

Hampstead Schools Prepare for Return to In-Person Learning

JOHN SEIDENBERG
NUTFIELD NEWS

HAMPSTEAD - The Hampstead School District is looking toward a hoped for an April 14 return of students to classrooms following the next round of covid vaccinations for teaching staff.

At the March 17 School Board meeting, members directed Dr. Earl Metzler, executive consultant, and Michael Flynn, executive director of 21st Century Learning, Assessment and Technology, to designate a Safe Return to School plan for that projected date.

The objective is flexibility and choice for stu-

dents and parents as they consider this plan, Metzler told the board.

In surveying of parents the school system already has conducted, they were asked if they would send their children back to school with double masks and three feet of separation between students.

Now, however, the requirement is a single mask with three to six feet apart when possible for social distancing.

The response was 80-85% of parents were willing to have their children come back, Metzler said.

He had hoped for a more aggressive plan on vaccinations but is encouraged by the second

series of school staff vaccinations set for Apr. 11. That will be 28 days after the first vaccination pod on March 14.

To allow teachers extra days after their second injections, students would have two remote days of learning before schools would convene in person on April 14.

Virtual instruction would still be an option for students and staff not comfortable coming back then or wanting to wait to return, Metzler noted. Decisions will be made about whether that would occur on zoom with real-time interaction or through asynchronous

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Derry Zoning Board Reconsiders Case Due to a Confusing Motion

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

DERRY - The Derry Zoning Board reconsidered a case last week after it was realized that there was some confusion regarding the motions made and voted on.

The case involved allowing a variance for a single family home which would be located on a private road at 17 Charlestown Place and have less than the required building setbacks.

It was explained by Zoning Board Chair, Lynn Perkins, that the lot is actually considered to be two different properties with one being located on a non approved Town road and the other being on an

approved road.

Perkins explained that because of the way motions were worded at the last meeting it led to confusion.

"I think there was some misunderstanding and confusion here," Perkins said.

It was explained by Derry Zoning Board member Crystal Morin, that she asked for a reconsideration after realizing that she was confused about what motion she was voting for.

"Originally when I said no I was looking at the other motion and to say no nothing should be there because its not the direction I want it to go in," Morin said.

She explained that because they would be able to do something with the lot that's on the town road she wanted to reconsider it.

"I wanted to reconsider it on that basis," Morin said.

After some discussion the zoning board ultimately took a vote on two different motions. The first vote taken was in regards to constructing a single family dwelling on a property that currently doesn't have a dwelling. The lot is on a town approved road.

The approval for the variance would also be dependent on them following the conditions laid out by the zoning board which included obtaining all state and Town permits and inspections. The other condition that they must meet is being subjected to a

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Chester resident Robert St. Amand attended a recent the Board of Selectmen meeting and asked for the boards blessing to allow him to clean up the Chester Town Pound which is north of the town center.

Photo by Chris Paul

Pound and Pounder Discussed by Chester Board of Selectmen

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

CHESTER - With talks of COVID-19 restrictions being loosened in the state and more and more people getting vaccinated everyday, organizers of different events are beginning to think about the possibility of having events this summer and fall.

It also means that towns are also beginning to have discussions during its meetings about the possibility of having large scale in person events soon.

During the March 18 Chester Board of Selectmen meeting, organizers for the Wason Pond Pounder spoke about the possibility of having their event this September after having to cancel last year's event due to COVID-19.

It was explained by Maria Veale that they wanted to get the thoughts of the Board of Selectmen about what they think about having 1,000 people at the pond this fall.

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Chester School Board Awarded NHSBA School Board of Excellence

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

CHESTER - Last year the Chester School Board was named as a School Board of Excellence winner by the New Hampshire School Boards Association.

While the school board was originally announced as a winner last April, they quickly had to put any praise to the side as they were faced with navigating the impacts of COVID-19.

Chester School Board Chair Royal Richardson explained that earlier this month they were recognized for its award, almost a full year later.

“At our March 3 Chester School Board meeting, the New Hampshire School Board Association presented the Chester School Board with a letter

and plaque commemorating the Board as the 2020 NHSBA School Board of the Year,” Richardson stated. “Like most things in 2020, that was deferred due to the Covid-19 epidemic in New Hampshire.”

Richardson explained that despite not being able to celebrate its accomplishment at that time due to everything that was going on, he said that the board is still appreciative for being recognized.

“On April 10, 2020, the New Hampshire School Board Association had notified the Board that the Chester School Board had been chosen as the 2020 NHSBA School Board of the Year. After reviewing many applications from many worthy school boards they found that ‘the Chester application stood

above the rest,’ Richardson stated. “As we reported in our Chester School District 2020 Annual Report, the Board certainly appreciated this recognition at that time but it was quickly set aside as we focused on the issues at hand,” he went on to add.

While there was no official award ceremony due to the pandemic, Richardson said they are appreciative of the plaque that the board received and they will find a proper home for it.

“Normally, the winner of the School Board of the Year would have been invited to attend the annual NH Excellence in Education Awards Ceremony to receive the award and be recognized,” Richardson stated. “Due to the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak,

sadly, the 2020 ceremony was cancelled so there was no official recognition ceremony for the Chester School Board. We do, however, appreciate receiving the plaque and letter and will find an appropriate place to display them at Chester Academy.”

In the letter informing the Chester School Board of its recognition, NHSBA Executive Director Barrett Christina explained why the district was chosen for the award.

“The Chester School Board was chosen because it led by instituting excellent practices in the critical areas of board/administration collaboration, state leadership through effectively reaching out to state legislative representatives to advocate for the children of the Chester School Dis-

trict (and beyond), assessing facilities to prepare for the future needs of the District, and by engaging the local community on building strong support for the schools through the use of strategic plans, capital improvement planning, effective school board policies, and community forums.”

For Richardson he views some of the reasons for the success of the district is because of years of hard work, and making key hires when it comes to staff.

“Over the years, the Chester School Board traditionally carried ourselves as ‘the little engine that could’, taking on the challenges facing all Districts with innovative solutions for Chester which resulted in a very good rate of suc-

cess. That approach and attitude historically carried across our SAU, Administrators and staff,” Richardson stated. “The Board, over the years, has been very successful in hiring very effective leaders at all positions and they, in turn, have delivered a highly qualified and effective staff.”

Richardson also noted that they are appreciative of Chester School Board member Jonathan Eckerman who helped to coordinate the application on the behalf of the board.

“The Board would like to recognize Board member Jonathan Eckerman for coordinating the application to the NHSBA for this award and collecting all of the required information and data in February of last year,” Richardson stated.

Chester

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She explained that while they didn’t expect the Board of Selectmen to make a firm decision about having it during the meeting they wanted to make sure the board wouldn’t be completely opposed to having it before they moved forward with their planning.

“It’s a difficult question for you to answer but we do need some time to plan and some guidance from you,” Veale explained.

Selectmen Vice Chairman Charles Myette ex-

plained that right now they aren’t sure what will happen with restrictions.

“At this point we don’t have a crystal ball,” Myette said.

One question that was asked by Veale was whether or not the Board of Selectmen would likely follow the state guidelines, or if they would be more strict.

The Selectmen said that they have no plans on deviating from the state guidelines.

One suggestion that was brought up came from Selectman Stephen D’Angelo who said that they

may be better off going with it next spring as they would have a better chance of having it and then they could tie it in with the 300th anniversary.

Myette said that they will continue to keep them informed as more information becomes available.

“We would love to see it happen again,” Myette said.

While they didn’t get a definitive answer, Veale said that they just wanted to start a conversation about the possibility of having it.

“We really just wanted to initiate the conversa-

tion,” Veale said.

Also during the meeting, the Board of Selectmen heard a proposal from resident Robert St. Amand in regards to cleaning up the Chester Town Pound.

He explained during the meeting that he has become fascinated by the different pounds he has seen in other towns, but is disappointed to see how the one in Chester currently looks.

“I was so disappointed driving down 121 and seeing the Chester one,” St. Amand said.

He explained that his idea is to go into the interior of the pond and remove any landscaping material, cut down small trees and

shrubs, and do a general clean up.

Additionally St. Amand is hoping to be able to get a sign for the pound so it will be identifiable.

Myette explained that there has been discussions in the past about cleaning up the area and is happy to see that someone is stepping up to help make it happen.

“I like the idea. I’m glad you’re stepping up to do that,” Myette said.

One question that Myette brought up was in regards to how St. Amand was planning on funding the cleanup and what resources they would need. St. Amand explained

that a group of friends that he plays poker with along with himself would be doing the cleanup and would also pay for the cost of the sign.

“I just want to get it done,” St. Amand said. “It needs to be done.”

