

# e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**SAU6 Schools Home  
to Little Free Libraries;  
page 17**

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Jan. 10, 2022

## New City Council Sworn In

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—It's a new year, and, a new City Council. The new council was seated Wednesday night as all nine members were sworn in by City Clerk Gwen Melcher. Sworn in were Mayor Dale Girard, Asst. Mayor Debora Matteau, Ward 1 Councilor Andrew O'Hearne, Ward 2 Councilor James Contois, Ward 3 Councilor Jonathan Stone, and At-Large Councilors Matthew Mooshian, Nicholas Koloski, Lucas "Rocky" Beliveau and William Limoges.

In his welcome to the council and to the community, Girard said,

"Good evening, Assistant Mayor, Council Members and Citizens of Claremont. I want to begin by saying how excited I am to be your Mayor and I want to challenge all of us sitting at this table to remember the reason we stepped up to volunteer in this capacity: the Citizens of Claremont have bestowed an honor upon us as we continue to move our City in a positive direction.

"Many times, we find ourselves dwelling on negatives. This is a common occurrence in many communities, not just Claremont. How might we correct this? Let us ponder the words of David Lynch, "Negativity is the enemy of creativity."

"When you hear comments such as, 'the city is heading in a bad direction', take the time to think about the positives. Over the past 15 to 20 years, we have seen many areas of

progress. One of the biggest accomplishments could be Water Street. In the not-too-distant future we will have 83 new apartments available to our residents. The parking garage that took great vision to build will now be at near capacity. This past summer the Pleasant Street project began which is improving our infrastructure which was nearly 100 years old. With the project being done over two construction seasons we have been given the ability to see the configuration of the street prior to the project's completion. This allows us to address potential concerns of residents



**Front: Asst. Mayor Debora Matteau, Mayor Dale Girard, Councilor James Contois; back row: Councilors Andrew O'Hearne, Jonathan Stone, Matthew Mooshian, Nicholas Koloski, Lucas "Rocky" Beliveau and William Limoges (Eric Zengota photo).**

(Continued on page 6)

## Former Keene Man Pleads Guilty to Fraudulently Obtaining CARES Act Funds

CONCORD, NH—Andre McBreairty, 45, previously of Keene, has pled guilty in federal court to making false statements to obtain CARES Act funds, United States Attorney John J. Farley announced.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed several measures designed to help small businesses, including the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act created, among other things, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Under that program, businesses could obtain low-interest loans to meet payroll during the first few months of the pandemic. If the money was spent on payroll and other approved purposes such as utilities and rent, the Small Business Administration (SBA)

would forgive the loans in full. Congress later passed the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits and Venues Act, which authorized a second tranche of PPP loans.

The SBA also opened up its Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program to businesses. Under the program, businesses could obtain loans for working capital and normal operating expenses. EIDL applicants were also eligible for advances of up to \$15,000, provided certain conditions were met. These advances generally do not need to be repaid.

According to court documents and statements made in court, the defendant lied about his payroll and income to obtain three CARES Act loans. For example, when applying for a loan under the EIDL program, McBreairty falsely claimed that his annual income was \$100,000. When applying for a PPP loan, he generated a false IRS form inflating his 2020 earnings. Overall, McBreairty obtained and misused \$55,316 in CARES Act proceeds that he was not entitled to receive.

McBreairty, who now resides in Pennsylvania, is scheduled to be sentenced on April 14.

“Although Congress passed the CARES Act to provide financial assistance during the pandemic, some greedy individuals have used fraud to obtain funds they are not entitled to receive,” said U.S. Attorney Farley. “By submitting false documents and false information to obtain CARES Act funds, this defendant stole from the American taxpayers. Thanks to the hard work of federal law enforcement agents, he is now being held responsible for his unlawful conduct. As this case demonstrates, we are working closely with our law enforcement partners to identify and prosecute those who defraud federal assistance programs.”

“The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration aggressively pursues those who endeavor to defraud programs afforded to the American people under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,” said J. Russell George, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA). “We appreciate the efforts of the U.S. Department of Justice and our law enforcement partners in this effort.”

This matter was investigated by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration and Social Security Administration’s Office for the Inspector General.

### PUBLIC NOTICE For a meeting of the Conservation Commission

To be held on  
Thursday, January 20th, 2022 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers, City Hall  
Claremont NH

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**01/08/2022**

**NH PowerBall**  
20 21 36 60 65 13

**NH Mega Millions 01/07/2022**  
7 29 43 56 57 6

**Tristate Megabucks 01/08/2022**  
11 20 31 32 37 3

*For more lottery numbers,*  
<https://www.nhlottery.com/>

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# **Central Collections will be closed for staff training**

**Wednesday, January 12th,  
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9:00 am to 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm

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58 Opera House Sq.,  
Claremont, NH 03743

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<https://pay.eb2gov.com/ClaremontNH>

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Dog Licenses  
Renew Vehicle Registration  
Property Taxes  
Utility Bills

# Commentary

## NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier

### NH House Gets Back to Work

The New Hampshire House of Representatives' first 2022 gathering began with the sustenance of all gubernatorial vetoes as well as the postponement of many controversial measures for likely later this year.

The full House met for the first time since June 24, 2021, and again not in the newly-renovated Representatives Hall at the State House in Concord. Instead, we representatives gathered at Manchester's DoubleTree Hotel & Exposition Center Jan. 5 and 6. The two meetings were transferred to the more spacious DoubleTree by House Speaker Sherm Packard out of concern for protecting the health of House members and staff in the wake of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, which is presently sweeping through the Granite State. Meeting at the DoubleTree allowed for greater social distancing among seated members as well as separate entrances and bathrooms for representatives and staff who wished to wear masks and those who did not wish to wear facial coverings. Additionally, COVID test kits were mailed to all representatives by Speaker Packard, which we were encouraged to use just before Jan. 5 so that if we tested positive for the COVID virus, we would refrain from attending. Finally, the Jan. 5 and 6 gatherings were livestreamed over the internet so as to allow constituents to watch either at home or in separately designated rooms at the DoubleTree so as to simulate Representatives Hall's House Gallery.

The House and New Hampshire Senate first had to officially close out their 2021 Sessions by taking up all the measures vetoed by Gov. Christopher Sununu last year, on Jan. 5. The 24-member actually met in Representatives Hall, rather than the smaller Senate Chamber so as to again allow for greater social distancing. As is usually the case from my legislative experience, we representatives failed to override any of the five vetoed measures with which we were presented. These measures included four vetoed House bills as well as one vetoed Senate bill that the our state's upper chamber managed to override by the necessary two-thirds majority as required under the New Hampshire Constitution. This one Senate measure was Senate Bill 38, a bipartisan measure that would have created for-profit alternative treatment centers which would have offered treatment with therapeutic cannabis—more commonly known as “medical marijuana.” But the House, the lower chamber, sustained the veto on a 228-115 roll call vote with 228 votes in favor of overriding it, and 115 votes against—a margin that actually fell a few votes shy of a two-thirds majority.

As for the vetoed House bills, all four failed to garner even a simple majority for an override. For example, House Bill 98 that would have moved the State Primary from the second Tuesday in September to the first Tuesday in August only received 38 votes for an override and 313



votes against. House Bill 239, a poorly-written piece of legislation, the intent of which was to extend the statute of limitations for prosecution of individuals who harmed only juvenile victims, got only 35 override votes with 312 votes to sustain. House Bill 334, a firearms measure that would have allowed only the federal government and county sheriffs' departments to do criminal background checks on individuals buying guns, rather than the State Police, received 138 override votes, versus 212 to sustain. Finally, House Bill 242, which would have “marginally” improved the content of an adequate education for our state's public school students, garnered 165 override votes, with 182 votes against.

For the record, I supported overriding two of the five vetoes and sustaining the remaining three. The two vetoes I voted to override included those of House Bill 242 and Senate Bill 38. I chose to override the veto of the first bill because I believe it could have helped all of New Hampshire's public school children, including Claremont's. As for the second bill, I believed it was important to continue promoting the gradual expansion of medical marijuana—an alternative treatment for many individuals suffering various health ailments—treatment that I voted to support several years ago under then Gov. Maggie Hassan. As for sustaining the other three vetoes, I believed that both House Bills 239 and 334 may have had good intent but could have resulted in harmful consequences if both became law. As for House Bill 98, while I believe that moving up New Hampshire's State Primary from September to at least August may be a good idea, there should be more careful consideration about how such a move up would affect our state's Presidential Primary, Town Meeting Day, which in some communities is now held in May, and the filing period for all offices especially for state representative and senator as well as county positions.

After dealing with all the gubernatorial vetoes, the House was finally able to begin the 2022 Session late in the Morning of Jan. 5. First, House Clerk Paul Smith conducted an attendance roll call of all representatives at the DoubleTree using specially-assigned electronic clickers, which each of us was given upon arriving earlier that morning. The roll call indicated that 351 representatives had showed the morning of the first day. Next, we formally voted to assign over 800 pieces of legislation filed so far in this year's session to the House's 20 policy committees that begin public hearings on Jan. 11. Public hearings will continue for the next several weeks.

Next, representatives took up debating and voting on the approximately 191 pieces of legislation retained from 2021, or officially, the House Policy Committee recommendations on this retained legislation. We approved most of the noncontroversial recommendations by voice or division vote. But many of the more controversial committee recommendations on such bills as House Bills 607, 622, and 517 were tabled without a complete debate. In fact, according to my rough count, at least 24 bills were placed on the table because I think House Republican Leadership believed they didn't have the guaranteed number of votes to get the results they wanted on these bills, at least on Jan. 6. More specifically, House Bill 607 would have allowed local

**(Continued on page 5)**

## House of Representatives – Claremont

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**Rep. Anne Kuster**

137 Cannon House Office Building

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<http://kuster.house.gov/contact>

To find out who your local state representatives/senators are in Sullivan County, please visit

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/>

## **Banning Surprise Medical Bills – And What to Do if You Get One**

**By Senator Maggie Hassan**

Far too many Granite Staters and Americans have gone to a hospital for a medical emergency, then returned home saddled with an unexpected medical bill – sometimes to the tune of thousands of dollars – because they were treated by an out-of-network doctor.

Patients who thought they were following the rules and going to in-network hospitals instead found their family’s budget thrown into disarray – or found themselves deep in debt – because they were treated by an out-of-network doctor, often without their knowledge.

As of January 1, patients are no longer on the hook for these types of surprise bills. I’ve heard about this problem from countless constituents, such as one Granite Stater who sought treatment after he cut his finger making dinner. He later was charged \$3,500 because while he went to an in-network hospital, the physician who treated him there was an independent contractor whose services were not covered by his insurance.

