three subsequent years (since 2015), I’ve continued with the century ride,” he said. He will be back on the 100-mile course again this year.

All the planning, the hard work of the participants and volunteers, and the strong unity among all makes for impressive results. Each of the last two years, The Prouty raised about $3 million for cancer research and support, with a similar goal targeted for this year.

David’s fundraising efforts are noteworthy; with the matching funds provided by The Byrne Foundation, David’s total for 2019 alone is about $27,000.

The vast majority of the money raised stays local, for both research and patient support services. “It is a pleasure to support one of the nation’s foremost cancer centers,” David said.

If you’ve never participated or supported a Prouty participant there is still time. The dates for this year’s Prouty are July 12 and 13.
A few nights ago, I was joining my wife, daughter, and mother-in-law for dinner at a restaurant, and knew I’d be arriving late. So as not to hold up dinner for a group including a 3-year-old, I suggested they order before I would arrive. Knowing what I like to eat, picking my meal was no challenge. However, I was surprised that even my wife was nervous about selecting a glass of red wine for me. I reminded her that when I order, I pick two different glasses, and after she tastes them I drink whichever one she likes less.

Now if this seems like a strange approach, there is a good explanation. First, it is most important to me that she enjoys her meal, so the glass of wine should be one she likes. As a food professional, she has a trained and very sensitive palate, noticing details of meals that most of us would not. In trying to share my love for wine, I want to make the best of each experience, helping her to learn about different wines without having to struggle through a glass she doesn’t enjoy.

The other factor is that I am truly curious about what appeals to people about different wines. Whether I particularly like it or not, I have to assume that there was a reason it was selected by the restaurant, and that enough customers enjoy it to justify it being served. I did not grow up with wine, so my fascination began while bartending in my 20s. Having now been seriously tasting and exploring my way through the world of wine for almost 30 years, I continue to be amazed by the diversity of personal tastes and styles people enjoy. So next time you worry about making a choice for a real wine lover, remember that a new experience is probably more exciting than a glass of a wine that is familiar, relax and enjoy!
Finally, spring has arrived! Here are some updates from your Norwich Selectboard.

**Bag Ban**

The Selectboard did pass the single-use plastic-bag ban to become effective on September 1, 2019. As of this writing, the state legislature has also passed a bag ban. The state ban includes polystyrene containers and single-use plastic straws. Please note: the town ban restricts the use of single-use plastic bags only. The Selectboard is currently working on establishing a ‘bag bank’ for anyone who is in need of reusable bags. More info on the bag bank to come.

Norwich will also be trialing thin-film recycling at the Norwich Transfer Station. Details of the trial will be posted when finalized.

**FEMA and Budget Update**

We have now received the final FEMA reimbursement – over $65,000 – from Hurricane Irene, officially closing out the event. That funding was part of the ‘alternate project’ allowing us to upgrade the Town Garage last year. Subsequently, the full amount has been placed in the Highway Garage designated fund.

The town has also received $435,271 as part of the July 2017 storm event. That money has been placed in the General Fund.

Despite the prolonged winter with the associated higher-than-expected costs related to sand, salt, and overtime, our town manager and department heads have done an outstanding job of keeping overall spending in check. Where we were once concerned that we might be in danger of overspending the FY19 budget, we are currently back on track.

**Town Boards & Committees**

We have appointed and reappointed many individuals to the various boards and commissions in town. As most of these positions are strictly voluntary, we share our sincere gratitude for the time so many of you sacrifice on behalf of bettering our town. You can learn more about each of these groups by visiting the following link: www.bit.ly/norwichvtboards.

**Other Items of Interest**

- The Planning Commission is continuing the work on a new Town Plan. Public outreach/feedback events will be held throughout the summer.
- The Selectboard continues to work on reviewing and revising policies. The finance committee is assisting the board with the review of financial policies.
- Earlier this spring, the Gile Mountain trail and parking area was a topic of lively discussion. For those who are not aware, that trail has become increasingly popular leading to traffic and parking issues. The problem is especially concerning during foliage season and early spring. The town is working on improving signage and outreach to trail users. A proposal to increase the parking lot was discussed but not approved.
- Work on the last project related to the final road repairs due to the 2017 storms are planned for this summer. Timing is weather and water-level dependent.

