

# e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**CDA Shares Support for  
SRVRTC Expanded  
Programming; page A22**

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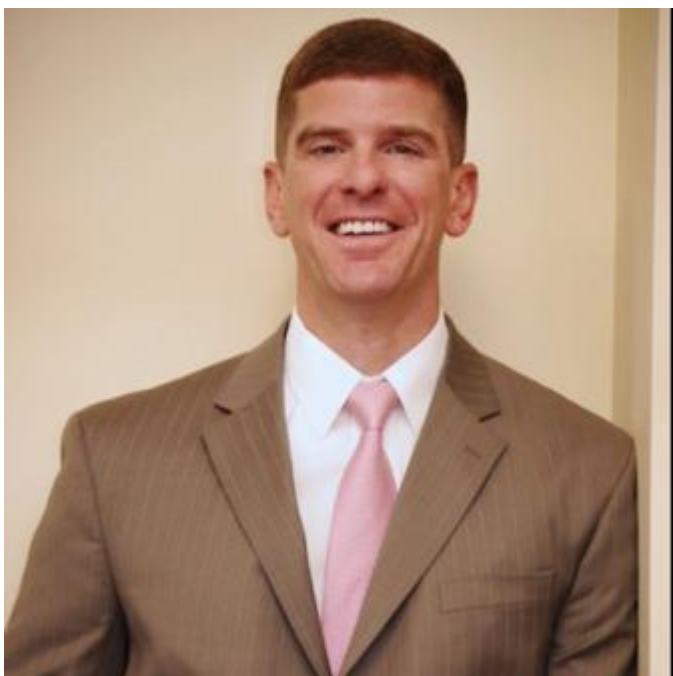
January 14, 2019

## Wright Announces Departure as President, CEO of VRH

### Takes Position with Central Maine Healthcare

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH - Peter Wright, President and Chief Executive Officer of Valley Regional Hospital (VRH), has announced his resignation, effective March 8, 2019. Wright will become the President of Rumford and Bridgton hospitals, part of Central Maine Healthcare based in Lewiston, ME.



**Peter Wright (File photo)**

“The past six years have been some of the most rewarding of my career,” Wright said in  
(Continued on page A2)

## County Holds Forum on Using JSL Building for Transitional Housing, Then Withdraws Plans



**Panel, from left: Jeremy Hartsell, of the Recovery Center; Donna Magee, TRAILS program director; David Berry, superintendent, Department of Corrections; Jeffrey Barrette and George Hebert, county commissioners; Derek Ferland, county manager; and Bennie Nelson, county commissioner. (Eric Zengota photo).**

By Eric Zengota  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—On Tuesday evening, Jan. 8, a panel of county commissioners, the Sullivan County manager, and Department of Corrections (DOC) staff hosted a forum to introduce a proposal to buy the City of Claremont-owned former Junior Sports League (JSL) building on School Street and rehab it into transitional housing for released inmates from the county jail. The public — about 60 were in attendance — would have the opportunity to ask questions, as well as voice their support for and concerns over the project. However, the proposal was later pulled on Wednesday (See story, page A8).

Jeffrey Barrette, county commissioner, noted that the commissioners had been searching for a few years for “the missing element” that would build on the success of DOC’s TRAILS program for alcohol and substance addiction recovery. Transitional housing with a structured, monitored program is key, said Barrette. Otherwise, those released would return to the same neighborhood where they had committed their crimes. If unsupervised, they could be at risk of re-offending and returning to jail. He pointed out that of the county’s 500 bookings in 2018, 246 were Claremont residents, and of those, 77 returned to the neighborhood around the Junior Sports League (JSL) building on School Street in downtown Claremont.

In late summer, the commissioners focused on that building. City-owned and vacant since 2014, when it was declared unsafe, the property still had “good bones,” as Barrette put it, and would be a solid basis for a rehabilitation project. The County would buy the property and apply for grants to fund the renovation. New grant money was made available in November,

(Continued on page A8)

**Wright, from A1**

announcing his decision. "It is truly a privilege to have served in this role and to have had the opportunity to serve our patients and the people of Sullivan County."

Wright was named President and CEO at VRH in 2012. Wright is credited with the implementation of an operational recovery plan for VRH that has produced strong improvement for each of the last four fiscal years. He also worked to strengthen VRH's community relationships, and put into place a strong, high-functioning leadership team.

"Peter is an important member of the VRH family," said VRH Board Chair-elect Patricia Putnam. "We are grateful for his significant accomplishments that have led Valley Regional back to a position of financial and operational stability. We wish him the very best in this next phase of his career."

The VRH Board will announce an interim leadership plan prior to his departure, and a search for Wright's permanent successor will begin soon. "There is no doubt in our mind that

the Valley Regional team will continue to provide high-quality care and exceptional patient engagement," added Putnam.

Prior to his appointment as President and CEO at VRH, Wright served as Chief Operating Officer at Littleton Regional Hospital, and was Senior Director of Planning, Development, and Medical Group Operations at Copley Memorial Hospital in Morrisville, VT. A 1994 graduate of Lyndon (VT) State College, Wright earned a master's degree in Administration from St. Michael's College, and also holds a master's degree in Healthcare Delivery Science from Dartmouth College. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Hospital Association and on the Board and Executive Committee of the New Hampshire Hospital Association.

Wright will begin his new role at Central Maine Healthcare on March 11.

Claremont now finds itself in the unique position of having a number of interim personnel leading the City. In addition to the opening at the hospital, SAU 6 hired an interim superintendent when it terminated its contact with then Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin in late May of 2018; the SAU Board stated at the time that it had "voted to pursue other leadership of SAU 6 effective at the end of this current school year." The search for a permanent replacement is continuing. Dr. Keith Pfeifer is currently serving as the SAU's interim superintendent. And earlier this month, the Claremont City Council, following a non-public meeting, passed a resolution terminating Ryan McNutt as City Manager of Claremont. The Council cited a number of reasons for its decision, saying in a public statement that "The City Council is not satisfied with Mr. McNutt's job performance and conduct as City Manager..."

McNutt

released his own Open Letter to the community, addressing the termination, suggesting that he may seek a public hearing regarding the matter. John MacLean, former City Manager of Keene, NH, has been hired to serve as acting City Manager until a permanent replacement is found.

**Workshop: Laser 101**

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont MakerSpace's laser cutter/engraver is an incredible capable tool which can be used for making high precision cuts and engravings on a wide variety of materials. Join us for Laser 101 to learn: How the laser cutter/engraver works and how to operate it safely, what materials are safe to cut and engrave with the CMS's laser, how to prepare an image for cutting using Corel Draw.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend a follow-up certification session, at which time they may be approved to use the CMS's laser cutter/engraver on their own; January 17th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. To register, go to: <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#/event/2019/1/17/laser-101>.

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**NH Lottery Numbers**

**01/12/2019**

**NH PowerBall**

**7 36 48 57 58 24**

**NH Mega Millions 01/11/2019**

**4 5 31 62 69 20**

**Tristate Megabucks 01/12/2019**

**3 4 32 36 38 3**

***For more lottery numbers,***

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## Governor Sununu Announces Council to Research Opioid Prescription Patterns

CONCORD, NH—Thursday, Governor Chris Sununu signed an executive order forming the New Hampshire Opioid Overprescribing and Misuse Project Advisory Council. This unique Council will work to thwart opioid addiction in the State of New Hampshire by examining opioid prescribing and misuse patterns, and developing recommendations for interventions. In signing this executive order, Governor Sununu reiterated his dedication to advancing collaboration across local and state agencies and the private sector to fight the crisis.

"It's important to address opioid addiction where it often begins – through improper prescribing behavior and misuse," said Sununu. "We are pleased to partner with the dedicated members of the New Hampshire Opioid Overprescribing and Misuse Project Advisory

Council to identify new strategies to address this critical public health challenge."

