

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**Acworth Village Store in
Campaign to Remain
Open; page A6**

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January 21, 2019

Sen. Warren Visits Claremont

'We Win by Building Democracy'

By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—The buzz of conversation — 300 people make quite a big buzz — and the air of palpable excitement erupted into cheers and applause when U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts strode into the room for her first town hall in Claremont last Friday night.

Warren, who has formed an exploratory committee as she considers declaring her candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020, acknowledged the welcome with smiles, waves and an ask-me-anything openness that served her well in the question-and-answer portion of the evening.

But she began with reminiscent seriousness about her personal history, including the time in her Oklahoma childhood when her parents were facing a major financial crunch. She overheard them talking about “mortgage foreclosure.” She watched her mother pacing while muttering, “We are *not* going to lose this house. We are *not* going to lose this house.” But she also saw her mother put on her best dress and go to work out of the house for the first time in her life. Saw her father get another job. Understood then, she said, that “her mother reached down to find what she needed to find,” and that her parents, like so many others, would “do what it takes to take care of the people they love.”

And yet the family story, Warren declared, is also a story about government. Long gone

(Continued on page A26)



Shovels were readied for the symbolic groundbreaking of the Goddard Block Revitalization project on Pleasant St. in Claremont. Left to right—Architect Jay Barrett; Tony Instasi, Dave Rising and Christian Ufford of Trumbull Nelson, the general contractor; Rob Dapice of NHFA; Mayor Charlene Lovett; Senator Maggie Hassan; Kevin Lacasse, building owner; former Dist. 1 Ex. Councilor Joe Kenney; and Kevin Peterson of the Community Development Finance Authority (Bill Binder photo).

From Unsafe Shell to Renovated Housing

Redeveloped Goddard Block to Infuse Vitality Into Downtown Claremont

By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—A platter-sized hole in the drywall. Demolition debris ready for the dumpster. A window with a crack like a huge spider web.

What you might think is a dreary work setting is, in the eyes of New England Family Housing (NEFH), a blank canvas on which to start work on 12 months' worth of rehab artistry.

The property at 54 Pleasant Street in Claremont, which the City had condemned in 2017, resulting in 28 displaced families, is today a vast shell that by February 2020 will house 36 families in studio and one- and two-bedroom apartments. In addition, retail and commercial space will fill the ground floor.

(Continued on page A9)

Upcoming Events for Telling His-Story (and Hers)

Saturday, Feb 9, 11am: The Pierce Manse, 14 Horseshoe Pond Lane, **Concord, NH** Steve Wood as Abraham Lincoln in a living history presentation hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; presented with a grant from NH Humanities; free and open to the public; contact Gary Ward, 603-675-5506; <http://www.nhhumanities.org/events/visit-abraham-lincoln-7>.

Presidents' Day: Monday, Feb 18, 1:00 pm: A Visit with Abraham Lincoln, Concord Museum, 200 Lexington Road, **Concord, MA**; admission is charged; information at <https://concordmuseum.org/events/a-visit-with-president-lincoln/>.

From Concord, we will be driving to Groveland, MA, for a 7pm presentation that is not open to the general public, but if you will be

nearby at this time, let us know and we will inquire if you can attend as our guest.

Fri, March 15, 6:30pm: A Tribute to Sarah Josepha Hale, Divine Mercy Church, 171 Wilton Road, **Peterborough, NH**; Sharon Wood speaks as a 19th century woman from West Cambridge, Massachusetts, in a living history presentation about the well-known editor of Godey's Lady's Book who was born in Newport, NH; hosted by the Monadnock Quilter's Guild with a grant from NH Humanities; free and open to the public; Contact Jan Hicks, 603-547-3365; <http://www.nhhc.org/events/tribute-sarah-josepha-hale-2>.

Thursday, May 2, 7pm: A Soldier's Mother Tells Her Story, Ashland Booster Club, 99 Main Street, **Ashland, NH**; Sharon Wood speaks as Betsey Phelps, the mother of a Union soldier from Amherst, New Hampshire who died heroically at the Battle of Gettysburg, hosted by the Pemigewasset Valley Chapter DAR with a grant from NH Humanities, contact Sandra Ray, 603- 968-7958; <http://www.nhhc.org/events/soldiers-mother-tells-her-story-5>.

Thursday, May 9, 1pm: A Soldier's Mother Tells Her Story, Rye Congregational Church, 580 Washington Road, **Rye, NH**; Sharon Wood speaks as Betsey Phelps, the mother of a Union soldier from Amherst, New Hampshire who died heroically at the Battle of Gettysburg, hosted by Rye Recreation with a grant from NH Humanities; free and open to the public; contact Lee Arthur, 603- 964-6281, <http://www.nhhc.org/events/soldiers-mother-tells-her-story-4>.

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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 Wed., Jan 23, at 6:30 PM. 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.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

Cornish Supervisors of the checklist will meet

Tuesday, January 22

7:00-7:30 p.m. at the Town Office for additions and corrections to the list of legal voters.

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NH Lottery Numbers

01/19/2019

NH PowerBall

5 8 41 65 66 20

NH Mega Millions 01/18/2019

2 43 48 62 64 24

Tristate Megabucks 01/19/2019

3 11 12 25 39 4

For more lottery numbers,

<https://www.nhlottery.com/>

F

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2 Pleasant Street, Suite 3, Claremont, NH 03743

Located in the Brown Block.



Residents were greeted with traffic detours on Friday at the intersection of Main and Union Streets in Claremont. Traffic is being detoured up Union to Sullivan Street; all traffic entering Main Street through Opera House Square will be able to proceed down Main Street to Union. This measure was taken due to the deteriorating structural integrity of the building at 139 Main Street and heavy snow that was forecast for the weekend. The City reported in December that it was seeking community development block grant funding to demolish the building; however, the Council may need to take money out of fund balance for “the abatement of the hazard” more quickly. The building’s owner lives out of state and has not taken action to deal with the deteriorating structure; according to City officials, he owns other buildings in town that are also in poor condition (Bill Binder photos).

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Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier



Bills Would Raise State's Minimum Wage

This week's column picks up where I left off last week listing some of the approximately 750 pieces of legislation New Hampshire's House of Representatives will consider in 2019.

Among this legislation are at least two bills to raise our state's minimum wage. The first, House Bill 178, would re-establish an official New Hampshire minimum wage, and set this wage at a rate of at least \$10 per hour, unless the federal government sets a higher minimum wage rate. Unlike most of the other 49 states, New Hampshire has no official minimum wage because the Republican legislature in 2011 abolished the official wage. Thus, our state's low-income workers are only protected by the federal minimum wage, which is \$7.25 per hour. The bill's only sponsor is Dover Rep. Peter Schmidt, a Democrat. It is being reviewed by the House Labor, Industrial, & Rehabilitative Services Committee. The second-House Bill 186 would establish a state minimum wage of \$9.50 per hour as well as a training wage of \$8.50 per hour for workers under age 16 for the first three months of employment. Also, the bill provides for an annual readjustment of the wage at the start of every year, beginning on Jan. 1, 2022, based on Northeast Consumer Price Index. It is sponsored by a group of eight Democratic representatives, led by Canterbury Rep. Howard Moffett, and including Sunapee Rep. Linda Tanner.

Gun safety is the topic of a controversial piece of legislation to be considered in 2019. House Bill 109 would require commercial firearms sales or transfers to be subject to criminal background checks, and would provide a criminal penalty for non-compliance. But private, non-commercial sales or transfers between two individuals who know each other would be exempted, providing neither individual is prohibited from owning or possessing firearms under state or federal law. House Bill 109 is sponsored by a group of 10 Democratic lawmakers led by Concord Rep. Katherine Rogers, and includes Plainfield Rep. Lee Oxenham as well as Hanover Sen. Martha Hennessey, who is Claremont's senator. It will be studied by the House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee.