After hearing story after story like this, I worked with my Republican colleague, Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, to build a bipartisan coalition and introduce legislation to help end surprise medical bills. We brought Democrats and Republicans together to find compromise and pass a solution into law.

Now, people in New Hampshire and across the country will not receive these absurd and unexpected medical bills. Our law protects patients from having to pay out-of-network prices for most emergency services, post-emergency stabilization services, and non-emergency services provided by out-of-network providers at in-network facilities.

For these covered services, hospitals and doctors can now bill patients only the in-network rates. And going forward, if patients receive higher bills for these services, they should contact the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 1-800-985-3059 and/or the New Hampshire Insurance Department at 1-800-852-3416 or 603-271-2261, or by email at [consumerservices@ins.nh.gov](mailto:consumerservices@ins.nh.gov). Granite Staters can get more information by visiting <https://www.cms.gov/no-surprises/consumers>.

These protections are a major win for patients. They are also a win for public health. Ending surprise medical bills will save taxpayers billions of dollars, and those savings are put to use to extend funding for public health, including for New Hampshire’s community health centers.

Ending surprise medical billing is an important, commonsense step toward lowering costs for Granite Staters. But there is a lot more work to do to strengthen our health care system and ensure that all Americans have access to high-quality, affordable care. I am committed to working with my Congressional colleagues and the people of New Hampshire to do just that.

### **Rep. Cloutier, from page 5**

school districts to implement education voucher programs if a 60 percent majority of district voters approved such vouchers. House Bill 622 as amended by the House Judiciary Committee would have repealed the requirement that all women seeking abortions undergo an ultrasound exam before the abortions were done, a requirement added to the operating budget bill last year. Finally, House Bill 517 would have raised New Hampshire’s minimum wage to \$15 per hour for most workers.

However, just to be clear, some of these bills could be removed from the table in future House meetings tentatively scheduled for either Feb. or March, depending on which measures they are. Under House rules, all that would be required is a simple majority vote of representatives to remove a measure from the table as late as March 24, provided the measure is going to a second House committee for more scrutiny. After March 24, it would take a two-thirds majority vote to remove all tabled measures. March 24 is “Crossover Day”—the last day for all legislation to be adopted and sent to the Senate, or rejected.

In my next column, I plan to write in a little more detail about some of the more controversial bills and their committee recommendations that were tabled. Also I will review some of the more important and controversial legislation that was actually approved by representatives Jan. 5 & 6.

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## Welcome, from page 1

and business owners; typically, issues are not seen until a project is completed. I'm hopeful the planning and development department can continue working with building owners to improve their building fronts and attract businesses to fill our empty spaces. This new configuration should be a conduit to having people come to our downtown. We are fortunate to have investors from inside and outside of Claremont recognize we have vast potential.

Our department heads have worked diligently to procure grants. This has allowed us to improve our infrastructure reducing a direct impact on our property tax rates.

"Please take the time to think about our wonderful assets. The list includes our parks and city owned buildings. I think many times we forget that our biggest asset is not bricks and mortar but the employees of the City of Claremont. They are the individuals who implement the work that moves our community in a positive direction. Next time you see an employee thank them for the effort they are putting in. We need to be a cohesive Council and stop what appears to be a division between city employees and the council.

"Over the past year I have noticed most residents in the community are not willing to speak at a public meeting regardless of a positive or negative thought. I ask each of you, whether you are sitting in council chambers or in the community, to take the time to listen to what a resident, city employee or the city manager is offering up to you. This is a great opportunity to hear their thoughts. Many times, they will mention an idea that could make a positive change in the community. When you receive a phone call or an email, please take the time to respond.

"We are a council of 9: Not one person on the council is larger than the group. Whether you agree or disagree with a decision we speak as a body of one once our votes are tallied. This does not mean you are not entitled to your own thoughts. When you speak out against the majority after a decision this can be confusing to the public. Your comments may be the first remarks they hear after a de-

cision was made by the council. Understand we will never all agree on projects, budgets or development within the City. This does not mean your opinion doesn't matter, but we need to accept the decision of the body and move forward.

"We will accomplish much more by being respectful to each other when council is in session. Please have all comments be about the topic at hand. This will ensure meetings move at a reasonable pace. Let us not allow our comments to be disrespectful to each other.

"There is an expectation that Councilors will fill seats on boards and committees—a link was sent to your council email last week. I am asking you to look at the specifics of each of these positions and on January 12th we will be accepting nominations to fill these seats. Attendance at these meetings is as important as being at your city council meeting. Some of the boards have several current citizen openings. If a council member does not show up, they may not have a quorum for the meeting. I also am asking residents to look at our current openings. Our city will run much better if we can get these seats filled.

"We are at an exciting time in Claremont's history. Every one of you will help shape our future. We will be working over the next several months to find a replacement for City Man-

rally around our administration helping with solutions. Anyone involved in team sports soon realizes that the strongest teams are the ones that have greatest leadership and the team rallies around the person who needs help. The team rallies together and doesn't dwell in the past.

"Over the past year I have heard one of our main objectives is transparency to the community. I will be mindful of this objective and promise to get information out to the council and the community so that it is timely and so that we may have thoughtful discussions with each other and our constituents. Councilors are expected to have reviewed their agendas and attached materials beforehand and be prepared for the ensuing discussion.

"Over the next couple of months, the council needs to come up with goals and objectives. This list will help us to measure our progress over the next two years. Residents, please take the time to reach out to a councilor and let them know your thoughts.

"Budget season will be coming upon us very quickly. We need to share our objectives on what we would like to see implemented. The budget is the largest policy decision we make each year.

"In closing I want to remind the council that our charge is to set policy, establish procedure and fiscal management for the City of Claremont. We are not here to interfere with day-to-day operations. Day-to-day operations will be conducted by the City Manager and the Department Heads.

"I am asking every member of the Council and Claremont citizens to feel positive about the direction the city is moving. I look forward to working with every one of you. In closing I would like to quote Abraham Lincoln, "Whatever you are, be a good one." Thank you for everything you have done in the past and I look forward to a momentous future."

Dale R. Girard  
Mayor, City of Claremont NH



**Three of the four at large councilors are new to the council and starting their first terms: Matt Mooshian, "Rocky" Beliveau and Bill Limoges. Nick Koloski is starting his seventh consecutive (Eric Zengota photos).**

ager Morris. During this time, we are fortunate to have the experience of a seasoned city manager in Mr. MacLean.

"We are going to have moments of adversity. Mistakes will happen, we need to support our leadership in City Administration. We need to

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*Girard starts his first elected term, his previous half-term was by appointment; Matteau — assistant mayor, second term; O'Hearne — Ward 1, third; Contois — Ward 2, second; Stone — Ward 3, third.*



## NH DHHS COVID-19 Update January 7, 2022

CONCORD, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issued the following update on the new coronavirus, COVID-19.

On Friday, January 7, 2022, DHHS announced 2,093 new positive test results for COVID-19 for Thursday, January 6. Those results included 1,454 people who tested positive by PCR test and 639 who tested positive by antigen test. DHHS also announced an additional 164 new cases from Saturday, January 1 (81 by PCR and 83 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,326; an additional 11 new cases

from Sunday, January 2 (7 by PCR and 4 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,012; an additional 111 new cases from Monday, January 3 (13 by PCR and 98 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,507; an additional 45 new cases from Tuesday, January 4 (5 by PCR and 40 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,941; and an additional 209 new cases from Wednesday, January, 5 (107 by PCR and 102 by antigen test) for a new total of 2,393. Test results for previous days are still being processed and updated case counts for prior days will be reflected on the COVID-19 interactive dashboard. There are now 15,340 current COVID-19 cases diagnosed in New Hampshire.

Several cases are still under investigation. Additional information from ongoing investigations will be incorporated into future COVID-19 updates. Of those with complete information, there were six hundred and fifty-one individuals under the age of 18 and the rest are adults with 55% being female and 45% being male. The new cases resided in Rockingham (541),

Hillsborough County other than Manchester and Nashua (343), Merrimack (294), Strafford (192), Grafton (175), Cheshire (149), Belknap (101), Carroll (68), Sullivan (66), and Coos (20) counties, and in the cities of Manchester (333) and Nashua (158). The county of residence is being determined for one hundred and ninety-three new cases.

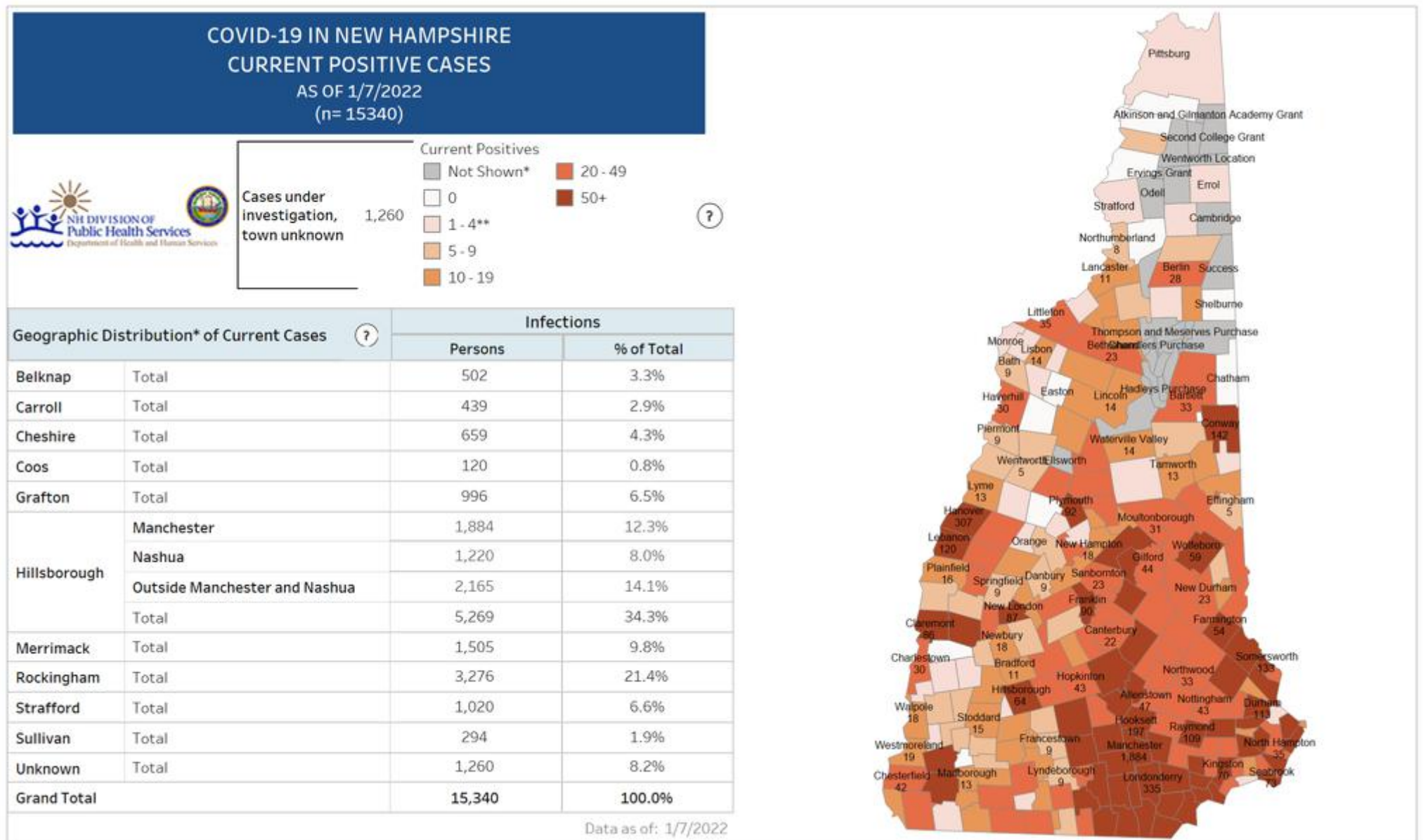
DHHS has also announced two additional deaths related to COVID-19.

