

# e-Ticker News of Claremont

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***Bills Would Reinstate  
Some of State's  
Contribution to  
Retirement System;  
Page 4***

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February 15, 2021

## Sununu Budget Proposal Would Increase Spending While Cutting Taxes

By Garry Rayno, [InDepthNH.org](http://InDepthNH.org)

CONCORD, NH—Gov. Chris Sununu Thursday presented a budget that would maintain funding for numerous social service programs, increase spending on mental health, combine the university and community colleges systems, and cut some taxes.

Under Sununu's projected budget, state revenues are projected to increase 5.5 percent over the current biennium, while he would use about \$30 million of the state's rainy-day fund to balance the current biennium's budget.

He proposed doubling the cap on the rainy-day fund from 5 to 10 percent of revenues as a way to better prepare for the future in light of the coronavirus pandemic that upended the state a year ago.

Sununu proposed a two-year operating budget of \$13.36 billion of total funds, a 5.6 percent increase over the current budget ending June 30.

In general and educational fund spending, Sununu's proposed budget would spend \$5.45 billion, a \$41 million decrease from the current spending plan.

The state faces a projected \$50 million shortfall for the biennium, Sununu said, although projections last spring were for as much as a \$350 million deficit.

"Unlike other states across the country, which are now raising taxes on businesses, taxing out-of-state workers, or enacting draconian budget cuts to cover their massive deficits," Sununu said, "New Hampshire managed to mitigate the worst financial impacts of the pandemic without raising taxes."

When the pandemic turned the state's economy upside down, he said he instituted hiring freezes and halting non-essential

spending, while ensuring agencies could provide critical services to those who needed them.

"Through the strategic reopening of our economy," Sununu said, "we ensured that vital programs at the state level wouldn't be gutted and essential services would be maintained."

Reaction to his budget proposal was partisan as Republicans praised his budget as living

within the state's means while protecting business, working families and taxpayers, but Democrats say the devil is in the details and despite assurances it wouldn't, his budget would once again downshift millions of expenses to local property taxpayers.

"I fully support the governor's proposal to help our struggling Main Street businesses,

**(Continued on page 7)**



### ***Seize the Day***

**At 7am on a cold, crisp, clear February morning, Mount Ascutney turned its rugged face to the rising sun.**

~ Eric Zengota

## Upcoming Virtual Math & Science Classes For Kids - Free!

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Maker-space is offering three free virtual series for kids during February break.

### Math Games for Kids

Register and learn more here:  
<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2021/2/23/math-games-for-kids>

### Math Arts For Kids

Register and learn more here:  
<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2021/2/23/math-art-for-kids>

### Family Science

Register and learn more here:  
<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2021/2/23/family-science>

All are presented free of charge & will be occurring during the week of February 22nd. Learn more and register at the respective links.

## Dream it, Make it, Print it - 3D Design Virtual Learning

CLAREMONT, NH—Over four sessions, participants learn how to use a CAD program to create their very own designs. Learn about the engineering design process and make your own original pieces in Tinkercad. We'll then print your designs on our 3D printers. Projects can be mailed to you! Recommended ages 8 and up. Should be comfortable using a computer mouse and keyboard.

Dates: Feb 18, 25, Mar 4, and Mar 11 from 4:30 - 5:30 PM

This class is presented free and virtual, via Zoom and on Tinkercad.

<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2021/2/18/dream-it-make-it-print-it>

### MONDAY, MARCH 1

#### Meet Lucy Stone: Enter the Antebellum World of the Abolition and Women's Rights Movements presented by Judith Black 7 pm Virtual

Living history presenter Judith Black introduces Lucy Stone, the first woman hired by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society as a public speaker and the "Shining Star" of the Abolition and Women's Rights Movements. Her presentation paints a dynamic and detailed picture of what it takes to change the world you are born into. Follow Lucy as she makes her case for tax resistance, her challenges to marriage laws and motherhood, and her pro-Emancipation response to the Civil War. Go with her to The American Equal Rights Association Convention in May 1869, where she eloquently supports the 15th Amendment, which gave African-American men the vote. Email

[mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org](mailto:mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org) for the Zoom link.

### Thursday, March 11

#### New England Quilts and the Stories They Tell presented by Pam Weeks at 7 pm, Virtual

Quilts tell stories, and quilt history is full of myths and misinformation as well as heart-warming tales of service and tradition. Nearly every world culture that has cold weather uses quilted textiles-quilting is NOT just an American art. Pam Weeks weaves world history, women's history, industrial history, and just plain wonderful stories into her presentation.

Weeks is the Binney Family Curator of the New England Quilt Museum. Author of the book Civil War Quilts and articles on quilt history, she lectures nationally on quilt-making and quilt history.

Participants are invited to share a digital image of a quilt for identification and/or story sharing by March 8th.

Email [mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org](mailto:mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org) to send an image and request the Zoom link.

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## Index

Commentary.....	4-5
Classifieds.....	9-12
Mayoral Notes.....	3
Business News.....	15-16
Sports.....	18-19
Inspiration.....	21
Calendar/Events.....	24-27
Claremont Senior Center.....	28
Claremont Fire Dept. Log.....	28
Obituaries.....	29-30
City Council Agenda.....	31

### NH Lottery Numbers

**02/13/2021**

**NH PowerBall**  
20 28 33 63 68 20

**NH Mega Millions 02/12/2021**  
5 14 24 25 27 14

**Tristate Megabucks 02/13/2021**  
15 22 32 35 36 5

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



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## Mayoral Notes

By Charlene Lovett

### Sharing the Revenue from the Rooms and Meals Tax

On February 8, City Manager Ed Morris and I testified at the Senate Ways and Means Committee public hearing of Senate Bill (SB) 99 which proposes to reinstate the municipalities' 40% revenue share of the Rooms and Meals tax. The passage of this bill would be welcome news to cities and towns. Not only would it restore the original intent of the tax, but it would also improve the ability of municipalities to invest in themselves without raising local property taxes.

Originally enacted in 1967, the Rooms and Meals Tax was created to generate revenue to be shared annually between the state and municipalities at 60% and 40% respectively. Over the years, the Legislature made numerous changes to the distribution to municipalities, including decreases, suspension, enactment of a catch-up formula and then the suspension of the formula in 10 of the last 12 years. These actions significantly reduced the revenue to municipalities by millions of dollars.

Since 2011, the loss of this shared revenue to Claremont has been significant. Had the City received the full 40% distribution, Claremont would have gotten \$12,026,061 over the last ten years. In-

stead, we received \$7,028,731, a loss of \$4,997,330, negatively impacting our ability to address infrastructure needs, improve operational efficiencies and accelerate economic development efforts without burdening the local taxpayer. Consequently, we had to rely on long term bonds in 2011 and 2016 to make \$2.5M of improvements to roads. We had to delay capital improvements that would have resulted in decreased operational costs. City staff had to spend more time researching and applying for grant funding as a potential revenue alternative and less time on economic development initiatives.

Because revenue sharing gives participants a vested interest, it is a model that has proven effective both in the private and government sector when properly applied. The state has

used this model for other revenue streams and, at times, altered or suspended sharing those funds. The Rooms and Meals Tax is tied to the hospitality and tourism market. The state has invested heavily in making that a successful industry and so have municipalities.

Reinstating the 40% revenue share to municipalities is simply a return on investment for the local taxpayer. Instead of relying on property taxes, communities like Claremont would have this revenue to improve infrastructure, reduce operational costs and facilitate economic growth.

*Charlene Lovett is the Mayor of Claremont and welcomes your feedback. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please email her at [clovett.ccc@gmail.com](mailto:clovett.ccc@gmail.com).*



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# Commentary

## NH House Happenings

By Rep. Gary Merchant



### **Bills Would Reinstate Some of State's Contribution to Retirement System**

In 1967, New Hampshire legislators passed RSA 100-A to establish the NH Retirement System (NHRS) as a contributory public employee defined benefit plan. The law consolidated four separate plans into one – Firefighters (originally created in 1939), Police (originally created in 1942), State & Municipal Employees (originally created in 1945) and Teachers (originally created in 1950).

Why did these four groups agree to join together? The state provided a powerful incentive: it offered to pay 40% of the employer contributions to the new combined plan. Sounds like a pretty good offer - but wait, there is more to the story.

Over subsequent years, the state slowly cut its contribution. In 1977 it was reduced from 40% to 35%, then to 30% in 2010, to 25% in 2011 and ultimately in 2012, down to 0%. You read that right: the state eliminated its obligation to fund the NHRS.

So who picks up the state's tab? You do! The costs of the plan were downshifted to local property taxpayers. Residents of Claremont (as well as all the other cities and towns across the state) have had to fund 100% of the employer contribution to NHRS. We were left holding the bag, fulfilling a commitment the state made more than five decades ago, but failed to honor. The impact? Roughly \$140 million.

That's the history. Recently, the assumed rate of return on NHRS investments was lowered, meaning an increased cost to employers. Since the state no longer contributes anything, this increase falls directly on cities and towns and school districts. Without legislative action, local property taxes will go up, again.

Two bills, HB274 known as the "Property Tax Relief Act" and SB72, the "Taxpayer Rescue Act", have been introduced to boost the state contribution level up to either 5% or 15%. While these figures are a far cry from the 40% the state pledged when the NHRS was put in place, they are at least consistent with the law's original intent to have the burden of funding the plan be a shared responsibility. A third bill, HB390 takes a different approach to remedying the situation, extending the deadline for 100% funding of the NHRS from 2039 to 2044.

What might the result be for us in Claremont? Claremont School District and SAU6 total budgeted retirement expense for FY21 is \$2,169,000. A 5% reduction in this expense would be \$108,450. A 15% reduction would be \$325,350. Assuming Claremont property's assessed valuation is approximately \$750 million, the impact on the tax rate could be a reduction of \$0.14 and \$0.43 vs. the likely cost of our having to pick up the whole tab for this cost increase should the state's contribution level remain at zero.

Downshifting costs from the state to the local level is a perennial problem here in the Granite State. These bills are a step toward correcting this problem. I hope you will join me in advocating for their swift passage. We need to stop picking the local taxpayers' pockets to make up for the state's shirking its responsibilities!

In addition to legislation for the state to contribute towards its obligation to fund the NHRS, three bills would provide direct property tax relief, according to the analysis on each bill. The bills are House Bill 486, House Bill 504, and Senate Bill 118.

House Bill 486 (HB 486) increases the income and property value criteria for claimants (taxpayers) of low and moderate-income homeowners' property tax relief against statewide education property taxes. The bill increases the limit on income for property tax relief eligibility, based on realized total household income, to \$37,000 for a single person and \$47,000 for a married person. Tax relief applies to the state education property tax and prorate based on realized total household income.

House Bill 504 (HB 504) requires the department of revenue administration to receive revenues from the state education property tax, deposit them into the education trust fund, and revise the procedures for calculating state education grants. The bill modifies the criteria for relief under the low and moderate-income homeowners' property tax relief program, and it establishes a committee to study the program. The bill requires the inclusion of a statement on the tax bill that explicitly lists the property tax relief program and how to apply for the program.

Senate Bill 118 (SB 118) makes an appropriation to the state treasurer to provide a municipal aid grant to each municipality, like Claremont, by October 1 of each of the next two state fiscal years. At least 60 percent of the funding received by a municipality would be required to be used for local property tax relief by lowering the local property tax. The bill requires the state to create a 'Municipal Aid Fund' with 20 million dollars and distribute 20% prorated on population and distribute 80% prorated on the number of students who qualify for free and reduced meals.