Improving government ethics and providing more legislative transparency in New Hampshire are the subject of two other separate House bills. The first, House Bill 430 would require both the State Board of Education as well as local school boards to adopt conflict-of-interest policies for both boards and local school administrators. This bill is sponsored by a group of eight Republican representatives led by Atkinson Rep. Peter Torosian, and includes Charlestown Rep. Steven Smith. It is being reviewed the House Education Committee. The second-House Bill 457 would all meetings and sessions of House committees to be recorded and made available on the internet. Presently, it is

normal practice to only record and make available on the internet meetings of the full House. The bill is sponsored by a bi-partisan coalition of legislators led by Hampton Rep. Robert Cushing, a Democrat. It is examined by the House Legislative Administration Committee.

In addition to bills and proposed amendments to the New Hampshire Constitution, some of which I listed in last week's column, the House will consider various resolutions. Such resolutions that often just express the opinion of the House include HCR (House Concurrent Resolution)4, which would encourage media outlets throughout our nation not to broadcast the names or images of suspected perpetrators of mass shootings. HCR 4 is sponsored by a group of legislators led by Weare Rep. Gary Hopper, a Republican. The resolution is being studied by the House State-Federal & Veterans Affairs Committee. Another resolution, HR (House Resolution) 6 would urge the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war. It is sponsored by two Democratic representatives-led by Durham's Timothy Horrigan and includes Dover's Sherry Frost.

Tax-related measures are usually a popular topic for legislators to file bills every year, and 2019 is no exception. For example, House Bill 114 would prohibit New Hampshire from entering or enforcing agreements concerning collection sales tax collections from other states. The bill is sponsored by a group of eight Republican representatives led by Epsom's Carol McGuire, and is in response to the United States Supreme Court's June 2018 Wayfair Decision. A decision that now allows states with sales taxes to collect such taxes for all on-line sales, even if the sales are to residents in states like New Hampshire, which doesn't impose a sales tax on any sales, on-line or otherwise. The bill is being reviewed by the House Commerce & Consumer Affairs Committee.

Furthermore in regard to local property taxes, House Bill 129 would enable municipalities to establish a cap on educational property taxes for residents aged 65 and older, if the property has been the taxpayer's primary residence for at least five years, and no school-aged child has resided with the taxpayer for the last five years. The bill is sponsored by two Republican representatives led by Center Barnstead Rep. Barbara Contois, and is being studied by the House Municipal & County Government Committee. Rep. Contois is also the leader of a bi-partisan coalition of representatives sponsoring House Bill 128 that is also being examined by Municipal & County Government. This bill would allow municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption for veterans, who have been determined by the United States Dept. of Veterans Affairs to have 100 percent service-connected total and permanent disabilities.

Finally, Municipal & County Government is scheduled to review the only 2019 bill of which I am the prime sponsor. House Bill 370 would permit residents of cities to serve on more than one municipal board or commission, with a few limited exceptions. Currently, only the residents of towns are permitted to serve on two such boards or commissions. I filed this bill at the request of the Claremont City Council, and pleased that all of Claremont's remaining legislators—Andrew O'Hearne, Gary Merchant, Walter Stapleton, and Sen. Hennessey—are co-sponsors. **Email: jocloutier@comcast.net**

Guest Commentary

Education Innovation is the New Hampshire Way

By Frank Edelblut, Commissioner NH Department of Education

Education holds the lofty aspiration of being the great equalizer in our society. Knowledge and learning are essential to the preservation of a free state and education spreads opportunity and advantages, according to the New Hampshire Constitution.

Implied in this statement is that education will help students from all socio-economic and diverse backgrounds achieve that aspiration. When considering this goal, it is important not to conflate school and education. Mark Twain, paraphrased, said, "I never let my schooling get in the way of my education," the point being that education is the goal, not school.

What does it look like when schooling gets in the way of education? We do not have to look very far to understand Mr. Twain's caution.

New Hampshire has one of the top performing school systems in the country. We regularly rank in the top 5 on various measures of success. Even in our top performing system, however, there are cracks forming that jeopardize our aspirations for education.

There is growing disparity in student performance. Students who come from economically advantaged homes regularly outperform economically disadvantaged students. This is not a new development. It has been persistent for decades. What is alarming is that the disparity is growing. The very education system that is supposed to be the great equalizer is, in fact, becoming the great divider.

Students coming from economically disadvantaged homes are going to the same schools as economically advantaged students, but they are not achieving the same education.

Fortunately for New Hampshire, this trend has not caught us by surprise. Not only were education leaders aware of this growing trend, but they also put in place policies to help solve the problem. These education policy leaders recognized that school, designed over 100 years ago based on an agrarian calendar, would actually prevent all students from getting an education. In particular, they saw that students from economically disadvantaged homes needed learning opportunities that reached beyond the walls of the school and into the community. They recognized that these students needed a diverse group of educators from varied backgrounds.

In 2005, the State Board of Education implemented rules that required schools to expand education opportunities:

"Schools shall strive to harness all available community resources, including but not limited to organizations, businesses, talented individuals, natural resources, and technology, to engage each student in achieving necessary skills and knowledge" ED 306.04 (k) (6)

In 2011, the State Board of Education commissioned a comprehensive study that emphasized the importance of all students experiencing extended learning opportunities outside of school.

These education leaders, with a deep passion for economically disadvantaged and diverse students, knew that school as it was configured over 100-years ago would not be good enough.

In spite of these rules and outside studies calling for changes to make sure school did not get in the way of education for vulnerable populations, the implementation has been spotty, at best. It is not spotty because of the people in the system, who are working hard every day to help students, but the system itself. It is hard to move a system.

That is where New Hampshire's culture of innovation works best. The Department of Education has launched three important initiatives in the last couple of months that embody the innovative spirit of New Hampshire:

- iPlatform for Education taps into the vast amount of data available at the department to help stimulate community conversations about education.
- LearnEverywhereNH establishes the means to create quality "outside the building" learning opportunities at scale so that all students can attain the aspiration of education being that great equalizer.
- New Hampshire Career Academy is an inspired program that allows students at no cost to them and no additional cost to the state to graduate after a "super-senior" (extended 12th) year with a high school diploma, an associates degree, an industry recognized credential and a job interview with a New Hampshire company.

Two of our legislative representatives penned an op ed the other day critical of these programs. Their approach is, "It's time to hit the pause button." With all due respect, haven't we been waiting long enough?

Economically disadvantaged students don't have the option of waiting. Teachers in our schools have been waiting a long time. Today, economically disadvantaged students perform 10-20% below the state average. Isn't that enough to take action? Are we supposed to wait until they perform 30-40 or 50% below state average before we implement the policies that we have known for more than 10-years will work?

No. This is not the time to pause. I know these two legislators. I know that we share the same goal: Bright futures for all students.

Again, with all due respect, it is not time to pause, it is time to move.

Acworth Village Store in Campaign to Remain Open

ACWORTH, NH—The Acworth Village Store is in danger of closing, and those who love the landmark and those who depend on it are continuing a campaign to keep it open. The board had an emergency meeting last week; with its current average daily income, the store will not be solvent within two months, they reported on Facebook.

According to the bare facts, the business needs \$500 per day in sales to break even but is only averaging \$300-\$350. Its annual appeal helped rebuild some of the lost revenue from last summer's bridge closing, but it won't keep the store afloat long enough to see spring. According to the board, they are running through its savings, and quickly. More than \$10,000 in sales was lost in July, when the road to the store was closed while the State replaced a bridge. All the tourists and summer people unfortunately went elsewhere, the board reported.

