

Retiring Town Clerk reflects on career

BY CATHY ALLYN
Contributing Writer

NEW DURHAM — “I feel great,” Stephanie MacKenzie said on her first day of official retirement from Town Hall. “I want to do different things now and spend more time with my grandchildren.”

MacKenzie has been a presence in the town for about 15 years, but the story of how she wound up in New Durham surpasses the story of how she wound up working in Town Hall.

The MacKenzie family, including husband Iain and three sons, was living in Europe and at one point vacationed in New Hampshire to visit her family.

“Iain is British,” MacKenzie said, “and grew up in Alton, Hampshire, so he wanted to see Alton, New Hampshire.”

They had lunch there and happened to pick up a real estate brochure. Glancing through it, a property on March’s Pond caught their eye.

“We went back to Luxembourg, decided to build a house on the property, and moved here. That’s it,” she said.

When a job in Town Hall opened up,

it was the perfect fit for MacKenzie.

“After living 26 years where I couldn’t vote and was limited in things I could do locally, I could finally get involved in my community,” she explained.

MacKenzie began her New Durham career as Deputy Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector, working with then-Town Clerk Carole Ingham.

The Humanities major was completely confident about being dropped into the position. “The job has nothing hard mathematically and I had worked for law firms in the past, so I was comfortable dealing with RSAs.”

After holding that post for around eight years, MacKenzie moved into the Town Clerk/Tax Collector position following Ingham’s departure.

Town Clerk is an elected position and covers a myriad of duties, including maintaining public records, issuing registrations and licenses, and elections. During her first days, MacKenzie said she was not nervous, but “I just knew I had to keep plowing on until I had everything figured out. Mostly



With the retirement of Town Clerk Stephanie Mackenzie (right), positions will shift at New Durham Town Hall. Donna Young will become acting Town Clerk and resident Shannon Feger (left) has joined the Town Hall team as Tax Collector.

it took working about twelve hours a day for a while.”

Over the course of her tenure, she was elected twice for three-year terms.

MacKenzie also changed the paradigm

during a time of flux in town. Many Town employees had left and a series of interim Town Administrators ended with the hiring of Scott Kinmond in that position.

“When I came to New Durham I found

Stephanie to be very welcoming and helpful,” he said.

Kinmond called MacKenzie “instrumental” in working with the Select Board and him to reorganize the Town Clerk/Tax Collector po-

sition into separate duties.

“I wanted a partnership with my deputy,” she explained. “Stephanie was very helpful in the hiring process.” SEE MACKENZIE, PAGE A9

LRTC students manufacture pizza oven



Lakes Region Technology Center student, Jagger Chesley, prepares a pizza to cook in the metal pizza oven he and his Precision Manufacturing classmates recently constructed. Chesley credits his work making pizza at the New Durham General Store for the efficiency he displayed on Friday, Nov. 20, as his classmates watched.

BY ELISSA PAQUETTE
Contributing Writer

WOLFEBORO — The pressures of COVID-19 have changed the educational landscape these days. Students in the Governor Wentworth Regional School District are participating in what is called the hybrid model, a program that has students divided into

two groups, scheduled for Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday classes with remote learning in between.

With less time together in school, students are eager to be in class, says Lakes Region Technology Center Principal Bruce Farr.

“Students appreciate the efforts of their teachers and staff and are

showing an outstanding commitment to their education,” he adds.

Scott Meserve’s Precision Manufacturing students are a case in point. On Friday, Nov. 20, students came outdoors to the parking lot to test out the pizza oven they helped construct, from flat metal to final working oven. Jagger Chesley applied his work experience at the New Durham General Store to the making and covering of rounds of pizza dough provided by Chef Pat Brideau of the Culinary Arts program, as his fellow students looked on. The oven was hot, and it fell to Dylan McKay to do the honors of lifting completed pizza out for quick consumption.

McKay said it took most of the semester to build the oven from start to finish. On Friday, they were able to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Precision Manufacturing is just one of a number of courses of instruction that attract students to the school from area towns within and outside of the school district, including Moultonborough, Alton, Barnstead, Farmington and Middleton.

“Everyone needs a balanced education,”

SEE OVEN, PAGE A9

New Durham lights up for the holidays

BY CATHY ALLYN
Contributing Writer

NEW DURHAM – Residents will have an eye-ful of holiday spirit this year as parts of town are lighted up like never before.

Parks and Recreation Director Celeste Chasse has expanded her own love of Christmas lights and decorations to become town-wide events.

“We had the decorating contest last year,” she said, “and it was well-received, so we’ll do it again this year.”

Beginning this week, homeowners and business owners who want to join the fun can enter the Holiday Lights Decorating Challenge and decorate their buildings in hopes of becoming the most bedecked in town.

Chasse has partnered with the recreation departments in Wolfeboro, Tuftonboro, Ossipee, Wakefield, and Rochester for this activity.

“We call ourselves Our Towns Community Rec,” she said. “The judges will pick one house from each town.”

The group will produce a map of all of the entries in the towns, “so people can drive around and see them.”

To enter, participants need to send in their names and addresses

to ourtownsrec@gmail.com no later than Dec. 18. One winner from each community will be announced on Dec. 22.

Her personal tradition of driving through areas bright with festive lights has led to another event, new to New Durham. Light Up Your Night Christmas Trail is slated for Thursday, Dec. 10 and Friday, Dec. 11 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the 1772 Meetinghouse on Old Bay Road.

“I love Christmas lights and decorations,” Chasse said. “It’s a passion with me. Every year when I drive around to see light displays, I think, ‘How cool would it be to have something like this right here in town that people could come and enjoy?’”

This year, her thought is coming to fruition. She already had a jump on things; for the big Halloween event, she and volunteers had strung lights along part of the nature trail behind the Meetinghouse.

“We had lights up for the haunted trail, so now we’re putting them all along the longer trail. It’s going to be just stunning. People can come and see the lights practically in their own backyard.”

Several Christmas events have been held at

the 1772 Meetinghouse, sponsored by the Meetinghouse Restoration Committee (MRC), including an evening with Charles Dickens’ characters, Christmas caroling, and a comedy performance.

The recreation department in the past has joined with the MRC to present sleigh rides and performances of ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas there.

Chasse said donations have provided for the purchase of additional lights and she has also been granted a small budget from the Recreation Commission to purchase more.

And collaboration seems to be paramount in her department. She is partnering with other recreation departments for the holiday decorating contest and with the New Durham Public Library for the Christmas lighted trail event.

“We do a lot of things with the library,” Chasse said.

During the 2019-20 school year, the two departments held the afterschool Spectrum program. In the past, Score With Reading enabled young soccer players to write books about their

SEE HOLIDAYS, PAGE A9

Ohm Lifestyle Center introduces region’s only hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber

Ohm Lifestyle Center in Wolfeboro has installed the region’s only hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber, which can be used to support athletic recovery, motor skill development and nerve recovery. The hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber marks the latest innovative addition to Ohm Lifestyle Center’s menu of service offerings, further establishing Ohm as the leading full-service organic spa, beauty and wellness center in the northeast. Ohm’s hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber, which is a completely no-contact offering, provides pressurized, nearly-pure oxygen in a soft-sided, comfortable, one-person chair unit.



COURTESY

WOLFEBORO – Ohm Lifestyle Center in Wolfeboro has opened the region’s only hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber, which can be used to support athletic recovery, motor skill development, nerve recovery and more. The hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber marks the latest innovative addition to Ohm Lifestyle Center’s menu of service offerings, further establishing Ohm as the leading full-service organic spa, beauty and wellness center in the northeast. Ohm’s hyperbaric oxygen therapy chamber, which is a completely no-contact offering, provides pressurized, nearly-pure oxygen in a soft-sided, comfortable, one-person chair unit.

