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Pentangle Music by the River Series Celebrates the East End Park

Tropical Storm Irene destroyed homes, businesses, and livelihoods with a ferocity that few of us will ever forget. If one could find any sort of silver lining in such destruction it was the renewed attention paid to the East End, that odd riverside lot and former train depot we always referred to as “the jungle.” One third of an acre of the three-acre parcel went down the river in the flood. Even before the flood, Sustainable Woodstock’s East End Action Group had its sights on the relocation of the town snow dump from the parcel and the creation of a public park.

In 2012 the town recognized the land as a park and plans were laid to relocate the snow dump, restore and rehabilitate the area with rain gardens at the lower level and an improved riparian buffer to filter storm water runoff and allow for public river access to the Ottauquechee River. Fast forward ten years and countless hours of volunteer work by the likes of Joby Thomson, Mary MacVey, Jack Rossie, Barbara Barry, state and local partners, donors, Boy Scout troupes and many others and this park has been into being. In early 2021 Sustainable Woodstock transferred long-term stewardship of the East End Project to the Woodstock Community Trust as part of that organization’s expansive mission to improve the quality of life in Woodstock.

Pentangle Arts is overjoyed to have received a permit to hold its 48th free summer concert series, *Music By the River* at the East End Park. Truly a magical setting, this outdoor amphitheater showcases a view of the Ottauquechee River and the Billings Farm fields across it. The East End Park features a well-designed river-access and boat launch, as well as an adjacent walking trail that serves as an inspiration for repurposing land in a thoughtful, innovative way. Construction of the three-mile Ottauquechee River Trail—much like the park itself—was the result of a cadre of devoted volunteers, and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance.

Volunteer leader Tom Weschler noted at the trail’s opening “We’re so excited to be opening this beautiful, flat trail to provide residents and visitors unpar-

alleled access to the Ottauquechee River. Thanks go out to our volunteer committee, the landowners and the EDC for making this all happen. We’re thrilled to be able to build on the great work at the East End Park and help to further the potential for Woodstock’s East End.”

And Pentangle is thrilled to celebrate all the collective efforts to make both the park and the trail possible for all of us to enjoy.

The tranquil riverside promises to be the perfect setting for community members and visitors of all ages to come together for joyful summer evening of music, food and friends.

The Paul Asbell Quartet featuring Michael Zsoldos kicks off the series on July 2 at 6:00 pm. The series runs from July 2 to August 20th. Though it is a free concert series donations and sponsors are welcome to offset expenses. To see the entire line up go to <https://pentanglearts.org/music-by-the-river/#content>.

Many thanks to our raffle prize donors, Worthy Kitchen, The Prince & The Pauper, Silo Distillery, Blake Hill Farm Preserves, Quechee General Store, Yankee Bookshop, 37 Central, Soulfully Good Café, Abracadabra Coffee, and Clover Gift Shop. We are also enormously grateful to our concert sponsors, Fred and Mary MacVey, The Alden Wright Foundation, Marne Perreault, Sandy and Karen Gilmore, Bill and Lauran Corson, and Angela Moore. If you are interested in being a sponsor please contact me at director@pentanglearts.org.

Guests may bring their own picnics to enjoy or purchase food and beverages from the Worthy Kitchen, that includes wood-fired grill goodies, beverages and more. The good folks at the Abracadabra Coffee Coon the village side of the park look forward to the music and meeting patrons as they stream into the park. We encourage folks to carpool or walk to the park due to the limited number of parking spaces.

We await forthcoming guidance from the state regarding social distancing and advance registration. Masks will always be required except when eating and drinking.