Property tax is a regressive tax requiring low to moderate-income households to use a higher household income percentage to pay the tax than those with higher incomes. Let's compare Claremont to Portsmouth. Based on 2018 data, an average tax bill in Claremont requires around 12.58% of household income to pay property taxes, and an average tax bill in Portsmouth requires approximately 7.85% of household income. Claremont residents use almost 60% more of their household income to pay property taxes leaving less income to purchase basic items as food and pay utilities.

New Hampshire has some of the county's highest property taxes, if not the highest, and Claremont taxpayers can no longer continue to shoulder state fiscal responsibilities. These three bills do not solve high property taxes, but they step in the right direction.

As your Representative, I will continue to support legislation that requires the state to fully fund its fiscal responsibilities and obligations for public education and the New Hampshire Retirement System.

**Email: [merchant4nhhouse@gmail.com](mailto:merchant4nhhouse@gmail.com)**

## House of Representatives – Claremont

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## Letter to the Editor

### Reaching Out to Our Legislators Has Never Been Easier

#### To The Editor:

As the late great Tip O’Neill, former speaker of the US House said, “All politics is local.” While the national debate goes on and on, it is time for us to turn our attention to NH’s many challenges. Reaching out to our legislators has never been easier.

One positive change has occurred due to Coronavirus. Everyday citizens now can register their opinion remotely on bills that come before the NH House and Senate committees. Previously one had to be present to sign the support/oppose cards delivered to committee members. Electronic access has enabled 1,000’s of citizens to participate in our democracy when previously unable due to travel/work/time issues. The impact of greater participation has yet to be determined on its influencing committee members. In some cases, it is being totally disregarded. Take HB 197, one of three bills introduced to enhance NH’s already existing Stand Your Ground law. There were 971 registered opposed, 79 registered in support. The committee voted along party lines 11 to 10 Ought to Pass (OTP). An education bill regarding School Vouchers (HB20) recorded 600 in support, 3,198 opposed! Its outcome is not known at this time.

Keeping track of the 1,000’s of bills submitted each legislative session is a herculean task for elected representatives and virtually impossible for the general public. Remote access enables us to participate as never before. It remains to be seen, however, if citizen participation is as welcomed by our elected officials as it is to us average citizens who are impacted by their decisions. Let’s hope allegiance to citizens will replace allegiance to party now that we have an effective mechanism letting our voices be heard. After all, citizen participation is the hallmark of our precious democracy. Here is where you can register your opinion: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/> and the link to testify is right there.

Virginia Irwin, Newport, NH

### In Letter to Biden Administration, Shaheen Emphasizes Need to Help States Safely Return to School

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) sent a letter with a group of Senators led by U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) to White House Domestic Policy Council Director Susan Rice and White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator Jeff Zients emphasizing the importance of helping states and school districts safely and equitably return to in-person learning. Specifically, the group of Senators noted the urgency to make sure states and schools have the resources and guidance they need to be able to return to in-person learning, including making coronavirus vaccines accessible to educators and support staff as more vaccines become available.

While school closures and distance learning have helped keep students safe throughout the coronavirus pandemic, disruptions in learning are leading to significant consequences for students. Gaps in access to broadband and reliable technology have heightened the learning challenges faced by many students, with nearly 25 percent of students still lacking full access to distance learning. Recent data indicates that some students – particularly Black and Hispanic students, students from low-income families, students with disabilities, and students with English as a second language – began the current academic year by up to five months behind in learning due to regression caused by lost classroom time.

“By safely and equitably returning to in-person instruction, we begin to address learning loss, longstanding inequities in our education system compounded by this pandemic, and support the needs of our nation’s educators and school staff. Doing so requires providing sufficient funding, ample resources, and clear guidance to help schools safely return to in-person instruction. Important steps include adequate testing and contact-tracing, mask-wearing and social distancing, and appropriate cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation, and other public health protocols recommended by Federal, State, Tribal, and local public health authorities,” the Senators wrote.



## NH DHHS COVID-19 Update – February 14, 2021

CONCORD, NH – On Sunday, February 14, 2021, DHHS announced 292 new positive test results for COVID-19, for a current PCR test positivity rate of 2.2%. Today’s results include 211 people who tested positive by PCR test and 81 who tested positive by antigen test. There are now 3,365 current COVID-19 cases diagnosed in New Hampshire. Of the results reported Sunday:

2/13: 292 new cases

Test results for previous days are still being processed and the total number of new positives for those days are not yet complete. Several cases are still under investigation.

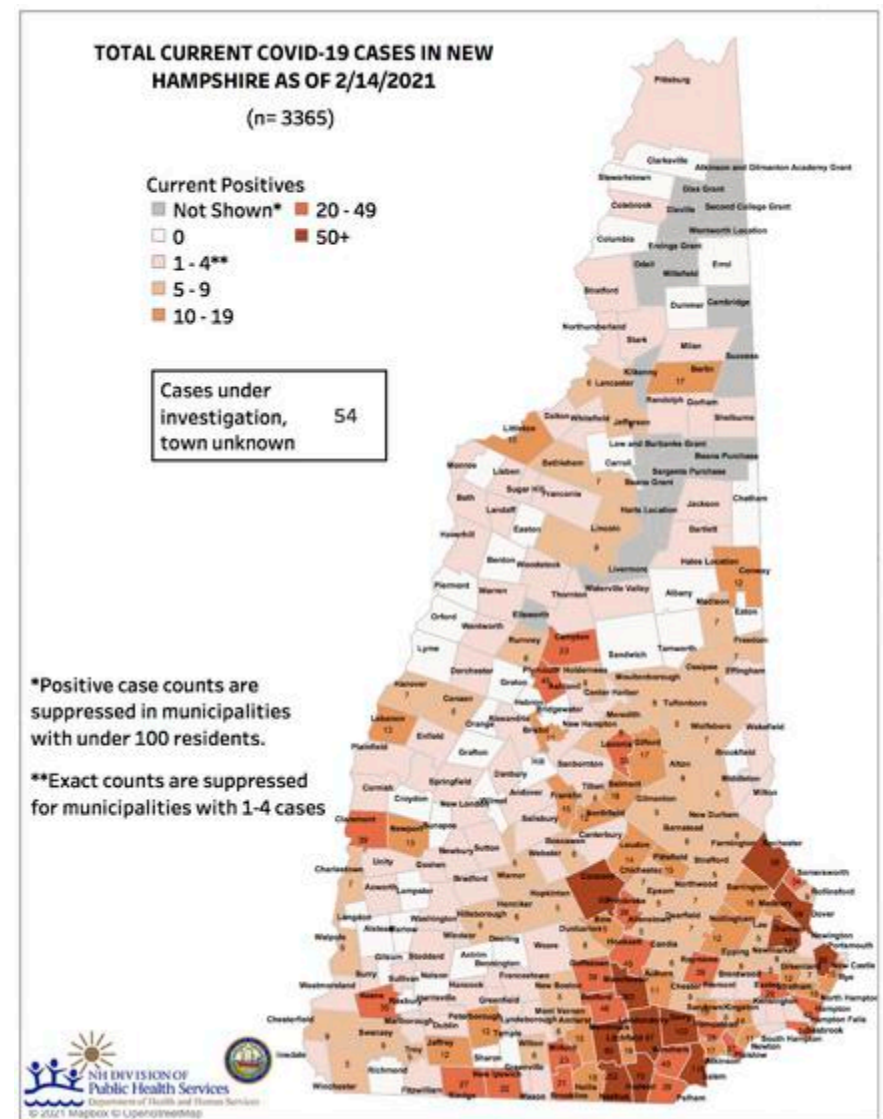
Additional information from ongoing investigations will be incorporated into future COVID-19 updates. Of those with complete information, there are twenty-six individuals under the age of 18 and the rest are adults with 49% being female and 51% being male.

The new cases reside in Strafford (93), Rockingham (66), Hillsborough County other than Manchester and Nashua (30), Merrimack (18), Cheshire (11), Belknap (7), Carroll (5), Grafton (4), Sullivan (4), and Coos (2) counties, and in the cities of Manchester (21) and Nashua (20). The county of residence is being determined for eleven new cases.

Community-based transmission continues to occur in the State and has been identified in all counties. Of those with complete risk information, most of the cases have either had close contact with a person with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis or are associated with an outbreak setting.

DHHS has also announced three additional deaths related to COVID-19. We offer our sympathies to the family and friends.

1 female resident of Rockingham County, 60 years of age and older  
2 male residents of Rockingham County, 60 years of age and older  
There are currently 126 individ-



Geographic Distribution* of COVID-19		Infections		Hospitalizations		Deaths	
		Persons	% of Total	Persons	% of Total	Persons	% of Total
Belknap	Total	2,998	4.2%	31	2.9%	90	7.9%
Carroll	Total	1,604	2.3%	24	2.2%	6	0.5%
Cheshire	Total	2,429	3.4%	19	1.8%	24	2.1%
Coos	Total	1,225	1.7%	10	0.9%	33	2.9%
Grafton	Total	2,235	3.2%	17	1.6%	17	1.5%
Hillsborough	Manchester	9,337	13.2%	259	24.1%	197	17.4%
	Nashua	6,163	8.7%	120	11.2%	76	6.7%
	Outside Manchester and Nashua	11,741	16.6%	190	17.7%	296	26.1%
	Total	27,241	38.5%	569	52.9%	569	50.2%
Merrimack	Total	7,083	10.0%	92	8.6%	103	9.1%
Rockingham	Total	17,303	24.4%	249	23.2%	198	17.5%
Strafford	Total	6,420	9.1%	47	4.4%	69	6.1%
Sullivan	Total	1,251	1.8%	16	1.5%	19	1.7%
Unknown	Total	996	1.4%	1	0.1%	5	0.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>70,785</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,133</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Data as of: 2/14/2021

uals hospitalized with COVID-19. In New Hampshire since the start of the pandemic, there have been a total of 70,785 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed.

**As of Sunday, there were 39 positively identified cases in Claremont; 76, in Sullivan County.**

## UK Variant Detected in NH

DHHS announced last Friday that the B.1.1.7 variant (the "U.K. variant") of the COVID-19 coronavirus was detected in a NH resident for the first time. The person infected with the variant virus is an adult resident of Hillsborough County who had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 after international travel.

## 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.

## Budget, from page 1

hardworking families and property taxpayers recover from the pandemic,” said Senate President Chuck Morse, R-Salem. “Lowering taxes will help people get back to work and grow our economy while providing additional assistance to cities and towns will help struggling property taxpayers.”

“Gov. Sununu’s budget appears to be fulfilling several major Republican promises to the people of New Hampshire including tax cuts that will benefit our citizens and small businesses, increased government efficiency, and a voluntary paid family leave plan that does not create an income tax,” said House Speaker Sherman Packard, R-Londonderry.

But Democrats had a different take on what Sununu proposed.

“I have learned over many terms in the Finance Committee that the devil is always in the details,” said Rep. Mary Jane Wallner, D-Concord, the ranking Democrat on the House Finance Committee. “What I heard today was that this budget proposal would do a lot of downshifting back to our local communities and our local property taxpayers. To be clear, if we reduce the amount of money we are investing in our schools and cities and towns, local property taxpayers will be forced to make up the difference.”

Democratic party chair Raymond Buckley echoed those comments.