“In our pressurized hyperbaric chamber, which is completely no-contact and entirely enclosed, your body absorbs into the circulatory system resulting in higher blood-oxygen than normally possible, providing a host of health benefits,” said Gayle Washington, Owner and Founder, Ohm Lifestyle Center. “We also offer 100-percent oxygen for inhalation during the treatment. Along with the health

benefits, because the oxygen permeates the skin, the treatment creates a feeling of euphoria and pure elation. The initial response has been incredibly positive and we cannot wait to introduce this new experience to more and more clients.”

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy allows more oxygen to reach the body’s cells, which promotes healing, reduces inflammation, and helps the body fight infection. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy has been studied extensively in a clinical setting and has been proven to show improvement in muscle recovery, fertility, neuropathy, diabetic neuropathy, autism, jet lag, muscle and tendon injuries, cancer, stroke recovery, anxiety and depression. Doctors use hyperbaric oxygen therapy to treat a variety of ailments, including wound healing, severe anemia, brain injury and embolisms. Further, recent research indicates hyperbaric oxygen therapy can actually reverse the aging process.

Demonstrating its commitment to innovation, Ohm Lifestyle Center also recently opened the region’s largest therapeutic float room, featuring space for two

people in a sound and light-proof, 8x8x8-foot space, nearly 11 inches of body temperature water and more than 1,100 pounds of Epsom salt. Ohm can completely customize the experience for clients—some may want complete silence and darkness, while others may opt for a variety of features, such as incorporating light music. With adjustable LED lighting, Ohm’s float cabin boasts a “lagoon” feature, which creates the effect clients are floating beneath a starlit sky.

Ohm Lifestyle Center is the only establishment in the northeast to offer Spinal Reflex Therapy, a cutting-edge clinical massage assessment and treatment approach in which practitioners use a thermal scanner to identify and treat exact pain points. Ohm Lifestyle Center also created 38 Senses Massage, which combines full body massage and a custom-written, individualized guided meditation.

For more information and to book an appointment, visit www.ohm-lifestyle.com/.

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Blessed Bargains Thrift Shop opens Santa’s Gift Shoppe


FARMINGTON — Beginning this Saturday, Nov. 28, and every Saturday in December, Blessed Bargains Thrift Store will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on Main Street. They sell an assortment of holiday gifts, household items, warm clothing for adults and children, toys, books and much more.

Blessed Bargains is located in the basement of the church with its entrance from the TD Bank parking area.

New this year is Santa’s Gift Shoppe in the Fellowship Hall of the church, featuring Christmas ornaments, table trees, children’s Christmas books, stocking stuffers, dolls and an array of collectibles, all at bargain prices. A hand-made, ceramic Manger scene with 15 figures is also on sale.

The public is invited to drop in to view the many displays of Christmas items in the Fellowship Hall using the new Community Access Ramp entrance off of Pleasant Street. The First Congregational Church is located at 400 Main Street in downtown Farmington.

For more information, go to their Web site: www.farmingtonnhucc.org.



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PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER
FRANK G. CHILINSKI
(603) 677-9083
frank@salmonpress.news

BUSINESS MANAGER
RYAN CORNEAU
(603) 677-9082
ryan@salmonpress.news

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
JIM DiNICOLA
(508) 764-4325

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
JIM HINCKLEY
(603) 279-4516

EDITOR
JOSHUA SPAULDING
(603) 941-9155
josh@salmonpress.news

MANAGING EDITOR
BRENDAN BERUBE
(603) 677-9081
brendan@salmonpress.news

PRODUCTION MANAGER
JULIE CLARKE
(603) 677-9092
julie@salmonpress.news

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Giving thanks to our home health heroes



Courtney Whitten, RN and Tom Ellefsen, RN, ADN of Cornerstone VNA.

ROCHESTER — November is a special time of giving thanks, and it is also a time when the health care community recognizes and celebrates National Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, Cornerstone Visiting Nurse Association, your local nonprofit organization, is proud to pay tribute to their health care heroes who are among the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists, social workers, providers and support staff working to provide the very best in care at home for all ages.

According to the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, “These heroic caregivers play a central role in our health care system and in homes across the nation. To recognize their efforts, we call upon all Americans to commemorate the power of caring, both at the home and in their local communities.”

Due to the current pandemic, Julie Reynolds, RN, MS, President/CEO of Cornerstone VNA emphasizes the importance of celebrating our home health care workers and sharing our gratitude, noting “We are so fortunate to be surrounded by such a caring team of health care professionals, who continue working together through many challenges, and guiding each other and their patients to ensure their health care needs are

met and individual goals are achieved.”

There have been many advancements in home health services over the years, which has greatly enhanced and improved care for patients and their families. Cornerstone VNA is able to provide remote monitoring of high-risk patients through a sophisticated Telehealth program, and many clinicians are certified in specialty areas such as wound care, ostomy care, IV therapy, palliative care, and more, which is important for treating a variety of complex conditions.

Reynolds shares that it is an honor and a privilege to provide home care, hospice and palliative care in the home where patients feel more comfortable and at ease. “Based on a patient’s home environment and caregiver support, our clinicians are able to make informed decisions and recommendations for care and safety based on each individual.” Additionally, Cornerstone VNA provides private duty services to assist individuals and family caregivers with homemaking services, personal care support, respite and nursing care.

According to Erika Lee, MHA, Advancement Director at Cornerstone VNA, “We have such a wonderful team, and when it comes to expressing our thanks, our patients and their families are the ones who say it best.”

A hospice family

member recently wrote, “Having the strength and support of your family during a difficult time in life is something we all expect, but having the same care, compassion and strength from complete strangers is a gift. I am very thankful for Cornerstone and your amazing employees – Thank You for all you do!”

Visit cornerstonevna.org/blog to read more stories about home care, hospice and palliative care or call 800-691-1133 to learn more about Cornerstone VNA’s award-winning programs and services.

About Cornerstone VNA

Cornerstone VNA is a nonprofit home health and hospice care provider, currently serving Rockingham, Strafford, Belknap and Carroll Counties in New Hampshire and York County in Maine. The team at Cornerstone VNA provides award-winning care and support through five distinct programs: Home Care, Hospice Care, Palliative Care, Life Care-Private Duty and Community Care. For 107 years, Cornerstone VNA has been committed to bringing services to people of all ages so that families can stay together at home, even when facing the challenges of aging, surgical recovery, chronic or life-threatening illnesses or end-of-life care. To learn more about Cornerstone VNA, visit www.cornerstonevna.org or call 800-691-1133.

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The keys to a happy holiday season

It’s official — the holiday season has arrived, with the first big one under our belts. Thanksgiving is the perfect segue into Christmas and Hanukkah. It’s when all of the fall decorations, and the dilapidated pumpkins get tossed and the candy canes and red and whites come out. Black Friday and Cyber Monday has passed, and now it’s time to put things into cruise control until the big day arrives.

When we were younger, the holidays were magical and fun for most of us, with a minimal amount of stress and an abundant amount of gifts to those fortunate enough to receive any. As we get older and have families of our own, holidays remain fun, as we pour that magic into making our own family’s holidays memorable.

Despite our current situation, holiday spirits remain high. Taking a drive around town, decorations are popping up every day. The night sky serves as the perfect backdrop for flashing holiday lights. Many people have started to decorate historically early, as a way to bring some sense of normalcy and positivity to others.

