

# e-Ticker News of Claremont

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***Deteriorating Sullivan  
Smokestack Fenced  
Off;***

***page 17***

[etickeernews@gmail.com](mailto:etickeernews@gmail.com)

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Jan. 31, 2022

## **The Sky's the Limit**

***Sheriff's Office Drones Take Flight***



**Side-by-side visual and thermal images of the same scene demonstrate the recording capabilities of the drone's two camera modes.**

**Submitted by Jeremy Wilson  
Chief Deputy, Sullivan County Sheriff's Office  
Eric Zengota and Sheriff's Office photos**

Last month, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office took delivery of two DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Advance Drones, equipment that will assist deputies in many facets of law enforcement.

Our drone program had its start in 2019, when I read an article entitled "Drones in Law Enforcement." I discovered that the vast majority of drone activity in New Hampshire law enforcement was on the eastern side of the state. There wasn't a viable drone program in all of Sullivan County, and drones were scarce in Cheshire and Grafton counties.

In the months that followed, I read several articles about drone technology and researched startup costs. I spoke with other New Hampshire public safety agencies about how drones were working for them, what they use them for, and how they started their drone program.

I presented the idea to Sheriff John Simonds. He agreed that drone use in law enforcement was expanding and would continue well into the future. Drones were doing great things, from finding lost people to assisting with active shooter calls and barricaded subjects. They were assisting at fire scenes, natural disasters and public health emergencies.

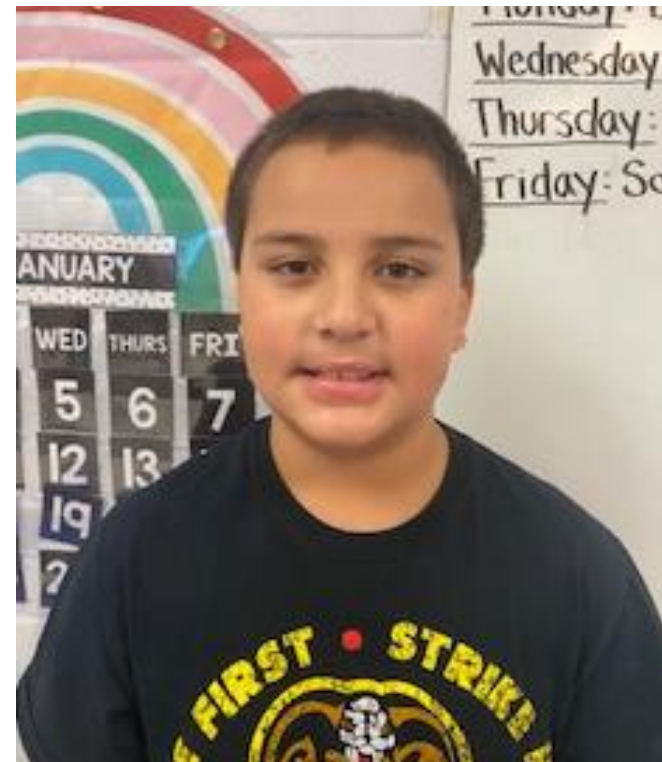
**(Continued on page 6)**

## K-9 Allergo Graduates From the Vermont Police Canine Academy

LEBANON, NH—On March 24, 2019, the Lebanon Police Department welcomed Officer Logan Scelza, who came to the Department from the Hartford Vermont Police Department, where he served as an Officer for seven years. On March 24, 2021, Officer Scelza was appointed as a K-9 Officer for the K-9 Unit.

In July of 2021, Officer Scelza was partnered with K-9 Allergo, a year and a half old male German Shepherd that was born in Slovakia on October 13, 2019. K-9 Allergo was selected after a long vetting process that involved numerous K-9 candidates.

In July of 2021, Officer Scelza and K-9 Allergo attended K-9 Patrol School. With this training, K-9 Allergo became proficient in building searches, tracking, evidence recovery, apprehensions, obedience, and more. In No-



Lincoln Anderson

Bee scheduled for 7-11 February 2022 using an online platform. Should he be one of the top 15-20 scorers there, Lincoln will advance to the state finals in Concord on 26 February 2022.

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**Phyllis A. Muzeroll**  
Publisher/Editor

**Eric Zengota**  
Contributing Writer/Photographer

[etickernews@gmail.com](mailto:etickernews@gmail.com)

Snail mail to:  
6 Osgood Ave. Claremont, NH 03743  
603-542-7319

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member of 2021, Officer Scelza and K-9 Allergo attended Drug Detection School, making K-9 Allergo proficient in detecting the odors of heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, and methamphetamine.

### Bluff's Top Speller for 2022

CLAREMONT, NH—On January 19, Lincoln Anderson won the Bluff School's 2022 Spelling Bee, narrowly defeating Brayden Kaiser in thirteen rounds. The championship word was *search*. Lincoln is a 4th grade student in Ms. Knoll's class at Bluff School. His next challenge will be to participate in the Semi-Final

Spelling

### NH Lottery Numbers

**01/29/2022**

**NH PowerBall**

**2 15 38 54 65 11**

**NH Mega Millions 01/28/2022**

**3 16 25 44 55 13**

**Tristate Megabucks 01/29/2022**

**15 19 32 35 37 4**

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

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**JAMES G. FELEEN, ESQ.**  
EMAIL: [jim@feleenlaw.com](mailto:jim@feleenlaw.com)

TEL: (603) 504-6507  
FAX: (866) 862-6394  
CELL: (603) 477-4671

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# SAU6 Superintendent Reaches Out to Community Regarding Tech Center Concerns

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News


CLAREMONT, NH—On Tuesday, SAU6 superintendent Mike Tempesta sent out an email to local families addressing concerns expressed at the recent proposed budget public hearing regarding cuts at the Tech Center. In his email, Tempesta wrote, “I am reaching out to you this evening to provide an update and clarification on several points related to the budget that was adopted at the last Claremont School Board meeting regarding a reduction in the operational budget at Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center. The overall reduction and budget impact involved four major elements that significantly brought the overall operational budget of the SRVRTC more in line with other schools and programs in our School District:

- 1) Reduction of a vacant nurse position at SRVRTC
  - 2) Reduction of a part-time guidance counselor position at SRVRTC
  - 3) Reduction of vacant Accounting position at SRVTC
  - 4) Reduction of SRVRTC Director position from local budget to half time
- The entire Claremont FY23 Budget Summary can be seen online at [www.sau6.org](http://www.sau6.org).

“I also want to take the opportunity to clarify some of the confusion that has come to our attention from last week’s Claremont School Board Budget Public Hearing Meeting. First and foremost, the Claremont School Board, District Administration, and Budget Sub-Committee are working diligently to ensure that Claremont students have access to as many educational opportunities at Stevens High School and the SRVRTC as possible. To be completely clear, there is absolutely no plan by the school board to eliminate or dissolve the SRVRTC, but rather plans are underway to improve access to The Tech courses

by aligning SHS, CMS and SRVRTC schedules so that CMS students access SRVRTC electives beginning in 8th grade (similar to Newport). Additionally, we are working with Newport to review and update the Region 10 agreement, align our PD calendars, bell

schedules and increase partnerships with regional businesses.  
“We will discuss this as part of our upcoming Claremont School Board meeting next Wednesday, February 2, 2022.”



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# Commentary

## NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier

### How Redistricting Could Affect Claremont



Claremont will have a total of five state representatives but will have to share them with eight other Sullivan County municipalities, if a redistricting plan for the county's 13 seats recently approved by the New Hampshire House of Representatives becomes law.

On Jan. 5 the House, by a 186-170 roll call vote, adopted an amended version of House Bill 50, which would redraw the district lines for all 400 House seats in the Granite State, including our county's 13 seats distributed over 11 House districts. Adoption came after some debate, and a recommendation by the Republican majority of the House Special Committee on Redistricting to adopt its amended version. During a motion to adopt, an alternative amendment to the bill backed by the Democratic minority of the Redistricting Committee was rejected by a 192-165 roll call vote. Also, a motion to table the entire measure failed because Speaker Sherman Packard cast a rare vote to create the tie, thus defeating the motion to table. The amended bill now goes to the New Hampshire Senate for more scrutiny. In fact, the Senate Election Law & Public Affairs Committee is holding a public hearing in Concord on House Bill 50 this very date, Jan. 31 at 1:45 pm.

Under House Bill 50 as amended, Claremont would be assigned five representatives split into two different House districts. The first district, Dist. #6 would be a three-seat district comprised of the City as well as the Town of Croydon. Also the city would make up a larger two-seat district, District #8, consisting of it and eight other towns, including Acworth, Croydon, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Springfield, Sunapee, and Washington. This redistricting plan, if it becomes law, would replace the present Sullivan County setup of House districts which assigns Claremont a representative for each of its three wards as well as an at-large "floterial" representative for the entire city, a district that I now represent. The plan would take effect for the upcoming 2022 Elections Cycle, which is scheduled to begin June 1, according to the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Office. This June date is when candidates are allowed to start filing their candidacies for all of our state's federal, county, and state offices including representative.

For readers' information, I voted against House Bill 50's final adoption as well as the Republican majority amendment, and the Democratic minority amendment. I also voted to table the bill so as to least slow down the passage of this bad redistricting plan. I cast these votes because I believe the bill, among other provisions, is unfair to Claremont in that it doesn't give the city any representative districts of its own. Instead, it would be part of one assigned district with at least one other Sullivan County municipality, and then part of a much larger district with

eight other municipalities. To my knowledge, Claremont has always had its own representative districts, at least since becoming a city in 1948. The only exception was the 2002-2012 period when the city shared a five-seat district with the Towns of Unity and Lempster because of a redistricting dispute between then Democratic Gov. Jeanne Shaheen and the Republican Legislature. The five-seat district was drawn by the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

Furthermore, I believe House Bill 50's larger House districts for especially Claremont as well as the rest of Sullivan County would likely discourage some capable citizens from running for state representative, whether they be Democrat, Republican, or Undeclared. Also, the bill would probably drive up the costs of primary and general election campaigns for these important but lower tier elective offices. Also I believe that House Bill 50 as adopted likely violates the New Hampshire Constitution's Part II, Article 11, which requires all municipalities with sufficient populations to be assigned at least one representative of their own. Based on the 2020 U.S. Census, that means any municipality with a population of at least 3,444 residents would be entitled to at least one representative. Claremont with a total 2020 population of 12,949 should get at least three representatives, and though it falls short by 877 residents of a fourth representative, it could share a one-seat district with another neighboring Sullivan County municipality. I do understand our state has to do its best to also comply with federal redistricting standards for state legislatures as established by several U.S. Supreme Court decisions in the 1960s. But I also feel that we should also do our best to comply with this provision of the Constitution passed by the New Legislature in 2006, and approved by voters in 2006.

Other redistricting legislation adopted Jan. 5 included an amended version of House Bill 52, which would redraw the lines for the Granite State's two Congressional districts. This bill, about which I have written in previous columns, is, I believe, one of the most flagrant examples of partisan gerrymandering of my legislative career. The bill as amended was recommended by the Republican majority of the Redistricting Committee, and was given final approval on a 186-164 roll call vote. Final approval came after a contentious debate, defeat of two separate amendments by Democratic and Republican representatives to modify the measure's partisan gerrymandering, as well as defeat of a tabling motion on 177-177 tie vote. Like House Bill 50, House Bill 52 as amended now proceeds to the Senate for further examination. Also like House Bill 50, this bill's prime and only sponsor is Goffstown Rep. Barbara Griffin, a Republican, who is also the Redistricting Committee Chair.

