

Nutfield News

September 12, 2019 • Volume 15 - Issue 36

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Home Title Issues Cleared Up by Derry Planning Board

MACK LEATHURBY
NUTFIELD NEWS

Imagine you have decided to sell your house in Derry that was built about 15 years ago. You find a good buyer - at a good price - and you are getting ready for a move out of your old house, when the sale is interrupted shortly before the transfer can take place. It turns out that the legal title for the house you own is not clear and properly registered.

This was the scenario several Derry residents ran into recently, who live on Derry Town map 12; lots 47 and 50, in the Old Auburn Road area. A title search company lawyer was work-

ing a deed transfer and they discovered a legal document error made as a result of town ordinances that were evolving in Derry during the period of construction. The good news is that the Derry Planning Department and Board provided approvals for documents to clear the titles in a proper registration process, so any future sales of certain homes in the area would not incur further legal problems for a title transfer.

Elizabeth Robidoux, Planning and Economic Development Assistant for the town, helped support the solution at the September 4th Planning Board meeting.

Robidoux pointed out,

“Back in 1999, a subdivision plan and a lot line adjustment were approved for multiple lots in the old Auburn Road area. This approval was recorded in 2000 and there were conditions placed upon the plan that only one lot would be eligible for a building permit and the rest would have to wait for the Planning Board to approve the Growth Management Ordinance (GMO), at which time certificates of eligibility for permits were to be issued for the remaining lots accordingly.”

“Unfortunately, something was missed and those certificates were never issued.” Robidoux continued on page 4

School Board Get Updates on Education Study Report

MACK LEATHURBY
NUTFIELD NEWS

At their Aug. 20 meeting, the Derry School Board reviewed the Derry Cooperative School District Special Education System Study Final Report developed by Maryclare J. Heffernan, M. ED and Education Consultant. Dr. MaryAnn Connors - Krikorian, Superintendent of Schools, requested the study for the purpose of understanding the effectiveness of the current special education models and practices in the delivery of Specially Designed Instruction to the district's students with an Individual Education Program (IEP).

The following information is continuation from our previous week's

overview with new and condensed excerpts from the final report recommendations.

As per the National Research Council, it is recommended that the district adopt and integrate specific instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics Kindergarten through grade three. www.rtinetwork.org/essential/tieredinstruction/tier1/effectiveteaching

The district should extend the DEEP program that uses Lively Letters to all Kindergarten programs as a common early learning tool. Programs such as Handwriting Without Tears should be considered to provide an additional support for early writing skills for Pre?K and Kindergarten.

Once students develop

the foundational phonemic awareness and phonics skills they can more easily access other reading skills of fluency, vocabulary and comprehension through the Readers Workshop program.

There is expertise among the District Reading Specialists and within the district in identifying evidence-based practices in teaching reading. Their role in understanding and recommending curriculum, instruction and assessment practices should be leveraged as invaluable going forward.

It is recommended that additional math expertise be provided in the district to offer coaching, interventions and student specific

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BACK TO SCHOOL Reece Little, a fourth grade student at Derry Village Elementary School was ecstatic during the annual Back to School Barbecue hosted by the Parent Teachers Association. The D.J. helped get the crowd moving as volunteers kept the hotdogs and hamburgers cooking and children met with friends and staff. See more photos page 5.

Photo by Chris Paul

Town Council Approves Office Business District Expansion

MACK LEATHURBY
NUTFIELD NEWS

At their meeting on Sept. 3, the Derry Town Council approved six land parcels - close to the downtown area - to change zoning. Two parcels were changed from General Commercial District (GCD) zoning and four were rezoned from the

Medium High-Density Residential District (MHDR) over to the Office Business District (OBD) zone. These properties are located on West Broadway and in the neighborhood that includes property on Aiken, Valley, and St. Charles Street.