The Village Store is operated by the Acworth Community Project, a NH non-profit corporation. It is the hub of activity for the small community, serving as a gathering place to have coffee, enjoy breakfast, have lunch, catch up with friends and neighbors, shop a little for local crafts, buy local honey, grab a cold one, or to just "hang out". In addition to being a traditional general and grocery store cooperatively owned and governed by its members, the business also provides Post Office services and sells a wide variety of locally produced goods.

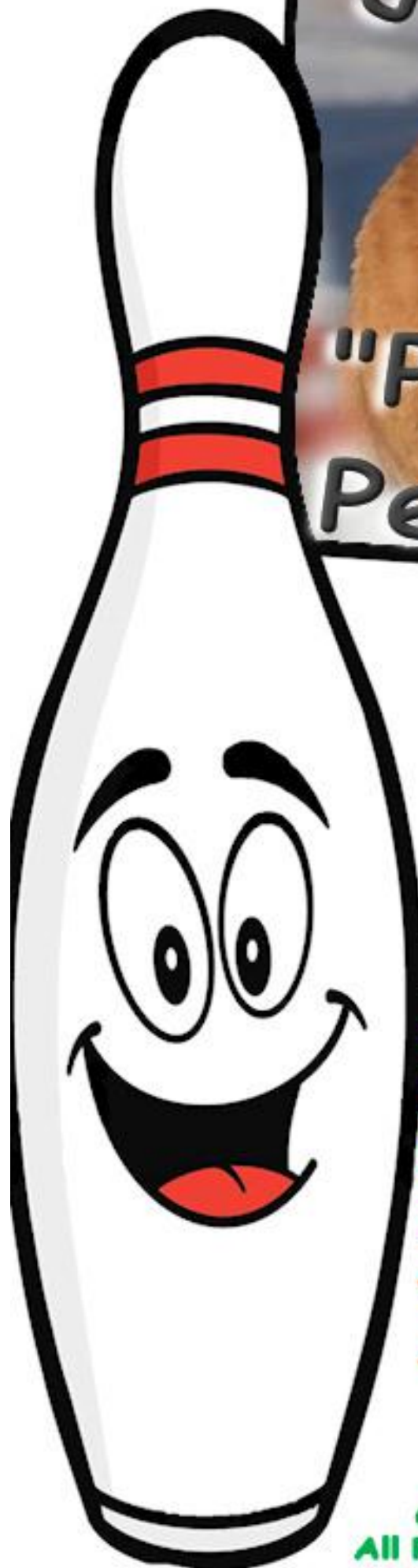
The store always anticipates low sales in the winter, said the board. To offset this, many events are held from May to October. Pizza from the outdoor oven is offered on Saturday nights throughout the summer, accompanied by the sounds of local musicians. May starts the season with Wingstock, followed by the very popular Music Fest in June. In July the spot held its first car show but attendance was limited because of the road closure. August drew a crowd into the Turn Around Barn for the Harvest Dinner. September offered a Moon Dance with music by The Blue Collar Band. In October, the infamous Pig Roast also drew a huge crowd.

According to its history on the store's website, the business "was first opened as the Civil War was ending, [and] has been in, pretty much, continuous operation for [more than] 150 years. This is amazing not the least because during [time], Acworth has had many stores, by some counts up to six. The Acworth Village Store in the Union Hall Building in South Acworth has had many owners and has handled a great variety of products during these years. Through the hard work of its many owners and because of their ability to fulfill the needs of their customers, the store has managed to survive through this period of great change."

The community now has a GoFundMe page with a goal of raising \$10,000 to keep the store operating. To make a donation or to learn more, please visit https://www.gofundme.com/you-couldnt-get-here-from-there?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fb_dn_cpgnstaticxlarge_r&fbclid=IwAR3a5lwyHZzoH1vGvZSo2mmCTILwO0udvIxtP-NJQe-N0z1AMelbCRQItPr8.

—Phyllis A. Muzeroll





Wednesday, Feb 27th

6pm - 10pm

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Spirit of Johnny Cash Playing at COH

CLAREMONT, NH—Claremont Opera House, WCNL Country 1010, and the Common Man Inn and Restaurant welcome The Spirit of Johnny Cash back to the Claremont Opera House by popular demand Saturday, March 9th, at 8:00 p.m. This is what country music is all about - the music of Johnny Cash. The Nashville music press has hailed this show as a “must see to believe.” Harold Ford is incredible as Johnny Cash. He sings and looks exactly like the man in black - and it comes naturally.

You'll hear many of Cash's great hits, including *Folsom Prison Blues*, *I Walk the Line*, *Ring of Fire*, *Jackson* and many more. The performance also features great songs by The Highwaymen, a project that featured Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson as well as Carter Family tunes.

Man Sentenced in Pharmacy Robbery Case

NEWPORT, NH—Brian Mahoney, 42, of Claremont, pled guilty last week in Sullivan County Superior Court to a theft charge and one felony charge of criminal threatening with a deadly weapon in connection with a robbery at the Sugar River Pharmacy on Pleasant St. in November. He was accused of entering the business and brandishing a knife at the staff and taking 100 Oxycodone and 100 Alprazolam pills. The pharmacy is located near several schools, which were put under shelter-in-place precaution for a time shortly after the robbery. Mahoney was tracked down and taken in custody that same day without incident. He was sentenced to 12 months in jail for each crime; he will be eligible to participate in treatment programming while serving his time at the Sullivan County House of Corrections.

The *Valley News* reported that Mahoney has no prior criminal record and that he expressed remorse through his attorney.

—Phyllis A. Muzeroll

Harold Ford's performance as Johnny Cash has mesmerized many an audience, which you'll realize as you applaud for an encore!

After seeing Harold Ford play in Tennessee, Tommy Cash, Johnny's younger brother said, "I don't know how you do it, but you've got my brother's fingerprints and he would be honored."

"From what I've seen and heard, I think Harold is the best Johnny Cash tribute artist -- the best in the world," -David Hutchinson, song writer and producer, England.

People look forward to coming back to the Claremont Opera House see the Spirit of Johnny Cash every Spring. Reserved tickets are \$24, including handling fees and can be purchased online at www.claremontopera-house.org, in person at 58 Opera House Square in the City Hall complex, or on the

Square in the City Hall complex, or by phone at 603-542-4433.



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Goddard, from A1

Kevin Lacasse, CEO of NEFH, saw the value in renovating the building instead of tearing it down. He envisioned the redevelopment as a vital contribution to the revitalization of the city center. The project represents an investment of \$11.1 million into Claremont's economy, and will create more than 40 jobs. Annual real estate tax payments are estimated at \$18,200. Most importantly, the "new" Goddard Block will offer not only nine market-rate apartments but also 27 units that address the City's need to provide affordable housing to income-qualified households.

An array of elected officials and City staff praised the launch of the Goddard Block Apartments project at a groundbreaking ceremony on January 18.

U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) noted that such redevelopment projects "allow our citizens to live independently and engage in their community." The Goddard work, she emphasized, also demonstrates the importance of government entities — at the national, state and local levels — partnering "to give people a chance to afford housing. I can't imagine not having a home to go to," Hassan added, "and Claremont's revitalization project will now help these families have a home."

U.S. Representative Annie Kuster (D-NH district 2) said, "This is my favorite kind of project — housing." She had just spent an hour at Turning Points in Claremont, where families challenged by violence, addiction and homelessness can find shelter. "They are going through transition and want to do better for themselves and their children. They want to be out on their own," she said, and affordable housing is an important factor that adds to everyone's quality of life.

Joe Kenney, former District 1 Representative on the Executive Council of New Hampshire, paraphrased the lyrics of the classic song, "Chicago" to show his enthusiasm. "My kind of town, Claremont is," he began, and continued by noting how the project will create jobs as well as complement the growth and revitalization of downtown Claremont. "Thank you, too, to the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall leadership and the citizens of Claremont for your support."