Hagan also agreed with Myette that it will be good to have the clean up.

“I think this is great,” Hagan said.

While he isn’t sure when they would do the cleanup he told the Board of Selectmen that he would let them know before they do so.

The next Chester Board of Selectmen meeting is slated for Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m.



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Planning Board Seeks Grant for Halls Village Road Reconstruction Project

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

CHESTER - During the March 10 Planning Board meeting, Town Planner Andrew Hadik told the board that due to the \$1.8 trillion stimulus package passing Congress and a lot of money being allocated for infrastructure projects, town planners across the country got excited.

"All of a sudden everyone across the country who is a planner is perking up because there is going to be a lot of money coming for infrastructure," Hadik said.

Hadik was one of those town planners who got excited. One of the opportunities that Hadik recently applied for is through the Comprehensive Economic Grant, something that he thinks the town will be hearing a lot about in the

near future.

"Hopefully you'll be hearing the term 'CEDS' quite a bit in the future," Hadik said.

He explained that last week he was contacted to do a rush application and that it was due at the end of the week.

From there he realized that one of the projects in the Capital Improvement Plan that they could possibly qualify for was the Halls Village Road Reconstruction Project.

He explained that the project has been in the CIP since 2007 and the projected cost was originally about \$2.8 million.

However, after looking at the project more closely and through conversations Hadik explained that they have been able to drive down the projected cost to around \$1,010,000.

"The cost has come down substantially," Hadik explained.

Hadik explained that in order to qualify for a grant through CEDS they have to qualify in one out of the four categories.

He said that the category the project most falls in line with is infrastructure development.

"The one that we qualify the most in for this is infrastructure development," Hadik said.

Aside from the Halls Village Road project, Hadik also has his eyes on a couple of more projects that he is hopeful they will be able to apply for grant funding through CEDS for.

Hadik explained the two other projects that he thinks would have a good chance of getting approved for are the Hansen Rd., bridge and the Shepard

Home Rd., bridge projects.

He explained that in order to apply they need to get more information.

"We should really have some money in this year's budget for doing the engineer designs done for the Hansen Road bridge and the Shepard Home Road bridge," Hadik said.

He explained that there is going to be a large amount of money available for different infrastructure projects and he is hopeful they will be able to take advantage of it.

"There's going to be a lot of money available for those people ready to apply and have the paperwork they need to do an application," Hadik said.

Chester Board of Selectmen Chuck Myette, who serves as the liaison for the planning board applauded Hadik for going

out to seek the grant.

"I applaud you for that this is the type of thinking that our highway department needs to do," Myette said.

He explained that currently there is \$19 million worth of projects in the CIP over the course of the next seven years, and that he doesn't see a way that they can raise that amount of money through taxes.

"These are the types of applications and grants we want to go after so I applaud you for that," Myette explained.

If all goes well and they are able to receive the grant funding, Hadik projects that the project will begin around July, 1 2020 and be completed around June, 30 2024.

Hadik told the board during his presentation that he has been excited to work on the grant application, in hopes of getting

grant money for the town for the road project.

"I've been excited to work on this the past couple of days," Hadik said.

At the end of the presentation discussing the grant, Board member Liz Richter explained that she is happy to hear about the possibility of the grant.

"This is fantastic," Richter said.

Planning Board Chairman Brian Sullivan explained that even if they aren't able to get the grant they will still need to make sure that the road gets fixed.

"There's a chance that we might not get it but there's no question that that section of road is going to have to get fixed," Sullivan explained.

The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m.

Hampstead

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learning allowing students to access online content independently on their own schedule.

Findings from the next survey questions will help the school system build a model for instruction based on resources for the classroom and distance teaching.

New school board member Erin Pellegrini said parents need updated information on this process in preparation for their return to work.

In a separate area, the board directed Geoff Dowd, business operations coordinator, to begin

negotiations for rental space for when Hampstead becomes its own SAU as of July 1. On that date, Robert Thompson will become superintendent for the Hampstead School District.

The Timberlane Regional School District is forming its own SAU separate from Hampstead.

Dowd reported the SAU setup planning is on track as he deals with concerns over the systems being used, the processes in place, and work flow and location. He wants to have office occupancy by May or June.

During the annual reorganization portion of its meeting, the board

selected David Smith as the new chair and Megan Malcolm as vice chair. Melissa Post will continue as School Board clerk.

In addition, Malcolm again this year will serve as delegate to the New Hampshire School Board Association. Debora Highfield will be the school board's assistant treasurer.

The board welcomed its 2 newest members: Jason Giard who is return-

ing after serving a 1-year term a year ago and was elected to a 3-year term, and Pellegrini, also serving for 3 years and while new to the board has experience in the Hampstead public school system.

Metzler thanked the 3 departing members for their service: former Chair Caitlin Parnell, Jim Sweeney, and Karen Yasenka.

The board currently

has a vacancy for a fifth member and will designate someone to fill that position until the next town election in just under a year.

It sought letters of interest from Hampstead residents to be sent to all board members by Mar. 23. The board will call a public meeting to question prospective candi-

dates with the intent of having that individual in place by the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Under the proposed 2021-22 schedule, the board will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Hampstead Town Hall. Starting Apr. 13, it will go to in-person meetings to be livestreamed.

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Editorial

Springing into Spring

As lovely as the New Hampshire snow can be, after some time most residents of the Granite State wait in anticipation for the making way for green grass and beautiful flowers.

This even more so because of being trapped in the house to keep the spread down of this virus contained.

We have been seeing delicate signs of spring all round us sprout up in an array of faded fast food bags and cartons, ugly refuse from the previous season (sometimes referred to as "blooming garbage").

It's often left to residents living along those sullied roads to clean up after these careless individuals, as littering seems to remain as widespread and as hard to eradicate as the this virus, despite efforts to do away with it.

In some towns, a handful of residents for years have gone above and beyond when it comes to this roadside spring-cleaning. These individuals spend their weekends sprucing up spots around town, as well as the town halls and school green-space each spring.

We appreciate the volunteer efforts that these selfless few put forth so our towns look beautiful each spring. However, there is only so much a few people can do. Ultimately, it is up to each resident to pick up their property, even if they aren't the ones who left trash behind.

It doesn't take a huge effort to take

a short walk up and down the street in front of your home, even if only the length of a house or two this way and that, and pick up the refuse thrown from car windows each winter. A little work goes a long way in keeping our neighborhoods clean and welcoming. Plus it will take your mind off everything else going on the oil prices going up, well the cost of everything and of course the virus. Moving away from the subject of blooming garbage, and our wows there may be sun and warmer temperatures in the forecast to take us to a happy place.

If nothing else helps to remedy your spring fever in the face of the lingering chill, congratulate yourself on having just about gotten through another old fashioned, northern New England winter, a feat not for the faint of heart.

As the decayed foliage left over from last fall emerges on the edge of our roads, we look forward to having soggy mud to replace the treacherous ice patches, and snow that once lined our driveways, streets and our lawns.

We try to remind ourselves, as we dream of the beauty at the end of the winter misery. Indeed, those of us who stick it out during the ever-extending winter know that blue skies and warm weather are just around the corner, and that summer isn't far behind.

But it is nice, of course, to enjoy a little bit of spring first.

Derry Town Council Votes to Make Morgan Chairman

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

DERRY - The Derry Town Council will have a new person holding the gavel at its meeting as the Council voted to make Derry Town Councilor James Morgan its new Chairperson.

In her speech nominating him Derry Town Councilor Phyllis Katsakiores, said that he shows an extraordinary commitment to the Town of Derry.

"It is with great pleasure that I nominate Councilor James Morgan as Derry Town Council Chairperson," Katsakiores said. "In addition to performing his duties as a town council member Jim demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the Town of Derry and its residents."

She also explained that she feels his characteristics will make him a good chairperson.

"I find him to be very reliable, effective and open to debate and putting the needs of the community first. I believe these characteristics represent all the good in our community," she said.

The Council also elected a new vice chair for the council. Being voted as the vice chair was Brian Chirichiello.

After the vote Morgan said that he is honored to be able to serve the community.

"It's a privilege and an honor to serve this community," Morgan said.

After the vote was taken Morgan also thanked outgoing Derry Town Council Chair Charles Foote for his time as the Chair especially during COVID.

"I would like to take an opportunity to thank Charlie Foote for being our past

chairman during probably one of the most difficult times in all of our lives," Morgan said. "Charlie you exemplified this seat and I hope I can do at least half as good as you did to keep this community together updated on all the things that were required to be updated on and handle things as professionally as you did," he went on to say.

Morgan also welcomed the newest Derry Town Councilor onboard, Erin Spencer who recently won her election unseating Richard Tripp.