It may be difficult this season; however, try to do something creative to make someone’s holiday one they can remember, something they don’t expect. When you take the time to essentially play Santa Claus, the joy you get back is tenfold.

As for relieving stress, don’t put too many expectations onto yourself and respect your own limits. You don’t have to do everything, you can delegate. As for shopping, you can find just about anything online, even from local shops making gift buying easier. If shopping isn’t your thing, hand out gift cards with a handwritten letter.

Throughout the season, take in the lights and remember to take in the holiday spirit of those around you. Go for a walk in the snow and listen to how quiet everything is. Begin and end each day with something you find enjoyable. We find that watching holiday movies, eating sugar cookies, drinking hot chocolate and listening to holiday music really can be uplifting. “A Christmas Carol,” while a bit creepy at times, does put things into perspective. If you haven’t read the book in a while or watched the movie, now is the time.

No, things won’t look as they normally do this season. With that said, people throughout history have turned lemons into lemonade. This season it’s especially important to support local small businesses, many who now offer items online. Throughout this season, let’s all focus on lifting each other up as this pandemic eventually will take its place in history.

In the words of Hamilton Wright Mabie, “Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

When I recalled my life living under 13 Presidents, whose leadership started with Truman, the beginning will not be unlike what Biden faces on Jan. 20, 2021.

Franklin D. Roosevelt kept Harry S Truman out of the loop, he was not aware of the Manhattan Project, nor the status of the US troops, fighting to end the second world war. Truman faced a congress run by Republicans as well as a Senate of the same party all of whom did not care for him. But, he like Biden, had the skills

to bring people together for compromise and thus got a mountain of needed projects passed for the good of the country and the world, by the end of his eight years behind the resolute desk. Unlike Truman, Biden faces forces that want to obstruct the good he wants to do for the country in order to heal from the past four years.

There is however one big difference, the Republican party of Truman’s era were reasonable people, and would work for the best interest of America and in fact the world, they put aside

the financial gains for themselves, that we see in their political party of today pure greed. The party that is under the spell of President #45, which has somehow persuaded themselves that he is a demigod who can do no wrong, thus need not be held to account for anything he does, including breaking the oath he took to uphold, and defend the Constitution. Namely the emolument clause added to that document by the founding fathers was put there for the sole purpose to keep corruption at bay, so bribery, was

not a give and take affair. A thing of value was not exchanged between individuals or Governing Foreign States for power or purpose, that would be of a nefarious nature. The President was impeached for his violation of this clause. Be it true his worshippers in the senate refused to obey their oath to the Constitution by acquitting him, hence all becoming accomplices to his crime of bribery (which failed) as was defined under the emolument’s clause because of a few good loyalists to the Constitution. The Senate Republicans

claimed they did not see the proof, yet it was right in front of them to examine. We the people spoke to this sad affair on Nov. 3. When it was our turn to address the misdeeds of #45.

I think it amazing that as plain as the noses on #45’s supporters’ faces, that they cannot accept, despite #45 messing with the U S mail, as well as actually cheating the system, by trying to slow down delivery of legally cast votes, he still lost, seems to me they thought they had it in the bag. When in fact they got caught before

the election day arrived. To call this election a fraud is absolutely true, it was committed on the American people by (t) RUMP. So, when he says it’s a scam, he’s correct not only did he committed the scam, he refuses to except his cheating did not work. Remember he projects onto others that which he himself does. What a baby crying in the wind, he lost, get over it.

JOHN Q HENDERSON
BARNSTEAD



Brewster students donate to End 68 Hours of Hunger

Brewster Academy students present End 68 Hours of Hunger board members with a donation from recently held fundraiser. Pictured (l to r): Jan Brooks, Carol Simpson, Kai Jacobs, David Moreno-Perez, Evan Lewis. End 68 Hours of Hunger is a non-profit volunteer organization providing weekend food support to preschool through grade 6 students in GWRSD communities.

COURTESY

LETTERS FROM EDWIN

Teachers

me in his lap and let me steer the car as we were heading toward the exit. We were only going about one mile per hour, but I was totally flabbergasted. I got to drive the car! I wished for a return opportunity every time we went to the cemetery, one never arose.

Every year, we would go for a vacation on the last two weeks in August. For a number of years we would rent this old camp that had an out-house and a hand pump in the kitchen for water. That was the most wonderful place in the world to go for a vacation. It was on a lake and we could do all kinds of fun water things all day, every day for two weeks. Except for an hour after eating. So we used to go for walks or shoot my gun. Or both.

Early every morning, I would go with my father into town to pick up a newspaper and any other things we might need. We’d then come home and cook breakfast on the wood cook stove which heated up the place nicely so the girls had a warm place to arise into.

When I was fifteen, my father handed me the keys and allowed me to drive in to town and back. I wasn’t even

old enough for a learner’s permit, but those back country roads didn’t have any traffic to speak of and I certainly was very careful. Thanks Dad.

The first day of school I took a detour into town and spent the afternoon applying for jobs. I needed one so that I could save money for driver’s school. I would soon be sixteen and able to get a learner’s permit. Things that I would need if I were ever to get a chance to borrow the family car.

Once I had my permit, I was now legal to drive so my father would take me out and show me stuff. In those times, parking lots were wide open, not full of islands the barriers like they are today. So when a parking lot got three or four inches of snow on it, you could go and practice with your car and actually experience how it would respond under extreme circumstances. Thanks again Dad.

My godfather took me out too. He had a Chevy with a straight six and a three speed on the column. There were no floor shifts back then. He showed me how to use a clutch and start on hills. At one point we were stopped

at this intersection on a hill. I broke a tire loose and burned rubber all around the corner. I apologized. He said it was OK.

When it came time for me to go driving with my driving instructor, he quickly realized and commented “You’ve been driving?” I nodded yes and he just sort of relaxed and got to teaching me all sorts of things, like parallel parking.

A few years back, I was playing a gig with a band on the seacoast. After unloading my equipment at the club, I went to park my car and found this very small space, obviously bypassed by everyone else. I thought I could do it, so I pulled up and got things lined up. There was a group of young folks walking toward me as I made my attempt. I zipped in and parked with one easy swoop. The kids were so impressed that they gave me a standing ovation as I exited the car.

Many thanks to all the teachers in my life.

E.TWASTE
CORRESPONDENCE
WELCOME AT
EDWINTWASTE@
GMAIL.COM

Weasels and weasel-words, with apologies to the weasels



By JOHN HARRIGAN
COLUMNIST

“I’ve got an ermine in my woodpile,” said the voice from far away, and I instantly wished I had one in mine too. It made me want to go out and check--weasels are that fast, and I have several woodpiles, six, I think. Hey, wait a minute here--I just might very well hopefully have six weasels. Think of it! A six-pack of weasels!

In fact, weasels are so fast that one minute there is no weasel there, and then all of a sudden, there is. You blink once, twice, maybe rub your eyes, and still right there, looking right at you with those two little eyes, is a weasel.

I’ve somehow always thought that a weasel’s eyes could bore two tiny holes straight through a massive block of ice.

When I say “massive,” I mean, say, the size of a house, one of those Canadian ones with the four roofs. That one.

“Weasel” is fun to say, like “ratchet,” which somehow leads to another fun one, “torque.” Most people, including me, have utterly no idea what “torque” means. “Metric” is all the rage right now, as in “I don’t see how that fits with my metric.” Yesterday’s favorite, “takes up all the oxygen,” is so, well, yesterday. It is right there in the slag-heap with “pushing the envelope” and “gone missing.”

