

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**Plans for Annual
Steppin' Up Walk
Announced; page A22**

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February 10, 2020

Proposed Budget for Next School Year Includes 'Windfall' from State

**All Warrant Articles Will Appear
on March 10 Ballot**

**By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News**

CLAREMONT, NH—At the Claremont School Board's first or "deliberative" session held on Feb. 5, school board members as well as school superintendent Michael Tempesta presented the proposed budget for 2020-2021. School board chair Frank Sprague opened the session, telling the approximately 65 attendees that board discussions had focused on "needs not wants," and that approval by voters will result in "a significant tax reduction for the upcoming year."

Principal budget goals include: create programs that reduce Claremont's reliance on costly out-of-district specialized programming; negotiate four contracts and address below-market salary levels to ensure a stable, professional work-force and safe school environments; and rectify gaps in programming that disadvantage students, such as Claremont Middle School's lack of full-year science and social studies classes.

All of the goals can be met by the budget, according to board members, as can the additional goal of delivering a "neutral" budget that will not raise taxpayer rates. In fact, as a detailed presentation made clear, even if all the articles are approved, the tax rate would decrease by 0.56 per \$1,000. (The presentation is online at <https://www.sau6.org/news/claremont-school-district-budget-f-y21>.)

(Continued on page A6)

A Force for Good

New Police Officers Meet Challenges of Daunting Recruitment Process

**By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News**

CLAREMONT, NH—As 2020 began, Claremont police chief Mark Chase was finally able to say, "For the first time in years, the department is fully staffed."

Chase made clear that finding four new officers was neither quick nor simple. They had gone through a rigorous, months-long recruitment process whose stages included tests, interviews and investigations to ensure their fitness for a career in law enforcement.

Integrity Questionnaire

The initial interview collects basic biographical information and addresses what deputy chief Brent Wilmot calls "particularly sensitive topics." A questionnaire lists conditions that may preclude a person from becoming a police officer. An affirmative response to questions on felonies and misdemeanors, dishonorable discharge from the U.S. military, and illegal drugs may not be an automatic disqualifier. But it's evaluated to determine continued eligibility.

(Continued on
page A17)



Officer DJ O'Sullivan boots up an array of communications devices in his cruiser before heading out on patrol. He connects to RADAR, radio, computer, air card, body camera, cruiser camera, and IMC (records management software program), as well as SPOTS (State Police Online Telecommunications System), which allows him to run names, licenses and registration plates through the New Hampshire Division of Motor Vehicles (Eric Zengota photo).

Mid-Winter Weekend

18th Century Winter at the Edge of the Woods

Saturday, February 15 - 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday, February 16 - 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Cabin Fever? School Vacation?
Let the Fort at No. 4 help with our Mid-Winter Weekend!

Join us Saturday, Feb. 15th, or Sunday, Feb. 16th for a glimpse into the 18th century... in winter...at the edge of the woods.

- We'll have:
- The fires a blaze because heat is a must.
 - "What the solider ate," cooking demonstration and discussion (Saturday only).
 - Native Trader set up in the truck house.
 - Pop-Up Gift Shop and Snack Bar available.

This is a special low season event. Admission this weekend will be: Friends of the Fort Members-Free; Children up to 12 years-Free; Students 13-18 years-\$5; Adults-\$8

We are partnering with the American Precision Museum (Windsor, VT) this weekend.



The Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, NH, is an independent open-air museum offering visitors the chance to step back in time and experience life as it was for settlers during the Colonial Era (Courtesy photo).

While The Fort is doing all things 18th century, the Precision Museum is showcasing "Pioneers in Engineering" on Sunday, Feb. 16th. There is a rumor about a watch tower (Pioneers in Engineering is a Free activity).

Send us your news and photos

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NH Lottery Numbers

02/08/2020

NH PowerBall
35 49 50 59 66 6

NH Mega Millions 02/07/2020
9 14 27 36 52 4

Tristate Megabucks 02/08/2020
8 9 17 31 38 5

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

F

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MATINEE**

ON STAGE SEATING

Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier



House Considers “Controversial” Legislation

The first meeting of the New Hampshire House of Representatives to deal with new legislation filed for the 2020 Session and that had been originally scheduled for Feb. 6 was postponed until this Thursday, Feb. 13, at 1 pm because of the Feb. 6 winter storm. Also postponed was Gov. Christopher Sununu’s State of the State Address, which will start at 2 p.m. Feb. 13 in the House Chamber.

In this column, I will review some of the legislation, the House had been scheduled to take up Feb. 6, including sponsors and the committee recommendations on each piece. This is legislation that we representatives will now take up Feb. 13, and that I not written about in last week’s column.

Among legislation to be considered by the full House Feb. 13 is House Bill 1135, which would name a portion of Route 49 in the Towns of Campton, Thornton, and Waterville Valley in honor of Specialist Marc P. Decoteau, a member of the United States Army, who was killed while serving in Afghanistan on Jan. 29, 2010. The House Public Works & Highways Committee, which I chair, was unanimous in their positive recommendation of “Ought to Pass”, or “OTP” for short, on House Bill 1135. This unanimous recommendation came after a brief Jan. 28 public hearing in which all those who testified about the bill, were in support. The bill is sponsored by a bipartisan trio of representatives led by Lincoln’s Jerry Stringham, a Democrat. Normally, House committees do not vote to make recommendations on legislation referred to them immediately after a public hearing. But with the permission of House Speaker Stephen Shurtleff, and with no objection from any of the committee members present, my committee made the recommendation vote immediately afterwards. This was because members of Specialist Decoteau’s family were in attendance at the hearing.

Other legislation scheduled to be voted on by the House Feb. 13 include two bills affecting public libraries. The first is House Bill 1452, which would amend existing state law so as to remove the requirement that all public library employees have the right to a public hearing concerning their termination, if they were employed by the library for six months or less. A 13-7 majority of the House Municipal & County Government Committee, which had conducted a Jan. 15 public hearing on the bill, later voted at a Jan. 22 executive session to recommend its rejection, a recommendation officially known as “Inexpedient to Legislate,” or “ITL” for short.

Hillsboro Rep. Marjorie Porter, a Democrat, wrote the majority’s ITL recommendation report on House Bill 1452. In Rep. Porter’s report, she wrote that the current law has been “in place for more than seventy

years, and has worked well.” She explained that the bill was filed on behalf of a public library that “had an unpleasant experience with a disenchanted employee.” While expressing sympathy for the “aggrieved library,” she added that the majority of the committee believes that state law should not be taking away any employees’ rights because of “one community’s unhappiness.”

Nevertheless, Seabrook Rep. Max Abramson, a Republican, wrote in the committee’s OTP minority report that House Bill 1452 simply hopes to “mimic past practice that is seen everywhere else” in the private as well as public sectors. In other words, new hires are brought in on “a probationary basis, and given a chance to prove themselves.” Rep. Abramson added that current state law “makes it more difficult for the library to take a chance on someone unproven,” because it could be forced to hold a public hearing on the termination of any employee, even if the employee had worked at the library for only a short period of time. This bill is sponsored by a pair of Democratic representatives—Center Conway’s Stephen Woodcock and Glen’s Anita Burroughs.