"I think you're going to be a great addition to the Council," Morgan said.

During the meeting the Council also got its update from Derry Fire Chief Michael Gagnon.

Gagnon explained that the town currently has 133 positive cases of COVID-19 which is down 44 from the last meeting.

He also noted that unlike the State overall Derry is experiencing a decrease in cases.

"The state has seen a slight uptick however here in Derry we're seeing the numbers continue to go down," Gagnon said.

He also said that he is pleased with the fact that there currently no cases of COVID-19 in any of the adult living facilities and most of them have received both of their rounds of the vaccine and are past the two week waiting period.

"That's great news," Gagnon explained.

He also reported to the Council that currently there are no positive cases of COVID for any of its departments and no one is in quarantine currently.

"Basically business as usual. Everything is going well as far as town operations. COVID doesn't appear to be holding us up," Gagnon explained.

One of the highlights from his update was the fact that the fixed site that was at Exit 4 has moved to the Rockingham Mall and will be located at the lorde and Taylor location.

Gagnon when asked why the move was made explained that the state was looking to have the site indoors where it can be more controlled.

"It's more of a reliable environment that you can count on," Gagnon explained.

While more people are getting vaccinated and there continue to be less cases, Gagnon said that now isn't the time to let their guard down.

"As I've said all along. Now is not the time to let our guard down," Gagnon said. "Now is the time to continue being vigilant to make sure we stop the spread of this virus and to continue to get people vaccinated."

He said that by the end of the summer they hopefully may see some sense of normalcy.

"It should be a wonderful thing to see," Gagnon said.

In other news the Council also approved a resolution allowing the Derry Police Department to accept a grant from the Injury Prevention Center, Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock for 200 helmets. It was explained by Derry Police Chief Edward Garone in a memo that the helmets are usually given out as part of their Derry Touch-a-Truck event. Due to it being canceled this year they are planning on handing them out during their National Night Out Event on Aug.3.

The next Derry Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 6 at 7 p.m.

Nutfield News

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Sandown's Annual Kids Fishing Derby Expected for May 15

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

SANDOWN - After the Sandown Annual Kids Fishing Derby was canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced during the March 11 Sandown Conservation Commission meeting that they are hopeful that the event will be able to take place this year.

During the meeting, the fishing derby chair Brianna Butler announced to the board that Sal Genuardo, who allows the annual event to be hosted at his pond, said that he is willing to have it again this year.

"That's the biggest piece whether he's comfortable with it which he is," Brianna said.

One of the things that she brought up to the board is in regards to this year's

fishing derby event date.

While the event usually takes place the second Saturday during Timberlane's School District's April Vacation, she explained that she was a little concerned about having it right after people may come back from traveling during the break.

Instead she suggested to the board they host the event a couple of weeks after on Saturday, May 15.

"Would everyone be okay with having it on Saturday, May 15?" Brianna, asked the board.

One question that was asked about the proposed date was whether or not the date would be okay with the State in order to be given a fishing derby permit.

She explained that she didn't think it would be a problem because it isn't too late into the season or too early.

"I will double check with them, but they've never given us really specific dates," Brianna said.

Another difference between this year's event and what usually happens that Brianna brought up was in regards to when they get the fish delivered.

She explained that typically they get the fish delivered the same day that the Hampstead Fishing Derby get its fish delivered since it is only typically a week apart and they get a better deal that way.

With that said she said that there could be some issues with getting the fish that early largely due to the fact that they could be eaten by other wild life before the event happens if they are in the pond for too long.

Brianna explained that depending on how much the Conservation Com-

mission has budgeted for the fish, and depending on how many families they are ultimately able to fit at the pond while maintaining social distancing, that they may want to have a lower scale event this year.

She explained that they usually spend about \$700 on the fish and are able to get 150 fish and it also includes the cost for the delivery fee of the fish.

One question that was raised by Conservation Commission Vice Chairman Paul Carey was how much the delivery fee would be if they got the fish delivered when they wanted to instead of getting it delivered when Hampstead gets theirs.

He suggested that depending on what the difference in cost would be, they may want to just get it when its most convenient for them.

Conservation Commission Chairman Brian Butler explained that they have the normal budget for the fish and that after they find out the final price they may be able to make it work with the extra delivery fee.

"We have \$700 to spend but if we have to spend a little more I think we have a consensus that it would be a good idea," Brian stated.

In other news during the meeting, it was announced that Carey would not seek a reappointment to the board when his term ends at the end of the month.

Carey explained that due to his job and other commitments in his life he thought it would be a good time to let others be involved.

"I see people attending meetings and are curious and I thought it would be a good time to step back," Carey said. "Maybe some other people are interested in learning about conservation and joining the group."

Pending the final formal approval by the Sandown Board of Selectmen taking over for Carey will be Tim Robinson who has been involved in the community in different ways including being on the town planning board and also being involved with Boys Scouts for 20

years where his three sons became Eagle Scouts.

He explained that one thing he tried to do while involved with Boy Scouts is making sure they took advantage of the different properties that the town had to offer.

"One thing I always advocated for is making good use of the town property," Robinson said.

Robinson said that he is looking forward to joining the board, but isn't sure if he will be able to fill the shoes of Carey.

"I don't think I would be able to fill Paul's shoes ever," Robinson said.

Also during the meeting the board voted on its new board officers. Being re-elected as the Chairman was Brian Butler. With Carey leaving the board at the end of the term, it meant that the board needed to also vote on a new Vice Chairman. Being elected to fill that position was Nicholas Ortins.

The next Sandown Conservation Commission meeting is slated for March 25 at 7 p.m.

Derry

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recording of municipal liability and responsibility with the Rockingham County registry of deeds as required.

The board approved this variance.

The second motion made and voted on was in regards to granting a variance to allow a single family home to be built on a private road with less than

the required set back.

The conditions that would go along with it would include them obtaining all the state and town permits and inspections, being subjected to tying into Town sewers as well as being subjected to getting a survey done by a state licensed surveyor.

The zoning board voted down the variance request.

Perkins agreed with other board members that the hardship presented was

ultimately known at the time of the purchase of the property but said they will still be able to use the lot since one of lot variances were approved during the meeting.

"The applicant has restored use of the lot nonetheless to choose to do what they'd like to do down the road," Perkins explained.

The next Derry Zoning Board meeting is slated for April 1 at 7 p.m.

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Car Show Discussed by Chester 300th Anniversary Committee

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

CHESTER - As the 300th anniversary of the town of Chester approaches, the 300th Anniversary Committee continues to discuss possible events that may take place at the town's celebration.

One proposed event that was brought to the committee was a classic car show.

It was explained by Tony Massahos that he got the idea after participating in one recently in Cape Coral and thought it would be a good idea to bring one to Chester and thought it could be a good event to be a part of the town's anniversary celebrations.

He explained that since it would be a new event in town he thinks it would be a good idea to have it this year for the first time to make sure it works out before they make it a part of the town's celebration.

"If we are going to fail we're going to fail before the 300th," Massahos said.

One of the points that was raised by Committee Member Rhonda Lamphere was in regards to having the car show before the Chester Town Fair.

She explained that currently they have been using the town fair this year as the "kickoff event" for the 300th anniversary. With that said the proposed date for the car show would be on Aug. 7 meaning that it

would be ahead of the town's fair.

"I'm just throwing it out there to see what everyone thinks about that," Lamphere said.

After some discussion it was ultimately determined that they could advertise this year's car show as a fundraiser for the 300th like they have done for other things.

Lamphere said that she agreed with that assessment.

"I agree I just wanted to throw it out there so everyone was aware because we have been saying that kickoff is at this year's town fair," she said.

Lamphere also brought up the fact that if they do decide to go ahead with

having the event in Aug., that they should make sure to contact the school by May to make sure they can have the event there.

"You don't want to make plans and then find out you don't have a location," Lamphere said.

During the meeting it was also discussed where contributions from the car show would go to.

One thing that Massahos pointed out is that he feels they would be able to attract more people if they are able to donate money to a local food bank noting that people feel good about participating when it's going to a good cause.

With that said he explained that he only cares that money goes to a

good cause whether it's to the food pantry, or to the Steven's Hall renovation as it was brought up as a possibility or a combination of the two or other worthwhile causes.

Massahos said that as they get closer to the event they could come up with a more concrete game plan.

"As we get closer we can come up with a distribution plan and figure out how to cover all the expenses," Massahos said.

He also noted that he wants it to be a town event similar to the one in Cape Coral.

"It will be the Chester Charity Car Show," Massahos said.

It was ultimately decided that they would discuss

the proposed event at a later meeting.

