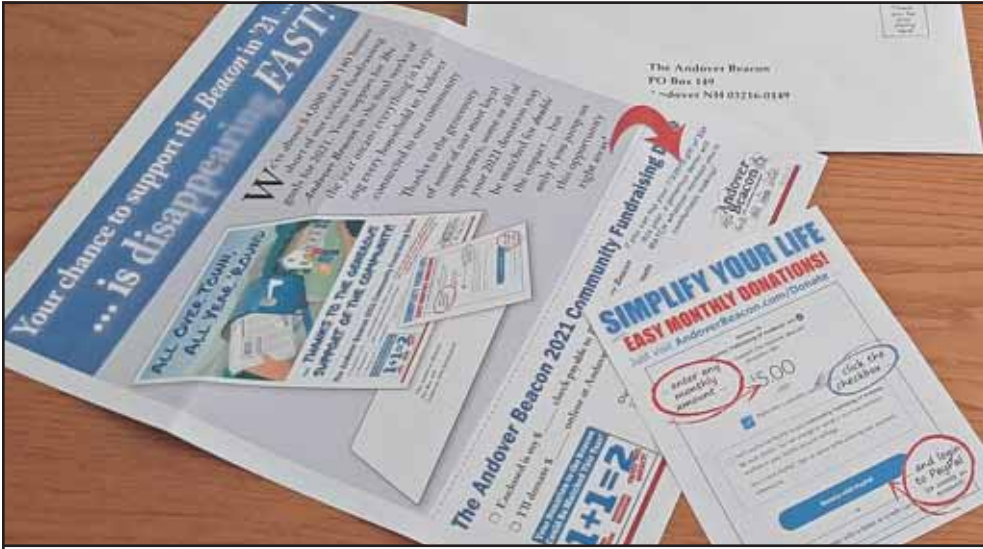


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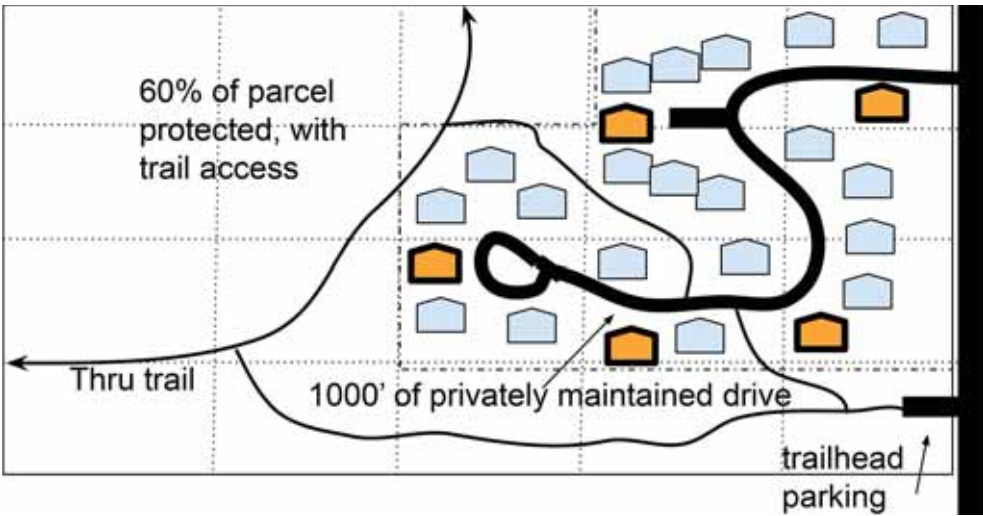
Two New Recipes for the Holidays from Andover Cooks! See page 2.



Robin Benincase and Ty Morris were among the volunteers decorating the Giving Tree and donation mail slot at the Hub after Thanksgiving. For more about Giving Tree donations, see page 22. Photo: Susan Chase



Your chance to help the Beacon balance its books for the year is fading fast! We've had very generous support from 183 households so far, but we're just over \$2,000 short of reaching our community fundraising goal for the year. There are still matching funds available, as explained at AndoverBeacon.com/Match, so don't let this opportunity slip away!



Twenty-five homes on 40 acres: A proposed new Conservation Subdivision would allow for higher density, more green space, less Town road maintenance, and higher property values.

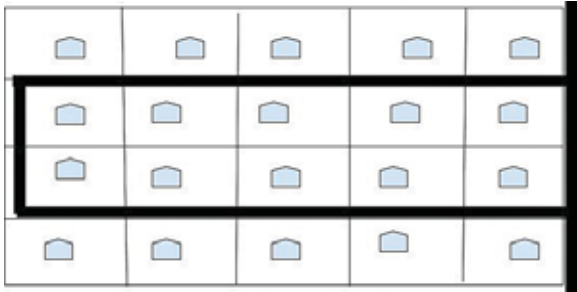
Proposed Conservation Subdivision Aims to Lower Tax Rate

Ordinance offers two types of incentives

Andover Planning Board

The Andover Planning Board's proposed Conservation Subdivision ordinance, based on the 2011 Master Plan, does not remove existing subdivision rules, but presents a more attractive alternative to Andover's existing "suburban" development model.

Today's restrictive subdivision rules maximize developers' earnings



Twenty homes on 40 acres: Andover's current subdivision rules encourage typical "suburban" developments.

See Subdivision on page 4

Warrant Article Will Propose Switch to SB2 Voting Format

Traditional Town Meeting or Deliberative Session?

Andover Select Board

The virtual Town Meeting in March 2021 was an eye-opening experience. Not surprisingly, the reviews of its success or failure were mixed.

Unless directed otherwise by the Governor, our traditional Town Meeting will commence in person on March 8, 2022 at the Andover Elementary/Middle School. During this traditional Town Meeting, a collection of warrant articles covering the Town budget, special expenditures, policy direction, etc. will be presented, openly discussed, possibly amended, and then voted upon.

Of special note will be a warrant article proposing the Town of Andover switch to a voting format that follows NH RSA 40:13 (commonly called SB2). If passed by a 60% affirmative vote, this will impact how we discuss/debate and then vote on warrant articles beginning in 2023.

Public hearings on the subject prior to Town Meeting will be scheduled in February and posted in the coming months. For those that care about this outcome, it is vital that you attend and vote at the upcoming Town Meeting.

What SB2 Changes

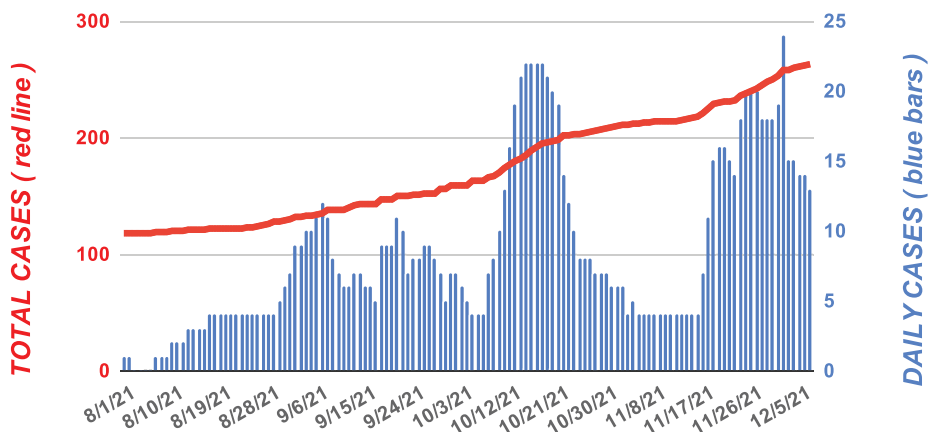
What changes when following SB2 is simple to explain. SB2 is a ballot referendum form of voting that follows NH

See SB2 on page 4

COVID-19 Cases in Andover

August 1 through December 7

Total cases since 2020 in red; active cases on a given day in blue.



After a brief respite in early November, COVID came charging back, driving total Andover cases to 263 through December 7 and briefly hitting a new all-time one-day high of 24 active cases on December 2.

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Ty Morris's Braised Short Rib Stuffed Shells are sure to be a hit for holiday gatherings.

Andover Cooks Share Favorites: Braised Short Rib Stuffed Shells

“Perfectly melty and delicious!”

Ty Morris, Coldwell Banker Lifestyles

This dish can be used as an appetizer or as a main entree served with other accompaniments. Use your judgement for

ingredient quantities based on how this food item will be used in your menu.

Braised Short Rib Stuffed Shells

Begin by cubing and seasoning your short rib with salt, pepper, garlic, and fresh herbs.

See Shells on page 3



Farm Christmas

Spring Ledge Farm
37 Main St. - New London, NH
603-526-6253 - springledgefarm.com
Mon - Sat 10 - 5:30 - Sundays 10-4



Zimtsterne, or German Cinnamon Stars, are a Christmas favorite made with ground nuts and holiday spices. The lemony glaze complements and enhances the overall taste. Photo: Shelley Geoghegan

Andover Cooks Share Favorites: Zimtsterne, German Cinnamon Stars

Recipe from *The New German Cookbook*

Pecco Beaufays
Highland Lake Inn

This recipe for Zimtsterne, German for Cinnamon Stars, is from *The New German Cookbook* written in the 1980s by my long-time best friend, Hedy Wuerz, who sadly left us many years ago. Hedy was the Director of Public Relations for the German National Tourism Office in New York City during the 1980s and 1990s. She developed this book in cooperation with Jean Anderson, a renowned cookbook author from North Carolina, and many Michelin Star Chefs in Germany, and Harper Collins Publisher, who published the book in 1993. Also included in the book are family recipes collected by Hedy.

Zimtsterne

Recipe for about 48 cookies

- 1.5 stick unsalted butter
- ⅔ cup granulated sugar
- finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- ¼ teaspoons ground cinnamon

- ¼ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 extra-large egg yolks
- 1 cup finely ground blanched almonds
- 1 cup finely ground walnuts
- 1½ cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1½ cups unsifted confectioner's sugar, blended with 3 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice for the glaze

Cream the butter, granulated sugar, lemon zest, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt in a large electric mixer bowl at high speed for about two to three minutes, until light and fluffy.

Reduce the mixer speed to low, add the egg yolks and beat for one minute. Add the almonds, walnuts, and the flour and beat at lowest mixer speed just enough to combine.

Divide the dough in half, shape each half into a ball, then flatten into a six-inch circle. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for at least two hours, or, better yet, overnight.

When ready to proceed, preheat the oven to 350° F.

Roll each half of the dough to a thickness of ⅛" between sheets of lightly floured wax paper. Slide the papers of dough onto a baking sheet, set in the freezer, and chill for five minutes so that the dough will be easier to cut.

Very gently peel off the top sheet of wax paper. Using a lightly floured 2¾" star cutter, cut into cookies right on the bottom sheet of wax paper. Then, using a lightly floured spatula, carefully transfer the cookies to lightly greased baking sheets, spacing one inch apart.

Bake the cookies in the middle of the oven for 10 to 12 minutes, or until lightly browned around the edges. Cool the cookies on the baking sheets on wire racks for eight minutes.

Glazing the Cookies

Using a pastry brush, brush the still-warm cookies with a thin wash of glaze. Let the glaze harden, and apply a second thin layer. Once the glaze has hardened, layer the cookies between sheets of wax paper and store in an airtight container.



JOYFUL HOLIDAY

At this sparkling, joyful time of year,
We think of people who are special and dear;
We're sending this poem in the hopes it conveys
Our best wishes for your Happy Holidays!

-JOANNA FUCHS

WISHING ALL OF ANDOVER A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

TY MORRIS, REALTOR
COLDWELL BANKER LIFESTYLES

Miniature New England Village Goes on Display at the Hub

Sundays, December 12 and 19, 2 to 4 PM

Susan Chase
Andover Community Hub

For a holiday treat, a miniature snow-covered ceramic New England village will be on display for local residents to enjoy at the Andover Community Hub, 157 Main Street, on Sunday, December 12 and 19, from 2 to 4 PM, and any time the Hub is open throughout the holiday season.

Part of the collection of Andover resident Renee Goodwin, the display is lighted and features an electric train that runs throughout the village, as well as a swan pond and small figures going about their daily lives.

Renee has been collecting these houses and figures for five years, but her display has gotten way too large for her house, so she decided to reach out to the Hub to find a way to share part of it with the community, perhaps one part this year and another next year.

Residents – and especially those with kids – are welcome to stop in on December 12 or 19 to enjoy the display, as well as cookies and cider. In addition, the Hub is generally open on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 AM for drop-in coffee, so these are other good times to stop in between December 12 and January 6, the day that is traditionally thought of as the Twelfth Day of Christmas and the end of the holiday season.



Andover resident Renee Goodwin shares part of her expansive miniature, ceramic, New England village with the Hub for visitors to enjoy during December. Photo: Renee Goodwin

Shells from page 2

Sear the seasoned short rib in a mixture of butter and oil until brown.

Place the short rib in a crock pot or pressure cooker with 1 cup of beef or chicken broth and cook until tender.

In the meantime, boil large pasta shells until about 80% cooked. Drain and run cold water over them immediately until cool.

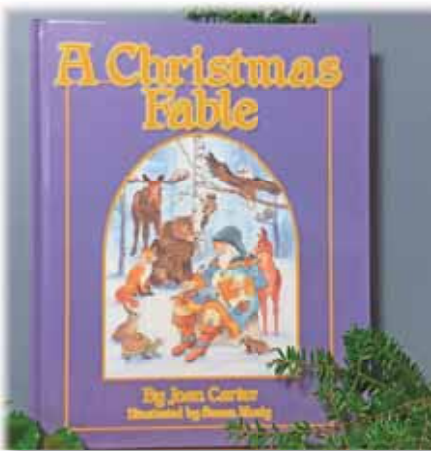
In a large bowl, mix tender short rib; cream cheese; your favorite blend of grated parmesan, mozzarella, asiago, or provolone; fresh parsley; and chopped basil.

Stuff the shells with the cheese mixture. Sometimes less is more, as the cheese can be very filling and you'll want room for more! Also note that the cheese blend may be salty already – be sure to taste it before adding more salt!

Place the shells in a casserole dish. Top lightly with your favorite tomato sauce and more grated cheese. Bake and broil until perfectly melty and delicious!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE ANDOVER THRIFT AND GIFT SHOP



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- ✓ Cardigan Mountain gift sets

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 26 School St, Andover. Next to the Andover Elementary/Middle School.



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Subdivision from page 1

if they can subdivide a large forested plot into uniform two-acre lots, each with at least 250' of road frontage. While this old restrictive "suburban" model will continue to exist in Andover, a far more aesthetic model with greater creative flexibility is possible under the proposed Conservation Subdivision.

The new ordinance provides greater financial reward to the landowner/developer in return for building a type of housing that preserves the rural character of our town and is in great demand across a wide range of age and income demographics.

The new proposed Conservation Subdivision ordinance will be presented at two public meetings in January.

Impacts of Proposed Ordinance

The proposed ordinance has several incentives for the Town and the landowner/developer.

- 1) The incentives increase the number of housing units that may be built on the parcel.
- 2) The more compact arrangement of housing units has a low requirement for lot frontage on a Town road, saving road construction, maintenance, and snow removal costs.
- 3) The nearness of the housing units to protected natural areas (rather than being surrounded by suburban landscaping) makes them more desirable

places to live, which will enhance their sale prices.

Notice that these gains benefit not only the developer, but also provide benefits to the Town in terms of reduced road maintenance per household, and increased tax base as new homes are built.

There are two general types of incentives in the proposed ordinance: density incentives and conservation incentives.

Density incentives encourage "European-style" or "pocket" developments that create compact residential villages surrounded by natural or open spaces. In the early days of Andover's development, such small villages were known as Potter Place, Cilleyville, East Andover, etc. Density incentives could encourage the creation of new residential groupings in undeveloped areas.

Conservation incentives encourage thoughtful use of energy and natural resources, aimed toward long-lived, low-maintenance, and energy-efficient structures with the lowest lifetime ownership costs. Such an incentive discourages low-quality housing that deteriorates and depreciates rapidly, but instead encourages durable housing with low long-term cost of operation and maintenance.

Density Incentives

How much could these incentives be worth to citizens of Andover? Let's compare a Conservation Subdivision

scenario to a traditional two-acre subdivision of the same 40-acre buildable plot, as a baseline. Let's also pretend that all the housing units have an equal average base value, just to simplify the comparisons.

Andover's current "suburban" development ordinance would alter all the scenic and natural acreage in the tract, producing 20 homes or rental units worth, say, \$200,000 apiece. Such a development would increase the Town tax base by \$4 million, raise \$94,000 in new revenue, but require nearly a mile of Town road to be built and maintained

in perpetuity. Last year, road expenses averaged about \$7,000 per mile annually in Andover, so the gross revenue increase would only be about \$87,000.