The second measure affecting public libraries scheduled to be taken up Feb. 13 is House Bill 1615. This bill would require all public libraries to conduct a criminal records check on any individual under consideration by the libraries to participate in library-sponsored events or programs in which the individual would have contact with minors. The bill is sponsored by Brookline Rep. Jack Flanagan, a Republican, and was also referred to the Municipal & County Government Committee. The committee held a public hearing on it Jan. 9, and on Jan. 22 by a 19-1 roll call vote again recommended ITL. In the committee’s ITL report, Keene Rep. David Meader, a Democrat, wrote that the bill would “not advance public safety, but will instead impede public access.” Rep. Meader added that the New Hampshire Library Association opposed the measure because of the “cost and administrative burdens it would impose and the precedent it would set.” Finally, he stated that the many librarians who testified in opposition said that they take “seriously a library’s responsibility to prioritize both safety for visitors and public access.”

However, Rep. Abramson wrote in another minority report favoring OTP that the bill was needed to better “protect the safety of children.” He declared in his report that Municipal & County Government was informed during and after the hearing of at least four instances in which convicted sex offenders had led children’s events in libraries. While he explained that sex offenses against children may not actually occur at libraries as a result of programs or events, the offenses always occur afterwards as a result of the offender meeting up with the child. In conclusion, he stated that protecting children’s safety is so vital that the committee should have simply amended the bill so as to remove the “unfunded mandates and any other mechanical problems,” before recommending passage.

Another controversial piece of legislation to be considered Feb. 13 is House Bill 1700. The bill would allow nonresident aliens living in New Hampshire on a temporary basis to obtain a state driver’s license upon completion of an application for asylum status to the United States

(Continued on page A5)

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Letter to the Editor

Supports Joe Biden for President

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, I urge my fellow Democratic and Undeclared Voters participating in the Democratic Presidential Primary to cast their ballots for former Vice President Joe Biden!

Why Joe Biden? First, I believe he is the best candidate to assume the awesome responsibilities of the Presidency. As Vice President, he was a full partner with President Barack Obama during the Obama-Biden Administration. He not only was President Obama’s most trusted advisor, but he was also given many tasks by the President on a wide range of issues, both foreign and domestic. In summary, he will be ready on Day One, Jan. 20, 2021, to clean up the mess left behind by our current President, and then move us forward on the important issues about which many voters care.

Second, Joe Biden is a positive, persistent, and empathetic leader who will work to unify our badly-polarized nation. I personally witnessed his empathetic manner when he came to Claremont on Jan. 24. After his speech, he interacted with as many Claremont area residents as possible one-on-one, not just talking, but actually listening to their concerns. Also, as a United States Senator from Delaware, he worked on many different issues with his fellow Republicans to achieve bipartisan consensus whenever possible.

Third, I believe Joe Biden is the best candidate to beat our current President, who by many of his past statements seems to fear the former Vice President the most. Biden’s positive and pragmatic style is the best and only way in my opinion to assemble the necessary coalition to retake such key states as Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin, among others, and thus win enough Electoral College votes to become President.

In conclusion, please join me in voting for Joe Biden on Feb. 11. Thank you.

State Rep. John R. Cloutier
Claremont, NH

Rep. Cloutier, from A4

Citizenship and Immigration Services. This temporary license would expire after no more than 180 days or approximately six months. The bill was heard by the House Transportation Committee Jan. 10. The committee then on Jan. 21 by a 10-9 roll call voted to give the bill an OTP recommendation. It is sponsored by two Democratic legislators-Lebanon Rep. George Sykes and Dover Sen. David Watters, and was introduced as the result of a 2019 study commission on the subject.

In the Transportation Committee’s majority OTP report, Nashua Rep. Casey Conley, a Democrat, explained why House Bill 1700 is needed. Rep. Conley wrote, “Current state law already grants driver’s licenses to legal immigrants awaiting an asylum hearing, if the hearing occurs after more than 180 days.” He added that the bill “aims to address the up to 180-day gap that exists while legal immigrants await their asylum hearing.” Finally, he stated that the “license itself would expire after no more than 180 days.”

Nevertheless, a minority of Transportation, led by Atkinson Rep. Peter Torosian, a Republican, supported the ITL recommendation on House Bill 1700. In his minority ITL report, Rep. Torosian wrote that “current law “already addresses licenses of non-resident aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire.” He added that the minority is “concerned about the state issuing drivers’ licenses that are identical to those issued to permanent residents, thus making it more challenging for town clerks to ascertain who is a legal citizen for voting purposes.”

Email: jocloutier@comcast.net.

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please Include name, address and phone number.
etickernews@gmail.com

Budget, from A1

The mechanism that helps ensure such a budget includes the efficient use of this fiscal year's "budget windfall" of more than \$1 million from the State.

The school district warrant had seven articles. Article 1 had to do with election of school district officials. Articles 3, 4 and 5 dealt with raises for secretaries, paraprofessionals, and maintenance and transportation employees.

Registered voters had the opportunity to speak both for and against the articles.

Several teachers, paraprofessionals and voters spoke in favor of the articles relating to raises. Their main concern was the marked difference in pay in contrast to other local school districts. Paying a living wage would ensure a sustainable household income as well as help lower the 20%-30% turnover among staff.

Articles 2 (Main Budget, including proposed raises for teachers), 6 (School Bus Repair and Replacement Reserve Fund), and 7 (Building Repair and Capital Reserve Fund) prompted the most "against" comments.

Voters questioned certain line-item expenditures, such as repairs to and renovation of the Dow building, where the SAU6 offices are located. Others suggested reallocating funds, for example from the Dow renovation to roof repairs at Claremont Middle School, Disnard Elementary School and the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center.

School board members and district staff countered some of the more contentious comments:

To, Why are you only now asking money for reserve funds?, the response was, Because in recent years we had to budget just to survive; we didn't even have the money to establish reserve funds.

To, Why are you making us surrender our rights to the school board by handing you a blank check?, the response was, That is exactly what voting for any elected official means, to act in your behalf; if you disagree, vote in someone else.

In sum, Sprague noted, voter approval of the proposed budget articles would provide raises to staff, enable repairs to long-standing property and equipment deficiencies, create



School Board member Rob Lovett, Jr., discusses Warrant Article 7 during the Deliberative Session held on Feb. 5th (Eric Zengota photo).

cost-saving educational programs, and establish interest-bearing replacement and capital reserve funds to handle possible future expenses.

School board member Rob Lovett Jr. noted that reserve funds will ensure that no warrant articles, other than the Main Budget, would be needed for the next three to five years. "It would be foolish to throw away this unique opportunity for the sake of saving a few dollars this year."

The second session — and final vote on all warrant articles — will be conducted by official ballot on March 10. Registered voters can go to their usual polling stations: wards 1 and 2 at Claremont Middle School, ward 3 at Disnard Elementary School.