“He unveiled a budget full of empty promises that leaves hard-working families behind and will leave future generations of New Hampshire struggling to catch up,” Buckley said. “Let’s be clear about what Sununu’s budget does — It offloads state responsibilities onto the backs of already overburdened local property taxpayers — including struggling Main Street small businesses — for the benefit of out-of-state corporate special interests.”

## Social Services

“These are uncertain times, and this pandemic has exacerbated our mental health crises,” Sununu said, “especially for kids.”

This budget continues levels of funding for mental health programs with additional money to reduce the number of people in mental health crises held in hospital emergency rooms and for mobile crisis teams.

Sununu’s proposed budget also provides \$3 million dollars in services for kids including additional school counselors, peer-to-peer and buddy support programs, and making children

aware of where to go and what to do when they are feeling low.

Additional money will be available for seniors and veterans’ mental health programs in his budget as well.

Sununu said he wants to continue the progress made in child protection services and programs for the developmentally disabled.

He also praised the state’s “hub and spoke” program addressing substance abuse noting opioid deaths fell in New Hampshire last year, while they increased across the country. Sununu also proposes to maintain the increase in funding for sexual and domestic violence treatment and prevention programs. And he said he will go forward with the second 3.1 percent Medicaid provider rate increase that was included in this biennium’s budget, but halted when the pandemic hit.

## Education

Sununu said he intends to maintain the additional money lawmakers included in this biennium’s budget for public education. The current budget stopped the reduction in stabilization aid and returned it to its original level and included additional money for poor communities where poverty levels are higher than average.

“Despite the pandemic and slight revenue shortfalls, we are not letting up — we are not cutting education spending,” Sununu said. “My budget ensures that we spend more money per child on public education than ever before.”

Due to the pandemic, public schools are facing losing \$90 million in state aid because enrollment drops as many parents removed students from public schools and due to a change in federal requirements for the free and reduced lunch program.

Sununu addressed the loss due to free and reduced lunch changes, but not enrollment. He said the state would change how it determines state aid based on the free and reduced lunch program so no district would be left behind.

But Jeff McLynch of the NH Schools Fair Funding Project said the governor’s budget proposal falls short.

“Based on an initial review of the Governor’s budget,” McLynch said, “total state education aid would fall by more than \$100 million between the current biennium and the next if his plan were to become law.”

Sununu also proposed using \$30 million of the surplus in the Education Trust Fund for

capital projects like building aid, energy efficiency projects and alternative fuel buses.

“Now all these opportunities we are creating for our kids can’t be fully achieved if they are sitting at home, remote learning,” he said, noting the federal government is providing \$250 million to help schools transition through the pandemic.

But he said kids need to be back in schools.

## Revenue Sharing

Sununu proposed an additional \$15 million from the rooms and meals tax receipts go to municipal revenue sharing.

Lawmakers added \$40 million in revenue sharing in the current biennium’s budget, after cities and towns had not received any program money since the Great Recession in 2009.

## Higher Education

Sununu said the pandemic has forced leaders to look at new solutions for higher education so he is proposing combining the university and community college systems.

“This is the future of higher education,” Sununu said. “This evolution is not to the benefit of any one system or any singular college, but to every student across our state.”

The pandemic accelerated the move to a more flexible higher education system that needs to be more student friendly, he said.

Facing declining enrollments due to the pandemic, he said each of the system’s 11 institutions worked separately to mitigate the impact. “This merger will enable a combined system to innovate in a coordinated way,” Sununu said. “My budget proposal takes the first steps by merging the two boards.”

Sununu resurrected his proposal from two years ago to provide \$10 million in debt relief for college graduates who stay and work in New Hampshire.

The program would focus on graduates in high demand fields like health care, biotechnology and social work.

## Tax Cuts

Sununu’s budget reduces the meals and rooms tax from 9 to 8.5 percent, cuts the interest and dividends tax and phases it out over five years, and lowers the business enterprise tax from .6 to .55 percent.

And under his budget proposal, he would raise the filing threshold for the BET to \$250,000, which would free thousands of small businesses from filing or paying the tax.

**(Continued on page 8)**

**Budget, from page 7**

The change would also allocate 90 percent of the BET revenue to the Education Trust Fund.

Sununu did not propose lowering the rate of the business profits tax, which bills before the House and Senate would do. The levy, largely on multi-state and international companies, is the single biggest source of business tax revenue.

Many of the large corporations who pay the majority of the tax, have not been impacted by the pandemic as small businesses have and those revenues have buoyed business tax receipts for the state since the pandemic hit.

Sununu also proposed creating a new Department of Energy combining most of the Public Utilities Commission's functions with the Office of Strategic Initiatives.

He said the change would keep regulatory functions separate from programs and policies and would fund the Office of Offshore Wind Industry Development for the first time.

And he is proposing a voluntary paid family leave program that would originate with state workers and eventually lower premiums for private companies and individuals.

And he also said he wants to improve law enforcement accountability by funding the Public Integrity Unit within the Attorney General's office that would review misconduct complaints.

Sununu also said he would invest in new programs for Police Standards and Training and create a \$1 million matching fund for local law enforcement agencies to purchase body and

dashboard cameras.

The House Finance Committee next week will begin the legislative budget process with a deadline of April 8 to finish its version of the two-year operating budget.

*Garry Rayno may be reached at garry.rayno@yahoo.com.*

**Virtual Instructors Wanted**

CLAREMONT, NH— Claremont MakerSpace is looking for people with a passion for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) subjects to offer virtual learning classes to its community of makers, including adults, students and children. Pay

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<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#/event-list>.

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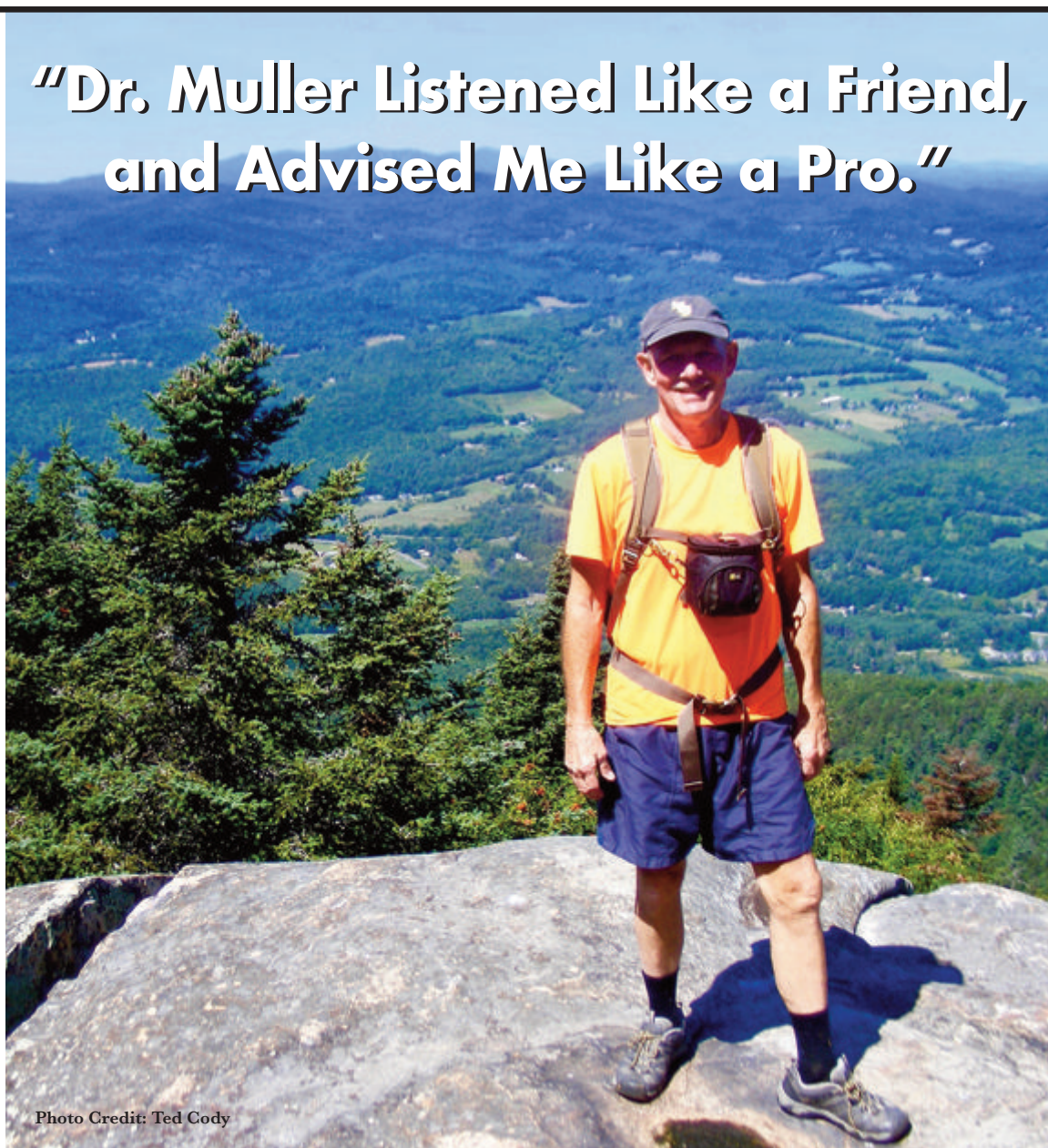


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## River Valley Technical Center Immediate Opening

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Contact Scott D. Farr, Superintendent/Director at (802) 885-8301 or [sfarr@rvtc.org](mailto:sfarr@rvtc.org) or apply on [SchoolSpring.com](http://SchoolSpring.com) Job ID#3436008.

### What's Happening at the Plainfield Libraries StoryWalk at the Meriden Library

Our newest StoryWalk is on the grounds of the Meriden Library. Over and Under the Snow is a beautiful picture book for all ages. Start the walk by the library's side entrance, and please remember to sign our guest book at the end of the walk. Come with your boots, snowshoes, or skis to enjoy fresh air, exercise, and a wonderful story.

Storytime, Every Tuesday, 10 am, Virtual. Join us on Zoom for stories and songs for young children. Email [mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org](mailto:mary.king@plainfieldlibraries.org) for the link.

# Classified Ads

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St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Thank you, St. Jude.  
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## Twin State Innovation - Virtual Networking Event

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or [rvinduska@claremontnh.com](mailto:rvinduska@claremontnh.com) or 603-504-0344.

Visit this link for more information:  
<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!event/2021/2/9/twin-state-innovation>.

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- Demonstrated organizational skills while managing multiple tasks
- Demonstrated time management and prioritization skills
- Experience in change management in a fast-growth environment
- Proven results in cost control and budget management
- Experience as a liaison with auditors

**Requirements:**

- Education Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, Business, or equivalent combination of education and experience
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City Council Roundup

## Council Approves Pay Raise for Most Merit-Plan Employees

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—Wednesday night, the Council approved a small pay raise for most of the City's merit-plan employees; the increase was set at 2.5%. Eight employees who have maxed out their pay scale will not be included in the raises. The vote to approve the motion was 7-1, with Councilor Jim Contois voting no and Councilor Nick Koloski recusing himself due to working for the City as a call firefighter.

City manager Ed Morris said he had brought the issue forward because he felt that with the other unions having received raises, merit employees should also get one as well; he added that they had not had a raise in a year and felt that 2.5% was reasonable. Assistant mayor Allen Damren said that "2.5 is outside the (recently completed) compensation study and is more in line with equity with the other groups."

