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tried to increase and consolidate their power. Not to draw a direct comparison to New Hampshire, but as a worst-case cautionary tale, recall that in 1933, Hitler cemented totalitarian control of his country's government with an emergency decree he issued the day after the German legislative building, the Reichstag, was totally destroyed by a mysterious nighttime fire. Unopposed, Hitler was free to do what he did. Let's learn from history.

With the State House shut down, all the co-equal branches of state government face a significant obstacle to their function, and our constitutional democracy faces a number of risks. The guard rails imposed by the New Hampshire Constitution's checks and balances provide a dynamic and productive struggle among 1) the General Court, composed of the House and Senate Legislative bodies, 2) the Executive Council, which must approve the State's contractual expenditures, 3) the New Hampshire judicial courts, and 4) the Governor's executive offices.

How does the venerable New Hampshire Constitution envision government? Your interests, as citizens of Merrimack District 1, are primarily represented by your elected officials in the Legislature. (That is, myself, David Karrick, and Senator Harold French.) The courts, presided over by judges appointed by this and previous governors, make sure that everyone is playing according to the "rulebook" embodied in the New Hampshire Constitution and in statute.

The Governor, as chief executive, is granted vast and sweeping powers he can wield with agility in the face of a sudden crisis like COVID-19, but his emergency measures are subject to review in the slower, but powerfully deliberative, processes within the Legislature and the Courts.

The New Hampshire Constitution is a brilliant document, crafted and refined over many years to consider past and future circumstances; even such an emergency as this current pandemic was planned for. In the case of emergency spending, the Legislature's "power of the purse" was delegated in RSA 9:13(d) to a small bipartisan "dream team" called the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee, which has the power to approve or nix any emergency expenditures on behalf of the full Legislature. (It's called "joint" because its members

include both House Representatives and Senators of both parties.) Especially important these days, the Joint Fiscal Committee is constitutionally permitted to conduct its business via telephone or internet teleconferences.

What does the New Hampshire Constitution say we are supposed to be doing in order to quickly and constitutionally distribute federal emergency aid to New Hampshire people when it arrives this month? Yeah, that's not what's happening right now.

The Governor has created his own, different "dream team" which he calls GOFERR. This body supposedly has oversight, but possesses no constitutional power to reject or halt expenditures by the Governor of the \$1.25 billion dollars in federal funds. GOFERR seems aptly named, because its only power, it seems, is to rubber-stamp the Governor's decisions on what happens to the money.

Now, I trust that the Governor means to do right by the People of New Hampshire, but could anyone stop him if he decided to send part of the state's \$1.25 billion in federal emergency funds to, say, bail out the out-of-state industries that are his political supporters? The New Hampshire Constitution says the existing Joint Fiscal Committee must be the body empowered to stand in the way of such questionable decisions. The Joint Fiscal Committee is already constitutionally empowered to make sure that the People get the monies intended for them.

The problem is that the suit challenging GOFERR brought by the Legislature will take some time to grind through the courts, and, in the meantime, the federal money might already have been spent improperly. Good luck getting any of that money back to New Hampshire people after the check clears, especially since it would be hard and slow to get the money back if it were cashed by an out-of-state entity. (If you would like more information about what state and federal aid might be available to you, your children, or your small business, see the "COVID-19 Updates" page at AndoverBeacon.com, or call me.)

I'm convinced that GOFERR isn't in the best interests of the People of New Hampshire, and that bypassing the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee is not consistent with the New Hampshire Constitution I swore an oath to protect.

during the event. The sponsor of the event is Huckleberry Propane and Oil.

Plans for a June "Third Friday" event are currently uncertain. Look for details in the June Beacon or on the Coffeehouse website at AndoverCoffeehouse.org.

Fourth of July Committee Brainstorms Celebration Scenarios

Just in case shelter-at-home is still in place

Press release

Nothing in 77 years has ever stopped the Andover Fourth of July celebration, except the weather! The committee's enthusiasm and the town's support has never faltered in all that time. Now, we are up in the air as to how this year's celebration will play out.

At our last meeting, the committee discussed options for the upcoming July 4th celebration in the event that shelter-at-home might still be in force, or that large crowds would be discouraged because of COVID-19.

It was amazing to see the committee rally. Rather than feel down and out, they were excited to try new things

in order to ensure that Andover has a Fourth of July celebration no matter what.

We would have a Fourth of July website with many activities. For example: a virtual raffle, photos submitted by folks of their kids decorating bikes for the Fourth, coloring contest with pages for kids to download, and streaming of last year's parade. These are just a few of the ideas the committee came up with.

If any of you have suggestions, please let us know. One thing is for sure, this type of virtual celebration won't be hampered by weather!

Just like those who fought and died for this country, we all need to stand tall, be brave, and never give up! That's the Andover way!



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Online access only!

**Join live event
for free with
web browser
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**Details at website:
www.andovercoffeehouse.org**

**ANDOVER COMMUNITY
COFFEEHOUSE & OPEN MIC**

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH, 7:00PM

Kala Farnham

Sponsored by: Huckleberry Propane & Oil

Due to health considerations, this event is not being held at the Grange Hall. It is only available online.

Open mic performers – sign up in advance by contacting:
theandoverhub@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT SUSAN CHASE AT 735-5135 OR SRFCHASE@GMAIL.COM

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soon as possible for more information. The concert will be free of charge, although viewers will be able to make a contribution electronically to the featured performer via instructions to be given



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