

The **Andover Beacon**
Our Hometown Newspaper

AndoverBeacon.com September 2022 603 735-6099

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, September 13

Don't forget to bring a photo ID!

Lee Wells, Deputy Moderator

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, September 13. Voting will be at AE/MS from 8 AM to 7 PM. Please don't forget to bring a photo ID!

You will receive the Primary Ballot that corresponds with your party registration. To check your registration, visit the Secretary of State's website at SOS.

NH.gov. On the home page you will see a picture of waving US flags labeled "Personal Voter Information Lookup"; click on that link. Then click on "View My Voter Information." Fill in the requested information, submit it, and be sure to scroll down (beyond the message: "We cannot locate absentee ballot information for this voter.") to find your voter information.

If you are registered as "undeclared," See Election on page 5



The Hub's universal-access ramp will begin in its parking lot at 157 Main Street and end at an outdoor deck being constructed by volunteers Steve Darling, Ken Wells, Doug Phelps, Paul Currier, and Harvey Best.

Captions and photos: Larry Chase

Hub Capital Campaign Nears Goal, But Needs \$20,000 More

Many improvements have been completed

Larry Chase
Andover Community Hub

As of the last week in August, the Andover Community Hub reported that a total of \$98,000 had been received in contributions to its "Come On In" capital campaign begun in September 2021, and that about 50% of the improvements to its historic structure at 157 Main Street had been completed.

The news was not entirely positive, however. Although \$100,000 had been announced as the campaign's goal, the Hub also reported last month that because of increased material costs and additional project requirements, campaign success will require an estimated additional \$20,000 to be raised.

"We are of course delighted with the generosity of the responses so far," said Susan Chase, Hub treasurer, who noted that about 93% of the funds re-

See Hub on page 3



Brenda Lett helps to unveil the new marker, honoring local magician Richard Potter, provided by the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire.

Photo: Arnie Alpert

New Black Heritage Plaque Honors Potter Place's Namesake

Ceremony took place during AHS Old Time Fair

Arnie Alpert, InDepthNH.org

Reprinted with permission from InDepthNH.org.

As of August 7, there's another reason to visit the village of Potter Place in the town of Andover: a Black Heritage Trail plaque in honor of the village's namesake, Richard Potter.

If the name is unfamiliar, you are no doubt living in the wrong century. Potter, who lived from 1783 to 1835, was one of America's first celebrities, a status he earned by traveling the country performing magic and ventriloquism. That he was a Black man who performed in every state makes his story that much more remarkable.

"He went everywhere," said [Ando-

ver's] John Hodgson, author of *Richard Potter: America's First Black Celebrity*, a speaker at the dedication ceremony sponsored by the Andover Historical Society. "He traveled around the entire country as it then existed, between 1819 and 1823," offering performances in big cities and small towns. "And when he went everywhere, he also performed to all audiences. And this was extremely unusual then." According to Hodgson, Potter was the most widely seen entertainer of his time.

Born the son of an enslaved woman in Massachusetts, Potter was performing in circuses and learning the magic trade in England by his early teens. By 1811, he was performing on his own back in the United States. According to the Andover Historical Society, "Richard had often performed at Benjamin

See Potter on page 3

Andover Garden Club Launches Scarecrows and Pumpkinheads

Part of town-wide beautification program

Justine Puliafico
Andover Garden Club

It still feels like summer, but fall will be here before you know it, so it is time to start planning for Andover's fourth annual Scarecrows and Pumpkinheads All Around Town event. This year the event will be coordinated by the Hub's Andover Garden Club as part of its town-wide beautification program.

We are asking that the entire community get involved. There is no specific theme for your display. The hope is that both businesses and residents will use their imagination to create fun scarecrow displays throughout town.

Need some inspiration to get started? Look around the house and try to incorporate items you already have. Stools, benches, wheel barrels, tractors, See Scarecrows on page 5



Caught relaxing at the corner of Route 11 and Maple Street in East Andover was this 2021 scarecrow, one of about two dozen observed around town.



This Page Sponsored by

Bar Harbor Bank and Trust
www.barharbor.bank • 888 853-7100

Andover Beacon
PO Box 149
Andover NH
03216-0149

Prsrt Std
ECRWS
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 5
Andover NH

POSTAL CUSTOMER