Massahos explained to the committee that he wants them to feel comfortable about being a part of the car show and if they decide not to, he's okay with it.

"If you decide not to do it it's okay," Massahos explained saying that if they do he's willing to put the work in. "I'm willing to put my hours in and do what I have to do."

Massahos said in the meantime he would start doing some leg work on his end for the event, in anticipation that it takes place.

The next 300th Anniversary Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

Derry Planning Board Approves CUP for Denali Estates

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

DERRY - During the April 17 Derry Planning Board meeting one of the main agenda items during the meeting revolved around the subdivision of 54 acres of land known as 15 Forest Street/Daniel Road extension.

The development known

as Denali Estates would turn the 54 acres of land into 12 different single family houses.

After some concerns were originally brought up at the last Derry Planning Board meeting the board ultimately decided to do a site walk of the property.

Tim Peloquin, the owner of Promised Land Survey, who represents the

developer Tom Lannan explained that during the site walk they worked with the abutters to make commitments.

"We did our very best to talk to the abutters that are very affected and that's understandable. In the end I think this is going to be a very good development," Peloquin explained.

Peloquin also explained that they received

a letter from the town's review engineer with comments about things that needed to be done. He said that issues in the letter were all housekeeping items and that they will address all of them.

"We have no issues with what's in that published letter," Peloquin said.

Peloquin also noted that they meet all of the zoning requirements.

Derry Planning Board Chair John O'Connor who attended the site walk said that he was pleased with the dialogue that took place between the Lannans and the abutters.

"At the site walk I found that the family of the Lannan's did an excellent job reaching out working

with the abutters that had serious concerns and even looking to improve upon what they have to do," O'Connor said.

Derry Planning Board member Jim MacEachern also agreed that the site walk ended up being a productive one. He explained that he wanted to express his thanks to Peloquin, the Lannans and also the abutters who attended it.

"It was a good showing it was probably one of the best attended site walks we ever had and I know there was a lot of good dialogue back and forth and a lot of good give and take," MacEachern said.

Overall MacEachern said that it was a good site walk.

"I thought it was a good site walk," MacEachern said during the meeting.

Peloquin said that housing is something that is needed in Derry and he is hopeful that it will be a good project for the community.

"There is a need for housing in Derry. They are hoping to create a very nice project," Peloquin said.

The Planning Board ultimately approved the conditional use permit.

O'Connor noted that anyone who is aggrieved by the decision has 30 days to appeal the decision.

The next regularly scheduled Derry Planning Board meeting is slated to take place on April 7 at 7 p.m.

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Business as Usual for Chester Conservation Commission

HENRY GREENBAUM
NUTFIELD NEWS

CHESTER - The Chester Conservation Commission met for their monthly meeting on Tues. March 9 via Zoom.

The first order of business was the discussion of the Lincoln Lane Fund. The fund would be used to refurbish the cul-de-sac. The commission is unsure what specifically is going to be done beyond adding a few benches for a meeting area, however, the road agent Mike Olsen has approved the plans which is estimated to cost well over \$3,000.

So long as the Conservation Commission and the Homeowner's Association can determine how the money should be used, it does not have to be used as originally intended. The fund was created for a bridge replacement and signs to point out different walking trails in the area.

"The subdivision does have a public trail," said Selectmen Liaison Steve Myette. "There is land that is part of the public land that they would set aside for that subdivision to be an open space subdivision. I'd hate to see them now think that there was no access there and that

access road and area that has been set aside [suddenly] becomes somebody else's property if nothing more than just allowing to park things there or grow things there."

A subdivision of land was created in the neighborhood that has a public trail. People may park or grow things in this subdivision of the land and the concern is that people will be discouraged from using the trail. The commission must determine how to best solve that issue as walking trails are very important to the neighborhood.

The next order of business was the subcommittee reports starting with the Treasurer's report which was presented by Chairman Victor Chouinard. The report included the commission's budget of \$652 going down to \$267.01 which was mostly due to money needed for subscriptions and seminars.

Moving on to the Springhill Farms report which was presented by commission member Kristina Snyder, they are looking into getting more cattle for the farm and are talking about a new date for the Fall Festival that

they normally host in the town.

The commission then discussed the easements, monitoring, and stewardship in which commission member Aaron Hume brought up the Emerson property. "I'm looking at the Emerson property deed right now and it was never signed," said Hume. "In an Excel spreadsheet that [was sent to] me under the field recorded, it's listed as unsure...It seems like it was meant to be signed back in 2008."

This is an issue Chester because the houses have already been built on the property, so there is

no turning back on the plans for it now. Myette said, "[This is a] Planning Board issue, it was part of the subdivision requirement. The development should not have been approved."

The fact that the houses have already been built on the Emerson property despite not having the official deed for the land sign shows that the development should not have moved forward until that was resolved. The commission concluded that it was best to bring this up with the Planning Board who will address the situation as soon as possible.

Sandown Selectmen Choose Eric Olsen as Their New Chair

JOHN SEIDENBERG
NUTFIELD NEWS

SANDOWN - The Sandown Board of Selectmen appointed Eric Olsen as their new chair at the March 15 meeting. Member Jonathan Goldman was chosen to be the new vice chair.

As part of the meeting, newly elected officials from the March 9 town elections were sworn into office.

They were: Selectman Darren Hudgins elected to a 3-year term who previously had served as board chair; Treasurer Erica Olsen; Amanda Knight elected to the Budget Committee and Planning Board; Fire Chief Michael Devine; Fire Engineer Chris Poole; Dana Wells as Trust Fund trustee; Melissa Tinney as Library trustee; and Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Dawn Nicolaissen.

In addition, the selectmen made the following appointments as department liaisons:

Budget Committee – Tom Tombarello

Conservation Commission – Eric Olsen

Recreation Commission – Darren Hudgins

Cable TV Advisory Board – Eric Olsen

Highway Department – Eric Olsen

Planning Board – Eric Olsen

Zoning Board of Adjustment – Eric Olsen

Finance Department – Tom Tombarello

Old Home Day Committee – Tom Tombarello

Police Department – Tom Tombarello

Building Department

Code Enforcement Health Officer – Jonathan Goldman

Town Clerk / Tax Col-

lector – Tom Tombarello

Fire Rescue Department – Jonathan Goldman

Heritage Commission – Robert Nickerson

Joint Loss Management Committee – Robert Nickerson

Library – Robert Nickerson

Municipal Records Committee – Eric Olsen

Senior Affairs Transportation Committee – Robert Nickerson

The Old Home Day Committee also has openings and is seeking new members for those interested.

The board additionally made these appointments:

Inspectors of Election – Meghan Fanning and Perla Gilman for terms until August 2022

Ballot Clerk – Michelle Short for term until August 2022

Heritage Commission

– Pam Gaudreau for 3-year term until 2024

Recreation Commission – John Donahue and Heidi Dyer for terms until March 2024

Senior Affairs Transportation Committee – Paul Godin as alternate until March 2024 and Robert Nickerson as an alternate until March 2023

In comments at the meeting about last week's elections, Hudgins thanked town voters for passing the operating budget this year. He noted the town did not face any particularly contentious issues on the ballot

although the turnout was not large.

At the same time Goldman called the past year an unprecedented time in the wake of a pandemic. He said Sandown still came in in the black while also returning surplus funds to taxpayers.

He expressed relief the Salt Shed passed twice this year following attempts for 2 years to secure its passage.

The town approved \$150,000 for construction of the new shed at the Highway Garage. This was in a non-lapsing warrant

article and will be in effect until the project is completed or until Dec. 31, 2026, whichever comes sooner. The estimated tax impact will be \$.22 per thousand.

Sandown also approved a school operating budget of \$74,318,918 for the coming year.

Goldman observed that budgets passed in other towns as well and called it a time when voters, even if turnout was not especially high, were still inclined to accept there was a need for projects and approve funding sought for both towns and schools.

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Derry Police Continue to Search for Amanda Grazewski



March 17, 2021 marked one year since the disappearance of Derry resident Amanda Grazewski. Derry police detectives have logged hundreds of investigative hours including interviews, area searches, internet searches and social media examinations and following up on numerous "tips".

As of March 17, there have been no sustained tips or information as to Amanda's whereabouts or circumstance under which she disappeared.

The Derry Police Department continues to investigate all possible leads and interview known associates of Amanda and the friends last believed to

have seen her.

Below, is the original Missing Person Press Release:

The Derry Police Department is investigating a report of a missing person. Amanda Grazewski was last seen in Derry on March 17, 2020 where she was staying with a friend on Birch Street. She report-

edly left that residence in the early morning hours without her purse, cell phone or other belongings and has not been seen or heard from since. Amanda has a history of substance abuse. She is known to frequent Nashua, Salem, Manchester and Hooksett, NH. Derry police are seeking the public's help in locating

Amanda Grazewski.