The Council will examine findings and recommend actions, including policy changes, to reduce opioid overprescribing and misuse. Council members will also help build a dashboard featuring baseline measurements of prescribing behavior, and recommend advanced analytics by which patterns of unnecessary or excessive opioid prescriptions that may lead to addiction and overdose will be identified.

The New Hampshire Council's work is intended to serve as a model that other state governments can use to analyze, identify, and prevent prescription misuse by beneficiaries, providers, and pharmacies. The Council brings together public and private experts in health policy, public health, academia, and healthcare systems, including representatives from the New Hampshire Hospital Association, the New Hampshire Medical Society, the University of New Hampshire, Dartmouth College, Catholic Medical Center, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and the New Hampshire Board of Pharmacy.

## Next Arrowhead Meeting, Volunteers Sought

CLAREMONT, NH—The next Arrowhead Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 22nd, 7:00 p.m., main floor of Arrowhead. Currently there are only about eight core volunteers doing the bulk of the work, helped by a group of supporting volunteers. The core numbers are shrinking for many reasons; aging, moving away, health, other commitments and other reasons, said Chuck Allen. "We need volunteers for all aspects of an organization. This would include board of directors, officers, consultants, public relations, marketing, financial, mechanical expertise and other areas. Operational needs include a big need for outside help on the lifts, working the tubing area and ski and snowboard instructors. Inside help need is for cooks, concessions help and the ski shop. Time commitment is whatever anyone can give us. Nonoperational time can often be done from home."

Operational help is needed Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and school vacation time.

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# Commentary

## NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier



### Bills This Year Cover Wide Range of Topics

As of today, New Hampshire's House of Representatives is slated to consider at least approximately 750 pieces of legislation for its 2019 Session.

This figure was announced by House Speaker Stephen Shurtleff on Jan. 7 at a training session in Concord for all new House committee chairs and vice chairs which I attended in Concord. Speaker Shurtleff also announced the New Hampshire Senate would be examining at least approximately 350 pieces of legislation for 2019. Thus the total number of pieces for both legislative bodies as of today is approximately 1,100. But this total doesn't include such important measures as Gov. Christopher Sununu's proposed operating budget, operating budget trailer bill, as well as capital budget-legislation that will be formally introduced as legislation after the Governor gives his scheduled Feb. 14 Budget Address at the State House. Other late legislation could be filed after legislative deadlines which expired in December 2018, if the House and Senate Rules Committees vote to grant permission for legislation.

The approximately 750 pieces of House legislation cover a wide variety of topics. In this week's column, I will list a few of the more interesting measures we representatives will be reviewing for 2019. Among such measures is House Bill 108, which would increase the number of days per year charitable organizations may offer bingo from the current 10 days to 16 days per month. But these organizations would also be limited to holding no more than 120 bingo games per calendar year. House Bill 108 is sponsored by four Republican representatives led by Sanbornton Rep. Timothy Lang.

At least two pieces of House legislation this year propose to regulate what individuals may or may not do in New Hampshire's parks and forests. First, House Bill 139 would prohibit smoking in all state parks, and make such smoking a violation, which is the mildest form of criminal offense, similar to breaking a traffic law. House Bill 139 is sponsored by two Democratic representatives from Peterboro-Ivy Vann and Peter Leishman, and has been referred to the House Resources, Recreation, & Development Committee. Next, House Bill 296 would require people bringing animals into a state park or forest to clean up all solid waste produced by such animals. House Bill 296's prime and only sponsor is Stratford Rep. Michael Harrington, a Republican. House Bill 296 has also been referred to the Resources Committee.

From my legislative experience, the House usually considers several important transportation-related bills, and 2019 is no exception. First, House Bill 395 would allow a passenger vehicle to display just one

number plate on the vehicle, which would be attached to the vehicle's rear. Presently, state law requires all passenger vehicles to display two plates—one on the rear and one on the vehicle's front. House Bill 395 is sponsored by a group of six Representatives led by Hudson Rep. Andrew Prout. Additionally, House Bill 471 would require that drivers' licenses and non-driver identification cards indicate whether the holder is a United States citizen or not. House Bill 471's prime and only sponsor is Salem Rep. Betty Gay, a Republican. Next, House Bill 230 would prohibit smoking in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age. House Bill 230's prime and only sponsor is Dover Rep. Peter Schmidt, a Democrat. Finally, House Bill 198 would repeal the prohibition on people texting while driving motor vehicles, a prohibition adopted by both House and Senate just a few years ago. House Bill 198 is sponsored by nine Republican representatives led by Deerfield Rep. James Spillane. All four of these just-listed bills have been sent to the House Transportation Committee for examination.

Bills aren't just the only pieces of legislation the House will be considering in 2019. Several proposed amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution, known as Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolutions or "CACRs" for short will also be examined, amendments which require approval of at least 60 percent of the full House before being sent to the Senate for further study. Among them is CACR 5, which would provide that 17-year-old citizens who will be eligible to vote in November General Elections because they will turn age 18 by the time of such elections be permitted to vote in the preceding Presidential or State Primaries. CACR 5 is sponsored by a bipartisan group of four representatives led by Keene Rep. William Pearson, a Democrat. Next, CACR 9 would establish an independent redistricting commission to re-draw the boundaries for state and federal offices. Redrawing such boundaries is a required task of the New Hampshire Legislature done every 10 years in the term immediately after each decennial United States Census— a census scheduled to next occur in 2020. A task that has been marked by a lot of partisan acrimony the last two times we have done the redrawing. CACR 9 is sponsored by a bipartisan coalition of six legislators led by Pembroke Rep. David Doherty, a Democrat. Both CACR 5 and 9 have been referred to the House Election Law Committee. Finally, CACR 1 would require that a portion of Liquor Commission revenues be used for drug and alcohol abuse prevention. Currently, the legislature is not required to set aside any of Liquor Commission revenue for such prevention, and has often in the past used all the revenue for other purposes when drawing state operating budgets. CACR 1 is sponsored by Concord Rep. Katherine Rogers, a Democrat, and is being considered by the House Finance Committee.

The pieces of legislation I have just listed are just a small sampling of the bills and proposed constitutional amendments that we representatives will examine this year. In next week's column, I plan to continue listing a few more of 2019's measures that the full House and its committees will be debating.

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## **NH Delegation Announces Grant Awarded to NH Dept. of Health and Human Services to Help Prevent Sexual Violence**

WASHINGTON, DC – Friday, Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan and Representatives Annie Kuster (NH-02) and Chris Pappas (NH-01) announced that the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH HHS) has been awarded a \$289,598 Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) Program grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. The RPE program was started by the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and works to prevent sexual violence by stopping perpetration, reducing risk factors, and using evidence to design, carry out and evaluate prevention programming.

“Combating sexual assault requires a multi-faceted approach, and that includes investing in prevention measures to identify threats and prevent potential attacks,” said Shaheen. “Boosting federal assistance for our law enforcement, courts and survivor advocacy organizations are among my top priorities as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which allocates federal dollars that fund the critical agencies and programs doing the work on the ground. I’ll continue to reach across the aisle to ensure New Hampshire has the resources it needs to keep our communities safe, and help survivors seek justice.”

“One of the most effective ways to prevent sexual violence is to educate people – especially at an early age – about what this behavior looks like and how to stop it,” Hassan said. “By investing in programs that focus on prevention and working to change the culture that contributes to sexual violence, this important grant will help to combat sexual violence in New Hampshire.”

“When it comes to combatting sexual violence, prevention is key, and everyone has a role to play,” said Kuster, the founder and co-chair of the Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence. “This funding will bolster efforts by NH HHS to educate the public, especially young people, about this persistent problem and how they can help stop sexual violence before it happens. I’m pleased this grant has been awarded and I will continue working to end this societal scourge and support survivors everywhere. The incredible impact of RPE is a reminder of the urgency with which Congress must reauthorize VAWA. I am committed to working with my colleagues to protect and enhance these critical programs.”

