

Attn: John McCright, Addison Independent, [news@addisonindependent.com](mailto:news@addisonindependent.com)  
Submissions for Addison Independent - Ferrisburgh News: July 2020  
Contact: Sally Kerschner (802-373-0034) [smwkersch@comcast.net](mailto:smwkersch@comcast.net)

We are increasingly seeing the health and safety benefits of Vermont's pandemic control response to COVID 19. Businesses are steadily starting to open and we are now able to gather in small groups. However, it remains important that we continue to wear face coverings, frequently wash our hands, and employ the physical distancing methods as advised by the Vermont Department of Health and Governor Scott. Comprehensive updates on COVID 19 for the public and for businesses are available on several websites such as the Vermont Department of Health ([www.healthvermont.gov](http://www.healthvermont.gov)), Governor Scott's ([www.governor.vermont.gov/home](http://www.governor.vermont.gov/home)), and the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development ([www.accd.vermont.gov](http://www.accd.vermont.gov)). In addition, Senator Ruth Hardy offers information and updates at: <https://ruthforvermont.com/2020/05/26/summer-restart-update-memorial-day/>.

A reminder to Ferrisburgh residents to complete the 2020 Census. Only about half of all Vermonters have responded so far - one of the lowest response rates in the country. The census aims to get an accurate count of national and Vermont residents. This census count is used for many programs and research and is critical to help ensure that Vermont receives our fair share of federal funds allocated in part on population and demographics. The funding is used for many programs such as infrastructure, roads and transportation, community block grants, school lunches, hospital supports, and more. So be counted today - it really is quick and easy. Go to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or call 844-330-2020. Also, for a breakdown of the numbers for rural communities (such as in Vermont) and how the census assists in determining funding, visit: <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census/focus/rural.html?#>

Great news! Rokeby Museum is scheduled to open on Wednesday, July 1, 2020. Please plan to visit our community's local historic treasure which is nationally significant as the generational home of the Roland Robinson family and also a documented site on the Underground Railroad. Also visit Rokeby's extensive website for information on the exhibits and programs. Examples of upcoming programs that are highlighted on Rokeby's website are *Mending Fences* by Carol McDonald and *Exposing the Challenges: A Closer Look at Women's Suffrage*. In addition, Rokeby has included essays by their Board members reflecting on the historic and present-day issues of racism, immigrant farm workers, and the ongoing pandemic.

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum regular services will be temporary closed to the public due to the COVID 19 pandemic. However, the staff have prepared a full series of special programs that are being both onsite and online. As part of the Champlain Longboats program, the Museum is introducing custom small group rowing tours this summer featuring the experienced open-water rowing staff and fleet of traditional wooden rowing gigs. These tours are a great way to enjoy Lake Champlain. The LCMM education team was honored to be awarded a grant from NOAA and the NAAEE to launch a new two-year STEM-learning program, "Underwater Explorers: Snorkeling the Champlain Watershed," for local teachers and students. Read the full announcement about this program that is designed to provide enriching after school watershed-related STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) projects at: <https://www.lcmm.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/LCMM-Partner-Press-Release-21st-CCLC-2020-Grant-eeBLUE-Final.pdf> . The LCMM is pleased to announce that the Vermont Underwater Dive Preserves are opening on July 1. Learn more about the preserves, book a charter with the collaboration at Burlington's Waterfront Diving Center, and complete your 2020 Diver Registration at <https://www.lcmm.org/archaeology/vermont-underwater-historic-preserves/> To visit the museum virtually and to learn of all these activities, visit [www.lcmm.org](http://www.lcmm.org).