1 male resident of Cheshire County, fewer than 60 years of age

1 male resident of Rockingham County, 60 years of age and older

There were currently 366 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. In New Hampshire, since the start of the pandemic, there have been a total of 214,572 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed.

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**COVID from page 7**

As of Friday, the 7th, there were 86 current positively identified cases in Claremont, 30 in Charlestown, and 64 in Newport, with additional cases identified in other county communities, including 7, Cornish; 24, Grantham; 32, Sunapee; 16, Plainfield; 6, Goshen; 5, Croydon; 9, Springfield; 10, Washington; and 1-4 in other Sullivan County communities. DHHS reported 294 currently positively identified cases in Sullivan County, up from 244 the previous week.

**COVID-19 Hotline**

211NH has been mobilized to handle all COVID-19 related calls from New Hampshire residents. All residents with questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 can call 2-1-1.

**Vaccine Information in NH**

For vaccine information, please visit <https://www.covid19.nh.gov/resources/vaccine-information>.

**Sununu, Elliot Hospital Welcome Department of Defense Team**

CONCORD, NH – Friday, Governor Chris Sununu visited Elliot at Rivers Edge in Manchester as a team of active duty service members from the Department of Defense, composed of medics, nurses, administrative support, and a physician arrived. The team is set to remain at Elliot Hospital until the beginning of February.

“We are grateful to have this team here in New Hampshire, and we continue to press for all available resources as we combat this winter surge,” said Governor Chris Sununu. “As always, I want to say thank you to the nurses, doctors, and health care workers who have worked tirelessly throughout this pandemic. I would also like to thank our federal partners for working with us to make this resource available, which will help to open additional beds and provide flexibilities to our health care system.”



**Members of the Department of Defense team with Greg Baxter, President of Elliot Health System, Kevin Desrosiers, Chief Medical Officer of Elliot Hospital and Elliot Medical Group Acute Care Services and Vice President of Medical Affairs, and Tate Curti, Chief Operating Officer of Elliot Hospital.**



**Governor Chris Sununu speaks with Major Laura Ivey-Glines, the officer in charge of the medical response team deployed to Elliot Hospital (Courtesy photos).**

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## Claremont School Board Proposes FY23 Budget

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—At Wednesday night's meeting, the Claremont School Board approved a proposed operating budget of \$37,243,825, \$16,305,917 to be raised by taxes. That compares to the current operating budget of \$37,785,406. A public hearing on the proposed FY23 proposed budget will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 18, at 6:30pm, at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center.

Expenses at Bluff decreased, due in part to one position not being filled as well as a number of turnovers that lower employee costs. Bluff would see a decrease of \$134,554. The Maple Ave school would see an increase of \$75,072 while Disnard would see an increase of \$209,409, based in part on contractual increases, health insurance and the addition of one or two positions. CMS would see an increase of \$255,984, due to contractual increases and anticipated out-of-district placements. The high school would see the largest decrease, \$454,322, almost all of which would be due to lower out-of-placement costs, offsetting some contractual and health insurance increases. Changes at the Tech Center include eliminating the nurse position and having the CMS nurse cover both facilities, not filling the business teaching position, eliminating a guidance counselor and reducing the director's position to part-time as well as the adult edu-

cation coordinator. These changes would reduce the Tech budget by \$181,236. Maintenance comes in roughly flat, transportation sees an increase of \$63,381.

The proposed operating budget would decrease the tax rate by \$1.68; however, four warrant articles, which will also be presented at the public hearing, would add the following increases per new collective bargaining agreements: secretaries, 3 cents; paraprofes-

sionals, 21 cents; maintenance & transportation, 4 cents; administrators, 7 cents, resulting in a tax rate decrease of \$1.33 overall.

SAU6 superintendent Mike Tempest also announced that SHS principal Pat Barry will be retiring at the end of the school year and the district will now be conducting a principal search for the high school as well as the previously announced permanent principal searches for Maple and Bluff.

### Leadership for Honest Education: School Board Candidate Training January 15th, 2022 | 10am - 12pm

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TLC Family Resource Center is seeking a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Provider. The LCMH will be a key partner in providing intensive services to families and children who have experienced trauma and/or are impacted by substance use, child abuse, and neglect. The LCMH will be responsible for child and family screenings, assessments and follow up, Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) or similar parent-child therapy, responding to and making referrals as needed, actively participate in team meetings about wraparound services for TLC clients receiving or referred for CPP and prepare reports as needed for court hearings.



TLC is offering this position at 20-40 hours per week with evening and weekend hours available to provide maximum flexibility to potential applicants who may have another part-time position or applicants who desire a full-time schedule but need flexibility in their work hours.

In addition to a competitive salary, TLC Resource Center offers health insurance for eligible employees, a retirement contribution, paid trainings and certifications, mentorship and orientation for new employees, a flexible work schedule, supervision towards licensure, and generous paid time off within a supportive team environment. To learn more and apply, please visit: <https://www.tlcfamilyrc.org/mental-health-clinician.html>.



## Report Your Winter Wild Turkey Sightings

CONCORD, NH – The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is asking the public to report wild turkey sightings this winter by participating in the 2022 Winter Turkey Flock Survey. The survey opened on January 1 and will run through March 31. Information about the status of wintering wild turkeys is very important because severe weather and limited natural food supplies can present serious challenges for turkeys. It's fun and easy to participate by visiting [www.wildnh.com/surveys/turkey.html](http://www.wildnh.com/surveys/turkey.html).

In 2021, 1,383 reports were received statewide for the Winter Turkey Flock Survey with 24,259 turkeys recorded averaging 17.54 turkeys per flock. "The results from last winter were lower than 2019 when the survey garnered 2,309 flock reports totaling 40,476 turkeys," said Allison Keating, The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Turkey Project Leader. "Both 2019 and 2020 featured survey results that were much higher than 2018 when only 486 flocks totaling 9,833 birds were reported. The increase in observation reports during the winters of 2020 and 2021 may be a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, because more people were at home and able to observe wildlife."

The average number of turkeys in a flock reported statewide during 2020 was 17.54, which is almost identical to the 2019 winter survey average of 17.53 turkeys per flock. During the 2021 Winter Turkey Flock Survey, Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) M in the southern part of the state reported the most flocks (298), followed by WMU L (198) and WMU J2 (189). WMUs M and J2 also reported high concentrations of turkeys in 2019.

The highest percentage of observed feeding occurred at backyard birdfeeders (63%). Twenty-one percent of turkeys were reported to have been feeding on acorns and beechnuts, while 15% were seen feeding on corn and grain, and 1% were witnessed eating apples or crab apples.

Public attitudes toward winter flocks of wild turkeys continue to be very favorable: 91.1% of respondents indicated that they strongly like or like seeing wild turkeys, 7.3% of people neither like nor dislike turkeys, while 1.59% of participants either dislike or strongly dislike turkeys.

"Many people just like to see turkeys on the landscape because their presence is part of what makes New Hampshire unique," said Keating. "The observations people share through the online survey greatly adds to the Department's understanding of the abundance, distribution, and survival rates of turkeys through the winter months here in the Granite State."



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Brian Whipple



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Jenn Boyer



Deborah Charlebois



Courtney Chase



Mollie Ducharme



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## Fatal Accidents Claim 4 Lives

NEWPORT, NH—On January 3, at approximately 10:50am, the Newport Police Department emergency communications center received 911 calls of a motor vehicle collision between a pickup truck and a bicyclist on John Stark Highway near the intersection with Endicott Road. Newport Police and Newport Fire Department personnel responded to the scene and discovered that the bicyclist was deceased. The bicyclist was identified as:

Daniel S. Thurston  
Age 40  
Charlestown, NH

According to Newport Police Chief Brent Wilmot, "Initial investigation at the scene revealed that a 2011 GMC 1500 pickup truck was traveling eastbound on John Stark Highway, when it crossed into the eastbound breakdown lane and struck Thurston on his bicycle operating within the eastbound breakdown lane." The operator of the pickup truck was identified as:

Albon M. Chapman, Jr.  
Age 31  
Claremont, NH

Wilmot added that "Based on witness statements and physical evidence collected during the investigation, Chapman was arrested and charged with one Class B Felony count of Negligent Homicide, one Class B Felony count of Reckless Conduct with a Deadly Weapon, and one Class B Felony count of Attempted Falsifying Physical Evidence. It is further alleged that these offenses were committed while he was released on bail in a pending matter in the 5th Circuit Court – District Division – Newport."

Chapman was transported to the Sullivan County House of Corrections; he was arraigned in Sullivan Superior Court on January 4. He pled not guilty at his arraignment in Sullivan Superior Court on charges of negligent homicide, reckless conduct with a deadly weapon and falsifying physical evidence. The *Valley News* reported that "Chapman, who appeared on video from Sullivan County jail, was ordered held pending the outcome of an evidentiary hearing later this week."

According to Sullivan County Attorney Marc Hathaway, Chapman has had seven speeding convictions and two "hands-free convictions" for using a mobile device while driving.

