

Concord VNA Holds Senior Health Clinic at The Hub

Tuesday, September 17

Press release

The Concord Regional VNA is holding a Senior Health Clinic at the Andover Hub, 157 Main Street in Andover, on Tuesday, September 17, from 10 to 1 PM. All Senior Health Clinic services are provided for a suggested donation of \$10, however, services are provided regardless of a person's ability to pay.

Services offered include foot care, blood pressure screening, B-12 injections, medication education, and nutritional education. Call 224-4093 or (800) 924-8620, ext. 5815 for an appointment. 

OPINIONS

Ken Wells' Report from Concord

Representative Ken Wells

Since the 2019 Legislative session closed at the end of July, the Governor has been making almost daily headlines with his vetoes of bills that have passed with a majority in both legislative bodies. At this moment, there have been an unprecedented 53 bills vetoed. Most remarkable to me is roughly half of the Governor's vetoes were of bills co-sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate. Since these legislators are duly elected representatives of the majority of the people in their districts, it would appear that the Governor is setting himself against the will of the majority of the people. You could ask whose interests does he serve?

During the first session I have made many friends among members of both parties in the legislature. Some of those friends' ideologies are as closely held and diverse as religious beliefs might be, and their views may be different from my own. Such differences do not devalue them in my eyes as human beings or justify vilification. I'm pleased that the New Hampshire Legislature, with very few lapses, does not stoop to the distortion and slander we see played out daily in national hyper-partisan politics. As New Hampshire legislators, we have sworn that our first responsibility is to uphold our state Constitution and to faithfully represent the interests of the people who elected us, not to uphold the various institutions and enterprises who try incessantly to influence us to become their instruments, not the people's.

Unfortunately, the Governor's myriad vetoes, accompanied by rhetoric and inaccuracies in his short "veto messages," seem to run counter to the wishes of most New Hampshire people. Among those 53 vetoed bills, there are a few I would like to take this opportunity to explain.

HB706 would have established an "independent redistricting commission" with the purpose of ending gerrymandering in New Hampshire. ("Gerrymandering" is the deliberate manipulation of district boundaries to give one's political party an advantage. It was invented in New Hampshire by Elbridge Gerry during the early 1800s and continues to be used in New Hampshire and indeed all around the USA to this day.) Members of the independent commission created by HB706 would have been selected by the New Hampshire Secretary of State from a pool of applicants who would not include elected officers or lobbyists. The Secretary of State's sworn Constitutional responsibility is to maintain free and fair elections in New Hampshire. The fact that the bill had both Democratic

and Republican sponsors (authors), was reviewed and recommended by the House Election Law standing committee, and then passed with a 218-123 vote indicates to me that the majority of New Hampshire people are in favor of this type of election reform. Yet the Governor vetoed HB706. Why?

The Governor also vetoed a bill (HB105) that would have removed a virtual "poll tax" enacted by the previous legislature to take effect in the next election. HB105 specifically makes it illegal to claim domicile or to vote both in New Hampshire and also in another state. I think you'd agree that all Americans should cast a ballot, but should do so only once in each election. But to say that voter fraud will be prevented by instituting a poll tax is disingenuous. Poll taxes are an undemocratic scheme for discouraging people without a certain amount of money from voting. But due to the Governor's veto of HB105, you might find yourself prevented from voting in the next election if you are unable to show you have paid money for a utility bill, paid money for rent, or paid money for a New Hampshire driver's license or motor vehicle registration in your name in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Bill of Rights states "The right to vote shall not be denied to any person because of the non-payment of any tax". In spite of this, the Governor vetoed HB105, opening the door for this poll tax. Critics say his action could prevent or intimidate New Hampshire students and poor people from voting.

Perhaps the most controversial among the Governor's recent vetoes are those bills meant to curb the spread of gun violence to New Hampshire. Gun violence is a terrible and growing problem that demands that cool heads work together to find effective and fair solutions. However, the role of guns in too-frequent mass shootings throughout the United States has stoked unhelpful inflammatory speech from both sides. Rather than sticking to their own well thought-out proposal to prevent this type of violence, some spokespersons spend most of their words describing their opponent's supposed extreme points of view. This is called a "straw man argument" which paints an exaggerated picture of their opponent's position in the hopes of whipping up an emotional reaction that will favor their own political aims. These "straw men" do nothing to help solve the problem of violence, but actually amplify and widen our disagreements over this "wedge issue" for political gain.