Amanda is described as white female, 5'5", 135 lbs, brown hair and hazel eyes. She does not own or have access to a vehicle.

Anyone with information regarding Amanda Grazewski or her present whereabouts is asked to contact Derry Police at 603-432-6111.

Conservation Commission Adds Rules for Objects Placed on Trails

ALEX MALM
NUTFIELD NEWS

HAMPSTEAD – The Hampstead Conservation held its monthly meeting on March 17 and during the meeting, one of the main items discussed revolved around objects being left around the conservation trails.

It was explained by

Hampstead Conservation Commission Vice Chairperson David Treat that he received a complaint regarding people leaving items on the trails.

Some of the things that he mentioned that have been left there include Christmas decorations, pink flamingos, a boxing glove among other various items.

Treat said that the person who made the complaint said that it was considered litter.

"He wasn't happy about it," Treat said. "He considered it litter."

It was explained by Treat that one of the things that have been on the trail in the past are "Shamrock Stones," which he views as something that is fine

because they are a temporary thing on the trails.

"When you read about the Shamrock Stones, they were just a temporary thing for kids and they were going to be picked up when they were finished." "I think that's great if it's going to get people out on the trails it doesn't have to be just for kids. If it's a timed event I think that's fine."

Treat explained that one of the major reasons why he thinks that people are putting different objects out on the trails is because they are using them as markers in order to help them get back.

One of the points that was brought up during the meeting came from Hampstead Conservation Board member Jim Wilkinson, who said that he thinks that once the trail maps are finalized and printed that some of the issues of the

objects being left on the trails will be mitigated.

Treat said that he agreed with this assessment.

"I think a lot of it will go away when the mapping is done because I think people are using it as way points," Treat explained during the meeting.

Aside from objects being placed throughout the trails, Conservation Commission Chairperson Timothy Lovell explained that someone has also been putting stickers on benches, which is another issue.

"There is someone going out and putting stickers all over the benches and on signs in the West Road area," Lovell explained.

One of the questions that was raised by the board was whether or not they should allow both objects and rocks to be on the trail temporarily or if they

should just allow rocks.

It was decided by the conservation commission to prohibit any objects on the conservation trails, except for rocks.

The other question that was raised by the board was whether or not they would require permission for people to put rocks out on the trails temporarily.

Lovell said that he thinks that people should ask for permission.

"I think people should be asking for permission," Lovell said.

It was agreed on by the board to require permission for people to put rocks on the trails temporarily. They are allowed to be on the trails for up to 30 days.

These will be added to the Hampstead Conservation Trails rules.

The next Hampstead Conservation meeting is slated for Wednesday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

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Local Maple Syrup, is as Flavorful as it is Healthful

MELISSA BETH RUIZ
NUTFIELD NEWS

Maple Month is almost over, and now more than ever maple enthusiasts are urged to take every opportunity to enjoy all of their favorite local sugar houses, and to explore new ones.

Those who have already made their pilgrimage this year may want to consider venturing out once or twice more, to get a chance to experience all of the different flavors the season has to offer, and its health benefits, as well.

According to the NH

Maple Producers Association (NHMPA), maple syrup has different grades or categories based on its flavor and translucence. These variations are caused by differences in weather, climate, soil, boiling, etc. One thing that remains constant is quality.

The NHMPA elaborates on the four different grades as follows:

Golden syrup, yellow or golden in color, is generally made from the first sap of the season, when days are warmer and nights are cooler. Golden syrup typically has a delicate taste, making it perfect for maple creams,

candy and sugar, says the NHMPA, and can even be used as a natural sweetener for enhancing yogurt or ice cream.

Amber syrup, a light brown or tawny hue, is typically made mid-season when there have been slight changes to sugar content in the sap. This grade has a richer taste, and is usually the syrup of choice for those seeking the classic maple syrup flavor, says the NHMPA. This pantry staple is the grade normally used for pouring over pancakes and oatmeal, but is also used for making maple cream and sugar.

Dark syrup, mahogany in color, is made later on in the season when sugar content in the sap has dropped and more is required to make the syrup. Dark grade is described to have a "robust" taste and is good for cooking, used particularly in meat sauces and marinades.

Finally, Very Dark syrup, nearly black in color, is typically made from sap collected at the end of maple season, and natural chemical reactions during processing result in its darker hue. Very Dark syrup has a strong taste, and is also good for cooking, especially when used for marinating meats.

A list of home-hitting recipes using maple syrup is available at nhmapleproducers.com.

In addition to providing dishes and confections with a sweet, wholesome flavor, maple syrup of just about any grade makes for a naturally nutritious and low-calorie sweetener. That is, when it comes in the form of pure, locally-produced syrup.

Maple syrup is the oldest sweetener in the United States, according to the

NHMPA, and perhaps the best choice for the health-conscious.

According to the International Maple Syrup Institute, at 52 calories per tablespoon, maple syrup is one of the lowest-calorie natural sweeteners available, second only to honey. However, maple syrup is also considered a low-glycemic product, meaning that it affects blood sugar to a lesser degree than sweeteners such as molasses, table sugar, and even honey.

What's more, natural maple syrup also contains a number of minerals, including potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, zinc, manganese, phosphorus, iron, and selenium.

Zinc and selenium play an important role in aiding the immune system, says a study published by the National Institutes of Health.

"A deficiency in...zinc or selenium has immunosuppressive effects on the host," said the study, "which can lead to increased susceptibility to infectious disease."

The minerals found in natural maple syrup are also vital for several bodily func-

tions, says Harvard Health Publishing. For example, both calcium and magnesium are responsible for strengthening bones and teeth, while potassium and sodium help to balance fluids in the body.

Finally, pure maple syrup is also fairly high in antioxidants, says the NHMPA. Foods higher in antioxidants may help to neutralize free radicals in the body that can contribute to age-related degeneration and disease.

According to the NHMPA, natural maple syrup is higher in antioxidants than cantaloupe, cabbage, and tomato, and contains nearly the same amount of antioxidants per serving as a single carrot.

As if there weren't already reason enough for NH residents to stock up on everyone's favorite pancake topping, the evidence is clear. One might even say, a tablespoon of syrup a day could keep the doctor away.

For more information on the benefits and varieties of maple syrup, as well as a database of NH sugar houses, visit nhmapleproducers.com.

Homegrown Farm & Artisans Market To Open Up on June 2

DERRY - After taking a one-year hiatus due to Covid-19 concerns, the Derry Homegrown Farm & Artisan Market is gearing up for their fifth season beginning June 2, 2021.

Receiving a 2019 Editor's Choice Award for "Best Farmers' Market in New Hampshire" by Yankee Magazine, Derry Homegrown will be held every Wednesday for eighteen weeks, June to September.

Located at 1 West Broadway, in the center of Derry's cafés, restaurants and retail stores, downtown, and next to the Rail Trail allowing easy access by car, bike and pedestrians. There is plenty of free parking available on street and at two municipal lots very

close by.

As this will be the first season under Covid conditions, the Market may look somewhat different this year and masks will be required. While we enjoy making this a fun, community event, the health and safety of patrons, vendors and volunteers will be paramount this year.

The vendors participating this season will be bringing the areas best to the community. Patrons can expect to be able to purchase ingredients for a complete meal, and be able to buy some grab and go foods as well. This year's selection should include fresh seafood, meats (beef, pork, lamb), eggs, produce, gourmet cheese, artisanal breads, pastries, chocolates, olive oils, jams, pickles, gar-

lic, artisan pastas and sauces, locally sourced Puerto Rican cuisine, wine, beer, mead, natural soaps and more.

Visit derryhomegrown.org and their Facebook page at facebook.com/derryhomegrown - both online resources will post news and information to the public about our weekly events schedule varies every week.

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Private Road Bill Seeking Fairness Fails Senate Committee Review

JOHN J. GOGLIA
NUTFIELD NEWS

SB-131-FN, Part IX requesting fair and equitable tax treatment for residents who live on private roads was introduced to the Senate Transportation Committee on March 2, 2021 in an online hearing. The bill essentially required municipalities to either take ownership of private roads in qualified communities or provide a tax credit to residents on those private roads equivalent to the extra costs for services not

provided by those communities. Since the assessment of property on private roads is computed the same as those on public and private road owners pay extra for certain services municipalities provided to public road residents the intent of SB-131, part IX was to create tax fairness. Part IX was the last part of omnibus bill SB-131-FN (fiscal note) which combines various bills for expedient discussion purposes. Eight individuals spoke in support of part IX and only a lobbyist for the

NH Municipal Association, representing the cities and towns of NH spoke in opposition. The 5 Senators of the Transportation Committee asked various questions of the speakers during the hearing trying to understand all of the issues associated with this legislation.

