

LETTERS

Coronavirus Coverage

Well done, *Beacon* staff! Please keep up the good work!

Rita Norander

The *Beacon* and its staff are to be commended for the excellent May issue coverage of the coronavirus story in Andover. Many thanks – and keep up the good work.

Bill Bardsley

Keeping Connected

The May issue of *The Andover Beacon* was full of interesting stories and articles about the people of Andover and what they are doing to keep busy during their stay-at-home time due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

I found the articles concerning Andover's businesses very helpful in let-

Your opinion matters! Please send a letter to the *Beacon* expressing your thoughts on any local matters. Our readers want and need to hear your voice!

ting me know which ones were open, when they were open, and what services they were offering. These articles were enjoyable to read and had a way of connecting me to Andover and its people, even during this time when a personal connection is not always possible.

This is what *The Andover Beacon* does best for our community. It brings us together, and it keeps us informed.

Physical Distance, Social Connection

Our community is well served by physical distancing and wearing masks, as well as by the many efforts around town to maintain our social connections despite the need for physical distance. Kudos to all for committee meetings via Zoom, a virtual Community Coffee House each month, neighbors helping neighbors, etc.

But what I find confusing is the nationwide use of the term "social distancing." Six feet is a measure of physical distance, not social distance. We need the physical distance (backed up with masks) to control the spread of the COVID virus. At the same time, we are doing everything we can to strengthen the social connections that physical distancing makes more difficult.

The phrase "social distancing" seems an inept and misleading way to refer to the twin imperatives we are living with in these extraordinary times. Referring to "physical distance" and "social connection" separately – and therefore accurately – might make it easier for us all to maintain our focus on each.

Charlie Darling



OPINION

Agree Or Disagree, Chris Sununu is Governor of New Hampshire

Pandemic means all of us are in unknown times

Louise Andrus, Salisbury

I was very disappointed with an opinion article in the *Beacon* last month on "How Do We Govern the State Without Holding Meetings? GOFERR is not in the best interests."

I have felt and continue to feel that during this COVID-19 period of time, with everything pertaining to this virus being new in nature and all of us being in unknown times, that we were and continue to be united people working with one another to make our changes in life work, the best way we can. I have felt we were not partisan, meaning we were not Republicans, nor Democrats, nor Independents. But I was wrong. In my opinion this whole article was politically based and politically directed.

First and foremost, Chris Sununu was voted in by the voters of New Hampshire in 2018 as Governor. It was and still is his job to govern the State. Whether any one of us agrees or disagrees with his decisions, he is the Governor of New Hampshire. This whole COVID-19 pandemic has been new to everyone including Governor Sununu. I am sure he was not given a book on COVID-19 and what to do. I would not want to be in Governor Sununu's shoes, as no matter what he does or does not do it is impossible for him to please everyone.

In this particular article there was the mention of Hitler. Was the writer

referring that the Governor might act like Hitler? I felt the use of Hitler wording was inappropriate and insincere in a period of time when we need to be optimistic.

As for the State House being closed and the House Legislature not working, that is the Legislature's fault. There have been many governmental and non governmental organizations and businesses holding virtual meetings, and in my opinion the Legislature could have done the same thing. I have been attending one to three Zoom meetings a week. It is different but has served its purpose.

I was very taken aback when the article stated, "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." To me the disdain of Governor Sununu was very evident.

In my opinion, I would have rather had an article written by Representative Ken Wells advising his constituents on what was available that might be of help. What I mean by that is, for example, the Taxpayer Assistance for Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief, which most people do not know exists.

The Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief program was designed to lessen the economic burden of the State Education Property Tax on certain at-risk taxpayers.

An eligible applicant for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief is a person who is:

- single with adjusted gross income equal to or less than \$20,000; or married or head of New Hampshire household with adjusted gross income less than or equal to \$40,000; and
- owns a homestead subject to the State Education Property Tax; and
- has resided in that homestead on April 1 of the year for which the claim is made.

Applications for the Low and Moderate Income Homeowners Property Tax Relief are accepted only during the statutory filing period - after May 1, but no later than June 30. The law allows 120 days for processing from the date of receipt of your completed application.

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New London Hospital IS HERE FOR YOU.

As **COVID-19** reshapes our lives on a daily basis, we encourage you to visit our website, newlondonhospital.org, for:

- Updates on our procedures
- Community resources
- Wellness information to help you and your family.

To receive regular community updates from our President and CEO, Tom Manion, be sure to subscribe to our email newsletter in the link provided on our website.

Thank you.



New London Hospital
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