An alternative scenario is illustrated in the drawing at the head of this article. It shows a Conservation Subdivision of the same 40 acres of land. It puts 60% of the acreage in protection and allows 25 housing units, arranged according to the developer's optimized plan for housing on 16 acres and greenspace with trails on 24 acres.

The estimated value of this larger See Subdivision on page 5

SB2 from page 1


RSA 40:13. In short, SB2 only changes how we vote, not what is voted on.

A meeting similar to a Town Meeting, called the Deliberative Session, is typically held in early February and formulates the warrant articles to be voted upon. All voters will then have an opportunity to vote individually on each warrant article by private ballot a minimum of 30 days later during the all-day voting as part of Town elections on the second Tuesday of March.

Voters may also obtain and vote via absentee ballot. The 30+ day period between the deliberative session and ballot voting gives everyone the opportunity to become informed about the warrant articles.

As with most things in life, neither a traditional Town Meeting nor SB2 is perfect, thus neither will make everyone happy. What's important is that the voters have the choice to decide which method is best suited for Andover.

An article in the February issue of *The Andover Beacon* will attempt to outline the pros and cons of each method. This will be available just before the public hearings, in advance of the Town Meeting in March. In the end, it's hoped that Andover voters in attendance at the Town Meeting will be able to make an informed decision about the method of voting for all in the future.

It's worth repeating: For those that care about this outcome, it is vital that you attend and vote at the upcoming Town Meeting. 

LOCAL BEACON SUPPORTERS WIN!

Each month the Beacon holds a random drawing for Andover residents who have donated to the Beacon in the past calendar year. This month's winners are:

Andover Pizza Chef	Large 2-Topping Pizza	Pecco Beaufays
Naughty Nellie's Ice Cream	Gift Certificate	Bill Radzelovage
JJ's Market & Deli	Gift Certificate	Derek Mansell
Keyser's Garage	Gift Certificate	Janet Dickson
Mary Kay - Laura Condon	Gift Certificate	Ray and Robin Davis
The Refinery Restaurant	Gift Certificate	Joanna Sumner
The Kitchen at Andover	Gift Certificate	Mario and Caroline Ratzki
Blackwater Junction Restaurant	Gift Certificate	Rita Farrington

WINNERS! Call volunteer Margo Coolidge at 603 735-5418 to collect your prize.
Prizes not redeemable for cash. Prizes not claimed in 90 days go back into the prize pool.

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The next issue should be in mailboxes on Friday, January 28. Please get all ads, articles, and letters to us by **Saturday, January 15** at the latest. **And earlier is always better!**

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The Refinery	10	New London Hospital	21
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2022 Calendar Sale	7	Smart Memorial Home	28
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Proctor Academy Ski Area		Mane Street Salon	23
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Andover Community Hub	22		

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Subdivision from page 4

number of comparable homes would be \$5 million, to both the developer and the Town. These homes might be expected to yield about \$113,000 in tax revenue, without the need for any increased taxpayer expenditure for building and maintaining new Town roads.

Conservation Incentives

High efficiency, well-insulated, and thoughtfully designed housing units may qualify for additional conservation incentives. Here's how the proposed ordinance's conservation incentives work: a development whose units conform to LEED standards may get up to 25% additional bonus units.

LEED, or "Leadership in Energy Efficiency and Design," is the US Green Building Council's (USGBC) well-established international design standard for construction, operation, and maintenance of buildings. The LEED benchmark standards are graded Registered, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Standards are updated periodically as new technologies emerge.

LEED homes typically use 20% to 30% less energy every year than average homes, and LEED Platinum homes may save as much as 60%. This saves those homeowners a lot of money year

after year, and provides an ongoing benefit to the environment in terms of reduced pollution.

A study conducted from 2008-2016 by the University of Texas at Austin and USGBC found that LEED homes had 8% higher resale value, or about \$25,000 higher than similar conventional homes valued at \$200,000.

Based on this, if 25 units on the hypothetical 40-acre parcel met LEED-registered standards, those 25 units would likely be worth \$225,000 apiece. Their total value to the developer and the Town tax base would be \$5.6 million. Annual tax income would increase by \$132,000.

Finally, if every conservation incentive were to be maximized and stacked on maximized density incentives, the total number of housing units could go as high as 30. In this case, the total value to the developer and the Town would be \$6.75 million, and would place 28 of the 40 acres in permanent conservation easement. Annual Town tax revenue would increase by \$159,000.

Let's look back and compare this to the current traditional "suburban" development, which produced only \$4 million of taxable property value and altered all 40 acres of natural, rural area

See Subdivision on page 6

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Subdivision from page 5

in Andover by replacing it with two-acre tract housing.

The current total value of assessed property in Andover in 2018 was about \$240 million, so a traditional “suburban” development of 40 acres would increase Town revenue by only about 1.5%, but at a cost of losing 40 acres to natural and recreational use, plus requiring an additional mile of Town road to be built and maintained.

high-density housing can look like, the reader might examine Great Pines near Little Lake Sunapee on Newport Road, or River Grant across from the high school in Contoocook, both of which use much higher densities than those described here. Of course other creative designs are possible; some might be more suitable for Andover than those developments.

The proposed Conservation Subdivision ordinance does not replace the current two-acre subdivision rule; such “suburban” developments are still possible but potentially less lucrative to developers than the proposed alternative. The Planning Board will continue to review every subdivision proposal as it always does, of course, to be sure that all requirements are met and that misinterpretations do not go unchecked.

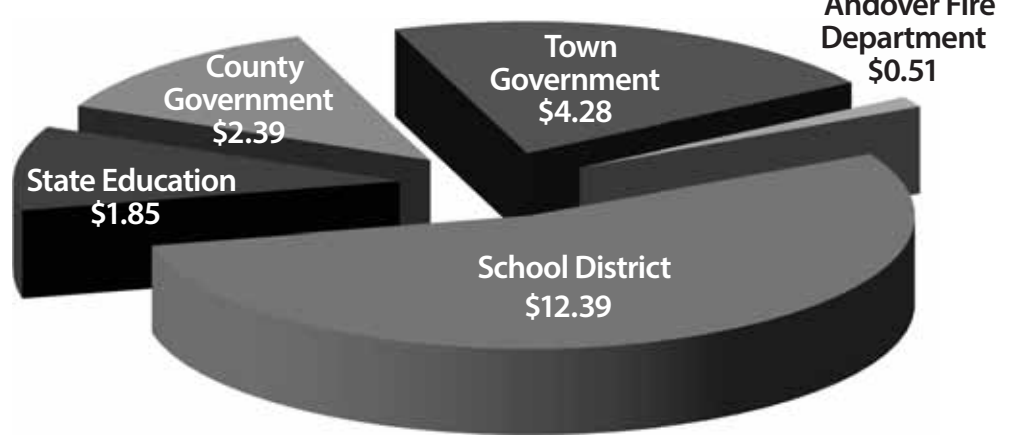
Public Hearings

The new proposed Conservation Subdivision ordinance will be presented at two public meetings in January. Advance copies of the proposal will be available at the Town Office. Following public hearings and discussion, the final version of the ordinance will be presented as a warrant article to be voted by ballot on election day in March.

The Planning Board hopes that the new Conservation Subdivision provision will preserve the appearance and character of our beloved town, while also providing positive outcomes for Andover families, landowners, and taxpayers.

BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL TAX RATE FOR 2021

per \$1,000 of assessed property value



The total tax rate for 2021 is down 2.1% compared to last year.

2021 Property Tax Rate Decreases From 2020 by 2.1%

Calculated based on approved budget

Marjorie Roy, Town Administrator

This article is a basic overview of the Town’s tax rate and is intended to help explain the components of the Town’s tax rate and how it is set each year. At the end we’ll also look at the total tax rate, or how much we pay for every \$1,000 of property valuation, that appears on your semi-annual tax bills.

The Town tax rate is determined by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) and considers three main components:

Total appropriation: This is the total Town budget, including warrant articles. Once approved at Town Meeting in the spring, it becomes the appropriation for the year. For 2021, the total appropriation was \$2,332,271.

Total expected revenues: The Town receives revenue from many different sources during the year, ranging from the Town portion of your motor vehicle registration to the Town’s portion of the State’s Rooms and Meals Tax. For 2021, we expect total revenue of \$979,571.

Adjustments: There are two main adjustments added to our appropriation when setting the tax rate. The first are Veterans Credits – \$55,000 for

2021. The second adjustment is called the Overlay, which is an allowance for abatement of taxes: \$12,838 for 2021.

Money Raised from Taxation

The first step in calculating the tax rate is to determine how much money the Town will need to raise in taxes. This is done by taking the total appropriations voted at Town Meeting (budget plus warrant articles), subtracting total expected revenues and use of the Fund Balance (\$51,000 in 2021), adding Veterans Credits, and finally adding the overlay to arrive at the total amount of money to be raised in taxes.

Once the DRA knows the amount of money to be raised through taxation, which for 2021 is \$1,359,538, the next step is to determine the tax rate per thousand dollars of the town’s valuation.

Tax Rate Calculation

The tax rate is calculated using a simple formula. This formula is:

$$\text{Tax Rate} = \frac{\text{Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes}}{\text{Total Assessed Value of all taxable property times 1,000}}$$

(“Times 1,000” because we always present the tax rate in “dollars per thousand dollars of valuation.”)

Or, using actual figures for 2021:

$$\text{2021 Tax Rate of } \$4.28 \text{ per thousand dollars of valuation} = \frac{\$1,359,538}{\$317,595,538 \text{ times } 1,000}$$

But keep in mind that \$4.28 per thousand is just the Town tax rate. The School District and the Fire Department also have budgets, plus the State collects a State Education tax and Merrimack County collects a county tax; each entity uses a tax rate. Together, those five tax rates create the total tax rate that you see on your property tax bills.

For 2021, the total tax rate is \$21.42 per thousand, a decrease from 2020 of 2.1%. The breakdown of the total rate is:

- Town of Andover: \$4.28
- Andover School District: \$12.39
- Andover Fire Department: \$0.51
- State Education: \$1.85
- Merrimack County: \$2.39

Andover Planning Board Notice of Public Hearings

Andover’s Planning Board will hold public hearings on

Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

at 7:30 PM at the Andover Town Hall to review and accept comments from the public on the proposed draft of the 2022 warrant article regarding **Conservation Subdivisions**.

Copies of the draft article will be available at the Town Offices and on the Andover Town website at Andover-NH.gov.

In comparison, the maximized 30 home Conservation Subdivision development could achieve a 2.8% reduction of our current tax bills, require no new Town road building or maintenance expenses, while it also preserves 28 acres for natural and recreational use in perpetuity.

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Andover Real Estate Transactions November 2021

Five properties sold in past month

Ty Morris, Coldwell Banker Lifestyles

Five properties sold in Andover over the past month.

Theresa Carter sold 163 Maple Street to Michael Zamot and Alexandra Quiros for \$391,000. This four bedroom, two bathroom home, circa 1875, sits on 3.4 acres, has a one-bay barn and includes 2,127 square feet of living space. Mary Lou Cummings and David Cleveland of Coldwell Banker Lifestyles represented the sellers, and Team Marion Sharich of BH&G, the Masiello Group, represented the buyers.

Keith Pfeifer and Jane Slayton sold their house at 48 River's Edge Road to Sarah Cable and Elizabeth Pinsky for \$419,000. This three bedroom, two bathroom saltbox cape sits on 7.58 acres, has an in-ground pool, and 2,379 square feet of living space. Ty Morris of Coldwell Banker Lifestyles represented the sellers and Donna Forest of BH&G, The Milestone Team, represented the buyers.

Doyle C. Adams, Jr. Estate sold 68 Brick House Road to Debra and David Hunter for \$424,000. This three bedroom, two bathroom farmhouse sits on 85 acres and has 2,431 square feet of living space. Nicholas Repp of Lake Farm Realty represented the sellers and Randy Miller of Roche Realty Group represented the buyers.

Michael Mandella and Dana Gadoury sold 118 Beech Hill Road to Tyler Young for \$425,000. This three bedroom, three bathroom split-level home has a two car attached garage, 2,712 square feet of living space, and sits on 10 acres. Kristin Dunklee of BHHS Verani represented the sellers and Anthony Dolan of Dolan Real Estate represented the buyers.

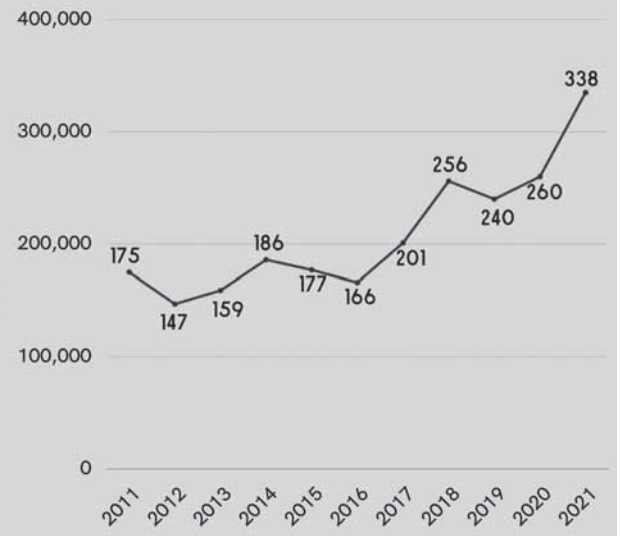
Steven Dupuis sold 484 Elbow Pond Road to Sarah Wood and Steven Doherty for \$575,000. This three bedroom, four bathroom home sits on 4.16 acres. Lori Meding of KW Lakes and Mountains Realty represented both sides of the transaction.

For more local real estate information, call Ty Morris at 603 237-2060. Happy Holidays!

A 10 YEAR LOOK AT ANDOVER'S MARKET

MEDIAN SELLING PRICE
Prior to 2017, the median selling price was historically less than the listing price. Since then, we have seen some fluctuations, with an overall increase in the final sales price when compared to the listing price.

2017	+3%
2018	-3%
2019	+2%
2020	0%
2021	+8%



In 2021, the median selling price of an Andover home was very nearly double the median for 2011.
Data: New England Real Estate Network

Presentation Explains the State of Real Estate in Andover

Larry Chase
Andover Community Hub

According to local realtor Ty Morris, who spoke on the subject of real estate sales in Andover at a November event sponsored by the Andover Community Hub, there is good news for actual and potential home sellers, and not-so-good news for actual and potential home buyers: Competition for New Hampshire homes is driving up values and prices.

Morris added that "Sellers are ben-

efitting from their investments while home prices remain on the rise. Still, it may be the best time to purchase a home as interest rates are historically low, and home values are projected to remain steady over the next few years.

"We may be looking at the new normal of buying and selling real estate in New Hampshire. Feel free to email me with your questions at Ty@TheCBLife.com."

A video of Ty's presentation is available at Andover-NH.gov.

The Andover Historical Society 2022 Annual Calendar featuring photos of Andover history

Available Now!

at Andover's public libraries, Mane Street Salon, and Morgan Hill Bookstore
or by calling 603 380-1070 or 540 250-7023
or visit our website at AndoverHistory.org to order the calendar online
for \$12 (Includes shipping in the USA)



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Joseph Kenney's View From Concord – November

Joseph D. Kenney

Executive Councilor, District 1

The Governor's Advisory Commission on Intermodal Transportation (GACIT) provides input into the Ten-Year Highway Improvement Plan. Also, the Executive Council votes to accept and expend all federal transportation funds.

GACIT has conducted 22 statewide public hearings to receive input on the Ten-Year Highway Improvement Plan. In December 2021, GACIT will provide its recommendations to the Governor who will in turn assign it over to the New Hampshire Legislature for its input and review. After the House and Senate passes the Ten-Year Highway Improvement Plan, the Governor will sign it into law by June 2022.

There has been a lot of news surrounding the new federal infrastructure five-year plan called the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). New Hampshire is programmed to receive \$1.139 billion for its highway programs. Even so, this highway programming amount remains the lowest nationally for a state. Moreover, New Hampshire will be confronted with a revenue shortfall in its road tolls, Betterment, and SB367 programs. But the IIJA federal funding will help to advance many projects.

One of the bright funding sources will be the bridge program category. This IIJA funding amount is \$225 million (m) to address state and town red-listed bridges. The strategy is to use 15% of the bridge fund to support the municipal bridge aid program (\$6.75 m/year). Allocate the remaining \$38 m/year bridge funds to existing state bridge projects to free up funds with greater spending flexibility. The municipal red-listed bridges are over 200, and the state red-listed bridges are over 100. It is the intent to lower the state red-listed bridges from its current amount of 118 to 88 during this ten-year period.