“More must be done on prevention and education when it comes to sexual violence, and these funds will help provide information and empower individuals throughout their lives,” said Pappas. “This grant is a reminder that we must reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act which provides funding for critical programs to combat domestic and sexual violence. I will continue to work with my colleagues to augment resources for state and community efforts aimed at prevention and support for survivors.”

Kuster is a co-sponsor of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee’s Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize VAWA and triple the amount of funding for the RPE program.

Kuster has long been a champion for survivors of sexual and domestic violence, sharing her own personal experiences involving sexual assault on the House floor and joining with 17 other Members of Congress to read Emily Doe’s open letter describing her attack and ensuing trial – which marked the first time a victim’s statement has been read in full in the House chambers. The Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence works to raise awareness and propose solutions to the challenges posed by sexual assault and released their first legislative agenda last summer. The Task Force’s areas of focus include: K-12 education, campus sexual violence, the rape kit backlog, military sexual trauma, improved data and collection, online harassment, and law enforcement training.

Shaheen is a member of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that funds the Rape Prevention and Education Program, and worked to include \$49.4 million in federal funding for this grant program in the fiscal year (FY) 2019 spending legislation. Additionally, Shaheen has a history of securing record-level federal funding to support grants provided through the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). In the fiscal year FY 2018 omnibus funding legislation, Shaheen procured \$492 million for the OVW and \$47.5 million for a grant program to support comprehensive reforms regarding sexual assault and reducing the backlog of rape kits.

## Rene J. Lacasse CSBCC Designated Fund Administered by the NH Charitable Foundation

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—As a child in the 1920s, Rene Joseph Lacasse immigrated with his parents to Claremont, NH, from the province of Quebec in Canada. He loved all sports, but he particularly excelled at basketball. He played on the St. Mary's High School basketball team which earned a state championship in 1939. In that year, he was also named as a member of an All-State basketball team.

Lacasse went on to serve his country in the Navy during World War II and worked for more than forty years as a steel worker in Claremont. He believed in his community and especially in the value of Claremont youth sports. He believed in opportunity for all children of all abilities to participate in athletics, and he asked that they do their best, play with good sportsmanship, and have fun. He coached many youth and school teams, and in an era when girls were not encouraged to participate in athletics, he helped start and run for many years a girls' basketball league in Claremont. He made this commitment in his community despite the challenges of raising six children after the death from cancer of his wife, Rolande LaPorte Lacasse.

In 2018, Lacasse's daughter, Judith Lacasse Couture, with the support of her siblings, established the Rene J. Lacasse CSBCC Designated Fund with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation in memory of their father, Rene J. Lacasse. At the center of the family's intent for the establishment of this fund was his's belief in "opportunity" for the youth of Claremont.

"Annual interest accrued on the principal of the fund will be available to the CSBCC to be used in support of the registration fees of any children, ages 1 to 16, who would otherwise lack the resources to be able to participate in programming offered by the Center," said Couture. The Lacasse children have asked that priority be given to those benefiting from a registration subsidy in any basketball programming, but funds received by the Center may be used by the Center's staff at its discretion across Center programming in support of activity registration fees.



Rene J. Lacasse (Courtesy photo)

"Mr. Lacasse dedicated much of his life to sports, including volunteering as a youth coach within Claremont," Mark Brislin, director of the Claremont Parks and Recreation Department told the *e-Ticker News*. "We are grateful to his family for establishing this fund to help children access programming. Even with the large number of children who participate in our sports programs, there are likely even more who could benefit from the experience but need assistance with the fees. We appreciate the opportunity to help area youth develop healthy habits and, through the generosity of this family, we will be able to reach out to even more children."

Additional contributions may be made to the Rene J. Lacasse CSBCC Designated Fund on the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation website. <https://www.nhcf.org/#>. Click "Give" in the top menu bar to search for this Fund. To locate the Fund, search on just "Rene" and scroll to the bottom of the fund list that loads.

### Workshop: Social Media 101

CLAREMONT, NH—The Center for Women

& Enterprise and The Claremont Makerspace are excited to offer a Social Media 101 course on Wednesday, Jan. 16th, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. This workshop will get you started in using Facebook for business, which remains the number one social media site that businesses must be using. You'll also learn enough about Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter to decide if any of these are right for you. You'll learn how to create a Facebook Business Page and how to use it effectively to get noticed.

Prerequisite: You must have experience using Facebook with a personal page. Bring your own laptop or notebook if you like, but this is not required. The material is perfect for small businesses, including craft and hobby businesses, and creatives who want to market their art. This workshop is open to anyone.

To register, please go to <https://claremont-makerspace.org/events/#!event/2019/1/16/social-media-101>.

### Coffee with the Chief in Sunapee

SUNAPEE, NH—The next Coffee with the Chief will be on Thursday, Jan. 17, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., at the Safety Services Building. Highway Director, Scott Hazelton, will be present to discuss recycling here in Sunapee. Join us for coffee, good eats and great conversation.

### SAVE THE DATE FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 SULLIVAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

#### 72nd Annual Awards Dinner

February 8, 2019, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., Cornish Town Hall

Join us as we celebrate all the great work being done by volunteers, program participants, partner organizations and staff to conserve natural resources, support local agriculture and promote place-based education in Sullivan County.

Information about registration will be available soon.

Snowdate: February 22, 2019

### SHS Alumni Meeting

CLAREMONT, NH—Stevens Alumni monthly meeting is scheduled for Wed., Jan. 16th, at 5:30. Location: New office at 50 W. Pleasant St. All members welcome.

## Citizens Forum During Council Meeting Reveals What's On Minds of Residents

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—Although City Council meetings are often bland, that was not the case Wednesday night as a number of residents spoke their minds during Citizens Forum regarding several contentious topics.

Councilor Jonathan Stone received sharp criticism from several people for comments/posts he recently left on social media about another resident who, for the second year in a row and is a self-described atheist, has called for the removal of the nativity scene and menorah placed in Broad St. Park during the holiday season. Those items are just two that make up the holiday decorations that have graced the park for years; through letters to the editor and speaking at a previous council meeting, Sam Killay has called the nativity and menorah “inappropriate and partisan religious displays” and has called for their removal from public property. He has carried his demands a step further this year, saying he would apply for permission to erect protest satanic symbols in the park if changes are not made. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 in 1984 in a Pawtucket, R.I., case, ruling that a creche was allowed in the city’s shopping district. The court deemed the holiday display acceptable because it did not promote a specific religion. According to the Supreme Court, the display recognized the holiday as well as the religious connotation.

Resident Spencer Batchelder criticized Stone’s postings for “attacking the appearance, mental health and yet again leveraging transgender as an insult against Sam Killay and his wife, an innocent party”, stating that members of the LGBT community and the issue of mental illness had also been the subjects of attacks by Stone on social media. He called for Stone to remove himself from the council, saying, “I personally believe that this councilor should step down as I feel he doesn’t represent the values of this community.”

Also speaking up was Trish Kallay, wife of Sam Kallay, who stated that she no longer felt safe in the community and now carries pepper spray with her when she goes out, the result of social media comments directed at her by Stone, accusing him of “using social media to cause harm.” Trish Kallay said that she does not agree with her husband’s opinion regard-

ing the holiday items in the park, but said that she felt strongly that he has the right to have his own opinions about the matter and shouldn’t be harassed or judged because of them. She told councilors that Stone had shared some of her social media photos and her place of work with “malicious intent”. She said Stone had “no choice but to resign.”