If anyone has information about this investigation, they are encouraged to contact Newport Police Detective Sergeant Stephen A. Lee at (603) 863-3240 or [slee@newportnh.gov](mailto:slee@newportnh.gov).

CHARLESTOWN, NH—On January 6, at approximately 7:00 pm the Charlestown Police Department Emergency Dispatch Center received a report of a 2006 Ford Mustang traveling north on Claremont Road, otherwise known as Route 12, around Fling Road, without headlights on and driving erratically. According to Charlestown Police Chief Patrick Connors, "Witnesses described the Ford Mustang as driving far to the right side of the road into the breakdown lane, then swerving into the southbound lane of Claremont Road. Shortly after this report, Dispatch received information that the Ford Mustang collided with another vehicle head on in the area of the Ponderosa Mobile Home Park on Claremont Road."

Connors added that "The initial investigation revealed that the operator of the 2006 Ford Mustang was occupied by one person, the female driver. As the Ford Mustang was traveling north on Claremont Road it crossed the centerline colliding head on with a 2013 Subaru Forester that was occupied by a female driver and a male passenger.

"As a result of the collision, the female driver of the Ford Mustang was ejected from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The female driver of the Subaru Forester also sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. The male passenger of the Subaru Forester was transported by the Golden Cross Ambulance Service to a local hospital due to serious injuries. His condition is not known at the time of this release."

Connors identified the drivers and passenger as:

Mustang Operator: Susan Gallant  
Age: 60  
Address: Charlestown, NH

Subaru Operator: Lisa Schneider  
Age: 38  
Address: Alstead, NH

Subaru Passenger: James Schneider  
Age: 57  
Address: Alstead, NH

Assisting the Charlestown Police Department and the Charlestown Fire Department at the

scene were the New Hampshire State Police, Golden Cross Ambulance, Springfield Fire Department, and the New Hampshire DOT. This crash is still under investigation and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Connors or Lt. Jonathan Graham at the Charlestown Police Department, 603-826-5747.

THETFORD, VT— On January 6, at approximately 8:03 a.m., numerous 911 calls were received reporting a motor vehicle crash involving a pedestrian on Latham Road in Thetford. Thetford Fire Department, Upper Valley Ambulance, Vermont State Police, Thetford Police Department, and Lyme Fire Department responded to the scene.

According to Michael C. Scruggs, Interim Chief of Police, "It was determined that a pedestrian, who had been walking along Latham Road, was struck by a motor vehicle. The vehicle operator immediately stopped to render assistance and remained on scene to meet with first responders.

"The male pedestrian was pronounced deceased at the scene. The male pedestrian is identified as Dennis Devaux, 65 years old, and a resident of Thetford, VT. Neither the operator of the vehicle, a 17 year old female, nor a juvenile passenger [was] injured."

Vermont State Police Crash Reconstruction Team responded to the scene to assist with technical crash reconstruction. The Orange County State's Attorney and Vermont Chief Medical Examiner's office were involved in the investigation.

### SoS Gardner Announces Retirement

CONCORD, NH—New Hampshire Secretary of State Bill Gardner announced Jan. 3 that he was retiring after some 45 years of service.

Gardner, 73, said that Deputy Secretary of State Dave Scanlan would be sworn in to replace him.

"In the coming days, I will be stepping down as the secretary of state," Gardner said. "I will do so after arrangements have been made for the constitutional deputy Dave Scanlan to take the oath of office."

Gardner, who first held the office in 1976, has been a strong supporter of New Hampshire's status as holding the first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

He is the country's longest serving Secretary of State.





## FREE COVID-19 PCR TESTING



**River Valley Community College**  
**1 College Place, Claremont, NH 03743**  
**9AM-3PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK**

Offered through partnership with the State of NH, our Claremont pop-up testing site offers the gold standard PCR testing for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Test results will be provided in 48 hours of your visit.

### **Who can receive free testing at our Claremont pop-up location?**

Free COVID-19 PCR testing offered in partnership with the State of NH is available to:

- Patients of all ages
- Symptomatic and asymptomatic
- NH residents and tourists alike

### **What do I need to bring with me when visiting a pop-up testing site?**

- Identification, recommended to help expedite the registration process
- Your phone number
- An active email address, recommended but not



For additional information about free COVID-19 PCR testing at our pop-up locations, please visit us on:

<https://ccmdcenters.com/state-of-nh-covid-19-testing>

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## Connecticut River Joint Commission Receives Grant from State of Vermont

The Connecticut River Joint Commission (CRJC) is pleased to announce that it has received a \$30,733 grant through the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Department of Environmental Conservation. This one-year grant provides funding to implement CRJC's July 2021 to June 2022 work program. Additional funding is provided by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

These funds will allow the CRJC to continue its emphasis on the grassroots, locally focused work of its five local river subcommittees and the broader implementation of its river management plan. The CRJC focuses on the key issues facing the Connecticut River watershed of Vermont and New Hampshire and plays the vital bi-state role of convening, catalyzing, and leading dialogue on these regional issues.

Current focus areas for the CRJC include: Participating as a stakeholder in the federal relicensing of hydroelectric facilities at Wilder Dam, Bellows Falls Dam, and Vernon Dam in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Providing a forum for open discussion and comment on a wide range of projects affecting the Connecticut River and its watershed. Topics include permits, such as those for new development or invasive species management in proximity to the River and thus with potential impacts, as well as plans, such as Vermont's Tactical Basin Plans that help to inform an inventory of natural resources in the watershed, and also to manage and protect its valuable land and water resources.

Leading watershed management efforts highlighted in the CRJC watershed management plan; in particular working to improve water quality monitoring along the mainstem of the Connecticut River as well as convening bi-state partners to address the issue of climate migration.

New Hampshire's Connecticut River Valley Resource Commission and Vermont's Connecticut River Watershed Advisory Commission, created by their respective legislatures in 1987 and 1988, were directed to cooperate with each other to preserve and protect the resources of the Connecticut River Valley, and to guide its growth and development.

They have met together as the Joint Commissions since 1989. Both Commissions advocate for and engage the public in decisions which affect their river and their valley. The Commissions are advisory and have no regulatory powers.

According to the CRJC, "Studies show that residents of and visitors to Vermont and New

Hampshire love the streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands of the Connecticut River watershed – these natural areas help define our bi-state landscape and character. This funding from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation enables CRJC to continue our work to protect these cherished resources."

## Stressed About the Holidays?



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**Charlestown Rd, Claremont  
John Stark Hwy, Newport**



# Business News

## New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation Announces Quarter Four Grant Recipients

PLYMOUTH, NH – The New Hampshire Electric Co-op Foundation (NHEC Foundation) awarded 16 grants in December totaling \$60,700 to organizations throughout New Hampshire. The following organizations received grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$15,000. Campton Elementary School, Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail, Eastern Slope Aviation Academy, John Hay Estate at the Fells, Kismet Rock Foundation, Laconia Area Community Land Trust d/b/a Lakes Region Community Developers, The Laura Foundation for Autism and Epilepsy, The Mayhew Program, New Hampshire Food Bank, NH Public Radio, Patriot Resilient Leader Institute, Salvation Army of Laconia, Campton Parks & Recreation Program, Transport Central, Tuftonboro Parks & Recreation Program and Vet's Rest Stop.

The NHEC Foundation is funded by the generosity of more than 40,000 New Hampshire Electric Co-op members who participate in the Round Up Program. Participating members agree to have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next dollar, which enables the NHEC Foundation to award quarterly grants as well as scholarships to the children of NHEC members. To learn more about the NHEC Foundation, enroll in the Round Up Program or apply for a Foundation grant, please visit [www.nhec.com/nhec-foundation](http://www.nhec.com/nhec-foundation).

New Hampshire Electric Co-op is a member-led electric distribution cooperative serving 84,000 homes and businesses in 115 New Hampshire communities.

## Bank of New Hampshire Promotes Jared Price to Vice President - Controller

LACONIA, NH– Bank of New Hampshire has announced the promotion of Jared Price to Vice President – Controller.

Price first joined Bank of New Hampshire in February of 2012 as a Loan Servicing Specialist. He has held several positions over the

years including, Loan Operations Officer, Assistant Vice President – Loan Operations Manager, Vice President – Loan Operations Manager and Vice President – Business Analytics and Audit Manager. In his new role as Controller, Price will be responsible for effectively administering, directing and managing the accounting and finance functions of the Bank.

Price holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and an MBA from the University of New Hampshire. He is also a graduate of the Northern New England School of Banking, Leadership Lakes Region, the New England School of Financial Studies and the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking. He is active in the community having served as the Treasurer and President of the Board of Trustees for the Central NH VNA and Hospice, and as Adjunct Professor of Macroeconomics at Manchester Community College.



**Jared Price**

## Conroy named Citizen of the Year by New Hampshire Union Leader

LEBANON, NH – As she prepares to enter the fifth year of her tenure at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH), and a second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, D-H and D-HH CEO and President Joanne M. Conroy, MD, has been named New Hampshire's 2021 Citizen of the Year by the *New Hampshire Union Leader*.

In a profile that appeared in its December 26 edition, the *Union Leader* wrote that Conroy has

been “among the most influential voices in public health since the beginning of the pandemic, leading New Hampshire’s largest hospital system and private employer ... while tackling some of the other most pressing issues facing New Hampshire.” The newspaper praised Conroy for putting the interests of patients and staff first by being the first employer in the Granite State to require full vaccination as a condition of employment by D-HH. “I’m always going to follow the science,” Conroy told the *Union Leader*.

In addition to her leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic, the profile also highlighted Conroy’s other achievements and aspirations for the future of D-HH. The system and GraniteOne Health, the system that includes Manchester’s Catholic Medical Center, Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro and Monadnock Community Hospital in Peterborough, continue moving toward a combination agreement – a New Hampshire-based solution aimed at improving the access to, the quality of, and the value in care to people around the state. Conroy has also prioritized workforce development: in 2021, D-HH raised its minimum wage to \$17 per hour, and Conroy shared with the *Union Leader* that D-HH is in the early stages of talking to developers about building permanent workforce housing in the Upper Valley, and her desire to increase the hours of operation for childcare provided to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) employees.

### Leahy, Denault, Connair & Hodgman, LLP Attorneys at Law

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| - Personal Injury | - Family Law     |
| - Probate         | - Auto Accidents |
| - Wills & Trusts  | - Wrongful Death |

**Thomas P. Connair, Esq., Jessica J. Hodgman, Esq.  
Anthony J. Lenhart, Esq.**

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## Digital Community Forum on School Funding Jan. 12

NEWPORT, NH—The NH School Funding Fairness Project, along with local community leaders, will host a community forum on school funding. The event will take place on Wednesday, January 12 from 6:00 – 7:30pm via Zoom. To receive the meeting link, please visit [www.fairfundingNH.org/GOTB](http://www.fairfundingNH.org/GOTB) and register for the event.