One of the other strategies is to in-

crease the following mandated programs by 24%: HSIP, TAP, CMAQ, Rec Trails, etc. (\$8.3 m). These are popular programs that each District Councilor has a lot of say in. It is the intent to alternate the TAP and CMAQ from

year to year. Other funds will support administrative project changes, project increases, and recommended changes.

Additional transportation IIJA categories include Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (\$17.3 m), Public Transportation (\$131 m), and Airports (\$45.6 m). Other infrastructure items include Broadband (\$100 m), Wildfires (\$5.6 m), Cyber Security (\$12.4 m) and Water (\$418 m).

GACIT public hearing comments brought out the need to expand travel options, improve safety, maintenance of the present system, congestion reduction, and enhance system resiliency. In these hearings, it has become clear there is going to be a reduction in state revenue for unrestricted road tolls, Betterment, and SB367 funds in the coming years. The TIFIA financing for I-93 will start to take out \$23.4 m/year starting in 2026 for nine years.

The New Hampshire Legislature will be forced to look at future gas tax revenues and how it will support our paving and maintenance programs

Additionally, the New Hampshire Legislature will be looking at policy issues such as: how does the state tax electric vehicles on our roadways, the reduction in gas tax revenue (due to more workers working from home), state workforce issues, material costs, contracted labor, safety, and transit issues.

I will always do my best to advocate for District 1, and I look forward to hearing from you at 603 581-8780.

Louise Andrus' View From Concord – November

Louise Andrus, State Representative

I came across a bit of history I would like to share with you. Recently I found a copy of *The Andover Star* which I used to subscribe to. The publisher was Julie Palmer Mayo and the dates of pub-

were unenrolled from the Merrimack Valley School District between of July 1 and September 15.

In my opinion, until we all sit down (school board, superintendent, teachers, parents) as adults and listen to each other and choose to correct any problems, our public schools will continue to see parents opt to enroll their child for an alternative education.

As for masks, again this is my opinion. I am not against masks nor am I for masks. Adults in public and children in school should not be forced and mandated to wear a mask. As for attending school, the decision to wear a mask is a parental decision for their child. As for an adult in public, each individual should make their own decision whether or not to wear a mask. No government should be making these decisions.

No government in my opinion has the right to mandate the current vaccines. Each person has the right to make a decision for their body whether or not they want to receive any one of the COVID-19 vaccines. That is each individual's decision and that decision belongs to no one else.

It is sad and disgusting what we are doing to people in that they are losing their jobs, yet they spent their time a year ago taking care of the sick people, and now we are turning our backs on them because they do not want a vaccine. Who have we evolved into as a people?

I hope you are gearing up to participate in the 2022 House Sessions and Committee Hearings on bills which start in January. If you go to the New Hampshire General Court website you can find the bills vetoed by the Governor and Retained House Bills that will be brought up in January. This is your State and your input is valuable and wanted and needed.

It's hard to believe we are almost at the end of 2021. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Let us all hope and pray that 2022 will be a better year for all of us.

OPINIONS

lication were from September 1988 and ended in November 1990. Do you remember this Andover newspaper?

Did you realize that New Hampshire has a law requiring the teaching of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner in our Public Schools?

New Hampshire Law: Title XV, Chapter 189 states: 189:18 Patriotic Exercises. – In all public schools of the state one session, or a portion thereof, during the weeks in which Memorial Day and Veterans Day fall, shall be devoted to exercises of a patriotic nature, which shall include a discussion of the words, meaning, and history of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner.

On other subjects, I was asked "did I support public schools" and my position on "masks," and my position on "vaccines." Each one of us has a right to our opinion; the following are my opinions:

I do support public schools but I also "totally support School Choice." When it comes to a child's education, one size does not fit all. The choice of where a child goes to school, whether it be public, charter, private, religious, or home schooling is the decision of the parent(s). That decision belongs to no one else but the parent(s).

There is a subject that I have heard no school board, superintendent, teachers, and parents discuss together in a public meeting. That subject is why are parents pulling their child from public school and enrolling them in alternative education? This year alone, 38 students



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Redistricting will Impact Voters in Both Districts 1 and 2

Judith Ackerson, Franklin

I attended the hearing of the Special Committee on Redistricting on November 9 and testified very briefly. First, I expressed my gratitude to the Franklin City Council for having the integrity to sign on to a resolution in support of fair redistricted maps. They joined 73 other communities, representing approximately 560,848 residents of New Hampshire.

The main thrust of my testimony was that even though representatives run as Republicans or Democrats, once elected they are tasked with representing their whole community, not just the people who voted for them. They should be doing what is best for “the community,” not individuals. Drawing gerrymandered maps not only hurts those in the opposing party, as well as independent voters, but also disenfranchises members of their own party who are now in other districts where the im-

part of their votes will not matter. Over 70 towns previously in District 1 are proposed through the recently proposed map to be put into District 2, which will affect several thousand voters.

If you are a Republican who will be

forced from District 1 into District 2 of the congressional map, if it is adopted, are you willing to be thrown under the bus and have your vote neutralized?

The districts as previously drawn have been serving both parties well in recent years, giving both parties’ electorates a reasonable chance of having their candidate win. If you are not happy with the proposed changes, the time is now to reach out to HouseSpecialCommitteeOnRedistricting@leg.state.nh.us.

Judith Ackerson, Franklin

This letter is specifically to the parents who feel they do not have a voice in their kids’ education. You do have a voice, through your local school board representative. Do you get to know who

drama, Robotics Club, and others) and exploring other activities in the wider community: Outing Club, churches, outdoor recreational activities galore. While parents certainly have a right to have their children attend schools outside of the community for whatever reason, it should not be at the expense of our public schools. We must maintain and nourish our public schools, recognizing that without them our communities will wither.

We must be vigilant and be sure the people who are elected locally or appointed and paid to oversee our public school system are working to support those schools, not to dismantle them, like Commissioner Edelblut and some local representatives. We need to pay attention to what is happening and participate by attending meetings, talking to our elected officials, voting, and making sure they are representing us and our children’s interests.

LETTERS

the candidates are and what their views on public education are? Do you vote for your school board representative? Have you called your school board representative to voice any thoughts or concerns, or do you just react to rumors?

Our public schools are the backbone of our community. This is a place where young parents and families can get to know each other, working side by side in such activities as the PTA, supporting extracurricular activities (sports,

Infrastructure Projects Promise to Benefit Local Economies

Mary Anne Broshek, Andover

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The law was approved by 50 Democrats and 19 Republicans in the Senate and 228 Democrats and 13 Republicans in the House of Representatives. New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen, who was one of the 10 negotiators, published the following in a recent newsletter to let New Hampshire residents know the impact on our state:

“I’m proud that our late night, early morning bipartisan talks resulted in this moment: a bipartisan group of lawmakers standing together with the administration, showing the American people what is possible when we leave politics at the door and get things done. These infrastructure projects will create good-paying jobs, stimulate local economies, and prepare our workforce for the 21st century economy – all with an eye towards sustainability to combat the climate crisis.

“At least \$1.1 billion to update our roads and \$225 million to repair bridges across the state. New Hampshire has over 698 miles of roadway and 215 bridges in poor condition

“At least \$100 million to expand broadband coverage to at least 42,800 people across New Hampshire.

“At least \$418 million to expand access to clean drinking water and improve water infrastructure.

“At least \$5.6 million to protect our communities from wildfires and \$12.4 million to protect us from cyberattacks. This funding will strengthen our infrastructure’s resilience against the impacts of climate change, cyberattacks and extreme weather – all of which are becoming more frequent and dangerous threats to our security.

“At least \$125 million to improve public transportation across the state.

“At least \$45.7 million to support updates to New Hampshire’s airports.

“At least \$17 million to expand charging stations for electric vehicles in our state.

“Key action to combat the climate crisis. The major provisions of the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act are now law. These bills will improve energy efficiency and climate resilience of buildings and industrial facilities, as well as invest in clean jobs.”



A group of enthusiastic Andover Democrats gathered on both sides of Main Street on Saturday, November 20, to express their opinions to passing motorists on some of the critically important political issues of the day. Signs held included comments relating to the importance of preserving American democracy; a call for fair New Hampshire legislative redistricting; opposition to vouchers that use public taxpayer money to send New Hampshire children to private schools; to the importance of women’s health issues; to preserving voting rights and fair elections; and to the crucial need for action by the New Hampshire legislature in response to global warming. The sign-holders were gratified at the number of honks and waves of support given in response.

Caption: Susan Chase. Photo: Gail Beaufays

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Support Our Children with a Strong Public Education System

Faith Minton, Warner

As a supporter of public education, I read with disappointment New Hampshire District 25 Representative Natalie Wells' recent letter regarding public education, which in my opinion is dangerous and deliberately inaccurate.

In her letter, Representative Wells makes critical claims about children and education. Given the inaccuracies in her description of public education, I would ask that she provide her readers with the sources of her information about what is happening in our local schools. Has Representative Wells actually visited our schools, attended school board meetings, and participated in open house events? What actual evidence does Representative Wells offer to support her claims? None that I am aware of. She educated her children in another state, retired here, and now hopes to create fear and misunderstanding of what happens in New Hampshire schools.

I believe Rep. Wells' views are echoes of views stated time and time again by Libertarian and Free State factions of the New Hampshire Legislature with which our Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut and our Governor

Chis Sununu have aligned themselves.

As a longtime Warner resident and taxpayer, former educator, parent of students educated at Kearsarge Regional School District, school volunteer and volunteer coordinator, youth mentor,

and past school board member, I have direct knowledge and feel much better qualified to share accurate information about our local public schools. Representative Wells' descriptions of what goes on in our public schools are simply untrue and inaccurate.

When an elected public official uses phrases such as "children made to feel guilty for actions 200 years ago," "children learning to hate their buddies," "parents who speak up at school boards ... are being punished," I ask what schools she is referring to? It is not our local public school system.

These phrases are part of a calculated national political effort designed to generate fear, to make people question the quality of our public schools. They are part of a deliberate attack by well-financed organizations like the Heritage Foundation, 1776 Action, Fight for Schools, Parents Against Critical Theory, Turning Point USA, the list goes on.

We will see more and more attacks on public education leading up to the next election. So please do not be swayed by uninformed messengers who want to undermine our public schools.

I invite Representative Wells and others who are uninformed to learn more about New Hampshire public schools. Contact your local school Superintendent and set up a visit. I am sure Representative Wells will be pleased to find out she lives in a community with quality schools which encourages active family participation. Her local Kearsarge Regional School District is made up of hard working, dedicated professionals who are proud to work in a highly ranked school community.

After your visit to our schools, Representative Wells, I ask that you report back about what is really happening in our local schools. I agree with your feeling that we should come together. Let's come together and support our children and families with a strong, supported public education system that serves all our children regardless of which town the child resides in. Please do not promote false, generalized, politically motivated narratives that are taken from those who wish to dismantle public education. We expect more of our elected officials.

Janet Moore, Andover

Having re-read all of Louise Andrus' *Beacon* articles, I've come to certain conclusions that I believe need to be shared with the public.

Through her letters, she has shared

that she has a 100% approval rating from the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance – read: libertarian – and the New Hampshire House Republican Alliance. She's been a parent to three children at AE/MS and expressed approval when the school was so responsive to concerns voiced to her by parents.

She's vocal about her attendance at MVHS school board meetings, speaking for the parents who were distressed by diversity training and mask mandates. In fact, she referred to that training as leading to indoctrination of the students and that teachers should spend more time on the basics. She's all for parental rights in the schools, but I must point out that these are our taxpayer-funded public schools where we, the people, hire and train and pay good educators to guide the community's children in their learning experiences and responsibilities.

Andrus pointed out twice in her letters that she went to MVHS meetings and stood up for the right of individu-

als to make their own vaccine choices. She'd like us to honor our health care workers, brave and essential folks, even when they choose not to be vaccinated.

But, my concern is that these are the same workers who may have exposed their patients to the germs and viruses they bring into the workplace. And when the federal mandate was handed down, some of these essential health care workers may have been among those who would rather lose their jobs than be jabbed. In losing their essential jobs, they then put their patients at additional risk since not enough staff can be hired and the level of care goes down. Ironically, those same "un-jabbed" then go on, in some cases, to fill up hospital beds and ICU's when they eventually get infected.

Louise Andrus, our state representative, certainly believes in individual rights and in the state motto to live free or die. What's really clear to me, as one of her constituents, is that she simply does not care for the common good. That is my opinion, but it is also clear to me that protecting oneself against the virus also protects any and all people with whom one comes in contact.

When our brave veterans, whom she so rightly praises, went off to war, they fought for the common good, for the welfare and freedom of all the people. I hope our state representative soon finds the time to reflect on just how important it is to value all life, all peoples, and our own friends and neighbors.

LETTERS

CRT has Nothing to Do with Making Children Feel Guilty

Harvey Pine, Ph.D, Andover

I am writing in response to the View from Concord, October 2021 from both State Representatives Louise Andrus and Natalie Wells. While I appreciate the unifying tone they strike and couldn't agree more concerning the sentiments for our veterans and those currently serving our country, I disagree with the dog whistles they employ to spread misinformation. They uncritically adopt the messages from the right concerning controversial books and Critical Race Theory (CRT).

I do not have strong feelings concerning the books mentioned in Andrus' opinion piece. My concern lies in the move to strike these books as a response to what has happened in Texas or Virginia, rather than a truly local concern.

The topics covered in these books are relevant and provide insight into realities too often shoved out of sight. As parents we have opportunities to know what our children are reading

and are able to intervene without banning the content for others. It only involves spending time with our children, developing trust, and being able to discuss topics that are controversial and perhaps taboo.

Regarding Critical Race Theory, I get a sense that Wells is misinformed on the topic, resulting in misleading her constituents. CRT has nothing to do with making our children feel guilty or aimed to stoke hate. It investigates the social, not biological, construct of race and the power dynamics that develop around racial identity.

In the United States it is undeniable that this has benefited, both intentionally and unintentionally, white people over those of other races. Without recognizing this, we really cannot address institutional reforms that need to happen if we want equitable communities. CRT is critical of the liberal approach used to address these challenges to society.

The most important point about
See CRT on page 11

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*Preserving Andover's
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Andover Fire Department Offers Winter Safety Tips

Now is the time to clean all vents

Rene Lefebvre
Andover Fire Department

The chimney fire season has started early this year. Now is a good time to clean chimneys and wood- and pellet-burning appliances. Well-seasoned firewood that has been drying for a minimum of one year helps to keep your chimney clean and safe during the heating season.

As pellet burning appliances age, we have responded to more pellet stove issues. The problem is components that burn the pellets age out and plug vents. This will cause carbon monoxide to build up and set off CO alarms. Consider having a professional service your pellet stove once a year.

We are all familiar with the job our chimneys do for us. They remove the solids we see, like smoke, and the gases we do not see, like carbon monoxide. However there are other vents that do


an equally important job keeping us safe in our homes.

Dryer vents need to be cleaned and free from snow that builds up in the winter. A gas dryer is designed to vent gas fumes through the vent.

Pellet burning appliances draw the combustion air from the outside and expel products of combustion through the same vent system. It is important to make sure that they are kept free of snow all winter.

Many people have metal roofs which are super for expelling snow, often in one large dump. This is the time to check vents, as the snow from the roof makes a large pile of snow on the ground close to your vents.

Winter is a great time to get outside and enjoy all our winter wonderland has to offer. But when it's time to come into your home, you will know your air is fresh and ready for the aroma of hot cocoa.

From your fire department and auxiliary, have a safe and happy holiday season. 

CRT from page 10


CRT is that it is not being taught in our elementary and middle schools. In fact, it is taught at very few higher learning institutions. Frankly, this is another conservative bogeyman used to scare, as fear has been a tremendous tool to exploit in the pursuit of power.

Now, I can understand that some may point that I may be displaying my hypocrisy when I end this letter stating that masking children in our school should not be up to parent choice. You might say, "You trust parents to intervene and make decisions about controversial books, but not to make decisions

regarding masks?"

I would say that I do not fear ideas or points-of-view that may offend my values and beliefs. We have the capacity to be critical, engage in discussion, and express disagreement about any topic.

Viruses are different; we cannot reason with an infection and discuss its impact to individuals and our community. We can put controversial ideas that come into our lives into context with our beliefs; we cannot do so with COVID-19.

When it comes to ideas, I put individual freedoms first. With infections, community comes first. Let's protect each other. 