U.S. Senator Jean Shaheen (D-NH) was unable to attend, but Bethany Yurek of the senator's Claremont office staff, read from her letter that the Goddard Block redevelopment "is a crucial project that will bring significant benefits



Prior to participating in the Goddard Open House on Friday, Congresswoman Ann Kuster met with survivor advocates from the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and Turning Points Network in Claremont to discuss the impact of the government shutdown on efforts to address domestic and sexual violence in New Hampshire. "Crisis centers like Turning Points shouldn't have to worry about having access to the monetary support they need to provide critical services to survivors. This shutdown must end so we can affirm our commitment to supporting survivors and their families following traumatic violence," said Kuster (Courtesy photo).

to the community."

Claremont Mayor Charlene Lovett remarked that, "thanks to Kevin Lacasse, the \$11.1 million investment will create a building that not only helps address our community's needs for affordable housing but also meets the current standard for energy efficiency."

Lacasse outlined the several funding sources, "without which our concept would not have become a reality." Sources include low income housing tax credits, an historic tax credit, a New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) subsidy through HOME funds, a Community Development Block Grant from the Community Development

Finance Authority, and NHHFA construction and permanent loans.

The space where Nana's Treasures used to be (Bill Binder photo).



Classified Ads

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Agent



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Classified Ads



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The City of Claremont is looking for a candidate with a legal mind, highly skilled and detail-oriented, with a paralegal certificate preferable, to provide support to the administrative offices of city hall. Duties include performing a wide variety of complex, confidential, administrative and secretarial tasks; transcribing and drafting various documents; reviewing documents for completeness, proper formatting, and typographical errors; conducting electronic research via the internet; preparing and mailing various required reports; as well as follow-up and processing of various projects the administrative team is working on. Work is performed independently with minimal supervision.

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2:00 PM

In the Parish House of the Meriden Congregational Church, 5 Mitchell Drive, Meriden, NH
For more information, call (603) 469-3235, or e-mail john@meridenucc.org.

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Welcome to a safe, private community - a community of grievers, a place where we hope all can find sanctuary. Through mutual respect and compassion we seek to bear witness to each other's pain, and to support and hold each other as we try to find our way in the unbearable, unimaginable world of deep grief and loss. Everyone is welcome to this community. It does not matter what your religious views are or even if you have no religion.

Granite State College Achieves a Top-100 Ranking for its Online Degree Programs

CONCORD, NH—A mother of grown children developing a new pathway for her career. A member of the New Hampshire National Guard who coaches youth hockey part-time. A local police chief who puts community first. A young professional working in education. These hardworking citizens of New Hampshire are earning their degrees online from Granite State College.

Adding to the personal and professional value of their degree is the announcement from *U.S. News & World Report* that for the eighth year in a row, Granite State College has achieved a top-100 ranking for its online degree programs.

U.S. News & World Report evaluated online bachelor's programs based on four categories: engagement, services and technology, expert opinion, and faculty credentials and training.

For online graduate business programs, student excellence was also considered.

"As more adult students enroll in online courses to advance their careers, access to affordable and high-quality programs is critical," said Tara Payne, Vice President of Enrollment. "Recognition from *U.S. News & World Report* further affirms the value of a Granite State College education for our students and alumni."

For online bachelor's degrees, Granite State College is #76 among a pool of more than 1,700 institutions that were surveyed nationwide. The online graduate business programs (non-MBA) garnered a #94 ranking.

Derek Reiss '19, a combat veteran residing in New Hampshire's seacoast area, has completed more than 70% percent of his B.S. in Communication Studies online.

"For me, Granite State College was a perfect match. The class schedule fit my lifestyle, especially once I started a full-time job with the New Hampshire National Guard. I could continue my community involvement with veteran causes, spend time with my family and friends, and serve as a hockey coach for local youth leagues," shared Reiss.

To learn more about Granite State College and its dynamic students and alumni, visit granite.edu/also-students.

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Recreation Roundup



'Hoop' to It — When Teens Coach Kids, Everyone Wins

There are many ways to encourage youngsters who are just starting out in sports. Here at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, a unique program not only engages our youngest athletes but also provides fun-filled, skill-enhancing sessions to keep them interested.

For the last few years, boys and girls on the Stevens High School basketball teams have coached the Grades 1 and 2 participants in their "skills & drills" clinic. The high school players alternate on Saturday mornings, girls one week, boys the next. Most of the time, it's hard to tell who's having more fun, the coaches or the kids.

Ivy Condon, coach of the SHS girls varsity basketball team, is well aware of the mutual benefits of student-coaching. "The girls learn that teaching the kids is a team effort," she says. "They have to work together to make sure the kids are understanding the drills. The girls are also remembering the fundamentals of the game. What better way of reminding them of those simple but basic things than to teach them?"

The girls play games every Friday night. Win or lose — and no matter if it was a home or an away game involving a late-night bus ride back to Claremont — they're in the gymnasium Saturday morning. "I love seeing the girls' interaction with the kids," says Condon, "and how the kids get excited to see the girls and work with them."

This year more than 40 first- and second-graders took part in the clinic. The program is designed so that they rotate through four stations in a single session. They work through different drills — dribbling, shooting, passing — that help them develop their basketball skills.

We're fortunate to have the student athletes volunteer to help those just starting out. The youngsters like working with the older players and look to them as role models. The clinic also builds excitement for the high school pro-

gram. Many of the program participants want to go watch their "favorite players" in action at the high school gym.

On the boys' side, Dan Ryan, coach of the varsity boys basketball program, looks at student-coaching from the youngsters' perspective. "The kids teach me how to engage them," he says, an insight he passes on to the high school players. "Kids need to learn sports in a structured, physical way, so we develop a message that they can relate to."

All the coaches acknowledge that teaching the youngsters the fundamentals works best while making sure they're having fun at the same time. That way they develop a love for the sport.

Skill and determination combine to nurture the youngsters' athletic ambitions. As Condon puts it, "Don't give up. Keep practicing and keep playing, and you will get better. Don't give up because something is hard. Climb over that hard wall and get better at it and soon you will be great at it. Most of all, don't be afraid to ask for help."

Help — that's the key to getting better at whatever you're working on. You're sure to find someone who will help in the activities Parks and Recreation sponsors. Is today your first day playing pickleball? Long-time players will gladly give you tips. Need to enhance your cardio performance? Our fitness instructors will talk you through to new levels. Want to refine the breast stroke you've been relying on for decades? Lessons with a coach will get you there. Just ask!

All of us at Parks & Rec thank the varsity coaches, student-coaches and volunteers who

helped make the Grades 1 and 2 basketball clinic a success again this year.

To see the Stevens basketball schedule — and all high school sports events — visit stevenshsathletics.com. Take in a game. Travel to a match. Our City's young athletes appreciate your support — and especially your cheers.

Mark Brislin, director, Parks & Recreation
— 603-542-7019 —
mbrislin@claremontnh.com

Whether it's one-on-one or one-on-two action, kids can count on their high school coaches to help improve their skills. Bottom: A strong defensive shuffle is key to basketball success. The Claremont Department of Public Works donated the T-shirts for the clinic (Eric Zengota photos).



Claremont Man Arrested in NC Following Six-Month Investigation

CLAREMONT, NH—On July 30, 2018, a custodial parent of a one-year-old juvenile reported to the Claremont Police Department that the following subject had allegedly taken the child and was concealing her from that custodial parent as well as legal process: Gabriel Croft, 32, of Claremont, NH.

After an approximate six-month investigation, which included obtaining telephone and social media records, a warrant for Croft's arrest was issued on January 10, 2019, by the 5th Circuit Court – District Division – Claremont.