As always, the Selectboard welcomes your comments. You can contact us by attending the meetings or via email: selectboard@norwich.vt.us.

~ Roger Arnold; Claudette Brochu, Vice Chairman; John Langhus; Mary Layton; John Pepper, Chairman
and Liza are “cornerstones of the New England bookselling community.” There would be heartfelt local testimonials about each woman’s “abiding effort to address community needs beyond their own.”

Since they opened their bookstore on August 1, 1994, they’ve been purveyors of knowledge. As partners and solo actors, they’ve enlightened us at readings with celebrated authors. For 25 years, they’ve been tireless in reviewing, offering, recommending, and special-ordering essential books beyond our counting. And they pushed back when Amazon came stomping across the retail front-yards of small booksellers everywhere. Independent bookstores are thriving again.

Beyond literary pursuits, each woman is also known for civic passions... As one longtime local told me, Liza and Penny are the type of people who are vital to any town, city or village; they are the ones who step up to direct resources, attention, and their time to important matters. They are also “the ringleaders who instigate culture and a more informed community.”

One served as community advisor to Vermont Public Radio, the other chaired Local First Alliance at a critical juncture. Each makes time to assist libraries, youth, the arts and humanities, senior housing, and conservation. Oh, and they raised children along the way.

The story of Penny McConnel and Liza Bernard is set in the Norwich Bookstore, yet its chapters of impact stretch well beyond our region.

Liza and Penny, we honor you – as individuals – and together as founders and co-owners. You are leaders – and yes, ring-leaders – instigators for things that are good in our communities. For all you’ve done within and outside of the Norwich Bookstore, we thank you.

**Stan Williams**

Adapted from remarks by Clay Adams of Mascoma Bank

There are many reasons people choose to uproot themselves from urban areas to live in rural Vermont. Chief among these reasons are quality of life and accessibility to the outdoors. What you will not typically find on this list is accessibility to fast, dependable internet service. However, thanks to the efforts of Stan Williams, this has changed in our region.

Nearly a century ago, Vermont, like many other parts of America, was attempting to electrify its less populated areas so they could participate in the modern economy of that time. Just as dairy farmers then could not bring their milk to market, today knowledge workers who choose to work from home in Vermont cannot participate in the 21st-century economy. More importantly, the school-aged children who live along these picturesque stretches of Vermont roadside have difficulty fully participating in their education.

It was not until EC Fiber arrived on the scene that we had any hope of being part of the 21st century.

Stan Williams, the ValleyNet Board Chair and CFO, has been a consistent force behind EC Fiber. This is why we are here to recognize him tonight.

Stan found himself working in the cellular communications industry as it exploded internationally. As he looked toward the second act of his career, instead of pursuing financial gain, Stan chose a path that “his children and grandchildren would be proud of.”

In 2007, Stan and others connected to ValleyNet began to consider how to provide rural communities in eastern Vermont with broadband internet access. EC Fiber was born. The timing could not have been worse. Once the Great Recession started, the commitments were pulled, and the EC Fiber team was left to rely on their own ingenuity and resources.

In true Vermont fashion, they provided a solution, raising $1M in 2011 from members of the ValleyNet management team and acquaintances. In the years to come, they built on this model, raising funds as private placement promissory notes in $2,500 chunks from Vermonters who wanted their funds as private placement promissory notes in $2,500 chunks from Vermonters who wanted their neighborhoods to join the 21st century.

Fast forward eight years, and they have connected more than 3,000 customers in rural Vermont to high-speed fiber-optic technology. Moreover, they have the plans and capability to connect the remaining unserved premises in their service area by 2020.

**Heroes & Leaders 2019 Honorees**

Delia Clark, Taftsville
Chuck Wooster, White River Junction
Doug Wise, Grantham
Prudence Pease, Tunbridge
Len Cadwallader, Hanover
Liza Bernard & Penny McConnel, Norwich
Edgewater Farm, Plainfield
Curt & Sharon Jacques, West Lebanon
Jarvis Antonio Green, Barnard
Ivy Condon, Claremont
Monique Priestley, Bradford, VT
Stan Williams, Norwich, VT
Stan has been one of the many innovative, understated, and dedicated leaders behind ValleyNet and EC Fiber who has applied hard-earned experience from a world away to make the Upper Valley a more sustainable and vibrant economy.