Andover Police Department October 2021

The Andover Police Department handled 166 calls for service during October 2021 including:

Assist Citizen: 7
Assault: 2
Dog Loose: 3
Domestic Dispute: 1
Harassment: 1
Juvenile Complaint: 2
Motor Vehicle Unlock: 2
Stalking: 1
Suspicious Circumstances: 5
Theft: 2
Traffic Arrest: 1
Traffic Citation: 6

Traffic Warning: 32
Warrant: 3

Arrests

- Jacob Hemeon, 40, Andover: Theft
- Mathew Hollins, 38, New London: Operating After Suspension
- Joseph Hough, 63, Andover: Duty to Report
- Bonnie McClinton, 38, Litchfield: Domestic Violence Simple Assault
- Maria-Elena Cecere, 47, Andover: Electronic Bench Warrant
- Maria-Elena Cecere, 47, Andover: Operating After Suspension 

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Again this year, our annual Time of Remembrance comes in the form of a video, rather than an event, to remember and honor the lives of individuals in our Hospice program and community who have died over the past year.



Members of our hospice team and community have worked together to record readings, thoughts and music to bring comfort and honor the memories of those we love and are missing.

View our video at:
LakeSunapeeVNA.org/community/bereavement

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Fourth of July Committee Announces Parade Theme for 2022

Our 80th Independence Day Celebration!

Press release

Anyone who's looked outside recently has noticed the frost on the ground. Time is marching forward, and the Fourth of July Committee is working on the 2022 celebration – Andover's 80th!

At our last committee meeting, the number 80 rang a bell and "Around the World in 80 Days" popped up. It was then a short leap to "Around Our Town in 80 Years" for our parade theme.

This theme should give everyone ideas for a float. It could be historic, or it could also play on the original story or any other ideas that highlight what a wonderful town Andover is.


The committee next moved on to planning activities for the event. Kids came to mind. We came to the conclusion that we did not have enough activities for kids of all ages. Vertical Entertainment had previously been contacted and had presented many options for us to choose from. We were excited to select a few, one of which will be an Obstacle Course on the Village Green. Come give

it a go! See how quickly you can navigate it! Stay tuned. More activities will be announced in the coming months.

In October we signed a contract for a fireworks display that won't soon be forgotten. Since this will be our 80th celebration, we've decided to shoot for the stars (literally) – it will be even better than last year!

As you look out the window at the snow, keep reflecting back on those beautiful, warm Fourth of July celebrations of the past; but, most of all, keep a place in your heart for the 80th Andover Independence Day Celebration in July 2022.

Do you enjoy having fun? Would you like to be a part of planning Andover's big day? Join our committee. Come to a meeting. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Andover Hub at 7 PM.

If meetings aren't your thing, contact one of us. We can use behind-the-scene helpers and extra hands on the day of the celebration. For more information, contact Doug Phelps at 603 977-0037 or Doug.Phelps80@gmail.com; Donna French at 603 735-6131 or DonnaFrench@comcast.net; or Beth Frost at 603 455-2882 or BFrost99@icloud.com. 

Keeping Up With the Times Requires Adaptability and Change

Secretarial hours added to assistant position

Marjorie Roy, Town Administrator

My, how things have changed!

During a conversation about the Town's new financial software and the features it offers, discussion began about how things have changed at the Town Office over the last 14 years. I was the Deputy Town Clerk then, and we were using IBM typewriters to process registrations, title applications, and dog licenses.

In 2007, I became the Town Clerk and Tax Collector, and as I had promised the Selectmen, I brought that office into the 20th century with computers and a more secure office space. We kept the typewriters in storage for a couple of years, but they eventually left the building.

In 2011, the Selectmen's Office was utilizing a poorly-designed QuickBooks system, a fax machine, and a copier. Over the years, all of this has been modernized.

The first financial audit that I experienced as Town Administrator had to be suspended because QuickBooks is not capable of processing fund accounting, which is the accounting method used by municipalities. Before the next year's audit, we were using a fund accounting system.

Job requirements in any business or industry you can think of have changed in the last 14 years. In the Town's case, there are many more state and federal demands that require constant, detailed attention and execution in all areas. All

municipal departments are operating with many more regulations, required continuing education, liability, public expectations, constant changes in technology, and of course, the current short-staffing problems that all towns and businesses are facing.

Just think about the changes in police departments, fire departments, and ambulance services in the last 14 years. Equipment design and costs, educational requirements, liability, and staffing issues are ever-changing and faced nationwide. These types of changes apply to municipal offices as well.

The Select Board's office is hiring an assistant because, regrettably, Jessica Rand has resigned. We wish Jessica the best and look forward to seeing her around town. That position has been a 30-hour-per-week position for several years. It will now be 30 hours per week doing accounts payable, processing Transfer Station invoices, customer service (questions about assessments, tax maps, and property cards, and providing reports and information), handling the Timber Tax process, and other miscellaneous duties, as has been the case. 10 secretarial hours per week have been added to help the Town Administrator.

Your Town Offices and Town departments are here to serve you. Office hours are on our website at Andover-NH.gov. If you need further information, please contact us at 603 735-5332 or via the contact information found on the website.

We wish everyone happy and safe holidays! 



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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TOWN COMMITTEE MINUTES

RSA 91-A:2 states that minutes from each meeting of each Town body must “be promptly recorded and open to public inspection not more than five business days after the meeting.”

Minutes are often not in publishable form at that point. Considering the time it takes to make them publishable, and the long lag between issues of the *Beacon*, it may be a month or more before they appear in the *Beacon*.

School Board

October 5

Condensed from approved minutes

In-Person Board Present: Brandon Adams, Adam Jones, Dan Newton, Lisa Burbach, and Aimee Menard

Administration and AEMS Staff Present: Mark MacLean, Randy Wormald, Dennis Dobe, Dennis Audet, Kathleen Boucher, Hilary Denoncourt, Beth Page

Public Present: Caroline Boucher, Greg Stetson, Caden Heath, Donna Crisp Duclos, Meghan Foley

Finance Report: Overages within the ASD budget are due to contracted special education needs, which are what is known for year-long contracts. The 2020-2021 ASD unassigned fund balance is approximately \$255,000 dollars. This will be returned to the Town and used in tax rate calculations.

Dan motioned to approve the finance report and Brandon seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Public Comment: Foley is interested in clarification of how AE/MS is responding to COVID now that there are positive cases within the school. She indicated her student did not want to attend that day due to COVID concerns.

MacLean discussed work with the district nurses. Asymptomatic testing is being looked into. In supporting students who are absent due to COVID, AE/MS is not offering a concurrent program for students due to staffing issues and remote learning rules. AE/MS will ensure that assignments/resources

are accessible and that communication is in place to support students in engaging in their work.

A structure of remote check-ins is being investigated. Foley indicated that this is an extreme challenge for staff.

Stetson does not want to be pressured to send his students to school by the nurse or administration.

Heath added that previous blended (remote synchronous and in-person) learning has been challenging as a student, and the attention required of an online student puts a strain on the learning experience for physically present students.

Board Chairperson's Report: Menard reminded the board that October 26 is the upcoming public meeting regarding the Tuition Review Committee presentation.

Minutes Online

Minutes and agendas for Town boards and committees are posted, when available, on the Town website at Andover-NH.gov.

Principal's Report: Dobe thanked the parents for coming in tonight and expressing their concerns. School has been in session for a little over a month. Teachers have been meeting regularly, and fall assessments have been completed to guide and support student

Office Hours & Meetings

OFFICE HOURS

Town Office: Mon-Thu 9-2

Town Clerk & Tax Collector:

Mon, Wed, Thu 9-2

Tue 1:30-6:30

Last Saturday of month, 9-11

Zoning Administrator: Mon 9-12,

Tues & Thur 9-4, Wed 1-4

Transfer Station: Wed 7-5, Sat, 7-5

Swap Shop: second Saturday 8-12

Andover Library

Mon 6-8

Wed 9-12 & 6-8

Thu 1-5 • Sat 9-12

Bachelder Library

Tues 9-12 & 6-8

Thu, Fri 1-5

MEETINGS

At the Town Hall unless otherwise noted

Cemetery Trustees: 2nd Tues, 10 Last Thu, 7

Conservation: 2nd Wed, 7

Emergency Medical Service: 2nd Wed, Andover Fire Station, 7

Fire Department: Mon, 7

Fourth of July: 1st Wed Andover Community Hub, 7

Library Trustees: 3rd Thu, 7 Andover or Bachelder Library (except July & Aug)

Planning Board: 2nd & 4th Tue, 7

Recreation: 2nd Wed, 7, AE/MS Science Room (except July)

School Board: 1st Tue

(except July), 6:30, AE/MS

Select Board: 1st & 3rd Mon, 6:30

Zoning Board of Adjustment: 3rd Tue, 7

For more information, call the Town Office at 603 735-5332.

learning and the Response to Intervention process.

A school safety initiative will be undertaken soon. Meeting times will be shared with the School Board as they are scheduled.

A process is being implemented to vet all curriculum items before they enter the school.

Athletic programs are in full swing, as well as clubs. We hope to perform the Wizard of Oz for the community, which is the play that the school was working on pre-pandemic, in March 2020.

The school specialists have developed an innovative program to offer enrichment opportunities during lunch and recess for middle school students. This involves offerings such as photog-

raphy, coding, drumming, etc.

Page reported that initial fall assessments are complete, and schedules have been finalized for AE/MS's RTI intervention program. The AE/MS Special Education Procedures plan has been approved by the DOE. Title I compliance monitoring has also been submitted; we are waiting on determinations for that.

Audet is in the process of building the shed for new equipment.

The boiler system has a leak. Estimates are being gathered for fixing or replacing the unit. Jones asked how the leak was discovered; upon entering the boiler room, there was water on the floor.

Jones asked what our current policy

See Minutes on page 14

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Minutes from page 13

is for students testing positive in regards to their quarantine. The school is following DHHS guidance, which includes: 10 days of quarantining and at least 24-hours of no symptoms (without the help of medication). Close household contacts also impact whether students are to be quarantined. Peers within the classroom are not considered to be close contacts in this scenario.

Jones asked whether getting testing kits would be useful in helping students

to return to school. Some challenges include supplies and personnel for implementation. Jones asked if ASD has contacted Proctor to determine if there's an opportunity for support there? No.

Dobe indicated that this idea of testing within our school system is very new; this can be researched to determine if ASD can partner with Proctor. Test kits should be free through SASS and not be a financial burden to ASD.

Jones asked how students are being supported while remote? Dobe in- See Minutes on page 20

Signed Copies of A Christmas Fable Available at Thrift Shop

During December, while supplies last

Nancie Jacobson
Andover Service Club

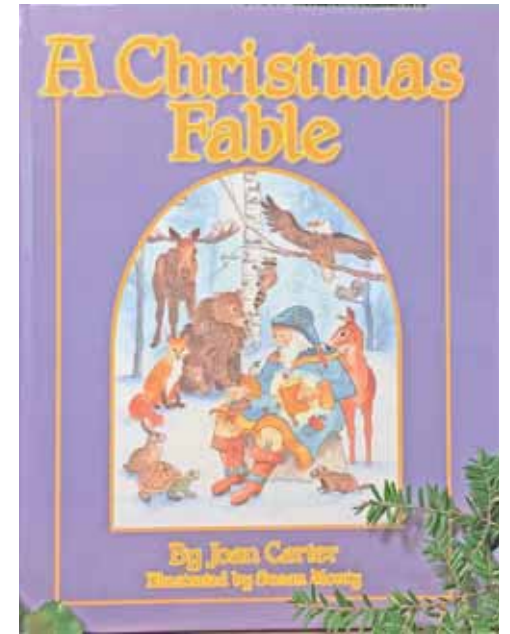
A Christmas Fable, written by Joan Carter, was a favorite that she read to her family every Christmas Eve. In the story, the woodland animals come from near and far to hear Saint Nickolas tell of the amazing events that occurred the night Jesus was born.

After Joan passed away, her daughter and granddaughter decided to publish this lovely story in honor of Joan and all the wonderful memories they have of her. In choosing the illustrator, Joan's granddaughter went in search of an artist that specialized in nature and animal art. Local New Hampshire artist Susan Monty took on the project with great enthusiasm.

"I used the barred owls who visit my yard as the models for the book's owl. I keep a camera handy and photograph all the creatures who pass through or who live in my woods. I used these photos and the pages in my nature journal to create the characters in the illustrations.

"Some, like the moose, bears, and coyotes are from visits to Pittsburg, New Hampshire, or to the Squam Lake Science Center.

"As an animal artist, one of the most challenging parts of the project was depicting the people in the story. I used my See Fable on page 15



A Christmas Fable, written by Joan Carter and illustrated by Susan Monty, will be available at the Andover Thrift and Gift Shop during December.

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Rita Norander Remembers Her Father on Armistice Day

Benne LaPlante served in World War I

Rita Norander, Andover

Each year on Armistice Day, I am especially reminded of my father, Benne LaPlante, and his service to our country during World War I. (The name Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day in 1954, so as to honor all veterans who fought in US wars.)

When the United States entered World War I in April of 1917, my father was living and working in Franklin. He turned 28 that month, which meant he wouldn't be among the first to be drafted into the service. Even though he did not "have" to serve his country at this time, he "wanted" to serve, and thus do his patriotic duty.

Still single, and more or less "foot-loose and fancy free," as the old saying goes, Benne decided to enlist. When he went before the Enlistment Board though, his enlistment was denied because he had false teeth.

Much annoyed, my father responded, "I am going overseas to fight the enemy, not to bite them!" Still wanting to serve, Benne told the board he was willing to fill in, if someone failed to show up at their appointed time.

Sure enough, over a year later, in August of 1918, my father received a call, with orders to report for duty, as a replacement was needed for just such a person who had not appeared when notified. After all, enlistment quotas had to be met, and the number of eligible men was declining, so apparently false teeth were no longer an issue.

Benne joined the US Army and was sent to Syracuse, New York for his basic training. From there his unit was sent to Norfolk, Virginia for further training, and then on to Newport News, Virginia to await departure for the war in Europe.

Finally, the day arrived and the men began boarding the ship, as preparations were made for the journey across the ocean. My father and his unit were on the ship for only half an hour when word was received that the Armistice

Treaty had been signed at the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month. The war was now over, and the men marched back off the ship!

Corporal J. Benjamin LaPlante was discharged from the US Army on December 8, 1918, after only four months of service, but he had been ready, willing, and able to serve from the very



Rita Norander's father, Benne LaPlante, dressed in uniform for service in World War I.

beginning. He was disappointed at not having the opportunity to fight the enemy, but our family has always been very thankful the Armistice Treaty was signed when it was!

My father, Benne LaPlante, and my mother, Dorothy Hersey, were married in 1927, and spent most of their 58 years together living in Andover.

Andover Garden Club Holds November Meeting

Future programs and mission discussed

Mary Lou McCrave
Andover Garden Club

The Andover Garden Club was pleased to host Advanced Master Gardener Ruth Axelrod at its November meeting. Ms. Axelrod presented an information-filled talk on "Gardening in a Climate Change" to a room of Club members and guests. She discussed expected global changes in climate and the impacts on our state of New Hampshire.

Future programs will focus on how we can as individuals manage our gardens and environment in such a way that lends support to our Club's mission – to connect like-minded individuals; to promote civic beautification; and to further the education of members in the fields of horticulture, landscape design, and ecologically sustainable conservation practices.

Members enjoyed refreshments and a lively reception preceding the talk, hosted by our new Hospitality Committee.

A brief business meeting was held following the presentation, and the formation of club committees was announced. Keeping true to the Club's mission mentioned above, committees are: Programs and Education; Special Events and Fundraising; Community Beautification; Outings; and Hospitality.

A big round of applause goes to our

volunteer committee members and to all other members for their enthusiasm and support! It should be noted that several new members attended the talk, and we look forward to everyone's continued participation.

The Andover NH Garden Club is a



A homemade apple pie was delivered to the Greenwoods, who won the Andover Garden Club November raffle. Photo: Mary Lou McCrave

program of the Andover Community Hub and is free and open to all. For more information email AndoverNHGardenClub@gmail.com or call or text 603 568-4194.

Fable from page 14

dad, Stanley Mackey, as the model for Saint Nickolas. He loved animals, too, and I felt this was a fitting tribute to him."

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Christmas Fable at the Andover Thrift and Gift Shop during the month of December, located next to the Andover Elementary/Middle School. Shop hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10 AM to 4 PM, and Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM.

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Seven members were confirmed at the Andover Community Church on November 14. Front: Tyree Perry, Deacon. Kathy Winkfield, Rita and Larry Rees, Jane Walker, Deacon. Nancy Phillips, Ted and Donna Kendrick, and Judy Evans. Back Row: Rev. Bill Blomquist, Rt. Rev. Andrew Williams, Rev. Cinnamon Blomquist. Photo: Jessika Francesa Gardner

Andover Community Church News for December

In-person Christmas Eve services at 4 PM

Press release

There have been many exciting happenings going on in the church.