According to a statement released by the Claremont Police Department, investigators

tracked Croft's location to Charlotte, NC, where he was arrested on January 18, 2019. The child was also located and taken into custody by North Carolina authorities until she can be returned to the custodial parent.

Croft is currently charged in New Hampshire with one Class B Felony complaint of Interference with Custody. He is charged in North Carolina with one Felony count of Fugitive From Justice, as well as two traffic offenses. His bail is set at \$200,000 as he awaits further extradition proceedings, said the Claremont Police Department.

Claremont Police were assisted in this investigation by the United States Marshals Service, the New Hampshire State Police Information and Analysis Center, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (NC) Police Department, the Huntersville (NC) Police Department, and the Lincoln County (NC) Sheriff's Department, said Capt. Stephen A. Lee of the Claremont Police Department. Prosecution of this matter will be handled by the Sullivan County Attorney's Office.

Investigation into this matter is ongoing, and further charges are anticipated, said Lee. Anyone with information about this investigation is encouraged to call Claremont



Gabriel Croft

Police Detective Casey Piehl at (603)542-7010 or e-mail cpiehl@claremonthh.com.

Newport Police Release Statement Regarding Child's Death

NEWPORT, NH—Newport Police Chief James Burroughs reported that the Newport Police Department Emergency Communications Center received a 911 call at 7:10 a.m. on the morning of Jan. 14, advising that a 2-year-old girl had been found unresponsive outside of 10 Maple Street. Newport Emergency services responded and found that the female child was deceased. The name of the child is not being released at this time.

"The preliminary investigation has revealed that the child left the residence on her own in the early morning hours and was not able to regain entry," said Burroughs. At that time, the accident remained under investigation by the Newport Police Department and the Sullivan County Attorney's Office.

UPDATE 01/14/19 4:00 P.M.

According to an update Burroughs later released, "This investigation is ongoing at this time; however, the present status of the evidence suggests that the child's death is the result of exposure to the elements and hypothermia. Preliminary results of the autopsy are consistent with these facts. At the time of her discovery, the temperature outside was -8 degrees." The child was later publicly identified by family as Sofia Van Schoick.

An obituary for Sofia may be found on page B10.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28 SCHOOL BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Cornish, NH

The Cornish School Board will meet for a Public Hearing on Monday, January 28, 2019 at 6:00 PM, in the Cornish Elementary School Library. The Public Hearing will address the proposed 2019/2020 Cornish Elementary School Budget and warrant articles for the School District meeting.

The public is encouraged to attend.

Claremont Savings Bank



TIPS



IDENTITY PROTECTION

Check your mail.

If you haven't received mail for a few days, you may be the victim of mail diversion fraud. This type of scam involves the forging of your signature on a change-of-address form to divert your mail and obtain personal and financial information. If you suspect your address has been changed without your permission, contact the post office. Also consider subscribing to a fraud monitoring service to alert you of future suspicious activity.

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e-Ticker Business News

VRH Annual Meeting Jan. 22 at CSB Community Center

CLAREMONT, NH—Valley Regional Healthcare's Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 22, at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center at 152 South Street in Claremont. The event runs from 5:00-7:00 p.m., and the public is encouraged to attend.

Peter J. Wright, FACHE, Valley Regional's President and CEO, will recap the 2018 fiscal year, and he will be joined by Board Chair Patti Putnam to honor Outstanding Trustee, Outstanding Non-Profit Partner, Outstanding Volunteer, and Outstanding Business Supporter.

Rounding out the meeting will be a presentation from keynote speakers Tom Roberts, Executive Director of Vital Communities, and Clayton Adams, President & CEO of Mascoma Bank and Corporate Counsel at Vital Communities.

This event will feature displays about Valley Regional's programs and services, with department managers and staff on hand to meet the public, and light refreshments will also be offered.



62nd Annual President's Awards Presented by the Chamber

CLAREMONT, NH—The Greater Claremont Chamber of Commerce held its 62nd Annual President's Awards Friday evening, at the Claremont Opera House. The program that honors both people and organizations for their contributions to the community drew a large crowd. This year's winners included Model Youth of the Year, Madeline Ferland (top left); Young Professional of the Year, Matthew Mooshian; (from left bottom) Non-Profit of the Year, Claremont MakerSpace (award accepted by Brendan Dangelo); Business of the Year, New Hampshire Industries (award accepted by John Seaver); and Citizen of the Year, Tom Liveston. Ferland is a senior at SHS and involved in a number of school organizations and is on the High Honor Roll. Mooshian is



a community organizer from the Upper Valley area and has worked with several human service agencies as is an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and early childhood education; he lives in Newport. Claremont MakerSpace has opened an innovative home for creative endeavors of all kinds. A manufacturer, NHI came to Claremont, expanding its Lebanon base; it later consolidated all of its operations to Claremont and hired an additional 70 employees. Liveston is a retired SHS teacher of physics, chemistry, electronics and computers; he is a retired Coast Guard reservist of 34 years and is active in local organizations (Bill Binder photos).

e-Ticker Business News

The Common Man Removes Plastic Straws Companywide, Makes the Switch to Paper

ASHLAND, NH—The Common Man family in New Hampshire has removed all plastic straws from its restaurants statewide, investing instead in a paper straw alternative for guests.

The almost 50-year-old hospitality company has closely monitored the worldwide movement to cut down or ban use of plastic straws in restaurants, because of their slow breakdown in landfills and threats to wildlife and the environment.

The Common Man's Chief Operating Officer Sean Brown said their restaurants moved to an on-demand distribution of straws in 2018, giving plastic straws only when guests requested them, but in alignment with some of the company's other environmental initiatives, and to meet guest needs, members of the operations team investigated other eco-friendly options.

In partnership with vendor Central Paper Products Co., Inc. in Manchester, The Common Man found a good fit with Hoffmaster paper straws that are made from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper, are certified Cedar Grove® compostable, non-toxic, chemical-free, BPA-free, uncoated, and FDA food grade-compliant. These paper straws have replaced all regular beverage and smaller cocktail straws at the 15 Common Man-owned restaurants across New Hampshire, as well as The Flying Monkey Movie House & Performance Center in Plymouth. The Common Man's sister company at the Hooksett Welcome Centers is exploring options.



Brown said The Common Man's move to paper straws actually increases paper goods costs for the company by about \$24,000 annually, but the benefit to the environment and convenience for guests will be the return for that investment. "We're focused on doing the right thing on many levels," said Brown. "Some guests need straws due to dental issues or sensitivity to cold, others just prefer to use a straw with their beverage. This provides an eco-friendly way to meet those needs and preferences."

Founded in 1971, the Common Man family in New Hampshire is made up of 15 restaurants, two Inns, a Spa and Salon, Company Store, The Flying Monkey Movie House and Performance Center and the new The Barn on the Pemi wedding and event center. Common Man locations include Common Man restaurants in Lincoln, Ashland, Concord, Claremont, Merrimack and Windham; Common Man Inn & Spa, Foster's Boiler Room, Italian Farmhouse, The Barn on the Pemi, and The Flying Monkey

(Continued on page A17)

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e-Ticker Business News

The Common Man, from A16

in Plymouth; Common Man Inn & Restaurant in Claremont; Lakehouse Grille, Camp, Lago and Town Docks in Meredith; Route 104 Diner in New Hampton; Tilt'n Diner in Tilton; Airport Diner in Manchester; and the Common Man Company Store in Ashland. For more information about The Common Man, visit thecman.com or become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thecmannh and find them on Twitter and Instagram @thecmannh.