Sam Kallay also spoke Wednesday night. “Councilors can do what they want, it’s the wild, wild west,” he said, and noted that there appears to be a limited code of conduct addressing the behavior of councilors; he encouraged the council to update its policies for councilor conduct to include social media. Mayor Charlene Lovett commented that the City’s Code of Conduct does not include social media since it was adopted in 2003 and that the guidelines need to be updated and that efforts are underway to do so.

Meg Hurley addressed the recent termination of City Manager Ryan McNutt, reciting a list of City accomplishments realized during McNutt’s time on the job. “What is the real reason the Claremont City Council fired City Manager Ryan McNutt?” she asked. “I can’t believe communications were the problems when so much was being accomplished.” She called for the City to apologize for McNutt’s termination and to invite him back to the position.

Others spoke up in defense of keeping the nativity and menorah in the park, and saying in part that the creche and menorah are part of an evolving Christmas story that has become more secular in recent time. They called for protecting the Claremont display that thousands enjoy annually.

Rebecca MacKenzie said that “community is very important to me,” adding that she is engaged in local programs dedicated to helping to better Claremont’s image. She noted the terminations of Middleton McGoodwin and Ryan McNutt and the departure of City Planner Mike McCory as losses for the

community. As a concerned citizen she said she hoped that all avenues of redress had been taken before McNutt’s firing. She called for seeking ways to “love one another” to better the image of Claremont, a course that would attract others to the community to help it grow, she said.

Jim Contois commented on the termination of the City Manager. He said he has faith in those for whom he has voted and therefore supported the decision to terminate McNutt’s contract. He also commented on the Supreme Court ruling regarding the presence of the display in the park. In closing he prayed for the council for the work they do, reciting The Lord’s Prayer.

As is the standard practice, members of the council did not respond to any of the comments made during Citizens Forum, and Stone did not speak to any of the criticisms specifically directed at him.

A discussion at the meeting regarding the Broad St. Park display had been on the evening’s agenda, but Lovett announced Wednesday night that because the matter had been turned over to the Policy Committee to review, it had been taken off the agenda for now.

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**JSL, from A1**

added Barrette. "It's a New Hampshire State Special Needs Grant, and would be windfall money to the County. But the application window is very small. It's due this Friday [Jan. 11]."

The application requires confirmation that the County has control of the property. The sale would have to be approved by the City Council. It was an agenda item for the next day's Council meeting.

The question-and-answer period — which Barrette hoped would be "a true conversation" — lasted over an hour and revealed the range of community reactions to the proposed project. Panel members stressed that details of the program still need to be worked out, but that the design and structure are at a stage that the public should know about.

*What exactly does TRAILS do?"*

David Berry, superintendent of corrections, summarized the key points. TRAILS [Transitional Re-entry and Inmate Life Skills] is a 90-day, court-ordered program that helps inmates recover from substance and alcohol addiction. Treatment also addresses education, problem solving, work skills, and other topics critical to successfully re-entering society. Aftercare consists of a discharge plan, which is coordinated with probation and service providers, and individual attention from clinical staff.

About 500 inmates have successfully completed the program in the past four years.

*Why Claremont? Why downtown Claremont?"*

Commissioner Ben Nelson said that transitional housing needs to be within walking distance to work or basic shopping because many of the residents wouldn't own vehicles or hold driver's licenses. The housing also needs to be close to public transportation as well as access to the various social-service providers in the City, such as the Claremont Soup Kitchen and West Central Behavioral Health.

*Do we want this element in our neighborhood? Who will live there?"*

Berry made it clear that "these are not hardened criminals. The county jail has an incarceration limit of 12 months, so their sentences are comparatively short. They are already in the Claremont population, and are simply returning to their former neighborhoods."

To be eligible, residents must have completed TRAILS, be in recovery for eight months, and commit to a 40-hour week of education, work and/or community service.

Donna Magee, TRAILS program director, added that "most importantly, they want to transition into a safe, structured environment. Already seven inmates have told me, 'That's where I really want to live.'"

*What would the residents' days be like?"*

There will be 20 to 30 residents, explained Barrette, who will pay rent. Men and women will have separate, most likely dormitory-style quarters. Their 40 hours will be spent out of the building, either in an educational program or a traditional job, or performing community service — or a combination of the three. He noted that the community service could be designed to help the immediate neighborhood, including being trained in lead abatement. There will be a 24-hour supervisory presence. Residents will wear electronic monitoring devices and be subject to a curfew.

*Where will they find work?"*

County manager Derek Ferland has a list of 122 local employers who are eager to hire new workers. Many former inmates, he said, already work around town. "They are Claremont residents who have come back to their communities. You've probably been helped by them without knowing it."

County commissioner George Hebert works "in the trades. I've had skilled TRAILS graduates who are so grateful to be given a job as one way to get back into the community. The program is a great stepping-stone."

*Who else will be in the building?"*

The county's probation and parole offices will have space, and will pay rent.

*I'm a young professional who's invested a lot of money in my home, which is right across the street from the JSL. What is this going to do to my neighborhood?"*

*What about the increased traffic? Won't it make the bad parking situation even worse? Won't these people be living right back in the same environment?"*

*Can you come up with a possible rate of relapse or re-offending?"*

*How can you clean up the neighborhood?"*

Attendee Jason Benware stood up to address some of these concerns. "When I first heard about this idea, I wasn't too sure I liked it," he said. "I've lived on Spruce Avenue for 19 years, and you can tell who's addicted just by walking down the street. But I think the housing program and the increased presence of probation and parole will at the very least keep the neighborhood static and at best improve it. I think we should give it a chance."

Ferland sees transitional housing in the

same light. "This is one element in the City's neighborhood revitalization initiative. And the fact that we're helping a lot of people is an important factor. We want to set them up for success."

*Do former inmates really benefit from TRAILS?"*

Magee noted that TRAILS graduates work with case managers to access the tools available for sustained recovery after release. What's more, TRAILS can point to its success with reducing Sullivan County's recidivism (return to detention) rate: less than 20% in contrast to the New Hampshire rate of 50%.

Panelist Jeremy Hartsell of the Recovery Center said that a disciplined transitional housing setting would provide an improved foundation for recovery. The most important way we can help is to let people know that you can change your life."

Barrette summed up the evening, saying, "It seems that the program and the idea have a lot of support. It's the location of the housing that's the sticking point." The commissioners would take all the public's comments into consideration while going forward with the project.

**Update:****County Withdraws Request to Purchase JSL Building**

NEWPORT, NH—At the Claremont City Council meeting on January 9, Jeff Barrette, Chairman of the Sullivan County Board of Commissioners, withdrew the county's request to purchase the Junior Sports League (JSL) building from the City. The county was planning to purchase the JSL and renovate it to provide sober housing while also opening the gymnasium back up for use by the community. According to Barrette, the county is "taking a step back" to conduct further research regarding the JSL's viability for this project while also expanding the search to evaluate other possible sites.

Sullivan County Manager Derek Ferland explained a big reason behind the pause was hearing the concerns of the community at the public question and answer forum on January 8th. "Although we believe we made a lot of progress in changing perceptions about the

**(Continued on page A9)**



**Update, from A8**

project by explaining the TRAILS program, it was pretty clear there are some significant concerns and we need to do further research for both the JSL location while also exploring other sites." Ferland continued, "We were on a tight timeline because of the upcoming grant opportunities through New Hampshire Housing and the Community Development Finance Authority and also because we think sober housing is an urgent requirement. Having said that, we needed to balance the speed at which we were going with public interest--and it was clear we needed to pump the brakes even if it cost us a shot at some great funding opportunities. We're confident we'll get these site details figured out as we continue engaging with the city's leadership and residents and find other grant opportunities to get this project going."