For the record, I also voted against House Bill 52's final approval. But I did vote for the two amendments—one by the Redistricting Committee's Democratic Minority as well as the other by Seabrook Rep. Max Abramson, a Republican, which would have alleviated the bill's partisan gerrymandering. Frankly, I think that the existing lines for both New Hampshire's Congressional Districts, which have been in effect for at least the last 120 years, have worked well overall for our state,

**(Continued on page 5)**

## House of Representatives – Claremont

**District 3/Ward 1: Andrew O’Hearne**

[friendsofandrewohearn@comcast.net](mailto:friendsofandrewohearn@comcast.net)

**District 4/Ward 2: Gary Merchant**

603-542-2228

[gary.merchant@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:gary.merchant@leg.state.nh.us)

**District 5/Ward 3: Walter Stapleton**

603-542-8656

[WaltStapleton@comcast.net](mailto:WaltStapleton@comcast.net)

**District 10/Wards 1, 2, 3: John Cloutier**

603-542-6190

[jocloutier@comcast.net](mailto:jocloutier@comcast.net)

## Senate – Claremont

**District 5: Suzanne Prentiss**

[suzanne.Prentiss@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:suzanne.Prentiss@leg.state.nh.us)

### District 1

#### Executive Councilor

**Joe Kenney**

(603) 271-3632

[joseph.Kenney@nh.gov](mailto:joseph.Kenney@nh.gov)

### Washington, DC

**Sen. Jeanne Shaheen**

520 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202-224-2841

<http://shaheen.senate.gov/contact>

**Sen. Maggie Hassan**

B85 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-3324

<https://www.hassan.senate.gov/>

**Rep. Anne Kuster**

137 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

phone: 202-225-5206

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

To find out who your local state representatives/

senators are in Sullivan County, please visit

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

## Rep. Cloutier, from page 4

resulting in usually competitive races. Regardless, Sullivan County will be *not at all* be affected by the bill as approved by the House, remaining in the Second Congressional District as it has for the past 120 years.

Yet another redistricting measure given final approval by the House Jan. 5 was an amended version of House Bill 54, which would redraw the lines for all the county commissioner districts in all ten New Hampshire counties, including Sullivan. The bill as amended was adopted by a 184-159 roll call vote after a brief debate and a recommendation to approve the bill as amended by the Republican majority of the Redistricting Committee. An alternative amendment proposed by the Democratic minority of the committee was defeated by a 182-157 division vote. The amended bill now continues to the Senate for more review. Its prime and only sponsor is again Rep. Griffin.

House Bill 54 as approved makes no changes to the district lines for Sullivan County's three commissioner districts. Both the Republicans and Democrats on the Redistricting Committee agreed on the Sullivan County district lines. District 1 will continue to consist of Claremont and Cornish. District 2 will include Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, and Springfield. District Three will be made up of Acworth, Charlestown, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Sunapee, Unity, and Washington. But readers should remember that while all candidates for county commissioner must file for the office in their district of residence, they will be elected by all Sullivan County voters who cast ballots for commissioner in both the primary and general election.

**Email: [jocloutier@comcast.net](mailto:jocloutier@comcast.net)**

## Hassan Joins Colleagues in Pressing Six Cryptomining Companies on Extraordinarily High Energy Use and Climate Impacts

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) joined Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and colleagues in sending letters to six cryptomining companies raising concerns over their high energy use and the effects that has on raising household electric bills. In the letters to Riot Blockchain, Marathon Digital Holdings, Stronghold Digital Mining, Bitdeer, Bitfury Group, and Bit Digital, the lawmakers pressed the companies for information relating to their cryptomining operations and skyrocketing energy consumption.

“Given the extraordinarily high energy usage and carbon emissions associated with Bitcoin mining, mining operations raise concerns about their impacts on the global environment, local ecosystems, and consumer electricity costs,” write the Senators.

As the letters discuss, Bitcoin is the largest cryptocurrency by market capitalization, and the United States’ share of Bitcoin mining increased from 4 percent in August 2019 to 35 percent in July 2021. As more cryptomining operations proliferate in the United States, the extraordinary energy use raises alarms about massive carbon emissions and the impacts of this energy consumption on consumer energy prices. A recent study estimated that cryptomining in upstate New York raised annual electric bills by about \$165 million for small businesses and \$79 million for consumers. Companies were asked to detail their electricity consumption, scaling plans, agreements with electricity companies, and impact on energy costs for consumers and businesses.

## Kuster Meets with NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Discusses Legislation To Support Granite State Survivors

CONCORD, NH—Friday, Rep. Annie Kuster (NH-02) met virtually with members of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (NHCADSV). During the meeting, the group discussed NHCADSV’s ongoing work for the Granite State and the reauthorization of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), the primary federal funding stream dedicated to the support of emergency shelters and assistance for victims of domestic violence and their children. Last year, Kuster helped advance the FVPSA reauthorization in the House of Representatives. In 2021, NHCADSV served more than 13,000 individuals seeking support for domestic and sexual violence in New Hampshire.





**Drone, from page 1**

Another factor we considered was the large area that our drones would be working in. Sullivan County covers about 552 square miles, much of which is rural and forested. The approximately 43,000 residents live in 14 towns and 1 city, most of which are separated by large tracts of woodland.

It became clear that drone technology was rapidly evolving. If we were going to do this,

we needed to get involved early, learn the systems and grow the program as technology expands.

There was just one — the usual — problem: the budget. Sheriff Simonds was not willing to put the startup costs on the backs of Sullivan County residents by using taxpayer dollars. He did agree, however, to support the program through training, salaries and maintenance costs.

Within weeks, we filed applications for several local commu-



nity grants. Fundraising efforts were put on hold during 2020 because of the pandemic's challenges to the economy, but restarted in 2021. (See sidebar.)

In October 2021, using the first of our donated funds, Sheriff Simonds purchased Remote Pilot FAA Knowledge Test Prep courses, which prepared deputies for the FAA part 107 certification exam. In December, the first group of deputies took the exam at the FAA Testing Center at Keene Dillant-Hopkins Airport in Swanzey. Deputy Heather Shea-Clark, Deputy Ethan Yazinski and I achieved our certification. Additional deputies will take their exams in the coming weeks.

On December 23, we unpacked the two DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Advance Drones, along with extra propellers and guards, controllers, batteries and chargers.

In our training class on the same day, we learned the capabilities of the aircraft, and how to program and operate the controller. The controller allows a pilot to maneuver the drone as well as use the visual and the thermal imaging cameras. It also provides information on each flight, including longitude and latitude, GPS signal, battery strength, and elevation, as well as on areas that may limit or restrict flight, such as airports. We also learned pre-flight and post-flight procedures and how to maintain and clean the drones.

The second half of the class — individualized flight training — was held outside at the county complex. We practiced takeoff, landing and maneuvering skills. As we changed elevation, direction and speed, we were glad to find out that the drones use sensors to avoid obstacles. And while we felt the cold — it was partly sunny and 32 degrees — the drones have self-heating batteries which are less affected by the weather.

We also had the opportunity to use both cameras. We'll use the visual camera for regular, daytime flights, for example to assist during an active shooter incident. The thermal imaging camera, designed to detect body heat in day and night situations, can pursue a fugitive across a field or search for a lost person who may be sheltering in a building.

Pilots will continue their flight training over the next several weeks. We hope to fly our first mission in the second quarter of 2022.

**Clockwise: The controller displays a thermal image of the biomass building at the**



**Sullivan County Complex in Unity. Deputies received individualized training and practice on how to launch, maneuver and land the drones. Chief Deputy Jeremy Wilson flies a mini-drone belonging to Officer Richard Cobb of the Concord, NH, police department. Technology improvements are allowing mini-drones to be used more and more for indoor operations.**

### Community Support

“The sheriff’s office drone program would not have been possible without the help of our community. We express our sincere gratitude to the grantors, businesses, citizens and everyone who has helped move our program along to where it is today.”

— Sheriff John Simonds

- Carroll Concrete
- Claremont Savings Bank Foundation
- NH Charitable Foundation
- LaValley’s Building Supply
- Royal Coatings & Chemicals Co.
- Sturm Ruger & Co.
- Walmart Stores, Inc.





## NH DHHS COVID-19 Update January 28, 2022

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

On Friday, January 28, 2022, DHHS announced 2,004 new positive test results for COVID-19 for Thursday, January 27. Those results include 1,527 people who tested positive by PCR test and 477 who tested positive by antigen test. DHHS also announced an additional 206 new cases from Thursday, January 13 (7 by PCR and 199 by antigen test) for a new total of 3,088; an additional 59 new cases from Friday, January 14 (18 by PCR and 41 by antigen test) for a new total of 3,410; an additional 7 new cases from Saturday, January 15 (7 by PCR and 0 by antigen test) for a new total of 5,691; an additional 81 new cases from Sunday, January 16 (66 by PCR and 15 by antigen test) for a new total of 2,961; an additional 26 new cases from Monday, January 17 (11 by PCR and 15 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,849; an additional 14 new cases from Tuesday, January 18 (13 by PCR and 1 by antigen test) for a new total of 773; an additional 1 new case from Thursday, January 20 (1 by PCR and 0 by antigen test) for a new total of 2,311; an additional 1 new case from Friday, January 21 (0 by PCR and 1 by antigen test) for a new total of 2,918; and an additional 37 new cases from Wednesday, January 26 (9 by PCR and 28 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,968. Test results for previous days are still being processed and updated case counts for prior days will be reflected on the COVID-19 interactive dashboard.

There were 14,677 current COVID-19 cases diagnosed in New Hampshire.

Several cases are still under investigation. Additional information from ongoing investigations will be incorporated into future COVID-19 updates. Of those with complete information, there were six hundred and

eighty individuals under the age of 18 and the rest are adults with 54% being female and 46% being male. The new cases resided in Rockingham (474), Hillsborough County other than Manchester and Nashua (302), Merrimack (230), Grafton (200), Strafford (183), Cheshire (180), Belknap (126), Coos (100), Sullivan (84), and Carroll (61) counties, and in the cities of Manchester (212) and Nashua (133). The county of residence is being determined for one hundred and fifty-one new cases.

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

- 1 male resident of Carroll County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Coos County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Hillsborough County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Hillsborough County, fewer than 60 years of age
- 1 male resident of Merrimack County, 60 years of age and older
- 3 female residents of Rockingham County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Rockingham County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 female resident of Rockingham County, fewer than 60 years of age

- 1 female resident of Strafford County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Sullivan County, 60 years of age and older

There were currently 363 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. In New Hampshire, since the start of the pandemic, there have been a total of 272,492 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed.