Make A Silver Ring

CLAREMONT, NH—In this Claremont MakerSpace workshop, you'll learn the basics of silver-smithing while you make a simple silver ring! The instructor will guide you through various options for how to embellish your band,

the shape of which you will get to choose. You'll try soldering and learn how to polish your finished product into a beautiful ring! No experience necessary. All materials will be provided, and \$5 materials fee is included in the registration cost.

Event is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m.

To register, please go here: <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2020/2/12/make-a-silver-ring>.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
VALENTINE'S DAY
MAKE IT YOUR WAY TACO DINNER
at Plainfield Community Church
5 - 6:30 PM**

\$7 for adults, \$5 for children under 10

All are invited. Because nothing says love like tacos! Bring your honey(s) and make your taco(s) your way.

Mild, medium or hot-cha-cha! Served with Spanish rice and festive cupcakes for dessert.

Send us your news and photos

Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders attended a Rights & Democracy NH Forum in Claremont in early November and returned to the City on Sunday, Feb. 9, to hold a rally in Stevens High School, drawing people from the area, New England and from across the country to the gym. Also speaking was NH Executive Councilor Andru Volinsky who is running for NH governor on the Democratic side. He was the lead lawyer in the Claremont School Funding case in the 1990s. Sanders covered a wide range of topics: Medicare for all, college education without debt, equal pay for women, climate change and fossil fuel. He called the 2020 election as the “most consequential election in modern American history...” He added that he was told by pundits and the political establishment that his agenda four years ago “for working class families” was too radical, saying that “the people of NH accepted it...” He added that his agenda, including \$15-an-hour wages, is now happening across the country. He cited the cost of insulin in Canada as being “one-tenth” of what it costs in the US as just one example of problems with healthcare in America (Photo courtesy of Gary Merchant).



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'The Economy's Purpose is to Work for Us'

Andrew Yang Highlights, Counteracts 'The War on Normal People'

By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—"You here in Claremont and throughout New Hampshire are among the most powerful and influential people in America."

Andrew Yang delivered his core message to an audience of nearly 200 at his town hall meeting yesterday, held at the Claremont Opera House. The Democratic presidential candidate spoke for an hour, outlining the problems of an economy that favors the wealthy and promotes corporate interests over the well-being of individuals. "Let's not kid ourselves. In the current system, money will always win out over people."

Yang described his success in turning people's lives around. In 2011, he founded Venture for America, a nonprofit organization focused on creating jobs in cities struggling to

recover from the 2009 recession. In a few years, Yang said, VFA had created thousands of jobs.

His insight "into how the economy tanked" gave Yang the incentive to reverse the downward trend that resulted in higher suicide rates, skyrocketing drug overdoses, depression, disabilities and permanent unemployment, especially among the thousands who lost jobs in manufacturing.

"What's even worse," he said, "is that life expectancy decreased for three years in a row. The last time it decreased was in the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918. How could we let this happen in the world's richest country?"

Technology and automation formed an underlying theme of Yang's critique and proposals. Jobs traditionally done by people — retail clerks (the most common job in the U.S.), call center representatives, truckers — are quickly disappearing. The software and robots that replace them account for a rapid decrease in human intervention.

Yang maintains that the challenge is to "move toward what's most resilient, to the jobs that can only be done by human beings."

Two fields are ripe for such development.

First, "We have to promote training and apprenticeships in hands-on trades. Only 6 percent of American students are in technical schools, but in Germany the number is 59 percent." The second field is based on emotional, nurturing skills, realized most notably in teaching. "We should always invest in children, especially at the school level. And we have to pay our teachers more, then stand back and let them do their job."

Yang is banking on New Hampshire's "powerful and influential" voters to strengthen his chances from Primary Day all the way to the Oval Office.

He outlined ideas that he'd implement if elected president. The most far-reaching is a "freedom dividend" of \$1,000 a



month for everyone 18 and older. On a practical level, this will help pay off debts, make purchases, and put aside savings, all to a great extent in support of the local economy. On a symbolic level, it will demonstrate that the government "recognizes the intrinsic value of every citizen."

Yang would also work toward establishing 12-year term limits for members of Congress. He'd like to "wash out lobbyist cash" from the political system by providing each citizen with \$100 in "democracy dollars." He proposes to move federal government jobs around the country, so that wealth is not concentrated in Washington, D.C., "the richest city in America." And, when he leaves the White House "after eight years, I will not take any speaking fees for the rest of my life."

Yang's sense of humor lent an intelligent, forthright tone to his town hall. "I'm the perfect candidate to beat Donald Trump," he said. "Why? Because I'm his exact opposite. I'm an Asian man who loves math."

Math, however, has its serious side. The Yang Gang, his campaign staff and volunteers, gives away shirts and caps on which MATH stands for Make America Think Harder. A candidate who has been garnering support from college-educated Republicans — including their recent 3-to-2 preference over the president — may have already inspired harder thinking.

Andrew Yang holding a town hall in Claremont on Sunday (Eric Zengota photos).



Community Baby Shower Feb. 14th

CLAREMONT, NH—TLC Family Resource Center and the Community Health Improvement Department of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center are co-hosting a community baby shower for new and expectant parents. "The staff and board of TLC Family Resource Center want to make sure that all new families feel supported and are aware of all the resources available to them as they provide for their children. We invite everyone to come and learn about those resources," said Maggie Monroe-Cassel, Executive Director of TLC Family Resource Center. In addition to the partnership with Dartmouth Hitchcock, some of the other organizations that will be present include Wellsense, CHaD's Injury Prevention Center, the Springfield Area Parent Child Center, Molly's Place, the Women's Health Resource Center, and others.

The event takes place on Valentine's Day, February 14th, 11:30-1pm at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center at 152 South Street, CLaremont. Lunch and snacks will be provided and no reservations are required. There will be other giveaways including a raffle for a car seat.

TLC Family Resource Center promotes the optimal health and development of children, youth, and families in Sullivan and Grafton Counties. TLC supports and strengthens all families with a wide range of free programs, support groups, education, and events. For more information go to www.tlcfamilyrc.org or call 603-542-1848.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
Beneath the Snow: Watercolor Workshop
10am-1pm
Location: Forest Center at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP, Woodstock, VT

What lies beneath the snow as we wait for spring to emerge? The forest floor is buried but a whole other world exists where we cannot see. Animals are hibernating or living in their dens. Small creatures may be cozy in the roots of the trees. Below the earth's surface, there may be mushrooms, flowers and ferns waiting for their turn to show off in the forest. This class will cover lots of techniques (including some experimental ones), materials, and brushwork. Suitable for all ages; children must come with an adult. Pre-regis-

tration is required (Max 16 participants). To register or to learn more, call (802) 457-3368 x222.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
The United States Postal Service is Hiring!
The USPS invites you to a JOB FAIR at the Claremont NH Post Office on Saturday, Feb-

ruary 15th, from 8:00am-3:00pm. We are hiring for multiple positions at many locations including Claremont, Lebanon, Charlestown, Windsor, White River Junction, Springfield and more!

Stop by, ask questions and apply on the spot!