Residents of a Region

Norwich residents Betty Porter and Anne Silberfarb were also recognized at Heroes & Leaders as founders of Vital Communities, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

“In 1993, the Valley News published an editorial encouraging readers to ‘think of themselves not only as residents of an individual town or state, but of a region’ – the Upper Valley – and to work together to protect the things that make this place special,” Vital Communities executive director Tom Roberts said at the event.

“That editorial, and the powerful action of a small group of women led by Betty Porter, sparked the beginnings of Vital Communities.

“...With Delia Clark and the staff who followed, they convened community members – creating spaces where people could listen to and learn from each other. They created an experience of place – one that defines and honors this unique region we call the Upper Valley.

They created a community-led approach to making positive change while preserving the essential character of our towns and landscape. They facilitated connections among towns, organizations, and residents that continue to flourish today – much to the benefit of everyone who lives and works in our region.”

Read more about all of this year’s Heroes & Leaders honorees at vitalcommunities.org/heroesandleaders.

Not Your Ordinary CFO

Stan Williams is getting plenty of unwanted attention lately by seemingly barely making the list of Vital Communities Heroes & Leaders – he was listed last in the program. Sure, he probably deserves a bit of recognition for his efforts at EC Fiber, but he actually established his credentials as a hero many years ago.

Dartmouth, Harvard, CFO – that’s just a string of words that scream “safe,” “boring,” and “put me to sleep at a dinner party.” Despite this background, about fifteen years ago Stan ventured waaaaay out of this stereotype to enter the now-defunct Tunbridge World’s Fair Demolition Derby.

As a first-time driver.

It’s one thing for a flatlander to wear wool overalls and a ball cap, but driving onto the field to battle experienced Vermont demo derby competitors immediately puts you in heroes-only territory.

On Derby Day, our group of supporters made their way up to Tunbridge, checked out his vintage American land yacht, and got to the grandstand early to grab front row seats. The cars drove in, lined up, and the smashing began. As a first-time spectator, I quickly learned that the front row was not exactly a safe location. Gravel, exhaust, coolant, and other debris made its way into the stands, making it hard to think, see, or breathe. And that was just as a spectator.

Stan was right in the middle of the melee, taking hard hits, and giving them right back. The competition started dying down, with immobilized cars littered about everywhere. Stan’s car was in it to the end, but eventually found itself in a big pile-up, its rear-end jacked up over another car. He was out of the event, but now he was famous.

Whether it’s demolition derby, dangerous mountain adventures on skis and bikes, or that boring day-job he has, Stan just takes it on with a quiet, stubborn determination. That’s what makes him a hero.
Jane Goodall Youth Group

Miss Lani Carney, of Children’s Art Studio Norwich, will be starting up a Jane Goodall’s “Roots & Shoots” Youth Group. This is a global program that empowers young people to work together, create projects, take action, and develop life skills that will help them become the next generation of compassionate leaders. There will be two blueberry pancake supper informational meetings in June to learn more about this exciting program. Text Miss Lani at 774-563-3069 for more information.

BAYADA Hospice Nursing Assistant Is Hero of the Year

On April 27 in Philadelphia, BAYADA Home Health Care named Betty Martin as its national Licensed Nursing Assistant Hero of the Year. Martin was honored for exemplifying the highest standards of care and demonstrating the company’s core values of compassion, excellence, and reliability.

Martin is part of a team that provides clinical, social, emotional, and spiritual care for people at end of life. “Betty is smart, determined, curious, fun, quirky, and enthusiastic,” said Jessica DeGrechie, Betty’s director. “She is the real deal, and we all love her.”

Martin’s concern and interest in how her patients feel are what makes her so talented as a caregiver. With her quiet, kind demeanor, she takes the time to get to know each of her patients so she can provide care specifically tailored to each person. When Martin learned that a patient with dementia loved the opera Madame Butterfly, she found the music on YouTube and played it for him. During that visit, this patient who sometimes refused care allowed Martin to provide him with more personal care than he’d received in weeks.

