

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**Claremont School
District Proposed
Budget; page A7**

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January 20, 2020

Sober Housing Community Forum January 23

SULLIVAN COUNTY, NH—A community forum will be held Thursday, Jan. 23, 6:00 p.m., at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, John Goodrich Community Room, 111 South Street, Claremont, where a panel comprised of TRAILS participants, parents, current and past employers, sober housing experts and county officials will tell their stories, provide facts and answer questions. This forum is part of the County's continued public outreach efforts to provide information about the proposed sober housing project located at 19 Sullivan Street in Claremont.

"For every person in recovery there are often at least five other people in our community who will benefit from that person's continued sobriety including two parents, two children, and a spouse or significant other," said County Manager Derek Ferland.

Ferland added that "This panel features experts who can share various perspectives about why it is important to support those who are in recovery and want to succeed—the parents who are raising grandchildren, the employers who want to hire them, people who manage sober houses, and TRAILS graduates."

For those who cannot attend in person, the meeting will be broadcast live on Channel 8 and will be on Facebook Live on the What's Up Claremont page.

The proposal to house the facility in downtown Claremont has continued to draw controversy amongst some local residents on social media; many support the idea of sober housing but are opposed to locating it in the City Center. Others would like to see it located in a different community.

Wintry Wednesdays Are a Wow

Kids 'Leave School' to Explore Wide Range of Activities

By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—Their parents and grandparents might think of Wednesday as "hump day." But Bluff, Disnard and Maple Avenue students welcome it as a day out to both learn and have fun anywhere but in their classrooms.

A 4-week winter activities program lets the youngsters indulge in sports, crafting and even meal preparation. Supervised by teachers, aides, paraprofessionals and parent volunteers, the girls and boys sign up to go to different venues, including Arrowhead Recreation Area, Jenkins School of Dance, Mount Sunapee for skiing, and Claremont MakerSpace to try their hand at

(Continued on page A9)



Practicing your new skill at treading water is part of a great cool-down (Eric Zengota photo).

'Yee Haws and Ha Has'

Two Acts for the Price of One at COH

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Opera House will be featuring a special program at 8pm, Saturday, Jan. 25: Comedian Paul D'Angelo and Nashville recording artist Lexi James will be co-headlining a "Yee Haws and Ha Has" event for an hour of country music followed by an hour of stand-up comedy.

D'Angelo has been headlining A-List comedy clubs around the country for over 30 years, entertaining hundreds of prominent corporate clients and opening for over sixty international stars such as Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles, The Beach Boys, Chicago, Tony Bennett and Tom Jones. He co-starred in the Showtime movie, 'The Godfathers of Comedy' and is the author of two multiple award-winning books, 'Stories I Tell' and its sequel, 'More Stories to Tell'.

As a New England front-runner in Pop-Country music, singer/songwriter James has amassed more than 16,000 Facebook fans in

her short career. She's toured up and down the Northeast and beyond with her message of feel-good, be yourself lyrics paired with a soulful vocal performance. Lexi James has shared the stage with country legends such as Charlie Daniels Band, Marshall Tucker and Brad Paisley.

She recently released her last record, "Ripple in the Water" in 2018, and in 2019 she expanded her touring and moved to Nashville part-time!

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.claremontoperahouse.org with print-at-home option, by phone at 603-542-4433 or in person at the Opera House Box office in City Hall Complex at 58 Opera House Square.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
We Heart Art: Valentine's Day Art Projects at Saint-Gaudens NHP
10am-12pm
Location: Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park

Got a special someone in mind for Valentine's Day? Join us at Saint-Gaudens NHP in the Visitor Center ~ we'll create Valentine's Day cards, crafts and gifts. Great for families: materials, light refreshments and inspiration included!

Pre-registration is recommended. To register or learn more call (802) 457-3368 x222 or email us at emma_beck@partner.nps.gov.

More information can also be found on our website: <https://www.nps.gov/saga/index.htm>.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
WE LOVE OUR LIBRARY!

The Friends of the Meriden Library present an event to raise money for the Meriden Library building.

ing project, 5-8p.m., at Salt Hill Pub, Lebanon. Raffle and silent auction, including 2nd row Celtics tickets and a week of lodging for 6 in Costa Rica!

Salt Hill will donate 10% of all food proceeds during the event.

Come for dinner, or just stop by to support the Meriden Library and a love of reading and community.

This is a family-friendly event - everyone is welcome!

Questions? Email friendsofthemeridenlibrary@comcast.net.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
Sundae Night Game Night
beginning at 6:30 pm downstairs at Plainfield Community Church, Route 12A, Plainfield Village.

Come and enjoy a variety of board games and card games with friends and neighbors along with make-your-own hot fudge sundaes.

All are welcome to this free event.

Send news and photos to etickernews@gmail.com

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NH Lottery Numbers

01/18/2020

NH PowerBall

20 24 38 56 68 18

NH Mega Millions 01/17/2020

3 25 30 54 70 9

Tristate Megabucks 01/18/2020

3 19 25 29 41 1

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

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Located in the Brown Block.



— *63rd Annual* —
**PRESIDENT'S
AWARDS**

Claremont Senior Center
January 31, 2020
5:30 PM Award Reception
7:00 PM Award Ceremony

Recipients

Young Professional - Rachel Naugler Model Youth - Clara Avery
NonProfit - Baby Steps Family Assistance
Business - Mascoma Bank Citizen - Courtney Porter

FOR TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION:
www.greaterclaremontnh.org | 603-543-1296

Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier



House Addresses Minimum Wage, Plastic Bags

The Granite State's minimum wage could rise to \$15 by 2025 as a result of legislation passed by New Hampshire's House of Representatives earlier this month.

On Jan. 9, by a 212-155 roll call vote, the House gave final approval to an amended version of House Bill 731, which would re-establish, and then raise our state's minimum wage in periodic steps to \$15 per hour by Jan. 1, 2025. Also under the same amended version, beginning on Jan. 1, 2026, and on each Jan. 1 thereafter, the minimum wage would be adjusted according to the increase in the cost of living according to the Northeast Consumer Price Index as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Dept. of Labor. Additionally, the adjustment in the minimum shall not decrease below its \$15 per hour rate. Presently, New Hampshire workers have the protection of no minimum wage, and instead are covered by the federal minimum, which is now \$7.25 per hour, and hasn't been increased in over 12 years. This lack of protection is because the Republican Legislature during the 2010-2012 Term abolished the state's minimum wage.