Councilor Andrew O'Hearne, a state rep for Claremont, said he was unsure where the state is going to be in terms of the budget and its impact on communities. "I think there's going to be a lot of downshifting in the state budget and it's going to hit Claremont probably pretty hard and the last thing I want to see are layoffs..." Morris responded saying, "I guess my hope is that we don't get to layoffs; we're working really hard to bring some money forward to be able to bring you guys a good budget..."

Councilor Deb Matteau said she agreed with O'Hearne, saying "we could be looking at pretty significant cuts; other communities preparing their budgets are preparing for this. We represent the taxpayers, we need to look out for them as well as the employees."

In what was a compromise of sorts, the council voted to have the raises take effect March 1st rather than make them retroactive to January 1st, as Morris had suggested. The cost for the rest of the year will be \$23,980, with a funds transfer of \$8,015 from a reserve fund created for the compensation study.

A brief update was provided by Brian Colburn of McFarland Johnson on the ReThink Pleasant Street project. He said the City expects to sign a contract this spring with ground being broken sometime this summer. "It should be June or July when we start to see some construction out there," he said. A temporary traffic signal at the corner of Glidden and Broad Streets will be one of the first things undertaken, followed by making the section of Pleasant Street to be redone one way. Work will be carried out on one side of the street and when that is completed, construction will move to the remaining side.

Morris announced that the Claremont Opera House has received a second Moose Plate Grant in the amount of \$20,000.

This will allow City staff to work with COH personnel and the chosen contractor to repair more of the stained-glass windows than originally planned for.

The City accepted a donation from the Claremont-Sugar River Rotary of 2,800 masks (1,200 surgical, 1,500 N95 adult and 100 N95 child) valued at \$560 for the Claremont Fire Department.

The City also announced that it is bringing back the Boston Cane award, due to at least one citizen request to start making the presentation again: The cane is granted to the oldest citizen of Claremont. Applications may be picked up at the City Manager's office or from the City's website, Boston Post Cane Application\_559.pdf, under Applications, Forms & Permits ([claremontnh.com](http://claremontnh.com)), and returned no later than March 19, 2021, to: City of Claremont, Manager's Office, 58 Opera House Square, Claremont, NH 03743.

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Thank you to everyone for the warm welcome back to the area. It has been great catching up with old friends and making new ones. I am very excited and fortunate to have joined **Don and Peg Chabot at Town and Country Realty**. They have been operating in the Connecticut River Valley and Dartmouth/Lake Sunapee region since 1971. My goal is to help them grow the business and continue working with our local community members as well as our visiting guests to achieve their real estate needs.

Having spent the last 25 years in the restaurant business, I was always focused on trying to create a great dining experience. Obviously, real estate is dealing with much bigger life choices than what you order off a menu, but having someone really want to make sure you have a great experience in whatever you're trying to accomplish is very important.

Buying or selling real estate is the biggest investment most of

us will ever make. It is important to make sure the agent and the agency you choose have the knowledge, experience and drive to find you exactly what you are looking for. If you are looking to buy or sell (residential, commercial, business property or land), than I am eager to be your real estate agent.



**Valentine's Day may have been yesterday, but the hues of the holiday are welcomed beyond the 14th as they brighten the winter days with vibrant colors (Eric Zengota photo).**



# e-Ticker Business News

## Johanna Beliveau, President and CEO of VNH, Featured on Help Choose Home Podcast

WHITE RIVER JCT., VT— Johanna Beliveau, DNP, MBA, RN, President and CEO of Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH) recently joined podcast host Merrily Orsini on her nationally recognized show Help Choose Home. The podcast, started in 2018, has served as a way of introducing a conversation about the choice to receive care in the home and the ability to age in place.

Orsini is a widely recognized innovative aging care thought leader who utilizes her public platform to advocate for the usage of home based care among the aging population. Beliveau and Orsini discussed the benefits and importance of home health care within the care industry. To date, Help Choose Home has covered important topics such as how home care improves lives, the role of at home senior care during the pandemic and beyond, end-of-life care at home, and how technology is helping seniors maintain independence at home.

“I was honored to be an invited guest on this podcast to talk about the importance of home health and hospice care,” said Beliveau. “Patients and families benefit enormously from having care provided in their own home. One of the greatest opportunities we have is to educate our community on the benefits of receiving care in the home because it is often not well understood.”

As the President and CEO of VNH, Beliveau offers insights into home health and hospice care within the health care system today, describing the importance of how integrated care teams caring for patients in their homes contributes to patients’ successful outcomes. Her more than 20 years of direct care and nursing leadership experience has exposed her to multiple areas of healthcare delivery,

including home health care. Her leadership at VNH, a member of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health system, offers a unique perspective of rural homecare delivery while working within an integrative health system.

Help Choose Home is available on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, YouTube, Stitcher and Spotify.

## The Prouty Celebrates 40 Years

### The 40th Annual Prouty Launches Fundraising Campaign for 2021

LEBANON, NH – The Friends of Norris Cotton Cancer Center announced the launch of the 40th Annual Prouty. Registration is now open. The Prouty is northern New England’s largest family-friendly fundraising event combining cycling, walking, and more to raise funds and awareness for life-saving research and critical patient and family support services at Dartmouth and Dartmouth-Hitchcock’s Norris Cotton Cancer Center (NCCC).

The Prouty began in 1982 when four NCCC nurses, inspired by the courage of their patient, Audrey Prouty, committed to cycling 100 miles through the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Over the past 40 years, thousands of passionate individuals have come together to bike, walk, row, golf and more to make a difference in the fight against cancer. Since its

inception, The Prouty has raised more than \$48 million to support cancer research and patient support services. Thank you to all that have made this possible!

“We are excited to launch the 40th Prouty and look forward to celebrating this milestone year with our community,” said Steven D. Leach, MD, director of NCCC. “The Prouty makes a tremendous impact. Because of the funds raised through The Prouty, we are providing stellar care directly to our community and fueling knowledge for the world.”

“Plans are underway for the 40th Prouty and we promise to bring an inspirational event to our community, despite the global pandemic,” shares Jaclynn Rodriguez, executive director for the Friends of NCCC. “We will produce an enhanced virtual event which will include a live

**(Continued on page 16)**



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# e-Ticker Business News

## Prouty, from page 15

ceremony broadcast and much more. If at all possible, this spring we will announce in-person Prouty participation options based on safety and health guidelines. In-person space and in-person participation will be limited, and first available to pre-registered participants. We will be sharing more details in the coming months—stay-tuned!”

To honor its 40th year, The Prouty will take place for 40 days between June 1 and July 10, 2021. Virtual participants can Prouty anywhere, any way, at any time and can join teams or create their own team.

For event updates and to register, visit: [www.theprouty.org](http://www.theprouty.org).

## FY22 Sullivan County Community Grant Program Now Open for Applications

NEWPORT, NH—The Sullivan County Board of Commissioners is accepting grant applications for Fiscal Year 2022 from charitable non-profit organizations that provide services to the entire county, and which are seeking public funding to support the delivery of those services to County residents.

You may see previous year funding recipients, the County Grant Policy and attain the grant application at the County’s website on the “County Community Grants” page by selecting <http://www.sullivancountynh.gov/1218/County-Community-Grants>.

Completed grant applications are due no later than 12:00 noon Friday, March 12, 2021.

If your non-profit is interested in applying and would like to attain a Microsoft Word version of the application (and Excel workbook to use for your proposed budget) or if you have questions, please contact the Sullivan County Commissioners’ Office, 14 Main Street, Newport, NH, 03773 at (603) 863-2560 or e-mail [commissioners@sullivancountynh.gov](mailto:commissioners@sullivancountynh.gov).

## New London Hospital Chosen by GE as a Center of Excellence for Total Hip and Knee Replacement Surgery

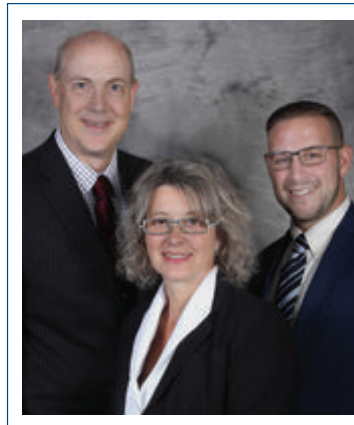
NEW LONDON, NH – Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) Orthopaedics at New London Hospital has been chosen by GE as one of the company’s national Centers of Excellence for total hip and knee replacement surgery.

With this designation, eligible GE plan members can elect to receive enhanced coverage for their joint replacement surgery at New London Hospital.

As this is a national program, D-H Orthopaedics at New London Hospital will support eligible GE members whether they live locally or travel from out of town, with travel assistance available for those patients who live more than 100 miles from the hospital. Patients will be guided through the joint-care process by patient navigator Connor Rockwell, who will help them choose a physician, provide information about the procedure and offer seamless medical care from diagnosis to recovery.

U.S. News & World Report ranked D-H Orthopaedics among high performing hospitals for hip replacement for 2020 and 2021. D-H orthopaedic surgeons perform more than 2,000 hip and knee replacement surgeries every year and also care for patients with the most complicated hip and knee replacement cases in the region.

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## Estate Planning for Blended Families

If you're in a blended family, you're already aware of the emotional and financial issues involved in your daily life. But what about the future? When it's time to do your estate planning – and it's never too soon for that – you'll need to be aware of the entanglements and complexities that can get in the way of your vision for leaving the legacy you desire.

You can take comfort in knowing that you're far from alone. More than half of married or cohabiting couples with at least one living parent, or parent-in-law, and at least one adult child, have a "step-kin" relationship, according to a study from researchers at the University of Massachusetts and other schools. That's a lot of estate-planning issues.

Nonetheless, the task does not have to be overwhelming – as long as you put sufficient time and thought into it. Here are some ideas that may help:

- *Seek fairness* – but be flexible. Even in a nonblended family, it's not always easy to be as equitable as you'd like in your estate plans – too often, someone feels they have been treated unfairly. In a blended family, these problems can be exacerbated: Will biological children feel cheated? Will stepchildren? Keep this in mind: Fair is not always equal – and equal is not always fair. When deciding how to divide your assets, you'll need to make some judgment calls after carefully evaluating the needs of all your family members. There's no guarantee that everyone will be satisfied, but you'll have done your best.
  - *Communicate your wishes clearly.* When it comes to estate planning, the best surprise is no surprise – and that's especially true in a blended family. Even if you're the one creating your estate plans, try to involve other family members – and make your wishes and goals clear. You don't have to be specific down to the last dollar, but you should provide a pretty good overall outline.
  - *Consider establishing a revocable living trust.* Everyone's situation is different, but many blended families find that, when making estate plans, a simple will is not enough. Consequently, you may want to establish a revocable living trust, which gives you much more control than a will when it comes to carrying out your wishes. Plus, because you have transferred your assets to the trust, you are no longer technically the owner of these assets, so there's no reason for a court to get involved, which means your estate can likely avoid the time-consuming, expensive and very public process of probate.
  - *Choose the right trustee.* If you do set up a living trust, you'll also need to name a trustee – someone who manages the assets in the trust. Married couples often serve as co-trustees, but this can result in tensions and disagreements. As an alternative, you can hire a professional trustee – someone with the time, experience and neutrality to make appropriate decisions and who can bring new ideas to the process.
- Above all else, make sure you have the right estate-planning team in place. You'll certainly need to work with an attorney, and you may also want to bring in your tax advisor and financial professional. Estate planning can be complex – especially with a blended family – and you'll want to make the right moves, right from the start.