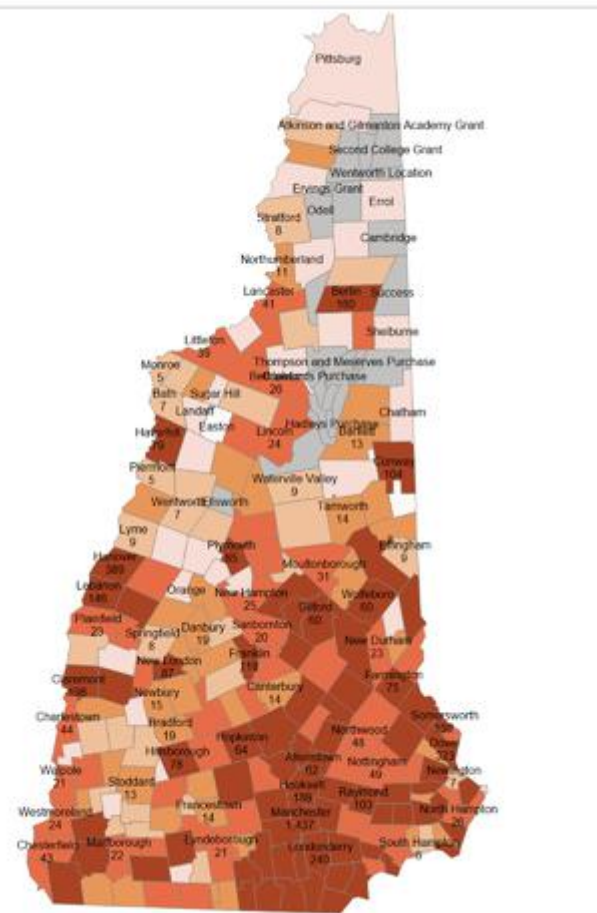
**As of Friday, the 28th, there were 198 current positively identified cases in Claremont; 44 in Charlestown; 108 in Newport; 8 in Acworth; 9 in Lempster; 6 in Cornish; 33 in Grantham; 6 in Croydon; 23 in Sunapee; 23 in Plainfield; 17 in Unity; 8 in Springfield; 7 in Washington; and 1-4 cases in other towns. DHHS reported 490 currently positively identified cases in Sullivan County.**

### COVID-19 Hotline

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

### Vaccine Information in NH

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





## Two Charged Following Investigation Involving Alleged Thefts, Meth Lab

NEWPORT, NH—On January 22, the Newport Police Department received a report of a wallet and cellular phone stolen from inside a business in Newport, according to a press release from the department on Friday. “On January 23, 2022, Newport Police received a report of a stolen credit having been used to make fraudulent purchases at five retail stores in Newport resulting in a total loss of more than \$1,800,” said Newport Police Chief Brent Wilmot. “On January 24, 2022, the Claremont Police Department received a report of a person attempting to purchase a firearm from a licensed firearms dealer in Claremont using a suspected false identification.”

Wilmot reported that “Investigators from the Newport Police Department and Claremont Police Department shared information and actively collaborated on these investigations. Through witness interviews and the collection of physical evidence, investigators were able to establish a common suspect in all three cases, and they received search warrants for a

residence and a vehicle in the town of Newport.

“During the execution of the search warrants, investigators located more physical evidence [allegedly] connecting the suspect to the theft of the wallets, the fraudulent credit card purchases, the attempted firearms purchase, and stolen forged checks. In addition, investigators discovered evidence of a suspected methamphetamine laboratory, and a suspected indoor marijuana grow. Based on these new discoveries, additional search warrants were obtained for a second residence and a vehicle. Due to the volatile and dangerous nature of methamphetamine laboratories, Newport and Claremont Police requested the assistance of the DEA Clandestine Laboratory team, the New Hampshire State Police Explosives Disposal Unit, and other partnering law enforcement agencies. The methamphetamine laboratory was safely dismantled, and evidence related to both that lab and the indoor marijuana grow was collected. In total, several dozen

marijuana plants, more than 10 pounds of processed marijuana, and several firearms were seized.”

As a result of this investigation, the following two subjects were arrested on the below listed charges:

Ryan Gobin Age 22 Newport, NH

He was charged with Armed Career Criminal (special class felony), Theft by Unauthorized Taking third or subsequent offense (Class B felony), Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card in excess of \$1,500 (Class A felony), Forgery of checks (Class B felony), Attempted Manufacture of Methamphetamine (special class felony) acting in concert with Kelly Gobin, and Conspiracy to Commit Manufacture of Methamphetamine (special class felony). It is alleged that he committed these offenses while released on parole from the New Hampshire State Prison. He was transported to the Sullivan County House of Corrections without bail pending arraignment in Sullivan Superior

**(Continued on page 9)**

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**Charged, from page 8**

Court.

Kelly Gobin Age 48 Newport, NH

He was charged with Attempted Manufacture of Methamphetamine (special class felony) acting in concert with Ryan Gobin, Conspiracy to Commit Manufacture of Methamphetamine (special class felony), Cultivation of Marijuana in excess of 5 pounds (special class felony) acting in concert with Sandra Gobin, Possession of Marijuana in excess of 5 pounds with intent to distribute (special class felony) acting in concert with Sandra Gobin, and Felonious Use of a Firearm (Class B felony). He was transported to the Sullivan County House of Corrections without bail pending arraignment in Sullivan Superior Court.

Anyone with further information about this investigation is encouraged to contact Newport Police Detective Stephen A. Lee (603-863-3240 or [slee@newportnh.gov](mailto:slee@newportnh.gov)) or Claremont Police Detective Joshua Peavey (603-542-7010 or [jpeavey@claremontnh.com](mailto:jpeavey@claremontnh.com)).

**Man Arrested After Firing Gun During Road Rage Incident**

LEBANON, NH—On January 22, at approximately 4:49 PM, the Lebanon Police Department received a report about a man driving a Chevrolet Tahoe who attempted to drive a Toyota RAV4 off the road and then aimed and shot a handgun at the operator of the RAV4.

According to a press release from the Lebanon Police Department, “The two vehicles were traveling North on Meriden Road when the RAV4 attempted to pass the Tahoe in a passing zone. The Tahoe swerved at the RAV4, almost forcing the vehicle off the road. As the two vehicles continued North and reached Laplante Road, the man in the Tahoe shot a .44 magnum revolver through his own rear window at the RAV4, however, the bullet did not strike the RAV4.”

Lebanon Police Chief Phillip Roberts said that “The responding Officers were able to locate the Tahoe on Meriden Road a short time later, and identified the operator as Donald Delisle, age 50, from Cornish, NH. Delisle was taken into custody and his .44 magnum revolver and a 16-gauge pump shotgun were seized from Delisle’s vehicle.”

Delisle was charged with Reckless Conduct with a Deadly Weapon, Unauthorized Use of a

Firearm, Criminal Threatening with A Firearm, and Attempted Murder. Delisle was held on Preventative Detention at the Grafton County House of Corrections and was to be arraigned on January 24.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
**Snow Painting & Scavenger Hunt at Saint-Gaudens NHP; 10am-11:30am**

**Location: Saint-Gaudens NHP, Meet outside the Visitor Center**

Registration required: Email Kerstin Burlingame at [kerstin\\_burlingame@nps.gov](mailto:kerstin_burlingame@nps.gov)  
Great for kids & families! Inspired by Saint-Gaudens’ own works, create your own masterpiece in the snow with Saint-Gaudens Art Education Fellow, Kelly, and follow it up with a scavenger hunt around the park with a ranger.



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The LCMH will be responsible for child and family screenings, assessments and follow up, Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) or similar parent-child therapy, responding to and making referrals as needed, actively participate in team meetings about wraparound services for TLC clients receiving or referred for CPP and prepare reports as needed for court hearings.

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

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



## Update on Route 12 Repair Work Provided

Kathleen Mulcahey-Hampson, Legislative Liaison, Senior Hearings Examiner, NHDOT, recently provided the following update on Route 12:

“The NH Route 12 repair work began on January 3, 2022. The contractor, Casella, successfully acquired the Right-of-Entry from the New England Central Railroad (NECR). Prior to starting any excavation work within the railroad right-of-way, Casella was required to monitor the track for seven (7) days. The baseline monitoring has been completed. This initial monitoring created a baseline for typical track movement while trains are operating. The baseline can then be compared to any vibrations during soil nail wall drilling, excavating the roadway, and rebuilding the roadway and slope.

“Once the initial monitoring period was complete, Casella was able to begin roadway work by removing existing guardrail, clearing and removal of trees necessary in the slope failure, and building temporary roads for railroad right-of-way access. The temporary roads are the first phase of the soil nail wall construction.

“In addition to the track monitoring, Casella needs to install additional equipment to monitor the stability of the railroad embankment. This work will entail some intermittent disruption of power in the immediate area.” She added that the monitoring devices and power disruptions were expected to be completed last week.

“The project is moving forward. Casella is close to completing the necessary submittals to finish ordering materials. The project is on-schedule through January 2022 due to Casella’s attentiveness, the railroad’s responsiveness to requests, and the Department’s Bureau of Construction staff anticipating questions and concerns.”

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

#### BLOOD DRIVE, 12:30 PM - 05:00 PM

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive. Windsor American Legion relocated the drive due to COVID. Please schedule an appointment today! Below is the new location: Drive Details:

Holiday Inn, 485 Hotel Drive, Brownsville, VT, 05037, Ballroom

For questions, call 1-800-Red-Cros (733-2767). Please come with photo ID. Please wear your mask, practice social distancing, and know the name of your vaccination manufacturer.

Drink lots of water the week before the drive, and eat a healthy meal before your appointment.

Zp code 05037; <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>



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# Classified Ads



## University of New Hampshire EXTENSION TEACHER

### Institution Information

The University of New Hampshire is an R1 Carnegie classification research institution providing comprehensive, high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs of distinction. UNH is located in Durham on a 188-acre campus, 60 miles north of Boston and 8 miles from the Atlantic coast and is convenient to New Hampshire's lakes and mountains. There is a student enrollment of 13,000 students, with a full-time faculty of over 600, offering 90 undergraduate and more than 70 graduate programs. The University actively promotes a dynamic learning environment in which qualified individuals of differing perspectives, life experiences, and cultural backgrounds pursue academic goals with mutual respect and shared inquiry.

The UNH Diversity Resource Guide with information and programming available in the seacoast area, New Hampshire, and the region can be found here: <https://www.unh.edu/hr/diversity-resource-guide>

### Summary of Position

This position will be based in the Sullivan County Extension office in Newport, N.H. The Nutrition Connections Extension Teacher will be responsible for the teaching and evaluation of limited-resource youth and/or adults in the areas of food resource management, food safety, physical activity, and food and nutrition. The Extension Teacher will develop curriculum plans and adapt lessons to meet the educational needs of program participants. The Extension Teacher will also help implement policies, systems, and environmental changes related to nutrition, physical activity, and obesity prevention in partnership with community organizations. This role will collaborate with state and/or community agencies and organizations, and ensure programmatic involvement of underserved and underrepresented audiences, ensuring that all educational programming is conducted in full accordance with civil rights, EEO, AA, and ADA polices. This person will be responsible for identifying, recruiting, and training of potential volunteers that will assist in adult and/or youth educational programs.

- Works with minors

### Duties/Responsibilities

#### *Percent of Time: 70*

- Teach and evaluate youth and/or adults in areas of food and nutrition, food safety, physical activity and food resource management as a component of multilevel interventions to improve health and well-being of N.H. communities.
- Develop curriculum plans and adapt lessons to meet the educational needs of program participants.
- Promote programming to potential external partners and to potential participants.
- Coordinate arrangements for educational sessions, group activities and meetings.
- Provide information to clientele, volunteers and groups as directed or requested.
- Use technology, including social media, video conferencing, web-based and other emerging technologies in educational program delivery and communication, as applicable.
- In partnership with external and internal collaborators and/or coalitions, implement and evaluate policies, systems, and environmental changes related to nutrition, physical activity, and obesity prevention.
- Identify, recruit and train potential volunteers to assist in adult and/or youth educational programs.
- Ensure programmatic involvement of underserved and underrepresented audiences and ensure that all educational programming is conducted in full accordance with civil rights, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), Affirmative Action (AA), and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) policies and procedures.

#### *Percent of Time: 15*

- Collaborate with state and/or community agencies and organizations.
- Inform Extension state or field specialists and/or program managers of county needs, assets, resources, and community efforts to reduce health disparities.

#### *Percent of Time: 10*

- Collect evaluation data, analyze program effectiveness, and complete program documentation, records and reports as requested.

#### *Percent of Time: 5*

- Attend training, staff and Extension Advisory Council meetings as appropriate.
- Identify individual professional development goals and seek training in essential teaching skills and subject area expertise.
- Related duties as assigned.