On March 9, 2021 the Senate Transportation Committee held a public online Executive Meeting to discuss the dispositions of the nine parts of SB-131. There was a brief discussion about considering the

formation of a study committee to address all or a portion of the issues generated by SB-131, part IX. All 5 Senators agreed that the issues surrounding private roads and the proposed legislation were very complex. However, in a final vote the committee decided to delete part IX

from further consideration. The NH Private Road Taxpayers Alliance (NHPVRTA), a state-wide nonprofit organization which was the primary supporter of part IX intends to evaluate the "lessons learned" from this Senate Session and determine a future course of action. At the time of the ini-

tial hearing the NHPVRTA had the support of approximately 300 individuals from 27 cities and towns throughout NH. Anyone interested in assisting in the pursuit of tax fairness for private road residents should visit www.nhpvrta.com and make their assistance known.

Governor Announces Launch of States Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Gov. Chris Sununu launched the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program established through the Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR). It will provide aid to eligible residents of NH who cannot pay their rent, utilities and heating costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While the worst of this public health crisis is now behind us, NH will continue to provide assistance to those in need of additional supports," said Gov. Chris Sununu. "The Emergency Rental Assistance Program is key to ensuring that we open doors of opportunity and help NH families as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel on this pandemic."

The five regional Community Action Partnership (CAP) agencies will work directly with renters in need, review their applications, check eligibility, and process payments for eligible expenses.

The program will cover past-due and future rent payments; utilities, such as electricity, home heating costs, water, sewer, trash; and other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses associated directly or indirectly with COVID-19. Relocation expenses including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits are also eligible. Grants will be provided directly to the landlord or utility provider on behalf of the household. A landlord, with the tenant's permission, may apply for assistance on behalf of their tenant.

To be eligible, at least one person in the household must qualify for unemployment benefits, had their income reduced, had significant costs, or had other financial hardship due to COVID-19. The household must be at risk for homelessness, be paying more than 30% of their income for rent and utilities, or live in unsafe or unhealthy housing, as

well as meet certain income requirements.

Program guidelines, a Frequently Asked Questions guide, and the NHERAP application (online and a printable form) at www.CAPNH.org and on each of the five CAP agency websites. CAP staff are available to assist with the application process. Individuals may also call 2-1-1 to get assistance in contacting their CAP agency.

Under federal law, this program is only for eligible renters, not homeowners.

The NHERAP will be administered by NH Housing Finance Authority (NH-HFA), in collaboration with GOFERR. An extensive statewide outreach campaign is planned to inform the public, renters, landlords, organizations, and service providers about the NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Details about the program also are available at www.NHHFA.org/emergency-rental-assistance.

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Former Resident, Graduate Remembered for His Ultimate Sacrifice

JOHN SEIDENBERG
NUTFIELD NEWS

SANDOWN - He was a native Floridian who had part of his local history in NH where he is now memorialized.

Jonathan Porto, known as Jonny, was born in St. Petersburg, FL, on Feb. 26, 1984. He was a brother and the youngest boy to his 7 siblings and two half-brothers. Despite living most of his life in FL, where he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2008, he lived for a time in Sandown and was a 2002 graduate of Timberlane Regional High School in

Plaistow.

His sports devotion remained regional and his family described him as an adamant Boston Red Sox and NE Patriots fan.

Porto joined the Marines as a Small Arms Repair Technician. Following his graduation from Parris Island with honors, receiving two meritorious promotions, he went on to Military Occupation School at Aberdeen Proving Ground, ML.

There he met and married within months in May 2009 his wife Rachel, who was from Aberdeen, also home to Baltimore Orioles Legend Cal Ripken Jr.

The couple remained in

Aberdeen until Jonny's assignment to the 1st Battalion 6th Marines Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC. His unit was deployed in Dec. 2009 to Helmand Province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as part of a new surge of troops. That same month he was promoted to corporal.

Jonny and Rachel's intent was to start a family quickly knowing his deployment was soon. At the time of his departure she was eight months pregnant. He would talk to his baby girl as she grew inside her



Rachel and Johnny Porto enjoying leisure time with family prior to his deployment to Afghanistan.

Courtesy Photo

mother.

On Jan. 15, 2010, Rachel gave birth to their daughter Ariana. From Afghanistan, Jonny spoke to his wife while in labor on a phone connection that faded in and out.

Before he left home, he had recorded himself talking, singing, and reading to his daughter so she would know her father during his absence. The couple could not know then how profound doing that would be.

On March 15, 2010, when Ariana was just 2 months old, a Navy Chaplain and Marine non-commissioned officer, both in uniform, rang Rachel's doorbell before dawn. They brought her the grievous news that Jonny had lost his life the day before in combat operations in Marjah, Afghanistan at age 26. His armored vehicle had tipped over into an irrigation canal trapping him inside.

Two days later Rachel informed readers on the blog

she had been keeping of what had happened and that she had become a 23-year-old war widow, though her much termed term was she was "married to an angel."

The day prior to her blog message she had gone to Dover Air Force Base as her husband's remains were brought home before an honor guard. She next headed to Florida to make funeral arrangements.

In death, Jonathan Porto is remembered and honored at his NH high school.

Kyle Corey, a member of the Class of 2014, created as an Eagle Scout project The Timberlane Heroes Wall to recognize decorated alumni for their U.S. military service. Porto is one of the fallen Marines on the wall.

The school administration has since expanded the memorial and installed a waterfall over a piece of granite and enhanced it with new technological features. A photo plaque now appears for each soldier with a bar code that can be scanned with a QR reader and links to more information on each individual.

Porto's other awards include the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and NATO International Security Assistance Force Medal.

His family said he had planned to make a career in the military.

Fuel Assistance Open Til April 30

Southern NH Services' Fuel Assistance program is taking applications through April 30 to help renters and homeowners pay for past or future energy use, according to agency Deputy Director, Ryan Clouthier.

Says Clouthier, "As a community action agency our focus is on providing services to individuals and families with low incomes, and who are facing financial hardship. Fuel assistance is one of those programs that plays a key role in ensuring that families have warmth. Once that need is met, we're more able to effectively work with that family on the other supports that they may need."

Benefits are calculated on a number of things, including household income, energy costs, and housing type. This allows those households with the lowest incomes and highest energy costs to receive the highest benefits. Applications are taken through our Community Services Offices throughout Hillsborough and

Rockingham Counties. Households can also apply for and receive electrical assistance at the same appointment, if eligible.

Clouthier continues, "We are reminding Hillsborough and Rockingham County residents that Fuel Assistance pays for oil, propane, wood, pellets, kerosene, natural gas or electric heat costs and that payments can be made to reduce or eliminate a past due balance or create a credit balance for future use. The benefit may also be applied to rental cost if heat is included in the rent."

To apply residents should call SNHS or RCA offices closest to them or call 1-800-322-1073 to make an appointment. Applicants must qualify by household income for 30 days prior to the appointment. Benefits range from \$158 to \$1575 may be available to homeowners or renters during the winter heating season. Eligibility and benefit amounts are determined by GROSS household income for a 30

day period, household size, and annual heating costs. One person can earn \$2,810 per month and a family of 4 up to \$5,403 per month to qualify.

Southern NH Services, Inc., (SNHS) is a private, non-profit corporation chartered in the State of NH, May 21, 1965 in compliance with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It serves as the Community Action Agency for Hillsborough and Rockingham Counties. SNHS is part of a nation-wide network of over 1000 Community Action Agencies providing advocacy for and services to America's disadvantaged. Southern NH Services is an equal opportunity provider.

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Kumon Learning Center Approved As Learn Everywhere Program

The NH Department of Education announced that Kumon Learning Center in NH will be joining NH's exclusive Learn Everywhere Program.

Learn Everywhere, an innovative education program unique to NH, allows students to earn credit for learning outside of the classroom. Kumon Learning Center is authorized to offer a full array of mathematics

courses.

"Learning opportunities outside the classroom benefit all students, but they are particularly helpful to otherwise disadvantaged students," said Frank Edelblut, Commissioner of Education. "Having the Kumon Learning Center join the Learn Everywhere program further democratizes outstanding educational opportunities for all NH students

and families. Kumon will continue its work to help build bright futures by providing students and their families with a first-class learning experience from basic counting principles to advanced calculus."