WorkReadyNH Program Begins Feb. 4 in Claremont

CLAREMONT, NH—Confidence! That's the number one thing that almost 500 RVCC WorkReadyNH grads have gotten from the program. If you want to build skills, build confidence and build your career by improving your resume and interviewing skills, upgrading soft skills of communication, problem solving, conflict resolution, and more, as well as increase math, reading, and graphic literacy skills, join the tuition-free WorkReadyNH program that will be held at River Valley Community College in Claremont, Feb. 4th - 25th, Mon. - Fri., from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Simply email workreadyrvcc@ccsnh.edu or call 603-543-4585 to register; see more information at www.rivervally.edu. The program is open to New Hampshire residents 18+ years old.

Shaughnessy is Mt. Ascutney Hospital's Employee of the Month for December

WINDSOR, VT – Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) has announced that Bill Shaughnessy, General Maintenance Technician and Safety Specialist, has been selected as December, 2018 Employee of the Month. The monthly award recognizes employees who have demonstrated sustained service excellence in their respective departments and have displayed compassion, a car-



Bill Shaughnessy

ing approach and continuous hard work within their community.

As a member of the MAHHC General Maintenance and Safety team, Shaughnessy performs maintenance and servicing operations throughout the Mt. Ascutney Hospital campus, including carpentry and plumbing, as well as preventative maintenance and equipment inspections for water, HVAC, electricity, communications, and other systems. He also provides security, assuring the safety of patients, staff, and visitors with snow removal, hourly rounds, and regular monitoring of alarms, pathways, doors and more.

Shaughnessy's supervisor, Director of Plant Operations Joe Martaniuk, calls him essential to the care Mt. Ascutney Hospital provides, say-

ing "quality patient care happens when the spaces where people work and heal are safe, strong, and well maintained. Bill understands this responsibility, and you can find him everywhere, ensuring the proper maintenance and security of the Hospital, all with a smile on his face. For the work he does day in and day out, he's more than earned the title of Employee of the Month."

Shaughnessy, who lives in Cavendish, VT, has been a member of the MAHHC staff since 2013.

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Vol. 1 Number 1

DINING WITH DISASTER



By Mike Cirre

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Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

The year ahead offers new opportunities and experiences. But as you make plans throughout 2019, be mindful of the things that can derail those plans – such as the natural disasters that affected so many families in 2018. Every area around the country is subject to natural disasters, whether they're wildfires, hurricanes or tornadoes. How can you prepare for them?

Here are a few suggestions:

Maintain adequate insurance. It's a good idea to review your homeowners insurance at least annually to ensure it's still providing the protection you need. And make sure you know exactly what your policy covers in terms of natural disasters. You'll also want to review your life and disability insurance regularly. And, of course, you'll want to stay current on your premiums for all your policies.

Keep a record of your possessions. The insurance claims process will be much easier if you take the time, before a natural disaster occurs, to photograph or videotape the contents of your home. You also might want to list the brands and serial numbers of appliances and electronics.

Know your passwords. It's important to have ready access to the passwords for your financial accounts. You may be able to memorize them, but, if not, keep them somewhere – perhaps in your smartphone – that you can access anywhere. It's always possible that a natural disaster will strike so quickly that you can't even grab your phone, so, to be extra cautious, you might want to share your passwords with a trusted family member or friend. (Even then, though, you may want to change your passwords every so often.)

Build an emergency fund. During or following a natural disaster, you may need ready access to cash to cover some of the essentials of daily living, such as food and shelter. Keeping a lot of cash in your home may not be such a great plan, especially if you have to evacuate quickly. Consequently, you might want to create an emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a low-risk, liquid and highly accessible account at a local bank or with your financial services provider.

Protect your documents. These days, many of your important financial materials, such as your investment statements, are available online, so they're likely safe from any disaster. But you may still have some items, such as checkbooks, birth certificates, passports, Social Security cards, insurance policies and estate planning documents (i.e., will, living trust, etc.) on paper. Even if some or all of these things could eventually be replaced, it would take time and effort. You're better off protecting them beforehand, possibly by keeping them in a safety deposit box at a local bank.

Save your receipts. You'll want to save receipts for repairs and temporary lodging to submit to your insurance company. If you are not fully reimbursed for these expenses, they may be tax deductible, though you'll need to consult with your tax advisor to be certain.

If you're fortunate, you'll never have to face a natural disaster that threatens your home and possessions. But it never hurts to be ready – just in case.

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



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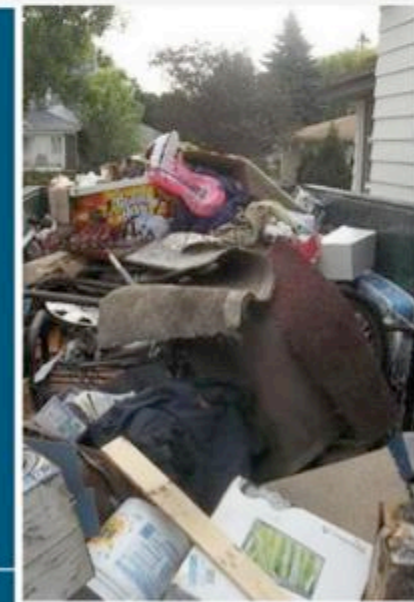
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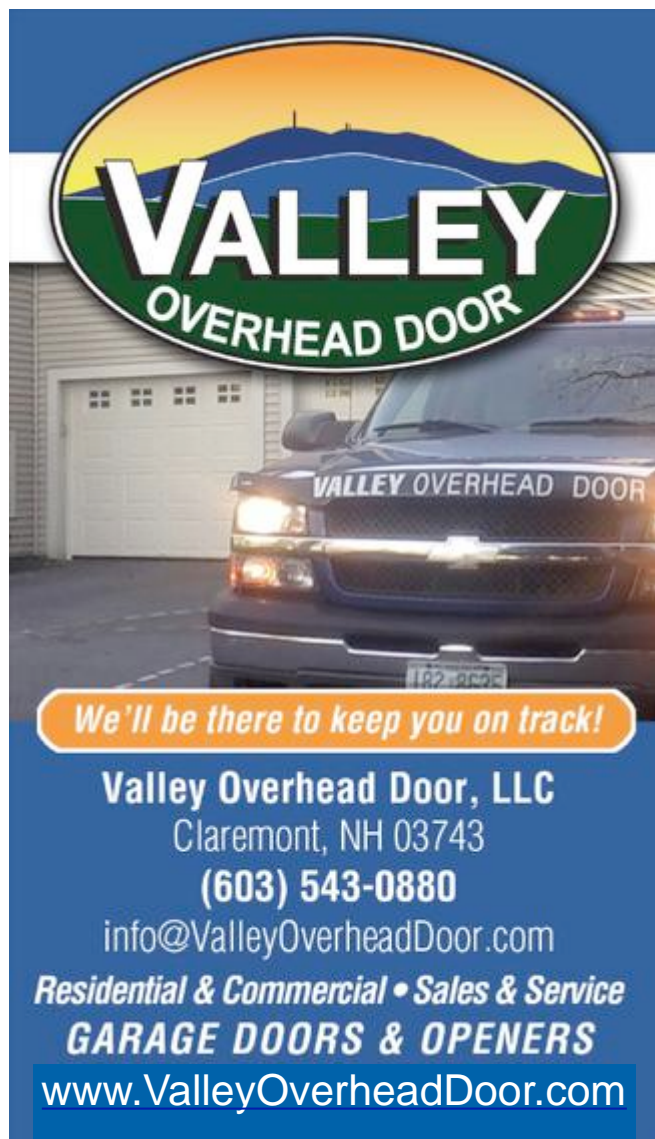
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 24
WINDSOR WEATHER EMERGENCY
DISCUSSION**

Windsor Fire Department Chief Kevin McAllister will discuss Windsor's emergency response plan and where to seek help during violent weather events and extended power outages. Q&A to follow.