Our mission for the months of October and November was Operation Christmas Child. We collected over 60 boxes. It is exciting to know we have put a smile on a child's face when they receive their Christmas box. For some this will be the only present they will receive.

Another mission this month was collecting cans of gravy for the Interfaith Food Pantry in Franklin. We collected

147 cans from our parishioners.

The clothing shed has been received very well. It is nice that the clothing goes for people in need all over the world, instead of the landfills. The church receives on average \$95 a month, all of which goes to local, national, and international mission projects.

As of this writing R&D Paving is ripping up the old pavement and restoring it with a brand new parking lot from the church up to the East Andover Village Preschool. We would like to thank everyone who helped us raise the funds for this project.

November 14 was a very exciting day around the church. We had opened

Ballroom Dancing Comes to the Hub in January

Ten weeks starting Friday, January 14

Susan Chase
Andover Community Hub

Weekly ballroom dance lessons will be offered at the Andover Community Hub beginning on Friday, January 14, from 7 to 8 PM, and continuing for 10 weeks. Classes will be taught by Laura Kiefer and Gary Stanhope of Hidden Door Dance Studio in Elkins, a husband-and-wife team who enjoy sharing the joys of social ballroom dance with others. They have participated as "pros" in, and choreographed dances for, Dancing with the Stars in both Newport and Sunapee.

The first class will be free to encourage area residents to give it a try. The lessons will continue on a week-by-week, pay-as-you-attend basis with a fee of \$10 per person per class. Newcomers are welcome at any class. The series will include a variety of styles of ballroom dance, focusing for two weeks each on swing, waltz, cha cha, foxtrot, and tango (and possibly others).

As the instructors say, "The only things you need to bring are both left

feet, a face mask, and clean shoes with smooth soles!" Singles are welcome.

If interested in attending or if you have questions, contact the Hub at The-AndoverHub@gmail.com or 603 735-5509.



Laura Kiefer and Gary Stanhope of Hidden Door Dance Studio in Elkins will teach ballroom dance at the Hub in January.

the whole campus for an open house for the installation of our new priest and the confirmation of seven members. The Rt. Rev. Andrew Williams, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of New England, joined us with full vigor and Spirit-filled pomp as he welcomed Bill Blomquist as our new Rector and his wife Cinnamon as Rector Associate. We are very excited to say officially, "Welcome!"

Two things to look forward to.

Christmas Eve Family Service: Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 PM

on Friday, December 24. Join us for an uplifting time of Christmas songs, sharing, and even a surprise puppet show. About an hour.

GriefShare: For those grieving the loss of a family member or friend, the holidays can be a difficult time. You may have found that there are not many people who understand the deep hurt that you feel. It can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before.

GriefShare is a weekly support group to help you face these challenges and move forward toward rebuilding your life. It will be offered at the Andover Community Hub by several members of the Andover Community Church starting in mid-January. It consists of a video seminar with experts presenting different topics on the grieving process; small group discussion for sharing and reflection; and a workbook to help you sort out your experience through journaling throughout the week. The program is faith-based, but also offers plenty of clinical expertise that is helpful for anyone.

For more information on these and other events at Andover Community Church, visit us at AndoverCommunityNH.org.

We are looking forward to the coming year to see what God has planned for us and the greater Andover community. We wish everyone a very happy holiday season and a healthy, happy new year.

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#ImInTheBeacon

Katherine Stearns and Brenda Lance lead a quilting class at the Hub.

Andover Community Hub Shares Their Good News

Capital campaign growing, activities returning

Larry Chase, Andover Community Hub

The Andover Community Hub has some good news to share with Andover.

Campaign Contributions Growing: Announced in the November *Beacon* with a \$100,000 goal, the Hub's capital campaign has to date reached nearly \$40,000 in gifts and pledges to help improve building access, create a community kitchen, apply a new roof, and add an accessible bathroom.

Interested readers can find more information about the campaign at the Hub's website at AndoverHub.org. The message from the Hub board of directors: "Come on in! We need your help!"

Activities Returning: After months of few if any public events, the sched-

ule of activities at the Andover Community Hub is once again growing. Four of the November offerings included Realtor Ty Morris's presentation on Andover real estate (see article on page 7), a quilting class led by Katherine Stearns and Brenda Lance, a Smartphone photography session led by Cindy Benson, and one of the informal twice-weekly (Monday and Thursday) Wednesday morning conversations over coffee.

Upcoming events are listed elsewhere in this issue of the *Beacon*. If you'd like to be alerted to events via email, please send your email address to TheAndoverHub@gmail.com. Again, "Come on in!"

GOT NEWS?
 Mail@AndoverBeacon.com • 735-6099

The South Danbury Church Celebrates Christmas

Sunday, December 19, at 7 PM

Linda Wilson, South Danbury Church

Everyone is invited to gather with us for this year's celebration of Christmas at the South Danbury Church on Sunday evening, December 19, at 7 PM. Simple, local, and traditional, it's also known and loved by a wider audience through the writings of Donald Hall and Jane Kenyon.

In Jane's words, "Every year the wise men's flannel bathrobes and foil crowns, the shepherds' staves, the plywood crèche bristling with hay, the tinsel haloes, pillowcase burnouses, and foil wings come down the attic ladder in the vestibule. Not Oedipus Rex, not Hamlet, not The Cherry Orchard played by the finest players could be more moving than the children of South Danbury dressed as Mary and Joseph and kneeling over a doll from Sears."

Celebrate with Christmas carols and a Nativity tableau. Delight in seasonal memories by Audrey Curren, Donald Hall, and Jane Kenyon. Listen to a story

read by local author Mary Lyn Ray. Enjoy a visit from Santa.

Follow "Friends of Danbury" and "Friends of the South Danbury Christian Church" on Facebook for more details. All are welcome!

South Danbury Church, an Open and



Watercolor by Calvin Oystz

Christmas at the South Danbury Church

Sunday, December 19, 2021 7:00 p.m.

Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ, is located at 1411 US Route 4 in South Danbury and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. To learn more about the church and its activities, email SouthDanburyChurch@gmail.com or call 603 491-3196.

Please contact us if you need a ride to attend worship or events. We'll be happy to help.



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Thanks to the staff at Pizza Chef for the wonderful scarecrow family shown enjoying the fall weather. The effort was much appreciated by organizer Janet Moore and the Andover Community Hub, which sponsored the Scarecrow Project. Caption and photo: Susan Chase



The Franklin Opera House will host its eighth annual Festival of Trees on the first two weekends in December. Admission is free, with raffle tickets available for sale to win a tree or wreath.



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- Dec 26, 2021: Rev. Dick Dutton**
- Jan 2, 2021: To Be Determined**
- Jan 9, 2022: Fiona Peterson**
- Jan 16, 2022: Rev. Nancy Pelligrini**
- Jan 23, 2022: Rev. Dick Dutton**
- Jan 30, 2022: Judy Sheon**

Services held online & at the Stone Chapel. Visit website for information.
FOR INFORMATION & INQUIRIES: 603 526-8213 – www.kuufnh.org

Franklin Opera House Hosts Eighth Annual Festival of Trees

First two weekends
in December

Press release

Franklin Opera House is proud to host the eighth annual Festival of Trees. 'Tis the season again when businesses, community groups, and families in and around Franklin show their appreciation and support for the arts by donating fully decorated trees, wreaths, gift baskets, and much more.

Each year, immediately following the tree lighting ceremony in Marceau Park, Franklin Opera House opens its doors to showcase these beautiful symbols of the holiday season.

This joyous family-friendly event will run the first two weekends in December. Admission for the event is free at the times below, and raffle tickets are

sold at the door to win a tree or wreath and everything on or under it. You can buy 25 raffle tickets for \$5. Hours this weekend are:

- Saturday, December 11, from 10 AM to 5 PM.
- Sunday, December 12, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Raffle winners will be drawn at 3 PM on Sunday, December 12.

You do not need to be present to win, but you must provide a valid phone number that will be answered between 3 and 3:30 PM on Sunday, December 12.

Winners must pick up their winnings by 5 PM on Sunday, December 12.

Raffle tickets will also be sold at all performances of Footlight Theatre's production of *Elf, the Musical*. For more information, visit FranklinOperaHouse.org.

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Dec. 12, 10am - 3pm
Tickets also available at all performances of "Elf"



www.FranklinOperaHouse.org

or call 603-934-1901

Senior Luncheons Provide Hot Food, Friends, and Entertainment

Next luncheon set for January 20

Press release

The second of six Kearsarge Area Senior Luncheons took place on November 18 in the sunny and airy function room of the First Congregational Church of Wilmot at 19 North Wilmot Road in Wilmot Center. Magician Jim MacDonald delighted seniors with his wizardry after the delicious hot meal was served up by Community Action Program kitchen staff out of Concord. A grand time was had by all.

The next luncheon is scheduled to begin at noon on Thursday, January 20, 2022. There will be no December luncheon. Door prizes and free books will be given out, and special guest entertainment will follow the hot meal.

Reservations are required, so please call Rose at 603 526-4236 at least 10 days prior to the luncheon if you aren't already on the luncheon calling list and wish to be included.

The church and its function room are located three miles north of the intersection of Routes 11 and 4A in the village area of Wilmot Center.

If the weather is frightful, please use your best judgement about venturing out. If you have a reservation, every effort will be made to contact you by phone should the luncheon be cancelled for any reason. See you in 2022!



Attendees at the November Senior Luncheon in Wilmot enjoyed a hot meal and the wizardry of Magician Jim MacDonald.

Photo: Margaret Doody

John Cotton Receives Kim Ayers Environmental Award

Award to be renamed to further honor John

Tina Cotton, Andover

John Cotton, known as Mr. Geology by the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) and Mr. Groundwater of New Hampshire when he was interacting with the public before retirement, is well qualified to be the recipient of the Kim Ayers Environmental Award. He is a resident of Andover and owns land and a couple of rustic cabins in a cove on Lake Winnisquam in Meredith. The award is bestowed upon a person who has consistently worked to maintain and improve the environmental quality of the region.

His background includes assisting in the mapping of glacial deposits in Greenland and working on a variety of water resource projects for the US Geological Survey (USGS). Some of these included developing the first groundwater wells for the Cape Cod National Seashore, a hydrologic atlas of

groundwater levels in the Boston peninsula, and a statewide New Hampshire reconnaissance of stratified drift (sand and gravel surficial deposits) aquifers.

The resulting reconnaissance maps are known as the Cotton maps and are cited in state statutes. They were further refined with material logs from drillers and depths and commentaries specific

See John Cotton on page 20



John Cotton holds his award certificate; the plaque that will be displayed at Town Hall is on the floor with John's name inscribed as the latest awardee of the Kim Ayers Environmental Award. LRPC's executive director Jeff Hayes (left) and executive board chair John Ayer made the presentation.

Caption: Tina Cotton. Photo: Peabody Place.



Holiday Schedule:

Christmas Eve:	Open 7 am to 2 pm
Christmas Day:	Closed
Day After Christmas:	Closed
New Year's Eve:	Open 7 am to 2 pm
New Year's Day:	Closed

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

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John Cotton from page 19

to municipalities and groundwater recharge, discharge, and quality.

After he retired from the USGS, he joined the Solid Waste Management Bureau of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services where he was involved with landfill closures. These closures have the potential of contaminating groundwater and wetlands. Oversight was necessary to have landfills properly lined, covered, and monitored for many years.

John continued to monitor Andover's landfill as a volunteer until the past few years. In addition, after retirement, he volunteered to map and advise other mappers of surficial geology on a topographic quadrangle basis and resolve contact line differences between maps before they were digitized and combined to create a state surficial map. He was also one of several leaders on a field trip examining the surficial geology along the Merrimack and Pemigewasset Rivers in the Lakes Region area.


John was the Andover town representative and on the executive board of LRPC for many years. He also served on the broadband committee. LRPC honored him with a framed certificate of the Kim Ayers award acknowledging

his service. A plaque was presented to the Town with the names of past recipients that will reside in the Town Hall until the next time the award is made. The last time the award was given was in 2015.

This award is given annually by LRPC in memory of B. Kimball Ayers, Jr. who faithfully and persistently worked to maintain and improve the environmental quality of the Lakes Region in New Hampshire.

The recipient should be a person who lives in and has made a major voluntary contribution to the environmental quality of the Lakes Region. Particular considerations include, but are not limited to, environmental education; a key role initiating and carrying through an ongoing project; emphasis on water quality; intergovernmental cooperation, i.e., coordination between municipalities or between state and local governments.

The only other Andover recipient of this award was Betty Bardsley when she was a legislator in 1990. At that time she was on an environmental committee and kept calling John for information relating to water issues.

The LRPC has renamed the award the Kim Ayers/John Cotton Environmental Award, which will be presented next June to a worthy recipient. 

Minutes from page 14

indicated that the model looks different depending on the grade level. AE/MS offers asynchronous learning opportunities. AE/MS is mandated to offer in-person learning to all students.

Adams asked whether remote supports could be limited to whole classrooms of COVID-positive students? Compulsory attendance laws impact these decisions. The School Board fears teacher burnout.

It was confirmed that AE/MS will not offer a remote option for the general populace; finding the line on these situations will be necessary to support teachers and student learning.

New Business

The boiler needs replacing. One of the sections of the boiler has failed, causing the leak. This issue has been on the radar for about three years. There are some funds saved for this (\$60,000); the issue is not unexpected.

Fixing the boiler will cost approximately \$30,000, and replacing it would cost approximately \$110,000. A boiler repair would cause the system to be down for a minimum of two weeks. It's too late to appropriate money from last year's fund balance. A variety of funding ideas were discussed.

The current boiler was installed in 2004, and its last failure was in 2020. In Merrimack Valley, one of their boilers was fixed three different times, ultimately resulting in replacement. The issue for MV's unit is a similar issue with our current boiler.

If our unit is leaking, it is likely that all of the chambers within the boiler are at risk of leaking. The Board will need to determine whether to repair or replace the boiler and to consider other methods of heating. The immediacy of this need is coming upon us with the cold weather approaching.

Audet reported the boiler is not on yet, but it can run and produce heat. The leak could potentially cause flooding in the basement level of AE/MS if not corrected.

The School Board is looking for more information, but does not want to wait until the next Board meeting to make a determination. Audet will gather data. An emergency meeting will be authorized, and options will be presented to the Board.

Menard proposed to entertain a motion to collect quotes for both repair and replacement of the boiler, using a variety of heating sources, including a time frame. Adams made the motion and Dan made the second. All others were in favor, the motion was approved.

Superintendent's Report: Thanks to all for their continued hard work. Go Red Sox!

Conservation Commission

October 13

Condensed from approved minutes

Present: Tina Cotton, Jerry Hersey, Alan McIntyre, Shawn Upton, Jesse Schust, Sooze Hodgson, Jenny Bodwell, Lee Wells, Marj Roy, Michelle Dudek, Todd Goings, and John Kinney.

White Oaks Road Update: Since our last meeting, Earle Chase was hired to evaluate the access road to the Heaton property on the Town land in the Blackwater River area. He and several ACC members met there on September. 25.

The paint cans, including oil paint cans, had been removed, but there was still some paint in the sand. Oil paint is considered hazardous waste for disposal.

Since our last visit, stumps, including some in the buffer zone, had been removed, which is in violation of the Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act. Some of the stakes we had placed last year to mark the buffer had been removed.

Earle delineated the wetland again, and we measured a 50-foot buffer. Following his visit, Earle submitted a report of his observations and recommended remediation measures which were forwarded to the Select Board.

Town Administrator Marj Roy con-
See Minutes on page 21

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Minutes from page 20

sulted with Doug Miner, county forester, and with Rose at DES, both of whom checked the situation via photos/satellite images. DES does not have the personnel to have a site visit.

The Select Board met with the Heaton's last spring. They wanted to bring in material for a driveway and cut the corner of the road towards the sand pit to give them easier access to their property. They would need a permit. It is up to us (Town and ACC) to deal with the situation.

As work will happen within the 50-foot buffer, permits are needed. Following best practices, silt fences need to be dug in and grass seed spread and mulched with straw. Dumped slash and cuttings need to be removed by hand.

Select Board members asked about removal of slash and digging for the silt fence and asked if that wouldn't cause an undesirable disturbance. Earle recommended that we follow important best practices, i.e. removal by hand, or slash and a dug-in silt fence.

Heaton's contractor, Jon Champagne, should be the one contacting DES re: gravel, cutting bank back, permits needed, best practices to be followed. Plans should be submitted in writing and reviewed by the Town Administrator, Select Board, and ACC. Marj will communicate with the contractor. The ACC is ready to meet and sign-off on any permits required.

The Town as the land owner should have a plan to remove blow-downs when it happens at White Oak.