The rezoning measure approved by the council had

been cut down from an original proposal that had called for moving 20 residential type properties located in the area into the Office Business District. At 3 different Derry Planning Board meetings in the summer, quite a few residents from the Aiken Street area came to public hearings to express opposi-

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UNH and Pinkerton Launch Program for Concurrent University Credits

MACK LEATHURBY
NUTFIELD NEWS

A new two-year pilot program being called UNH First Step is ramping up this fall at Pinkerton Academy.

The program is a partnership between the University of New Hampshire and Pinkerton Academy. If successful the program will set a path forward for more high schools across the state to develop dedicated programs with academic curriculum where high school students could concurrently earn university level credits within their high school programs.

Pinkerton Academy's Dean of Studies and Instruc-

tion, Derek Lee, was elated about the academic potential that could be derived from this new partnership. Lee said, "Consistent with our mission, we constantly seek to provide our students with challenging and relevant learning opportunities that help prepare them for success beyond graduation from Pinkerton. UNH First Step is one such endeavor, and we are thrilled to partner with UNH to lead the way in this exciting new program."

As the program begins over this fall's semester, qualified Pinkerton juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to simultane-

ously earn high school and UNH credit in select high school courses. With the UNH First Step program, the University of New Hampshire wants to support an academic environment, where New Hampshire high school students can specifically earn UNH credit in their high school computer science and communication arts courses. Pinkerton Academy - with their rich academic environment - has been chosen to help lead the way for other high schools with this program. Appropriate Pinkerton teachers have begun working directly with faculty from UNH Manchester to develop

courses that will align high school learning activities with UNH academic rigor and expectations.

Mihaela Sabin, Professor of Computer Science at UNH Manchester, has been involved in expanding computer science education across the state's K-12 system. She says UNH First Step furthers that by increasing opportunities to broader participation in college-level curriculum.

"Computing careers are in high-demand in New Hampshire and nationally, so building computer science into the curriculum early on is crucial," Sabin said, adding that computer science is now a core component of K-12 education in the state thanks to a bill passed into law last year. "This collaboration not only improves the implementation of the new curricular standards, but also supports and empowers students to learn computing skills that they can carry into their college and professional careers."

As the state's flagship public university, UNH is committed to building partnerships that foster education at every age," said

Wayne Jones, UNH Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "UNH First Step brings high school and college educators together with the shared goal to advance academic excellence and opportunity for New Hampshire students."

Jones says Pinkerton was a natural fit for the partnership given the quality of faculty and curricular offerings in many subjects, including communications and computer science.

Timothy Powers, Headmaster of Pinkerton Academy, echoed that sentiment. "We are always seeking to improve the quality of learning and teaching at Pinkerton, and UNH is a key partner in that mission," Powers said.

In a thorough research analysis of, "What Works Clearinghouse" found strong evidence that concurrent credit programs improve the transition to college as well as degree attainment, particularly for students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

UNH Manchester Dean Mike Decelle says expanding UNH First Step to more New Hampshire high schools after the pilot is rolled out with Pinkerton could encourage more students to go to college, particularly in New Hampshire.

"Our ultimate goal is to make college more accessible to New Hampshire students," Decelle said. "When students choose to stay here, they become part of the workforce engine that strengthens our state's economy."

According to a 2016 report by the National Center for Education Statistics, 61 percent of New Hampshire high school graduates leave the state to pursue their four-year degrees. "The key to lowering that statistical situation is building stronger pathways to the state's post-secondary institutions", says New Hampshire Department of Education Commissioner Frank Edelblut.

"By enabling students to earn college credit in their own high school classrooms, programs like UNH First Step pave the way to academic opportunities at our in-state institutions," Edelblut said. "Expanding academic options for New Hampshire students creates more paths to bright futures."

Thank you to Kassidy Taylor, UNH Marketing Content Producer and Julia Mitchell, Pinkerton Academy - Director of Communications for their communications content, and help in compiling this story.

11-Year-Old Hit By Car in Derry

IDAN VINITSKY
NUTFIELD NEWS

A car in Derry struck an 11-year-old boy on Linlew Drive on Wednesday, Sept. 6, as he was coming back home after school.