More specifically, under House Bill 731 as amended, the state minimum would rise to \$8.50 per hour within 60 days after the bill becomes law. Then it would increase to \$10.60 per hour, effective Jan. 1, 2021, \$11.70 per hour Jan. 1, 2022, \$12.80 per hour Jan. 1, 2023, \$13.90 per hour Jan. 1, 2024, and finally \$15 per hour Jan. 1, 2025. This amended measure would also raise the minimum wage for tipped employees of restaurants, hotels, cabins, and ballrooms, who regularly receive more than \$30 per month in tips from the current 45 percent of the minimum to 50 percent. Additionally, the cost of living provisions would apply to tipped employees.

House Bill 731 as finally amended came after intense floor debate in which a group of 10 Democratic state representatives led by Concord's Kris Schultz successfully replaced the bill's first amended version as recommended by a Democratic majority of the House Labor, Industrial, & Rehabilitative Services Committee with a floor amendment including many of the provisions listed in the previous paragraph. This floor amendment was adopted on a 189-177 roll call vote. In fact, the Labor Committee's amended version, it had earlier replaced the many of the bill's original provisions, including the \$15 per hour minimum wage. The bill's sponsor is Rep. Schultz and many of the same Democratic representatives who sponsored the successful floor amendment. As for the Labor Committee's version, it would have raised the wage to \$10 per hour on Jan. 1, 2021, with continued annual increases to \$13 per hour by 2024.

In her floor speech supporting a \$15 minimum, Rep. Schultz said that \$15 is now needed to help many low-wage workers keep up with everyday expenses including food, clothing, rent, and car payments. On the other hand, Manchester Rep. Linda DiSilvestro, another Democrat, advocated for the Labor Committee's version. Rep. DiSilvestro wrote that the committee's recommendation of up to \$10 per hour provided for a "modest increase in the minimum wage," and would help our state move "forward with our employers and employees in mind to make New Hampshire a more desirable place to live, work, and start a business."

Nevertheless, House Republicans, led by Brookline's Jack Flanagan, stated that the bill "confuses a livable wage with a minimum wage." He added, "It creates reduced hours and automation, moving businesses and manufacturing out of the country. It also makes obtaining work for first-time workers more difficult." Rep. Flanagan also claimed in his floor speech that only approximately 1,400 New Hampshire employees actually work for the \$7.25 per hour minimum now. Finally, he reminded us that Gov. Christopher Sununu last year had vetoed similar legislation, Senate Bill 10, which would have increased the minimum to only \$12 per hour—a veto sustained by the New Hampshire Senate because all the minority Republican senators wished to support the Governor.

House Bill 731 as amended with the the \$15 minimum now proceeds to the Senate for more consideration. As of today, I would predict that the Senate would approve some version of the bill, though the \$15 minimum might be reduced in an effort to strike a compromise with Gov. Sununu, according to some informed sources with whom I've talked. A compromise that may be elusive because I get the impression he would be just as satisfied to have no state minimum, and require that workers rely on the federal minimum instead. I strongly believe a higher minimum wage would help our state's low-wage workers, benefit many retail businesses, and reduce some social problems like suicides. Not to mention that it could even reduce the costs to taxpayers of some social assistance programs for which many of these workers qualify, such as food stamps and Section 8 Housing. Economically and morally, it's the right thing to do.

In other business on Jan. 9, the House also approved two other measures which it had retained for further examination from the 2019 Session—both aimed at curbing the use of single-use plastic and paper bags. The first measure is an amended version of House Bill 102, which would allow municipalities like Claremont to adopt ordinances regulating the distribution of such bags. The bill was adopted by a 215-151 roll call vote, after a recommendation by a majority of the House Municipal & County Government Committee to adopt the bill. This enabling legislation now goes to the Senate for more review, and would take effect 60 days after becoming law. It is sponsored by a group of five Democratic representatives led by Concord's Christy Bartlett.

However, the second and more controversial measure that also passed the same day is an amended version of House Bill 559, which would permit municipalities to ban the use of free single-use plastic or

(Continued on page A5)

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Rep. Cloutier, from A4

paper bags used by store customers to carry home their purchases. The bill was approved on a 205-158 roll call vote after some floor debate, and a recommendation by a majority of the House Municipal & County Government Committee to approve it as amended by the majority. Under the bill as amended, customers continuing to want plastic or paper bags would be charged a fee of 10 cents per bag by stores, with a maximum charge of 50 cents for each purchase. Such fees would be kept by the stores. While plastic and paper bags wanted by customers would be charged these fees, reusable bags like cloth ones brought from home or bought by customers at checkout time would be exempt from the fees.

House Bill 559 proponents like Warner Rep. Clyde Carson stated that the measure’s goal is to “reduce the number and volume of single-use plastic bags in the state’s waste stream and in the environment by encouraging customers to utilize reusable bags, instead of paper or plastic.” But opponents such as Wolfeboro Rep. John MacDonald, a Republican, declared that the measure, “fails to recognize several important facts.” According to Rep. MacDonald, plastic bags are “100% recyclable, highly reused, and the vast majority are made and recycled in the United States.” He added that the Environmental Protection Agency says that plastic bags make up less than 0.3 % of the nation’s municipal solid waste, while statewide litter surveys have found that plastic bags make up less than 1% of litter. Furthermore, he said that the manufacture of reusable bags has “a higher carbon footprint than plastic bags,” and that plastic bag fees would just “promote shopping online and hurt our local businesses.” Finally he stated, “educational efforts concerning the use, reuse, and recycling of plastic bags should first be attempted prior to imposing an indirect tax on our residents and visitors.”

House Bill 559 as amended now goes to the Senate for further examination. It is sponsored by a group of four Democratic legislators led by Durham’s Judith Spang. I voted for both House Bills 102 and 559 because I believe the state needs to encourage the utilization of reusable bags by citizens and visitors for the sake of our environment as well as to help our municipalities reduce their solid waste and waste disposal costs. I don’t buy any of the arguments advanced by House Bill 559 opponents, and hope at least one of the bills eventually becomes law. In fact, I personally switched a few years ago to bringing in reusable cloth bags to carry home my retail purchases because I believe single-use plastic bags are a problem. jocloutier@comcast.net.

Shaheen, Blunt Introduce Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis Act

WASHINGTON, DC)– Friday, U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Roy Blunt (R-MO) announced bipartisan legislation, the Access to Breast Cancer Diagnosis Act, to make breast cancer diagnostic tests more accessible and affordable. Companion legislation was introduced in the House by Representatives Debbie Dingell (MI-12), Peter King (NY-02), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL-23), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), Colin Allred (TX-32), and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05).