TRAILS stands for Transitional Re-entry and Inmate Life Skills and is run by Sullivan County's Dept of Corrections. It features a 90-day in-house treatment program for offenders with drug addiction followed by additional counseling, clinical treatment, case management, education, and training. The final phase of the TRAILS program includes work release as offenders get jobs so they can transition back into the community. According to Superintendent Dave Berry, housing is the final piece of the puzzle for many TRAILS graduates. "The vast majority of our TRAILS grads want to remain sober, they want to remain employed, and they want to become productive members of our communities again.

Many of them struggle to find safe, adequate housing and they are constantly surrounded with negative influences that makes their recovery a challenge." During the community forum on January 8th, Barrette and Berry stated that in 2018, 246 inmates of the approximately 500 inmates that entered the DOC returned to Claremont upon release. Of those 246, 77 live in the neighborhood immediately surrounding the JSL. Berry noted, "they are already living in this neighborhood--we just want to provide them a structured environment with supervision to make sure they can succeed."

Recidivism rates for the TRAILS program, or the number of inmates who return to jail after being released, is down to approximately 17%. Superintendent Berry pointed out, "prior to establishing the TRAILS program the recidivism rate for drug and alcohol abuse offenders was

77%. The TRAILS program has been a huge success and we firmly believe a sober housing facility will help us lower the recidivism rate even further which will save taxpayers money."

**Healthy Weight & Wellness Series**

FREE 8-week program open to the community  
Newport Health Center  
John Stark Highway in Newport, NH

Daytime Class  
Wednesday, January 16 - March 6  
10:30-12:00 PM

Evening Class  
Tuesday, February 26-April 16  
5:30 - 7:00 PM



# Valley Regional Annual Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2019  
5-7 PM

Claremont Savings Bank  
Community Center  
152 South Street, Claremont

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ANN now holds the distinction of earning the largest sale of all residential sales associates in the history of CENTURY 21 Highview Realty!

ANN's work ethic is amazing and she dug in and stayed with it and made it all happen when others might have given up. Nice work, Ann!



Ann Jacques



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Ashley Bergeron  
Agent



**NEW TO MARKET**, Adorable 4 bedroom cape, 2 newly remodeled bathrooms, hardwood and tile flooring. Nice fenced-in yard with a one-car detached garage. \$117,000

## “To Kill a Mockingbird” Film & Discussion

New Hampshire Humanities has awarded a grant to the NH Institute for Civics Education for film screenings in all 10 NH counties to generate

multigenerational conversations about law, justice, and civics.

Through Lights, Camera, Civics!, a film will be offered each

year, chosen to appeal to a range of ages and demographics. Local teams made up of a lawyer, a teacher, and a high school student will lead the discussions.

The film selected for 2018-19 is “To Kill A Mockingbird” which will be presented in the kick-off event on January 27. A light lunch will be provided. Discussion facilitators include Patrick Anderson, Colby Sawyer College humanities professor and film expert; Attorney Dina Michael Chaitowitz, former appellate chief of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Boston; and a yet-to-be-selected local high school student.

This event is free and open to the public but pre-registration is required.

When:

Sunday, January 27, 2019 - 11:00am

Hosted by:

NH Institute for Civics Education

Where:

Warren Rudman Center at UNH School of Law  
2 White Street

Concord, NH 03301

Contact information:

Martha Madsen, [mmmadsengr@gmail.com](mailto:mmmadsengr@gmail.com).



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## “Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.” Discussion to be Held

Supported by a grant from New Hampshire Humanities, the Jaffrey Civic Center’s “Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.” on Monday, Jan. 21, will bring people together to remember and find inspiration in the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Each year, the Civic Center encourages thoughtful reflection and creative expression about King and the values he stood for by sponsoring student contests and other activities leading up to the event. This year’s contest is in creative art on the theme of “We are all one humanity,” a subject embedded in King’s frequent contemplation of the interrelatedness of all life. In keeping with the theme, guest speakers at the event will be refugees from several countries who will share their experiences. Dr. Dottie Morris, Associate Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion at Keene State College, will guide the discussion. The commemoration opens at 4:45 p.m. with bell ringing by youth volunteers as part of the “Let Freedom Ring: Choose Non-Violence,” national bell ringing ceremony, and followed by a reception at the MLK Student Exhibit at the Jaffrey Civic Center. Contact [info@jaffreyciviccenter.com](mailto:info@jaffreyciviccenter.com).

# Kibbe Sentenced in Sullivan County Superior Court

## Had Pled Guilty to Charges in Dec.

CONCORD, NH -- Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald announced last Monday afternoon that Ian Kibbe, age 31, of Springfield, VT, was sentenced today in the Sullivan County Superior Court on one class A misdemeanor charge of unsworn falsification and one class A misdemeanor charge of obstructing government administration. The defendant had pleaded guilty to these charges on December 3, 2018, pursuant to a capped plea agreement.

On Jan. 7, the Court accepted the State's sentencing recommendation and sentenced Kibbe on the unsworn falsification charge to

12 months at the House of Corrections, with all but 90 days suspended for a period of two years upon Kibbe's release from incarceration. On the charge of obstructing government administration, Kibbe was sentenced to 12 months at the House of Corrections all of which was suspended for a period of two years upon his release from incarceration, to be served con-



Ian Kibbe (File photo)

secutive to the first sentence, if imposed. The sentences also require Kibbe be of good behavior and included the provision that Kibbe will not to seek employment in law enforcement in the State of New Hampshire.

On March 28, 2018, Attorney General MacDonald announced that he had initiated an investigation into the conduct of then Sergeant Ian Kibbe and Officer Mark Burch of the Claremont Police Department. That investigation was initiated based on information from Claremont Police Chief Mark Chase which alleged that while acting in their capacity as police officers, Kibbe and Burch had falsified documentation related to a search that occurred in late February, 2018.

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## Recreation Roundup



### Every 15 Seconds — A New World

**“Logic will get you from A to Z.  
Imagination will get you  
anywhere.” — Albert Einstein**

One day about two years ago, I brought my daughter to the Montshire Museum of Science. Six years old at the time, she was immediately mesmerized by the sight of more than 100 bright blue foam blocks. When she heard that she could lift, push, stack, connect and otherwise play with the blocks to her heart's content, she dashed right into the play space. An hour later, it was tough telling her that it was time to go home.

That's when I knew we had to have an Imagination Playground here at the CSB Community Center. And thanks to a partnership with the Claremont Savings Bank Foundation Grant and The Kiwanis Club of Claremont, we acquired one. Installed last March, it's been a big hit with kids from infants to 12 years — not to mention the parents and teachers who have to tell them, “OK, time's up!”

The Imagination Playground's Big Blue Blocks Set is made up of more than 120 parts in 15 shapes. Long and square blocks, chutes, channel bends, plugs, noodles, clover gears — kids use them all to build, remodel, play, take apart — and start all over again. A fort, a huge spider web, a ship, a curving channel to race balls. You name it, they've made it.

Best of all, the worlds they create change every 15 seconds.

Imagination Playground is child-directed and open-ended. It transforms anywhere into a play space that encourages learning, social development, movement and fun. Creating a large physical object that started in children's imaginations develops their creativity and improves gross motor skills. Kids can play on their own to discover the countless combinations of blocks. At the same time, Imagination Playground is an ideal way to learn team-building and other social skills, especially when



**Figuring out something on your own is a great challenge ... but a helpful adult can have the same if not more fun! (Eric Zengota photos).**

new friends are made and new objects are built together.

What's more, Imagination Playground encourages many of the STEM-related tasks, such as problem-solving and working with others to achieve a goal. We often challenge a group to work together on a project. Among them: “How tall a tower can you build before it falls over?” and “What about building a rocket, flying it to Mars, and collecting rocks to bring back to Earth?” and “What kind of contraption will get a ball moving from point A to point B?”