The boy was walking from his bus stop at 2:06 p.m. when a Toyota Camry,

driven by Julie Alexanian, also of Derry, hit him.

The driver in the accident remained at the scene for the arrival of the Derry Police officers. The child that was hit was conscious and alert at the scene and was taken to Elliott Hospital in Manchester by a Derry Fire Department ambulance.

The Police Department press release stated that his injuries did not appear to be life threatening and that he was fine.

The cause of the accident is being investigated by the Derry Police Department and no violations have been charged, pending the outcome of the investigation, said Captain Vern Thomas, of the Derry Police Department.



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Education

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support.

The System of Response to Instruction (RTI) framework varies throughout the district. While the “What I Need” (WIN) program is ideally utilized to support targeted student learning, it would be helpful to review the WIN process at each school to determine what is or is not working.

The RTI framework should rely on a designated time for general and special educators to review student benchmark and data on a regular basis. In doing so they can collectively understand individual needs, provide targeted and intensive instruction to small groups of students, as well as monitor outcomes.

A well-designed system of response to instruction can help build stronger core

instruction that may decrease the number of students requiring Tier 2 and 3 interventions and potentially, the number of students referred to special education.

There is a generally held perception that resources are limited and at times unavailable. Many talked about the decrease in staffing positions and having to work harder but not able to work smarter. This challenge could be reviewed to determine needs, for requesting resources and making resource decisions.

The building level allocation for special education materials and supplies is \$500 per year. This is not adequate to acquire the range of programs, testing materials, specially designed instruction resources, technology necessary to meet the changes of the district’s students with

an IEP.

A review of special education staffing patterns is needed to determine when to add more special educators for building level needs in a more focused and efficient way. Specific staffing areas to consider include: Pre-K, elementary Special Educators to cover grade levels, and math coach or specialists.

The positions of Assistant Director of Student Services and the Special Education Facilitators should be reviewed for ways to relieve role expectations and student number responsibilities.

As a result of increasing needs for three and four-year-old students, review staffing patterns and space allocation about additions of a Speech/Language Pathologist and teacher and if present space is adequate for students in Pre-K.

The DEEP program needs a formal curriculum and to consider addition of other evidence based programs. The DEEP program needs outdoor play equipment.

The district would benefit from full day positions for para-educators and with a clear system of orientation, supervision, communication, support and training be put in place for the district’s para-educators.

Seek professional learning needs from the staff and plan professional development to meet patterns identified. Possible topics of ongoing professional development include instructional practice, providing interventions and specially designed instruction, understanding specific disabilities, executive function, implementation of programs, understanding and managing student behaviors

and social emotional issues.

If educators are given ample time to communicate first they are able to anticipate learning needs and design instruction to meet more learners rather than retrofit after a lesson is designed and taught.

There are areas within the district that require a consistent communication plan to deepen understanding among the educational community members. The consistent theme regarding resource allocation may be alleviated with renewed systems of communication and the use of collaborative problem-solving models.

Among special education teams there is a limited amount of time provided for planning beyond a short organizational meeting between special educators and para-educators to share information and between building and district level

teams to share and discuss program progress, student, staffing and resource needs.

Parents desire more timely communication from both special educators and classroom teachers on student progress and any emerging problems.

Utilize the expertise within the Derry Cooperative School District to use outcome and demographic data; by creating more opportunities for the educational professionals with specific knowledge to work together the district will harness the talent that exists to enrich the exchange of ideas, create collaborative models and solve problems together.

The complete study report can be downloaded from the Derry Cooperative School District at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o4Ox89y4hpmYYXWIIgSnZDhwdhCKnrUi>

Business District

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tion to this rezoning proposal. Planning Board members conducted a site tour of this neighborhood during this time period to meet with the residents and view the area details.

At the June 19 meeting, Dave Granese, an alternate member and former Planning Board Chair said, “With regard to this situation, we continue to put the cart before the horse, regarding this whole area and I would be willing to look at scaling down this proposal.”