### Additional Job Information

UNH is a federal contractor within the meaning of the Executive Order on Ensuring Adequate COVID Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors. This position may require that you be vaccinated against COVID-19 in the future, unless you apply for and receive a religious or medical exemption.

### Other Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in relevant subject and one year of experience teaching or delivering education in relevant subject OR high school degree/GED and four years relevant experience.
- Valid N.H. driver's license
- Effective human relations and communication skills
- Computer skills

### Additional Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working with vulnerable populations
- Experience delivering youth or adult education especially classroom management, nutrition, physical activity, cooking, and life skills

### Salary Information

Salary is complemented by a comprehensive benefits package which includes medical, dental, retirement, tuition, and paid time off.

Special Instructions to Applicants Applicants must apply online <https://jobs.usnh.edu/postings/45128>

*The University System of New Hampshire is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access/Affirmative Action employer. The University System is committed to creating an environment that values and supports diversity and inclusiveness across our campus communities and encourages applications from qualified individuals who will help us achieve this mission. The University System prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or marital status*



# Generations of Congratulations

## Patrons Stop Into Fiske to Celebrate Marta Smith



CLAREMONT, NH—After more than 33 years serving the public at Claremont's Fiske Free Library, Marta Smith spent last Thursday with patrons and friends who had come to wish her well in retirement.

Among them was a three-generation family. Sherrie Fontaine, who had worked at the Fiske, brought along her daughter, Shelby Kinshaw, who brought along her daughter, 6-month-old Whitney Kinshaw. Sitting in Smith's lap and listening to her read late that afternoon, Whitney was among the last of thousands of people Smith had welcomed over the years.

Introducing others to the joys of reading and responsible research has been the core of her work at the Fiske, said Smith. "I may be back from time to time if they need me to fill in. Otherwise, I'm going to start whittling down the stacks of books waiting for me at home."

**Three of the many visitors who stopped by the Fiske Free Library on Thursday were Shelby Kinshaw, her mother, Sherrie Fontaine, and her daughter, Whitney. "It's never too early to start kids on the road to becoming life-long enthusiastic readers," says Marta Smith. No doubt Whitney Kinshaw will, some day, agree.**

**Text and Photos by Eric Zengota**

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## Updating the City Manager Search

On behalf of the Claremont City Council, I am writing to share a quick update on our city manager search. In December the council discussed how to approach the recruitment and hiring of our next manager. The Council chose Municipal Resources Inc (MRI) an executive recruitment firm to lead our charge.

In tandem with our recruitment efforts for a new manager an interim city manager, John MacLean of MRI, began his duties on January 7. The council knew that Mr. MacLean, who had previously worked for the city, would be a very good fit and familiar with our day-to-day operations. He is scheduled to work approximately 30 hours per week. As part of the agreement with MRI, Mr. MacLean appointed a temporary assistant City Manager, Chief Mark Chase. Chief Chase is expected to fill in given Mr. MacLean's schedule.

At our first working council meeting in January MRI outlined a recruitment timeline. The process began with individual councilors being interviewed. These interviews became the foundation for MRI to create our recruitment package. Two significant issues that we needed to address were setting a compensation range for the new manager and how to deal with our current residency clause which will be a requirement for the new hire. The consensus of the council is to support our residency clause however in reality with the current housing market being so active finding a home may prove to be difficult for someone coming into the city. I would like to thank Councilor Jonathan Stone for speaking with New Hampshire Municipal Association to receive initial information on the legal process of an amendment. Given this situation the Council is working with our City Clerk and Mr. MacLean on a potential charter change which of course will require a public hearing and eventually a city-wide vote. We recognize this process likely will not change our current recruitment.

The council hopes that residents will weigh in on the process. You may send a confidential email to MRI at [claremontcmsearch@mrigov.com](mailto:claremontcmsearch@mrigov.com). Please reach out with your thoughts on important traits for our new manager. Of course, you are always welcome to share concerns as well. This email address will be listed on the city's website for your convenience.

MRI developed a job description that outlines our expectations and measurable objectives; this will be advertised where it will attract the most qualified candidates. You may find it on MRI's website ([www.mrigov.com](http://www.mrigov.com)) along with advertising at the International City Managers Association and in regional newspapers. The initial application deadline will be March 1st.

The council will continue to share information as we move through this process. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of your councilors -- our contact information may be located on the city website.

### Mayoral Notes by Dale Girard



# Join Our Family

## SULLIVAN COUNTY HEALTH CARE

We look forward to discussing the following opportunities with you.

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- Registered Nurse

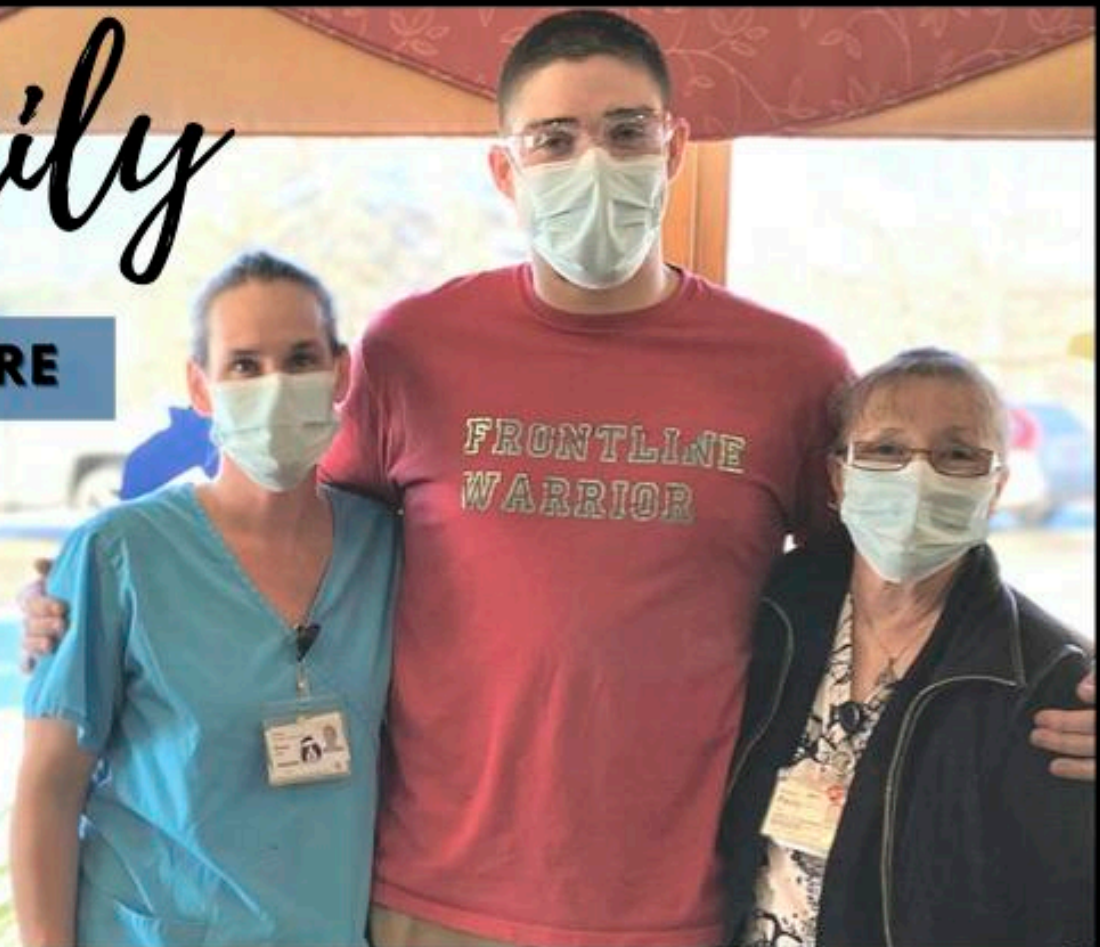
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# Business News

## Newport Area Chamber of Commerce Announces New Executive Director

NEWPORT, NH—The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce has announced that it has hired its new Executive Director, Shannon MacMichael. MacMichael has been the President of the Newport Area Chamber of Commerce this past year, a past Vice President, and has been on the Board of Directors of the Chamber for many years.



**Shannon MacMichael**

“As our long-time past Executive Director, Ella Casey, entered retirement, Shannon’s duties as President mirrored those of the Executive Director,” said the board in a press release. “Her energy and excitement for our community is contagious. She is dedicated to the Chamber, and truly believes in our mission, to promote the growth and prosperity of the area served by Newport, to promote its general welfare, and to foster its commerce and trade. She has worked as a vital team member to carry on the tradition of “Twas Just Before Christmas”, helped create and execute the annual Fireworks Show at the Parlin Field Airport, and helped launch the wildly successful Car Show last June, also at Parlin Field Airport. She understands events such as these bring visitors, enhance our community, and spark an organic commerce.”

MacMichael has a strong business background. Since 2005, she has been the President of Rockingham Fireworks Mfg. & Display Co. Inc., dba Noise “R” Us Fireworks in Newport, NH, and is the owner/operator of Feelin’

PHAT Fitness, LLC in Newbury, NH. Her local ties are important; as a 2002 graduate of Kearsarge Regional High School, she returned to the area after graduating from Champlain College, Burlington, VT, with a Bachelor’s Degree in Professional Studies - Paralegal Program. She lives in her hometown of Newbury, where she is raising her two sons, Levi, 8, and Owen, 4.

“Ella Casey’s shoes are giant ones to fill; she headed the Chamber and had been dedicated to our community for decades,” said the board. “The Newport Area Chamber of Commerce is fortunate to have selected one of our own who understands the needs of the Chamber and business community, will help continue to grow the Chamber, and has tireless positive energy.”

MacMichael began as the new Executive Director on Monday January 24th.

## Dartmouth-Hitchcock Awarded on the Forbes Best-In-State Employers List

LEBANON, NH – Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) has been awarded on the Forbes list of Best-In-State Employers 2021. This prestigious award is presented by Forbes and Statista Inc., the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider.

“D-H is continuously striving to be the employer of choice in New Hampshire,” said Aimee Claiborne, chief human resources officer for D-H and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health. “For us, it’s not enough to just be the largest private employer in the state; we want to be the best in every measure – employee engagement, competitive pay scale, employee retention and fostering a culture of respect. This recog-

nition from Forbes is a testament to our commitment organization-wide to delivering on that promise to being a choice employer that attracts stellar talent.”

Forbes’ Best-In-State Employers 2021 were identified in an independent survey based on a vast sample of approximately 80,000 Americans working for companies with more than 500 employees in the United States. Across 25 industry sectors, 1,329 employer brands were ranked among the top employers. Brands were able to win in more than one state.

## NHEC Sets Deadline for Candidate Nominations to Board of Directors

PLYMOUTH, NH – Members of the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative (NHEC) interested in being considered for nomination to the NHEC Board of Directors should submit their candidate material to the NHEC Nominating Committee by February 10, 2022.

Any NHEC member in good standing can run for a seat on the board. NHEC members vote annually to fill open seats on the board. To learn more about the director election process, please visit <https://www.nhec.com/board-of-directors/director-election-process/>. To apply, please contact Sharon Yeaton (yeatons@nhec.com) for a candidate packet.