Budget Update: We have \$462.24 left in the budget. There will be some monitoring expenses and some members may attend the Zoom sessions of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions in November.

Earle's bill went a little over our allotment, but mileage can be charged separately.

The new easement map from ASLPT has arrived. It will go in Pizza Chef. Jesse pointed out the new Mountain Brook Easement. ASLPT may take us on a tour.

Beaver Deceivers

Valley Road: Michelle has been in touch with Skip. He is willing to come and pull the fence, but he would prefer to put in a larger BD. Pipe is completely covered in silt.

If we pull the fence, what will happen with the silt then? Flow is probably not strong enough to scour the area.

Some beavers have been removed by trapping. Is there any reason to not pull all of it? As long as there is no mechanical equipment involved, perhaps no permit is needed.

Marj and the Select Board will follow up on this and be in touch with the landowner to notify them that this may

happen.

We have not heard what the costs have been after the December 26 flood and spring flood, i.e. material and time that have gone into repairs. This is critical information for future planning. Marj will try to get this information.

All feel that the culvert is undersized. Are there any plans for replacing the culvert? DOT has asked about ARM projects. We might be able to get funding to help with this. Action item: Jesse will look into this.

Clean Outs: Clean outs are needed at Flaghole Road and possibly at Switch Road. Town would approve a maintenance line item in ACC or Highway budget.

We need to talk with Michelle to get an estimate. We could do it as volunteers; Marj will check to see if volunteers are covered by the Town insurance and double check to see if a paid maintenance person is covered.

The culverts are the responsibility of the Road Agent. We should check with Jason Dudek (keeper of the Highland Lake dam) as to when the flow will be released from the lake. Need to coordinate removal of Valley Road BD with that.

Encouraged Select Board Members to be in touch with us if issues are coming up that we can help with. We could get a standard 10 minutes on the agenda. We should have a rotating schedule to attend the second Select Board meeting of the month (third Monday of the month). In-between Mondays are work meetings. At every meeting we can select someone to attend the Select Board meeting. Shawn will attend the next meeting.

Sooze has written a wolf-tree article for the *Beacon* and SRK.

Monitoring: Derek will be here soon to do some. If anyone can help him, he appreciates having company.



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Andover Citizens Receive Help from KNP Volunteers

Nancy Allenby

Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners

Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners (KNP) is a local volunteer organization where neighbors in our region help each other flourish. KNP volunteers are honored to work with neighbors in the towns of Andover, Bradford, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, and Wilnot.

In Andover, KNP volunteers have delivered emergency fire wood, done light yard work or outdoor repairs, and have transported patients who needed to get to treatments at Dartmouth-Hitchcock. Volunteers are also available to be phone buddies for people who are isolated or in need of contact.

Andover families received vegetable garden trays through the “Tray It

Forward” program in the spring and throughout the month of November. KNP partnered with the Andover Hub to collect winter coats to keep neighbors warm this winter.

For those with more complex, long-term needs, KNP Advocates have worked with Andover families on budgeting and financial review and advised them on navigating local services to help them move away from crisis and toward wholeness and stability in their lives.

If you would like to help our community flourish, please visit KNPnh.org and click “Neighbors Ready to Help.” If you know of someone with a need in Andover, please encourage them to visit KNPnh.org and click on “Neighbors Needing Help.” They can also call 603 317-5900 or email Info@KNPnh.org.

The Hub Offers a Big Thanks to Generous Coat Donors

KNP Winter Coat and Snowpants Drive

Susan Chase

Andover Community Hub

A great big “Thank you!” goes out to all the generous Andover residents who responded to the Winter Coat and Snowpants Drive organized by Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners and Warner Connects during the month of November. The Andover Community Hub was one of three drop-off locations (New London and Warner were the others), and as soon as the outside bin at the Hub was emptied, it filled up again.

As of the day before Thanksgiving, enough warm items to fill 22 big plas-

tic bags (an estimated 150 or so good used – and a few new – coats and snowpants, plus a few mittens and hats) had been left at the Hub and then delivered to Warner Connects. They will be made available to any adults and children who need them in any of the Kearsarge area towns that are served by Warner Connects, including Andover.

Warner Connects is a food pantry, thrift store, and community resource center. If readers know of anyone who can use some of the donated coats – or needs other assistance – please suggest they visit Warner Connects, open Monday through Thursday, from 11 AM to 1 PM, or call 603 456-2053 for an appointment.

Giving Tree Holiday Event Runs Through December 18

Collecting gift cards for Andover families

Susan Chase

Andover Community Hub

There is one more week left for the Giving Tree at the Hub. Residents who would like to offer a helping hand to those Andover families who may be struggling this year have until Saturday, December 18, to drop gift cards in any amount in the mail slot at the Andover Community Hub, located at 157 Main Street, as part of the Giving Tree holiday event.

Donated gift cards will be passed along to Andover Elementary/Middle


School and the Andover Town Office for distribution to those who can use some help making ends meet during the holidays or in the coming winter. Gift cards can be used to provide some holiday cheer to a family or for groceries, gas, household needs, etc.

Gift cards can be put through the decorated mail slot to the right of the Hub’s front door or mailed to the Andover Community Hub, PO Box 157, Andover NH 03216 if donors prefer. In addition to the Giving Tree, and just for fun, there will also be a decorated wooden letterbox in front of the Hub for sending letters to Santa Claus at the North Pole.




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Andover Libraries Page

Bachelor Library New Acquisitions

Adult Fiction

Better Off Dead, Lee Child
Forgiving Paris, Karen Kingsbury
The Judge's List, John Grisham
The Magician, Colm Toibin
The Major's Daughter, JP Francis
Never, Ken Follett
Oh William!, Elizabeth Strout
The Sentence, Louise Erdrich
Silverview, John le Carre
State of Terror, Hillary Rodham

Clinton and Louise Penny
The Stranger in the Lifeboat,
 Mitch Albom

Adult Nonfiction

The 1619 Project,
 edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones and
The New York Times Magazine
An Extravagance of Donkeys,
 Janet Baker-Carr

*The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide
 For Trying Times*,
 Jane Goodall

*The Greatest Beer Run Ever: A
 Memoir of Friendship, Loyalty,
 and War*, John Chick Donohue
*Pathway to Heaven: New and Se-
 lected Poems*,

Helen LaPlante Duchesne
Set the Night on Fire, Robby Krieger
*The Speckled Beauty: A Dog and
 His People*, Rick Bragg
Together, Luke Adam Hawker

Middle Grade/Young Adult

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Big Shot,
 Jeff Kinney
Pony, RJ Palacio

Set Me Free, Ann Clare LeZotte

Children's Books

The House of Grass and Sky,
 Mary Lyn Ray
Vroom, Vroom, Mary Lyn Ray

Andover Public Library New Acquisitions

Adult Fiction

Death in Focus, Anne Perry
An Amish Schoolroom, Amy Clipston
One on One, Michael Brandman
The Judge's List, John Grisham
Oh William!, Elizabeth Strout
Over My Dead Body, Jeffrey Archer
Down the Hatch, MC Beaton
Better Off Dead, Lee Child
Wild Card, Stuart Woods
Forgiving Paris, Karen Kingsbury
Kaleidoscope, Brian Selznick
We Are Not Like Them,
 Christine Pride and Jo Piazza

Dear Santa, Debbie Macomber
Mercy, David Baldacci
Risk Factor, Michael Brandman
Never, Ken Follett

Blood of Elves, Andrzej Sapkowski

Adult Nonfiction

Remarkable, David Kronfeld
*101 Things You Didn't Know About the
 Civil War*, Thomas R. Turner PhD

Children's Books

The Beatryce Prophecy,
 Kate DiCamillo
Miss Blake Is a Flake!, Dan Gutman
Mrs. Bacon is Fakin'!, Dan Gutman
Daniel and Max Play Together,
 Amy Rosenfeld-Kass
Jan Brett's "The Nutcracker," Jan Brett

Through the Reading Glasses

Janet Moore, Andover Libraries

Oh, what a gift for the onset of winter and the holidays! Just as I was wondering what would appear, along came eight tiny reindeer!

Well, not exactly; it was my older daughter with an almost brand new copy of Anthony Doerr's *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. For those of you unfamiliar with Doerr's previous novel, *All the Light We Cannot See*, just know that he has a particular skill at weaving characters' stories through space and time and arriving at a most satisfactory ending.

In *Cloud Cuckoo Land* we find Omeir, Anna, Zeno, and Konstance, separated by half a millenium and actual earth-space. Each carries a supporting cast and back stories that lead to the beginning of the book and its beautiful conclusion.

Anna struggles to survive in Constantinople during the great siege that lasted from 1439 to 1452; she is a hopeless embroiderer but avid reader, especially since she found the manuscript of Aethon's tale.

The Bulgarian peasant boy Omeir is conscripted as a soldier in the war because only he can lead his almost su-

pernatural oxen, Tree and Moonlight. Of course they must meet, just as you must participate in their stories.

During his years as a prisoner of war, Zeno learned to read Greek, thereby discovering the magical story of Aethon's *Cloud Cuckoo Land*. In 2020, he, Marian the Librarian, and five special children set out to perform Zeno's adaptation of the ancient Greek work.

Unbeknownst to them, the teenaged Seymour, out of his mind in an idealistic fantasy, is planting a bomb in the Library stacks. The journeys of Zeno and Seymour are long and arduous and mind-boggling as they eventually merge at the Town Library in Lakeport, Idaho.

And then there's Konstance, alone in the space capsule *Argos* and 65 years into the mission, with only her AI, Sybil, to keep her company. On scraps of sacking she is writing the story her father told her many years before of *Cloud Cuckoo Land*.

If you're ready for an adventure, great reader, open Doerr's novel, with Aethon's promise: "Stranger, whoever you are, open this to find what will amaze you."

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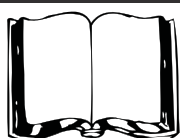
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Ragged Mountain Resort is Open for the 2021-2022 Season

30 acres on opening day, with more to come

Press release

Ragged Mountain Resort opened for the 2021-2022 winter season on December 3. Regular operating hours are now in effect, seven days per week.

Top to bottom skiing will be available for all ability levels serviced by New Hampshire's only high-speed detachable six-person chairlift and the Meadows beginner learning area. The resort plans to have seven trails and 30 acres of skiable terrain on a base depth of 24" to 36", with additional terrain available as snowmaking progresses.

Erik Barnes, Ragged Mountain's General Manager, commented on the outstanding early season conditions saying, "Our snowmaking and grooming crews have done an exceptional job in preparing the mountain. The early season mild weather was challenging, but when Mother Nature cooperated with cold temperatures and natural snowfall, we were more than ready to make snow at every possible opportunity."

In an effort to manage the ongoing COVID-19 risk for the 2021-22 winter season, Ragged Mountain encourages all guests to follow guidelines set forth by the State of New Hampshire and local health authorities. These guidelines encourage wearing a face mask where adequate social distancing is impractical or if unvaccinated.

Lifts will operate at full capacity and masks are not required while riding or waiting in lines. Guests should purchase lift tickets online in advance and utilize contactless pick-up boxes and the resort's mobile app for food and beverage orders whenever possible.

Early season lift ticket rates will be in effect at \$65 for adults and teens and \$49 for juniors and seniors. Elmwood and Meetinghouse Lodges will be open to the public, and The Learning Center will be offering private lessons only at this time.

For the most up-to-date conditions, lift operations, and trail openings visit Ragged Mountain's Snow Report at RaggedMountainResort.com. All operations are subject to weather.

About Ragged Mountain Resort

Located in Danbury, just 98 miles from downtown Boston, Ragged Mountain Resort is situated on 2,100 acres in the beautiful White Mountains. Ragged Mountain has 55 named ski trails, miles of hiking trails on-site, and plans for future expansion.

Ragged Mountain increased the capacity of its snowmaking reservoir from approximately 4 million gallons to approximately 20 million gallons. In the past decade, Ragged Mountain has also invested in hundreds of new high-efficiency snow guns, added a high-speed quad chair, and added slope-side and nearby lodging options. For more information, please visit RaggedMountainResort.com.

Trout Ice Fishing Derby Takes Place on Sunday, January 30

Highland Lake from 6 AM to 1 PM; registration 5 AM Rich Gross, Andover Fish and Game Club

The fifth Andover Fish and Game Club's Trout Ice Fishing Derby will take place on Highland Lake in East Andover on Sunday, January 30. The derby runs from 6 AM to 1 PM. Registration starts at 5:30 AM at the Clubhouse.

This derby is for everyone and will be split into an Adult Division and Junior Division. The fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 15 and under. Money and prizes will be awarded to the heaviest Brook or Rainbow trout in each division.

Everyone who enters the derby has a chance to win a door prize. We would really like to thank the Tackle Shop in Newbury for their help in organizing and making these prizes possible. For volunteers who would like to help at the clubhouse, or questions, call 603 768-3302.

SRK Greenway Sponsors SOLO Wilderness First Aid Course

Saturday and Sunday, January 22 and 23

Press release

The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway is excited to host a SOLO Wilderness First Aid course on Saturday and Sunday, January 22 and 23, 2022. The Wilderness First Aid course will be taught in the Curtis Ivey Science Center at the Colby Sawyer College in New London.

The Wilderness First Aid (WFA) is the perfect course for the outdoor enthusiast, or trip leader, who wants a basic level of first aid training for short trips with family, friends, and outdoor groups. The WFA is 16 hours long (two full days). This course is open to anyone over 16 years old. The total course

cost is \$200 and includes a box lunch both days.

This 16-hour Wilderness First Aid course provides students with an introductory understanding to wilderness first aid. Hands-on course labs, scenarios, practicals, and repetition ensure students are engaged and learning for the duration of the course. SOLO courses combine multiple styles of learning to help you learn and remember course information after the course is complete.

Masks must be worn at all times indoors, and proof of vaccination will be required for registration.

Save your seat today! For more information and details on registration, visit SRKG.org/solo-wilderness-first-aid-course.

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Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Awards \$25,000 Grant to FNRT

Money will fix five sites in Grafton County

Press release

Friends of the Northern Rail Trail (FNRT) was awarded \$25,000 to fix five high priority problem sites in Grafton County. FNRT is among the grantees included in a recent announcement by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC), which shared that it has awarded a combined \$308,500 in funding to 45 projects across 16 states.

According to RTC, the grants are investments in community-led efforts to create more opportunities for people to connect with trails in their neighborhoods – either through activities and events or through improved, connected trail infrastructure.

The Grafton project includes five high priority resurfacing sites on the rail trail that have been designated safety issues by FNRT’s maintenance team.

“These five consistently wet spots on the rail trail require immediate resurfacing. Plans are in place for the work to be completed in early December of this year,” said project manager Don Moyer.

RTC’s Trail Grant Program emphasizes strategic investments that support significant regional and community trail development goals, often providing funding for projects that are small in scope and scale and can be hard to finance within traditional funding streams. These projects are essential to building, maintaining, and managing the trails that communities rely upon for recreation, transportation, and economic vitality.

“At RTC, we believe that trails have the power to transform communities and create joyful, vibrant public spaces that are equitable and inclusive,” said Liz Thorstensen, RTC’s vice president of trail development. “These grants are intentional investments in the partners and people who are working on the ground – in their neighborhoods and in their states – to establish the program-

ming and the infrastructure necessary to invite everyone living in a community to enjoy their trails. Our partners are leading the way to a future where trails connect everyone, everywhere.”

This round of RTC trail grants prioritized investment in RTC’s flagship initiatives, including RTC’s TrailNation initiative, which is designed to establish model trail networks across the country to prove what is possible when you equitably connect people and places by trail. Grants also fund those working to connect the Great American Rail-Trail, the nation’s first entirely bikeable cross-country trail, which will one day link Washington

DC and Washington State. Since 2008, RTC has distributed \$2,373,320 in trail development grants. For a listing of all grant recipients, visit RailsToTrails.org/Grants. To learn more about TrailNation, visit RailsToTrails.org/TrailNation. To learn more about the Great American Rail-Trail, visit RailsToTrails.org/GreatAmericanRailTrail.

To learn more about Friends of the Northern Rail Trail, please visit FNRT.org or FNRTNH on Facebook.

The Northern Rail Trail consists of 59 miles of resurfaced railbed extending from just north of Concord to Lebanon through scenic New Hampshire for year-round use by walkers, bikers, horseback riders, mobility assisted users, dog walkers, snowmobilers, and cross country skiers in winter.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy is the nation’s largest trails organization, with a grassroots community more than 1 million strong dedicated to building a nation connected by trails, reimagining public spaces to create safe ways for everyone to walk, bike, and be active outdoors. Connect with RTC at RailsToTrails.org and [@RailsToTrails](https://www.facebook.com/RailsToTrails) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Friends of the Northern Rail Trail November 17, 2021

Condensed from draft minutes.