Join us on Thursday, Jan. 24th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Windsor Welcome Center, 3 Railroad Ave., Windsor. Free and open to the public.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11
Murder Mystery Dinner at the Windsor
Mansion Inn**

Join our life-size game of Clue! Our February Murder Mystery Dinner is set in the 1940's and you are at a birthday party with some of the wealthiest snobs in America! Our dinner will be held on Monday, Feb. 11 (snow date Feb 25). This fun "whodunnit", led by John Bailey of Deadly Fun Events; \$70 per person includes tax and gratuity. Reservations taken for this event until January 25, 2019. For more information, call Gayle to reserve your spot at 802-674-4112.



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It's About Food By Johnny Navillus



Super Bowl Fun

The next Big Food Day is Super Bowl Sunday. From what I understand, the main dish is either pizza or chili. It seems to vary year to year and region to region, but they remain the most popular for stay-at-home TV watchers.

I don't get into chili recipes in public because there are more recipes and styles than there are people in the USA. That includes infants and toddlers. And maybe 50% of the pet population.

The one piece of advice I can give is that if you are going to use chili powder, please check your supply. If you still have half a can of it and you can remember buying it the year your sister had her first baby and the kid is now a CPA, get rid of it. Buy some fresh.

Actually, now is probably a good time to inventory the back of your spice cabinet. Any thing from a store that is no longer in business should be thrown out.

The Super Bowl really is a great time to use your slow cooker. Chili, roasts, stews, soups, all lend themselves to advanced prep and little fuss by kickoff. How about pulled pork sandwiches?

Pulled Pork

Take a pork butt and season with salt and pepper.

Lightly coat with flour

Place in slow cooker for 8 to 10 hours on low.

One hour before serving cover the roast with barbecue sauce.

Sunday Beef Stew

1/3 cup all purpose flour

3/4 teaspoon salt

3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon (not a typo)

1/2 teaspoon pepper

2 pounds beef stew meat cut into 1 inch cubes 2 tablespoons oil

1 14oz pkg frozen pearl onions

1 cup dry red wine or beef broth

3/4 cup water

2 tablespoons red wine vinegar

2 tablespoons tomato paste

1 tablespoon honey

2 bay leaves

1 garlic clove minced (or 2)

In a large resealable plastic bag combine the flour, salt, cinnamon, and pepper. Add the beef a few pieces at a time and shake to coat. In a large skillet brown the beef in the oil. Transfer to your slow cooker. Stir in the remaining ingredients. I no longer brown meat before I put it in the cooker, Do what feels best for you. Cover and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours or until beef and onions are tender. Discard bay leaves. Serve.

So many slow cooker recipes say to cook for a number of hours or until the meat is tender. If you check the meat too early you lose all that heat and you have to extend the cooking time. Frankly, If any meat has been in the cooker 7 or 8 or more hours, it is tender. I never check. Just leave it in and it will be OK.

Play with your food. Watch the game and don't eat too much.

Write to Johnny at etickernews@gmail.com.

Governors Sununu, Scott Introduce Twin State Voluntary Leave Plan

LITTLETON, NH— Wednesday, New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu and Vermont Governor Phil Scott detailed their Twin State Voluntary Leave Plan, a bi-state voluntary paid family and medical leave program, in a press conference at Schilling Beer Company.

“As a small business along the New Hampshire – Vermont border, roughly half of our employees live in Vermont, and half live in New Hampshire,” said Jeff Cozzens, CEO and Co-Founder of Schilling Beer Co. “This proposal has the potential to help all of our employees. We are proud to host the Governors today as they outline their joint vision for a family medical leave insurance program that speaks to our ultimate concern: the well-being and advancement of our staff and their families,” Cozzens said.

The Governors’ plan creates an insurance product that is not currently offered in either state. It will be available to all businesses, as well as individuals, and will be anchored by the state employee workforce of both states - a combined 18,500 employees.

Under the Governors’ proposal, the new insurance coverage would provide enrolled public and private sector employees 60 percent wage replacement for six weeks at competitive rates for qualifying events, including:

- The birth of a child and to care for the newborn child within one year of birth;
- The placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care and to care for the newly placed child within one year of placement;
- Caring for the employee’s spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition; A serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of his or her job; or
- Any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee’s spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a covered military member on “covered active duty,” to care for a covered service-member with a serious injury or illness if the eligible employee is the service-member’s spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin (military caregiver leave).

“We both believe paid family medical leave offers an incredible opportunity to promote a work-life balance for many workers in our

states struggling to meet the demands of the workplace while also meeting the needs of their families and their own health,” said Sununu. “By leveraging the economies of scale of each state’s employment base, insurance carriers will be able to write a competitively priced family leave plan.”

“We know Family Medical Leave Insurance plans can improve companies’ ability to recruit and retain workers and increase productivity. I’m pleased to put forward a proposal that will help employers provide employees with greater work-life balance,” said Scott. “I want

to thank Governor Sununu and his team for bringing this idea forward, and for this partnership, as we work to improve the lives of residents in both of our states.”

The two states would select an insurance carrier, or carriers, through a coordinated Request for Proposal (RFP) process to assume the risk and manage the benefit and claims under the plan. This carrier, or these carriers, would then develop a “State Rate.” This is the per employee cost that each state would pay to provide a Family Medical Leave Insurance (FMLI) plan to its employees.

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

PUBLIC INPUT SESSIONS

Your Opinion Counts!

**You're
Invited!**



Let's Rethink Pleasant Street!

To keep Pleasant Street relevant and vibrant, we are assessing function, aesthetics and infrastructure needs based upon extensive input from members of the community and business owners.

We want your opinion!

Please attend and help us create the vision and the plan for the future of Pleasant Street.

Public Input Sessions

When? January 30, 2019

Session #1

12pm to 2pm
Claremont City Hall
(Council Chambers)
58 Opera House Square

Session #2

6:00pm to 8:00pm
Claremont Savings Bank
145 Broad Street

Why? We want your input on the future of Pleasant Street



For more information visit:

Website: RethinkPleasantStreet.com
(Coming Soon)

Or Contact:

Nancy Merrill
Director, Planning &
Economic Development
nmerrill@claremont.com
(603) 504-0340

Mayoral Notes by Charlene Lovett



Committed to Collaboration

On January 17, the Claremont City Council and School Board met to discuss a number of topics that impact the community as a whole. Though the governing bodies normally meet on a quarterly basis, the last joint meeting occurred in August 2018. November's meeting was postponed due to the School Board's need to focus on finalizing a proposed budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. Because five months had passed, the agenda for January's meeting was quite full. Consequently, the members of both bodies reaffirmed the need to meet quarterly in order to effectively collaborate on community-wide topics.

Though efforts were made to have the meeting filmed, personnel were unavailable to run the equipment. So, I thought it helpful to provide a synopsis of the topics discussed.

The first item on the agenda was the School Board's presentation of the proposed operating budget for FY20, as well as the warrants that will appear on the ballot in March. Also discussed, was the Board's new approach to creating the budget. Establishing a Budget Committee and working closely with the School Administration, the Board's goal was to present a proposed budget that represented an increase of no more than half of the new fixed costs for the upcoming year. Both the proposed budget and recommended warrant articles reflect the School Board and Administration's desire to better address special education (SPED) needs and costs, health and safety concerns, and infrastructure improvements. By sharing their approach and goals, the Council now has a better understanding of what the school district is trying to accomplish in both the short and long term.

The next agenda item was a discussion on legislative strategies to secure more state and federal funding. Originally enacted in 1975 as the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and later known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the federal law pro-

vides a cost sharing formula for SPED. However, since the law was enacted, the federal government has not fulfilled that commitment, increasing the cost of special education at the local level. In Concord, several education bills are working their way through the legislative process that would, if passed, impact the local taxpayer. By the end of the discussion, the governing bodies agreed upon a plan to convey the city's position on IDEA and numerous bills at the state house. If our efforts to secure more federal and state revenue are successful, we will have decreased the cost of education at the local level.