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Ashley Bergeron
Agent



Plainfield NH— This spacious ranch sits on 7 acres. Master suite, newly remodeled kitchen with stainless steel appliances open to the dining area with sliders to the deck overlooking your pond and beautiful sunsets. Walk-out family room with patio and hot tub. **\$414,900**

EXTREME COLD WEATHER RESOURCES

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



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CSBCC:

Mon - Thurs: 5:30 am to 9 pm

Friday: 5:30 am to 7 pm

Sat & Sun: 8 am to 6 pm

Fiske Free Library:

Mon, Tues & Thurs: 9 am -7 pm

Wednesday & Friday: 11 am-5 pm

Saturday: 9 am-1 pm

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FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, PLEASE CALL 911

Classified Ads

APARTMENT FOR RENT

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Call 603-359-8960, or 603-995-6692; or, email drchike@comcast.net for more info.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, February 13, 2020 6:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Historic District Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider the following Certificate of Appropriateness application:

HDC 2020-00001 Turning Points Network, 11 School Street – for replacement signage at 57 Pleasant Street. Tax map 120, Lot 72. Zone: MU.

Interested persons may review this application at the City of Claremont's Planning and Development Department, 14 North Street, during normal business hours.

Comments may be submitted in writing to Historic District Commission 14 North Street, Claremont NH 03743 or at the public hearing.

David Messier, Chairperson

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Conservation Commission
MEETING**

Thursday, February 20, 2020 6:00 PM
Council Chambers, City Hall
Gary Dickerman, Chair

**Claremont Energy Advisory Committee
Public Meeting**

Monday, February 10, 2020 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Visitor Center, 14 North Street
Claremont NH

CHARLESTOWN, NH

LAND 26.5 Acres

* Mixed use land, can be commercial

* Upper level offers some views

MLS # 4663269 \$109,900



UNITY, NH

1 Story Ranch 2 Bed 2 Bath

• Partially finished walk-out basement

* Enclosed 22x12 porch

MLS # 4788925 \$142,500



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BANKER**

CLAREMONT, NH

1 Story Ranch 3 Bed 2 Bath

* 2000+ sq. ft. of living space

* 4+ acres bordering Red Water Brook

MLS # 4770594 \$169,900



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Art Exhibit: Selections

Exhibit Dates: Through March 27, 2020

Hours:

Saturdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Tuesdays-Fridays, 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Library Arts Center Gallery

58 N. Main St., Newport, NH

Price: Free

SELECTIONS 2020—Selected Winners from the 2019 Juried Regional

OBSP Dinner Theater Auditions

CLAREMONT, NH—Off Broad Street Players will hold auditions for a dinner theater production of "Murder Rides Again" at 6:30 pm on Monday, Feb. 10, at the Fiske Free Library, 108 Broad St. Claremont. Show dates are April 17 and 18. There are six roles for men and women, ages 18 and up. Anyone interested but unable to attend the audition should contact the director, Julie Richardson, at danrichardson@hotmail.com.

Three Comedians to Perform at COH

CLAREMONT, NH—Three comedians will fill the Claremont Opera House with a Night of Comedy on Saturday, Feb. 29. Comedians scheduled to appear include Tom Hayes, Jody Sloane and Rob Steen.

Hayes fell into the Boston Comedy Scene in its heyday in the 1980's along with such names as Stephen Wright, Lenny Clarke, Bobcat Goldthwait, Denis Leary, etc. Later came such names as Dane Cook and Louis CK. Along the way he rose to a Boston standard and headliner at prestigious Boston Clubs and clubs throughout New England. He has opened for such national acts as Jeff Dunham, Phyllis Diller, The Smothers Brothers, The Four Tops and The Four Seasons. His comedic style is a hilarious self-deprecating style mixed with improvisational and interactive audience participation.

Sloane is now a regular at esteemed comedy venues, including Headliners Comedy Clubs throughout New England, Gotham Comedy Club in New York City, Comix Comedy Club at Foxwoods, plus roadhouses, Elks Clubs and dives from Portland to New York.

Steen has been doing comedy for 25-plus years. He began as a street performer at the age of 12 in Boston MA. Using his juggling and improv skills he decided to try Stand-Up. Since then he has kept a full calendar of over 350 shows per year. He has also been featured on several TV shows, including The Late Show with Dave Letterman.

Tickets are \$23 and can be purchased in advance online at www.claremontoperahouse.org, by phone at 603-542-4433 or in person

at the Opera House Box office in City Hall Complex at 58 Opera House Square. Tickets also available night of show.

Comedians may be subject to change. Beer and wine sales available before the show and during intermission from Sweet Fire BBQ.

Yoga in the Gallery
Saturday mornings, through March 7
8:30 am - 9:30 am
Library Arts Center Gallery
58 N. Main St.
Newport, NH

Price: \$12.00 to \$50.00 —\$50 for full session.
\$12 drop-in per week
Saturday Morning Yoga in the Gallery
Five-Week Session
Saturday Mornings, 8:30-9:30 am
All Levels Welcome | Instructor: Brianna Renner

\$50 for the five-class series, or \$12 drop-in
This class is designed for any student looking to practice yoga. Movement will be linked with breath (as offered by the Hatha and Kripalu traditions of yoga), as well as focus on alignment, and attention paid to honoring your own organic movement. Students can expect to practice both seated and standing poses as well as focus on balance and breath. Find out more and register at libraryartscenter.org/yoga

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
UPPER VALLEY TRAILS ALLIANCE SKATE-A-THON
10-3PM, Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, VT
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-uvta-skate-a-thon-at-lake-morey-tickets-83684650041?aff=PersonallInvites>.

Join 4-H for a Discussion on Homelessness

Featured Speaker: Courtney Porter, MSW, M.Ed
Social Worker - Claremont School District SAU6 and
McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison @SAU6
Date: Thursday, Feb. 20
Time: 6pm-8pm
Location: 4-H Extension Office, 24 Main Street, Newport
The Sullivan County 4-H Youth Leadership Team is sponsoring this event as part of their "Helping Heal Homelessness & Hunger" effort.

Please RSVP - Participants do not need to be in 4-H to participate.

For further information / questions, please contact Robin Robicheau, YLT Parent Advisor: first_robin@msn.com or 603-359-6190.

Sullivan County Fugitive of the Week

ERIKA O'LEARY

DOB:
02/07/1983

LKA: 647
Washington
Road,
Goshen, NH

Description:
White female, height:
5'3", weight:
110 lbs.,
eyes: blue,
hair: red



Reason: Violation of Probation
Original charge: Two counts of Welfare Fraud,
Class B Felony

On May 17, 2017, Erika O'Leary waived indictment on two counts of welfare fraud.

On May 17, 2017 O'Leary pled guilty in Sullivan County Superior Court to both counts of welfare fraud. As part of her sentence, O'Leary was placed on probation with the New Hampshire Department of Probation.

On January 27, 2020, the New Hampshire Department of Probation filed a violation of probation in Sullivan County Superior Court. It was alleged that O'Leary had violated the terms and conditions of her probation. The Sullivan County Superior Court issued a warrant for the arrest of O'Leary on January 28, 2020, for violation of probation.