A far-flung neighbor told me this amazing story, in which a weasel, unaided and unabated and all by his lonesome, exploited a small opening in this man’s chicken-wire fence and proceeded to commit atrocities and mayhem within the flock, and when this man went out to see what the commotion was, there was this weasel, leaning up casually against a fencepost, picking its tiny little teeth. However, people later told me that this man sometimes stretches the truth.

An ermine is a weasel in its winter coat. Why we honor the weasel with a change of name in all this I don’t know. We don’t do the same for the snowshoe hare, so it’s not fair. But what would we call it? “Rabbit” is already taken. How about “Big Mean Aggressive Kick-Your-Dog-To-Pieces Snowshoe Hare?” No, too clumsy.

An ermine is death on mice, which is why savvy people like to have them around. A little treat hidden here and there will often do the trick. Like a Canada (grey) jay, they will sometimes take food from your fingers.

Canada jays really shouldn’t be grouped with weasels, except in the proffered food acceptance category. They have not yet appeared at my feeders, but as sure as Deep Winter is coming, so are the Canada jays.

That’s when they show up, when they’re having hard times at higher elevations or up across the line there in Canada. We have our own grey jays, which

you can see in higher elevations in Lancaster and Kilkenny and Jefferson and Columbia and Pittsburg, and then a bit later in the winter we get these Canada jays that are actually from Canada. You can tell, because they have this little accent circonflexe, like this (^) above their beaks, and whenever there’s a parade they’ll inevitably haul out the Canadian colors.

Scientists are trying to figure out how Canada jays are able to fly, same as bumblebees, which are not supposed to get off the ground on account of not enough lift. They have these big, bumbly bodies (the bumblebees), but really, if you apply the scientific method, not enough wing-surface or power to become airborne from relatively short runways.

There are many names for the Canada jay, such as the already-mentioned grey jay, and Whisky Jack, which carries capital letters because I’ve always seen it that way.

And then there’s the best, in my book, “Camp



A short-tailed weasel out and about in an ermine’s coat poked its nose out a convenient hole at the Irwin farm. (Photo by Roger Irwin, Guildhall, Vt.)

Robber,” and they will, too. Crime magazines are full of stories, and they’re all true, too, about Canada jays flying off with all sorts of stuff from innocent victims’ campsites, even cabins, and those little egg-shaped ergo-trailers that sleep two people who are really thin.

There is only anecdotal evidence of this kind of thievery, of course, but some of the attempted thefts have bordered on the colossal. In one account, two grey jays (Canada Jay, Camp Robber, Whisky Jack, and let’s not forget his part-

ner in crime, Whisky Jill) tried to fly off with an entire cast-iron frypan containing a quarter of a pound of bacon (Canadian, of course), but they attempted takeoff with the wind instead of against it, and crashed when they ran out of runway. In true bush-flying tradition, the pitiful wreckage will be there, like, forever.

(Please address mail, with phone numbers in case of questions, to campguyhooligan@gmail.com or 386 South Hill Rd., Colebrook, NH 03576.)

NOTES FROM WINDY HOLLOW

Helping a determined robin

BY VIVIAN LEE DION
Contributing Writer

This summer, I noticed a big robin in the front yard. I think it was an American Robin because he had a bright red breast, and was quite large. He was doing what robins do – searching for food. He appeared quite confident bobbing around the lawn hunting for worms, caterpillars and other things. He pranced a few feet, stop and then started the routine over again. It was quite a show all summer long but as the weather became cooler and autumn leaves changed to orange and gold Mr. Robin’s daily routine changed. Perhaps this was due to the drought and lack of worms. He began walking timidly on the deck railing. He was looking for suet that had dropped from the feeder.

Just like my family, we changed our habits to conserve water. My daily shower became a “skip a day” here and there. Less flushing of the toilet, and a significant drop in the watering the garden helped conserve water. I’m sure the water pump and well water liked the brief respite. My dwarf Alberta spruce developed a gray-

ish green hue around the crown of the tree, and I’m hoping it will survive the harsh winter weather.

Mr. Robin continued walking on the deck railing, and very nervously paused under the block of suet. We watched him every day, inching closer to the suet feeder, and then it happened. He flew on top of the suet, and very awkwardly poked around the feeder. Instead of bobbing around on the ground, Mr. Robin wobbled on the top of the suet block and successfully ate a few bites of suet. His stance was precarious, and several times I thought he would tumble over.

I talked with my husband, Ray, and we got an idea. I searched the yard for a long, straight branch, and duck taped it four inches underneath the feeder. We waited. The robin kept going on top of the caged suet feeder, and again almost lost his balance. But, on the second day there was success. He perched on the branch, stretched his neck, and got a big mouthful of suet. We then became worried about the woodpeckers because they love the suet, too. But, Mr. Robin knew enough

not to infringe on the woodpeckers bounty. He waited patiently, and then hopped up on the lower branch. I guess he knew his pecking order because there was never a fight between the birds.

The robin was happy with this situation for six weeks. He came to the feeder everyday. Then as the days started getting much cooler I wondered if he was overstaying his welcome. Shouldn’t he be flying south? When Ray talked with the bird expert in Gilford, he learned two things: Robins routinely feed on suet. And, some robins stay here all winter. Guess you are never too old to learn something new. Bird watching is an adventure in

nature, and the following quote by bird lover Kathi Hutton expressed my sentiments exactly: “I don’t feed the birds be-

cause they need me; I feed the birds because I need them.”

Vivian Lee Dion of New Durham is a writer and speaker and can be reached at windyhollow@metrocast.net

This pandemic will not last forever.



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To help you look forward to living happily forever after, we have not missed a Sunday in broadcasting the Mass. We have also opened our church—*your* church—on weekends and weekdays as well as livestreaming at least one prayer or study event every weekday. You are always welcome to join us, in person or online.

Saturday: Confession at church at 3:00. Mass at church at 4:00.

Sunday: Mass at church at 8:30 and 10:30, online at 10:30 at stkdrexel.org, on the radio at 10:30 at WASR AM 1420/FM 97.1.

Monday: “Discovery Group” discussion at 7:00. Call for details.

Tuesday: Women’s “Abiding Together” discussion group and “Lectio Divina” prayer and discussion. Call for details.

Wednesday: Night Prayers any time after 7:00 at stkdrexel.org.

Thursday: Rosary at 6:30, Prayer Group at 7:00 at stkdrexel.org.

Friday: Eucharistic Adoration in church from 9:00 to noon.

Weekdays (except Thursday): Mass at 8:00.

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Cornerstone VNA welcomes Alexa Gordon



Alexa Gordon

ROCHESTER — Cornerstone VNA, a local nonprofit provider of high-quality, skilled care at home, is pleased to welcome their newest medical provider to their Palliative Care, Alexa Gordon MSN, FNP-BC, APRN, Nurse Practitioner. According to Christine Dumont, NP, MSN, APRN, Palliative Care Manager, “We are thrilled to announce that Alexa has joined our Palliative Care Program. Alexa brings with her years of experience that will benefit our patients and their family members in our community.”

Gordon received her degree in nursing from Simmons College in 2006

and graduated as Nurse Practitioner in 2011.

According to Gordon, “I went to nursing school because I wanted to help people and improve their quality of life.”

Gordon worked as an RN at Frisbie Memorial Hospital (FMH) on the coronary care unit for five years before returning to school to obtain her master’s degree. She then worked for three years in Massachusetts before returning to FMH in the geriatric psychiatry department.