The United States Constitution's second amendment is only 27 words in length: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Equally

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Events Calendar

September 4

Tiger Mtn. Karate Open House: 6 PM at Whipple Hall, Colby-Sawyer College in New London, (603) 477-3174, TigerMountainKarate.com

September 6

First Friday Gallery Stroll: 5:30-7 PM, Downtown New London, (603) 526-4444, CenterForTheArts.org

September 7

105th Danbury Grange & Comm. Fair: All day, at and around Blazing Star Grange, 15 North Rd., Danbury, (603) 252-4440

Wilmot Farmers Market: 9 AM-Noon, 9 Kearsarge Valley Rd., Wilmot

Curiosity Shop at Wilmot: 9 AM-Noon, 9 Kearsarge Valley Rd., Wilmot

September 8

Tucker Mtn. School Open House: 1-3 PM, Tucker Mountain Road, E. Andover, (603) 735-5586

September 11

Sept. 11 Memorial Service: 8:40 AM, behind AE/MS on School St.

September 12

O'Gallagher Art Exhibit Opens: Lovejoy Library at Proctor Academy, through Dec. 14.

Conservation Options Workshop for Land Owners: 7 PM, Brown Mem. Library, Bradford, Ausbon-Sargent.org

Andover Area Democrats Mtg.: 7 PM, 72 Maple St., E. Andover

September 14

Wilmot Farmers Market: 9 AM-Noon, 9 Kearsarge Valley Rd., Wilmot

September 15

Chamber Music Concert: 3 PM at Olde Baptist Meeting House, Rte. 4,

September 17

Senior Health Clinic: 10 AM-1 PM, at Andover Comm. Hub, (603) 224-4093

September 20

Andover Coffeehouse: 7 PM at Highland Lake Grange Hall, E. Andover, AndoverCoffeehouse.org

Murder Mystery Event: 7PM, Franklin Opera House, **Tickets**

sold in advance only! (603) 934-1901, FranklinOperaHouse.org

September 21

Rummage Sale: 9 AM-Noon, Immaculate Conception Church, Andover

Wilmot Farmers Market: 9 AM-Noon, 9 Kearsarge Valley Rd., Wilmot

Rail Trail Bike Ride: 11 AM, Depot St. in Boscawen, FNRT.org

Murder Mystery Event: 7 PM, Franklin Opera House, **Tickets sold in advance only!** (603) 934-1901, FranklinOperaHouse.org

September 22

Harvest Moon & Naturefest: 10 AM-4 PM, Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum, Warner, (603) 456-2600, IndianMuseum.org

150th Anniversary-Andover

Comm. Church: 10 AM at Andover Community Church in E. Andover, (603) 735-5160, AndoverChurch@tds.net

September 25

Andover Book Club: 7 PM at Bachelder Library in E. Andover

September 28

Wilmot Farmers Market: 9 AM-Noon, 9 Kearsarge Valley Rd., Wilmot

October 4

Gallagher Art Exhibit Opening Reception: 5:30 PM, Lovejoy Library, Proctor Academy

October 7

R.E.A.C.T. Program Presentation: 6:30 PM, AE/MS, School St. Andover, (603) 735-5494

October 11

Open Studio Exhibit, Farrington/Fitzpatrick: 10 AM-3 PM, 443 Elbow Pond Rd, Andover

Warner Fall Foliage Festival: Main Street, Warner

October 12

Open Studio Exhibit, Farrington/Fitzpatrick: 10 AM-3 PM, 443 Elbow Pond Rd, Andover

Proctor Academy Open House: 8:30 AM-12:15 PM, ProctorAcademy.org/Admissions, (603) 735-6652

Warner Fall Foliage Festival: Main Street, Warner 