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

Arrowhead Cardboard Sled Race



Saturday February 15, 2020



Where: Arrowhead Recreation Area, Claremont, NH

Registration in main lobby from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm

Entry fee is \$10 single person • \$15 for two • \$20 for three or more (Max of 8)

Judging begins at 12:00, Race prep begins approximately 2:00

Pancake Breakfast Feb 15th 8AM to 10AM at the Teal Lantern

(Near entrance to Arrowhead)

Sponsored by: Liberal Beef, Bascom Maple Farms and Hannaford

Rules can be found at www.arrowheadnh.com

NAMI-NH Offers Free Class in Newport Area

Family-to-Family Addresses Mental Illness Over 8 Weeks, Beginning March 4

When someone in a family has mental illness, the entire family is affected.

The more we learn about mental illness -- depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety, schizophrenia, OCD and PTSD as well as other mood and anxiety disorders, the better we can cope with the difficulties that arise when one family member's reality is very different than everyone else's.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) NH Chapter is presenting Family-to-Family in Newport, Wednesday evenings 6:00 to 8:30 PM beginning March 4. This free, 8-week course is designed for the families and friends of adults who have mental illness and addresses diagnoses, symptoms and behaviors, medication and treatment, communication, boundary-setting, advocacy and most important of all -- care for the caregivers.

Through weekly presentations, discussions and role-playing, Family-to-Family helps family members (and friends) of the individual with mental illness to understand the illness, cope better, worry less and be more productive in their interactions. Participants receive new handouts at each class which they are able to keep for future reference.

For more information or to register for this free, 8-week class, led by NAMI-trained family members, call Pat Whitney at 603-763-5054 or Kelly Burch at 603-454-8449.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Hartland Famous Roast Beef Supper

4:30-6:30pm

Hartland Congregational Church

10 Station Rd.

\$15 adults, \$7 children under 10.

Prime rib, mashed potatoes, green beans, homemade rolls and pies.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

MERIDEN BIRD CLUB EVENT

The Meriden Bird Club is pleased to announce a return

engagement with nationally-known and highly-experienced naturalist and tracker Sue Morse of Keeping Track.

In case you missed it last year, Sue led a 4-hour field workshop in and around Singing Hills and then gave a slide presentation in the evening.

This year's event will take place on Monday, February 17 (Presidents Day).

The field exercise has limited room, so sign up early. The cost is \$30 a person and the workshop runs from 10:30 am to 3 pm at Singing Hills.

The slide presentation, Those Mysterious Mustelids, will be at 6:30 pm at Singing Hills. That event is free and open to the public.

To reserve a space for the workshop, or to get more information, contact: Margaret Drye, mdrye@madscape.com or call 603-675-9159.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Upcoming WCCMA Event

HopStop Family Show: Kids' Dance Party

3:00 PM to 4:00 PM at Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, 152 South St, Claremont, NH

Free

HopStop Family Show: Kids' Dance Party: Shake and boogie with Hop favorite, DJ (and dad!) Sean/LivemixKings Held one Saturday a month in both Hanover and Claremont, NH, HopStops offer young children and their caregivers free performances that entertain and introduce dance, music, theater and storytelling. These performances are participatory, so come ready to sing, dance and clap along. Bring the whole family!

Call Today! 603 443-3747 603 863-0451

For more information, please visit <http://www.wcc-ma.org/>.

Learn to Set A Simple Stone

CLAREMONT, NH—In this beginner class you'll be given a stone cabochon and silver sheet to create a bezel to set it in! The instructor will guide you through creating a simple design, how to create your bezel, and finally how to turn it into either a simple pendant or add it to a silver ring if you've taken the ring class! You'll learn a fun and essential skill to jewelry making: how to set a stone!

Want to turn your set stone into a ring? Sign up for one of the ring classes earlier or in the month! Be sure to let the instructor know this is what you plan to do with your stone so you can plan your design accordingly!

To register, please go here:

<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#/event/2020/2/13/learn-to-set-a-simple-stone>

Mondays, Feb. 13th & 20th, 5 - 8pm both days.

We'll be there to keep you on track!

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e-Ticker Business News



Courtney Porter has been chosen as the National Association of Social Workers, NH Chapter, Social Worker of the Year. She will be recognized for her work at the organization's Social Work Celebration on March 13th. Other awards presented that night in Concord will include Citizen, Legislator and Students of the Year. Porter serves as School Social Worker, McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison/DCYF Foster Care Point of Contact at the Claremont Middle School (Courtesy photo).

Maria Padin, MD, named Chief Medical Officer for D-H's southern New Hampshire Community Group Practices

MANCHESTER, NH—After an extensive search, Maria Padin, MD, has been named the Chief Medical Officer for Dartmouth-Hitchcock's Community Group Practice (CGP). She will oversee care delivery at their southern New Hampshire clinics in Manchester, Nashua and Concord. Maria succeeds Steve Paris, MD, who retired from his role as Regional Medical Director at the end of 2019 after nearly 20 years in the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health System.

Since 2015, Dr. Padin has been the chief medical officer (CMO) of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon where she focused on clinical and physician-related responsibilities specific to the academic medical center. Prior to her role as DHMC CMO, Dr. Padin joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Concord in 1997, where she went on to serve as department chair and then became the Medical Director for D-H Concord in 2010.

"I'm proud to re-join the Community Group Practices at such a transformative time, as we expand our breadth of services, build infrastructure and improve access to care in southern New Hampshire," said Padin. "Most importantly, I look forward to working with and supporting our outstanding CGP staff and leadership to continue and expand our exceptional service to all our patients."

After earning her medical degree at Dartmouth Medical School (now the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth), Dr. Padin completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Maine Medical Center in Portland. She earned her undergraduate degree at Occidental College in Los Angeles, where she worked on advocacy for maternal and child health in Los Angeles and with the March of Dimes. She is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology, and her clinical interests include robotic surgery, minimally invasive gynecology, and pelvic floor prolapse.

"Maria's clinical, operational and system experience, both at the CGP and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC), is invaluable," said Joanne M. Conroy, MD, CEO and President of Dartmouth-Hitchcock and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health. "Her expertise will help guide the integration of our

clinical operations, coordinate specialty-specific services between the northern and southern regions of D-HH's service area and steward relationships with community hospitals and providers in southern New Hampshire."

In 2018, Dr. Padin was

named a recipient of the prestigious Carol Emmott Fellowship, which expands the connections and experiences top leadership candidates require to have the most influence in improving health for all. Also in 2018, Dr. Padin took part in the Association of American Medical College's CMO Leadership Academy, which develops and enhances the competencies needed to meet both the clinical and busi-

(Continued on page A16)



Maria Padin, MD



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e-Ticker Business News

Padin, from A15

ness demands associated with the CMO role. She was recently named to the Maternal Child Health National Advisory Board for the American Hospital Association.

Dr. Padin has four grown children, and lives with her husband in Grantham, NH. She will begin her new role in early March.

Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity Accepting Applications for Lebanon Home

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT – Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity (UVHFH) is now accepting applications for homeownership of a new 3-bedroom duplex unit in Lebanon, NH.