Imagination Playground has been a popular feature here at the Community Center. About 10 to 12 “regulars” participate in each of the three scheduled sessions. Monday averages 15 when kids from the Sugar River Pre-School program across the street visit for an hour of whirlwind activity. Since the blocks are easily moved, we've also set it up in other parts of the Center for special events, when participation soars. Throughout the recent First Night celebration, at least four dozen kids ran to one corner of the gym, took off their shoes, and spent New Year's Eve absorbed in many ever-changing projects. Their parents, aunts and uncles, older siblings and family friends were welcome to join in — and they did. What better fun way to welcome in the new year?

Regular sessions are held in Room B of the CSBCC.

Wednesdays 10 AM to Noon

Saturdays 4:30 to 6 PM

Sundays 10 AM to Noon

Free to CSBCC members; non-members must

must buy a day pass.

**Mark Brislin,  
director,  
Parks &  
Recreation —  
603.542.7019**

— [mbrislin@claremontnh.com](mailto:mbrislin@claremontnh.com).



**With determination, that noodle will finally slide in (Eric Zengota photo).**





**A beautiful scene in Plainfield, NH, following the most recent storm to bring snow to the area (Photo courtesy of Christine Langford).**

## e-Ticker Business News



Jason and Brandi Laffin have opened 603 Metalworks & Collision on Washington Street. A complete auto body repair and refinishing shop, they also restore and fabricate vehicles and do specialty welding. All vehicle painting is done using an environmentally safe water based painting system. Jason has over 15 years of auto body repair experience working with major auto body repair shops in the area and is excited to open his own shop. He offers free computerized estimates and deals with all insurance companies. The official ribbon cutting was held on Friday. Left: Jason Laffin, left, explains his operation to Bob Porter and Mayor Charlene Lovett; Planning and Development Office Director Nancy Merrill is in the background (Bill Binder photos).



### NH Delegation Introduces Legislation to Redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

WASHINGTON, DC— U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Congressmembers Annie Kuster (NH-02) and Chris Pappas (NH-01) have introduced legislation to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as a "National Historical Park" to more appro-

**(Continued on page A16)**

## Claremont Savings Bank TIPS



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New technology allows online vendors to ensure customers are reasonably secure from online theft. If you doubt the security of the vendor, order the items from another site or by telephone.

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**Check back next week for another tip!**

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# e-Ticker Business News

## Saint-Gaudens, from A15

riately reflect the expansion and utilization of the grounds. Authorized by Congress in 1964, the site preserves the home and art work of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the foremost American sculptor of the late 19th century. During his career, Saint-Gaudens created over 150 works of art, many of them commemorating heroes of the Civil War, including the Robert Gould Shaw Memorial in Boston and the Standing and Seated Abraham Lincoln monuments in Chicago.

“Saint-Gaudens offers so much to the Cornish community, to Granite Staters and to visitors alike. Changing its designation to ‘National Historic Park,’ will help recognize its broader purpose,” said Shaheen. “This beautiful site connects artists and performing arts to historic architecture, American art, landscapes and trails. It’s a true New Hampshire treasure, and I will work to ensure Congress passes our legislation that celebrates Saint-Gaudens’ enduring legacy.”

“The beautiful home, studio, and gardens of Augustus Saint-Gaudens – with its beloved nature trails and works of art – play an important role in the local economy and deserve the recognition and distinction that come with the title of a National Historic Park,” said Hassan.

“Saint-Gaudens plays a critical role in the local economy and serves as an important tourist attraction for thousands of annual visitors to the Upper Valley,” said Kuster. “To better reflect the expansive nature of the site, our legislation will redesignate Saint-Gaudens as a National Historical Park to more accurately capture all of the activities and cultural exhibitions that are offered. I am proud to sponsor this straightforward piece of legislation which successfully passed the House last Congress with no opposition.”

“The Saint-Gaudens estate is a true New Hampshire gem and a point of pride for so many Granite Staters,” said Pappas. “The work of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and the park’s natural surroundings are cherished by locals and visitors alike. This redesignation is fitting to capture the essence of one of our state’s greatest historical and cultural landmarks.”

Last Congress, Shaheen, Hassan and Kuster introduced legislation to redesignate the site as a National Historical Park to bolster its visibility in the Cornish community and across New Hampshire. In the past decade, the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site has expanded to include multiple historic buildings, a vast collection of American art, a variety of arts-related activities, landscapes and trails.

Due to the partial government shutdown, the site is only partially open currently. Saint-Gaudens grounds are open for walking and snowshoeing. Visitors should use caution on trails and walkways that are not maintained. The



visitor center and all buildings are closed; Blow-Me-Down Farm is also closed at this time.

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## Multi-Agency Police Response to Hartford, VT, Bank Robbery Results in Arrests

### Windsor Man Arrested

HARTFORD, VT— Investigators obtained an arrest warrant charging 28-year-old Stephen Lynch, formerly of Windsor, VT, with robbery, announced law enforcement on Tuesday.

Just after 2:00 p.m. Monday afternoon, Lynch allegedly approached a teller at the Mascoma Bank along the 200 block of Maple Street and allegedly passed a note implying he had a weapon and demanded cash. The teller complied and Lynch allegedly fled the bank on foot toward the area of Hazen Street with an undisclosed amount of cash.

There were other customers inside the bank at the time of the incident, reported the Hartford Police Department. No one was injured.

Within minutes, officers from the Hartford Police were joined by Norwich and Lebanon Police, and Troopers from the Vermont State Police – including a K-9 Team. The Hartford School District was also contacted to request a lock-out at the three area schools. While there was not an immediate threat to the schools, the White River School, Hartford Memorial Middle School and Hartford High School were in close enough proximity to the robbery that the police and school district felt the precaution was appropriate given the suspect was at large. During the lock-out, the school continued regular operations inside the building but took additional measures, including a delay in afternoon dismissal until it was determined the suspect was not in the immediate area and posed no threat to students departing the campus or buses making drop-offs in the area of the incident. Police maintained a perimeter around the area and a presence at or adjacent to the schools once students were released.

Through investigation, detectives identified a vehicle of interest, which was shared along with bank surveillance photos of the suspect with allied law enforcement agencies throughout the region. Late Monday afternoon, the vehicle was stopped by Troopers from the Massachusetts State Police, Shelburne Falls Barracks along I-91 South. Lynch was identified

from surveillance photos, and “Massachusetts State Police recovered a large amount of cash”, according to law enforcement. Lynch was lodged in Massachusetts late Monday night on a charge of receiving stolen property, as was another occupant of the vehicle identified as 23-year-old Katelyn Grizzaffi of Lebanon, NH.

Hartford Police worked with investigators from the Massachusetts State Police and prosecutors from the Windsor County State’s Attorney’s Office to obtain an emergency arrest warrant from the District Court of Vermont, which has since been lodged as a detainer to hold Lynch pending an extradition hearing.

On Friday, Lynch was arraigned on a charge of larceny. He pled not guilty to robbing the Mascoma Bank branch and was ordered held on \$200,000 bail. The *Valley News* reported that Grizzaffi was arrested on suspicion of receiving stolen property, as was Lynch; both were arraigned in Massachusetts regarding that charge. She is not facing charges in Vermont, said the *Valley News*.

### Workshop: Make a Silver Ring

CLAREMONT, NH—In this workshop, you’ll learn the basics of silver-smithing while you make a simple silver ring! The instructor will guide you through various options for how to embellish your band, the shape of which you will get to choose. You’ll try soldering and learn how to polish your finished product into a beautiful ring!

No experience necessary. All materials will be provided, and \$5 materials fee is included in the registration cost. Date: Thursday, Jan. 17th, 5:30 PM.

To register, go here: <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#/event/2019/1/17/make-a-silver-ring>

Location: The Claremont Makerspace, 46 Main Street, Claremont

NH.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

**Cookbook Book Club at Philip Read Memorial Library**

Looking to try out some new recipes in the new year? Then come to the Plainfield Libraries' new cookbook book club! Each quarter we'll select a new cookbook and theme and host a potluck-style dinner for those who bring a recipe from the chosen cookbook.