Thanks to One and All, and for All that is Given to our Trail!

Board Attendees: Alex Bernhard, Amy Chan, Barbara Couturier, Steve Darling, George Heaton, Lindy Heim, Cody Hussey, Dustin Ladd, Charles Martin, Myra Mayman, Ricker Miller, Don Moyer, Jack Shields, Peter Southworth

Loyal Trail Supporters and Committee Members: Kurt Gotthardt (Enfield), Craig Heim

Business Matters

Treasurer’s Report: There was unanimous approval for Dustin Ladd’s report, which showed little change from last month, with substantial balances at the ready to be expended in the near future for maintenance and improvement projects. We are much buoyed by the receipt of an anonymous maintenance grant, which is already being put to good use, and by continued contributions from PayPal and via “rack cards” at kiosks.

A plan for constructing our yearly budget was presented. Committee chairs are asked to submit estimates of expenses and inflows by December 31. Dustin will then assemble these and other relevant information into a budget proposal for discussion at the January meeting.

Committee Reports

Marketing and Promotion Committee:

Lindy Heim began her report by noting the publication of another photo-filled newsletter, “November on the Northern Rail Trail.” In addition, the Committee is engaged with a number of activities, including the use of a “Ride with GPS” app and map.

Of special note is the new, rebuilt, and improved Hannah Duston kiosk in Boscawen. And distribution of flyers in kiosks at Mascoma Lake, Highland Lake, and Lebanon.

Amy Chan reported on new signage being planned in the City of Lebanon that allows users to easily connect the Mascoma River Greenway Trail and the Northern Rail Trail.

Technology Committee: Cody Hussey reported that his major activities are two: merge the preexisting websites of Grafton and Merrimack Counties; and developing a site map.

As there are many useful, challenging, and fascinating activities on the Technology Committee horizon; volunteers to work with Cody would be most welcome!

Trail Building and Maintenance Committee: Don Moyer’s PowerPoint slides summarized the many projects and people that are at the heart of our Trail enterprise.

With our already-budgeted projects See FNRT on page 26



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FNRT from page 25

supplemented by a recently received grant explicitly for this purpose, we are able to predict with confidence completion of five high-priority maintenance projects, “before the snow flies.” All are in Grafton County.

Now on the horizon is the drafting of a new Maintenance Agreement between FNRT and the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails. The prior agreement is now 10 years old and in need of updating, a process in which Don Moyer is representing FNRT in ongoing discussions with the Trails Bureau.

The volunteer efforts received in the Committee’s work are extraordinary. We recorded 372 hours of all kinds of work from 24 volunteers from May through October. In particular, there has been 137 hours of chainsaw work in 2021, which is vital to keeping the Trail clear.

FNRT heartily thanks all these volunteers, and looks forward to days of recognition – and of course, Trail work – in 2022. Don is planning a Trail-long Clean-Up Day in the spring.

The Committee is preparing for next year’s projects and proposals, including a likely RTP Grant Application for resurfacing near Potato Road in Canaan. Don is beginning to scope this out and establish relationships with potential contractors.

Administration and Finance Committee: Craig Heim presented a proposal drafted by the Committee to change wording in Articles 3 and 4 of the by-laws. These articles had heretofore spoken of “dues” for “membership,” as

well as donations, in a manner that did not reflect the reality of current practice.

The amended by-laws give “membership” in the FNRT to any individual, family, or organization that makes a monetary contribution. Members are invited to the Annual Meeting and have a right to cast one vote in the election of the Board. The FNRT will endeavor to make yearly contact with members, although yearly donations are not required.

Other Reports

Boscawen Extension: Jack Shields reported on NHDOT’s having received the executed Contribution Agreement from FNRT, setting forth our contribution, rights, and responsibilities in the Boscawen Extension project. With that agreement and the Purchase and Sale Agreement with PanAm, both awaiting execution by the State and the Governor’s Council, we come ever-closer to its start.

Documenting Rail Trail Contributions: Charles Martin offered a discussion of the many ways Rail Trails benefit their communities, as well as the engagement of volunteers in this effort through “in-kind” contributions. Don Moyer made the additional point that Trail projects, particularly those involving construction, are of great benefit to the local economy. The Board agreed to consider ways to track and publicize these contributions – and to recognize and thank volunteers.

Trail Paving in Lebanon: Amy Chan noted plans by the City of Lebanon to pave a small portion of the Trail between Spencer Street and Bank Street. The Board welcomed this news.

Report on Enfield: Guest Kurt Gotthardt reported on the Town of Enfield’s consideration of possible uses for Town-owned parcels of land that abut the Trail. The Board expressed its support for easy access to the Trail, and welcomes further news.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 15, at 5 PM via Zoom

New London Hospital Opens Express Care Service

Insurance accepted; no appointments needed

Press release

New London Hospital’s (NLH) Express Care is now open and ready to treat conditions such as sprains, skin rashes, tick bites, cuts and lacerations, colds, and certain infections. Express Care has its own designated entrance, parking, and registration at NLH and is open seven days a week, from 9 AM to 7 PM Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM Saturday, and 9 AM to 3 PM on Sundays.

Express Care is a service for those two years of age and older. Most insurance plans are accepted, including Medicare and Medicaid.

“We are excited to launch Express Care for our community,” says Tom Manion, president and CEO, NLH. “This will be such a valuable service for our patients. For those assessed as having serious medical conditions that cannot be treated in an urgent care setting, our skilled, on-site Emergency Department team is prepared to meet their needs.”

Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, NLH recently held a private ribbon cutting to kick off the opening of this new service. Invited guests included local officials and NLH board members and employees. Express Care staff provided tours of the new space.

“I believe this will be such an asset



A private ribbon cutting event was held to kick off the opening of the new Express Care Center located at the New London Hospital.

Photo: Timothy Lund

to our community,” says John Cannon, Selectman, New London. “It will ease the stress on the hospital’s Emergency Department and provide a convenient option for residents who don’t want to drive to Lebanon or Concord for urgent care.”

Express Care appointments are not required. Visit NewLondonHospital.org/expresscare or call 603 526-5155 for more information.

Feline Illnesses Shut Animal Shelter Temporarily Out of Caution

Accepting applications for Shelter Manager

Press release

The Franklin Animal Shelter would like to take this opportunity to reassure our friends and members of the greater Franklin community of our commitment to the dogs and cats in our area.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Shelter has been closed to the public for a few weeks because some of our cats have been sick. The staff has used that time to clean the shelter top to bottom and to build out our cat kennel area to better provide for the safety and comfort of the animals. We continue to accept donations during our listed operating hours, and we hope to reopen to the public fairly soon.

Additionally, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce that we are in the process of hiring a new Shelter Manager to oversee operations starting in 2022. Interested parties are welcome to view more information on and submit appli-

cations through the Shelter website.

Currently, our long time employee Krista Hebert is serving as our Interim Shelter Manager during this challenging time. The staff of the shelter have rallied behind Ms. Hebert and are doing an amazing job of keeping the animals safe and well cared for during this time of transition.

Finally, the Shelter is now preparing to send out envelopes for our Annual Appeal. This is our major fundraising push each year, and proceeds go to ensure the care and safety of every animal that comes to us. If you get an envelope in the mail, please consider a donation to us. Donations can also be made through our website. All donations are fully tax deductible.

The staff and board of the Shelter would like to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. We are always amazed at the support the greater Franklin community gives to the shelter, and we look forward to serving community needs into 2022 and beyond.

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OBITUARIES

ROBERT N. BENNETT, Jr., 55, passed away on October 26, 2021 at the Jack Byrne Hospice Center in Lebanon after a courageous battle with cancer.

Rob was born in North Kingston, Rhode Island on March 29, 1966 to the late Robert N. Bennett, Sr. and Carol A. (Rayno) Bennett. He grew up in East Andover, attending Merrimack Valley High School and Franklin High School. He attended Plymouth State University and later earned his Master's Degree from New England College.



Rob taught in the Kearsarge Regional School District (KRSD) for 26 years, starting as a paraprofessional in 1994 at Kearsarge Regional Elementary School in New London and Kearsarge Regional Middle School. He later became a social studies teacher and taught at Kearsarge Regional High School (KRHS) for six years before becoming an administrator. As an administrator Rob held the following positions within the KRSD: Special Education Associate Director from 2006-2007, Assistant Principal at KRHS from 2012-2013, Interim Principal at KRHS from 2014-2015, and Principal at KRHS from 2016-2020. He was heavily involved with the Adult Diploma program and summer school. Rob then spent one year and a few months as principal at Laconia High School before his health declined to a point where he was unable to continue working.

Rob coached numerous Kearsarge sports, including football, baseball, field hockey, men's and women's basketball, and was also a coaching assistant for the women's basketball team at Keene State College. In his free time, he enjoyed golfing and was an avid New England sports fan. Rob was a family man who loved spending time with his wife, children, extended family, and his friends. He will be dearly missed.

Rob is survived by his loving wife of

21 years, Koreen A. Kenyon-Bennett of South Sutton, his daughters, Courtney Bennett and Olivia Bennett, his brother Gary Bennett and his wife Lynn of Hopkinton, in-laws, Bernard and Shirlie Kenyon, sister-in-law, Lisa Smith and her husband, John, and niece and nephews, Parker and Riley Bennett, and Kyle and Mark Smith.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative and Hospice Care in Lebanon.

A memorial service was held on November 5, 2021, at The First Baptist Church of New London, New Hampshire. A private family burial will be held at a later date. Arrangements were made by Chadwick Funeral Home.

MICHAEL R. ANDRUS, 89 of Andover passed away on November 5, 2021 after a period of declining health. Mike was born in Franklin on November 18, 1931 the son of Max and Florence (Merrill) Andrus. He worked as a machinist for Webster Valve in Franklin for over 41 Years. He was a United States Army veteran having served during the Korean War. Mike loved to be outdoors, whether working in his garden, watching the birds or just taking a walk in the woods. He was predeceased by a grandson Harrison, two brothers, Roger and Walter, and a sister Florence.

He is survived by: his wife of 64 years

Beverly A. (Blanchette) Andrus of Andover, his two daughters: Cheryl E. Hall and her husband Walter III of Northfield, and Michelle J. Laramee and her husband Dennis of Franklin.

Grandchildren: Stephanie, Samantha, Sarah, Katie, Walter IV, Zachary, Brent, and Aliyah. Eight great grandchildren.



Two Brothers: Bryant Andrus of Andover, Ted Andrus of Salisbury, and nieces and nephews

A graveside service with military honors was held on November 13, 2021 at Lakeview Cemetery in East Andover.

Memorial Donations in Mike's memory can be made to either the East Andover Fire Department, 776 Franklin Highway, Andover, NH 03216 or Andover Fish and Game Club, PO Box 253, Andover, NH 03216.

The William F. Smart Sr. Memorial of Tilton is assisting the Andrus family with arrangements. For more information go to smartfuneralhome.com.

GAY SEMLER ESTIN, 92, of Woodcrest Village in New London, passed away on November 5, 2021.

Gay was born in New York City on March 7, 1929, to Grace Parker Semler and George Herbert Semler. She attended Brearley School in New York City, and Garrison For-



est School in Maryland. Her summers were spent in Wainscott and East Hampton, Long Island. Gay went to Vassar College, class of 1951 and the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

In 1957, Gay married Hans Howard Estin and moved to the North Shore of Boston. They had two daughters, Hilary and Alex. She designed a beautiful home, cooked gourmet meals, chaired multiple symphony and museum galas, studied photography, and spent her weekends skiing in Sugarbush, Vermont.

In 1972, she moved to Aspen, Colorado where she created and ran two restaurants and renewed her love for riding horses. This led her to return to the East Coast and settle in Middleburg, Virginia, where she rode with three different Hunt Clubs and became a competitive award-winning equestrian. Her partner of 25 years was George Beavers III.

Aside from horses, Gay's greatest passion was designing houses and gardens. Throughout her adult life she created 17 magnificent homes. Each time she completed one, she became excited and inspired to begin a new creative design project.

Gay lived her final years near her daughter, Alex, in New Hampshire, enjoying the beauty and birdlife of the area.

See Obituaries on page 28

Chadwick Funeral and Cremation Service

How Do I Begin?

Perhaps talking about your own funeral or celebration is not really at the top of your list. A great time to have the conversation with your spouse, child or grandchild or some other family member or friend is when you are feeling healthy and positive. Make it be a conversation. Ask what your spouse or other loved one would be comfortable with doing and try to come to a compromise between the two of you. Remember that the service/celebration won't be for you. It will be about you but there will be no benefit to you. It could boost you up knowing that you have planned a wonderful remembrance so that could be the positive outcome for you. Talk about it, let other family members know that it's planned and let us know the plans. We'll make notes and listen to ideas and then you can feel good knowing that you had a hand in the uplifting time which will be shared by so many.

Charles, Marion (Chadwick), and Dan Hafner

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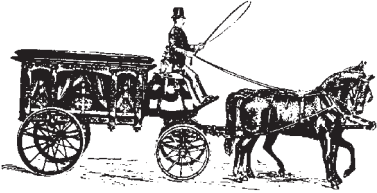
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Obituaries from page 27

She was predeceased by her parents, her brother, George Herbert Semler Jr., her sister Joan Achelis Hamilton, her brother Peter Semler, her grandparents Horatio and Anna Parker, her former husband Hans, and her partner George.

Gay is survived by her two daughters, Hilary Estin Hood (John Hood) of Mill Valley, California, and Alexandra Howard Estin of Andover, New Hampshire, and three Granddaughters Whitney Parker Rosso, Siena Alexandra Hood and Lila Estin Hood, and Great Grandson Miles John Rosso.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Loon Preservation Committee, PO Box 604, Moultonborough, NH 03253 or on the website loon.org.

CAROLE J. (CHEVRIER) ADAMS, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 88 years of age. Beloved wife of the late Richard V. Adams of 63 years before his passing on February 13, 2017. Daughter of the late Emma (Soper) and Alfred Chevrier. Loving mother of Lori Adams-Huyett (George Harneden) of Plainville; Karen Silvia and her husband William of Danbury, New Hampshire; Cynthia Adams (Carl Peloquin) of N. Attleboro, Massachusetts; Jaqueline Adams of Andover, New Hampshire; and Richard K. Adams of Orange. Cherished grandmother of Holly Surgens, Molly Huyett and Daniel Huyett. Great grandmother of two.

Adored sister of the late Lillian Reynolds; Florence Joseph; and Grace Fitton. Carole also leaves many nieces and

nephews. Carole was born and raised in Attleboro where she attended Attleboro High School and graduated in 1952. She met Richard when they worked at Balfour in 1952 and lived in Attleboro for a total of 56 years until they moved to Bourne when Richard retired in 1989 from the Robbins Company where they lived for 31 years.

Carole worked at Sturdy Memorial Hospital for 28 years and retired in 1996. Carole was a life-long card player with weekly gatherings with her sisters, niece and nephews. Richard and Carole formed a small group of friends on Cape Cod to continue their card games. Carole never turned down a challenge for a game of Scrabble or Trivial Pursuit. They both were avid and loyal Red Sox Fans and never missed a game on TV. Richard sang with the Attleboro Barber Shop Chapter for 30 years and was the President of the Cape Cod Chapter Barbershop for 10 years. He loved to sing either in a large group or in a quartet. Richard was an avid boater and loved fishing.

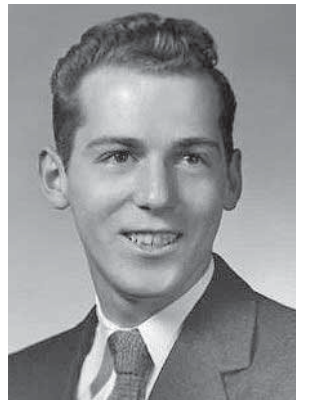
Both Carole and Richard were most

at peace when near the water, especially their beloved Cape Cod. Richard passed along his love of the outdoors to all five of his children. They both volunteered for years as transport assistants for the Bourne Council on Aging. The Adams family would like to give a special thanks to the nursing staff of the Rockport Wing at Maples Rehab. We are extremely grateful of the care they showed to our mother!

A Graveside Memorial Service was held on November 19, 2021 at St. John's Cemetery in Attleboro. In lieu of flowers, donations in both Carole and Richard's name, may be made to MSPCA of Cape Cod, 1577 Falmouth Road, Centerville, MA 02632 (mspca.org).

STANLEY E. DARLING, 80, a resident of Pownal, died Thursday November 18, 2021 at Southwestern Vermont Medical Center as a result of a long illness. He had been living with his daughter Tina and husband Chanel for the last five years. Stanley was born in North Adams, Massachusetts on July 23, 1941, the son of the late Stanley A. and Helen Wilcox Darling.