She adds, “I came to Cornerstone VNA to focus on person-centered care, and to be able to

work with patients in their own environments [home], and help them define and meet their goals of care.”

Julie Reynolds, RN, MS, President/CEO, adds, “We are very excited to have Alexa join our growing team of Palliative Care specialists. Her experience in cardiology and geriatrics will enhance our ability to manage our aging population and their healthcare needs at home.”

Cornerstone VNA is a nonprofit organization currently serving Rockingham, Strafford, Belknap and Carroll Counties in New Hampshire and York Coun-

ty in Maine. The team at Cornerstone VNA provides award-winning care and support through five distinct programs: Home Care, Hospice Care, Palliative Care, Life Care-Private Duty and Community Care. For 107 years, Cornerstone VNA has been committed to bringing services to people of all ages so that families can stay together at home, even when facing the challenges of aging, surgical recovery, chronic or life-threatening illnesses or end-of-life care. To learn more about Cornerstone VNA, visit www.cornerstonevna.org or call 800-691-1133.

Professional exterminator addresses Rotary Club

ALTON — If it crawls, slithers, flies, bites, stings, or eats your property, then, as Ryan Theil, president

of A-1 Exterminators, Nashua, explained to members of the Alton Centennial Rotary Club at its weekly zoom meeting, “We can solve your problem.”

Theil continued his talk warning all to be wary of ticks, all ticks, because they carry more than just Lyme disease,

and if you should get bit by one, to seal it in a zip top bag and if later you are ill a week or two

later, to bring the tick with you to your doctor for a diagnosis. Other advice included when buying mulch, be sure to buy it from a local source because mulch from out of state is likely to include eggs, lava and other unwanted vermin or insects.

He strongly suggested it’s a good idea to have

an exterminator check your property and land surrounding your home three to four times each year. A-1 Exterminators is a pest control service servicing both residential and commercial businesses. It’s a family

owned company, and has been in business serving the Lakes Region for more than 60 years. Whether it’s a single family home, multi-family residence, or any property that has a problem with bed bugs, mosqui-

tos, ants, termites or a need for wildlife control, your best bet for getting ahead of the problems, and protect your property against serious damage caused by pests, you should team-up with a company that special-

izes in pest control. To contact A-1 Exterminators, see: alexterminators.com.

For information on membership in Rotary, contact Duane Hammond at 569-3745.



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ALTON — The Alton Business Association is happy to announce the Second Annual Alton Festival of Trees!

Participating businesses/organizations/residents will register and “donate” a tree, decked out with all the trimmings of their choosing (think holiday theme or business-related items)! Businesses will display the tree in their place of business (inside or outside), and

post photos of it to the ABA Facebook event page. Residents will do the same and take pictures and/or video and post to this event page. For those not on Facebook, photos with description can be emailed to info@altonbusinessassociation.com. To register, please email the ABA or complete the registration form on our website, www.altonbusinessassociation.com.

The trees will be raf-

fled off and tickets are available for \$1 each per tree entry. Raffle tickets can be purchased at select tree locations or on our website. Participants enter for a chance to win their favorite tree(s) or wreath(s). Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Alton Community Services Mrs. Santa Fund. At the end of the event, each of the trees will be given to the raffle winners. Winners are responsible for picking up the tree from the

sponsor.

We’ll also ask our community to vote for a “Community Favorite” tree. (How cool was last year’s winner from the Alton Police Association!?) At the end of the event, our participating businesses and residents will have made the season brighter, and supported a great local cause.



ALTON POLICE LOG



There were 3 Motor Vehicle Accidents.

There were 4 Suspicious Person/Activity Reports on (2) Wolfeboro Highway, Spokies Way & Main Street.

There were 2 Thefts reported on Coffin Brook Road & Hermit Road.

Police made 12 Motor Vehicle Stops and handled 5 Motor Vehicle Complaint-Incidents.

There were 106 other calls for services that consisted of the following: 1 Public Hazard, 1 Neighborhood Dispute, 2 Assist Fire Department, 1 Employment Fingerprinting, 5 Assist Other Agencies, 1 Pistol Permit Application, 2 Animal Complaints, 1 Domestic Complaint, 5 General Assistance, 1 Missing Adult, 3 Alarm

Activations, 1 Lost/Found Property, 2 Highway/Roadway Hazards, 4 General Information, 2 Vehicle ID Checks, 1 Harassment, 2 Civil Matters, 2 Wellness Checks, 1 Dispute, 42 Directed Patrols, 2 Follow-Up Reporting, 5 Medical Assists, 17 Property Checks & 2 Paperwork Services.

Alton Parks and Recreation Connection

“Light Up Alton” Event

Holiday House Decorating Contest & Business Decorating Contest

Let’s make the season bright by bringing holiday spirit to Alton.

For Residents: The Alton Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a Holiday House Decorating Con-

test. The contest is open to homes within the Alton and Alton Bay zip codes (03809 & 03810). For an Entry Form and Contest Rules go to www.alton.nh.gov or contact Alton Parks and Recreation at 875-0109 or parksrec@alton.nh.gov.

FOR BUSINESSES/Nonprofits: The ABA is sponsoring the Business Decorating Contest. For

Business Entries, email your pictures to the ABAinfo@altonbusinessassociation.com or post on the ABA/Alton Parks & Recreation Facebook Event Page, be sure to include your business name!

Judging will take place December 9-10, 2020. Prizes will be awarded to category winners for both Residents and Businesses! Winners will be announced on December 11, 2020. Categories for prizes are: People’s Choice (Facebook Vote); Most Holiday Spirit; Creative Use of Lights; and Best Main Street Location. Happy decorating Alton and THANK YOU for joining us in bringing festive cheer to our community.

PORTRAITS • WEDDINGS • SCENICS • EVENTS



Fassetts
PHOTOGRAPHY
Matthew Fasset
53 Suncook Valley Rd.
Alton, NH 03809
phone: 603-393-7336
email: matfasset@gmail.com

Village Players launch appeal for donations

WOLFEBORO — Wolfeboro's community theater, The Village Players, is hoping that this year's holiday season annual appeal will bring in funds to help cover expenses for the coming year. With the COVID pandemic, the Village Players had to shut down their onstage productions and classic movie showings. The organization is fortunate to own their wonderful old building on Glendon Street and also to have received an emergency relief fund grant, much of which will go to a COVID-related upgrade of the HVAC sys-



COURTESY

While The Village Players wait to get back on stage, they hope donors will give to their Annual Appeal.

tem. But with this year's loss of income, there is a great need for funds to maintain the building and to prepare to bring back live theater as soon as possible. The Village Players know this has been a tough year for many in our community, but asks those who are able to consider making a donation to The Village Players, and to other arts organizations in our area. Any amount, large or small is welcome. Donors can mail a check to PO Box 770, Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or give online at village-players.com.

Burnt Timber Brewing & Tavern releases new cider and ale

WOLFEBORO — A family-friendly 24-seat brewpub in downtown Wolfeboro that features rotating beers and a full food menu, Burnt Timber Brewing & Tavern recently released a new cider and ale. "Sapsaicin" is a smoked

habanero maple bourbon barrel aged cider and represents the latest in Burnt Timber's small batch cider series. "We took habaneros from friend Kyle Clark's pepper emporium in Pittsfield, smoked them in-house and blended

them into a tincture with maple syrup," said Owner Eddie Michno. "We then added it into cider aging in our maple bourbon oak barrel." The ale, "How 'Bout Them Smoked Apples," is made from 100 pounds of apples

from Cooper Farms in West Paris, Maine. "We cored and sliced the apples and then smoked them," said Michno. "We then added the smoked apples to the kettle and fermented this beauty with kveik yeast."