The third item on the agenda pertained to energy initiatives. While both the city and the school district have taken numerous actions to decrease energy costs and reduce greenhouse emissions, neither have developed a resolution or policy outlining specific goals. While the Energy Chapter of the Master Plan cites the NH Climate Action Plan as a guideline, questions still remain. Should Claremont be a community committed to 100% renewable energy citywide or should we focus only on 100% renewable energy for municipal and school buildings? At the joint meeting, it was agreed that the School Board would discuss its energy goals in February and the Council would engage the Energy Advisory Committee for recommendation. By adopting an overarching energy policy, the governing bodies are better positioned to achieve greater energy cost savings and further reduce harm to the environment.

The last agenda item was a discussion on diversity and racism, and whether our current policies reflected the community's desire to be welcoming. Given that Martin Luther King is this month and the Governor's Council on Diversity and Inclusion just released its preliminary recommendations, the discussion was well timed. Both governing bodies agreed to review current policies to ensure they reflected recent changes to statutes on discrimination,

and consider adopting new policies that reflect the desire to be a welcoming community.

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 28 SOUP EVENT

Has this recent cold, snowy weather kept you stuck at home?

Join the Friends of the Meriden Library for the 7th Annual "Warm your Winter with Soup and Good Books"

Monday, January 28 at 6:30pm
Plainfield School Music Room

We offer a warming assortment of soups and accompaniments to dine on while you visit with Friends and neighbors. We will hold a brief business meeting before we move onto the "One Minute Book Reviews", where anyone interested can review a recent or favorite read in one minute.

Should you chose to join or renew your FOML membership, the dues remain at \$10 per individual and \$15 per family and can be paid at this meeting.

Please be green and bring your own soup mug and spoon! We guarantee you will be "warmed and renewed" by the lively discourse and evening with Friends.

This handicap accessible event is free and open to all.

NOTICE FROM CLAREMONT COMMUNITY TELEVISION, INC. ("CCTV")

During the period January 18 through February 28, 2019, certain CCTV services will be temporarily curtailed, including broadcasts of some public meetings which would normally be available on CCTV channel-8, CCTV channel-10 and on ClaremontTV.org.

We apologize for the inconvenience.

CITY-WIDE METER UPGRADE PROJECT

The Claremont Water Department is currently working in neighborhoods around the entire City replacing aging water meters. Most meters are installed inside your home, typically in the basement area. The new meters are lead-free and also feature radio read technology, which means we will now be able to read your meter from the street.

There is NO cost to you for this replacement.

Technicians may knock on your door for access to the meter or leave a gold-colored tag with the office contact information to schedule an appointment. The men will be carrying an ID Badge and driving City DPW marked pickup trucks.

Appointments typically take approximately 20 minutes to remove the old meter and replace the new one. We will take the old meter away for you.

Now through March, the Water Department has expanded appointment hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

Wednesday: 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

* Weather Permitting (may be required to reschedule in the event of a major snowstorm)

Please note, some homes may show signs of aging plumbing or risk of failure around the meter installation area. The technician will not replace the meter until the homeowner has made the appropriate repairs to the plumbing.

Claremont City Code Section 20-173:

The meter belongs to the City and, as a condition of receiving City water, the homeowner must provide access to the meter by Water Division employees. ... The property owner shall provide a suitably protected, accessible and secure location and plumbing to accept the meter. The meter shall remain the property of the City.

Should you like to contact the Water Department for more information or schedule an appointment, please call

504-0356

Thank you



This project is a component of: OPERATION GET THE LEAD OUT

Warren, from A1

are the days when the federal government calculated the minimum wage by taking into account what a family of three or four could comfortably live on. Instead, today's minimum wage cannot keep a mother and one child out of poverty.

"What's gone wrong for America's middle class?" asked Warren. "The path has gotten very rocky. And it's even rockier for blacks, Latinos and the LGBT community." She noted that basic healthcare and child care are not guaranteed or are prohibitively expensive. As a result, mothers who want to work and provide for their children give up because working is not worth it.

What's more, the cost of a college education has skyrocketed to the point that graduates now shoulder \$1.5 trillion in college loan debt ("which, by the way, is just about the amount given away to corporations and wealthy individuals in the Tax Reform Act"), a figure that's growing by \$100 billion a year in interest and fees. "Paying off a college loan means young adults are turned down when applying for a mortgage, so they can't own a home. These days," Warren added, "they can't expect to have the basic things in life that their parents had."

So what went wrong?

Don't listen to people who say that Washington doesn't work," Warren maintained. "Washington works great — for the rich and powerful." For Big Pharma but not for those who can't afford prescription drugs. For the oil companies but not for the drivers who have to buy gas — if that is, they can afford to buy a car. "We need to call that out for what it is: corruption."

Warren's solution is a "big structural change in government so that Washington works for everyone. And guess what? In a democracy we *can* change all that." Citizens have to fight the corruption she sees as strangling good government. "The influence of money on Washington has to be cut back. Senators and Representatives should be barred forever from leaving Congress and getting jobs as lobby-



Elizabeth Warren speaking before some 300 people in Claremont Friday night (Eric Zengota photo).

ists. And every candidate for federal office must be required to post their tax returns online."

Progress can also come about, Warren continued, by changing the economy from one in which more and more billionaires control the nation's wealth to one that validates and supports unions, worker rights and consumer rights. Health-care should be recognized as a basic human right. Child care and education should be affordable. "And there should be a constitutional amendment to protect every American citizen's right to vote."

If all those "shoulds" make it sound like a long, drawn-out fight is necessary, Warren won't contradict you. In fact, fighting the good fight was a motif that threaded through most of her declarations and answers.

Replying to questions from audience members, Warren made clear the need for both outrage and persistence to change the circumstances that provoke the outrage.

On the detention camps along the border with Mexico: "I walked into what was essentially a large, dirty warehouse that smelled very bad. Down one side of an aisle there were men in rows of 10x40 cages, with almost no room to sit down in. On the other side, women were in 10x40 cages. There were children — 12-year-old girls — in 10x40 cages. No one knew what was going to happen to them."

On immigration reform: "I want a comprehensive reform bill that provides a path to citizenship, protects the Dreamers who are living in the only country they've ever known, and a revised visa program. Immigration reform is good for the American economy, but only if it matches our morals and values. We need border security, but I want a system that distinguishes between a threat from a terrorist or a criminal and a 12-year-old girl who's been put into a cage."

On climate change: When Warren said, "Now, I feel safe in saying this here in New

Hampshire, but ... I believe in science," she got the most sustained applause — as well as whoops of approval — of the evening. Climate change is worsened by the influence of money and power, she said. "It's man-made, and it's real, and more people have to speak out against it."

On the current "unnecessary" government shutdown: "We don't hold federal workers hostage. Federal government employees and federal contractors are not pawns in a political game. They should be back at work doing their jobs and getting paid for doing their jobs."

"How do you win?" asked one man.

Warren replied that hers is a grassroots campaign. "I take no PAC money. I take no federal lobbyist money." Instead, individuals working together will make things happen. "We need to organize, persist and make real change. Abolitionists were told they would never get rid of slavery. Women were told they would never get the vote. Unions battled the opponents of organized labor. Civil rights marchers never backed down on their march to equal rights. They persisted and won their struggles."

After the last question, Warren said, "I'll stay as long as you all want me to stay." Nearly 200 people — children and adults — lined up to greet her and have a photo taken. She ended the evening as she started, smiling for each camera. Most shook her hand. Some hugged her. She hugged them back.

Posing with members of the audience following her address (Eric Zengota photo).