In this era of virtual gatherings, the Bixby Library has created several offerings to keep us connected by our love of reading and story. Bixby Kids' Story time will be available live on Facebook on July 2 and July 9 from 10:30 – 11:00 AM. The new Bixby Online Book Club meets every second Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The July 8<sup>th</sup> discussion will delve into "Feasting Wild" by Gina Rae La Cerva. Geographer and anthropologist Gina Rae La Cerva traces our relationship to wild foods and shows what we sacrifice when we domesticate them-including biodiversity, Indigenous knowledge, and an important connection to nature. Register to attend using this link: <https://bit.ly/bixjulybookclub>. This title is available to Bixby Library card holders as an ebook and audiobook on hoopla. To access ebooks, readers will need a library barcode and password. Directions on how to login and use hoopla are on the library website. Hoopla access is made possible through the use of the Freda Fishman Stroh Cultural grant. After registering, a confirmation email will be sent by containing information about joining the meeting. Please email any questions to Laksamee Cave, [laksamee.putnam@bixbylibrary.org](mailto:laksamee.putnam@bixbylibrary.org)

Bixby is working to continue its famous book sales during the pandemic. There will be an outdoor book sale on Saturday, July 11, 9:00 AM – 12:00. This event is being organized by The Friends of the Bixby, a group that raises money to fund special library programs and projects. Most recently, funding from the Friends purchased a 24 foot movie screen that will be used outdoors. Additionally, the Friends donated over 700 books to our community for the Bixby Boredom Bags that were given away in April. To find out more about the Friends and the book sale, visit <https://bixbylibrary.org/friends-of-bixby/> or call 802-877-2211.

The League of Women Voters Vermont encourages everyone to vote early for the August 11 primary election. It is safe, easy and secure! To register to vote, and to check on or

update your voter registration information and make sure your mailing address is correct, go to [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov) or contact our Ferrisburgh Town Clerk. To start the process for voters, ballot request postcards will be mailed to registered voters from the Secretary of State's Office in late June 2020. This postcard will be a tear-away, postage-paid, ballot request form that may be mailed to the Ferrisburgh Town Clerk. However, a postcard request form is not required to request a ballot - ballots can also be requested online at [mvp.vermont.gov](http://mvp.vermont.gov), or by phone, email or from our town clerk. Absentee ballots for the August 11 statewide primary will be available late June 2020. After receiving the ballot, the voter completes it and returns by mail or delivery to the town clerk. Carefully follow the instructions for voting. The ballot comes with two envelopes, a security envelope and a pre-addressed envelope. Place the completed ballot in the security envelope, sign, date and seal it, enclose the sealed security envelope inside the pre-addressed, pre-paid envelope. If mailing to our town clerk, leave time for them to receive it before Election Day. Ballots can also be delivered to our Ferrisburgh Town Clerk before or on Election Day, August 11, 2020. If you have lost, or did not receive your ballot, you may request one in person at the polls on August 11. For election day updates, visit [SOS.VERMONT.GOV/ELECTIONS](http://SOS.VERMONT.GOV/ELECTIONS). This voting process is really easy and we have a knowledgeable town clerk staff who can walk you through it – just contact them at [ferrisburghoffice@comcast.net](mailto:ferrisburghoffice@comcast.net) or [www.ferrisburghvt.org](http://www.ferrisburghvt.org).

Are you willing to assist in making face masks and cloth facial coverings? To date, more than 300 masks have been made by Ferrisburgh volunteers and donated to the Free Mask Bins on the back porch of the Town Clerk's Office. They are being scooped up fast so more sewers are needed. If you like sewing and have access to new fabric and materials (unused cotton fabric, thread, elastic, ribbon) please consider assisting with the free mask initiative for Ferrisburgh. Also, anyone who needs a mask is welcome to visit the bins on the Town Clerk's Office back porch - access from the stairs in the southwest corner of the building - please do not enter the building for masks. For more information, connect with Anne Audy at [anne.emmel.dunham@gmail.com](mailto:anne.emmel.dunham@gmail.com).

NOTE: We are always interested in including a variety of Ferrisburgh-related news in this column, so if you have news that would be of interest, contact Sally Kerschner at [smwkersch@comcast.net](mailto:smwkersch@comcast.net). Ykwrso are able to access these columns and other information about Ferrisburgh news and events by viewing the Ferrisburgh Town Website at [www.ferrisburghvt.org](http://www.ferrisburghvt.org).