The ale also includes clove and allspice. "It's a perfect ale for this time of year," he added. "We like to come up with new flavor profiles that are as approachable as they are fun, and I think we did that with these two offerings."

To learn more about Burnt Timber Brewing & Tavern, located at 96 Lehner St., Wolfeboro, visit burnttimbertavern.com.

Carol Bickford retires after 37 years Supporting Local Mutual Banks



Carol Bickford

MEREDITH — After 37 years, Carol Bickford, the Senior Vice President and Retail Lending Officer for Meredith Village Savings Bank (MVS), Merrimack County Savings Bank (the Merrimack) and Savings Bank of Walpole (SBW) is retiring. Bickford currently stewards the mortgage and personal lending programs for all three banks. Her last working day is Dec. 18. Bickford joined the MVS lending team in 1983 and quickly moved up through the ranks. She was promoted to Senior Vice President of Retail Lending at MVS in 2009; and was promoted to include the Merrimack in 2014, and again to include Savings Bank of Walpole in 2019. She has been a valued member of the senior level staff for over fifteen years. Bickford's success is attributed to her quick understanding and assessment of New Hampshire's unique home market. As a community banker, she has led her team to become experts in the region, helping

them appreciate the challenges and rewards of building, buying and owning a home locally. The highly skilled mortgage specialists of MVS, the Merrimack and SBW offer personal, tailored support that fit individual needs. They specialize in first-time home-buying, construction lending and second homes. They also manage many partnerships with an array of vendors and businesses involved in the home buying process. "For almost four decades, Carol's leadership in our residential lending area has been a cornerstone to the success of our company, making thousands of dreams come true with home ownership in our state," said Rick Wyman, President of Meredith Village Savings Bank. "Her leadership and service has made us stronger and better through the years. Carol will be very missed, and we wish her the best in retirement."

"It has been an absolute honor to spend my banking career at such a remarkable organization," said Bickford. "Our three banks have each recorded a significant amount of success over the past 150 years. I am deeply fortunate to have worked with such incredible colleagues and have been blessed to connect with so many people over the years. Now I'm looking forward to many new experiences with family

and friends and opportunities that will allow me to continue making a difference." Carol Bickford is a member of the Mortgage Market Committee for American Bankers Association. She also previously served on the Mortgage Committee for New Hampshire Bankers, and was a Board Member of Lakes Region Community Developers (formerly Laconia Area Community Land Trust) as well as the Lakes Region United Way. She has also been involved with several past projects with the Town of Meredith, including an update of the town's Master Plan. Bickford attended New Hampshire College for business and is a graduate of the ABA Graduate School of Banking at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College. Unlike stock banks which focus on driving income to their stock-holders, Meredith Village Savings Bank, Merrimack County Sav-

ings Bank and Savings Bank of Walpole are mutual savings banks that operate expressly for the benefit of their depositors, borrowers and surrounding communities. As a result, each bank has remained steadfast in fostering the economic health and well-being of their communities, prioritizing the values of accountability, mutuality, excellence, respect, integrity, teamwork and stewardship in all matters of business and service. Founded in 1869, Meredith Village Savings Bank has been serving people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities of Seacoast, Central and Lakes Region of NH for over 150 years. To learn more, visit any of their local branch offices in Alton, Ashland, Center Harbor, Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Moultonborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth or Wolfeboro, call 800.922.6872 or visit mvsb.com. Founded in 1867, Merrimack County

Savings Bank has been serving the people, businesses, non-profits and municipalities in central and southern New Hampshire for over 150 years. The Merrimack was voted "Best Bank" by the Capital Area's People's Preferences for the 10th consecutive year in 2020. To learn more, visit any of their local offices in Bow, Concord, Contoocook, Hooksett and Nashua, call 800.541.0006 or visit themerrimack.com. Founded in 1875, Savings Bank of Walpole is headquartered in Walpole and serves the Connecticut River Valley and Monadnock Regions of New Hampshire and Vermont from offices in Walpole and Keene. With assets totaling \$460 million, the Bank offers a wide range of financial products, including services to individuals, businesses and organizations. For more information call 603.352.1822 or visit walpolebank.com. New Hampshire Mutual Bancorp, a shared

services organization, was formed in 2013 when two New Hampshire-based community banks, Meredith Village Savings Bank and Merrimack County Savings Bank, formally affiliated – the first relationship of its kind in the state. This strategic partnership has positioned the banks to leverage each other's strengths as they work together to advance a shared vision of maintaining and enhancing community banking standards and values. MillRiver Wealth Management joined as a third affiliate in 2015, combining the financial advisory divisions of MVS and the Merrimack. Savings Bank of Walpole joined NHMB in 2018. In 2020, MillRiver Wealth Management affiliated with the New Hampshire Trust Company and Savings Bank of Walpole Wealth Management to become NHTrust. NHMB combined assets total more than \$2.8 billion. For more information, visit nhmutual.com.

Belknap House receives grant from BCAF



LACONIA — Belknap House received a generous grant award from the Bishop's Charitable Assistance Fund (BCAF). The grant will provide additional technology, enabling families access to agencies and educational opportunities. Belknap House will be able to further expand its capacity for parents to connect and collaborate with social services and support systems. Our shelter programs and case management, work direct-

ly toward empowering homeless families to become self-sufficient. Significant changes have taken place since the onset of the pandemic. Parent meetings with agency personnel and education classes, some of which were held at Belknap House, are now accessed remotely. Through their grant award, the Board of the BCAF recognized the importance for parents to maintain consistent connections with sup-

port services, in order to make progress on their goals toward re-housing. Belknap House staff and families extend heartfelt gratitude to the BCAF. Belknap House is the only family-centered shelter in Belknap County providing homeless families safe shelter and case management. Paula Ferenc, Executive Director shares, "Our goal is to provide safe shelter enabling families to first feel safe

and stabilized when they arrive. Then parents are ready to collaborate with case management. Together they develop a plan with goals and step to reach those goals, with the ultimate goal of re-housing. This approach offers families a helping hand-up, enabling both parents and children opportunities to grow, developing skills and confidence that will serve them well beyond their stay as Belknap House."

THE REAL REPORT

RECENT REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Town	Address	Type	Price	Seller	Buyer
Alton	394 E. Side Dr.	Single-Family Residence	\$312,000	Gregory Tinkham	Lauren E. Provencher
Alton	Stockbridge Corner Road	N/A	\$392,000	Bethal Builders LLC	Joel P. and Melissa M. Arsenault
Alton	N/A	N/A	\$150,000	Bank of America NA	Elizabeth J. McKinney RET
Alton	N/A	N/A	\$429,933	Dobbins Brook LLC	Marion R. Labore RET
Barnstead	49 Danbury Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$265,000	Cheryl A. Dudley	Donovan E. Funk
Barnstead	17 Davis Dr.	Other Exempt	\$283,000	Sec Investments LLC	Kurt W. Haddad and Amanda R. Finchum
Barnstead	40 Emerson Dr.	Single-Family Residence	\$185,000	Joseph L. and Lisa M. Diener	Joshua R. Gould
Barnstead	36 Hemlock Rd.	N/A	\$250,000	20 Hemlock Road LLC	Donald M. Morse and Krystin Corliss
Barnstead	Peacham Road	N/A	\$57,933	Theresa A. Gagnon	Ronald E. and Jane E. Haskell
Barnstead	51 Shaw Rd.	Single-Family Residence	\$580,000	Diane & Paul Vince Trust	Stephen F. Birnie and Wendy E. Rooney
Barnstead	White Oak Road	N/A	\$77,533	Anita B. and Peter Bielicki	Benjamin and Joyce Tompkins