“No one should ever feel pressured to forgo a necessary cancer screening because they can’t afford it,” said Shaheen. “This bipartisan legislation would require breast cancer diagnostic tests to be covered by health insurance in the same way that preventative screenings are covered, helping to ensure that these lifesaving tests are not out of reach for those who need them. Lowering health care costs and increasing access to critical services must be top priorities in Congress, and this bill helps make important progress on that effort.”

“Early breast cancer detection saves lives,” said Blunt. “Screening is vital, but getting the diagnosis confirmed so patients can start treatment as soon as possible is just as important. By ensuring full coverage of cancer diagnostic tests, this bill eliminates a major hurdle to care, leading to lower treatment costs and better outcomes.”

Under current law, insurance companies are required to provide no-cost coverage for breast cancer screenings, but not diagnostic testing. If the initial screening shows that a patient may have breast cancer, further testing, including mammograms, MRIs, and ultrasounds, may be needed to make a diagnosis. Regular diagnostic testing may also be recommended for patients who have had a prior breast cancer diagnosis. An estimated 10% of screening mammograms require follow-up diagnostic testing.

Mutual Aid Called for Fire at Earl Bourdon Centre

CLAREMONT, NH—On January 16, at 3:49 p.m., the Claremont Fire Department responded with an engine and a ladder to 67 Maple Avenue, also known as the Earl Bourdon Centre Box 0345 for an automatic fire alarm sounding. While fire apparatus was responding, the city's emergency dispatch center radioed the responding fire apparatus that a fire was detected in the main entrance to the building's first floor lobby.

The first fire apparatus was on scene at 3:54 p.m. and reported heavy fire showing from the main entrance of the building. At 3:56 p.m., the first arriving fire officer requested a 1st Alarm, recalling all Claremont Fire personnel to the scene. Mutual aid from Ascutney, Newport and Charlestown Fire Departments was also requested to respond to the scene. The fire was extinguished quickly and deemed under control shortly after 4:30 p.m.. Crews checked the buildings for extension and found that the fire was contained to the area of the main entrance of the building's lobby entrance. The building did sustain smoke conditions throughout the main hallways of the three-level complex. Fire fighters were able to eject the smoke condition using high powered smoke ejectors to clear the condition. None of the 80 living units of the Bourdon Centre was affected by fire or smoke, though all occupants were evacuated during the initial alarm sounding in the building. By 7:30 p.m. all floors were clear of smoke and residents were allowed to reenter and return to their living units.

Fire fighters remained on scene throughout the night and into the next morning as a precaution, reported Claremont Fire Chief Bryan Burr.

The cause of the fire was under investigation and is not considered suspicious. The department will continue to review evidence and make a determination at a later date, said Burr.

"The Claremont Fire Department would like to thank the mutual aid departments that provided assistance, including the Claremont Police Department, Claremont Safety Services Dispatch Center, Golden Cross Ambulance, Department of Public Works-Water Division and the management of the Earl Bourdon Centre. Without their assistance this incident would not have had as successful of an outcome," said Burr.

Icy Road Conditions Lead to Tractor Trailer Rollover in Weathersfield

On Jan. 16, at 2221 hours, Vermont State Police received a call reporting a tractor trailer rollover on Interstate 91 northbound at mile marker 50 in the Town of Weathersfield, VT.

Vermont State Police arrived on scene and observed a 2014 Freightliner Tractor Trailer unit in pieces off the easterly side of Interstate 91. Vermont State Police met with the operator of the vehicle, 62-year-old Robert Furber, who advised that he was traveling southbound on Interstate 91 at mile marker 50 when he lost control of his tractor-trailer unit on the ice-covered highway.

The 2014 Freightliner unit was origi-

nally traveling southbound on Interstate 91 when it left the highway and traveled down into the median of the Interstate. The Freightliner unit proceeded to crash through the median and traveled across both lanes of the northbound portion of the highway, before rolling multiple times in a wooded field off the northbound section of Interstate 91. The Freightliner unit was hauling loaded tandem axle trailers which were also totaled in the crash.

Furber was transported to Mt. Ascutney Hospital for a precautionary medical evaluation. He showed no signs of impairment or fatigue at the scene, reported authorities.

Due to approximately 75 gallons of diesel fuel being spilled at the crash scene, the Ascutney Fire Department notified the Vermont State Hazmat Team to assist with clean up. S.G. Reed Trucking Service later assisted in removing the Freightliner and trailers from the scene.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29 'Cool' Snow Sculptures for Families 10am-12pm

Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park
You've got one extra day this year ~ why not spend it playing in the snow? Join us at Saint-Gaudens NHP for Building 'Cool' Snow Sculptures ~ get inspired by Saint-Gaudens own sculptures! Please dress appropriately for the weather; light refreshments included.

Pre-registration is recommended. To register or learn more call (802) 457-3368 x222 or email us at emma_beck@partner.nps.gov.



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School Board Gets First Look at Proposed \$34.7M Operating Budget

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont School Board got its first look at the proposed FY21 budget Wednesday night. The proposed budget comes in at \$38.2 million, with an operating budget of \$34.7 million. While it is 9.14% higher than this year's budget, it works out with a \$1.2 million decrease due to increased revenues from the state. Overall, the tax rate would decrease 56 cents if this budget is adopted.

According to Superintendent Mike Tempesta, the proposed budget has the following goals: to ensure delivery of a "no taxpayer increase"; create efficiencies in programming to ensure that all students in Claremont have access to a quality education; create robust specialized programming in a LRE that ensure that all CPS students have access to career and college options upon graduation; address and rectify historical gaps in programming that greatly disadvantage CPS students (CMS core classes; FY Science and Social Studies); negotiate four CBAs to ensure a stable, professional work-force, school environments and programs that most benefit students within Strategic Plan and Budget parameters; and create Programs that reduce CPS reliance upon costly Out-of-District Specialized Programming.

The proposed budget includes four additional teacher positions at CMS for science and social studies, bringing those classes back up to a full year, and also pays for PRIDE, an alternate support program not in last year's budget, at a cost of \$523,269. There is also money for capital investments that is coming from the one-time state revenue and \$421,000 for the first year of a three-year contract for teachers. Tempesta said the district's goal is to make teacher salaries more competitive to lessen the high rate of turnover currently taking place. There is also a \$138,916 increase in special ed out-of-district costs in the proposed budget; monies recently received from the state and voted on by residents to fund an expendable trust to reduce such expenses by developing programs in-district have not yet been spent because the programs remain to be created. According to School Board member Jason Benware, out-of-district costs are higher this coming year because none of the students are "aging out" as typically happens. That should change the following year.

Warrant articles include secretaries' contract, impacting the tax rate by 15 cents; paraprofessionals' contract, 3 cents; maintenance and transportation, 67 cents on the tax rate and a capital projects reserve, also with an impact of 67 cents.