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## Dartmouth-Hitchcock Revises Visitor Policy

LEBANON, NH—Beginning Monday, January 31, 2022, patient visitor guidelines will be revised at Dartmouth-Hitchcock facilities including:

- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon
- The D-H Outpatient Surgery Center in Lebanon
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Heater Road in Lebanon
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock Lyme
- The Jack Byrne Center for Palliative and Hospice Care in Lebanon
- Norris Cotton Cancer Center North in St. Johnsbury, VT

For COVID-negative patients only, changes in the guidelines include:

A “visitor” may include any person: visitors do not need to be “caregivers” as previously specified

One (1) person is now allowed per day for all adult inpatients  
 One (1) person is now allowed for all adult outpatient visits  
 Check in for visitors to inpatients will now take place on each inpatient floor, adjacent to each inpatient unit.

Additionally, in the DHMC Emergency Department:

Patients 18 years of age and under may have two (2) adults with them.  
 Patients 19 years of age or older may have one (1) person with them.  
 If a patient presenting at the ED is over the age of 19 and is known to be COVID-19 positive, no one will be allowed to enter the facility with them.



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# Deteriorating Sullivan Smokestack Fenced Off

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—The deteriorating Sullivan smokestack, an historical landmark in Claremont marking the City’s early manufac-



turing days, has garnered renewed attention from City officials and the public. Local resident Kathleen Pope recently posted photos of the stack on the What’s Up Claremont Facebook page, commenting that it was showing additional deterioration. The stack has been on the City’s radar for a number of years as it considers a number of possible new uses for the land on which it sits. Those ideas include two versions of a riverfront park for the area. Due to its present condition, interim City manager John MacLean announced at the council meeting Wednesday night that the City had added fencing to the site to keep the public from accessing it. It has been a popular place for teens to hang out for many years.

City Planning and Development director Nancy Merrill told the *e-Ticker News* that “Two concepts were done during the Phase 1 environmental process. The Phase 2 has been

completed by Credere Associates, but is still in draft form. We are waiting for DES to review and give us a final report. The engineer’s reports on the two structures (that bid has been posted) as well as the reports on the soil will give the Council the information they need to make some decisions.”

Asked about the future of the stack, Merrill said that “The engineer will assess for either removing it or restoring it and will give esti-

mates for both options to provide to the City Council. If demolition is the decision, there has been discussion about reusing some of the bricks in the walkways in that area to preserve some of the history.”

City officials think that one possible reason that bricks have been falling out is that raptors have been nesting in the structure, damaging it.





# ‘Around You Stand Heroes’

## VRH Staff Welcome Sen. Shaheen’s Pro-Vaccination Message

By Eric Zengota  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH – U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) visited Valley Regional Hospital on Tuesday to thank the hospital’s health care workers for their efforts fighting the pandemic and encourage Granite Staters to get vaccinated and boosted. The visit comes as New Hampshire experiences high rates of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations, further straining health care workers and hospital resources.



Jocelyn Caple, interim president and CEO, chief medical officer at VRH, welcomed the senator, saying that throughout the pandemic, VRH continued to provide services. Every single member of the staff, she noted, adapted to the pandemic’s rapidly changing conditions in order to take care of their patients. They even “flexed into different units” by enhancing their skills, talent and training.

In her remarks, Juliann Barrett, DO, VRH medical director and president of the medical staff, said, “Around you stand heroes. Two years into this pandemic, health care workers continue to fight, day in and day out, for the

health of the people of this nation and around the world. But given the pressures of the pandemic, we are in danger of severe workforce shortages of our health care warriors. The best solution is to get everyone vaccinated so we can reduce the spread of the virus, keep people out of hospitals and give our health care workers time to finally recharge.”

Barrett, who was called to active duty in the U.S. Army in April 2020 to provide medical support, praised the work of the New Hampshire National Guard troops who have been deployed at VRH to assist any department and provide relief to the regular staff.

Shaheen said that she came with two messages: thank all the health care workers who have faced up to the challenges of the pandemic, and reiterate the need for everyone to be “up to date” by getting vaccinated and boosted.

“Valley Regional Hospital is on the frontlines delivering life-saving care to COVID-19 patients amid the omicron surge. Today, I met with doctors and professionals at the hospital to discuss what resources they need to care for the influx of patients,” said Shaheen. “Throughout the pandemic, I’ve led bipartisan efforts to secure funding for hospitals and health care providers to ensure they can recruit additional staff and keep their doors open. I’ll continue meeting directly with our health care workers to deliver what they need to keep Granite Staters safe and healthy amid this public health crisis.”

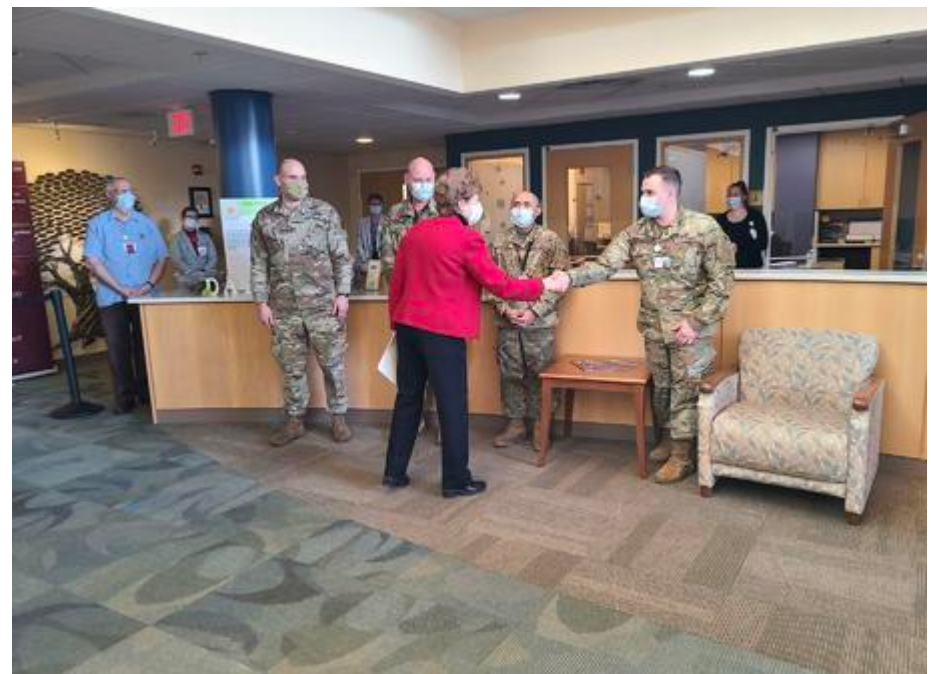
During negotiations surrounding the American Rescue Plan, Shaheen helped steer efforts to increase funding for the Provider Relief Fund (PRF) to ensure hospitals, nursing homes and other health care providers on the frontlines have the support they need to keep their doors open and continue to care for patients.

In December, Shaheen welcomed more than \$41 million

through the PRF to support 262 health care providers who have experienced revenue losses and expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Tuesday, Shaheen also welcomed an additional \$11 million to 25 New Hampshire providers through the PRF as part of a \$2 billion distribution nationwide.

When asked whether she had had any conversations with people who were opposed to vaccines, Shaheen said, “No, but only because those people don’t want to talk to me. We want to follow the science in combating this virus. Several members of my own family have been infected. But because they were vaccinated, they didn’t have severe symptoms or need to be hospitalized.” She noted that 99.9% of vaccinated persons with breakthrough infections experience lighter effects.

The senator added, “We have to counteract all the conspiracy theories and misinformation surrounding COVID on the Internet and social media. There’s also deliberate disinformation coming from the enemies of our country, which is putting lives at risk. You must get vaccinated,” she concluded, “and listen to the doctors.”



**Left: “Vaccination is critical,” said Sen. Shaheen. “Protect yourselves, your family, your friends, everyone you’re close to.” Above: Shaheen greeted every member of the VRH staff in attendance, as well as every New Hampshire National Guardsman currently deployed at the hospital to assist staff as needed (Eric Zengota photos).**



## Watch for Changes in RMDs

If you're a certain age, you'll need to withdraw money from some of your retirement accounts each year. But in 2022, the amount you must take out may be changing more than in other years – and that could affect your retirement income strategy.

Here's some background: Once you turn 72, you generally must start taking withdrawals, called required minimum distributions, or RMDs, from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan. Each year, your RMDs are determined by your age and account balances. This year, the life expectancy tables used by the IRS are being updated to reflect longer lifespans. This may result in lower annual RMDs than you'd have to take if this adjustment hadn't been made.

If you've started taking RMDs, what does this change mean to you? It can be a positive development, for a few reasons:

- *Potentially lower taxes* – Your RMDs are generally taxable at your personal income tax rate, so the lower your RMDs, the lower your tax bill might be.
- *Possibly longer "lifespan" for retirement accounts* – Because your RMDs will be lower, the accounts from which they're issued – including your traditional IRA and 401(k) – may be able to last longer without becoming depleted. The longer these accounts can stay intact and remain an asset, the better for you.

- *More flexibility in planning for retirement income* – The word "required" in the phrase "required minimum distributions" means exactly what it sounds like – you must take at least that amount. If you withdraw less than your RMD, the amount not withdrawn will be taxed at 50%. So, in one sense, your RMDs take away some of your freedom in managing your retirement income. But now, with the lower RMDs in place, you may regain some of this flexibility. (And keep in mind that you're always free to withdraw more than the RMDs.)

Of course, if you don't really need all the money from RMDs, even the lower amount may be an issue for you – as mentioned above, RMDs are generally taxable. However, if you're 70½ or older, you can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from a traditional IRA directly to a qualified charitable organization, and some, or perhaps all, of this money may come from your RMDs. By making this move, you can exclude the RMDs from your taxable income. Before taking this action, though, you'll want to consult with your tax advisor.

Here are a couple of final points to keep in mind. First, not all your retirement accounts are subject to RMDs – you can generally keep your Roth IRA intact for as long as you want. However, your Roth 401(k) is generally subject to RMDs. If you're still working past 72, though, you may be able to avoid taking RMDs from your current employer's 401(k) or similar plan, though you'll still have to take them from your traditional IRA.

Changes to the RMD rules don't happen too often. By being aware of how these new, lower RMDs can benefit you, and becoming familiar with all aspects of RMDs, you may be able to strengthen your overall retirement income situation.

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

### TURNING POINTS NETWORK

#### February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month: Skills for Lifelong Healthy Relationships

Healthy (and unhealthy) relationships don't just start during teen years or when a young person begins dating. Healthy friendships can be an important building block for future healthy dating or romantic relationships. It's never too early to discuss and reinforce key relationship skills.

**Helping youth recognize emotions in themselves and others is called "emotional literacy."** It requires self-awareness to recognize one's own emotions and empathy, which allows us to recognize someone else's. In strong, healthy relationships, people pay attention to their own and each other's feelings with genuine concern for each other's well-being. These skills can be nurtured in young people by asking them if they can recognize how another is feeling. Naming feelings expands a child or teen's emotional vocabulary.

**Nurturing empathy in youth of all ages.** Look for everyday examples of youth being able to "put themselves in someone else's shoes" to understand another's perspective or feelings. Books and movies are good places to look for characters demonstrating an ability to understand how someone else is feeling. Ask older youth and teens about their favorite streaming shows or songs, and if they can identify characters or songs that promote empathy for others.

**Recognizing another's feelings allows one to better respect boundaries.** Boundaries are often described as limits. In healthy relationships people respect each other's personal space boundaries (how close someone wants another to be) and emotional boundaries (how someone wants to be treated). We can teach youth the skills to read body language and facial expressions to recognize another's boundaries. Respecting boundaries is critical for consent.

**Coping with strong emotions is another important healthy relationship skill.** All relationships experience ups and downs but in a healthy relationship, the downs never include physical, emotional or sexual abuse such as

lashing out in anger or using anger to control others. If we can help young people learn healthy ways to cope with strong feelings, they will carry those skills to more complicated relationships when they are older.