ABOUT THE REAL REPORT

Here are recent real estate transactions in Alton and the surrounding areas. These sales summaries are informational only, not a legal record. Names shown are usually the first listed in the deed. Sales might involve

additional parties or locations. Prices are usually based on tax stamps and might be inaccurate for public agency sales. Refer to actual public documents before forming opinions or relying on this information. Additional publicly recorded information on these sales, prior sales and data from Department of Revenue Administration forms is available at www.real-data.com

or 669-3822. Copyright 2011. Real Data Corp. In the column "Type": land= land only; L/B= land and building; MH= mobile home; and COND=condominium. Transactions provided by The Warren Group, Boston Ma., publishers of The Registry Review and Bankers and Tradesman newspapers, Phone: 1-800-356-8805. Website: www.thewarrengroup.com

Drawing Us Together for the Holidays... and For the Kids!

LACONIA — With the holiday season approaching, Laconia Artist Larry Frates has partnered with Tagg Team Community Challenge team to offer a creative way for the community to support the Children's Auction. Frates created a drawing of a winter home scene, complete with a welcoming snowman and mailbox for holiday letters. While his original drawing will

be offered to the high bidder during the December auction, Frates wanted to take it a few steps further. "Drawing Us Together for the Holidays" is an art lesson available to offer Facebook users the opportunity to create their own pencil drawing. Frates shared, "All you need is a piece of paper, a pencil with an eraser and follow my

step-by-step instructions to complete your drawing. Access to my one hour class will be provided after payment is received. The class can be viewed at the convenience and location of the budding artists. Artists of all ages, family groups or even grandparents can enjoy this relaxing activity together." The drawing lesson can be for yourself or

a holiday gift to family members to draw wherever they reside. Completed drawings can be matted and framed to use as a holiday gift or donated to the auction. The \$20 lesson donation will be accepted by check or online donation. Mail your check payable to the GLR Children's Auction to Judi Taggart, 28 Red Oak Dr., Gilford. For online donations, visit Tagg



Artist Larry Frates is offering a drawing lesson of this winter scene with all donations benefitting the Children's Auction.

Team's Give Gab online donation tool on the Children's Auction website at this link: www.givegab.com/teams/tagg-team. The purchaser should identify the donation is for Larry's art lesson and include the name of the Facebook account recipient for the lesson. Access to the "Art to You with Larry" Facebook private group will be available to class

participants shortly after payment is received. Sign up is suggested by early in December to create this drawing while supporting local kids. Questions about this drawing lesson can be addressed to Larry Frates at 387-3687, email fcac@tds.net or, for registration contact Judi Taggart at 493-9524, email tagtem@metro-cast.net

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Pastors Daniel and Sherrie Williams, 473-8914.
For more information, please visit abundantbarnestn.org or e-mail ahf@faith.com.

ALTON BAY CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER
Sundays throughout the summer 10 am & 7 pm; Tues-Thurs 9 am; 875-6161.

BEFREE COMMUNITY CHURCH, ALTON
Alton 9:30 a.m. Sun. Meeting at Prospect Mountain High School. Pastor Sam Huggard, www.befreechurch.net.

CENTER BARNSTEAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Morning Service 10:00 am.
Adult and Teen Bible Study 11:15 am.
Sunday School for all ages 10:00 am.
Rte. 126 next to Town Hall.
Pastor Brian Gower, 269-4831.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF ALTON
Prayer Meeting 9:00 am
Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Hollis, 875-5561.
Ray service 8:30 am Alton Bay Gazette, Alton, NH
10 am Worship Service
20 Church Street, Alton
Our services are live streamed on YouTube
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MACKENZIE

(continued from Page A1)

cess, which brought Donna Young to us.”

MacKenzie became Town Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector and Young served as Tax Collector/Deputy Town Clerk.

“This working relationship has worked very well,” Kinmond stated, “and they have been a great team over the past four years.”

“I like the team, and so does Donna,” MacKenzie said. “I like to share responsibilities in a team situation. Donna has a banking background so she was perfect for tax collector.”

It takes five years to become a Town Clerk.

“We’d go away annually for a week of training,” she said. “Laws, RSAs, and procedures are always changing and you need to keep up. For instance, the election was quite different this year because of the coronavirus.”

MacKenzie and

Young work well together not only as employees but also as volunteers.

“Donna and I heard a lot of older people in town talk about how much they liked the Senior Dinner in December and how they didn’t see anyone all winter long. Three years ago, we had the idea of preparing lunches for our residents,” she said.

They had the fire station Community Room “painted and fixed up, bought utensils and plates at the Dollar Store, and shared the cooking with other volunteers” to result in monthly Senior Lunches during the colder months.

MacKenzie makes it sound easy, but a lot of work went into the endeavor. They organized everything as private citizens and were joined by a host of other Town employees.

“Stephanie and Donna have a passion to assist our residents,” Kinmond said, “and they hosted the luncheons prepared by volunteers

at no cost to seniors. The events often also had guest speakers or light entertainment and were an overwhelming success.”

As finance officer, Anina Soucy does not interact much officially with the Town Clerk, but in a private capacity she does.

“I thought holding Senior Lunches was a great idea and when she asked me to help out I said, ‘Of course,’ and immediately became part of it,” Soucy said. “I’ve always enjoyed working with her.”

“I’m so looking forward to restarting the luncheons,” MacKenzie said, “once it’s declared safe to congregate again.”

And therein lies the reason for her good spirits about retiring; it’s not adieu at all because she plans on still being a presence in town. Aside from taking the New Hampshire Master Gardener program, all of her other retirement intentions have to do with

continuing volunteer work for the town.

“I’ll help with the flower beds and Senior Lunches,” she said. “I’m going to be a ballot clerk so I can see all of the people I’ve worked with for years; I like seeing people come in and vote.”

Elections have always been a source of satisfaction with MacKenzie.

“I’m very proud of the integrity of elections and how they are run in New Hampshire,” she said. “And I’m proud of the excellent work done by all of our election workers, ballot clerks, supervisors, and the moderator.”

In fact, she considers welcoming children at elections so they are “comfortable about voting” one of the most interesting aspects of her job. She also took pleasure in making kids “feel easy” with local government by giving tours of Town Hall, which included bringing them down to the old jail in the basement.

“That was a big deal. They want their pictures taken in front of it,” she said.

MacKenzie said she loved performing weddings. “There was an increase of Town Hall weddings because of the virus,” she said. “People will have their celebrations later when it’s safe.”

She noted that brides and grooms run the gamut, adding “We’ve had people come directly from their gardens in dusty jeans or all dressed up in wedding attire with their bridesmaids.”

Kinmond recalled MacKenzie’s efforts regarding the Town Report, noting “She has done a great job as editor-in-chief.”

She said a past job at a newspaper prepared her for tackling the annual project.

“Her ability to assemble and organize the layout of the Town Report and the selection of a community photograph for the cover has been outstanding, and a

great asset to our ‘lean’ Town Hall staff,” Kinmond said.

For her part, MacKenzie said, “I was proud of the Town Report because the print used to be such a small font and now it’s readable.”

Looking back on the best part of working for the Town, MacKenzie can answer without hesitation.