The default budget figures to be \$35.5 million and comes in lower, opposite of what has been happening in recent years, and would exclude the teachers' contract, among other items in the proposed budget. The impact would be a decrease of \$4.17 per \$1,000 off the school's portion of the tax rate.

There will be a public hearing on the budget Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. with a Claremont Board meeting to follow, at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, 111 South Street. The Clare-

mont School Board Deliberative Session is set for Feb. 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

WEATHERIZE II

Plainfield Elementary School Music Room.

7pm

KICK OFF EVENT

Plainfield and Cornish are teaming up again with NHSaves and local home energy contractors to help you save money, stay warm and reduce your energy usage by weatherizing your home.

Meet the contractors, ask questions, and learn how NHSaves can help with the cost. (Snow date, January 29)

More information and resources online at plainfieldnh.org/energy/weatherize.

Contact your volunteer team at StevenALadd@gmail.com(Plainfield) or JoSharf@gmail.com (Cornish).

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Claremont School District Presents Restructuring Plan

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—At Wednesday night's school board meeting, SAU 6 Superintendent Mike Tempesta rolled out a new restructuring plan for the district's three elementary schools. The new plan would designate Maple Avenue Elementary as pre-K and grade 1; Disnard, grades 2 and 3; and Bluff, grades 4 and 5.

According to the presentation, the goals include:

- Stability and control of class size and staffing assignments
- Complete equity for students: All students go to each Elementary School
- Stronger, consistent, targeted curriculum, assessment and interventions at each grade level
- Universal, All-Day, Pre-K for students age 4
- Unique Programming and Experiential Curriculum Opportunities for entire grade levels (Ex: Grade 4 field trip)
- Reduced conflicts with age discrepancies in within buildings [two and three year differentials vs. five years (K-5)]
- Re-allocation of teachers will focus on teacher strengths and program needs (Ex: teachers can focus on grade level content specialties vs. being generalists; content units can be "pushed in."

Tempesta said they looked for way to address "inconsistencies in resources" and said that the three replicated neighborhood schools "are little bit more costly." This grade level system is intended to keep class sizes small. Each student would attend each school, maintaining "equity," said Tempesta. He also said it would help create a

better team approach by teachers. "We feel like we are frontend loading the educational experience for the students all the way through," he said, so that they are able to learn and grasp concepts, not only with literacy but with math as well. He also said those involved in coming up with the plan, including curriculum people and principals, discussed the potential for "field trips and other concentrated types of experiences....We already have amazing things that are happening, now we would have aspects of those at each school and we can expand upon those things." He also cited reduced conflict with the age spread with kids, including bullying. He also said they believe they will get the most out of teacher strengths going forward with the new system.



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crafts.

Then there's the Young Iron Chef classes, held at the schools and the culinary department at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center. Students are given a menu, and as they prepare the meal, they're learning safe food handling procedures and nutritional tips. Not only do they enjoy the meals they made, they've also become participants in a taste-test contest. Teachers and staff judge entries and award prizes.

By far the busiest venue is the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center. Mark Brislin, Parks & Recreation director, says that school buses drop off an average 114 children for a 10am start. They're divided into groups that include students from all three schools, so kids get to meet and play with new friends from across the City. There's a lunch break, and the buses bring the youngsters back to their schools starting at 1:30pm.

Each group takes part in all four activities. Fitness workouts include stretching and jumping to upbeat music, followed by a vigorous routine done to a drumsticks rhythm. At Imagination Playground, kids handle bright blue building pieces and rise to the challenge to create everything from letters of the alphabet to robots. In the gym, they break into teams and play ball games and run races.

A favorite stop is the pool. CSBCC staff, all of whom are certified life-

guards, start with some basic lessons like floating, treading water and the crawl stroke, and end the session with some free swim time.

It's not only Claremont students who enjoy the CS-BCC. Claremont coordinated with other school districts to schedule "gym and swim" time. Boys and girls travel in



from Newport on Tuesdays, Croydon (Thursdays) and Cornish (Fridays).

Drumstick choreography leaves everyone breathless but energized; every culinary career starts with the basics: creating, enjoying, tasting and judging; can we build a robot with only ten pieces? Of course we can! (Photos: Eric Zengota and courtesy).



Classified Ads

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Ashley Bergeron
Agent



This Colonial was built in 1986. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths with an attached two-car garage. Formal dining room with large living room and fireplace. Needs some work. **\$129,987**

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 during open hours



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

Valley Regional Hospital Dunning Street ER Waiting Room is also available

FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, PLEASE CALL 911

Classified Ads

PUBLIC NOTICE

Claremont Development Authority
Full Board Meeting
Thursday, January 23, 2020 7:30 AM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street
Claremont, NH

CLAREMONT Energy Advisory Committee

PUBLIC Meeting

Monday, January 20, 2020 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street
Claremont NH

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 27, 2020 5:30 PM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street

The Planning Board will be holding a workshop meeting to discuss:
Feature-based zoning
Cottage Courts

Richard Wahrlich, Chair

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 27, 2020 7:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall

Presentation of Sullivan County
40-bed Sober Housing Facility
to be located
at 19 Sullivan Street

Richard Wahrlich, Chair

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, January 23, 2020 6:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall

PUBLIC NOTICE

Election of Officers
Draft Rules of Procedure
Other

David Messier, Chairperson

ACWORTH, NH

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

UVCC Juggling Club

5:30pm

We will plan to do this the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month as long as we have interest. Free. Located at the Carter Community Building (Old CCB) in Lebanon. Bring along anything you like to juggle! NO KNIVES. Beginner and experts alike are invited to come by, have some fun, learn to juggle or teach someone new. No street shoes allowed, so please bring along a clean pair, socks or slippers, whatever you prefer. Upper Valley Circus Camp, LLC, 603.398.2059, meg@uvcir-cus.com

Classified Ads

Teller: Part Time – Chester, Vermont

One Credit Union is currently seeking an experienced Part-Time Teller to join our Chester, VT team, located at 569 Rte. 103 South, Chester, VT.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Minimum of (1-3) years Teller experience
- Prior cash handling experience
- Particularly strong skills in branch operations and customer service
- Math and computer skills required
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work branch hours
- Strong TEAM player
- Demonstrated organizational skills while managing multiple tasks
- Demonstrated time management and prioritization skills

The Part-Time Teller reports to the Branch Manager and performs the duties of Teller.