UVHFH will be building a new two-family home starting this spring in Lebanon, about 3 miles from downtown Lebanon. Applications are now being accepted for one unit of the duplex (called Unit B).

Unit B will be a 3-bedroom one-story home built on a slab with an attached one-car garage. The all-electric home will be built to Efficiency Vermont High Performance standards even though it will be built in New Hampshire.

The selected Habitat partner family will be required to meet certain eligibility criteria and must contribute 300 hours of “sweat equity” before purchasing the home.

Applications are due by Monday, March 9, 2020.

For eligibility guidelines, an application, and more information, please visit <https://www.uvhabitat.org/homeownership>.

For questions or further information, please contact Eva Loomis at (802) 295-1854 or info@uvhabitat.org. Upper Valley Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and an Equal Opportunity Lender.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Achieves Strong Standing in Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ Value Payment Program

LEBANON, NH – Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC), the flagship hospital of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health academic health system, has achieved strong standing in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Value-Based Programs for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020.

The Value-Based Programs, instituted under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), are intended to drive hospitals toward better reporting and improvements on specific value measures and consist of several smaller, more focused programs, including the Hospital Readmissions Reduction Program (HRRP), the Hospital Acquired Conditions Reduction Program (HACRP), and the Hospital Value-

Based Purchasing Program (HVBP), as well as the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), the 2015 law that establishes a payment system for physicians who treat Medicare patients.

Again in FFY 2020, DHMC was held without penalty for patient readmissions. DHMC is the only hospital in New Hampshire to have never incurred a readmissions penalty since the program’s inception in 2012. Similarly, DHMC earned a bonus of \$1.1 million under the MACRA reporting program for its outstanding performance.

In total, DHMC earned \$7.3 million in incentives from the Value Payment Program, despite being subjected to a penalty of approximately \$1.5 million for Hospital Acquired Conditions (HACs) under the HACRP provisions of the program.

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Officers, from A1

Physical Standards Test

Candidates must meet standards set by the Cooper Aerobics Institute. Six age categories list the qualifying times and numbers. Candidates in the 30-39 age range, for example, are tested on push-ups (21 for males, 17 modified or 10 full for females), sit-ups in 1 minute (33 male, 24 female), and a 1.5 mile run (13:24 male, 15:58 female).

It would be understandable if Rachel Foster hadn't met the standards. She had given birth to her fourth child in January, and now it was May. But she was determined to prove her strength and endurance. Foster came through with flying colors.

This is the stage, noted Wilmot, where many candidates fail and drop out of the process. They can, however, ask to be re-tested after six months.

Oral Board

Candidates meet their potentially future colleagues. On an individual basis, they interview with three department officers. The 15 questions are designed to test personal history and qualifications, character, and critical thinking

and verbal communications skills, as well as knowledge of the city and the department.

The interview can last up to an hour. For Lucas Finamore, "The way the panel asked questions, how they were getting to the truth, the quick thinking needed on my part — it was more stressful than the rest of the process."

Richard Bell felt that his oral board was "another point where I had to keep a level head. But it was all for a good cause, because every decision a police officer makes affects the community in some way."

After the interview, the candidate waits in another room while the panel deliberates. Both Finamore and Bell were approved to continue.

Written Examination

Applicants move on to the National Police Officer Selection Test. Candidates have 20 minutes to complete section I, which involves solving 20 problems using basic arithmetic. Section II (25 minutes for 25 questions) contains passages relating to police duty; information needed to answer the questions is in each passage.

Section III (15 minutes, 20 questions) requires the candidate to identify errors in grammar, punctuation or spelling. Section IV (15 minutes) tests writing skills. Answers to 10 questions based on a sample incident report must be handwritten in complete sentences, grammatically correct and free of spelling errors.

Each section is scored separately, then averaged for the

final score.

Polygraph Examination

Applicants must submit to a polygraph test. This "psychophysiological detection of deception technique" is audio-and/or video-recorded. Sensor pads applied to various parts of the body measure physical reactions to 200 questions on topics including drug use, gambling, military service, sexual activity, credit and finan-



Family support during the 16-week class at the police academy is an incentive for success. Officer Rachel Foster, who is in the current training class, can count on her husband and four children to back her up as she begins a law enforcement career. Foster's experience in social work and criminal justice also provides a solid base for taking on policing responsibilities (Eric Zengota photo).

(Continued on page A18)



Officer Lucas Finamore will enter the police academy in May. Until then, he's studying up on departmental policies and procedures. His current assignment — assisting court prosecutor John Gasaway — involves preparing files for trials, subpoenaing victims and witnesses, filing officers' complaints, preparing and sending discovery to defense attorneys, and entering trial outcomes into the police department's computer system (Eric Zengota photo).

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Officers, from A17

cial status, and criminal activity. Results are recorded in analog (not printed) format and kept confidential for departmental review.

Background Investigation

Applicants give permission for the department to contact family, friends, current and former employers, and others who could comment on the candidate's character and suitability.

Interviews With Police Chief and Police Commissioners

At this stage, the process moves more quickly. Candidates interview with Chase, who passes his recommendations to the Police Commission. The commissioners hold their own interviews and make offers of employment.

Final 'Exams'

Candidates who accept an offer go through a psychological screening, have a full medical exam and submit to drug testing.

Newly hired officer DJ O'Sullivan was already on the City's books, having worked for Claremont as a police dispatcher; he also had served five years on the Charlestown police force. He did, however, interview with Chase and the commissioners, and underwent the psychological screening and background investigation.