"Kumon is both honored and excited to join the Learn Everywhere program in the state of NH," said John Collins, Vice President of Center Network De-

velopment at Kumon North America, Inc. "The partnership will allow countless students to build upon and expand their existing education, resulting in a brighter future for us all."

"The approval of Kumon Learning Center creates yet another exciting opportunity for students to earn credit by demonstrating mastery of competencies in the discipline of math. This

is yet another perfect example of NH's competency-based education system," Nate Greene, Administrator of the Bureau of Educational Opportunities said.

For over 60 years Kumon Centers worldwide have strived to instill in children the desire to achieve and the motivation to learn on their own. Kumon's math program allows each student to proceed through the

course at their own speed ensuring they can fully grasp all topics.

Students who are interested in joining Kumon's Learn Everywhere program can contact their local learning center.

Additional information about Learn Everywhere can be found here. www.education.nh.gov/partners/education-outside-the-classroom/learn-everywhere

Aviation Museum to hold Volunteer Open House on Tuesday, April 6

Would you like to be part of a community of people who enjoy airplanes and aviation? Would you like to make a difference, help a good cause and have fun doing it?

Then you're invited to attend the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire's upcoming volunteer open house, scheduled for Tuesday, April 6 from 7 -8:30 p.m.

At the museum's first volunteer open house of 2021, you'll meet some current volunteers and learn about the many ways to help the Aviation Museum carry out its mission.

The Aviation Museum, based in the 1937 art deco passenger terminal at Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, is dedicated to preserving the Granite State's rich aviation past, and also inspiring today's students to become the aerospace pio-

neers of tomorrow.

The open house will take place at the museum, which is located at 27 Navigator Rd., Londonderry. Face coverings will be required; the facility is compliant with all local and CDC Covid-19 guidelines.

"As a non-profit, we depend on volunteers to carry out our mission, so everyone has the potential to make a big difference," said Jeff Rapsis, the Aviation Museum's executive director.

If you plan to attend, please call (603) 669-4820 and leave a message with your name, or send an e-mail to jrapsis@nhahs.org.

For the museum's main exhibit floor, volunteers greet guests at the front desk, lead tours, and help staff the gift shop.

For the museum's historical archive, volunteers

help evaluate donations, catalog items, and help researchers.

For the education outreach program, volunteers help inspire young people of all ages about the physics of flight and the wonders of aviation.

For administration, volunteers help with memberships, fundraising, communications, and building maintenance.

Technically-minded volunteers help with the museum's IT systems; those with aviation experience manage the museum's Elite Flight Simulator, although anyone can be trained to operate it.

Those with mechanical or engineering experience may be interested in helping the Aviation Museum's innovative student plane-build partnership with the



Volunteer Patty Evans leads a family through the Aviation Museum. All are welcome to a Volunteer. *Courtesy Photo*

Manchester School of Technology.

Volunteers are also needed to help with special events year round, such as the Aviation Museum's annual car show, fund-raising gala, and more.

"Volunteering at the Aviation Museum is a rewarding way to give back

to the community, and help light the spark of aviation in people young and old," Rapsis said.

"As a side benefit, volunteers become part of a family that can lead to new friendships and opportunities," Rapsis said.

The Aviation Museum of NH, located at 27

Navigator Rd., Londonderry, is a non-profit 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

For more information about volunteering at the Aviation Museum, visit www.aviationmuseumofnh.org or call (603) 669-4820. Follow the Aviation Museum on social media at www.facebook.com/nhahs.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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DERRY

Free Bag Meals To Go

The Derry Community Meals will provide Free Bag Meals To Go on: Dinner on March 26 from 5 - 6 p.m., at First Parish Church, drive up to side door; drive around to back door.; Lunch on March 28 from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., at St. Jude's Parish; Sonshine Soup Kitchen - Will be serving drive by to go meals on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Genealogy Series

Every other Tuesday night at 6 p.m., at the Derry Public Library Resident genealogy expert Erin hosts a session that focuses on a different aspect of genealogy research, sharing her knowledge and experience, highlighting common pitfalls, or sharing interesting stories of local historic individuals. This month she will be hosting programs on The Remarkable

Life of William Hobdy, and Oral History. Register at derry-pl.org or call 432-6140.

Taylor Library Pick up

The Taylor Library is open for curbside pickup only. Call the library for curb pickup. Interlibrary loan with the state is also available. For further information, call the library 432-7186

Story Hour with a Craft

On Fridays at 10 a.m., the Taylor Library will host Story hour with a craft for ages 2 and up on Facebook Live. Call the Library to register and then come and pick up your bag of craft supplies which will go with each week. Story hour will end on April 2. Call the library to register or for more information.

Food Pantry

Contact-free pick up at the Upper Room, 36 Tsienneto Rd., Derry is available

on Mondays from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. (back entrance), Thursdays 3 - 4 p.m. and by appointment (front entrance).

CHESTER

Container Gardening Lecture with Willa Coroka

This exciting FREE virtual lecture by local gardening expert Willa Coroka hosted by the Chester Library, will cover the basics of botany before diving into various garden designs that break the boundaries of limited space and time restraints on Thursday, April 29, at 6 p.m. Examples to include terraced, vertical, and hydroponic gardens as well as miniature water, up-cycled container, counter-top, and no-yard gardens. No space? No problem. As long as we remember to think outside the box. Virtual on Zoom. Registration is required at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3qNRjJp> or call

887-3404

Escape Room

A Mandalorian themed Escape Room will be open Mondays in March at 4 p.m., 5 p.m. & 6 p.m. at the Chester Library. Can you solve the puzzles? Mando and Kuil need your help. Registration Is Required by calling 887-3404.

Storytime

Chester Library Storytime is every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Bring your little ones for stories and songs with Miss Maryjo! Registration is required by calling 887-3404.

HAMPSTEAD

Browsing Appointments

Monday through Saturday, for Hampstead Library cardholders we will be offering Browsing Appointments. Schedule a 30-minute appointment online via www.HampsteadLibrary.org or call 603-329-6411. Cardholders can come alone or bring members of their family or 'pod.' Face coverings must be worn in the building at all times. Browse for books, movies, and other cool things to borrow. Librarians are here to help. Curbside Pickup serv-

ices continue Monday through Saturday. Staff can also help with remote and curbside print/scan/fax requests.

Easter Bunny Drive Through

Social distancing will not stop the Easter Bunny from seeing you! Come and say hello to the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 3, between 10 a.m. - noon at Hampstead Congregational Church, 61 Main St., Hampstead. Pull into the circular driveway in front of the church and the Easter Bunny will greet your family in your car and give you all a little treat.

Story Time

The last-of-the-season scheduled live Story time on the Hampstead Public Library's Facebook page is on March 29 at 10 a.m. Then the library will take a Storytime break for a couple of weeks. Miss Jenn hopes to begin outdoor Storytime the second half of April. Stay tuned for more information.

Easter Services

There will be two outdoor services on Easter Sunday, April 4 held by the Hampstead Congregational Church. Join us for a sunrise

service at 6:30 a.m. at Camp Tel-Noar, 167 Main St., Hampstead. We will worship together as we watch the sunrise over the lake on this holiest of days! At 10 a.m., we will offer an outdoor service in front of the church at 61 Main St., Hampstead. Feel free to bring a folding chair if you would like to sit.

Hemingway In April

In April, the Hampstead Public Library joins other libraries and learning organizations around the country to celebrate the work of Ernest Hemingway. This is inspired by the PBS broadcast of Hemingway a film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novik. On Thursday, April 1 at 6 p.m., NH PBS, in partnership with NH Humanities and NH Writers' Project, presents an online screening and a discussion of the Hemingway film. To register visit www.nhhumanities.org/program/hemingway-screening-amp-discussion. More information about the Library's related book club discussions and PBS events are forthcoming.

Easter Weekend Services

Island Pond Baptist Church
continued on page 15

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Calendar

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will hold a Good Friday service on April 2, at 6 p.m. No childcare is available, but kids are welcome in this family friendly service. Easter Sunday morning services are at 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. An evening service is at 6 p.m. Kids' ministry is available for ages 0-9 at our 10:30 a.m., service, and for ages 0-4 at 6 p.m. You can also join us online by going to our main Facebook page or Youtube channel. Look for the "live" post. We also invite you to attend any of the church's weekly services and activities. Island Pond is located at 26 North Salem Rd., Hampstead, NH. You can visit the website, www.islandpondbc.com, email info@islandpondbc.com, or call us at 603-329-5959 for more information.

Adult Craft Kit

A Wooden Apple Bird-feeder kit for adults becomes available at the Hampstead Public Library on Tuesday, March 30 at 9 a.m. Ideal for adults or high school students, this kit is fairly easy to construct with no tools needed. All you need to supply is a piece of fruit. There are a limited number of kits, so get yours at the Library's Curbside Pickup table while supplies last.