Requirements:

- Education Requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent combination of education & experience.
- Wages commensurate with experience and skillsets.
- Benefits offered: 401k plan

Email cover letter, resume and references to

jobs@onecu.org

Equal Opportunity Employer
www.onecu.org



Classified Ads

Teller: Part Time – Springfield, Vermont

One Credit Union is currently seeking an experienced Part-Time Teller to join our Springfield, VT team, located at 380 River Street, Springfield, VT.

The ideal candidate will have:

- Minimum of (1-3) years Teller experience
- Prior cash handling experience
- Particularly strong skills in branch operations and customer service
- Math and computer skills required
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Ability to work branch hours
- Strong TEAM player
- Demonstrated organizational skills while managing multiple tasks
- Demonstrated time management and prioritization skills

The Part-Time Teller reports to the Branch Manager and performs the duties of Teller.

Requirements:

- Education Requirements: High School Diploma or equivalent combination of education & experience.
- Wages commensurate with experience and skillsets.
- Benefits offered: 401k plan

Email cover letter, resume and references to

jobs@onecu.org

Equal Opportunity Employer

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Mother Nature's icy touch Friday night left behind frozen masterpieces.

Photo by Phyllis A. Muzeroll

e-Ticker Business News

Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce Announces President's Awards Recipients

CLAREMONT, NH – The Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce's (GCCC) 63rd Annual President's Awards ceremony will take place Friday, Jan. 31, 5:30 p.m., at the Claremont Senior Center on Maple Avenue. The Chamber is pleased to announce the following recipients of our 63rd Annual President's Awards:

Business of the Year – Mascoma Bank
Non-Profit Organization of the Year – Baby Steps Family Assistance
Citizen of the Year – Courtney Porter
Young Professional of the Year – Rachel Naugler
Model Youth of the Year – Clara Avery

Each year, nominations are accepted from community members and then chosen by a committee of GCCC members and past recipients. GCCC membership is not required to be selected as an award recipient.

This year's **Business of the Year** is Mascoma Bank, who have served the Upper Valley for 120 years and continue to stand as a pillar of the community. Their Foundation and Donation Committee are constantly looking for new ways to positively contribute to local causes, supporting parks departments, non-profits, and beyond. As a Certified B Corporation, Mascoma Bank is in the top tier of businesses worldwide when it comes to accountability, sustainability, and commitment to creating a better world. As an example of their generosity and dedication to the community as a whole, Mascoma Bank purchased an air conditioning system for Claremont's Fiske Free Library in 2019, improving the space and creating a much-needed summer cooling shelter. Their consistent, impactful presence in the community is deserving of recognition every year, so it is our distinct honor to present them with this award.

Non-Profit Organization of the Year honors will be awarded to Baby Steps Family Assistance. Baby Steps began as a 4H clothing drive in 2011 and over the last eight years has

grown into one of the area's premiere charities and community action groups. Baby Steps also serves as the local Salvation Army Ambassador and operates the SAU6 Clothing Closet, creating a platform for local citizens to donate their lightly used clothing or receive clothing in their time of financial need. 2019 was a huge year for Baby Steps, who earned non-profit 501(c) status, lowering their overhead and creating new opportunities to do good in the community. As their nominator wrote, "Their positive impact on the community can be seen on the faces of the families and children who walk through their doors."



This year's **Citizen of the Year** Award honors a sixth generation Claremonter continuing her family's long tradition of leadership and positive impact in this city: Courtney Porter. Courtney serves as the only school social worker for SAU6, which means her tireless work has a direct impact on the health, security, well-being, and educational opportunities of countless young people in our community. She is also an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Claremont, where she currently serves as Chair of the Sponsored Program Committee, providing support to youth programs like Stevens High School's Key Club and Claremont Middle School's Builders Club. Courtney's volunteer work has a far-reaching impact, from the slopes of Arrowhead Recre-

ation Area to the tables of Claremont Soup Kitchen. The incredible scope and variety of her work in Claremont and the surrounding area truly makes Courtney one of the area's most outstanding citizens.

The **Young Professional of the Year** Award highlights the impactful advocacy and life-saving support Rachel Naugler provides as the Family Violence Prevention Specialist at Turning Points Network. Rachel helps local survivors of domestic, sexual, and stalking violence, working closely with law enforcement, DCYF, and the Child Advocacy Center. Her loving care and thoughtful, positive attitude are an example to those around her every day, and she has touched the lives of over 200 local families during her time at TPN. She is also an educator in the TRAILS (Transitional Re-Entry And Inmate Life Skills) program at Sullivan County House of Corrections, helping local offenders connect with strategies and skills they can use to thrive and avoid committing additional offenses after their release. Rachel says her kindness and compassion come from growing up in a community that values helping others, a tradition she's looking to continue in Claremont.

Model Youth of the Year recognizes the independent, consistent, and conscientious work of Clara Avery, a member of the Stevens High School Class of 2020. During her time at Stevens, Clara has participated in a variety of clubs and programs, including Key Club, the National Honors Society, Tri M Music Honors Society, and Art Club. She is also an accomplished athlete, having participated in four years of field hockey, tennis, and swimming, serving as Captain of both field hockey and the swim team. Her combination of natural leadership, athletic skill, and academic prowess have earned Clara "Outstanding Academic Athlete" on three separate occasions. An avid baker, Clara enjoys taking classes at King Arthur Flour in Vermont and is looking forward to attending college in the fall.

Tickets and additional information are available on the Chamber's website; www.greater-claremontnh.org.

e-Ticker Business News

Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice Announces Annual Meeting as it Begins 50th Anniversary Year

NEW LONDON, NH—Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice (LSRVNA) invites the community to its Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 4:00 p.m. at the Wilmot Community Association Red Barn on 64 Village Road in Wilmot, NH. The meeting will include highlights of 2019 initiatives and accomplishments, annual staff and volunteer award presentations, and remarks by Dr. Donald Eberly reflecting on the agency's 50th Anniversary this year. "Founded in 1970, LSRVNA is strong, resilient and committed to remaining an enduring presence in the community for another 50 years! We hope to see you there," says Jim Culhane, President & CEO.

There is no fee to attend and refreshments will be provided. RSVPs are greatly appreciated by contacting Cathy Raymond at 603-526-4077 x231 or craymond@lakesunapeevna.org.

Jan. 30 Deadline Set for Candidates Seeking Nomination to NHEC Board of Directors

PLYMOUTH, NH — Members of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NHEC) interested in being considered for nomination to the organization's board of directors should submit their materials to the Nominating Committee by 4:30 p.m. on January 30, 2020. More information is available on NHEC's web site at www.nhec.com.