The Newport forum is the first stop on NHSFFP's "Get on the Bus" tour, a series of forums across 25 communities in 5 months to educate and empower hundreds of Granite Staters on the twin crises of school funding and property taxes, and solutions for greater equity. Currently, the state of New Hampshire pays, on average, \$4,700 per pupil for public education but localities spend, on average, more than \$19,000 per pupil. The burden for funding public education falls most heavily on local taxpayers, and disproportionately on residents of property-poor communities. The NH School Funding Fairness Project is changing that.

The forum will open with a presentation by the NH School Funding Fairness Project on the heart of the problem and solutions for greater equity, and will conclude with a question and answer session and discussion with members of the public in attendance. The event will be on the record for local press.

All New Hampshire education advocates are welcome to attend, but the information presented and the ensuing Q&A will be specific to Newport. Attendees can learn more and register for the event at [www.fairfundingNH.org/GOTB](http://www.fairfundingNH.org/GOTB).

Questions and requests for accommodations can be directed to Outreach and Engagement Manager Zack Sheehan ([zsheehan@fairfundingnh.org](mailto:zsheehan@fairfundingnh.org)).

*The NH School Funding Fairness Project*

*(NHSFFP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization that seeks to educate the public and elected officials about New Hampshire's public school funding system, to raise awareness about the inherent flaws of that system, and to advocate for lasting solutions to the twin crises of school funding and property taxes. Over the past three years, NHSFFP has delivered presentations on school funding and property taxes to nearly 80 different audiences across the state and was a driving force in persuading the legislature to bolster school funding as part of the FY 2020-21 budget. To learn more, and to join in our work to ensure all Granite State students receive a quality public education and all families pay only their fair share in taxes, please visit [www.fairfundingnh.org](http://www.fairfundingnh.org).*

### Town of Cornish- Filing period January 19- January 29th is the filing period for Town offices

Please sign up during Clerk hours. Any questions, please call the Town Clerk.

No fees.

Positions are:

Selectman(2 positions)  
Tax Collector  
Treasurer  
Town Clerk  
Moderator  
Library Trustee  
Trust Fund Trustee  
General Assistance  
Sexton  
Supervisors of the Checklist

### News from the George H. Stowell Free Library, CORNISH

NEW book club: Active Hope is a short, four session book discussion series for winter hosted by Cindy Heath. Titles chosen are about the environment and the hopeful things that are happening to help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Discussion dates and titles: Thursday, February 3 (all meetings at 6:30PM): *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas W. Tallamy

February 24: *Islands of Abandonment* by Cal Flynn

March 17: *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* by Michael Braungart and William McDonough

April 7: *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall

Copies of Feb 7's choice, *Nature's Best Hope*, are available at the Cornish Library. Email [stowelllibrary@comcast.net](mailto:stowelllibrary@comcast.net) for more information and the link to the Zoom discussion.

### Craft time with Lisa

January's theme is penguins! We'll have a penguin craft and stories. Stop by the Cornish Store between 10:30 and 11:30 on Saturday, January 15. Masks and social distancing will be required, thank you for your cooperation!

Dozens of new children's books arrived over the past few weeks. This past week even more adult fiction and nonfiction titles arrived and are being processed. Come by:

Monday 4-6

Wednesday 3-6

Saturday 9-1

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*Claremont*  
New Hampshire School District

### To the Citizens of Claremont:

The Supervisors of the Checklist will be meeting at the City Clerk's office, **January 18, 2022 from 7pm to 7:30pm** to register voters who are unable to register during regular City Clerk's Office business hours.



# Take a Book — Share a Book

## SAU6 Schools Home to Little Free Libraries

By Eric Zengota  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—All of the schools in SAU6 — plus two other local programs — are the newest recipients of ten Little Free Libraries, thanks to SAU6 school social worker Courtney Porter.

The libraries are wooden book-sharing boxes, standing on sturdy legs and fronted with a glass door. As Porter explained, “They’re filled with books that students can take and keep, unlike those they only borrow from the school’s traditional library. The kids can also donate their own books for others to enjoy.”

Porter had heard about the libraries on the news and seen them popping up locally, in Moody Park and outside of Claremont Maker-Space. She is also the district wide McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison, serving as one of the primary contacts between homeless students/families and school staff, district personnel, shelter workers and other service providers.

Determined to enhance “our literacy efforts to support the early childhood population of our community,” she wrote a line item into the McKinney Vento grant to provide books for youth experiencing homelessness.

Porter admits to an “uh-oh” moment when the libraries arrived. They weren’t completely assembled — the legs needed to be attached to the boxes.

“I had originally hoped the students in the Life Skills program at Stevens could help me, but when we realized that we needed to drill holes before attaching the legs, I went to Plan B. One of the Life Skills students is also a student at the Tech Center and suggested I ask Mike Burnett what to do.”

Burnett, the construction trades



teacher, always encourages his students “to create things for the community where they live.” He assigned Ryben Plamondon, a Stevens senior who has been taking construction classes since sophomore year, to the project. “This way Ryben was utilizing the skills he’s learned here at the Tech.”

Last Friday, Ryan and Porter loaded the libraries into her Toyota RAV4 two at a time. She dropped them off at the schools as well as at the Head Start Center and Green Mountain Children’s Center.

The libraries can be placed anywhere at the discretion of each library media specialist, said Porter. “They have free range to use them as they see fit. They can be placed outside the library or outside the school, in the cafeteria or at the front entrance. The hope is that students will engage in reading in ways other than on some kind of device.”

“There’s something to be said,” she added, “for holding a book in your hands and getting caught up in the story as you physically turn the pages.”

Little Free Library is a national and international book-sharing network. More than 42 million books are shared every year in all 50 states and more than 100



countries. To learn more, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org)

Porter encourages anyone who may be experiencing housing instability, to reach out to her at [cporter@sau6.org](mailto:cporter@sau6.org) or 603.477.6943.

**Above: Ryben Plamondon attached the legs on all ten of the Little Free Libraries. Bottom left: Courtney Porter, Ryben Plamondon and Mike Burnett. Bottom right: Courtney Porter and Oksana Kevorkian, the Claremont Middle School library media specialist, immediately began filling CMS’s Library with books that students could take and keep (Eric Zengota photos).**





**The Claremont City Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.**

***AGENDA (Revised)***

- 6:30 PM 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 6:32 PM 2. ROLL CALL
- 6:34 PM 3. AGENDA CHANGES
- 6:35 PM 4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY  
Minutes of December 8, 14, and 21, 2021, City Council Meeting(s)
- 6:37 PM 5. MAYOR'S NOTES  
Proclamation for Marcie St. Pierre and Chris Pixley Retirements
- 6:42 PM 6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
- 6:55 PM 7. APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
- 7:10 PM 8. CITIZEN'S FORUM (Comments on Non-agenda Items Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker (Council Rule 24))
- 9. OLD BUSINESS
  - 7:20 PM A. Claremont Country Club Discretionary Easement – Public Hearing
  - 7:30 PM B. City Manager Transition Update
- 10. NEW BUSINESS
  - 7:40 PM A. EV Charging Station Grant (City Manager)
  - BREAK
  - 8:10 PM B. Sale of City-Owned Land (City Manager)
  - 8:25 PM C. Resolution 2022-14 LCHIP Grant for Opera House Windows – Public Hearing (City Manager)
  - 8:40 PM D. *Authorization to Purchase Council Chambers Chairs (City Manager)*
- 8:45 PM 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 8:50 PM 12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES
- 8:55 PM 13. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
- 9:00 PM 14. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: Claremont City Council's next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.



## Watch Out For Tax Scammers

Sadly, identity theft happens throughout the year – but some identity thieves are particularly active during tax-filing season. How can you protect yourself?

One of the most important moves you can make is to be suspicious of requests by people or entities claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service. You may receive phone calls, texts and emails, but these types of communication are often just “phishing” scams with one goal in mind: to capture your personal information. These phishers can be quite clever, sending emails that appear to contain the IRS logo or making calls that may even seem to be coming from the IRS. Don’t open any links or attachments to the emails and don’t answer the calls – and don’t be alarmed if the caller leaves a vaguely threatening voicemail, either asking for personal information, such as your Social Security number, or informing you of some debts you supposedly owe to the IRS that must be taken care of “immediately.”

In reality, the IRS will not initiate contact with you by phone, email, text message or social media to request personal or financial information, or to inquire about issues pertaining to your tax returns. Instead, the agency will first send you a letter. And if you’re unsure of the legitimacy of such a letter, contact the IRS directly at 800-829-1040.

Of course, not all scam artists are fake IRS representatives – some will pass themselves off as tax preparers. Fortunately, most tax preparers are honest, but it’s not too hard to find the dishonest ones who might ask you to sign a blank return, promise you a big refund before looking at your records or try to charge a fee based on the percentage of your return. Legitimate tax preparers will make no grand promises and will explain their fees upfront. Before hiring someone to do your taxes, find out their qualifications. The IRS provides some valuable tips for choosing a reputable tax preparer, but you can also ask your friends and relatives for referrals.

Another tax scam to watch out for is the fraudulent tax return – that is, someone filing a return in your name. To do so, a scammer would need your name, birthdate and Social Security number. If you’re already providing two of these pieces of information – your name and birthdate on social media, and you also include your birthplace – you could be making it easier for scam artists to somehow get the third. It’s a good idea to check your privacy settings and limit what you’re sharing publicly. You might also want to use a nickname and omit your last name, birthday and birthplace.

Here’s one more defensive measure: File your taxes as soon as you can. Identity thieves often strike early in the tax season, so they can file their bogus returns before their victims.

To learn more about tax scams, visit the IRS website ([irs.gov](http://irs.gov)) and search for the “Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft.” This document describes some signs of identity theft and provides tips for what to do if you are victimized.

