

# Part of Ms. Davis' job is working with police

(Continued from page twelve.)

response to it, but because of property damage. I think a lot of people are saying, it's terrible black people keep getting murdered, but they really shouldn't destroy property. What they should be saying is, it's terrible that property is getting destroyed, but they really shouldn't be murdering black people. They're just prioritizing their own piece of it."

Part of Ms. Davis' job is working with police to help them recognize when they might be treating different groups differently when enforcing the law. She said the COVID pandemic has kept her from getting out around the state and meeting local agencies.

She has connected with the Vermont State Police and is pleased with the response she has gotten from the upper ranks of the force.

"The people I interact with from there are really on board, I think," she said. "Now, this

would have been my first legislative session and our ability to collaborate on policing policies might have revealed itself better. Of course the session did not really happen the way we thought it would so I can't say for sure what that collaboration would have looked like. I would like to believe that it would have been positive."

Ms. Davis said she has a very good working relationship with the Vermont Department of Health as well.

"I find our Health Department is very aware and very open about health equity between racial and ethnic groups," she said. "Before COVID, I have found that they have been very, very deeply analytical about the issue in Vermont so I'm less worried about them getting it and caring about it because they've already demonstrated that they do get it and care about it."

The COVID pandemic has not been a major focus for her, she said, because the health officials

are dealing with it well. Her greater concern is with how the underlying structure of the healthcare system affects Vermonters of color.

"A lot of my time has just been kicking into overdrive a lot of systemic work that we have to do to mitigate things like employment, housing, commerce, education, all of the things that put people at greater or lesser risk of negative outcomes from COVID," she said. "That's how we really move the needle."

Ms. Davis said it is hard not to want improvement to come faster than it can.

"The problem is, it's slow work," she said. "It's difficult to engage in work that is most critical but also takes time, because you feel like you're seeing the problem happening now and you want to have the solution now. But the day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit."

# Estimated 400 attend Craftsbury BLM protest



An estimated 400 people attended a Black Lives Matter protest and rally in Craftsbury last Wednesday. Protesters marched around the Craftsbury Common twice, then gathered around the gazebo to observe eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence in memory of George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis, Minnesota, police officer knelt on his neck for that amount of time. Organizers Pablo Coddou and Anne-Marie Keppel spoke to the crowd, in addition to about ten others who talked about racial equity and using the moment to listen, learn, and work for justice.

Photo by Katherine Sims



Matt Allen and Lily Dunbar made this banner.

Photo by Matt Allen

# OSH board stands with protesters

The board of trustees of the Old Stone House Museum will mark Juneteenth by issuing a statement recognizing that black lives matter not just now — but that they have always mattered to the nation. Before recent nationwide protests began, the museum planned educational programs, online workshops, and a birthday celebration focused on Alexander Lucius Twilight.

"Our board of trustees stands with those protesting today," Michael Murphy, Old Stone House Museum board of trustees president, said. "To this end, we plan programs and exhibits on our campus and online that will educate not just about how much black lives matter now but about how much they have always mattered. Not the least of these events will be the celebration we plan for Mr. Twilight's birthday."

The museum strongly condemns the latest round of police brutality that has included the killings of Rayshard Brooks and Ahmaud Arbery of Georgia, Breonna Taylor of Kentucky, Tony McDade of Florida, and George Floyd of Minnesota. Old Stone House believes systemic racism, built on the backs of each succeeding generation of African Americans, has no place in society. They also believe ending systemic racism

in the United States means educating others about African Americans who, like Mr. Twilight, have made the nation what it is today.

On Friday, June 19, a concurrent resolution sponsored by Senators John Rodgers and Robert Starr and representatives Vicki Strong, Brian Smith, and Lynn Batchelor will be read at the State House. The resolution will designate Wednesday, September 23, as Alexander Lucius Twilight Day in Vermont.

"We need look no further than the example of our founder to chart a path forward that ends the pervasive inequalities that persist in our society today," Carmen Jackson, Old Stone House Museum board of trustees vice president, said. "He was one of Vermont's earliest and most noteworthy African American leaders, and he provides a guiding light during these trying times."

The Old Stone House Museum will also mark Juneteenth with the launch of the first day of the Kids' Friday educational program for preschool to elementary school aged children in the Northeast Kingdom. A key part of this program — which provides a weekly free lunch, lesson plan, and take-home heritage activity kit. Similarly, the

museum launched virtual programs in May 2020 that include workshops focused on topics such as racism in the United States and the readings of Frederick Douglass. The museum also plans online text, audio, and video content that highlights the life of Mr. Twilight and his important legacy.

For more information, call 754-2022 or visit [www.oldstonehousemuseum.org](http://www.oldstonehousemuseum.org). — from the Old Stone House Museum.

199 Depot Street  
Lyndonville, VT 05851  
(802) 626-9026  
Fax: (802) 626-4020

**THE CARPET CONNECTION**

~ We Sell Only Flooring; That Saves You Money ~  
[www.thecarpetconnectionvt.com](http://www.thecarpetconnectionvt.com)

SINCE 1953

**ANTENNA MAN**  
Advanced Technology In Your Home

802-334-8823  
INFO@ANTENNAMAN.TV

COMMERCIAL ~ RESIDENTIAL ~ SALES ~ SERVICE ~ INSTALLATION

**Give your brain a challenge!**

with the **Chronicle CROSSWORD**

Find it on page 9 every week!