"We are seeking qualified members with diverse personal, professional, and geographical backgrounds," said Steve Camerino, NHEC's president and CEO. "NHEC is a member-owned, non-profit organization, and serving on the board of directors is one of the ways our members can have a direct impact on how this democratically controlled organization is run. It is an important and rewarding job."

Board members are elected to three-year terms. Three of the eleven seats are up for election this year. Election ballots will be sent to all members in May. Those elected will be seated at the Annual Meeting of Members, to be held on Monday, June 22, 2020.

The Nominating Committee meets numerous times to review the applications and interview candidates for the Board of Directors. After completing the process, they nominate a slate of candidates to be included on the ballot. Only current members of NHEC may serve on the board of directors. The candidates selected will be identified on the ballot as having been nominated by the Nominating Committee.

NHEC members interested in serving on the board of directors may contact Sharon Yeaton at 603-536-8801, or yeatons@nhec.com, for a candidate packet.

About New Hampshire Electric Cooperative

NHEC is a member-owned electric distribution cooperative serving 84,000 homes and businesses in 115 New Hampshire communities. Headquartered in Plymouth, NH, our business is to keep, maintain and service our 5,500 miles of energized line in

order to provide our members with the best possible service.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Appoints New Trustees

LEBANON, NH – Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) elected five new public Trustees and two new physician Trustees to the Boards of Trustees during the Board's December 2019,

(Continued on page A17)

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2015-0655 Exp. 12/31/2021 Member SIPC

e-Ticker Business News

Trustees, from A16

meeting.

The new members represent distinguished leaders from business, financial and medical communities and include Mark Begor, Chief Executive Officer of Equifax; physician and innovator Elof Eriksson, MD, PhD; Jennifer Moyer, Chief Administrative Officer for White Mountains Insurance Group; David Paul, President & COO at JBG Smith; and Thomas Raffio, President & CEO of Northeast Delta Dental.

Since joining Equifax, a \$3.8 billion leading data, analytics and technology company, Begor has led a \$1.25 billion technology transformation strategy across the global enterprise. He previously served as Managing Director and Operating Partner at leading private equity firm, Warburg Pincus; prior to that he spent 35 years at General Electric in several global, corporate leadership positions in both industrial and financial services businesses.

Eriksson is the founder of Applied Tissue Technologies and the first author of all of the patents. He was the chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston from 1986 to 2016 and held the Joseph E Murray Chair of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Harvard Medical School. He is now Professor Emeritus.

Moyer is the Chief Administrative Officer and Corporate Secretary for White Mountains Insurance Group, a diversified insurance and related financial services holding company. Moyer earned a Bachelor of Arts in Social Anthropology from Harvard College in 1992 and a Master of Business Administration from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth in 1998 where she currently serves on the MBA Council.

Paul is President and Chief Operating Officer for JBG Smith, a leading owner and developer of high-quality, mixed-use properties in the Washington, D.C. market. JBG SMITH's portfolio currently comprises over 20 million square feet of high-quality office, multi-family and retail assets with a focus on cultivating vibrant, amenity-rich, walkable neighborhoods.

Raffio is President & CEO of Northeast Delta Dental, the Concord-based dental insurance company that administers dental benefits for more than 930,000 people in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Farms & Businesses Invited to Small Business Marketing Workshops

WRJ, VT—Vital Communities invites local small businesses and farms to attend one of three upcoming digital marketing workshops presented by Insights Marketing Solutions. Workshop participants are then eligible for reduced-price one-on-one marketing consultation from Insights Marketing thanks to funding from a Rural Business Development Grant from USDA Rural Development.

The workshops, which will cover the same material in three dif-

cations, are scheduled for Thursday, January 23, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Space on Main in Bradford; Monday, January 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Arnold Block in Bethel; and Tuesday, January 28, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Kilton Public Library in West Lebanon. The workshops are free to Local First members and \$15 for non-member businesses.

For more information and to register, visit <http://bit.ly/37NLouQ>.

The workshops are hosted by Vital Communities' Local First program, which works to strengthen the local Upper Valley economy.

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www.springfieldmed.org Financial Assistance Available

Attorney General Issues Warning About Scammers Impersonating Department of Justice

CONCORD, NH -- Attorney General Gordon J. MacDonald has issued a warning regarding a scam using his name and title in a forged letter that appears to notify the recipient that a legal proceeding has been initiated against them. The letter, which appears to be on Department of Justice letterhead and signed by Attorney General Gordon MacDonald, also requests a payment from the recipient as part of the legal proceedings.

A copy of the forged letter is shown to the right.

The Office of the Attorney General would under no circumstances notify individuals by mail that they have been charged with a crime nor would the office issue a letter requesting payment in order to resolve criminal charges, said MacDonald.

If you have received a communication that appears to be from the AG's office, you may report or verify its authenticity by calling the Consumer Complaint Hotline at 1-888-468-4454.

Family STEM Night: Sponsored by the Rogue Robots of 4-H
Learn to Build and Program 1st Lego League Robots with the potential of joining a competitive team next year

Kickoff Event January 21st

Who: 4th-12th grade students with an adult

When: 3rd Tuesday of the month (through May)

5:30-7PM

Where: 169 Main Street, Claremont, NH

(Use the Spring Street Ramp entrance, follow signs inside the building.)

RSVP helpful but not required

Direct Questions and RSVP to

RogueRobotsof4H@gmail.com.



ADA NOTICE
 The Judicial Branch of the State of New Hampshire complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need a reasonable accommodation in accordance with the ADA, contact a court clerk or an ADA contact person listed at www.jud.ct.gov/ADA.

NEW HAMPSHIRE JUDICIAL BRANCH
APPELLATE CLERK
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 06106



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGAINST [REDACTED]

NOTICE OF DEPT ASSIGNMENT

FEDERAL COURT

JD-AC-14 Rev. 1-19 P.B.

Sections 60-8, 62-7, 69-3, 70-2

The assignee was liable to have been, and should have been, met by this same answer upon the motion before and had his status fixed.

On March 14, 2019, the DOJ distributed a letter to state and local courts on the enforcement of fines and fees in criminal justice proceedings. The federal court of the united states of America permitted the assignee to bring an action at law against [REDACTED] to unpaid dept according to the state of New Hampshire in present case for public drunkenness charge requires a single payment of 4 668,27 USD, exclusive of costs, the Divisional Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine an appeal from you, a request must be send before February 20, 2020.

You have a right to defend yourself and fight the charges in court. Some of the legal factors that a public intoxication defense attorney can review with you include:

- Whether you given the particular facts of your case, actually violated city or state law;
- Whether the law enforcement officer followed the law; and
- Whether your conduct did, or did not, constitute violation.