Her gentle, intuitive nature is strongly supported by a desire to do things exactly right for her hospice patients, earning the nickname “By the Book Betty.” She understands that the smallest details – such as making the bed a certain way or helping a patient make their favorite peanut butter fudge – can bring energy and joy to someone’s day.

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potatoes; the crushing exertion of plodding up steep slopes under heavy backpacks; the exhilaration of Cuban Solitaires chomning on a mountaintop amidst swirling clouds; and the simple pleasure of lively banter. I’m pretty sure I’ve gotten the best part of the ‘deal’ from a deepening relationship with my Cuban counterparts, but I feel confident that I’ve given something back as well.

First, some context. Since 1994, I’ve spearheaded bird conservation work in the Caribbean Greater Antilles – Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico – through the Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE), located right here in Norwich. Our primary conservation target is a rare, secretive, migratory songbird – the Bicknell's Thrush – which nests on mountaintops in New York and New England, and spends its winters only on these four islands. The species is an ‘umbrella’ for conservation of the high-elevation forests where it lives – both in the north and south – meaning that if we protect Bicknell’s Thrush well, we conserve a host of other birds. Disappointing, yes. Surprising, not really.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, always eager to exercise our signature ‘brute force biology’ tactics, VCE undertook what has now become a three-year study to determine the distribution and abundance of Bicknell’s Thrush in eastern Cuba. Our first step was to identify a reliable local partner with a strong ornithological résumé. We found that and much more in Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad (BIOECO), with whom we have forged a strong and dynamic collaboration. It turns out that obtaining visas and in-country permits to work in Cuba has been our greatest obstacle!

During early 2017, after weeks of uncertain waiting, our visas suspended in bureaucratic limbo, my VCE colleague John Lloyd and I finally touched Cuban soil in late March. Two days later, we were straining under heavy backpacks on the steep ascent to Pico Turquino, Cuba’s highest mountain. Enveloped by lush, pristine cloud forest – as Cuban Trogons, Todies, and Solitaires serenaded us – we sallied forth daily in the pre-dawn with headlamps, conducting surveys of more than 100 points for Bicknell’s Thrush. And, we found... exactly zero birds. Disappointing, yes. Surprising, not really. Intriguing, definitely. We knew our timing was late and that some thrushes on Hispaniola begin moving off their winter territories in April. Had we arrived a month or two earlier as planned, we’re guessing we’d have found birds. As always, questions outnumbered answers, and a second winter beckoned.

To our east, the island’s largest tract of unbroken cloud forest in Parque Nacional Bayamesa awaited exploration.

So it was that I found myself this past January with four hardy BIOECO team members, all of us shouldering heavy backpacks, plodding resolutely upslope to the trailless wilderness of Bayamesa. Specifically, we hoped to reach two peaks that, as far as anyone can determine, had never been visited by humans. If any region of Sierra Maestra harbored a concentration of overwintering Bicknell’s Thrushes, Bayamesa’s virgin cloud forests seemed like our best bet. Over the next week, from a base camp at 5,000 feet we hiked up and over Pico Bayamesa each day, braving rain, chilly temperatures, treacherously steep slopes, soaked vegetation, and chronically wet boots. My machete-wielding colleagues made steady but
slow progress, though we had to call it quits well short of our goal – the 10-kilometer-distant Pico Maceo. However, we claimed a measure of victory with the discovery of seven new Bicknell's Thrushes, three of which we banded. Instant mashed potatoes, freeze-dried spaghetti, and insanely-sweetened camp coffee never tasted so good! There is no substitute for team work under adverse conditions, and our camaraderie forged indelible memories. My Cuban friends’ irrepressibly good humor, physical stamina, dynamic optimism, resiliency, and prodigious field skills were nothing short of inspiring.