This quarter's book is “America's Test Kitchen Slow Cooker Revolution”--full of easy to prepare warm meals for cold winter evenings.

Our first meet up is at Philip Read Memorial Library on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 6:30 p.m. Cookbooks are available now at Philip Read for check out for anyone who is interested in participating.

To learn more and sign up, contact the library or email Stephanie McAndrew [stephanie.m-candrew@plainfieldlibraries.org](mailto:stephanie.m-candrew@plainfieldlibraries.org).



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Vol. 1 Number 1

# DINING WITH DISASTER



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Directed by Julie Richardson



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## Review Your Fixed-income Strategy as Interest Rates Rise

When interest rates rise, the value of your fixed-income investments, such as bonds, will typically fall. If this happens, how should you respond?

First of all, it's important to understand this inverse correlation between interest rates and bond prices. Essentially, when interest rates rise, investors won't pay you full price for your bonds because they can purchase newly issued ones that pay higher rates. So, if you sell your bonds before they mature, you could lose some of the principal value.

You may be seeing a price drop among your bonds right now, because interest rates generally rose in 2018 and may continue to do so in 2019. While you might not like this decline, you don't necessarily have to take any action, particularly if you're planning to hold these bonds until maturity. Of course, you do have to consider credit risk – the chance that a portion of the principal and interest will not be paid back to investors – but unless the bond issuers default, which is usually unlikely, particularly with investment-grade bonds, you can expect to receive the same regular interest payments you always did, no matter where rates move.

Holding some of your bonds – particularly your longer-term ones – until they mature may prove useful during a period of rising interest rates. Although long-term bond prices – the amount you could get if you were to sell these bonds – tend to fall more significantly than short-term bond prices, the actual income that longer-term bonds provide may still be higher, because longer-term bonds typically pay higher interest rates than shorter-term ones.

To preserve this income and still take advantage of rising interest rates, you may want to construct a "bond ladder" consisting of short-, intermediate- and longer-term bonds. Because a ladder contains bonds with staggered maturity dates, some are maturing and can be reinvested – and in a rising-rate environment such as we're currently experiencing, you would be replacing maturing bonds with higher-yielding ones. As is the case with all your investments, however, you must evaluate whether a bond ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

You can build a bond ladder with individual bonds, but you might find it easier, and perhaps more affordable, to own bond-based mutual funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that invest in bonds. Many bond funds and ETFs own a portfolio of bonds of various maturities, so they're already diversified.

Building a bond ladder can help you navigate the rising-rate environment. But you also have another incentive to continue investing in bonds, bond funds or ETFs – namely, they can help diversify a stock-heavy portfolio. If you only owned stocks, your investment statements would probably fluctuate greatly – it's no secret that the stock market can go on some wild rides. But even in the face of escalating interest rates, bond prices generally don't exhibit the same sharp swings as stocks, so owning an appropriate percentage of bonds based on your personal circumstances can help add some stability to your investment mix.

As an investor, you do need to be aware of rising interest rates, but as we've seen, they certainly don't mean that you should lose your interest in bonds as a valuable part of your investment strategy.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*



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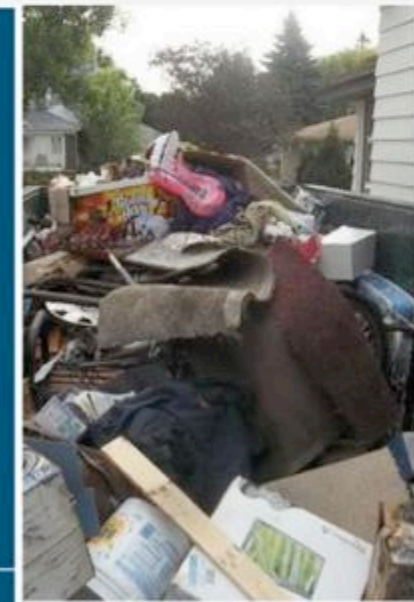
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Join us in our first concert at the Lebanon Opera House! Be part of a magical, mysterious 75 minutes of music from many centuries and countries written about the solar system, the moon, and the stars. One special piece based on planetary orbits by Estonian composer Urmis Sisask was shipped to us from Finland, where in the north, the sun does not rise over the horizon in the winter. Guest musicians include cellist Ben Kulp and the UVMC Cello Choir. The audience will be invited to join the chorus in song once in a blue moon. An out-of-this-world reception follows. Sunday January 20th, 4:00 p.m.

Lebanon Opera House

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## It's About Food

**By Johnny Navillus**



### **Time to Play**

Steak tips. Basmati rice. sugar snap peas, And caramelized onions and mushrooms.

Everything goes together quickly except for the onions. The caramelization process takes a while. If you have never tried this, it takes about 45 minutes to an hour. That's a long time to just stir the onions occasionally. It gives you a lot of time to think.

So there I was thinking about what I could do to these onions. I've heard some say that they add a teaspoon of sugar per onion sprinkled over the onions at the beginning. Supposedly it makes the onions give up their sugar quickly or more efficiently. Sorry, I don't see it but if it works for you, go for it.

As I thought about it and could start to smell the onions, I thought I would dice up half an apple and add it in towards the end. No apples. Now what?

There were a couple of bottles of apple ale in the fridge. I took one out and splashed a couple of ounces into the onions. This was about five minutes from finishing. Safety note: When adding milk, cream or alcohol to a hot skillet, remove the skillet from the heat source first. Cream and alcohol will ignite if splashed on a heat source.

The rest of the ale? You have to ask me that? The great thing about the ale is that the apple flavor is very subtle. Once the ale is absorbed and some burned off, the flavor is fantastic! I have never had better caramelized onions in my life! Ever. This is my new standard for this dish. The mushrooms didn't suffer any either. They get added at about the same time as the ale.

Needless to say, I was very pleased and my guests were excited as well. Since I have gotten older and wiser I never drink and drive. That doesn't prevent me from drinking and cooking.

Back on track. Now that I have this new toy I'm looking for more things to do with it. I did a pork roast and used the apple ale instead of water in the bottom of the pad. Wow! There is something about the ale that just gets into things and adds a subtle apple flavor and slight fragrance to things. The carrots were to die for.

I was making some seafood sauce for a shrimp dip. No honey! What the heck is going on in my pantry? First no apples and then no honey! I did have some Agave Nectar from some summer drink I was asked to make. I used that. It turns out to work very well, it just is thinner, and you need a slight bit more than honey. I have got to go shopping.

Can we go back to the onions a minute? It occurs to me that some of our new readers don't know about caramelizing onions. If know all about this then just skip to the end.

Coat the bottom of a large and deep skillet with olive or vegetable oil. Slice up some onions until your large skillet is full. They will cook down. Cook over medium heat to start. Stir the onion up so that they are coated with the oil. Every ten minutes or so stir things around. Reduce the heat to medium-low. Don't leave them unattended for too long. After about 45 minutes or so they will become very dark and may stick to the bottom. Throw in some mushrooms. Add some apple ale. Simmer about another ten or fifteen minutes.

Caramelized onions are the basis for French Onion soup and will enhance most dishes. These onions just love steaks. And pork. And chicken. Just be careful because the long cook time just gives you time to think and play.

Play with your food. All the foodies do.

**Write to Johnny at [etickernews@gmail.com](mailto:etickernews@gmail.com).**

# CDA Shares Support for SRVRTC Expanded Programming

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—In an open letter to the Claremont School Board at its recent meeting, the Claremont Development Authority expressed its support for strengthening technical center programming to help meet job market needs. In its letter, the CDA wrote:

“The Claremont Development Authority enthusiastically supports expanded programming for SRVRTC.