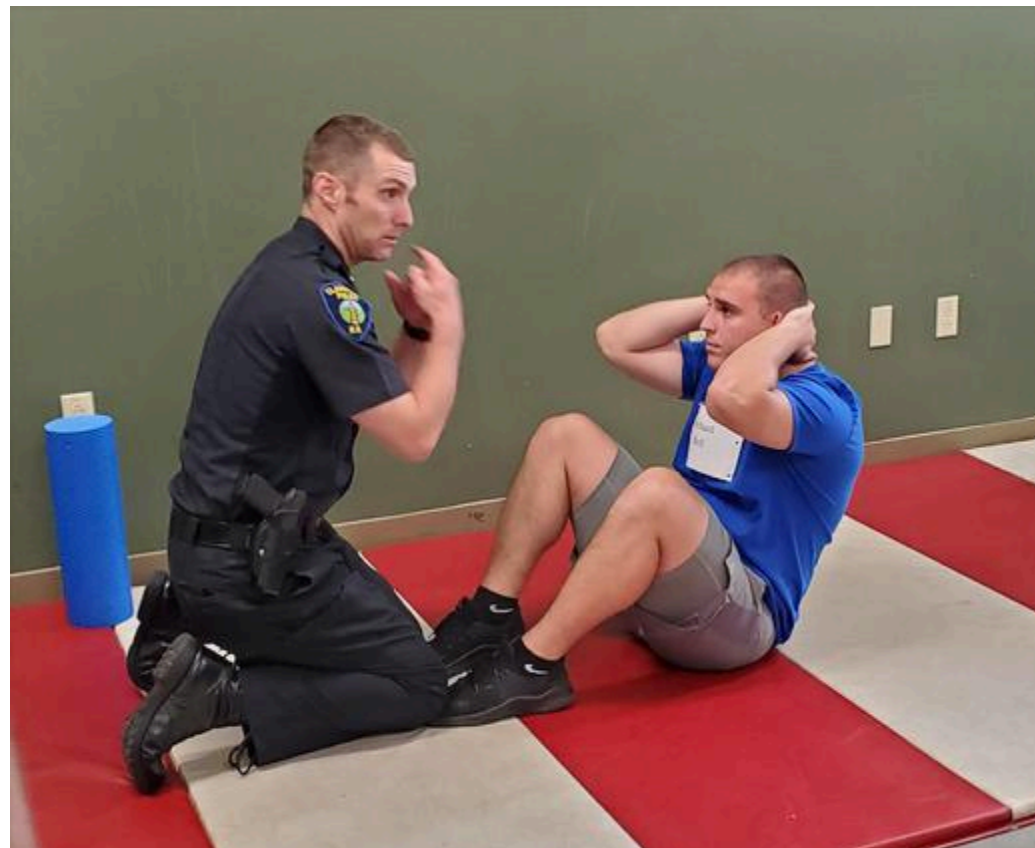
Training Classes

Once new officers are on board, the department applies for places at the Police Standards & Training Council, familiarly known as the Police Academy. The 16-week course, held

in Concord, requires trainees to live in dorms Monday through Friday; they can go home on weekends. At graduation, the new hires have become full-fledged law enforcement officials. "We were very fortunate in our latest recruitment drive," said Chase. "There was one where we had 38 applicants, only 16 of them showed up, and we ended up not hiring anyone. We're proud of our four new officers and welcome them to the department."

CMS Student Discount Program

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Maker-Space Student Discount Program offers a 75% discount on CMS membership and classes to



students, ages 15 and up, in Claremont and the greater Upper Valley region of New Hampshire and Vermont. This program is supported by a generous grant from The Couch Family Foundation.

To learn more and apply for the CMS Student Application Program, please complete the online application at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNswJEpLR1D9SZbB5o-OclDhDT5k0386Rk5IB9a60d27JyWHg/view-form>.

If you have any questions, please email: info@twinstatemakerspaces.org for more information.

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Mon - Fri 8AM - 6PM
 Sat 9AM - 2PM

Valentine's Day: Financial Protection Can Be a Great Valentine's Day Gift

On Valentine's Day, you can give your spouse or life partner a traditional gift such as candy or flowers. But once you've done that, why not think about something that can provide longer-lasting benefits for your loved one? Specifically, think about ways to provide a lifetime of financial protection.

You can do this in several ways, including:

- **Protection while you're alive** – As you know, it's usually necessary for both partners or spouses to work to maintain a household – so if your income were to disappear, even temporarily, it could present a big problem. Your current employer could offer disability income insurance as an employee benefit, but it might not be enough for your needs, so you may want to consider purchasing your own policy. Keep in mind, though, that disability coverage typically only lasts for a few years, and, in any case, probably won't completely replace your income. Consequently, it's a good idea to build up your financial resources in other ways, so contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) and IRA during your working years. If you do become disabled, it may be possible for you to tap into these funds without incurring a tax penalty, though regular taxes may still be due.

- **Protection if you need care** – If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, such as an extended stay in a nursing home or the services of a home health care worker, you might find the costs to be considerable – and possibly a severe burden on your spouse or partner. In fact, the average cost for a private room in a nursing home is about \$100,000 per year, while a home health aide costs about \$50,000 per year, according to Genworth, an insurance company. And Medicare typically pays only a small percentage of these expenses. To protect your spouse or partner – not to mention your grown children – from possibly having to deal with these costs, you might consider purchasing long-term care insurance. As an alternative, you could purchase a "hybrid" policy that combines long-term care benefits with those offered by a traditional life insurance policy. So, if you never needed long-term care, your policy would pay a death benefit to your spouse or partner or another beneficiary you've named.

- **Protection when you're gone** – If you were to pass away, would your spouse or partner have the financial resources to continue the same lifestyle, pay the mortgage or, if you have children, provide for their education? If the answer is no, then you need to maintain adequate life insurance. How much is enough? There's no one right answer for everyone. You might hear that you need a death benefit that's worth seven or eight times your annual income, but the actual amount should be based on a variety of factors – your age, size of family, current income, spouse or partner's income, and so on. A financial professional can help you determine the appropriate amount of coverage.

Valentine's Day is just one day on the calendar. But if it serves as another reminder of how much you value your spouse or partner and spurs you into action to protect her or him throughout your lifetime – and beyond – then it will be an important day indeed.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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More than a Political Race in Claremont This Week

On February 11, Claremont voters will participate in the NH Primary, electing their party's choice for the Oval Office. It is a political race that has captured the attention of the nation and brought presidential candidates to the City on numerous occasions. Once the polls close, Claremont will turn its attention to a race of a different kind. On February 15, Arrowhead will hold its 13th Annual Cardboard Sled Race. Though entirely different in nature, both races will require participation to be successful.

Tuesday's Primary is an opportunity for citizens to have their voices heard on who the frontrunners should be in the General Election. The polls will be open from 8am to 7pm. Voting for citizens from Wards 1 and 2 will be at the Claremont Middle School. Ward 3 voting will take place at Disnard Elementary School. For those who are unable to vote at the polls, February 10 is the last day to apply for and return absentee ballots in person. The last day that mailed absentee ballots can be accepted is voting day, February 11.

When going to the polls to vote, please remember to bring identification such as a driver's license, passport or military ID. For those who are not registered to vote, residents are invited to register that day at the polls. All that is needed is proof of citizenship (i.e. passport, birth certificate) and proof of residency (i.e. utility bill). A truly successful Primary will be maximum participation. During our last Presidential Primary in 2016, 64% of Claremont citizens voted. Let's surpass that number this Primary.

Four days after the Primary, the Claremont Arrowhead Association will hold its annual Cardboard Sled Race at the Arrowhead Recreation Area at 2pm. If you haven't had a chance to attend this race in previous years, it is a great event and the creativity that goes into designing and building the sleds is amazing. Participants can enter under the category

of youth, adult, family or business. The cost of entry is \$10 for one person, \$15 for two-person team and \$20 for three or more. All sleds must be comprised of cardboard and tape only, but tape cannot be used on the running surface. Only wax can be used on the running surface, enabling sleds to pick up speed which will vary depending upon weather conditions. Sled decorations and costumes are encouraged. Registration will be held in the main lobby of the Lodge from 10:30am to 1:30pm.

Prior to the Cardboard Sled Race, there will be a Pancake Breakfast from 8am to 10am in the Teal Room of the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center. All proceeds from both the breakfast and the sled race will benefit the Arrowhead Recreation Area. For more information about the sled race or the breakfast, please go to www.arrowheadnh.com.

Whether voting for a presidential candidate or supporting a community event, your participation is critical to a successful outcome. I hope to see you at the polls on Tuesday, February 11, and again on the slope on Saturday, February 15.