TPN is invested in healthy relationships education because these skills prevent abuse and provide foundational skills that will help grow a generation of young people who can navigate relationships with respect as the compass. We're here with resources and support to help you talk to young people in your life.

*OUR TURN is a public service series by Turning Points Network (TPN), serving all of Sullivan County with offices in Claremont and Newport. We provide wraparound supports for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and sex trafficking and we present violence-prevention education programs in our schools. For more than 40 years, TPN has helped people of all ages move toward living with respect, healing, and hope that we all deserve. We can be reached 24/7 on our crisis and support line at 1.800.639.3130. Between 9-4 Monday-Friday, we are available on our chatline at [www.turningpointsnetwork.org](http://www.turningpointsnetwork.org) or by text at 603.506.6553.*

## Lempster Post Office Opening Delayed

Submitted By Bill Murgatroy

LEMPSTER, NH—Lempster residents are anxiously awaiting the opening of a new post office building at 902 N.H. State Route 10 located just north of the intersection with the 2nd N.H. Turnpike. The post office previously leased space in The Lempster Community Church building at 767 route 10. Operations ceased there on June 26, 2020. The USPS temporarily moved postal operations eight miles south into the Marlow Post Office. This affected box holders only and not rural delivery customers.

Some 224 boxes were rented at the former post office, and 280 customers were served by the highway contract route. Over time, these numbers have changed considerably. Many customers switched to rural delivery and to the Goshen or Washington Post Offices.

In October of 2017, the Postal Service contracted real estate broker JLL Property Man



**Top: Work is continuing on a new Lempster Post Office. Bottom: Daryl 'Bubba' Simino points out the need for plumbing and electrical wiring by the sub-contractors (Bill Murgatroy photos).**

agement to administer their lease agreements and properties. It became difficult to find a suitable location. Local resident Daryl Simino contacted the firm after acquiring a tax delinquent property where a former auto salvage business once stood.

After the location was approved and the building specifications provided, Daryl and his son Shae began building the shell. The one story structure was built on an existing foundation and is waiting for USPS subcontractors to finish the interior. Due to the current pandemic and labor shortages, the current date of January 30, 2022 could not be met.

Paving for the parking lot will be completed in the spring, and there will be 12 spaces, with employee parking in the rear. The existing garage building on the same property will be upgraded and used to repair the owners' construction equipment.



# Sports/Recreation

## Lebanon-Stevens-Mount Royal Boys Ice Hockey

12/15/21	at John Stark-Hopkinton-Hillsboro-Deering	W 3 - 2
12/30/21	Berlin-Gorham	L 1 - 4
01/06/22	at Mon-Fall Mountain	W 5 - 0
01/08/22	Belmont-Gilford	W 5 - 2
01/10/22	John Stark-Hopkinton-Hillsboro-Deering	W 4 - 2
01/12/22	Hollis Brookline-Derryfield	W 7 - 3
01/22/22	at Laconia-Winnisquam-Inter-Lakes	W 4 - 1
01/30/22	at Berlin-Gorham	01:00 PM
02/02/22	Mon-Fall Mountain	07:00 PM
02/05/22	Sanborn-Epping	06:20 PM
02/09/22	at Kearsarge-Plymouth	TBA
02/10/22	at Kennett	05:10 PM
02/12/22	Pembroke-Campbell	07:30 PM
02/16/22	Kearsarge-Plymouth	07:10 PM
02/19/22	at Hollis Brookline-Derryfield	04:20 PM
02/23/22	ConVal-Conant	07:30 PM
02/26/22	at Pembroke-Campbell	07:30 PM

## Lebanon-Stevens- Kearsarge Girls Ice Hockey

12/21/21	at St. Thomas-WNC-DOV	W 4 - 1
12/29/21	Bishop Brady-Trinity	W 4 - 1
01/08/22	at ConVal-Conant	W 9 - 0
01/21/22	Hanover	L 0 - 5
01/24/22	at Bishop Guertin	03:30 PM
01/26/22	at Hanover	L 0 - 5
02/01/22	Concord	04:40 PM
02/04/22	at Pinkerton	07:50 PM
02/05/22	Keene-Mon-Fall Mountain	04:20 PM
02/07/22	at Berlin-Gorham-Kennett	04:00 PM
02/09/22	at Kingswood	07:30 PM
02/11/22	at Man. Central-Memorial	04:20 PM
02/14/22	Berlin-Gorham-Kennett	04:40 PM
02/16/22	Exeter	05:10 PM
02/18/22	Bedford	06:20 PM
02/19/22	Oyster River-Portsmouth	07:30 PM
02/23/22	Souhegan	05:30 PM

## SHS Girls Basketball

12/10/21	Inter-Lakes	W 64 - 7
12/14/21	Fall Mountain	L 35 - 47
12/20/21	at Winnisquam	W 47 - 14
01/03/22	at Belmont	W 73 - 35
01/05/22	Gilford	W 64 - 38
01/10/22	at Hopkinton	W 42 - 35
01/12/22	Campbell	W 61 - 24
01/19/22	Kearsarge	W 48 - 40
01/25/22	Conant	L 30 - 59
01/26/22	at Mascenic	W 60 - 31
01/28/22	at Newport	W 44 - 26
01/31/22	at Fall Mountain	Postponed
02/02/22	Mascoma Valley	Postponed
02/03/22	Newport	07:00 PM
02/04/22	at Kearsarge	06:00 PM
02/07/22	at Newfound	06:00 PM
02/08/22	Hillsboro-Deering	07:00 PM
02/11/22	at Monadnock	06:00 PM

## SHS Boys Basketball

12/14/21	Fall Mountain	W 58 - 25
12/17/21	at Gilford	L 36 - 63
12/20/21	Winnisquam	W 45 - 39
01/03/22	Belmont	W 41 - 32
01/05/22	at Hillsboro-Deering	W 57 - 29
01/10/22	Hopkinton	L 36 - 47
01/11/22	Mascenic	W 40 - 26
01/14/22	at Campbell	W 48 - 47
01/18/22	at Kearsarge	L 20 - 71
01/21/22	at Newport	W 76 - 33
01/25/22	at Conant	L 35 - 46
01/31/22	at Fall Mountain	Postponed to 02/08
02/02/22	at Mascoma Valley	Postponed
02/04/22	Kearsarge	Postponed
02/07/22	Newfound	07:00 PM
02/08/22	at Fall Mountain	06:30 PM
02/09/22	at Inter-Lakes	06:00 PM
02/10/22	Newport	TBA
02/11/22	Monadnock	07:00 PM

## **Fisher Cats Scholarship Applications Open February 1st**

**Twelve \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to local high school student-athletes**

MANCHESTER, NH—The New Hampshire Fisher Cats (Toronto Blue Jays Double-A affiliate) and the Fisher Cats Foundation are pleased to open applications for the 2022 Scholar-Athlete Scholarship program at [NHFisherCats.com](http://NHFisherCats.com) starting Tuesday, February 1st.

Twelve \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to local high school student-athletes: ten from New Hampshire and two from northern Massachusetts. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 31, and honored on the field at Delta Dental Stadium during a Fisher Cats game this season.

High school seniors, go to <https://www.milb.com/new-hampshire/community/scholar-athlete-scholarships> to apply for the Scholar-Athlete Scholarship.

Since 2007, the Fisher Cats Foundation has awarded over \$395,000 to graduating seniors through the Scholar-Athlete Scholarship program.

"We're proud to continue this annual tradition; it's one of the most rewarding things we do each season," said Fisher Cats President Mike Ramshaw. "We've been so inspired by the number of applications we've received over the years, and look forward to helping further the education of these outstanding student-athletes."

Scholarship recipients will be selected using criteria that includes academic achievement, athletic achievement, and active citizenship.

For more information, email Fisher Cats Foundation Executive Director Stephanie Fournier at [sfournier@nhfishercats.com](mailto:sfournier@nhfishercats.com).

Fisher Cats Opening Day is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, with a magnet schedule giveaway from Eastern Propane & Oil and a spectacular postgame Atlas Fireworks show. For more information, visit [NHFisherCats.com](http://NHFisherCats.com).



## Dribble — Pass — Shoot

### CSBCC Gym Site of Youth Basketball Games

Text and Photos By  
Eric Zengota

CLAREMONT, NH— Justin Martin, superintendent of recreation programs for the Claremont Parks and Recreation Department, reports that the 2022 winter youth basketball season is a great success.

A total of 200 kids play in age-based categories, starting with Start Smart (23 registered players), Kindergarten (23), and 1st & 2nd Grade Instructional (50). Competitive teams include 3/4 Girls (14), 3/4 Boys (49), 5/6 Girls (18), and 5/6 Boys (23).

Martin acknowledged the support of team sponsors, whose generosity provided the players with T-shirts: American Auto Glass, Century 21 High View Realty, Crown Point Cabinetry, Hubert's, Liberal Beef, Love's Bedding & Furniture, Mascoma Savings Bank, McGee Toyota, One Credit Union, Ramunto's, and WAL Masonry.



Martin also noted that in 2021, the Claremont teams played only one another in what was in effect an intramural league, due to COVID travel restrictions. But in 2022, Claremont plays against teams from CCBA Witherell Recreation Center, Charlestown, Hanover, Hartford, Lebanon, Mascoma, Newport, Plain-

field and Rivendell.

Regular season games end Saturday, February 19.

Spectators are welcome at the CSBCC gym; there is no charge to attend. For more information, visit [www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=claremontsports](http://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=claremontsports).

It was a sweep for the Lady Cardinals Friday evening at Wheeler Gymnasium in Newport (Courtesy photo).





# Inspiration

## The Ski Pole

By Priscilla Hull

This is a story about a ski pole. It might seem like a strange thing, but this ski pole has had an interesting life. Sometime in the 1940s, the pole and a pair of skis became part of a family of four girls and their parents. The family lived in a big old house on what had been their grandfather's farm. Across the street was a golf course. There was a hill that the girls used for skiing. Each would take her turn skiing down and then climbing back up the hill to give the skis to the next one. When that's all that you know, it's great fun. Of course, the skis had leather straps to fasten them on your feet. They were very long and there were lots of falls, even though they came with two long ski poles. The poles were much too long for the young girls, but it was too much fun to complain.

The family moved from that home to a house in town. Any slopes in that area were shorter than the skis and so they weren't used for years, but the skis and poles were stored in the garage and when we moved to New Hampshire, they moved with us. Of course, in the years that they were stored, great changes came about in the ski industry and those skis were way outdated! I don't know what happened to the skis, but there was a lot of room for snowshoeing and it was thought that the poles could be used with snowshoes. This move was in the late 1950s and snow shoes were not at all what they are today. A pair of bear paws and a pair of Huron (also known as teardrop, Algonquin or Alaskan) were purchased. The ski poles were shared by the snowshoers and for several years, with those four little girls grown and moved away, their parents enjoyed snowshoeing.

At one point, the youngest original skier decided to snowshoe up the hill with her daughter and their two dogs, a Standard Poodle and a German Shepherd. The each took a ski pole. All went well until she suddenly couldn't pick up her foot. Poodle dog had decided she'd had enough and was standing on the bear paws!

Finally the snowshoes and ski poles found their home with the youngest girl. Now over eighty, she uses a ski pole when walking the dog. No skis, no snowshoes, just piles of snow to climb. The ski poles are useful once again after periods of disuse. They have served a purposeful and exciting life. They might be old fashioned, made of bamboo and rawhide, but they were of great importance to one family.

And so, one ski pole with a story.

*Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it!*

Proverbs 13:11

Interesting facts about snowshoes.