“The area business community is experiencing a severe shortage of available workers with the soft skills and practical experience needed to fill open positions. The unemployment rate in Claremont hovers around 2% or less which is below the state average. Most area manufacturers are looking for workers that are capable of being trained to perform the necessary functions within their business.

“The *NH Business Review* and *Business NH Magazine* have highlighted this shortage and report that businesses are looking to schools for help. They are looking for adult education availability at local schools to retrain older workers and also in looking ahead at future graduates. Many are looking at students as early as Middle School as a source for future workers. The local pool of potential employees is so tight that some employers have partnered with the Sullivan County House of Corrections to recruit employees as they transition back into the community.

“The CDA members have recently met with educators and administrators from area schools to assess the current situation. Some of us have also toured other NH and VT technical schools to see how they are approaching the student curriculum and connecting their programs to local employers. All have expressed how enthusiastically students and employers have embraced training in trades in local Tech Centers.

“We found that an important component was school counselors working closely with students to expose them to the potential of careers in the trades as well as technology or medical and other fields. Local area businesses work with the schools to advise on current needs for training. Potentially area businesses would be willing to make appropriate updated

equipment available to the programs.

“With the school budgets in mind there could be opportunities to begin adult education classes in partnership with area businesses at a profit. There is also a connection that could be made with RVCC or MakerSpace to fill in some of the career programs where we do not have equipment or instructors. This connection also offers the chance for students to earn college credits towards Certificates or Associates degrees while still in High School. This offers an affordable path to a career and even be the first step towards going from the community college to advanced schooling at traditional colleges.

“The members of the School Board have expressed their support for SRVRTC while campaigning for their seats so we know there is support for programs need-

ed. We ask that emphasis on these needs be a priority in the planning process.”

The letter was signed by Thomas Rock, Chair; Andrew LaFreniere, Vice Chair; and board members, Mike Satzow; Derek Ferland; Martha Maki; Keith Raymond; Candice Crawford; Robert Porter and Joseph.

The topic of finding enough skilled workers in the area is one with which the Claremont Planning and Development Office is very familiar.

“Many of our employers in Claremont have been experiencing workforce issues over the past few years,” Planning and Development Office Director Nancy Merrill told the *e-Ticker News*. “Unemployment is very low, and jobs are being added in every sector. If we want to see Claremont grow, the workforce issue needs to be addressed. Sugar River Technical Center plays a key role in educating young people and potentially adult learners in a number of different trades. The partnership between Stevens High School and River Valley Community College also offers an avenue for students to gain high school and college credits and advance their skills in areas needed by local employers. Claremont companies are looking for talent, and there are good jobs available.”

## EXTREME COLD WEATHER RESOURCES

In the event of extreme cold temperatures outside we want to remind residents that they can use the common areas located inside the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center (membership not required) or the Fiske Free Library as a warming shelter



### HOURS OF OPERATION:

#### CSBCC:

**Mon - Thurs:** 5:30 am to 9 pm

**Friday:** 5:30 am to 7 pm

**Sat & Sun:** 8 am to 6 pm

#### Fiske Free Library:

**Mon, Tues & Thurs:** 9 am -7 pm

**Wednesday & Friday:** 11 am-5 pm

**Saturday:** 9 am-1 pm

### **FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, PLEASE CALL 911.**

#### Additional Resources:

- Southwestern Community Services (SCS) has a short-term emergency shelter to assist families and individuals who are having a housing crisis - (603) 542-9528
- Sullivan County Housing Coalition, Claremont, NH 03743 (603) 542-2448
- Springfield Family Center, Springfield, VT 05156 (802) 885-3646
- Upper Valley Haven, 713 Hartford Ave., White River Junction, VT (802) 295-6500



After hearing from the VA Hospital in White River Junction that a veteran living in Claremont would miss his doctor's appointment because his driveway was not clear, Professional Firefighters of Claremont Local 1571 members Mike Snide (in black) and Kyle Lizotte (in grey) volunteered to help him out. They cleared the driveway and his ramp so that he could be picked up for his appointment. Thanks to these firefighters for helping out one of our veterans! (Bill Binder photos).

## 41 Participants in the Newport Winter Carnival Pageant

NEWPORT, NH—The Newport Winter Carnival Pageant Committee has announced its 11 Queen Contestants and thirty Princes and Princesses.

Queen Contestants include Angel Branch, of Newport, the daughter of Rocky and Mary Branch; Gracie Brown, of Newport, the daughter of Lisa Ferrigno and Paul Brown; Victoria Burroughs, of Newport, daughter of Stacy and James Burroughs; Anna Caron, of Lempster, daughter of Kelly and Guy Caron; Lisa Currier, of Newport, daughter of Amy and Ken Currier; Marisa Cota, of Newport, daughter of Deena and Rick Cota; Emily Guyett, of Newport, daughter of Tiffany Johnstone and Andrew Guyett; Allison Howald, of Newport, daughter of Amy and John Howald; Abigail Paquin, of Newport, daughter of Laura and Leo Paquin; Natasha Whipple, of Newport, daughter of Christy and Cary Whipple; and Jasmyn Wilkinson, of Newport, daughter of Tracy and William Wilkinson.

The 30 Prince and Princess include the following second grade students: Bradley Abair, Claire Belisle, Drew Borcuk, Roy Brown, Brayden Butler, Makenzie Caron, Halcyon Charles, Baylee Coates-Morlan, Alivia Conroy, Haley Davis, Allyson Dimick, Haley Dumont, Griffin George, Keagan Grant, Natalie Hall, Parker Howe, Emmalin Kalacinski, Raegan King, Sophie Matson, Amelia Maxham, Kemiya Morgan, Sophia Perham, Ryker Pike, Hayley Reed, Isabella Roberts, Evelin Rothbart, Laura Schenk, Harper Smith, Kase Stevens, and Ella Thomas.

This is the 103rd year of the Newport Winter Carnival, and the Opera House Association is proud to take part in this tradition. The Pageant emphasizes qualities like poise and self-confidence, and provides scholarship funds for winners in multiple categories.

Limited tickets are still available. Cost is \$17.50 per person. Call the Opera House Association Box Office at 603-863-2412, or visit [www.newportoperahouse.com](http://www.newportoperahouse.com).

**First row, L to R: Gracie Brown, Allie Howald. Second Row, L to R: Natasha Whipple, Marisa Cota, Anna Caron, Jasmyn Wilkinson, Lisa Currier. Third row, L to R: Angel Branch, Victoria Burroughs, Emily Guyett, Abby Paquin (Beth Rexford photo).**





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## ***Newport Structure Fire***

A two-alarm fire was called last night in Newport for a structure fire on Laurel St. Claremont Fire was toned to help; Engine 3 and the call companies assisted with Mutual Aid. Three cats have gone missing but reportedly one was seen under a neighbor's porch. At one point crews told command that they had fire in the walls on the second floor and that they were backing out due to the floor being soft and rubbery. Motorists later using Laurel St. were cautioned about very icy conditions due to the frigid conditions quickly freezing water used to fight the fire Sunday night. The NH Fire Marshal's Office is investigating the cause; no injuries were reported. (Photos courtesy of Amber Jewel and Jill Beaudry).

## **Breaking: Newport Police Investigate Death of Child Found Outside in Freezing Temperatures**

NEWPORT, NH—Law enforcement in Newport this Monday morning was continuing an investigation into the death of a 2 1/2-year-old child who reportedly was found “unresponsive” outside early this morning in below-zero temperatures. According to authorities, the child apparently went outside for an unknown reason during the night but was unable to



get back inside her home. She later passed away. WMUR reported that an autopsy was scheduled for today but that the tragic case appears to be one of exposure to the cold and that the police do not suspect foul play. — *Phyllis A. Muzeroll*