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

Twin State Innovation

CLAREMONT, NH—Twin State Innovation is a monthly, entrepreneur-focused event designed to connect entrepreneurs with each other and their community. The event is free and open, everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of background or experience.

Entrepreneurs and small businesses often feel disconnected from each other and their communities. Twin

State Innovation is about tac this challenge. The goal is to help spur a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem by connecting entrepreneurs – both established and aspiring – to each other and their local communities so they can receive support, develop their ideas, and collaboratively solve the problems they face.

During this event, two entrepreneurs will present for six minutes, followed by 15-20 minutes of questions from the audience. Everyone is welcome to attend regardless of their background or experience. The more community involvement and the greater the diversity of ideas the better!

For more information or to register, visit Claremont MakerSpace at: <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#/event/2020/2/11/twin-state-innovation>.



It appears that a Stormtrooper showed up in Claremont for Friday's snowstorm. Several inches of snow and sleet, accompanied by periods of freezing rain and a return of very cold temps, reminded the region that winter is still firmly in place (Phyllis A. Muzeroll photo).

Steve Smith – WCNL & Newport Chevrolet to Chair 14th Annual Steppin' Up to End Violence 5K Walk & Fun Run

Save the Date for Saturday, May 2nd, 2020—over 1,000 Participants Expected

CLAREMONT, NH—The 14th Annual Steppin' Up to End Violence 5K Walk and Fun Run is set for May 2nd. For the last 13 years, Sullivan County communities have come together in a public show of solidarity for Turning Points Network and the agency's mission to end domestic violence, sexual harassment and abuse, and stalking and the agency is gearing up for another successful year.

Steve Smith of WCNL Country AM 1010 / FM 94.7 and Newport Chevrolet, Buick, GMC team up this year to Co-Chair the event, leading the challenge to raise \$85,000 to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

"I have been impressed over the years, constantly learning more and more about Turning Points Network and how they assist women and men in our community. From providing safe places for those who desperately need it, to empowering people to stand up for themselves, TPN teaches respect and strength" said Smith.

Owner of Main Street Radio, LLC and General Manager of WCNL, Smith is locally, regionally and nationally recognized in radio broadcasting. The two-time winner of "Radio Station of the Year" from the NH Association of Broadcasters has an accomplished resume featuring multiple awards, nominations and features on stations across New Hampshire. Steve serves on the Board of Directors for the Newport Chamber and is involved in various events in his community and across Sullivan County.

"I have had various folks from TPN in my studio over the years talking about what they do, services they provide, and why they are important. And I have had the great fortune to interview several survivors of abuse. To hear their story really showcases the importance of TPN. So, when approached to be an honorary chair for the 14th Annual Steppin' Up To End Violence 5K, I was more than happy to come aboard and lend my support."

The 2020 event is co-chaired by Newport Chevrolet Buick GMC, located on the John Stark Highway in Newport. A member of the

AutoSaver Group, one of New England's oldest dealer groups, Newport Chevrolet is known for its commitment to top-notch customer service, attention to detail, and best pricing. They are a standout community business, active members of the Newport Chamber and in the last year through dealership promotions have raised more than \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society as well as donated well over 100 backpacks to Claremont and Newport school districts. In addition, they also raised funds for training equipment for Newport youth football, field hockey and scholarships for driver's education.

"Community is a huge part of our business, and we are honored to have been asked to Chair Steppin' Up to End Violence. This event raises awareness and funding, not only for survivors of violence, but for prevention education as well. Turning Points teaches in dozens of schools across Sullivan County, and this event helps fund keeping our children safe." said Jeff Scarinza, General Manager.

More than 85 teams are expected to "Step Up" along with sponsors and donors who are pledging their support for the Saturday, May 2nd event, following a highly visible route through historic downtown Claremont.

"As a committee, we talk about businesses and individuals within Sullivan County who naturally seem to fit the criteria we look for in an Honorary Chair – passionate about Sullivan County and invested in the community," said Jennifer Ucci, TPN Development Director and Coordinator for Steppin' Up. "Newport Chevrolet and Steve Smith stood out to all of us as driven, community-focused business leaders. We are beyond thrilled to have both chairing Steppin' Up this year."

Those interested in fundraising, starting a team, or joining a team are encouraged to visit the Steppin' Up FirstGiving page to register.

For more information about Steppin' Up, you can visit TPN's website at www.turning-pointsnetwork.org or visit the TPN Facebook page for specific event information.

To register a team, join a team, or fundraise, visit <https://www.firstgiving.com/event/turning-pointsnetwork/steppinup2020>

To sponsor the event or for more information, please call Jennifer, Development Director at 603-542-8338 x 110.

Sinatra Songbook Valentine Matinee

Claremont Opera House: Sunday, February 16, 2pm Claremont Opera House

Enjoy a Sunday afternoon listening to the Sinatra Songbook with the Lenny Zarcone Trio. Lenny, with trio members Bill Shontz and Zack Danziger, will play piano, flute, saxophone, clarinet, guitar and bass to accompany traditional Sinatra favorites as well as other 20th century standards.

There will be a cash bar with beer/wine and a Valentine Mimosa of champagne and orange juice provided by Sweet Fire BBQ. Special sweet treats will also be available for sale.

Tickets are \$15.00 for the public and FREE for Gold 2020 Members (also FREE for Silver Members who have not yet attended a pop-up event). They can be purchased in advance online at www.claremontoperahouse.org, by phone at 603-542-4433 or in person at the Opera House Box office in City Hall Complex at 58 Opera House Square. Tickets also available night of show.

This Sinatra matinee is a pop-up event funded through the 2020 Membership Program. Pop-up shows are smaller with the audience on stage with the performers; if attendance is higher, the audience will expand to the front of the theatre.

To learn more about this new membership program, go to the Membership tab on the COH website.

Presidential Primary Election – February 11, 2020

Where to Vote in Claremont:

Ward 1: Claremont Middle School – 107 South Street

Ward 2: Claremont Middle School – 107 South Street

Ward 3: Disnard Elementary School – 160 Hanover Street

Polls are open from 8:00am-7:00pm.

The Joy of Giving...

On Tuesday, Feb. 4, Girl Scout Troop 30261 made a special donation to the Sullivan County Humane Society in Claremont which included cat food, litter, homemade natural hand sanitizer, cat and dog toys made from old tee-shirts and homemade automatic waterers. The donation was part of a community service project performed by the troop. Troop members include Daisy Scouts: Leila Tuttle, Natalie Greenwood; Brownies: Aubreigh Pfeiffer; Sophia Aldrich; Junior: Macey Heed; Cadettes: Saphira Cox, Patience Tuttle, Victoria Feickert, Kylie Tilton; Leaders: Tara Tilton, Cathryn Feickert, Rita Cox, Tammy Bisson. "I am really proud of the girls," said Tara Tilton. "They love to give!" Representing the Society was Sherry Bell who accepted the items with much appreciation.



Photos by Dakota T. Bonner



Eric Zengota

Frozen branches were set aglow by the light of the recent Snow Moon.

(Photo and design by Eric Zengota)