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

*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors are not estate planners and cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your estate-planning attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*



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# Sports

## SHS Boys Basketball

01/19/21	at Sunapee	Cancelled
01/22/21	Sunapee	Cancelled
01/25/21	Lebanon	Cancelled
01/28/21	at Lebanon	Cancelled
02/04/21	at Mascoma Valley	L 38 - 58
02/05/21	Mascoma Valley	L 33 - 70
02/09/21	at Hanover	L 12 - 58
02/12/21	Hanover	L 26 - 62
02/16/21	at Newport	06:00 PM
02/19/21	Newport	06:00 PM
02/23/21	Fall Mountain	06:30 PM
02/26/21	at Fall Mountain	03:30 PM

## SHS Girls Basketball

01/19/21	Sunapee	Cancelled
01/22/21	at Sunapee	Cancelled
01/25/21	at Lebanon	Cancelled
01/28/21	Lebanon	Cancelled
02/03/21	Mascoma Valley	07:00 PM
02/05/21	at Mascoma Valley	W 42 - 35
02/09/21	Hanover	L 32 - 59
02/12/21	at Hanover	L 29 - 57
02/17/21	at Newport	07:00 PM
02/20/21	Newport	06:30 PM
02/23/21	Fall Mountain	05:00 PM
02/26/21	at Fall Mountain	05:00 PM

## Lebanon-Stevens-Mount Royal Boys Ice Hockey

02/01/21	Berlin-Gorham	W 3 - 1
02/03/21	Keene	W 3 - 0
02/10/21	Mon-Fall Mountain	W 6 - 0
02/13/21	at Mon-Fall Mountain	W 5 - 0
02/15/21	at Berlin-Gorham	03:30 PM
02/17/21	ConVal	Cancelled
02/24/21	Berlin-Gorham	07:10 PM
02/24/21	Berlin-Gorham	07:10 PM
02/27/21	at Berlin-Gorham	06:00 PM



**The Stevens High School Bowling Team hosted for the first time this year this past weekend at Maple Lanes. The team placed between Keene (1st place) and Hillsboro-Deering (3rd place) (Courtesy photo).**

## Lebanon-Stevens-Kearsarge Girls Ice Hockey

01/16/21	Hanover	L 0 - 6
01/23/21	at Oyster River-Portsmouth	L 1 - 2
01/27/21	Keene-Mon-Fall Mountain	Cancelled
01/30/21	at Hanover	02:50 PM
01/30/21	at Keene-Mon-Fall Mountain	Cancelled
02/03/21	at Bishop Brady-Trinity-West	W 3 - 2
02/06/21	Bishop Brady-Trinity-West	W 3 - 2
02/16/21	Concord	08:10 PM
02/20/21	at Concord	08:45 PM
02/24/21	Berlin-Gorham	05:20 PM

## Prepare for the Unexpected— Buy Your Voluntary Hike Safe Card for 2021

CONCORD, NH – Hikers, snowshoers, cross country and back country skiers, climbers, and all other outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to purchase their voluntary annual Hike Safe card for 2021. Card sales help ensure that the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Conservation Officers, trained in wilderness rescue, are there to come to your aid if the unforeseen happens.

Valid for the entire calendar year, the 2021 Hike Safe cards cost \$25 for an individual, or \$35 for a family, and are good through December 31, 2021. The price is the same for both residents and nonresidents, and the card also exempts holders from certain liability for repaying search and rescue costs.

Cards can be purchased online at [www.wildnh.com/safe](http://www.wildnh.com/safe) and at New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.

Because of this winter's extreme weather and the rugged terrain that characterizes the Granite State, the Hike Safe card has become popular among outdoor enthusiasts, and revenues raised through their sale go to the Department's Search and Rescue Fund to help defray the cost of training and equipment. Fish and Game Conservation Officers have already responded to numerous search and rescue calls since the beginning of 2021.

Purchasing a hunting or fishing license also provides you with the same protection as a Hike Safe card. In addition to Hike Safe card revenues, Fish and Game's Search and Rescue Fund is supported by a \$1 fee collected for each boat, snowmobile, and OHRV registered in New Hampshire.

"Whatever outdoor activity you enjoy—hiking, biking, paddling, cross country skiing, walking the nature trails in your town—the Hike Safe card is your back-up plan for the great outdoors," said Fish and Game Law Enforcement Chief Colonel Kevin Jordan. "Buying a card is also a great way to help support Fish and Game's search and rescue activities."

# On the Lookout for 'Coachability'

## Parks & Rec Gets Ready for Youth Basketball

Story and Photos By Eric Zengota  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—Got hoop dreams? Plenty of youngsters in Claremont do. Many of them showed up at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center last Tuesday and Wednesday to take part in evaluations (aka skills assessment sessions) before this year's league play.

There are four categories, based on grades in school: 3/4 Boys, 3/4 Girls, 5/6 Boys and 5/6 Girls. At each session, players were assigned to smaller groups and went through a series of drills. Volunteer coaches, watching closely, judged them on six factors: shooting, defense, rebounding, passing, dribbling and coachability.

Justin Martin, the department's superintendent of recreation programs, told the players that coachability is a basic aspect of the game. It includes willingness to learn, respect for teammates and opponents, focus and attention while playing, and a positive attitude.

On Thursday, the coaches gathered to draft teams based on the assessments. They were careful to build each as equitably as possible. No one team could have too many of the most-skilled players. With teams of mixed abilities, Martin pointed out, everyone gets to play and every team has a fair shot at winning.

In all, 63 players make up eight teams: Claremont (3/4 Girls); Kentucky, Michigan State and Louisville (3/4 Boys); Storm and Sparks (5/6 Girls); and Nets and Celtics (5/6 Boys).

This year's league will be in-house, with no outside travel to local area towns. The CSBCC will operate under COVID-19 protocols. Masks are mandatory for everyone: coaches, officials, spectators and players;

players must wear masks even during game play. Everyone will perform a COVID-19 self-check before participating in practices and games.



What about the many families and friends who have regularly filled the bleachers? This year, there will be only one spectator allowed per player at games and practices to accommodate the Center's limited capacity numbers.

Despite that limit, fans won't miss out, Martin said. In a first-ever partnership, CCTV will livestream the Parks & Rec games on its channel 8.

*Youth basketball practices start this evening.*

*Games start on Saturday, February 27, and are scheduled through Saturday, April 3. Watch them livestreaming at Claremont-TV.org*

*Game and practice schedules are "100% updated" on the League Line-up website: [leaguelineup.com/claremontsports](http://leaguelineup.com/claremontsports).*

**Justin Martin assigns players to smaller groups.**



**In the background, the volunteer coaches prepare to assess the youngsters' skills. Rebounding calls for speed and assertiveness. Girls demonstrating passing skills also picked up tips from the coaches. One is to step forward to catch the ball, a more secure stance that protects it from an opponent's steal attempt. Boys "toe the line" as they listen to the skills they'll be judged on by the coaches.**



## Don't Quit! Fitness Campaign Launches in New Hampshire

CONCORD, NH—Last week, the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils (NFGFC) announced that the State of New Hampshire has been selected for its 2021 Don't Quit! campaign. As part of the campaign, three elementary or middle schools in New Hampshire will be selected to receive a \$100,000 Don't Quit! Fitness Center.

"A healthier state starts with healthier kids," said Governor Chris Sununu. "I am excited to work with Jake and the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils on this great opportunity for our elementary and middle schools across the state. These state-of-the-art facilities will provide a valuable tool for students as schools return to regular operations."

School nominations will be accepted starting today through Friday, March 19, 2021. To nominate a school, individuals can visit <https://nat.govfit.org/nominate-your-school/>, then click the New Hampshire state seal to download the short application.

"Childhood obesity is a serious problem that can follow a child into adulthood. I've declared war on this preventable disease and it's inspiring to see elected leaders like Governor Chris Sununu immediately jump on board to join the battle and welcome us into the great state of New Hampshire. Every governor we've partnered with recognizes that obesity is neither a Democratic nor Republican issue, it's a kids' issue and all have vowed to do everything possible to help," said fitness icon Jake Steinfeld, Chairman of the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils (NFGFC). "So far we've delivered DON'T QUIT! Fitness Centers to 36 states and Washington, DC, and this year we are adding four more states to our family including New Hampshire, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Maine. The response from every state we've visited has been awesome. Kids are excited about working out and being physically active and, as a result, their academic performance and self-esteem have skyrocketed. Now, New Hampshire schools have an opportunity to make a change that will have a lasting impact on kids well into their future."

The NFGFC program will make its way into all 50 states in the coming years. Each fitness center is financed through public/

private partnerships with companies like The Coca-Cola Company, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation, Wheels Up and Nike, and does not rely on taxpayer dollars or state funding. Fitness in Motion provides all the fitness equipment.

### PUBLIC NOTICE PLANNING BOARD HEARING Monday, February 22, 2021 7:00 PM

\*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom.

Join the Zoom Webinar Online: [https://us02web-zoom.us/j/81088439062?pwd=dFIYTkRtc-WRHWnNrTngvZTIKempHdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81088439062?pwd=dFIYTkRtc-WRHWnNrTngvZTIKempHdz09)

Passcode: 714811 By Phone: 1-646-558-8656 US (New York) Webinar ID: 810 8843 9062

If there is a problem getting through to this number, please call 603-504-0341.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held concerning the following application:

A. (PL 2021-00003) Jeffrey Davis, 513 River Road – Application for a lot line adjustment between lots 186-5 and 186-6 at 26 Connecticut River Bend Road. Zoning District: I1

The Board will also discuss the following:

- A. Proposed zoning amendments regarding Foster Homes and B-2 Business Zones
- B. CIP Supplemental
  - a. City Hall Dome
- C. Review of past completed CIP projects

Interested parties may review the application at the Planning and Development Department, 14 North Street, during normal business hours. Comments may be submitted in person at the hearing, or in writing at 14 North Street, Claremont NH 03743, or by email at [cityplanner@claremontnh.com](mailto:cityplanner@claremontnh.com).

Richard Wahrlich, Chair

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\* See site for details.

# Inspiration

## Will You Be My Valentine?

By Priscilla Hull

Yesterday was Valentine's Day! I've always enjoyed Valentine's Day! When I was a little girl we delighted in finding just the right Valentine for each friend. At that time for little girls, Valentine paper dolls were in vogue and we added them to the vast collections of paper dolls in our home. We'd play with them until they wore out; we loved each one.

It is my thought that, like Christmas, St. Valentine's Day should last all year long. We need the roses, hearts, chocolate that are exchanged on Valentine's Day to last all year round. They are the symbols of love and if ever we need love in this country, in the world, it is now. Love doesn't end with affection. Love includes but is not limited to such things as kindness, generosity, tolerance, friendship. So, when we say "I love you", what is it really that we are saying?

Now, more than ever, we need to find love. We need to make our world a better place for our children and our grandchildren and for generations to come. We need to make it kind. We need to make our world a place where we are safe at any time and in any place. I've told the story before of one of my trips to New York City. Twice on my way by subway, from Penn Station to the East Village, people took my suitcase up the stairs for me. That's what I mean by kind. I'll never see those people again, but I can love them forever. I think that somehow they loved me! They saw an older lady huffing up the stairs and they performed an act of love! They helped her up a flight of stairs and then disappeared into the crowd. They were kind. Was I frightened that they'd take off with my suitcases? Not at all. Maybe I'm foolish, but it worked. I walked with a lighter step! It was good.