Planning Board members concurred with Granese that rezoning all 20 properties including the Aiken street area was probably not the best plan in context of public discussions with

neighborhood residents. They streamlined their plan to only include these 6 parcels that the council approved at this September 3rd meeting.

During the summer public hearings about this rezoning, area resident Tom May who lives on Valley Street provided a letter to the Planning Board - signed by 63 residents who live in the area. May also provided a similar letter to the Town Council at a recent meeting expressing that he was still “vigorously” opposed to the modified plan.

May made an eloquent statement in June when he said, “You have heard all the concerns of our residents and we certainly want to thank you for taking the

time to visit our neighborhood and see for yourself the area you propose to change. We hope we have convinced you that Aiken Street should remain residential. And I might add that would be from St. Charles Street all the way to Fordway. I would also like to remind you of the things that have been said over the past few months.”

May pointed out that Town Administrator, David Caron was quoted as saying, “There are both merits and concerns when considering zoning changes. Creating economic opportunity that could provide tax relief is a bonus, but feelings of the residents living in these areas is also a key. The staff looks at zoning of properties and what might or might not work.”

Planning and Economic Development Assistant, Elizabeth Robidoux, pointed out that the idea for rezoning these properties was to support economic development in areas around the town’s declared Opportunity Zone that would maximize development and might provide additional funding that would help Derry’s tax base. Robidoux said this updated and scaled down rezoning plan came as a result of the public hearings, site walks, reviews, and discussions with the residents. Planning also reviewed the area’s topography and found issues that might contribute challenges for the rezoning of certain parcels in the plan.

“The Planning Board was

concerned to do the right thing for the town and residents in this area,” Robidoux said, “Town officials also focused on development opportunities for this area of town that could bring more jobs and have an effect on the tax base.”

Some of the residents said this zoning change would not only affect their homes, but also the quality of life they have in their established and historic neighborhoods.

In their decision, Council members voted 5-1 to approve the rezoning. Town Council member, Phyllis Katsakiores, voted against the rezoning proposal. She expressed concern that the area’s residents do not want

to see their area changed. “When are we going to listen to the people?” she asked. “They don’t want this.”

Chairman Neil Wetherbee was self-assured and supported, as he discussed the voting decision. “We heard the residents loud and clear,” he said. “And I will be quite confident this will not change the character of the neighborhood.”

In the end, the residents did have their voices heard by town officials and that resulted in a change of the rezoning plan while the town also looked to support economic development that might help provide additional tax funding from the Office Business District expansion.



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Editorial

A Bountiful Season

For most weekends this month and next, there won't be enough space on the calendar to write in all the events and activities that catch our eye. One thing most of them will have in common is a seasonal theme, because fall is literally in the air.

We can still enjoy days of wearing flip-flops and shorts, but their time is running out for the year. In the evening, more times than not, we're reaching for a wool sweater.

The trees in our local orchards are full of apples, and if that's not a sure sign of fall in New England, we don't know what is. So add a trip to pick apples and time to bake pies and make cider and applesauce on that calendar as well. We're fortunate to have the chance to taste the real thing, literally in our own backyards. The farmers are saying this year offers a good harvest, and whether you choose a U-pick or prefer to select your apples, fruits, and veggies from a farmstand, opportunities abound.

For many of us, the change to fall is our favorite time of year. We already can see hints of color in the leaves indeed, the swamp maples have been giving us a preview of the glorious display to come - and the pumpkins are turning orange. Stop by any local garden center or farm-

stand, and you're sure to find a colorful display of mums. You can't miss the shift. The season is changing.

While farmers markets may not have all the bounty of summer in the weeks ahead, they still offer plenty of local fruits and vegetables. We encourage you to take advantage of the markets in our area and get the freshest food available. You'll be glad you did.

It's still more than a week away from the official start of autumn - Sept. 23 this year - but we can't escape the message of the crisp, cool night air, or the Full Harvest Moon that will light the sky Saturday night. It's the perfect time of year to be outdoors not too hot, not too cold and not too many bugs, with plenty of places to enjoy your surroundings.