Respond us required from you immediately, instead, we assume you guilty and assume you to pay up the amount quoted above. No action from you shall be guilty of class B felony and you are not allowed to visit United States of America as long you've not been able to pay off your debt to the state of New Hampshire.

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Are Your Financial and Tax Advisors Talking?

Now that we've closed the book on 2019, it's officially Tax Season. As you prepare your tax returns for the April 15 deadline, you might already start looking for opportunities to improve your tax-related financial outcomes in the future. And one important step you can take is to connect your tax professional with your financial advisor. Together, these professionals can help you take advantage of some valuable strategies:

- **Roth vs. traditional IRA** – If you're eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA and a traditional IRA, you might find it beneficial to have your financial advisor talk to your tax professional about which is the better choice. Generally, if you think your tax rate will be higher in retirement, you might want to contribute to the Roth IRA, which provides tax-free withdrawals (if you're older than 59 ½ and have had your account at least five years). But if you think your tax bracket will be lower when you retire, you might be better off with the traditional IRA, which offers upfront tax benefits – specifically, your contributions may reduce your annual taxable income in a given tax year. Your tax advisor may have some thoughts on this issue, as well as how it might fit in with your overall tax picture in retirement.

- **Taxable vs. non-taxable income** – Turning taxable income into non-taxable income can lower your current year's tax bracket. Depending on your income, you could potentially subtract your traditional IRA contributions (or your SEP-IRA contributions if you're self-employed) from your taxable income. And even now, it's not too late to affect the 2019 tax year, if you still haven't reached the IRA or SEP-IRA contribution limits. Before you file your 2019 tax returns, your tax professional can tell your financial advisor how much you would have to contribute to your traditional IRA, SEP-IRA or similar account to potentially lower your taxable income. If you make the contribution, your financial advisor can illustrate how it would impact your retirement picture and make a recommendation on how to invest the money. (You can fund your IRA with virtually any type of investment – stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and so on.)

- **Capital gains taxes on mutual funds** – You might think you have total control over taxes related to your mutual funds. After all, you decide how long to hold these funds before selling shares and incurring capital gains taxes. However, mutual fund managers are usually free to buy and sell new investments as they see fit, and some of these sales could generate capital gains taxes for you. If these taxes are relatively large in any one year, your tax professional may notice and could relay this information to your financial advisor. This doesn't necessarily mean these mutual funds are inappropriate for you; they still may be suitable for your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. But the tax aspect may be of interest to your financial advisor, who might recommend more tax-efficient investment options.

Your investment and tax pictures have many overlaps, and by ensuring your team of advisors is working together, or at least communicating with each other, you can increase the chances of getting your desired results.

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

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.



IRA? Don't wait to contribute.



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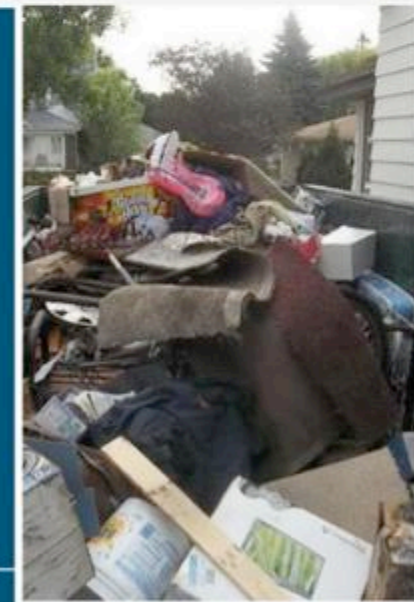
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Lunar New Year Celebration

Sat, Jan 25, 3 pm

**CSB Community Center
152 South St.**

For ages 3+ with accompanying adult

Part of the Hop's Community Venture Initiative which provides new opportunities for Upper Valley residents to create, access and explore the arts.

**Hopkins Center
for the Arts**
at Dartmouth



Sullivan County Fugitive of the Week

MATTHEW ROY
DOB: 04/13/1979

LKA: 174 Park
Street, Springfield,
VT

Description: White
male, height:
5'11", weight: 140
lbs., eyes: brown,
hair: brown

Reason: Failure to
appear
Original charge:
Sale of controlled
drugs- subsequent offense, Class A Felony (4
counts)



On Dec. 18, 2019, the Sullivan County Grand Jury indicted Matthew Roy on four counts of the Sale of Controlled Drugs- Subsequent Offense. An arraignment date was set for Jan. 10, 2020.

On Jan. 10, 2020, Roy failed to appear for his arraignment and as a result the Sullivan County Superior Court issued a warrant for the arrest of Roy for failure to appear.

The Fugitive of the Week is provided by Sheriff John P. Simonds of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office. If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of this fugitive, please contact either the Sheriff's Office at 603-863-4200 or your local police department.

Intro to Laser Cutting

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Makerspace's laser cutter/engraver is an incredibly capable tool which can be used for making high precision cuts and engravings on a wide variety of materials. In this three hour class, we'll walk through all the steps from idea to pressing the "go" button on the laser. After learning the basics, each student will create a simple design and cut it on the laser!

Although advanced design and computer skills aren't required to take this course, in order to attend the optional follow-up certifica-

tion session (to get approved to use the CMS's laser cutter/engraver on your own) you will need to be comfortable operating and navigating the Windows-based computer.

More technically inclined students may bring a laptop and a USB jump drive to class. You may choose to install Inkscape or a free trial of Adobe Illustrator or CorelDraw (the laser cutter workstation has a CorelDraw license) before you come to class to get familiar with the software and start on a vector design project. Participants will leave this class with a small demo project. Supplies will be included in the cost of ticket.

NOTE: if you're just looking for a laser cutting services, you are welcome to stop by the Claremont Makerspace and leave your information on our bulletin board.

Workshop Fee:
CMS Members - \$55
Non-Members - \$65

About the Instructor: Tiffany Vincent is an electronics guru, enthusiast of cutting edge technologies, web developer and 3D printing evangelist. As a part time prop maker as well, Tiffany has experience using laser cutters for a wide range of creative projects, with a diversity of materials. Tiffany is one of the Electronics Shop Leads at the Claremont Makerspace.

Monday, Jan. 27, 6:00 p.m.

To register, please go here:
<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2020/1/27/intro-to-laser-cutting>.

Father Daughter Dance

CLAREMONT, NH—Not just for dads! Here is a chance to make a great memory with that special little girl in your life. Dads, granddads, uncles, adult brothers or family friends are welcomed to accompany their date to the dance. Hors d' oeuvres will be served while you dance the night away to today's hottest hits! Come join the fun!

Photos of each couple will be taken.

Night-of registration will be taken! \$20 per couple at the door.