We need to find love through generosity. There are different acts of generosity. I suppose we could call those two people generous of spirit. Generosity doesn't always mean money! We can be generous of spirit. We can be generous with time, we can be generous with Love! Hooray! Generosity covers a great scope of actions, sometimes even as simple as thanking a store clerk, or the hospital attendant, or a veteran for the service they all have given. It's not always a big service but the world is built on generosity, which, incidentally, often is just kindness.

Tolerance is another part of love, and sometimes tolerance is difficult. It means that, while I may not agree with you, I will accept you because, after all, we're all in this game of life together and forever. It is so much easier to live together when we bear true to our neighbor's differences. It doesn't mean that I agree with everything, but it does mean that I can recognize your right to live life differently from me.

Add these three things, and more together and we have a friendship. It should be a friendship based on more than just common points of interest, although common points of interest are important. When we include kindness, generosity and tolerance in our search for love, we're on our way to make Valentine's Day a whole lot more than red roses and a fancy box of chocolates. We make every day a day to love/a day of love. When we make love a part of every day, we make love the most important thing in our world. We can disagree, but when we have love as a priority, the disagreements don't become anger and hatred.

As the old song says, "What the world needs now, is love sweet love, it's the only thing that there's just too little of." (Bert Bacharach and Jackie DeShannon)

Let us remember how easy love is and how it makes us feel when we love! It's healthy. It's good. Keep the Valentines coming year round!

*"Now remain these three things, faith, hope and love. The greatest of these is love."*  
1 Corinthians 13:13

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



# FINANCIAL TIPS

## Financial Traps to Avoid

**There's a good reason so many athletes, entertainers and business people who made seven figures and higher suddenly find themselves filing for bankruptcy. Money mismanagement can eat through even the biggest bankrolls.**

Here are some specific threats to financial stability that people can avoid to help effectively manage their wealth.

### NO BUDGET

In 2019, CNBC reported that even though 93% of Americans<sup>1</sup> believe everyone should have a budget, only one in three actually does. Budgeting does not have to mean skipping coffee and driving a jalopy for the rest of your life. It does mean paying close attention to how much money comes in and where it all goes. Use your financial goals to guide you in steering your money in the right direction.

### TOO MUCH DEBT

If you have a lot of debt to pay off, a budget is all the more important. It helps reduce the likelihood of relying on more credit to fill the gaps. A budget also helps you to collect all those extra dollars and cents that you could put toward paying more than the bare minimum on debt. When paying off debt, start with the higher-interest accounts first and work your way through to save money.

### NO PROTECTION

Insurance can be expensive, but going without insurance can be even more so. Renters, homeowners, auto, health, disability and life insurance policies are the main ones you should consider. If you have a business — especially if it is your main or only source of income — getting business insurance can protect your livelihood in the event of a mishap with a client or customer.

### NO RETIREMENT PLANNING

Forbes estimates that roughly 25% of Americans have nothing saved for retirement<sup>2</sup>. This may be forcing some people to continue to hold stressful,

low-paying jobs well into their retirement years. It is never too early to start planning for retirement, no matter how small your contributions are. Remember to take advantage of matched contributions from employers whenever possible.

### TOO MUCH RISK

There is no investment that is 100% without risk. If there were, the returns on that investment would be negligible. Even so, taking on too much risk at the wrong time can lead to big financial problems. Taking on high levels of risk is appropriate for young people who have more time to recover and is not advised for people nearing retirement.

### SHADY INVESTMENTS

Even worse is when risky investments turn out to be fraudulent or shady. In fact, the more risk-free an investment sounds, the more you should do some digging. This holds true whether the business or individual you plan to invest in is a stranger or your brother. People who miscalculate or fail to do enough research can cause you just as much financial damage as fraudsters.

### POOR TAX MANAGEMENT

No matter how much or how little money you make, tax management is a great way to help keep money in your pockets. This is especially important after a large windfall, such as an inheritance. For instance, if you inherit an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and choose to cash out, you may lose a portion of this in taxes. Divorce is another time of life when tax management is key.

### MISMANAGED ASSETS

Stocks are often traded frequently, making them active investments, but you still need to ensure your portfolio stays balanced. Similarly, if you have a home, keeping up with repairs and improvements maintains and grows its value. Unmanaged assets also pose a problem, such as when people allow large sums of money to sit in accounts with low to no interest rates and high fees.

For some people, money management is a talent and financial literacy is almost an inborn skill. Many other people, however, could use a little help making financial decisions.



Becky Vittum LPL Investment Advisor Representative  
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www1.cbn.com/cbnnews/finance/2019/may/1-out-of-3-americans-dont-use-a-budget-but-93-say-everyone-needs-a-budget> <sup>2</sup> <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2019/06/03/report-a-quarter-of-americans-have-no-retirement-savings-infographic/#30e15bb23ebf>

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*This material was prepared by LPL Financial, LLC*

# 'All Hands on Deck'

## Claremont Elementary Schools Rise to Challenges of Full Return

Story and Photos by Eric Zengota  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—On February 1, Claremont schools reopened after being closed due to COVID-19-related safety concerns. After weeks of remote education, teachers, staff and students (as well as their parents) were ready to return to class.

Students at Bluff, Disnard and Maple Avenue elementary schools — when asked what they liked about being back in the classroom — answered with variations of “I get to see my friends again” and “I like working with my teacher in person” and “it’s easier than being on a screen all day.” As for the teachers, they say, “We like real-life, 3-D kids.”

Some of the returning students hadn’t been in the school buildings since March, so they began to learn how to study in a group again. Others who had been remote were entirely new to the district; teachers and staff worked closely to welcome them to schools where they knew no one at all.

A certain number of students — ranging from 15% to 30% — still are in remote learning. Reasons vary. Parents don’t want their children back in school. Children don’t want to go back. Perhaps most complicated: children want to go back but their parents decide against it.

The schools continue to accommodate remote learners through innovative online platforms. Grades 3 through 12 connect on Google Classroom. A more age-friendly platform, Seesaw, makes it easier for K-2 children



to log in, move through programs, and even send videos and photos. Remote teachers are in classrooms all by themselves, which lets them be mask-less to better connect with the children. Online all day, they teach, answer students’ questions and respond when they signal for help. In addition, the district provides a dedicated specialist for parents and students who need remote tech support.

School principals oversee this restructuring, rescheduling and reprogramming while keeping in touch with the students



**How do you play tag while social distancing? In Dana Rider’s physical education class, two taggers with balls try to reach out to classmates who are frantically skipping around Disnard’s gym.**

**At Disnard, Maggie Sergeant, 2nd grade, and Lisa Buswell, 3rd grade, are online all day teaching remote classes. Sergeant encourages her at-home kids to wear Disnard colors on School Spirit Friday, and at the start of each day, they stand up, salute the flag and lead the Pledge of Allegiance “so they feel just as much a part of our school as if they were here.” Remote learning, says Buswell, “has opened up opportunities with technology and gotten everyone to learn a ton about the platforms we use.” It’s a full house at Maple Avenue School. Many kids bring lunch from home. Each morning, others choose from hot and cold menu items, which they pick up from the kitchen in individual covered trays. Students sit at the same place every day, separated from classmates by plexiglass safety shields. Plow a pile and they will play. Maple Avenue students take a break from class. When the temperature drops to 10F, however, recess is inside.**

in their charge. Melissa Lewis (Disnard), Kathleen Chenette (Maple Avenue) and Dale Chenette (Bluff) subscribe to the “all hands on deck” approach to whatever a pandemic-era educational system requires.

Says Kathleen Chenette, “We believe in a WIN principle — What I Need. Every day is about remediation and enrichment. Everyone on staff is an interventionist for the sake of every child. And our teachers? They’re always heroes, especially this year.”



# Calendar Of Events

## Making It As A Maker Roundtable

CLAREMONT, NH—Claremont MakerSpace is celebrating National Entrepreneurship Week with a panel of local makers! They'll share their stories, how they got their small businesses off the ground, and the challenges they've faced and successes they've had. This event is free and open for anyone to join.

Feb. 16, 2021 at 4 PM

Visit this link for more information: <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2021/2/16/making-it-as-a-maker>.

## Wednesday, February 24, at 7:00 pm Senator Sue Prentiss to Address the Plainfield Democratic Committee Caucus Meeting

Senator Suzanne Prentiss will speak on the work that she has done in the NH Senate during the current session. She is a member of the Executive Departments and Administration Committee, Education Committee, and Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (JLCAR) committees. In this session she has sponsored 32 bills.

All registered Democrats in Plainfield are eligible to vote in the caucus elections. We encourage all registered Democrats to attend the caucus.

The meeting will be held by Zoom and all attendees must preregister for the meeting. Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlscuGqzqkqGNSKcvPt3B6a8T9uG5Q-mYbT>

## Public Announcement from the NH Health Department

Please be aware that we have had a recent case of rabies within our community. Local livestock have recently been infected.

Please be on the look out for animals acting strangely. Please do not confront wildlife.

Contact your local police department for assistance or NH Infectious Disease, 271-4496.

**Stephanie M. Schell,**  
**Director of Community Resources,**  
**Town of Plainfield, NH**

## Climate Action for New Hampshire Towns

The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly visible in our state and across the nation, and these impacts are directly tied to the increasing carbon emissions in our atmosphere. We need to reduce carbon emissions as quickly as possible to avoid the dangers of wildfires, intense storms, and warming oceans.

By Dan Weeks, Director of Market Development at ReVision Energy.

Join ReVision Energy and Claremont MakerSpace to learn how towns in New Hampshire can rapidly decrease their carbon emissions by switching to solar and other clean technologies. The cost of solar technology has dropped 75% in the past ten years, making solar electricity

more accessible than ever. Using local communities like Hanover and Lebanon as case studies, we'll look at how individuals can lead the charge in bringing clean energy to their towns. Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, 12:00pm. Register at <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/register/2021/2/17/climate-action-for-new-hampshire-towns>.

## Bookkeeping & Record Keeping 101 - Virtual Learning

CLAREMONT, NH—Learn best practices and IRS requirements of keeping books and records for your business. We'll also cover how to read basic financial statements and how to pick a record keeping system that fits your needs.

This Claremont MakerSpace class will be presented virtually. Please register and follow the directions on how to access the virtual learning portion. This class is presented free of charge.

Instructor is Amity Ollis. Ollis is a CPA, creative, and serial entrepreneur. She has over a decade of experience in accounting for small businesses and non-profits. Recently, she has focused on nurturing her creative side and balancing out left brain/right brain activities. Current careers/projects are: Lifeboataccounting.com

Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, 12:00 p.m.  
<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!/event/2021/2/18/bookkeeping-and-record-keeping-101-virtual-learning>.