Want to take a walk? Check out your town conservation areas and discover the hidden treasures of the woodlands and wetlands your community has preserved. Soon enough, your outdoor exercise will be directed at raking those colorful leaves whose time has come.

All in all, it's an invigorating time of year, a time when nature's bounty and beauty are on display for everyone to enjoy. And as New Englanders, we know what comes next.

Letters

Governor Budget Veto Needs Override

To the editor,
Gov. Sununu has vetoed the proposed State Budget. On Sept. 18th the House has scheduled a session to override his vetoes. The budget passed by the House and Senate included \$40 million dollars in unrestricted money allocated to cities and towns. It also included over \$130 million more in education funding with increased funding to help property poor Districts. The primary goal in creating this Budget was to reduce property taxes for NH homeowners

and increase educational funding.

The Governor's position supports large corporations by maintaining the lowered Business tax reductions while increasing the tax burden on the individual property owner.

It is estimated that the proposed Budget would provide Derry with approximately \$970k in municipal aid and \$6,900,000.00 in school funding over the next 2 years.

Some of the other services funded by the Budget include: additional Staffing at DHHS, additional Mental Health services, programs to

promote NH jobs and small Businesses, supports programs for Law enforcement to keep NH safe.

This Budget increases funding to our schools so every child can obtain an education that will allow them to pursue their educational goals, regardless of their zip code. This is not an "extreme bill". It addresses the needs of our State and our citizens.

There would need to be bi-partisan support in order to override the Governor's veto.

Rep. Mary Eisner
Derry

Nutfield News welcomes letters of up to 500 words on topics of local interest, written by local residents, and prints as many letters as possible. Please e-mail your letters to the Nutfield News at nutfield-news@nutpub.net. All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification if needed; name and town of residence will be printed. Nutfield News reserves the right to reject or edit letters for content and length, and anonymous letters will not be printed.

Titles

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ued, "Building permits were issued however, for the remaining lots and there have been homes built on those lots since the early 2000s. So, in order to clear up the title for these lots, we are asking the board to please approve the certificates of eligibility for these lots."

Planning Board Chair O'Connell said, "When was the vote exactly on the GMO (Growth Management Ordinance) for its removal, because this ordinance appears to have been removed in certain documents?"

Robidoux explained, "The GMO is actually still in the zoning ordinances and it is another housekeeping item we will need to address."

Brian Chirichiello is the Town Council Liaison to the Planning Board and he said, "You bring up a good point as this should actually be taken out or readjusted - because the GMO hasn't been used in years and years. There was a formula for how many houses to be

built for year in the GMO and I don't believe we ever attained or reached that level. The GMO allowed the Town and developers to phase in their building, but it sounds to me if the board in 1999 was discussing it and perhaps they voted on it, but certain actions seem to have gotten pushed off to the side."

Robidoux read a section from the 1999 records on the situation, "It is expressly understood that no additional lot shall be eligible for an exemption from this section of the proposed Growth Management Ordinance or any similar provision until it is adopted by the Derry Town Council."

"So, the board was in the midst of creating zoning changes and was being cautious," said Robidoux. They granted the subdivision approvals, but they wanted to make sure they were doing the right thing if a GMO was approved. And in fact, a GMO eventually did pass and the board should've gone back and then issued certificates of eligibility for these remaining lots and unfortunately that did not occur for whatever reason."

Chirichiello asked Robidoux about what exactly there was too correct.

Robidoux said, "It's actually about the home titles and this problem was called to my attention by an attorney doing a title search in this area that have houses built on them without the certificates. And it was found that when the title company looked at the records - certificate of eligibility's were never issued for these lots. So, this discussion here is really to clear the titles for these lots going forward - when and if they are ever sold. In approving these certificates, it will make the old building permits legal and enable the titles to be clear."