“It was seeing all of our wonderful townspeople and wonderful children. It feels good to help solve problems and bring in money for the Town.”

She said she would miss her colleagues and the townspeople the most, but she has teamed with Young, now the appointed Town Clerk who will run for election in 2021, for years, and trained incoming Tax Collector Shannon Feger.

“I know the Town is in very good hands,” she said

HOLIDAYS

(continued from Page A1)

sporting experiences. Pumpkin carving on the library’s front lawn has been an annual event for years thanks to the partnership, and this past autumn, with the library closed due to Covid-19 concerns, staff members moved their Halloween extravaganza to the Meetinghouse to join forces with the recreation department.

High on the library’s wish list is a storywalk, where laminated pages of a book are attached to stakes installed along an outdoor path. Readers/walkers are directed along the trail to the next page. Combining physical activity with literacy is a perfect fit for the partnership between the library and the recreation department.

Because there is insufficient space for a full-fledged storywalk on the library grounds, staff members have had their eyes on the Meetinghouse nature trails, along with permanent posts and frames for the

story pages, for a while now.

“The lighted Christmas trail is a great opportunity for the library,” Chasse said. “We’ll be setting up a temporary walk for this event.”

Just as there are twists and turns along the track, there is a twist in the library’s storywalk, also.

Based on Charles Dickens’ holiday favorite of similar name, “A New Durham Christmas Carol” is set in New Durham, rather than England, and during 1816.

There’s some local history, to be sure, but the main objective is entertainment and the story is suitable for all ages.

Much more than twinkling lights in the woods and a seasonal story await attendees of Light Up Your Night, though.

Christmas carols will be piped along the trail and a holiday movie will be projected on the front of the Meetinghouse. Costumed characters are planned to appear throughout the story-

walk and kids will have a chance to meet Santa and make s’mores. Inside the building, hot chocolate will be served alongside a festive tree.

Ample parking is available. Face masks are required and the event is free, although donations are welcome. Social distancing will be maintained. If there is snow on the ground, parents may bring sleds to pull their children.

Volunteers are still needed for a variety of tasks. If interested in helping to string lights, be on the grounds during the event, or put together costumes, contact Chasse at ndrec@newdurhamnh.us.

“We’re going to make it happen,” Chasse said of the winter wonderland currently in the works. “I’m doing segments and the library is doing segments and we’re pulling it all together.”

All told, residents will have a bright holiday to look forward to.

OVEN

(continued from Page A1)

Farr said. “Public education must provide our young people with an appreciation for the arts, academic skills, civic engagement and job skills... Growing up in rural New Hampshire, I witnessed the effect of not having the skills to be successfully employed and the

benefits of having valued skills in the workplace. In his opinion, it is “a continuing issue that the general public still does not know about this educational arm in the state. In many ways, Career Technical Education continues to be an unseen ‘jewel’ of public education.”

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020
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Charles and Nancy McKay

You are hereby notified that a virtual Public Hearing via Zoom will be held by the New Durham Planning Board on Tuesday, December 01, 2020 at 7:00 pm. The hearing is regarding the Review of Excavation Permit application from Jones and Beach Engineering Inc. on behalf Charles and Nancy McKay Map 102 Lot 005 and Map 102 Lot 006, Pine Point Road New Durham NH. Any questions on how to connect using Zoom contact Brian Cauler Land Use Administrative Assistant via email ndlanduse@newdurhamnh.us or the Planning Board.

The property is located at Pine Point Road Map 102 Lot 005 and Map 102 Lot 006.

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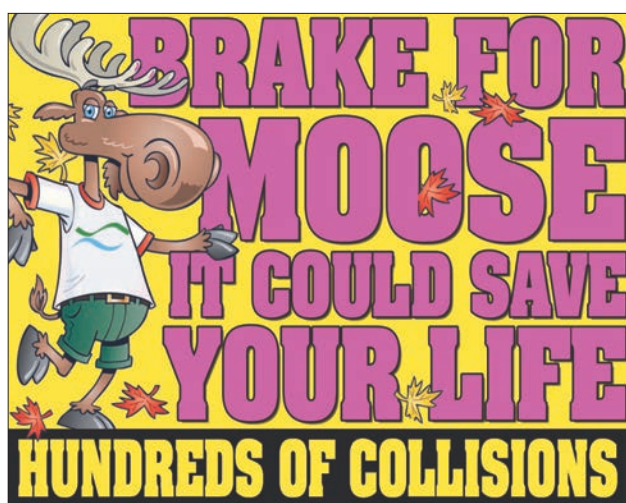
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WFOM presents special holiday concert

WOLFEBORO — The Wolfeboro Friends of Music continues its virtual extravaganza presentations for Wolfeboro and the lakes region with our third presentation. On Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m., we will bring to you the Sea Reeds Quartet. The quartet is a gathering of virtuoso regional professionals whom we are

sure you have met in a number of other guises. Simply email info@wfriendsofmusic.org to request the link to the special YouTube channel. The link will be released the afternoon prior to concert time and sent to your email address. Access to this WFOM virtual concert is free of charge. The concert will be recorded and

will be available to all requestors for one week after the performance date.

2020 has been a difficult period for people worldwide. Though December holidays are typically filled with family gatherings, parties, religious celebrations, concerts, and looking forward to a new year, this year is certain to be different. To offset that and add holiday cheer, Sea Reeds Quartet would like to take you on a musical and visual journey celebrating the holiday music we all enjoy.

Sea Reeds Quartet uses a variety of woodwind instruments (Flute, Eb Clarinet, Bb Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Soprano Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone) to present a varied bounty of musical settings accompanied by changing



visual backgrounds and verbal explanations of the repertoire. The repertoire will celebrate Christmas, Three Kings Day, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's with works by Tchaikovsky, Britten, Vaughn Williams, Anderson, and others in a variety of styles and settings. We would be honored to present our Christmas Meditations perfor-

mance for the Wolfeboro Friends of Music this December. In past seasons WFOM has depended on ticket sales, advertisers, sponsors and donors to sustain itself. This year, WFOM has granted our last year's advertisers and sponsors a full additional year's credit at no additional cost to them. Their advertisements and webpages are to be

found linked on our website. In the absence of any paid sponsors or advertisers WFOM would be immensely appreciative if any music lover/supporter would consider going to our website (wfriendsofmusic.org) and making a donation or mailing a donation to WFOM, PO Box 2056, Wolfeboro, NH 03894.

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RE/MAX Bayside donates to St. Vincent de Paul, Toys for Tots

REGION — Once again, the owners, staff and agents of RE/MAX Bayside recently delivered 40 turkeys to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry and Thrift Store in Laconia. Each year, this worthy organization provides approximately 800 Lakes Region families Thanksgiving dinners that include all the fixings from turkey to dessert.

"More than ever, this holiday season is a time to help those less fortunate," said Chris Kelly, the company's owner.

RE/MAX Bayside is also deeply involved in the Toys for Tots program. It is one of the region's busiest drop off locations. New, unwrapped items or monetary donations may be

dropped off at the Meredith Office (208 Daniel Webster Highway at the junction of Routes 3 & 104), or at the Laconia Office (604 Main St., across from the Colonial Theatre on Route 106 in downtown Laconia). For contactless donations, collections boxes will be outside each office during business hours. Or if you call the office

number below upon arrival, we are happy to offer curbside pick-up.

For more information about the Toys for Tots program call RE/MAX Bayside's Meredith Office at 279-0079, the Laconia Office at 527-8200, or e-mail info@baysidenh.net.



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