To wrap up the Bicknell's Thrush story (for now), what can we say about this elusive songbird in eastern Cuba after three winters on the island? First, it is clear that Cuba offers this species nowhere near the stronghold that Hispaniola does, despite its abundance of suitable, intact cloud forest habitat. Second, Cuba’s protected areas are in exceptionally good shape and provide Bicknell’s Thrush a far more secure winter refuge than elsewhere in its restricted winter range – I can only wish that more birds overwintered there! And third, we’re far from having all the answers. Much work remains to be done, and my Cuban colleagues are eager to lead the charge, and to keep me involved – that suits me just fine.

To conclude with a few reflections on the remarkable Cuban people, I’m deeply struck by the way they value life and the simple pleasures life offers to us all. These are people who have relatively little, and scant opportunities for material gains under the island’s long-standing Communist political system. To me, the lack of visible socioeconomic class distinctions – which I witnessed in Santiago de Cuba and every outlying rural area we visited – is truly refreshing. I’m convinced it promotes harmony, community, and a sense of social compassion. People are genuine, caring, generous, and respectful. No one is hurrying, hustling, competing. We could learn a lot from Cubans.

I’m left with a genuine sense of humility from my experiences on Cuba, not only for the opportunity to visit the island’s most remote and majestic wilderness areas, but by my extraordinarily good fortune to advance conservation science with dedicated, talented, and fun-loving Cuban colleagues, now my lifelong friends.
One of the most popular activities heralded in by the summer season is the backyard barbecue. Flipping burgers and grilling dogs with a few of your friends is a welcome summer scenario. Mascoma Bank took that popular summer pastime, added a few hundred friends to the party, and turned the summer barbecue into a much-awaited annual series of events.

“Our first barbecue was almost 20 years ago in Windsor,” explains Tom Hoyt, Mascoma’s longtime public relations and social media coordinator. Hoyt says when the Windsor branch opened, it was decided to hold a barbecue on-site to celebrate the event. The barbecue was a big hit, so the decision was made to expand the event to other branches.

“It just snowballed from there,” says Hoyt, becoming the long-running, popular event occurring today.

In 2019, Mascoma Bank will hold 13 community barbecues, taking place from Charlestown, NH in the south, to Lancaster, NH in the north, and from New London to Woodstock. The season opened in Woodstock on June 7, and the traditional finale is in the park behind the CCBA Rec Center, near the downtown Lebanon branch office, on September 6. As always, each event takes place on a Friday afternoon, except in Lyme, which is always an early evening festivity, followed up by a performance from the Lyme Town Band.

“One of the great things about the barbecues is that it brings people together,” says Hoyt. Bank personnel who may never encounter each other on a regular workday, could be side-by-side, serving customers hot dogs and burgers at one of the barbecues. Along the same lines, a longtime bank customer might have the chance to sit at a table with a Mascoma VP, and have the opportunity to discuss the future of interest or mortgage rates in a casual setting.

Tom Hoyt finds that for some customers, the casual atmosphere of the barbecues “makes us more approachable.”

Holding 13 community barbecues, at 13 different locations, over a three-month period is quite an undertaking. Hoyt credits much of the success of the annual events to Sue Beaulieu, who organizes the barbecue series each year. Beaulieu provided some numbers for the events, giving a feel for what’s involved with planning and carrying out the parties. Each season, the barbecues serve about 5,000 people total, she says. In 2018, that included grilling and serving 3,900 burgers, 2,350 hot dogs, 3,675 sausages, and 150 gallons of ice cream. Add to that the hot dog and hamburger rolls, cheese, condiments, and bottles of water, and you are talking a serious amount of food products.

Tom Hoyt noted that other than tent rentals at some locations, Mascoma owns and transports all the equipment necessary for each event to the barbecue site. Local food stores benefit from the fact that the meats grilled at each event come from a local grocery in the various towns.

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And no, it is not a requirement that one be a Mascoma Bank customer to attend the barbecues, Hoyt says. Several years back, during the barbecue in Woodstock, a tour bus stopped, and the tourists on the bus got out and enjoyed a lunch compliments of the bank. I’d call that not only spreading goodwill in the community, but also nationwide.

— Frank Orlofski
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in Norwich

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**KIDS CAMPS**

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<td>Session 3</td>
<td>July 22-24</td>
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<td>Session 4</td>
<td>July 29-31</td>
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**PRICE**

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**ADULT CAMP**

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**PRICE**

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