

## Calling all Talented Youth to Sign up for CFA First Friday Talent Show

### Press release

Join the Center for The Arts for their August First Friday, We' Got Talent!”, August 3, 3 PM at Whipple Hall. This event will highlight our talented area youth as kids ages 5 to 18 perform, act, sing, dance, recite poetry or do a mono-

logue. There is no charge to participate just email artsonmainnh@gmail.com to sign up. Come on out and see this wonderful youth talent show. All First Friday events are free and open to the public. For more information visit [www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org](http://www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org)



### Farm from page 14

number of conditions established by the Town to provide some control over the situation. The contracted support requirements included provision of suitable food and clothing, and nursing, if needed. The Town contracted separately for medical care, typically to the Town's resident physician. As a typical example, the 1832 Town Meeting voted that "if any children remain on the Town, the Selectmen shall bind them out in good families until they are of age," and "the poor shall be disposed of in lots, but the lots shall not separate man and wife."

This system served the Town well for many decades. But, as the population increased, the number of paupers and others in need of assistance increased, and the cost to the Town for their support became a concern. In 1816 the Town decided to build a "workhouse for the accommodation of paupers" and chose a committee to select the site and superintend the construction. But nothing came of this decision.

Several years later, in 1819, the Town again confronted this issue. They decided to buy a farm to support the poor, and established a committee to advise the Town as to the best approach to take. In this committee's report to the 1820 Town Meeting they advised the "purchase of a moderate farm to employ the poor in improving the same and providing for their sustenance." Also, in response to new legislation concerning the suppression of idleness, vice and drunkenness, they proposed that this farm serve as a house of correction for the sentencing of those who "may be found idling and spending their time and property in an unlawful way."

This committee also came up with a creative suggestion for funding the purchase of the farm, i.e., to borrow the money at interest from the parsonage fund. This fund had derived from the setting out, in the original grant of the Town, of three lots for support of the Town's church, the so-called "parsonage lots." These lots had been sold at auction in 1810 for \$1,607, which amount became the "parsonage fund", with the annual interest that it earned being distributed proportionally to the (by then) numerous religious societies in town.

The Town next established a committee to determine rules and regulations for the discipline and governance of those supported on the Town Farm. The report of this last committee, accepted by a vote of the Town in 1821, begins:

In view of the great increase of pau-

perism, the people of Andover have been satisfied of the necessity of some different mode of support and some rule of government and discipline to be exercised towards paupers which shall serve immediately to correct the great and increasing evil; rules calculated to punish sloth and indolence, correct vice and immorality, establish industry, teach economy and prudence, encourage virtue and morality, and establish at the same time the means of support on the most just and equinomical [sic] principles, so that he who will not work may not eat.

The regulations ordained that plain and adequate food and clothing be provided – no spirits nor tobacco, and coffee or tea only once a week. Labor would be performed under the supervision of the overseer, who could withhold sustenance if necessary. No pauper could leave without permission, and the Selectmen were ultimately responsible for the adequate punishment of crime.

See Farm on page 26

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**PRESENTS**

**Music in the Park**

Odell Park in the gazebo  
Thursday, August 9 Just Because Acoustic trio plays an eclectic assortment of Americana cover tunes.

Thurs, Aug 16 Decato-Sanborn Project If you like guitar, well crafted and well presented music with roots in multiple genres, don't miss this performance.

Thursday, Aug 23 Breaking Character Put a smile in your face and move your feet, performing today's and yesterday's hits from Weezer to Paula Abdul.

All concerts start at 6:30 pm

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