Planning Chair, O'Connor asked for a motion after the discussions. And that motion was made for the board to approve and issue certificates of eligibility for the lots in question and to record them at the registry. Planning Board members unanimously moved to clean this up and the certificates of eligibility are now approved for the lots in question.

Nutfield News

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Nutfield Publishing, LLC
118 Hardy Rd., Londonderry, NH 03053
tel: 603-537-2760 • fax: 603-537-2765
send e-mails to: nutfieldnews@nutpub.net
www.nutpub.net

Owner/Publisher – Debra Paul Art Director – Chris Paul

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Derry Villagers Get Welcomed Backed to School with Annual BBQ



Derry Village Elementary School students and their families were welcomed back to school by the Parent Teachers Association with the annual Back to School Barbeque. Despite being down by one grill on Friday night, Sept. 6, volunteers kept attendees well fed at the event. Students were also entertained with a D.J., some karaoke, games and the company of friends. Derry Village School Principal Chris McCallum helped out with food and greeting children to the event.

Photo by Chris Paul

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Now is a Wonderful Time to Visit Derry's Frost Farmhouse

MACK LEATHURBY
NUTFIELD NEWS

This next month is a good time to visit Derry's treasured Frost Farmhouse Historic Site and State Park land at 122 Rockingham Road in Derry. A guided tour is required for viewing the inside of the Frost Farmhouse. A specialized expert guide from the New Hampshire Bureau of Historic Sites will accompany guests to provide insights and connection about Frost's Derry years, the architecture of the house, and his poetry.

Tours are available starting at 10am until the last tour at 4pm while the Frost

Farmhouse is open to the public. House tours will stop right after the October 14 Columbus Day Holiday. Frost Farmhouse operating hours are 10 am to 5 pm and since the Frost Farm area is a state park, the grounds are open to the public year around from dawn to dusk.

Under the direction of Robert W. Crawford, Derry's poet laureate, Frost Farm has supported many events from Spring to summer this year. Crawford said, "This was a joyful year and there were 40-50 people at most poetry readings over our summer season."

Crawford, whose poems have appeared in many

national publications, is also the 2011 winner of the Richard Wilbur Poetry Award for his poetry collection, *The Empty Chair* and Crawford has also received two Howard Nemerov Sonnet Awards. The poet laureate and his Trustee colleagues have been busy this year with many writing and reading events, including the popular Hyla Brook reading series and the famous Frost Farm Poetry Conference. The Conference held in June brought renowned speakers, poetry readings and interesting workshops lead by celebrated teachers, about writing and teaching of metrical poems.

The Trustees of the Robert Frost Farm and the Hyla Brook Poets announced the ninth annual Frost Farm Prize winner for metrical poetry this past June. The champion named - was David Southward of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for his sestina, "Mary's Visit."

Recently award-winning actor/writer J.T. Turner presented "Robert Frost Light and Dark" - an original one-man show that brought America's beloved poet to life as Turner related the tragedy, as well as, the humor behind Frost's work, along with his most popular poems.

The last Hyla Brook

Reading Series event of the season was on Thursday, Sept. 12, with a reading by Patrick Donnelly.

Crawford also leads the Hyla Brook Poets' monthly writing workshop, which meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at its summer home at the Frost Farm through September, before moving the workshop to the Derry Public Library. Derry's Poet was exhilarated about this summer's events. He said, "The weather held up nicely for our events this summer and we did not have many hot or rainy days, so we were able to spend nice times both outdoors and indoors."

Crawford expressed his compliments to Greater Derry area residents and invited them to come often to readings and other events

at Frost Farmhouse and to his monthly writing workshops too. He said, "We have most events, readings and conferences already set for the next year and we look forward to community residents joining us to hear readings from wonderful poets. We find many people who come once, love to come back again."

Seth Abbott is one of the New Hampshire Bureau of Historic Sites guides, who supports guests coming to Frost Farm. Abbott loves to talk about Robert Frost's time living at the Farm and in Derry. Abbot points out the Robert Lee Frost lived in Derry at the Farm or in downtown Derry for 11 years from 1900 -1911 and he taught for years at Pinkerton Academy.