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# Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice



## **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021 • 4:00 pm**



### **JOIN US... IN A SAFE WAY!**

- *An Extraordinary Year: 2020 In Review*
- *Board Elections*
- *Personal Thoughts From Our Team*
- *Staff Recognition*

### **RSVPs Required**

*Call or e-mail to receive a link to the meeting!*

*Cathy Raymond 603-526-4077 x231 [craymond@lakesunapeevna.org](mailto:craymond@lakesunapeevna.org)*

107 Newport Road • New London, NH 03257  
[LakeSunapeeVNA.org](http://LakeSunapeeVNA.org)

## Virtual Grief Support Available Through Lake Sunapee VNA

NEW LONDON, NH—Lake Sunapee VNA offers two virtual grief support groups for the community, which can be attended once, multiple times or as needed. To help anyone grieving during this pandemic and time of social distancing, a “Bereavement Check-in” group is available on the third Wednesday of every month from 4:00-5:00pm. A “Widow to Widow” group is held on the first Monday of every month from 3:30-5:00pm.

Anyone interested in participating in these free groups should email their contact information to Lori O'Connor at [loconnor@lake-sunapeevna.org](mailto:loconnor@lake-sunapeevna.org) and a member of the bereavement team will call with further details.

## SCCD Seeks Nominations for Conservation Legacy Awards

UNITY, NH—In honor of the 75th anniversary for Conservation Districts in the State of NH, the Sullivan County Conservation District seeks nominations for the Conservation Legacy Award. This award seeks to honor the nominees sustained commitment to the stewardship of natural resources in Sullivan County.

For 75 years the County Conservation Districts have worked tirelessly with landowners and communities to promote the conservation and responsible use of natural and agricultural resources. The Legacy Award endeavors to shine a spotlight on those who embody this mission. Businesses, organizations, individuals, and families are eligible for the award if they live in or are based in the County, have a minimum of 5 years experience of sustained commitment to conservation and stewardship.

Nominations should be no more than two pages and include a summary of why the nominee is deserving of this honor. Nominations could include information on the nominees' property stewardship, overall impact of the County's environmental health, activism on behalf of conservation and agriculture, education and outreach in the community, their willingness to share natural resource information with the public, service as a mentor for others, service to conservation organizations, and/or any notable accomplishments or awards.

Nominations are due to the SCCD no later than March 31, 2021 and can be submitted

digitally or by hard copy in the mail. Nominations can be mailed to Conservation Legacy Awards, Sullivan County Conservation District, 95 County Farm Rd. Unity, NH 03743 or emailed to [ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov](mailto:ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov).

These awardees will be announced in June 2021.

For further information about legacy awards, contact: Dawn Dextraze at 603-504-1004 or [ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov](mailto:ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov).

## NEWS FROM THE SULLIVAN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### The 2021 Spring Plant Sale is Here!

#### We are taking orders now.

This year's Plant Sale is now underway, featuring a variety of quality plants at good prices. The money raised from the sale supports conservation activities throughout the year, including workshops, programs and projects aimed at promoting and conserving the county's natural resources. This sale is also a service we provide for our community. All of the plants offered are hardy, healthy, and adapted to our growing conditions. Most are native, and none are invasive. New items this year include blueberries from Bascom Road Blueberry Farm in Newport. Bonus and Chandler Blueberries produce the largest berries. We are offering many Wild Edibles that are good for humans and wildlife alike. Elderberry is back due to popular demand and an increased awareness of the health benefits of elderberry syrup. We are selling it bare root and potted this year. You can find a recipe for elderberry syrup here or on our website.

Visit <https://www.sccdnh.org/local-agriculture> to view the catalog and download an order form. The order deadline is Wednesday, March 3rd.

Plant pick-up will be on Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 2, at the Ahern Building garage, Sullivan County Complex, County Farm Rd. Unity, NH. You will receive an email or phone call to schedule a time frame for pick-up. \*\*\*Some wildflowers will not be ready for pick-up until the first week of June.

If you would like a catalog and order form mailed to you, please contact Dawn Dextraze at 603-542-9511 x269 or [ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov](mailto:ddextraze@sullivancountynh.gov).

Catalogs and order forms may also be found starting the first week of February at these places: Grantham Public Library, Acworth General Store, Claremont Community Center, Newport and Lempster Town Offices, Goshen

Country Store, 100 Mile Market, and Plainfield Country Store.

## Need Some Extra Space for Your Next Project/Business/Creative Experiment?

CLAREMONT, NH—Need some extra space for your next project/business/creative experiment?

The Claremont MakerSpace has Personal Studio Spaces that provide personal work areas for dedicated users to call their own. Personal studio spaces are made up of 48" dividers and come in sizes of 60 sq/ft and 100 sq/ft, with each studio including 2 power outlets and an Ethernet jack.

Learn more about CMS Personal Studio Spaces at <https://claremontmakerspace.org/studio-space/>.

As well, they are currently offering tours of CMS. Tours are scheduled in advance and participants must follow our COVID-19 policies. To schedule a tour, please email [info@twinstatemakerspaces.org](mailto:info@twinstatemakerspaces.org).

## Charlestown VFW Bingo Schedule

CHARLESTOWN, NH—Charlestown VFW Bingo schedule for the new year:

Charlestown VFW Bingo is offering a weekly opportunity for some semblance of normalcy. Wednesday nights 5:00 for early birds and 6:30 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. In Gov. Sununu's most recent mandate request is that when moving about the hall, please wear a face covering whenever 6' social distancing can't be maintained. While seated at the tables, masks may be removed. Be mindful that in the Gov.'s mandate there are many reasons why someone may choose to not wear a mask – and they cannot be questioned or made to prove why they choose not to; nor will they be penalized for not wearing a mask. Please be respectful of others.

Attendance will be limited to 94. We do have some masks on hand as well as plenty of hand sanitizer for your use. To all our patrons that choose to attend, thank you for your patronage during these turbulent times. For those who

don't feel comfortable attending at this time, we understand and wish you well until we can meet again.

Tom St.Pierre, Commander, Charlestown Memorial VFW Post 8497

## A Message from ServiceLink

NH ServiceLink offices across the state are open via phone and email during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this time of social distancing it's easy to feel alone and isolated. ServiceLink is a phone call away! Trained, nationally and state certified staff is available via phone during normal working hours.

ServiceLink staff is here to listen, answer questions, problem solve, and link you to resources and services.

In addition, ServiceLink helps individuals connect to long term services and supports, access family caregiver information and supports, explore options and understand and access Medicare and Medicaid. We are, as always, confidential, unbiased, and free to the public.

Call 1-866-634-9412 toll free or find us online.

Direct phone numbers and email addresses for each local office are listed on our website. Offices are located in Atkinson, Berlin, Claremont, Concord, Keene, Laconia, Lebanon, Littleton, Manchester, Nashua, Stratham, Rochester, and Tamworth.

## Area Grocery Store Hours Reserved for High Risk Population

HANNAFORD - Most stores reserve 7 AM – 8 AM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. In Massachusetts, those special hours are 7 AM – 8 AM daily

MARKET BASKET 6 AM - 7 AM EVERY DAY  
Claremont

CO-OP FOOD STORES 7AM - 8 AM EVERYDAY  
WRJCT, Lebanon & Hanover

PRICE CHOPPER 6AM - 7AM EVERYDAY-  
Windsor & West Lebanon

SHAWS 7AM - 9AM TUES & THURS West  
Lebanon

WALMART 6 AM - 7 AM TUESDAYS ONLY  
Claremont & West Lebanon

PLAINFIELD COUNTRY STORE Call ahead  
for curb side pickup, 709-7055. Prepared  
meals, grocery items.

## Center for the Arts: Lake Sunapee Region 2021 Calendar of Events

[www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org](http://www.CenterForTheArtsNH.org)

“SAFE” LIVE AND VIRTUAL EVENTS  
Dates, Times, and Venues are subject to  
change...please check the website for up to  
date information

**February 20th** - Will Ogmundson in Concert-  
Part of the CFA Performing Arts Series Post-  
poned to summer 2021! Date and Time TBD  
Tickets on sale at Tatewell Gallery, Morgan Hill  
Bookstore and online at [www.centerforthearts-nh.org/performing-arts-series](http://www.centerforthearts-nh.org/performing-arts-series)

**March 5th** - First Fridays! Virtual Winter  
Dance Performance Time TBD A evening of  
new works by Kearsarge Conservatory of the  
Performing Arts Get the link at [www.cfanh.org](http://www.cfanh.org)  
[www.centerfortheartsnh.org/first-fridays](http://www.centerfortheartsnh.org/first-fridays)  
- We ask that all attendees wear a mask into  
the building, which can be removed once you  
are seated at your table.  
- Volunteers will be present to bring coffee and  
homemade treats to your table. All homemade  
treats will be individually wrapped.

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 2PM

#### The Lightness of Painting

Join artist Jamie Townsend as he shares his  
process of painting layers and color in this free  
virtual MakerSpace class. Townsend will  
demonstrate his craft while talking about his  
technique and answering questions from the  
virtual audience.

This class is presented free and a link to the  
Zoom connection information will be sent after  
registration.

Influenced by the rich and fearless colors of  
his youth in the 1970's, Townsend's palette is  
balanced with pastels that came into his work  
after attending the Ringling College of Art +  
Design in Florida. Drawing from his life experi-  
ence, it was merging with Eastern Philosophy  
that gave him the confidence to develop his  
own style. He began researching Abstract Ex-  
pressionists and painting large scale pieces.  
He embraces the modern street art movement  
and finds himself doing many murals as can-  
vases.

Soon Townsend was traveling to Europe and  
discovering the culture and places that fos-  
tered this style. He found painting in Provence  
to be his favorite where the light is so muted  
and easy to see furthering his sense of color.

When Townsend is not traveling and paint-  
ing, he enjoys being inspired by his children  
and the natural landscape and farmland of  
Vermont and its hardworking people. You can  
often find him building tea houses and doing  
sculpture out in the forests he has loved since  
his youth.

<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#/event/2021/2/16/the-lightness-of-painting-with-jamie-townsend>.

### FEBRUARY 15-20

#### Lebanon Opera House presents Cahoots NI in The University of Wonder & Imagination

February 15-20 (various start times)

Here's a fun way to bring your socially-dis-  
tanced family and friends together during the  
February school break week!

The University of Wonder and Imagination is  
a live interactive Zoom theater experience  
suitable for the entire family. Assemble with  
your fellow students and journey to the most  
unusual of universities where the mysterious  
Professor Bamberg will send you off on a jour-  
ney that proves nothing is quite as it seems.

Along the way, you'll interact with the liveli-  
est of lecturers, choose your subjects of study,  
enter themed rooms, and encounter a series of  
puzzles which unlock your magical powers.

In a unique staging for the COVID age, Ca-  
hoots NI broadcasts from an extensive, pur-  
pose-built set where magic and illusion have  
no boundaries. The acclaimed Belfast-based  
company brings a fun-filled, immersive theatri-  
cal experience to a screen near you. The  
choices you make in the moment will shape  
your unique experience.

Each 60-minute Zoom performance is limit-  
ed to 10 households (each household being  
under one roof, using one device) and is best  
suited for ages 7 and up.

For tickets and information, go to <https://lebanonoperahouse.org/events/cahoots-ni-the-university-of-wonder-imagination/>.

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 PLUMBERS' LICENSE RENEWAL CLASS AT RVCC

The next Plumbers' License Renewal Class  
is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17th at  
6:00 p.m. at the Claremont Campus.

For more information or to register, please  
go to: <https://rvcc.coursestorm.com/category/plumbing-licensure>.

## Claremont Senior Center News

Hi all! We hope you are all doing well and enjoying this nuisance snow. The sooner Spring comes, the better. We can't wait for the tulips and crocus to stick their heads out. We also know we can't wait to stick our heads out into the warm, Spring sun. While we are waiting, there are a few things going on at the Center.

