Hub Hops with Summer Evening Dance Parties

Fridays, July 15 and August 26, 7 to 8

Susan Chase
Andover Community Hub

Evenings of social dancing are planned for this summer at the Andover Community Hub on Friday, July 15, and Friday, August 26, from 7 to 8:30 PM. Anyone who enjoys dancing is welcome.

Laura Kiefer and Gary Stanhope of Hidden Door Dance Studio in Elkins are organizing the evenings and providing a good variety of music to dance to, as well as joining in the dancing and good time.

Participants are invited to bring a snack or dessert to share; soft drinks will be provided. As Laura and Gary said when they taught classes at the Hub last winter, "Everyone is welcome. The only things you need to bring are both left feet and smooth-soled shoes!"

There's no charge for either of the evenings, although small donations to the Hub are always appreciated. The Hub is located at 157 Main Street, next to Pizza Chef.

For further information, contact the Hub at TheAndoverHub@gmail.com or leave a message on the Hub's phone, 603 735-5509.

Andover Community Hub Receives Award of Excellence

From Lakes Region Planning Commission

Press release

As the July issue of *Beacon* went to press, the Andover Community Hub was being honored with an Award of Excellence by the Lakes Region Planning Commission at its 2022 annual meeting dinner on June 29.

The award citation reads: "The Andover Community Hub offers a wide variety of classes, informal gatherings, and events. It provides meeting space for community organizations, and things like birthday, baby, and bridal showers, and anniversary parties.

"The Hub has no staff and relies on community members to lead, teach, and organize programs. The involvement of anyone who would like to help build the community of Andover and surrounding towns by sharing their ideas, skills, time, and support is welcomed."

The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is "a unique association of local governments that provides comprehensive planning services to meet the diverse needs of New Hampshire's Lakes Region. Our mission is to provide effective planning in order to achieve and sustain a quality environment, dynamic economy, and local cultural values by supporting community efforts through leadership, education, technical assistance, information, advocacy, coordination, and responsive representation."

The nomination of the Hub as an asset to the wider Lakes Region community came from Andover's Tina Cotton, who – along with her husband John – has long been involved in various LRPC activities.

Responding to the announcement of the award, Larry Chase, the Hub's board chair, said: "Although the work of the Hub is focused primarily on the town of Andover, we are especially honored to be recognized by an organization representing the wider community. It is good to have this wider public recognition that the many volunteers involved with the Hub are doing something good and useful. It is to these volunteers that our board dedicates this award."

Plastic-Free July Comes to Andover Courtesy of Local Nonprofits

Effort to raise awareness about use of plastics

Susan Chase
Andover Community Hub

Beacon readers can check out the Plastic Free July website at PlasticFreeJuly.org to join the challenge, take the Pesky Plastics Quiz, and learn what next steps are possible.

Closer to home, the Ten Towns Project (10towns.org) is a campaign founded in 2021 by a group of volunteers from 10 New Hampshire towns who are committed to reducing plastic waste in the state and getting all New Hampshire towns involved in tackling this problem.

Readers can also register for "Let's Rethink Plastic," a Zoom presentation on Tuesday, July 12, from 7 to 8 PM, featuring a panel of New Hampshire experts addressing the impact of plastics on environmental justice, local policy Issues, and reducing landfill waste with compost and plastic alternatives. To register, go to keene.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsdumrqz8sGtWMv4qs80zFJpv4cTbElQ8T

Andover residents – both adults and students middle-school age and up – are invited to a showing of "Microplastic Madness" on Thursday, July 14, at 7 PM at the Andover Community Hub. This new documentary about Brooklyn fifth-graders inspired to take action on microplastics conveys an urgent message in user-friendly terms about the harmful effects on our water, our soil, and our own health. Discussion will follow.

Residents are also urged to drop off any unwanted plastic plant pots in the collection bin on the front porch of the Hub this summer, rather than throwing them in the trash. Lowe's in Concord participates in a program to collect and ship such pots to a Michigan facility that cleans and returns them to commercial growers for re-use.

Local residents can also stop in at either the Andover or East Andover library during July to check out the display of books and other resources aimed at educating readers about single-use plastics and ways to reduce their use of them, as well as to become advocates for change.

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