- There is evidence that snowshoes were in use 6,000 years ago.
- Snowshoes were used by indigenous people on all continents and made of very similar designs in all areas.
- Snowshoes were most often made of white ash and rawhide.
- Today snowshoes are much smaller and made of aluminum or plastic.
- Original bear paw snowshoes were about 36 inches long.
- Huron snowshoes with a tail are about 40 inches.

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





## Calendar Of Events

### Rebecca Rule to present for Tapestry Tuesdays, Feb. 15th – 5:30 pm at the New London Inn, New London, NH

Join The Center for the Arts and author/speaker Rebecca Rule for the evening, as she speaks to us of community, in her NH Humanities Council talk “That Reminds Me of a Story.” Stories speak to us of community. They hold our history and reflect our identity. Rule has made it her mission over the last 20 years to collect stories of New Hampshire, especially those that reflect what’s special about this rocky old place. She’ll tell some of those stories – her favorites are the funny ones - and invite audience members to contribute a few stories of their own.

Rebecca Rule gathers and tells stories of New England, mostly New Hampshire. She is the author of a dozen books. Her latest is *That Reminds Me of a Funny Story*. Her other titles include *Headin’ for the Rhubarb: a NH Dictionary (well kinda)* and *Moved and Seconded: Town Meeting in New Hampshire*, as well as the children’s books, *The Iciest Diciest Scariest Sled Ride Ever* and *N is for NH*. For ten years she hosted “The New Hampshire Authors Series” on NHPBS. She currently hosts “Our Hometown” also on NHPBS.

The Center for the Arts, Lake Sunapee Region Tapestry Tuesdays is in its inaugural year and February is the second offering. On the third Tuesday of every month, they will share a variety of events ranging from lectures to poetry readings, to workshops under the title *Tapestry Tuesdays*. The events will be held at the New London Inn from January through October and the Inn will be providing a special menu for purchase. Most *Tapestry Tuesdays* are free events; please check the website to be sure.

Please note due to Covid-19 masks are required.

Please check our website for updated information: [www.centerfortheartsnh.org](http://www.centerfortheartsnh.org)

For questions or further information please contact – [info@cfanh.org](mailto:info@cfanh.org)

**THROUGH FEBRUARY 14**

**Mini Exhibit: Patterns and Molds**  
At the American Precision Museum, Windsor, VT  
196 Main St, Windsor, VT  
Come check out our mini exhibit on patterns through February 14.

Our museum is full of beautiful and innovative machines, but how were the machines themselves made?

Many of the parts were made from cast iron, from wooden patterns created by patternmakers.

Open every weekday, weekends by appointment only.

This special exhibit will be in the heated section of the museum. Please note: the main museum will be open, but it is not heated, so bring your coat and mittens!  
Call 802-674-5781 for more information.

## Winter & Summer Camps at Billings Farm Now Open for Registration

Step into the shoes of a farmer, listen to farm stories, meet Billings’ Farm animals and enjoy the thrill of the farm in winter. Billings Farm & Museum has four camp offerings which all provide engaging, hands-on activities and explorations of the farm and the local landscape.

**Winter Wonders Camp**, Feb. 14 - 18, 9 am - 12:30 pm. Ages 6-8. Winter Wonders Camp offers “fun”tastic winter activities, including outdoor explorations, sledding and winter crafts. Learn about animals in winter and go on a scavenger hunt with National Park Rangers. Meet the Billings Farm animals and find out what they do in wintertime. Warm up while cooking popcorn and hot cocoa over an open fire. Bake sugar cookies and learn to make marshmallows, wassail punch and cinnamon sugar snowflakes in the Billings learning kitchen. Craft a paper snowflake, decorate

a fleece scarf, experiment with Oobleck and make a bird feeder. And of course, enjoy lots of outdoor play time. Space is limited. Visit our website to reserve a spot [www.billingsfarm.org/winter-wonders-camp/](http://www.billingsfarm.org/winter-wonders-camp/).

**Billings Bookworms Camp**, June 27- July 1, 9 am – 12:30 pm. Ages 6-8 (entering grades 1-3). Listen to fun stories about farming, nature and animals then meet our calves, sheep, goats and learn the basics of caring for each animal through hands-on activities. [www.billingsfarm.org/billings-bookworms/](http://www.billingsfarm.org/billings-bookworms/)

**Junior Farmer Camp**, offered in four sessions, on June 20-24, July 11-15, July 25-29 & August 15-19, 9 am – 4 pm. Ages 7-10 (entering grades 2-5). Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a farmer? Get up close and personal with the farm’s cows, horses, chickens, and sheep while learning the work that goes in to the food we eat. In addition to daily farm chores and activities, we will explore different farming topics like dairy, gardening, tractors, and draft animals. [www.billingsfarm.org/junior-farmer-camp/](http://www.billingsfarm.org/junior-farmer-camp/)

**Farm Discovery Camp**, offered in two sessions, on July 18-22 & August 1-5, 9 am – 4 pm. Ages 11-14 (entering grades 6-9). What does it mean to be part of a farming community? Farm Discovery Camp is a hands-on program for young people, who want a deeper understanding of farming and all that it encompasses. [www.billingsfarm.org/farm-discovery-camp/](http://www.billingsfarm.org/farm-discovery-camp/)

Aftercare is available for full-day camps (Junior Farmer Camp & Farm Discovery Camp). Our camps follow the CDC and state government guidelines to ensure the safety of our campers and counselors. The group sizes for each session will be small, and campers will



### To the Citizens of Claremont:

The Deliberative Session of the School District Meeting to consider the operating budget for the 2022-2023 school year will be held on **Wednesday**, February 9, 2022, at 6:30 PM, in the Stevens High School Auditorium. Event entrance doors will open at 6:00 PM. Snow date Thursday, February 10, 2022.

School District Budget documents will be available on our website [www.sau6.org](http://www.sau6.org)

All attendees must enter through the event entrance.

The public is encouraged to attend.



be split into smaller groups following CDC guidelines for social distancing.

Our response to COVID-19 will continue to be updated as more information and state government guidelines become available. Campers and parents will receive prior notice of all other safety precautions and processes implemented at the Farm & Museum.

Billings Farm & Museum, in its 39th season, is open weekends Nov Feb 10AM-4PM, and daily, 10AM-5PM April October. Find the Special Events Calendar, daily schedules, admission pricing and membership information at [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

Billings Farm & Museum is owned and operated by The Woodstock Foundation Inc., a charitable non-profit institution.

## Lake Sunapee VNA Offers Three Grief Support Groups

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

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

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

## Croydon Ladies Auxiliary Bingo

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

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

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

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

### Big Money Bingo

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

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

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

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

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

## Charlestown VFW Bingo Schedule

CHARLESTOWN, NH—Charlestown VFW Bingo is offering a weekly opportunity for some entertainment and socializing while helping us to raise funds for our many Veterans programs. Wednesday nights at 5:00 p.m. for early birds and 6:30 p.m. for regular fun and games. Currently, we play 12

regular and two 2 part games, as well as a 50/50 game, Winner–take-all game, Carry Over Coverall game and a Jackpot game. The Governor’s emergency order concerning COVID has expired.

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

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

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

[www.facebook.com/etickernews](http://www.facebook.com/etickernews)

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



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## Claremont Senior Center News

The Claremont Senior Center is open on a trial basis. Due to the high number of Covid cases in our area, masks are required if non-vaccinated. Lunches will continue as drive-thru for now. We have many activities.

There are sign-up sheets at the reception desk and the calendar in the lobby. Activities can be done anytime, including pool, knitting, hand and foot, mahjong, corn hole, and quilting. Socializing is always an option. We are open every Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. We are also open Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6pm to 9 pm. As many of us do not like having to drive in the dark, a new game afternoon has started on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 pm to 3 pm.

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

We are still holding our Drive-thru meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday, Feb 1st – Mac and cheese, vegetable, dessert. Thursday, Feb 3rd – Beef stew with biscuit, dessert. Must call 603-543-5998 by 10:30 to reserve your meal. Price is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. Drive-thru pickup is from 11:45 am to 12:15 pm. Meals are always subject to change.

Foot Clinic - Our foot clinics for February will be held on February 3, 9, 16 and 23. You MUST call 603-748-1731 to make an appointment with them. The fee is \$25.

AARP will be doing taxes at the center on Fridays beginning February 4th thru April 8th. Please call 802-345-5415 to make an appointment. DO NOT call the senior center for appointment.

Blood Drive – There will be another Red Cross Blood Drive at the center on February 14th. You must make an appointment at 800-RED-CROSS. During our last blood drive we collected 32 units (76 lives saved). Thank you to all who can and do donate.

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

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

add \$6 shipping and handling for each calendar if we mail to you.

"Little minds are tamed and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above them."

Washington Irving

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

### **STARTS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 Active Hope Book Discussion Series 6:30PM**

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

Discussion dates and titles:  
(all meetings at 6:30PM)  
Thursday, February 3: *Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas W. Tallamy  
February 24: *Islands of Abandonment* by Cal Flyn  
March 17: *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things* by Michael Braungart and William McDonough  
April 7: *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall

Copies of Feb 3rd's choice, *Nature's Best Hope*, are available at the

both the Cornish and Plainfield Libraries.

Email [stowelllibrary@comcast.net](mailto:stowelllibrary@comcast.net) or [mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org](mailto:mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org) for more information and the link to the Zoom discussion.

### **SATURDAY, MARCH 19 Winter Animal Tracking 10-11:30am Locations: Saint-Gaudens NHP; Meet outside the Visitor Center**

Registration required: Email Joey Sullivan at [joseph\\_sullivan@partner.nps.gov](mailto:joseph_sullivan@partner.nps.gov) or call 802-457-3368 ext. 218.

Registration is required and limited to 25 individuals.



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**Patrick A. Ryan, 75**

Patrick A. Ryan, 75, passed away on Friday, January 21, 2022. He was born in Claremont, NH, on July 7, 1946, the son of Frank and Elizabeth (Owens) Ryan. He was a graduate of Stevens High School and Hesser Business College. Pat was employed in the Housekeeping Department of DHMC for more than twenty-five years. Pat was an ardent sports fan and enjoyed watching the Red Sox, Patriots and Bruins.

Pat was predeceased by his parents and brother Frank. He is survived by his sisters, Elizabeth Ryan and Mary Ann (Ryan) Beaton and her husband Rod Beaton, nieces Rhodora Beaton and her husband Todd Hanneken of San Antonio, TX, Terra Ann Beaton of Boulder, CO, nephew Roderick Beaton and his wife Michelle and their children Owen, Anna and Emmett. Also survived by nieces Cindy, Georgia, Alex and Kathy Ryan and nephew, Christopher Ryan.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Valley Regional Hospital for the care they provided for Pat.

Services will be private.

If you wish to make a donation in Pat's name, please consider the Sullivan County Humane Society, 14 Tremont St., Claremont, NH.

The Stringer Funeral Home is assisting

with arrangements.

**Charity A. Dyer, 51**

Charity A. Dyer, 51, of Claremont, NH, passed away unexpectedly on January 21, 2022.

She was born in Claremont on August 10, 1970, the daughter of Mary (Ayers) Taylor. Charity was a graduate of Windsor High School.

She was a chef at the Taverne on the Square and worked for many other local restaurants and Hannaford.

She enjoyed crocheting, coloring, and music. Her passion was cooking. She had made many friends throughout her career. She was outgoing and very dedicated. She loved to laugh and was compassionate and caring. She will be truly missed.

She is survived by her mother, Mary; her husband, Alexander Dyer; children, Alex Dyer, Joseph Dyer, Jessica Emery and Jacob Emery; her sister, April Bracken and Larry; her best friend, Michelle MacLaughlin; and several grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visiting hours were held at the Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad Street in Claremont on Thursday, January 27th; a memorial service followed.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to the Claremont Soup Kitchen, 53 Central Street, Claremont, NH 03743.