Ancestry.Com

Free remote access for Hampstead Public Library users has been extended through June 30. Research family history from the comfort of your home, by opening Ancestry.com through the Library website. In the upper right corner of HampsteadLibrary.org, click "My Account." Find "Ancestry Library Edition" in the Links box on the catalog homepage. If you need assistance or a password for your Library account, please call 603-329-6411 or email circulation@HampsteadLibrary.org.

Book Club Reads @ Hospital Life

The Hampstead Public Library's Nonfiction Book Club is reading Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital by Sheri Fink. The discussion is on Tuesday, April 6 at 1 p.m.

To reserve a copy of the book, call the Library 603-329-6411. In the tradition of the best investigative journalism, physician and reporter Sheri Fink reconstructs five days at Memorial Medical Center after hurricane Katrina. The culmination of six years of reporting, this book unspools the mystery of what happened in those days after the storm, bringing the reader into a hospital fighting for its life and into a conversation about the most terrifying form of health care rationing.

Chess Club

Due to Covid19, the Hampstead Chess Club will be online only this year. Sundays: 4 - 5:30 p.m., on now - March 28. The Chess Club is open to all players from Hampstead and their friends from nearby towns. There is no cost to play, drop in on any Sunday starting at 4 p.m. All skill levels welcome. Go to www.HampsteadChessClub.org for more details on how and where to sign up. Contact Program Coordinator: Charlie Backman at (603) 329-5867 with any questions.

Meditation Classes

Weekly online Meditation Class from the Hampstead Public Library has been extended through the end of March. Make time for self-care with this 30-minute class on Zoom, Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. According to the Mayo Clinic, meditation can reduce negative emotions, build skills to manage stress, improve rest and relaxation, and increase patience and tolerance. The classes are taught by library assistant and certified meditation instructor, Sue Crump. You do not have to be a Hampstead resident to attend. Register via the Events Calendar on HampsteadLibrary.org.

SANDOWN

Author Read

Join the Sandown Library for a special program via Zoom on Thursday, April 1, from 4 - 5 p.m. Award winning children's book author Kathy Brodsky and illustrator Sarah Zeogas will be "visiting" the Sandown Public Library! Kathy will be reading her newest book, How

Talula Turned Her Day Around. How Tulula Turned Her Day Around is a book in rhyme with discussion questions about life following the story. There are also some fun activities ("funtivities") in the book - as well as in the coloring book. For information, contact: Adrienne Skora at 887-3428, or email youthservices@sandownlibrary.us Registration is required. This program is for ages 3+.

Pysanky Egg Decorating

Originating in Eastern Europe, the ancient egg art known as pysanky is also known as "Ukrainian Eggs". Since early times, pysanky eggs have been decorated to welcome spring. In this class, on Saturday, April 3, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Ruth will share her skills and teach us how to use hot beeswax applied with a kistky funnel to draw on the egg then with succession of colorful dyes, create a beautiful, one-of-a-kind egg. There is a materials fee paid on the day of the event to the presenter. \$15 for your first egg, \$20 if you would like to create two. Due to the use of candles and hot wax, the Sandown Library does not recommend this class for children under 6. Children aged 6 - 9 may participate with an adult working as a team. Please note this program will be held downstairs at the Sandown Town Hall, 320 Main St., and has limited spaces. Registration will close at 9 p.m., on April 1. For more information, please contact Tricia Thomas at 887-3428 or email programming@sandownlibrary.us.

Lions Scholarship

The Sandown Lions Club is pleased to announce that they will once again be sponsoring a scholarship award for the 2020-2021 school year. This scholarship, honoring the memory and legacy of Lion Eleanor Bassett, will be awarded to a graduating high school senior residing in the town of Sandown per the criteria: The Lions are an organization whose members volunteer to serve their local community and beyond in many ways. In keeping with this spirit, scholarship applicants should be involved in

some form of community service. This service can be, but is not limited to, one's church, local community, and/or school. Applications and further information can be obtained in the guidance office of Timberlane Regional High School or you may request an application from the Lions Club directly by emailing mixic13@gmail.com or calling 603-765-9303. This scholarship does require a brief essay entitled "Why I volunteer". The deadline for application consideration is April 9, 2021 (post-mark date).

Pancake Breakfast

This event will be held outside, a drive up and go pancakes breakfast, for \$5 the Sandown Lions will be serving pancakes only or egg sandwich with or without cheese, and for \$6 pancakes with sausage. The event will be held on March 27 from 8-11 at the Sandown Town Hall Parking lot. Funds raised will go towards the purchase of an Eye Vision Screener.

Old Home Day Committee

The Sandown Old Home Day Committee has openings and is seeking new members for the committee. If you are interested in planning the Old Home Day Fall Festival, a wonderful community event, please contact Pat Kimball at pkimb456@gmail.com.

Crafting Crew

Crafts to make at home with the Sandown Library for ages 2-6! Each registered participant will receive a Take & Go Bag containing craft materials for each week's craft. If you did not request a bag, most crafts can be made with materials you probably have at your home, so check out the craft video! The directions for each week's craft will be pre-recorded then posted to the library's YouTube channel each Thursday 10 - 11 a.m. Find the library's channel here, <https://bit.ly/2REz5vh>. Contact: Tricia Thomas, at 887-3428, or programming@sandownlibrary.us.

YouTube - Story Time

In this pre-recorded Story time the Sandown Library explore early literacy skills,

letter knowledge, and sound recognition, reading comprehension and vocabulary building. We do this through reading, reading, oral storytelling, poetry, fingerplays and rhymes. Contact: Tricia Thomas at 887-3428 or pthomas@sandownlibrary.us

Virtual Mother Goose On The Loose

On Mondays, from 10 - 10:30 a.m., a Virtual Mother Goose On The Loose (Ages up to 36 months) will be hosted by Sandown Library. Join Monday mornings on YouTube for movement, reading, rhymes, and songs. Mother Goose on the Loose is a brain-based program consisting of thirty minutes of fun, skill-building activities. Some benefits of the programs are the following: aids speech development, improves motor coordination, develops attention span, and encourages a love of books and book illustrations. A link to the day's YouTube video will be posted 10 minutes prior to the start time. You can find archived story times from previous programs, too.

Zoom Room Story Time

The Sandown Library will hold themed stories designed to encourage the development of early literacy skills and build friendships with others, on Tuesdays from 10 - 11 a.m. For the safety and privacy of all participants, registration is required, and class size is limited. All registrants will be emailed a link to join the Zoom Video Room. This is a unique link and should not be shared. The program will be locked at 10:05 a.m., so please do not be late, or you will not be allowed into the program.

Virtual PJ Storytime

Join Miss Adrienne live on Facebook at 6:30 p.m., every Wednesday night for Virtual PJ Storytime. Wear pajamas and bring your favorite stuffed animal with you.

Monday Mystery Book Club

Are you a mystery reader? Looking for some new authors or a chance to read a favorite one? Join us at the Sandown Library on the 1st Monday of the month to discuss the monthly book

choice from 10:30 a.m. - noon. This month's book: This Month's book: Iced Under by Barbara Ross. Books are available to pick up at the library. Please register so we have enough copies of the books available. Contact Susan Kehoe at 887-3428 or skehoe@sandownlibrary.us.

Board of Library Trustees

Sandown Library Board Of Trustees will be Meeting from 7 - 9 p.m. The Board of Library Trustees meet every month on the second Thursday. This meeting is open to the public.

Legos and More

Come and build over zoom from 4 - 5 p.m., for ages 6 and up! We will be doing some fun building challenges. If you don't have Legos, that's okay. You can use blocks, magnet tiles, tinker-toys etc. Registration is required. Once you have registered, you will be emailed a unique link to Zoom where we will have fun building together. The Zoom meeting will be locked after the program has started, so please arrive on time. Contact: Adrienne Skora at 887-3428 and youthservices@sandownlibrary.us

Family Fun In The Kitchen

Via Zoom from 4 - 5 p.m. Fall is here which means lots of apples. The Sandown Library will be making apple crisp. Participants are required to register and will receive an email with the login information to this Zoom event. Contact: Adrienne Skora at 887-3428 or youthservices@sandownlibrary.us.

BOOK - 2 - MOVIE

Is the Book always Better? The first Thursday of each month from 6 - 8 p.m., the Sandown Library watches a movie based on a book and have a discussion comparing them. Books for the next gathering are always available on movie viewing night. This is open every month to anyone who wants to join the discussion and watch the movie. Contact: Tricia Thomas at 603-887-3428 or pthomas@sandownlibrary.us

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