Pinkerton Recognizes Suicide Prevention Week

With National Suicide Prevention Week starting on Sunday, Sept. 8 and running through Saturday, Sept. 14 Pinkerton Academy Prevention Specialist Julie Donovan says having the conversation about suicide prevention is, itself, one way of prevention.

"We need to have these conversations," said Donovan. "It's part of how we take away the stigma and let people know how they can get help. This is a public health issue, and we need to treat it as such."

Suicide is the second leading cause of death of teens in New Hampshire. In response to this, Governor Sununu recently signed into law SB282 which requires schools to "develop a policy for preventing, assessing the risk of, and responding to student suicide and to provide training for faculty, staff, and school volunteers on suicide prevention."

Pinkerton Academy has required suicide prevention training for its employees for several years. In August Donovan was a guest on

NHPR's *The Exchange* where she spoke about the steps she thinks schools must take going forward.

In her first year, Donovan partnered with the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) to implement a peer-to-peer suicide prevention training program at Pinkerton. Fifteen students and several faculty members received commendations from Governor Sununu in December for their efforts.

While suicide is the second leading cause of death

in teens in the state, and one in five teens suffer from a mental illness, only 20% seek help. Peer-to-peer efforts have proven to be most effective in prevention efforts.

Students trained in suicide prevention will start going into sophomore Health classes in October to teach their peers the warning signs of a student struggling with suicidal thoughts or a mental illness. Students who are interested in being trained in suicide prevention will have the opportunity in the spring.

National Suicide Prevention Week runs from Sunday, Sept. 8 through Saturday, Sept. 14. To participate in a walk supporting suicide prevention, visit www.run-reg.com/nathans-walk.

If you are in need of help, contact one of the following resources: National Suicide Prevention Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text Line: TEXT 741741, NAMI NH — www.naminh.org.

OBITUARY

Patricia (Dawson) Gallagher



Patricia (Dawson) Gallagher passed away on Sept. 8, 2019 at her home in Derry, NH surrounded by family after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on March 17, 1951, she was the daughter of the late John J. and Mary (Killilea) Dawson. Tricia was raised in Wakefield, MA and graduated from Wakefield High School, Class of 1969.

Tricia worked for 20 years at Cigna Healthcare. She was an avid quilter, sewer, and crafter. She was an active parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Derry. But most of all she was a proud parent, grandparent and great grandparent.

Tricia is survived by her beloved husband of 49 years, John "Jack" Gallagher, their two daughters, Gina and her husband Robert Leuci of Nashua and Michele and her husband James Thomas Geary of Derry; three grandchildren: Rebecca (Geary) and her husband Stephen Tharp, Ryan Geary, and Connor Leuci; and two great-grandchildren, Nora Tharp and Anna Tharp; one sister: MaryBeth (Dawson) and her husband Douglas Drager; three brothers, John Dawson, Paul Dawson, and William Dawson; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is predeceased by two brothers, Timothy and Patrick Dawson.

Calling hours will be held on Friday Sept. 13, from 4 - 8 p.m., at the Peabody Funeral Homes and Crematorium, 15 Birch St., Derry. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 26 Crystal Ave., Derry. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Gilcrest Rd., Londonderry. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Special Olympics, Attn: Web gifts, 1133 19th St. NW, 12th floor, Washington, DC 20036-3604.

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Great Time to Visit Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market

MACK LEATHURBY
NUTFIELD NEWS

Late summer is typically peak season for produce and fruit harvests in the Greater Derry Area. September is the last full month for the Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market that Yankee Magazine calls the “Best New Hampshire Farmers Market.” There is a good reason for this designation as the market’s leadership team has selected interesting vendors that help make this market one of a kind. And the folks in the Greater Derry Area have responded positively to the market vendors for their quality and the unique offerings.

The Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market is located outdoors at 1 West Broadway, Derry and is open every Wednesday afternoon from 3pm to 7pm until the last week in September. Market visitors have been finding a lot of diverse products from the

vendors throughout the season depending what the types of goods are ready for the market.

I spoke with Neil Wetherbee, VP and Market Manager for the farmers market, about this year’s actions to see how things were going.

Wetherbee reported, “This summer we decided to track the traffic count for those who came to the market, and we are consistently getting 400-500 folks at the market each week. And that is even better than we had imagined.”

“In the past” he said, “vendors have asked about market turnout to make sure it made business sense for them. We have now reached a point where certain vendors are contacting us directly now, though we are always looking for the right vendors.”

Recently we were looking for a mushroom vendor and the folks from Joyberry Farms in Mason NH contacted us proactively — and

they set up a booth a few weeks ago.

Their homegrown mushrooms are already becoming popular. They have some really good, choices including Blue and Yellow Oysters, Shitake and even Lions Mane Mushrooms. They sought us out and we are glad they did.”

Wetherbee noted market customers are keeping the Derry Farm Market successful with their vendor support. “As long as vendors are making money,” Wetherbee said, “the market will be able to provide quality choices, so it’s key for folks to support the vendors, so they will be back again next year.”

Wetherbee noted that vendors reported the fresh veggie harvest is just now peaking, as many of this year’s crops are several weeks late — the cool spring, lots of rain and then a hot July altered picking dates. He said, “At the first market week in the spring, there was a smaller selection

of veggies, due to the weather, though produce choices steadily increased.”

“Market vendors only recently brought local tomatoes to the market and now there is a great supply of tomatoes, including heirlooms, Italian and giants. Also, there is a lot of peppers, eggplants and other veggies ready right now, so it’s a good time to get some of the best produce around at the market.”

I found a good choice of vendors at the market a few weeks ago, when I went shopping. I got fresh Halibut fish from New England Fish Mongers that was excellent and I spoke with Wetherbee about this vendor. There is quite a story to tell about them and they will be in an upcoming documentary called “Last Man Fishing.”

What makes this fish monger team unique is - they catch the fish themselves, so they can deliver it to local chefs and market consumers quickly to ensure the seafood is fresh and

properly cared for from the boat to their customer’s dinner plate.

These folks also work alongside researchers and non-profits to give back to the community through data sharing, educational workshops and fundraisers as well as provide fresh fish to local food banks when possible. They have a team and family business that is unique.

There are many interesting vendors, so it is hard to single out only a few, though everyone in the area who likes cheese should consider cheese from Abbot Hill Creamery. Wetherbee laughed when I told him I loved that cheese and he said, “Those folks tracked us down to have a presence at the market and we are glad we connected with them.”

Benjamin Meier makes all of the products from this creamery farm with the milk from a herd of grass-fed milking cows. Meier regularly produces many types of cheese, such as Camem-

bert, Feta and Quark (a tangy, German-style cream cheese) on a seasonal basis. My 10-year-old wanted me to buy a big cheese wheel of the Camembert and I had to hold her back on that deal for now.

So, if you have not been to market on a Wednesday this summer, take time to go to Derry Homegrown Farm and Artisan Market during September - the KRM Chocolates are scrumptious, there is wonderful honey, meads and beers and all kinds of good things to sample.

Check out the hot sauces, duck eggs, and many different organic products. And don’t forget - there is good live music happening too and some fun activities at the market to keep the kids happy.

As Wetherbee said, “Help keep the vendors happy, so they come back again next year.” That will be good thing for everyone in the Greater Derry area.



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Car Seat Safety Check Makes Sure Area Children are Buckled Right



Members of the Derry Police Department as well as the Child Safety Passenger Coordinator with the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock teamed up on Saturday for the third annual Car Seat Safety Check. Volunteers were trained on seat safety in Derry over several days, and put their training to work in the parking lot of Walmart. Expired seats were also recycled. For information on how to keep kids safe in cars or to find out where to get your seat checked go to beseatsmartnh.org.
Photo by Chris Paul



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