**2022 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule**

**Saturday, May 7, 2022** - 9:00 AM - Noon  
Lebanon High School, 195 Hanover Street (off Route 120)

**Saturday, June 4, 2022** - 9:00 AM - Noon  
Claremont Highway Garage, 8 Grandview Street

**Friday, July 15, 2022** - 9:00 AM - Noon  
Lebanon High School, 195 Hanover Street (off Route 120)

**Saturday, August 6, 2022** - 9:00 AM - Noon  
New London Highway Garage, 184 South Pleasant

**Saturday, October 1, 2022** - 9:00 AM - Noon  
Lebanon High School, 195 Hanover Street (off Route 120)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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**Eating nicely side by side, these squirrels got in one more meal of sunflower seeds before the weekend storm.**

**Photo by Phyllis A. Muzeroll**



# SB 402-FN Would Help Towns Recover from Devastating Flood Damage Costs

**By Judy Aron**

**NH State Representative Sullivan**

**County District 7**

**Acworth, Goshen, Langdon, Lempster, Washington**

On Jan 25th, the Senate Finance Committee held a hearing on SB 402-FN, granting disaster relief for two presidentially-declared disasters in response to July-August 2021 flood damage sustained by communities in Cheshire and Sullivan counties. I went to testify in support of SB402, as did Acworth Selectboard Chair Frank Emig and concerned Acworth taxpayer, Gregg Thibodeau. The sponsor of the bill, Sen. Jay Kahn, presented the bill to the committee. The bill basically requests that the State pick up half of the 25% match to the 75% FEMA reimbursement for flood damage, making any town's share 12.5%. Apparently, that was done back in the 2005 Alstead flood, but no one seems to know whether that was done statutorily, or just by State appropriation.

As you know, the July 29th storm hit our state and created millions of dollars in flood damage to towns in Cheshire and Sullivan county. This bill will help many towns, but it will especially help my town of Acworth. Langdon Selectman Lucien Beam reported that, "both the South Hemlock road and the Meany road have been subject to heavy vehicle counts as a result of traffic being detoured away from Rte 12 onto these two roads. In a recent traffic count conducted by the Langdon Highway department, between the hours of 6:00AM and 4:00PM, it was observed that a total of 1058 vehicles traveled the South Hemlock road. The traffic observed consisted of school buses, passenger cars, light commercial vehicles as well as heavy commercial vehicles. The South Hemlock road and the Meany road are class 5 highways and were not designed to handle the amount of traffic flowing across them each day. Before the transition of traffic off from Rte 12 to these roads, the normal flow of vehicles would not exceed 50 vehicles per day. Whereas it was determined by the Fall Mountain Regional School Board that South Hemlock Road was the safer route for its buses to travel, the town maintains its responsibility to keep these routes open. With this responsibility comes the

cost of maintaining these two roads which to date has cost the town \$28,000 in the form of gravel, stone, sand, salt and labor."

Because of the July floods, Acworth suffered millions of dollars of road damage, bridge damage and crop damage. Farmer fields were destroyed at the start of harvest season, sap lines from our local maple producers were damaged, and hay was left to rot in the fields. Because our roads were so badly damaged, farmers were unable to empty their manure pits and mail could not be delivered. Utility poles in danger of falling over could not be reached to repair them and we could not get emergency vehicles through those roads either. There was only one way in and out of our town, and that road had been damaged as well. Acworth had a total of nine roads that were made totally impassable by the storm, and left in a condition which made them look like an earthquake had struck. Seven of those were paved roads, an expensive investment for our little town of 850 people. Three and a half miles of Crane Brook Road, a major north south paved road, which had paving completed only a few years earlier, was severely damaged. The Crane Brook alongside the road became a huge water management and wetlands issue. Culvert failures caused massive damage to the roads and we feared more flooding would happen with future rain storms. Clark's Sugar House was surrounded by debris washed down from the road. In short, it was a natural disaster that caused extensive and expensive damage, which a small town like Acworth will not be able to financially absorb easily. Decades of taxpayer funded municipal investment in Acworth's roads and bridges were demolished in one night, causing issues concerning safety, commerce, the environment and quality of life.

It was clear to people who had come to actually see the damage that we had many of millions of dollars, and years of repair work, facing our town. Initially the estimates were around \$10-15 million. They have since gone higher because of inflation and difficulty obtaining materials due to supply shortages. If the roads are brought back to perfectly paved and flood mitigated status through bigger culverts and other engineering suggestions, the cost could run up to \$26 million. Acworth got to work immediately to make roads passable

and safe. DES and Homeland Security Emergency Management did not come until September 8th, 2021, to assess damage – a full month and a half after the floods hit us. Even so, they were only seeking to find enough damage to report to get Sullivan county over the threshold for applying for an emergency declaration by the President of the US.

Acworth declared its own state of local emergency on Monday (August 9th, 2021), and the Acworth selectboard voted to alert Department of Revenue (DRA) that we would be overspending our 2021 budget and let them know we'd be taking \$350,000 out of our fund balance, which at the time had \$550,000 as a balance. That left Acworth with a recommended minimum fund balance of \$200,000. Acworth had already spent \$150,000 of that \$350,000 on temporary road repairs for the Charlestown Rd./Luther Hill Rd. intersection, and upper Derry Hill Rd. culvert repair, to make them passable. Acworth also held a town meeting to authorize a \$2.1 million loan from Mascoma Bank, because we had no other way to pay for necessary road and bridge repairs on our own. Acworth is still working out a manageable way to pay that back, and Mascoma Bank has been a true community partner in that regard. Acworth has enormous financial challenges facing them.

The Governor sent a letter to the President of the United States requesting an Emergency Declaration on September 27, 2021, a full two months after the storm hit the area. The disaster emergency declaration was granted one month later on October 28th, 2021. So, it took three months for an emergency declaration to be declared. Since that time towns have been working with FEMA and NH Homeland Security Emergency Management to start filing for financial assistance from FEMA. While Acworth's road agent and his three-person staff were working around the clock to get roads passable, the town also had to record damage inventory and get things started for FEMA reimbursement filings. Acworth hired a professional engineer to help assess and work through damage repairs. There were miles of roads to assess and on some roads the damage was quite extensive.

It is the beginning of February now. All of Acworth's roads are open and passable. Ac-

**(Continued on page 31)**



## Damage, from page 30

worth is just completing a damage inventory for FEMA. It is unlikely that Acworth will see any FEMA money until late Spring at best. Even so, FEMA reimburses the damage for 75% and the Town has to absorb the remaining 25%. There is also no guarantee of what, and how much, FEMA will decide to reimburse our towns after they complete and pay for each repair project.

This bill, SB402, would be a huge help to our towns. Financially, Acworth's picture looks like this:

Using our fund balance, some capital reserve money, and some money from our Mascoma loan, to date Acworth has spent about \$1,217,119 on flood/road repairs and for 2022 we are budgeting \$1,755,000 for flood repairs. We'll have road repair work to be done for years after this, and major work will have to be phased in over time. Our municipal operating budget is usually around \$1.3 million, but in 2021 we overspent because of flood damage repairs. We are looking at a 2022 municipal tax/mill rate increase from \$7.81 to \$9.00 for our taxpayers, but the Acworth budget committee is still working through ways to keep the tax increase to a minimum for the 2022 municipal budget. That is also only the municipal portion of their tax bill and the only one we as a town can control. With renovations to the county nursing home and possible increases in education budgets, keeping tax increases to a minimum is going to be challenging. We all recognize that higher taxes for our citizens will be a hardship for many already affected by inflation, job loss, and other difficult financial issues caused by the pandemic.

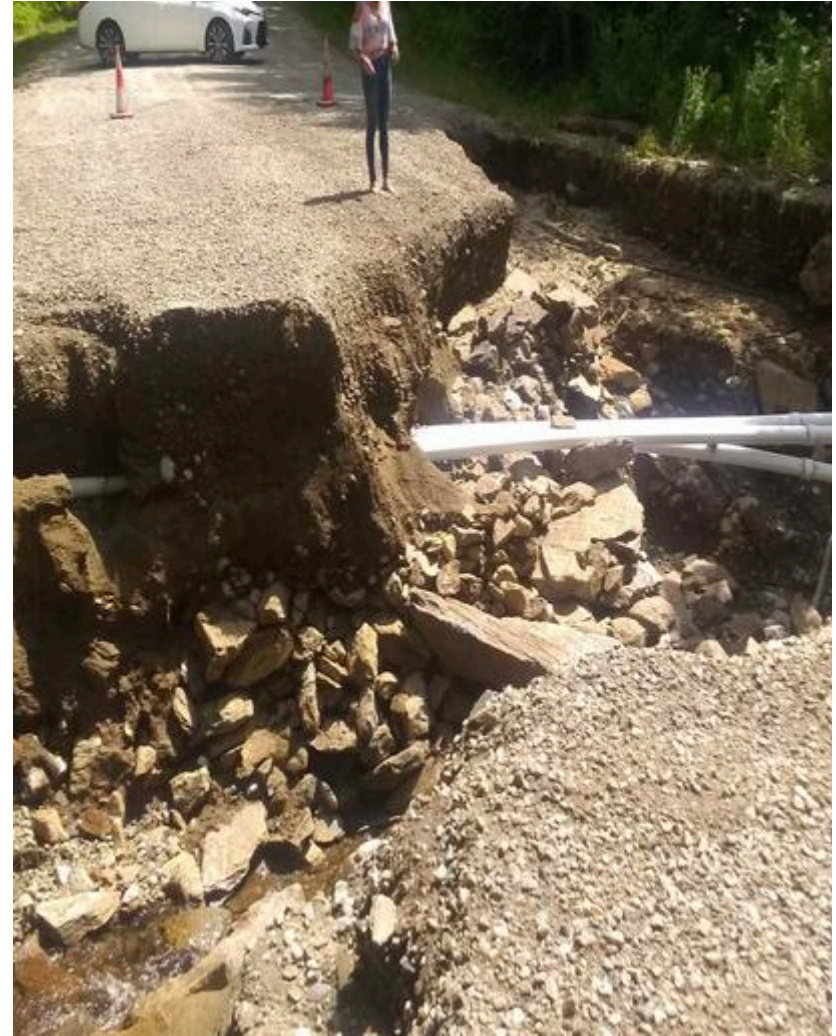
Acworth will struggle to pay back their loan, fund other operating expenses for 2022 and beyond, and continue to fix damaged roads and bridges. So again, SB402 would be helpful.



Simplistically speaking, if we consider that a town like Acworth had \$10 million in damage – the amount reimbursed by FEMA would possibly be \$7.5 million and Acworth would have to absorb \$2.5 million. If this bill passes, we'd only have to absorb \$1.25 million, which would still be a daunting challenge, but it would be more manageable for our already strapped tax base than the whole \$2.5 million. Clearly, towns like Acworth need this kind of relief and help from the State.

The only problem that the Senate Finance Committee found with this bill was that the sponsor of the bill, and the Dir. of the Department of Homeland Security Management (HSEM), Jennifer Harper, could not determine a dollar amount for the Finance Committee to appropriate. That means they have no idea how much 12.5% represents in money the State needs to put aside to pay for this proposal. That is a problem. I hope that they can make some sort of best guess and work that into the bill, because this committee will not pass along a bill that commits the State to paying for an unknown cost. That being said, there are a couple of other bills moving through the House and Senate which aim to help towns with disaster relief needs.

Email: [judy.Aron@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:judy.Aron@leg.state.nh.us)





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