He attended local schools, graduating from Hoosick Falls, New York High School. He worked as a machinist at M a r l a n d Mold in Pittsfield, Massachusetts for 38 years, retiring in 2001. He was a member of the American Legion in Williamstown, Massachusetts and enjoyed attending stock car races at Lebanon Valley Speedway. Stanley was a huge NASCAR fan, especially of Dale Earnhardt, Jr, and was an avid New England Patriot, Celtics, and Red Sox fan.



Stanley is survived by his children Bruce Darling (Angela) of Bennington, Vermont, Brian Darling (Amanda) of Andover, New Hampshire, Tina Parent (Chanel) of Pownal and Tammy Dewey (Tony) of Linwood, North Carolina, his sister Helen Tiftt (Paul) of Florida, 9 grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Virginia L. Darling whom he married in Pownal on January 20, 1961. Graveside funeral services for Stanley were held on November 22, 2021 at Oak Hill Cemetery in Pownal. There were no visiting hours.

If friends desire, memorial gifts in Stanley's memory may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, c/o Hanson-Walbridge and Shea Funeral Home, PO Box 957, Bennington VT 05201. To send the family personal condolences please visit SheaFuneralHomes.com.

The family has entrusted arrangements to the care of Hanson-Walbridge and Shea Funeral Home, 213 West Main Street, Bennington, Vermont.

EAVP Opens Summer Camp Registration for Ages Three to Seven

Camp runs from
June 27 to August 19

Stephanie D'Amour, EAVP

Registration is open for EAVP Summer Camp! Our camp will be separate from our regular school year program and will be based on enrollment and staffing.

All children between the ages of three and seven years old are welcome. Activities and daily water play will be offered. Field trips will be planned based on our ability to provide transportation. Camp will run from June 27 to August 19 (closed July 1 and July 4).

Enrollment is due by March 1.

Half-day camp hours are from 7:30 AM to noon, and full-day camp is from 7:30 AM to 5 PM.

Please contact EAVP@tds.net or 603 735-5105 for registration.

We look forward to offering the community this service.



Thank you to the WA Bachelder Library for allowing EAVP students back inside for story times and checking out books! Here is a sweet moment of friends Briar, Jolene, and Marina enjoying a book together while Susan Nellen reads. Caption and photo: Stephanie D'Amour



Through the Skype a Scientist program, AE/MS's sixth grade was matched with a Ph.D student in the area of Archaeology from Brown University. Mr. Josh virtually presented to Mrs. Philbrook's eager class. He discussed his work as a bioarchaeologist and expert on the Ancient Mayan civilization. Josh opened his presentation by asking the class, "What does your trash show off about your life?" His presentation closely followed the Ancient Civilizations curriculum that has been introduced to the students at AE/MS and reinforced many taught hypotheses. He intrigued the students with new facts in regards to burial processes, for which the Mayans preferred to bury their family members under their homes, and that the skulls of infants were often re-shaped to look like corn cobs (a sign of future prosperity). The biggest takeaway from the activity was furthered interest in history and how different historians study and observe the past.

Caption: Megan Philbrook. Photo: Kasey Schoch.

Teams from page 32

on a last-second goal.

Head Coach Kyle Connolly reflected on the tournament bid, "We were really excited to have the opportunity to extend our season and to get to play against a team that we had a battle with earlier in the season. It's a great capstone for a senior group that has been so important to this program over the last four years and serves as an opportunity to put a real stamp on their legacy at Proctor."

Proctor's varsity field hockey team also earned a bid to the NEPSAC tournament after ending their regular season with a convincing 4-1 win over Holderness School. A team that continued to gel as the season went on, coaches Trish Austin '01 and Kate Austin '01 were incredibly proud of their team.

Trish noted, "Making the NEPSAC tournament was our girls' goal from Day One this season. They have worked so hard to get to this point, and they are motivated and playing their best field hockey right now. A huge kudos to our seniors for the leadership they have provided us and their relentless pursuit of daily improvement. This group went 1-14-1 their freshman year and have worked tirelessly to get our program back to this place."

The team won their quarterfinal game over Frederick Gunn School 2-0 before traveling to Winsor School for the NEPSAC semifinal on Saturday, November 20. In a back and forth game, the Hornets eventually fell 1-2 to Winsor School.

Congratulations to both teams for their outstanding New England tournament runs this fall!

Ocean from page 32

sun from behind the horizon is equally spectacular. And all at once, warmth chases out the frigid night air as the smell of a freshly prepared and delicious breakfast permeates the boat. You see the smiling (and hungry) faces of your shipmates as they flood the galley where we recap events from the night, retell strange and spontaneous dreams, and struggle to contain our laughter.

"As much as we may romanticize a return to normalcy, it is hard not to acknowledge these moments as the ones we will miss the most when it is all said and done. The stories we will share with our friends and family for years to come will long outlast the hardships we have faced: the lessons we take from the most challenging moments will remain with us through high school and into the next chapter of our lives, or wherever the wind decides to take us."

This winter, Proctor will launch a new Winter Ocean Classroom program that will depart from Charleston, South Carolina and voyage around Florida, the Florida Keys to the Gulf of Mexico with a final destination of Mobile, Alabama. Fourteen Proctor students will be joined by nine students from the MET School in Providence, Rhode Island, a charter school network.

Their curriculum this winter will center around the history of involuntary servitude and American slave trade. Andover's Lily Menard '22 will take part in this program. Proctor will once again partner with Sailing Ships Maine to provide this programming. Learn more about this new program at ProctorAcademy.org/Off-Campus/Ocean-Classroom.

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Proctor Exhibits the Art of Jozimar Matimano

January through May of 2022

Molly Leith, Proctor Academy

Jozimar Matimano is a fine art painter originally from the East Democratic Republic of Congo, Butembo, now living in Manchester, New Hampshire.

When he was 10 years old, due to the civil war at home, he and his family were forced to leave and flee to Uganda, where they would live for another 10 years.

Finally, on October 5, 2016, Matimano moved from Uganda to Manchester, New Hampshire as a refugee through a program called the International Institute of New England.

Having always been drawn to art, Matimano quickly started drawing on his own, taking

classes at the Currier Art Museum, eventually earning himself a scholarship to the Institute of Art at New England College where he is presently earning his BFA. His recent collection of paintings focuses on portraits and scenes of daily life that draw you in lightheartedly or make

you pause at their raw intensity.

Recently on exhibit at the SOWA Boston Gallery, he has found success through diligence, dedication, and commitment to his art. He is presently a commissioner on the Manchester Arts Commission, an organization dedicated to promoting local art and artists throughout Manchester.



“I see fine art as a tool that could spark something in one’s life that could change the course of history.” – Jozimar Matimano

Jozimar Matimano’s work will be on exhibit at the Lovejoy Library at Proctor from January through May, with an artist reception in February, with details to be announced. You can view his full collection of work at JozimarMatimano.com.

For questions, please contact Molly Leith, at LeithMo@ProctorAcademy.org.

Women’s Foundation Recognizes Sarah Morgart, Proctor ’22

Focus on work of suffragist Mary N. Chase

Scott Allenby, Proctor Academy

In October, Proctor senior Sarah Morgart ’22 presented a portion of her Academic Concentration capstone project during the dedication of the National Votes for Women Trail marker installed on Proctor’s campus in honor of former faculty member Mary N. Chase.

Sponsored by the National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites, the National Votes for Women Trail seeks to recognize and celebrate the enormous diversity of people and groups active in the struggle for women’s suffrage. The marker on Proctor’s campus is posted just outside the Stone Chapel and recognizes the work of Mary N. Chase as a faculty member at Proctor beginning in 1898.

Chase was a leading women’s suffragist, forming local suffrage committees, making speeches around the state and country, and in 1902 becoming President of the New Hampshire chapter of the National American Women’s Suffrage Association (NAWSA). According to a biography published by Malcolm Gent, Ph.D student, University of New Hampshire, Chase visited nearly 250 New Hampshire Granges, speaking and gathering

petitions in support of women’s voting rights.

Each year, the New Hampshire Women’s Foundation puts on an event called the “Women Building Community Luncheon,” which typically draws about 600 to Manchester. This year, the Foundation is creating a virtual event to showcase all aspects of their work. Sarah Morgart ’22 was asked by the New Hampshire Women’s Foundation to take part in their annual program “Women Building Community.” Sarah’s capstone Academic Concentration project at Proctor focused on the work of former faculty member Mary N. Chase, a leading women’s suffragist in the late 19th and early 20th century.



ah was selected to be one of the voices during this virtual event as she shared about her capstone project and the legacy of Mary N. Chase on Proctor’s campus and throughout New England. Earlier in November, Sarah filmed her portion of the event.

Caption: Scott Allenby. Photo: Gabrielle Stone.

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This Page Sponsored by **Andover Elementary/Middle School**



Middle school students at AE/MS eagerly await their outdoor movie on October 29. This was their first social event at school since February 14, 2020. Photo: Kasey Schoch

AE/MS Students Exceed Goal of 1,000 Items for Food Drive

Twin Rivers Food Pantry benefits from drive

Cheryl Swenson

Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry

The Andover Elementary/Middle School set a goal to collect 1,000 food items for the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry during the month of November. The students and their families not only exceeded their goal within the first week, but went well beyond it by collecting a grand total of 2,076 items!

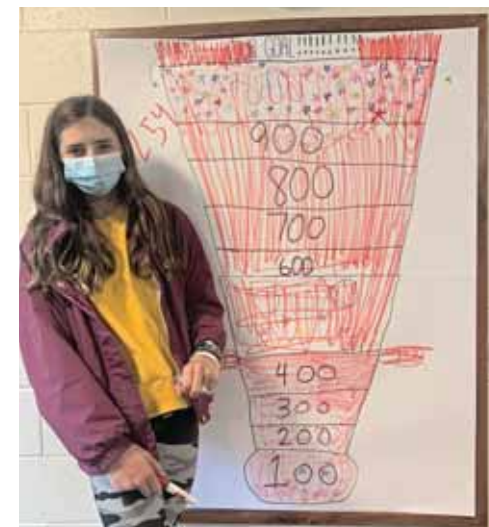
Wow and double Wow!

The food drive was organized by School Nurse Christine Frost, who also volunteers at the Pantry. She made the rounds of the school, stopping by each classroom to collect items with the help of several volunteer students. "When we are done, we are going to need a big truck to deliver all this food and all these household items," she commented.

The generosity of the Andover community is very much appreciated, as we are seeing rising numbers of families utilizing our facility. Food insecurity is a very real part of many people's lives.

We are open to all who need as-

sistance feeding their families. People may visit as often as needed. Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry is located at 2 Central Street, across from Benson's Auto, in the lower level. We are open



Talia Hardie, AE/MS grade seven, stands next to the chart showing the progress of food collected during the food drive to benefit the Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry during November. Photo: Christine Frost

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11 AM, and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 PM.

Thank you, Andover Elementary/Middle School!

Movie Night Much Anticipated by AE/MS Students

Teachers brainstormed the outdoor event

Kasey Schoch, AE/MS

Students in the middle school at AE/MS have been crying out for a social event since COVID pandemic began. Their last event was a dance on Valentine's Day of 2020, and only the class of 2022 was old enough to attend that event when it was held. Unfortunately, the situation has not changed enough that a traditional school dance seemed like a viable option.

A couple of weeks before Halloween, the teachers in the middle school came up with a solution to this much needed social event: an outdoor movie night. Students were told to dress warmly and bring chairs and blankets for the October 29 viewing of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. As they arrived, they were served pizza and drinks before spreading out on the baseball field to watch the film.

Students cheered as the movie began, and the energy on the field could be felt by everyone. This was definitely a much needed social event for this group.

During the movie, each grade also had an opportunity to go on a "spooky

walk" through the woods with science teacher Ryan Murphy. AE/MS graduates were in the woods waiting to help



Sixth grader Maddie O'Neil has some fun at the October 29 AE/MS movie night in her dinosaur costume. Photo: Kasey Schoch

scare up a little fun.

The staff was overjoyed to be able to bring this event to students, and it was so well received that it may become a more frequent occurrence for years to come.



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#iMInTheBeacon



Proctor's Fall Ocean Classroom program completed its nine-week voyage. Andover's River Turnbull '22 was one of 22 students who took part in the program. Caption: Scott Allenby. Photo: Holly Buresh.

Proctor's Fall Ocean Classroom Completes Voyage

Winter Ocean Classroom being planned

Scott Allenby, Proctor Academy

For nine weeks this fall, 22 Proctor Academy students voyaged aboard the schooner Harvey Gamage along the eastern seaboard of the United States. While unfortunate weather patterns prevented the voyage from heading to the Caribbean as originally planned, the student crew had a life-changing experience as they studied Marine Biology, Maritime Literature, and Navigation and learned to independently crew the 130-foot tall ship. A journal entry from Andover's River Turnbull '22 follows: "With my final logbook entry of the

trip, I thought it would be valuable to reflect on one of many memories that this trip has produced. I am very new to this, but the thrill one gets at sea in 'perfect conditions' is truly indescribable (but I will try my best).

"We are under full sail, the wind propelling the boat through the night. There is no sound but the swells and the creaking of the ship's wooden skeleton. Even with the inherent stress of a four-hour watch, there is a collective peace among the ship's company as we soar toward our next destination.

"The deck is fully illuminated by the tapestry of the night sky. As beautiful as the display is, the emergence of the See Ocean on page 29

Proctor Teams Earn Places in New England Tournament

Scott Allenby
Proctor Academy

Proctor's fall varsity athletic teams combined for a 32-16-5 record, with both varsity girls soccer and varsity field hockey earning berths in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC) Class C Tournament. Varsity football and varsity boys soccer both narrowly missed bids to the tournament, as well, marking the first time in recent history that all four teams were in playoff contention in the same year.

Proctor's varsity girls soccer team earned the #7 seed in the NEPSAC tournament this fall. For the 12 seniors on the team, eight of whom have spent four years on the squad, including Andover's Brynne Makechnie '22, Sasha MacKenzie '22, and Lily Menard '22, this year's bid to the NEPSAC Tourna-



Andover's Brynne Makechnie '22, Sasha MacKenzie '22, Braeden MacKenzie '24, and Lily Menard '22 were key pieces to the varsity girls soccer team's success. Pictured here are Amy Makechnie, Lily, Sasha, Jeremy Menard, Annie MacKenzie, and Brynne.

Photo: Lindsey Allenby.

ment is the culmination of a remarkable Proctor career.

Closing the regular season out with a 1-1 draw versus Holderness School, Proctor carried an 8-5-3 record into the tournament, where they faced #3 Berwick Academy and ultimately fell 0-1 See Teams on page 29

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Proctor Acknowledges AE/MS's Work with \$5,000 Gift

Strong show of support for Andover community

Scott Allenby, Proctor Academy

Proctor is fortunate to have opportunities to contribute to the community in ways that advance and strengthen the relationship between Proctor and Andover Elementary/Middle School.

Proctor is excited to further that relationship with a gift of \$5,000 to AE/MS in support of the important work begun in 2017 providing middle school mental health counseling and drug prevention programming and education.

This gift is a reflection of both Proctor's appreciation of the fine work of AE/MS and of our relationship with this town and community.



Bria Tremblay (Dorothy) leads the munchkins in practice for The Wizard of Oz play, which will be shown on Friday, December 17 at AE/MS. Third and fourth grade students have been given the opportunity to be a part of this year's production, usually reserved for grades five through eight.

Caption: Kasey Schoch. Photo: Katie Dow

The Wizard of Oz Goes On at AE/MS in December

Rescheduled due to 2020 pandemic

Kasey Schoch, AE/MS

The Wizard of Oz will be performed at Andover Elementary/Middle School on Friday, December 17 at 6 PM, and on Saturday, December 18 at 1 PM. There are more than 35 students participating in the play this year. The 80th anniversary of the original movie, starring Judy Garland as Dorothy, was in 2019. The AE/MS production was originally slated to open in the spring of 2020.

Katie Dow is the director and Alex Ager is the musical director of the play. "Casting was extremely difficult. There is incredible talent in the drama club. We are very fortunate to have

Kyle Tremblay helping the cast members with the choreography this year. The musical numbers are outstanding," Dow said.

The main characters who have been recast are played by Bria Tremblay (Dorothy), Ryleigh Perry (Scarecrow), Ben Simard (Lion), Amelia Bryant (Tinman), and Briley Mudgett (The Wicked Witch of the West). The Andover Players is a drama club for any student in the fifth through eighth grades; however, third and fourth graders were invited to perform this year as Munchkins and Ozians.

Tickets will be available at the door only. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, and kids under five are free.

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