It’s unfortunate that identity theft exists, but by taking the proper precautions, you can help insulate yourself from this threat, even when tax season is over.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.  
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## Boards, Committees and Commissions Vacancies

*The City of Claremont is inviting citizens to apply for vacancies which exist on the following volunteer Boards, Committees and Commissions:*

Airport Advisory Board	2 Vacant Seats
Board of Appeals	5 Vacant Seats 3 Vacant Alternate Seats
Board of Assessors	1 Vacant Seat 1 Vacant Alternate Seat
Claremont Community Television Board of Directors	1 Vacant Seat
Claremont Development Authority	1 Vacant Seat
Claremont Energy Advisory Committee	5 Vacant Seats 2 Vacant Alternate Seats
Claremont Housing Authority Commission	1 Vacant Seat
Claremont Planning Board	4 Vacant Seats 5 Vacant Alternate Seats
Claremont Police Commission	1 Vacant Seat
Conservation Commission	1 Vacant Seat 5 Vacant Alternate Seats
Electric Aggregation Committee	2 Vacant Seats 2 Vacant Alternate Seats
Elks Education Fund Trustee	1 Vacant Alternate Seat
Finance Committee	5 Vacant Seats
Fiske Free Library Board of Trustees	2 Vacant Alternate Seats
Frances J. Tolles Home Board of Trustees	No Vacant Seats
Historic District Commission	1 Vacant Seat 2 Vacant Alternate Seats
Licensing Board	1 Vacant Seat
MT Ascutney Region River Subcommittee of the CT River Joint Commission	1 Vacant Seat 2 Vacant Alternate Seats
Parks & Recreation Commission	4 Vacant Alternate Seats
Personnel Advisory Board	1 Vacant Seat
Policy Committee	5 Vacant Seats
TIF Downtown Advisory Board	4 Vacant Seats
Trustees of Trust Funds	1 Vacant Seats
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission	No Vacant Seats
Zoning Board of Adjustment	3 Vacant Alternate Seats

### *Seats for Future Availability:*

Claremont Planning Board	2 Seats Expire 3/31/2022
Conservation Commission	2 Seats Expire 3/31/2022
Historic District Commission	2 Seats Expire 3/31/2022
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission	1 Seat Expiring 3/31/2022
Zoning Board	2 Seats Expire 3/31/2022

Call the Resource Coordinator at 504-0347 or stop by the Visitor Center at 14 North Street to find out how you can volunteer, or go online at <https://www.claremontnh.com/boards-and-commissions> to print out an application.



# Sports/Recreation

## Lebanon-Stevens-Kearsarge Girls Ice Hockey

12/21/21	at St. Thomas-WNC-DOV	W 4 - 1
12/29/21	Bishop Brady-Trinity	W 4 - 1
01/08/22	at ConVal-Conant	W 9 - 0
01/12/22	Hanover	07:10 PM
01/15/22	Concord	05:10 PM
01/17/22	Bedford	01:40 PM
01/24/22	at Bishop Guertin	03:30 PM
01/26/22	at Hanover	06:00 PM
01/29/22	at Man. Central-Memorial	04:20 PM
02/04/22	at Pinkerton	07:50 PM
02/05/22	Keene-Mon-Fall Mountain	04:20 PM
02/07/22	at Berlin-Gorham-Kennett	04:00 PM
02/09/22	at Kingswood	07:00 PM
02/14/22	Berlin-Gorham-Kennett	04:40 PM
02/16/22	Exeter	05:10 PM
02/19/22	Oyster River-Portsmouth	07:30 PM
02/23/22	Souhegan	05:30 PM

## Lebanon-Stevens-Mount Royal Boys Ice Hockey

12/15/21	at John Stark-Hopkinton-Hillsboro-Deering	W 3 - 2
12/30/21	Berlin-Gorham	L 1 - 4
01/06/22	at Mon-Fall Mountain	W 5 - 0
01/08/22	Belmont-Gilford	W 5 - 2
01/10/22	John Stark-Hopkinton-Hillsboro-Deering	07:50 PM
01/12/22	Hollis Brookline-Derryfield	05:10 PM
01/15/22	at Kennett	Postponed to 01/17
01/17/22	at Kennett	02:00 PM
01/22/22	at Laconia-Winnisquam-Inter-Lakes	03:00 PM
01/29/22	at Berlin-Gorham	06:00 PM
02/02/22	Mon-Fall Mountain	07:00 PM
02/05/22	Sanborn-Epping	06:20 PM
02/09/22	at Kearsarge-Plymouth	TBA
02/12/22	Pembroke-Campbell	07:30 PM
02/16/22	Kearsarge-Plymouth	07:10 PM
02/19/22	at Hollis Brookline-Derryfield	04:20 PM
02/23/22	ConVal-Conant	07:30 PM
02/26/22	at Pembroke-Campbell	07:30 PM

## SHS Boys Basketball

12/14/21	Fall Mountain	W 58 - 25
12/17/21	at Gilford	L 36 - 63
12/20/21	Winnisquam	W 45 - 39
01/03/22	Belmont	W 41 - 32
01/05/22	at Hillsboro-Deering	W 57 - 29
01/10/22	Hopkinton	07:00 PM
01/11/22	Mascenic	07:00 PM
01/14/22	at Campbell	06:00 PM
01/18/22	at Kearsarge	06:00 PM
01/21/22	at Newport	07:00 PM
01/25/22	at Conant	06:30 PM
01/28/22	Newport	07:00 PM
01/31/22	at Fall Mountain	07:00 PM
02/02/22	at Mascoma Valley	06:30 PM
02/04/22	Kearsarge	07:00 PM
02/07/22	Newfound	07:00 PM
02/09/22	at Inter-Lakes	06:00 PM
02/11/22	Monadnock	07:00 PM

## SHS Girls Basketball

12/10/21	Inter-Lakes	W 64 - 7
12/14/21	Fall Mountain	L 35 - 47
12/20/21	at Winnisquam	W 47 - 14
01/03/22	at Belmont	W 73 - 35
01/05/22	Gilford	W 64 - 38
01/10/22	at Hopkinton	07:00 PM
01/12/22	Campbell	07:00 PM
01/19/22	Kearsarge	07:00 PM
01/21/22	Newport	07:00 PM
01/25/22	Conant	07:00 PM
01/26/22	at Mascenic	06:30 PM
01/28/22	at Newport	07:00 PM
01/31/22	at Fall Mountain	05:30 PM
02/02/22	Mascoma Valley	07:00 PM
02/04/22	at Kearsarge	06:00 PM
02/07/22	at Newfound	06:00 PM
02/09/22	Hillsboro-Deering	07:00 PM
02/11/22	at Monadnock	06:00 PM

## Opportunities for Winter Anglers Throughout the Granite State

CONCORD, NH – Winter anglers in New Hampshire had some trout stocked especially for them during 2021. The New Hampshire

Fish and Game Department stocks trout during the fall to bolster the winter ice fishery, translating into some exciting fishing action this winter.

Winter anglers chasing trout can find lists of waters that remain open to the taking of trout year round on the Fish and Game website: For lakes and ponds, visit [www.fishnh.com/fishing/trout-year-round.html](http://www.fishnh.com/fishing/trout-year-round.html).

For rivers and streams, see [www.fishnh.com/fishing/trout-streams.html](http://www.fishnh.com/fishing/trout-streams.html).

The following is a list of New Hampshire lakes and ponds that were stocked with trout during the fall of 2021: Akers Pond in Errol, Cedar Pond in Milan, Big Diamond Pond in Stewartstown (opens January 1, 2022), Franklin Pierce Lake in Hillsborough, Gustin Pond in Marlow, Highland Lake in Andover, Island Pond in Washington, Laurel Lake in Fitzwilliam, Manning Lake in Gilmanton, Martin Meadow Pond in Lancaster, Mascoma Lake in Enfield, Mirror Lake in Woodstock, Newell Pond in Marlow, Pearl Lake in Lisbon, Pleasant Lake in Deerfield, Streeter Pond in Sugar Hill, Tarleton Lake in Piermont, Tewksbury Pond in Grafton, Webster Lake in Franklin, and White Lake in Tamworth. Please note that there are other New Hampshire waterbodies open for year-round fishing in addition to those on this list.

To read or download the brochure "Safety on Ice—Tips for Anglers," visit [www.wildnh.com/outdoor-recreation/ice-safety.html](http://www.wildnh.com/outdoor-recreation/ice-safety.html).

## Arrowhead Planned Opening is Jan. 15th

CLAREMONT, NH—With recent snow and cold temps predicted for snow making, the Arrowhead Recreation Area has announced that it is planning to open for the season on Saturday, Jan. 15. The ice rink is open.

Visit the website at <http://www.arrowheadnh.com/> for full details, tubing release forms, updates and more.

Volunteers are needed to help keep the season going. Contact them through the website or at [arrowhead@arrowheadnh.com](mailto:arrowhead@arrowheadnh.com) or phone: (603) 542-7016 (leave a message) to learn more about volunteer needs.

# Inspiration

## A New Year/A New Beginning

By Priscilla Hull

It's still early enough in the new year to make some changes. There's still time to make the year 2022 somewhat better than the past year. So often we make resolutions, write them on a piece of paper and put the paper away "in a safe place" and never find it again. However, if we really want to make a difference, we need two things. First, we need to make a plan. The plan is the key to success. It shouldn't be complex with many steps. The plan should be two or three steps so that it is easy to follow. The second thing we need is some preparation so that our minds will be on the goal, not on the rock slides, brambles and blockages of the journey.

The plan needs to be something reasonable and tangible. It needs to be something with reachable goals. It needs to be realistic.

I know this all sounds commonplace and easy. It should because who wants to follow a complex plan when traveling the road. All we need is a good GPS and that is what the plan should be.

Part of the plan, the very first part of the plan, must be preparation. This includes cleaning out. It's like that front hall closet where we shove stuff in a hurry and close the door, quickly forgetting about it. In order to start anew, we clean out the closets of our mind, making room for the new things of life.

Once the space is ready, we are good to go! Resolutions are in place. The plan is devised. Everything is ready. Now it should be easy to follow through and get rid of some of those things that are holding us back.

The year 2022 should be better than ever. With a little work and planning, it will be a better year! The best ever! The past and all the trials and faults of the past are gone. It's a NEW start! Make the best of it!

*Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

Isaiah 43:18-19

*Priscilla Hull is the Lay Leader of the First United Methodist Church in Claremont, NH.*





## Calendar Of Events

### Free Fishing Day in NH is Jan. 15

CONCORD, NH – If you've ever wanted to try ice fishing, why not take advantage of New Hampshire's winter free fishing day on Saturday, January 15, 2022. That's a day you can fish without a license in New Hampshire. Note that all other regulations must be followed. Persons participating in a fishing tournament must still hold a license, even on free fishing day.

Find more information about ice fishing in New Hampshire, including videos, a list of bait dealers, and more at [www.fishnh.com/fishing/ice-fishing.html](http://www.fishnh.com/fishing/ice-fishing.html).

## American Legion Oratorical Competition and Scholarships

The 2022 American Legion Oratorical Competition is offering up to \$32,500 in scholarship awards for high school students under the age of 20.