Please note that only the daughters/child(ren) should be registered for this program. Fathers/Adults do not register as they are chaperones/dates.

Feb. 21, 7pm to 9pm

For more information or to register online, visit https://apm.activecommunities.com/claremontparksandrec/Activity_Search/6003.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Winter Plein-Air Painting at Blow-Me-Down Farm
12-3pm

Location: Blow-Me-Down Farm off Route 12 in Cornish

Join painter Joan Hoffmann, recent Artist-in-Resident in Zion National Park, for painting en plein air at Blow-Me-Down Farm. No experience necessary; experienced painters welcome. Bring your medium of choice and come ready to paint winter's low light, on the Connecticut River. Be part of a national park tradition: painting in the parks!

Pre-registration is required (max 16 participants). To register or learn more call (802) 457-3368 x222 or email us at emma_beck@partner.nps.gov.

Got news?

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Glide, Slide and Ride

Arrowhead Visitors Celebrate World Snow Day



Sleboggan enthusiasts Laura Gary and Gary Stanhope glided to a smooth stop — after buzzing past skiers and riders, of course. Hannah Reed, 4, enjoyed her first day on skates with dad James and mom Megan. The family that tubes together ... well, at least reaches the bottom together. Mr. Sleboggan, Bill Herrick, inventor of the sleboggan, promotes the World Snow Day slogan, Explore Enjoy Experience.



CLAREMONT, NH—Last Saturday's storm was perfectly timed to dump plenty of snow on the slopes at Arrowhead Recreation Area in Claremont. To beat the winter blues, 278 visitors took advantage of Sunday's partly sunny, just-below-freezing conditions.

Of that number, 101 registered to take part in World Snow Day, organized by The Sleboggan Club of New England. Activities included trying out sleboggans — a steering device attached to a toboggan — and racing them to win gold, silver and bronze medals.

"No one set a record here today," reported Bill Herrick, who designed and patented the sleboggan in 2011. "But this was our biggest day ever worldwide, with 600,000 kids taking part." First-place winners at Arrowhead were Rachael Earl (14 and older category) and Keltly Stone (under 14).

getasleboggan@gmail.com
arrowheadnh.com



Text and photos by Eric Zengota



New Claremont City Council Meets – Grants, Compensation and Goals Considered

In Part 1 of this two-part series, I wrote about some of the topics covered during the Claremont City Council's first regularly scheduled meeting on January 8. This article will focus on the other topics that we discussed that same evening, including grants, refugee status, compensation study and city manager goals. Below is a synopsis of each.

As part of the agenda under New Business, the Council needed to consider two grant applications and hear updates on two awarded grants. The first application was for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Study Grant for up to \$25,000 to assess the water and sewer systems at the Sugar River Cooperative, a 30 unit manufactured housing park at Upham Place. If awarded, the study grant would provide the financial resources necessary to not only assess the current systems, but also develop a plan and cost estimate to replace/upgrade the systems as needed. After opening a public hearing at which no one spoke, the Council voted 9-0 to move forward with the application.

The other application was also for CDBG funds, but was considered an emergency grant for up to \$500,000 to address the issue of the shared wall connecting two private properties at 139 and 147 Main Street. For years, the vacant property at 139 had been deteriorating. The City Administration's efforts to have the owner address the issues were unsuccessful. Eventually, the deterioration reached a level of such disrepair that collapse was a possibility. As a result, the Council approved a 155-B action, authorizing the City to address the condition of 139 even though it was private property. Because of the shared wall with 147, a multi-family property owned by New England Family Housing, the safety of the tenants was also at risk. After consulting with legal counsel, the City ordered the tenants be removed in Jan-

uary 2019 and that property has since remained vacant. The complexity of removing 139 while keeping 147 intact requires shoring of the wall which has proven more expensive than the assessed value of 147. Applying for this grant was controversial as both properties are owned privately. Due to the City's liability, applying for these emergency funds was an option. After closing the public hearing at which no one spoke, the Council voted 5-4 to move forward with the grant application.

Should the grant be awarded, the City would have the funds to shore the shared wall and demolish the property at 139. The City could then rescind the order to vacate the 7 apartments at 147.

Following the votes on the grant applications, the Council also received updates on two grants the City was awarded. The CDBG funded feasibility study for the long term use of the building at 169 Main Street, on behalf of the Claremont Learning Partnership, was completed. The CDBG funded expansion of the Dental Center to the third floor of the Farwell continues. Both updates included a public hearing so that the public could comment, but no one spoke at either hearing.

After considering grants, the Council moved on to the topic of refugees and questions that members of the public have asked. In accordance with President Trump's executive order to have governors and mayors consent to accepting refugees, Governor Sununu gave consent for NH to continue accepting them. Because Concord, Manchester and Nashua are the only cities in the state to have refugee settlement agencies, the mayors of those municipalities needed to decide whether to give consent as well. Municipalities, like Claremont, without such agencies were not required to do so. When Lebanon issued a resolution stating that they would be receptive to taking refugees, it spurred questions and/or concerns from residents. While this topic can be controversial, the reality is that, once settled, refugees are free to move to other communities.

Upon the recommendation of then Interim City

Manager MacLean and with the support of the Personnel Advisory Board, the City Council approved a 2% increase for Merit Plan employees in 2019. Such a raise was part of a two-step recommendation to also conduct a compensation study in order to address pay scales that were not competitive within the region. Since then, City Manager Morris issued a Request for Proposal for conducting a compensation study and received estimates from two companies. At the meeting, he updated the Council that he was ready to move forward with having a company do the study and asked that the Council make the study results a priority for consideration.

The meeting concluded with a list of goals identified by the former Council against which to evaluate the City Manager. The new Council reviewed the list and agreed with the content. Goals highlighted included communication, blighted property, employee compensation, roads and organizational structure. The next step will be to develop actionable items under each goal so that progress can be easily measured during the manager's annual evaluation. The Council and City Manager also discussed the importance of developing long term goals and a strategy to accomplish them. Once a long-term strategy is outlined, we will have a clearly defined path for the continued development of Claremont for years to come.

Charlene Lovett is the Mayor of Claremont and welcomes your feedback. Please send questions, comments or concerns to her at clovett.ccc@gmail.com.

CLAREMONT SCHOOL BOARD

Public Notice

Claremont School Board Public Hearing on the FY '21 Budget

The Claremont School Board will be holding a Public Hearing on the FY '21 Budget on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 6:30 pm with a Claremont Board meeting to follow at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center, 111 South Street, Claremont, NH., for a School Board Meeting.

Please visit our website: www.sau6.org under School Boards to review agenda items.

The public is encouraged to attend