The overall national contest winner is awarded a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States. However, last year due to Covid challenges the National competition was cancelled and rather each State winner received a \$5,000 scholarship in addition to the \$2,500 that had been awarded for each state winner.

Competition begins at the post level where winners advance to a district level, then a state competition. Each post winner may receive up to a \$100 scholarship for those that advance to the district level. Each district awards up to \$300 for participants and each district winner then moves to the New Hampshire State com-

petition. New Hampshire competition for district winners will be held March 12th beginning at 9AM at St. Anselm's College. New Hampshire awards \$2,500 to the first place winner who will then participate in the national competition, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; additionally, a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic is also part of the contest.

For additional information please see <https://www.legion.org/oratorical> or contact the District 6 Oratorical Committee chair Liz Hennig at [Lhennig878@gmail.com](mailto:Lhennig878@gmail.com) (603-454-8658), or your local American Legion Post.

**Tuesday, January 11**

**Art Appreciation with Jane O'neil, Plainfield Library Virtual Program  
6:30 pm**

Join us virtually for the third program in our Art Appreciation series.

Granite State Gallery: NH Art and Artists through the Years.

New Hampshire has attracted and inspired artists since the colonial era. What is distinctive about the art made here? This program will consider works by itinerant and folk

painters, landscape artists drawn to the state's scenic vistas, and modern artists that adopted bold styles to depict everyday life in the Granite State. Augustus Saint-Gaudens, Childe Hassam, and Maxfield Parrish are some of the artists discussed in this program.

Comments from participants of the previous programs: "Loved it." "Jane O'neil really knows her stuff." "I learned a lot and really enjoyed it."

Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUtdeqqqTMOGN3p1tn3oY7Or-KM3eE0eumWA>.

## Croydon Ladies Auxiliary Bingo

Croydon Ladies Auxiliary Bingo is back Every Thursday, doors open at 4:00 pm and games starts at 6:00 pm

Check out our new hall at 183 Plains Road in Claremont, NH.

Lots of pull tickets for chances to win more money. 50/50 raffle and lots more.

Sandwiches and snacks available and drinks.

Questions: call Sandy at 603-543-7118. Open to those 18 and older.

Big Money Bingo

Every Sunday, Doors open at 11:00 and games start at 1:00pm

## Public Notice

**The Claremont School Board will be holding a Public Hearing for the  
FY23 Budget**

**Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 6:30pm.**

**Location Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center**

The Claremont School Board will be holding an in person public hearing meeting following Covid 19 guidelines. Those in attendance may need to adhere to safety rules which include: temperature check, hand sanitizer, wearing a face mask, social distancing, and others deemed necessary.

The meeting will also be available on CCTV Channel 8 and online using one of these links. You can watch channel 8 at anytime LIVE here:

<https://reflect-claremont.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/watch/1?channel=1>

Or channel 10 here:

<https://reflect-claremont.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/watch/2?channel=2>

Please visit our website: [www.sau6.org](http://www.sau6.org)  
under School Boards to review agenda.

Check out our new hall at 183 Plains Road, Claremont, NH.

Pay out depends on the number of people who show up. Lots of pull tickets for chance to win more money.

Lots of raffles including a big raffle of cash and scratch tickets.

Sandwiches and snacks available and drinks

Questions: call Sandy at 603-543-7118.

Open to those 18 and older.

## Lake Sunapee VNA Offers Three Grief Support Groups

NEW LONDON, NH – Lake Sunapee VNA offers three virtual grief support groups for the community. The “Newly Bereaved Widows Group” is for women who have experienced the loss of their husband within the last year and is held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 10:00-11:00am. The “Widow to Widow Group” is for women in all stages of grief and meets on the first Monday of every month from 3:30-5:00pm. Newly bereaved widows are welcome at this group as well, especially if they are feeling the need for more frequent support. In addition, a “Bereavement Check-in” group is available for men and women experiencing a loss of any kind on the third Wednesday of every month from 4:00-5:00pm.

All of these groups provide an opportunity for participants to come together in a safe place of compassion and confidentiality. Attend once, multiple times or as needed.

If interested, email your contact information to Elizabeth Gantner at [egantner@lake-sunapeevna.org](mailto:egantner@lake-sunapeevna.org) and a member of the Lake Sunapee VNA bereavement team will call you with further details.

## Charlestown VFW Bingo Schedule

CHARLESTOWN, NH—Charlestown VFW Bingo is offering a weekly opportunity for some entertainment and socializing while helping us to raise funds for our many Veterans programs.

Wednesday nights at 5:00 p.m. for early birds and 6:30 p.m. for regular fun and games. Currently, we play 12 regular and two 2 part games, as well as a 50/50 game, Winner–take-all game, Carry Over Coverall game and a Jackpot game. The Governor’s emergency order concerning COVID has expired.

It is now time to take the lessons we have learned over the past year plus and act accordingly. If you’re sick – stay home. Cover your nose / mouth when you cough, wash and / or sanitize your hands frequently, and we’ll all be healthier. The attendance limitation has also ended. In keeping with the state CDC recommendations, if you have a compromised immune system you may still wear a mask for your own protection. We still have masks and hand sanitizer for anyone that may desire either product.

The Charlestown VFW Post is located at 365 Lover’s Lane Rd, Charlestown, NH.

Updates to our schedule and the weekly carry over coverall game can be found on our Facebook page.

## Claremont Senior Center News

Effective Monday, January 17th, the Claremont Senior Center Board has voted to re-open the center on a trial basis. Due to the high number of Covid cases in our area, masks ARE required if non-vaccinated. Drive-thru lunches will continue for now.

Miracle Ear, Blood Drive and VNA Foot Clinic will continue as scheduled.

We are still holding our drive-thru meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday, Jan. 11th - Soup, pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw,

dessert. Thursday, Jan 13th – Salad, spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, dessert. Must call 603-543-5998 by 10:30 to reserve your meal. Price is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. Drive-thru pickup is from 11:45 am to 12:15 pm. Meals are always subject to change.

Saturday, January 15, we will be holding another drive-thru Turkey Dinner with all the fix-in’s. Turkey with stuffing, mashed potato, gravy, cranberry sauce, squash, dinner roll and dessert. Drive-thru will be from 4:30 pm until 6:00 pm. Call 603-543-5998 by 4:00 pm to reserve your dinner. Only \$10 per meal. Snow date will be Sunday, January 16th, from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm.

Foot Clinic - Our January foot clinics will be held on January 12, 19 and 26th. You MUST call 603-748-1731 to make an appointment with them. The fee is \$25.

Men’s Breakfast – Our next men’s breakfast will be on January 24th. Doors open at 8 am and serving starts at 8:15. Open to the public.

**Deliver care and assistance to people where they are most comfortable – at home.**



Help at Home employees have access to comprehensive onboarding, continuing education and dementia training, and competitive pay - \$17/hr starting.

As a home caregiver, you'll work one-on-one with patients. Develop lasting relationships and work in the community you live in. If you're seeking a more fulfilling career, you'll find what you're looking for in our home health care jobs in Vermont and New Hampshire.

**We are currently looking for:**

**Personal Care Assistants  
Personal Care Specialists**

We offer paid time off, as well as competitive pay.

Have questions about a position at VNH?

call **1-888-300-8853** or visit

[careers.vnhcare.org](http://careers.vnhcare.org)



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**MEN ONLY.** Members \$2.00 and non-members \$3.00.

AARP will be doing taxes at the center on Fridays beginning February 4th thru April 8th. Please call 802-345-5414 to make an appointment. **DO NOT** call the senior center for appointment.

We are searching for a Kitchen Manager. If anyone is interested in this volunteer, no pay job, please come and talk to us.

We are also seeking an Executive Director. If anyone is interested in this paid position, please contact us at the center.

Have you seen our 1st Annual Claremont Senior Center Car Show Calendar for 2022? We have a few left. It features winners of this year's 2021 car show with each month featuring a picture of a different class winning vehicle. Only \$12 when picked up at the center, add \$6 shipping and handling for each calendar if we mail to you.

"We are here to add what we can to life, not to get what we can from it." William Osler

Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights Road, Claremont, NH, phone, 603-543-5998.

**Claremont Fire Dept. Log**

**Sunday, January 2nd**

1349 E-4, L-2 responded to Hanover St. for a Box Alarm  
 1525 E-4, L-2 responded to Heritage Dr. for a smoke investigation  
 1707 E-4, E-3 responded to Washington St. for a dumpster fire

**Monday, January 3rd**

1506 E-4 responded to Hanover St. for a Box Alarm

**Tuesday, January 4th**

0750 E-4 responded to North St. for a motor vehicle accident  
 1255 E-4 responded to Broad St. for a well-being check  
 2233 E-4 responded to Bowen St. for a medical call

**Wednesday, January 5th**

0135 E-3 responded Mutual Aid to Unity, NH for a structure fire  
 1740 E-3 responded to Pleasant St. for a motor vehicle accident  
 2251 E-4 responded to North St. for a medical call

**Thursday, January 6th**

0152 E-4 responded to Pleasant St. for a medical call  
 0909 E-4 responded to Maple Ave. for a medical call  
 1523 E-4 responded to Heritage Dr. for a medical call

**Friday, January 7th**

0148 E-4 responded to Fenway Ln. for a medical call  
 1200 E-3 responded to West Pleasant St. for a motor vehicle accident  
 1316 E-4 responded to Mulberry St. for a wires down

1851 E-4 responded to Water St. for a medical call

**Saturday, January 8th**

0044 E-4 responded to Broad St. for a medical call  
 0217 E-4 responded to Pleasant St. for a medical call  
 1705 E-4 responded to North St. for a medical call  
 1850 E-4 responded to Manor Dr. for a 911 hang up  
 1944 E-4 responded to Stringer Ln. for a medical alarm



**Parishioners of St Joseph Church, Claremont, recently held a Coffee Hour after Sunday Mass to gather in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the first Mass held in the church basement on Christmas Day, 1921. Fr. Arockia Antony, HGN, gave a blessing, and about 20 parishioners attended to say "Sto Lat" (100 Years) in celebration of the milestone reached this year. There was a collection of historical photos on display to document the people and events that helped to shape the church's influence on Claremont and Polish American culture (Courtesy photos).**

# A Resolutely New Year

## CSBCC Celebrates Members' Commitment to Fitness

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Savings Bank Community Center wants to let everyone know that “It’s a New Year, so why not a new YOU!” The Center is promoting the many benefits of being a member, including access to its fitness center, pools and gym; free or discounted fitness classes and programs; and the camaraderie of other fitness enthusiasts. “Most importantly, the advantages of being a member are the health benefits of leading a healthy, active lifestyle.”

The CSBCC has been showing its appreciation on its Member Appreciation Day, usually on the first of each month. The January calendar made Friday, January 7, the sensible day to welcome members and encourage “soon-to-be members” to join.

Staff set up a table with bottled water and trail mix for healthy pre- or post-workout treats. There were also raffle tickets to fill out; the prize was a free session at one of the Center’s fitness classes.



### CSBCC Member Spotlight Donald Dreifuss



Donald Dreifuss, 64, joined the CSBCC six years ago. He lives on a farm in Unity, where he raises “fiber animals.”

“I raise Jacob sheep and Angora goats, get them sheared and sell the wool and mohair as yarn.”

Drawing on his years as a garden designer and installer, nowadays he’s a consultant to architects and nurseries.

“I schedule everything around the Center.”



“I really like the access to the pool. Everyone is very friendly here. A pro coach as well as one of the lifeguards have given me tips. I’ve helped other swimmers and seen their total transformation.”

“Exercising for me is more like mental therapy than physical activity. I practice all the strokes, especially the butterfly. Right now I’m working on one breath — or even no breath — per lane. I’m also practicing turns, right down to finding the sweet spot where the hand goes before the flip.”



“Swimming is the best of all exercises. I was never a swimmer before, but now I’m here three or four times a week.”



Remembering Loved Ones...

## Life Tributes

### Obituaries May Be Found On Our Website

We post obituaries on our website to make them available in “real time,” as they are released by funeral homes.

We will continue to publish them here weekly, as well, for your convenience if you wish to print out any of them.

[www.etickernewsclaremont.com](http://www.etickernewsclaremont.com)

#### Janet M. Read, 82

Janet Mae Read, 82, of Plainfield, NH, died Sunday (January 2, 2022) at Springfield Hospital following a period of failing health.

She was born in Lebanon, NH, on February 13, 1939, the daughter of Arlington and Pearl (St. Hilare) Dawson. She graduated from Lebanon High School in 1957. On May 31, 1958, she married Richard P. Read, in Lebanon, NH. Janet was the linen supervisor at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital in Hanover, NH, for 20 years, retiring in 2001. She was the widow of Richard Palmer Read, Sr. who died on April 8, 2017.

Members of her family include a daughter, Terrie M. Clukey and her husband, Brian; a son, Richard P. Read, Jr.; four grandchildren, Brian Clukey, and his wife, Taylor, ; Shelbie Shepherd and her husband, Nic; Zackary Read & Kieran Read; five great grandchildren, William Polmerville, Isabella Atkinson, Aria Read, Emerie Shepherd and Brooks Clukey, a sister, Karleen Wood, Lebanon, NH; two brothers, Alex Dawson, Concord, NH; William Dawson, Melbourne, FL and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a brother, Edmond Dawson, and a sister, Marcia Drop.

Janet had a great love for golf and dancing, but her greatest love was spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

There will be no visiting hours or services at this time. Graveside committal services will be held later in the spring.

You are invited to share a memory of Janet with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guest book at [www.royfuneralhome.com](http://www.royfuneralhome.com).

#### Karen Boucher, 75

Karen Boucher, 75, of East Haven, CT, (formerly of Guilford) passed away January 3, 2022, at Yale New Haven Hospital. She was born July 3, 1946, in Binghamton, NY, to Marshall Blatchley Stevens and Helen (Okerwall) Stevens.

Karen is survived by her daughter, Kristin McElreavy Mills (Mert) of Branford, and a son, Timothy McElreavy of Minneapolis along with three grandchildren, Kayla, Ethan and Dylan Mills. She is also survived by one brother, John Stevens of Nevada and her former husband, Larry McElreavy.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Kevin Boucher and a brother, James Stevens.

Shortly after her birth, Karen and her family moved to Claremont, NH, where she would graduate from Stevens High School in 1964. She attended the University of Connecticut and the University of New Hampshire. For many years, she worked at Connecticut National Bank. She and her husband Kevin retired to Las Vegas where they lived for two decades. She loved exploring the American West with Kevin, and she just completed a cross-country adventure with her son last spring. Karen was a voracious reader, especially enjoying biographies, books on history, and romance novels. She recently returned to Connecticut to be near her daughter and grandchildren.

A private graveside service will be held in the spring at East Lawn Cemetery in East Haven, CT, and will be under the care of the Clancy-Palumbo Funeral Home, 43 Kirkham Ave., East Haven. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Connecticut Hos-

“The true primary-care provider is Mom.”

-Dr. Sam Giveen

Most of the time, a doctor can't help anything until Mom decides something isn't right. She makes the first move and calls the doctor. Dr. Sam attributes any success he and his staff have with kids to that vital first step. Yay, Mom.

DOCTOR **SAM'S**  
EYE CARE



(603) 543-2020

9 Dunning St, Claremont

(we're right there by the hospital)

pice, 100 Double Beach Rd. Branford CT 06405 in memory of Karen Boucher.

### John Irish, 65

It is with great sadness we share that my brother, John Irish, passed away on December 29, 2021, after a brief battle with COVID.

He was predeceased by our dad, Roland Irish, and our mom, Irene Irish.

John grew up in Claremont and graduated from Stevens in 1974. John always had a love and passion for music. He was a proud member of the Patriot Guard Riders for many years and was always willing to volunteer his time to veteran causes like the Homes for the Troops annual ride. He leaves behind his love, Karen, as well as four children and several grandchildren.

He passed away just shy of his 66th birthday. In his memory and to help spare other families the terrible pain and sorrow we are experiencing from losing someone to COVID, we, his family, ask that you please take a moment and think about your family and friends and consider getting vaccinated if you have not. There is nothing worse than not being able to say goodbye to a loved one.

Rest in peace, John. We love you.

### Debbie E. St. Pierre

Debbie E. Ouellette St. Pierre of Charlestown, NH, passed away Dec 30, 2021, with her family by her side after a quick diagnosis of cancer.

Born November 26, 1955, she was the daughter of Virginia (Dole) Joseph Ouellette and Bernard Fluette. She attended St. Mary's school until closure then graduated from Stevens High School. On August 4th 1973, she married her sweetheart, Fred. R. St. Pierre. Residing in Charlestown, they raised their four children: Julie and Alton W Martin, Sara and Richard Harris and Greg and Jennifer St. Pierre of Charlestown and April and Tanner Royce of Sunapee. Grandkids: Bryson and Devyn Martin, Clynton and Austyn Harris Dominic Van-Laere Nutting with Ayla and Elyn Royce. Sister Vicki Pearson of Port Orange, FL, and lots of nieces and nephews, including some special extended family Holly and Ricardo Munoz and their children from Bearu, OH.

Her parents Virginia and Joseph Ouellette and Bernard Fluette predeceased her as well as her in-laws Paul and Rolande St. Pierre.

Debbie loved being mom and more, Nana. She was very involved with her children and grandchildren, watching them swim, race and do all sorts of other sports. She was proud of all of them. You could often hear her from the sidelines and while watching her TV with NASCAR, Patriots or Red Sox. She worked at both Claremont and Canaan Speedway over the years. She owned and operated The Creative Touch between raising her children and helping with her grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on January 6, at St. Mary's Church, Claremont, NH. Interment followed in St. Mary's Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center or the Charlestown Rec Dept.

You are invited to share a memory of Debbie with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guest book at [www.royfuneralhome.com](http://www.royfuneralhome.com).

### Timothy N. Patch

Timothy Norman Patch of Paisley, FL, was born on September 15th, 1962 in Claremont, NH. He was strong, honorable, prideful, and he always aimed to be and do the best for his family. He was an experienced freshwater angler, regular cat whisperer, master carpenter, and antique collector. He could back a boat or trailer like placing a puzzle piece. He was an expert bird feeder and wind chime hanger and a skillful photographer, specializing in sunrise and sunset scenes. And there wasn't a meat out there he couldn't and didn't enjoy cooking. There was never a smoker big enough to ever satisfy him. In fact, he parlayed that love of cooking into a very popular food truck business – Tim's Lunchbox BBQ and Catering. He could skillfully and creatively use cuss words and other profanity to get his point across but could just as easily, with a simple look or expression, tell you how much he loved you. He ferociously loved his wife and family and had a kind and loving heart that grew bigger and bigger with each grandchild. Tim died on December 27th, 2021.

Tim is survived by his wife Rhonda Patch; his three sons, Axel, Tanner, and Wyatt; and his three daughters-in-law, Amanda, Ashley, and Shelby. Tim also leaves behind his beloved grandchildren Jaxon, Marli, Adilynn, and Lola, his brother, Shawn Patch and sister-in-law Daphne, and nieces Kaitlin and Kylie.

And his many, many friends as he was loved by so many.

Tim is rejoined with his Nana, Alice Patch, his mother Linda Patch, and his brother Rickey Patch.

A memorial service will be held January 21, 2022 at Stringer Funeral Home in Claremont with calling hours from 2 – 4 PM followed by the service at 4 PM.

### Chester Thibault, 70

Chester Thibault, 70, of Unity, NH, passed away on December 30, 2021.

He was born in Claremont, NH, on August 12, 1951, the son of Paul E. and Verna May (Roy) Thibault.

He was a graduate of St. Mary High School. He had worked for United Construction for 31 years and Paul and Son Ford.

He enjoyed working on his grandparents' farm, working the field and tractors. He loved to go camping with Grace and daily adventures. He was a jack of all trades. He made an impact on everyone he met and most had some kind of nickname. He was the life of the party.

He is survived by his love of his life and wife, Grace Allen; his son, Paul Thibault of Texas; a daughter, Pamela Brister of Texas; step-children, Sabbith Davis and Samantha Davis; his sister, Charlene Russell; nephew, Brett Russell and his wife, Kylie and their son, Carter; his niece, Jennifer Bland and her husband, Dave and their daughter, Taylor and the fur babies, Peasley and Abbie.

He was predeceased by his parents, and his grandparents, Raymond and Evelyn Roy.

A prayer service was held at the Stringer Funeral Home on Jan. 7th.

### Make the most of your library card Thursday, January 13 at 12 noon Wednesday, January 19 at 6 pm

Start the New Year by learning how to access the digital resources available for free through the Plainfield Libraries. Have you wanted to stream videos with Kanopy or download ebooks and audiobooks with Hoopla or NH Downloadable Books but don't know how to get started? Join staff for a virtual demonstration of our digital resources and more.

Email [mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org](mailto:mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org) to register.





*Claremont ~ 7 January 2022 ~ Eric Zengota*