The kitchen volunteers have whipped up some really, awesome meals this week. May they present:

Due to the storm, the Tuesday Take-out at the Center has been CANCELLED. We will see you Thursday for the Pork Dinner and Birthday Cake. Stay safe everyone.

Thurs. Feb. 18-Soup, Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable and Birthday Cake.

Take out only. Call 543-5998 before 10:30am to reserve your meals. Members-\$4, non-members-\$5. Don't miss out on these awesome meals and Cake!

"When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie, that's amore." Some of you are old enough to remember Dean Martin. The kitchen volunteers have gone Italian! They are presenting a SWEETHEART ITALIAN DINNER on Saturday, February 20th. They will be serving: Crisp Salad, Spaghetti in Red Sauce with Meatballs, Garlic Bread and a special Italian Dessert. This will be a take-out so break out that red checked tablecloth, a candle and a little wine. Setting the table helps the mood. Pickup is at 4:30 to 5:30pm. Cost-\$10. To reserve your bit of Italy, please call 543-5998 by 3:00pm. Your meals await!!

The Foot Clinic still has two more dates available for footsie pampering They will be at the Center on Wednesday Feb. 17 and Feb. 24. Call: (603)-748-1741 for an appointment. This is a new number, so please jot it down.

We had a Zoom board meeting this week to discuss when to reopen the Center full time. The big question besides the Penny Sale, the Car Show and the Fall Events was how to keep all safe. With all the new strains popping up, there was a lot of safety discussion. So, we have decided to delay the reopening until April. The date is "iffy" to say the least. But we will update it at the March meeting. We are so looking forward to hearing laughter and joyous talking echoing in the halls again.

Well, we guess that's it for this week. Please call to pick up books and puzzles. We are here

for you. Stay safe. Stay warm.

Thought for the Week: Take responsibility for your happiness. Never leave it in another's hands. You know what makes you happy.

Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights Rd., Claremont, NH. (603) 543-5998. Masks required.

## Claremont Fire Dept. Log

### **Sunday 2/7/21**

0151- Engine 1 responded on Chestnut St. for a medical call

1715- Engine 1 responded on High St. for a water problem

### **Monday 2/8/21**

1102- Engine 1 responded on Central St. for an alarm sounding

1239- Engine 1 responded on Elm St. for a medical call

2010- Engine 3 responded on Tutherly Ave. to assist Golden Cross

2301- Engine 1 responded on Lincoln Heights for a medical call

### **Tuesday 2/9/21**

0733- Engine 1 responded on Charlestown Rd. for a motor vehicle accident

0753- Engine 1 responded on Plains Rd. for an odor investigation

1313- Engine 1 responded on Albion Ave. to assist Golden Cross

1621- Engine 1 responded on Heritage Dr. for a medical call

2216- Engine 1 responded on Heritage Dr. for a suicidal subject

### **Wednesday 2/10/21**

0418- Engine 1 responded on Bonneau Rd. for a medical call

2052- Engine 3 responded on Main St. for a smoke investigation

2134- Engine 3 responded on Cindy Ave. for a CO problem

### **Thursday 2/11/21**

0317- Car 2 responded on Charlestown Rd. for a public assist

0401- Dispatched and cancelled en route

1754- Engine 3 responded on Briggs St. for a water problem

### **Friday 2/12/21**

0504- Engine 3 responded on Pleasant St. for an odor investigation

0514- Engine 1 responded on Madison Pl. for

a medical call

0834- Engine 3, Utility 1 responded on Myrtle St. for a CO problem

2314- Engine 3 responded on Davis St. for a medical call

### **Saturday 2/13/21**

0951- Engine 3 responded on Maple Ave. for a public assist

1043- Engine 3 responded on Lea St. for a medical call

1323- Engine 3 responded on Thrasher Rd. for a medical call

1607- Engine 3 responded on Main St. for a smoke investigation

1756- Engine 3 responded on Robert Easter Way for a snowmobile accident

2155- Engine 3, Engine 1, Utility 1 responded on Pleasant St. for a motor vehicle accident

## **Maple Celebration Features Sleigh Rides and Torchlight Snowshoe**

WOODSTOCK, VT—Billings Farm & Museum will host its annual Maple Celebration, February 13-21 from 10 am – 4 pm. The Vermont traditions of maple sugaring will be on display – the tools, historic photos and exhibits on the maple sugaring process. Daily cooking demonstrations and samples of two popular maple recipes, Maple Popcorn and Maple French Toast Cookie will take place.

Conditions permitting, the site will offer horse-drawn sleigh rides Feb. 13-20 to families (socially distanced) from 11 am – 1 pm. Reservations for rides will be taken upon arrival at the Ticket Desk, on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$5 per person in addition to the purchase of a general admission ticket.

Enjoy the winter landscapes with a snowshoe trek through the picturesque snow-covered farm fields and along the Ottauquechee River– bring your own or rent from the nearby Woodstock Inn & Resort's Nordic Center or Activity Center.

Tour the Farm Life Exhibits to see what life on the farm was like in the 1890's and find the snowpeople hidden within the exhibits. Learn about the families and history of Billings Farm in our Upon This Land Exhibit. A Place in the Land, the Academy Award – nominee film which chronicles the development of Billings Farm is shown throughout the day.

Find more information on our various programs at [billingsfarm.org](http://billingsfarm.org).

Remembering Loved Ones...

## Life Tributes

### Obituaries May Be Found On Our Website

**We post obituaries on our website to make them available in “real time,” as they are released by funeral homes. We will continue to publish them here weekly, as well, for your convenience if you wish to print out any of them.**

[www.etickernewsoclaremont.com](http://www.etickernewsoclaremont.com)

#### David R. LeBarron, 73

David R. LeBarron, 73, of Claremont, NH, died February 9, 2021, at Valley Regional Hospital.

He was born on December 1, 1947, in Bel lows Falls, VT, the son of Francis M. and Mar-jorie F. Lafayette LeBarron.

David worked for many years at Timken Aerospace.

The family includes his wife, Mary Simoneau LeBarron; his three children, Francis (Leanna) LeBarron, Tammy (Butch) Fernett and David Jr. (Susan) LeBarron; one sister, Carol (Charles) Wade; many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents; and two sisters, June Benjamin and Frances Benjamin.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Sullivan County Humane Society, P.O. Box 111, Claremont, NH 03743.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, services will be held in the summer of 2021.

The Stringer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

#### Sylvia M. Davis, 70

Sylvia M. Davis, 70, of Charlestown, NH, died February 5, 2021, at her home.

She was born on December 1, 1950, in Bennington, VT, the daughter of Robert Junior

and Elizabeth (Parker) Charlton.

She enjoyed watching her birds at the bird feeders on the front porch. She loved cats and seeing her great grandchildren and visiting with friends.

The family includes two daughters, Victoria Kennett and her husband, John; and Michelle Silver, all of Charlestown; four grandchildren, Angela Kennett, Evan Kennett, Emmalee Limoges and Erinn Limoges; four great grandchildren, Madison, Ryleigh, Kayleigh and Dal-lace; one sister, Julie of South Londonderry.

She was predeceased by her husband, Hay-ford “Red” Davis, whom she married in June of 1970, and her parents.

Due to Covid 19, there will not be any visiting hours held. There may be a celebration of life in the summer.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the family to help with the cost of a monument.

The Stringer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

#### Donald B. Fontaine, Sr., 99

Donald B. Fontaine, Sr. passed away on February 6th, 2021, at his home in Claremont.

He was 99 years old. Don was born in Clare-mont, NH, on September 26th, 1921, one of nine children born to Simeon and Etta Fontaine; he resided in Claremont all his life.

He graduated from Stevens High School in 1939.

On September 26, 1943, he married Rita A. (Girard) Fontaine. They raised three sons. They celebrated 77 years of marriage in 2020.

Don worked farming with his father for sev-eral years. He later worked at the Claremont Post Office, was later transferred to the White River Jct., VT, Post Office and finished his ca-reer back in Claremont where he retired from US Postal Service in 1982.

After retirement, he started a Christmas tree farm on his property. He enjoyed tending the Christmas trees during the spring and summer months but, most of all, he loved to see the families arrive each year, cut their own trees by hand and visit with them. He made Christ-mas wreaths which he also enjoyed. He spent many years tapping trees on the farm and making maple syrup.

In the mid-1980s to late 1990s, he served as Sullivan County Commissioner. He received an award from the NH Association of Counties

“Safety glasses are your friend.”

-Dr. Sam Giveen

All kinds of common eye injuries can be prevented just by wearing safety glasses. That's what Dr. Sam will tell you. Does he sound like your dad? Sometimes. But your dad had some good advice. And so does Dr. Sam. See for yourself.

DOCTOR **SAM'S**  
EYE CARE



(603) 543-2020  
9 Dunning St, Claremont  
(we're right there by the hospital)

for Commissioner of the Year.

He was also a member of the NH Timberland Owners Association and the NH Tree Farms for several years.

He was a member of St. Mary's Parish in Claremont.

For several years from early spring to late fall, he could be seen mowing lawns with his grandson who works as a landscaper. He did this until he was in his early 90s!

Donald is survived by his wife, Rita, of Claremont; sons: Donald B. Jr. (Anne), Pete (Betty), Robin (Laurie) all of Claremont; nine grandchildren: Rita Martin, Marissa Fontaine, Donnice Fontaine, Adam Fontaine, Jessie Lommerin, Rachel Thomas, Joan Fontaine, Elise Fontaine and Dan Fontaine; several great grandchildren: Eli Martin, Matthew Fontaine, Kyle Fontaine, Garrett Lommerin, Emily Lommerin, Lawson Fontaine and Walker Fontaine. He is also survived by three great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

All his siblings predeceased him: Ernest Fontaine, Ethel Hathaway, Beatrice Stiles, George Fontaine, Lillian Matthews, Henry Fontaine, Francis Fontaine, and Blanche St. John.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a memorial service will be held at a later date.

The Stringer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### James M. Thompson

James Milton Thompson, born September 28, 1928, in Holden, MA, to Charles Howard Thompson and Mary Agnes (Wheeler) Thompson, died peacefully at his home on February 5, 2021.

Jim (James) served proudly in the United States Army from 1946-1948.

After the service he was employed in various jobs and retired from Cone Blanchard in Windsor, VT, in 1990.

He married Betty Ann (Smith) of Charlestown, NH, in 1988.

Jim and Betty lived on Sanibel Island and in Fort Myers, FL, for many years. Jim loved the warmth and sunshine. He was able to enjoy his hobby of flying small engine airplanes year-round. He found pleasure in attending the theatre and playing cards with many friends. In his spare time, he enjoyed woodworking, making clocks and birdhouses among many other items.

Jim and Betty traveled extensively throughout the United States in their camping van and covered all 50 states and all of the Canadian provinces. In their retirement they also had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe, parts of the Caribbean, and South America.

In 2017 Jim and Betty returned to Charlestown to be nearer their families.

The surviving family includes his loving wife, Betty; his stepdaughter Catherine (Bruce) Boedtker, Brownsville, VT; two daughters Deborah (Alan) Cort, Amherst, NH; and Pamela (Phillip) Darrow, Blandford, MA; stepson Scott

(Cheryl) Hill of Paxton, MA; and son Charles Thompson, Santa Barbara, CA; nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Jim was predeceased by his siblings, Margaret Wheeler Thompson Valiton; Gladys Thompson Bowers; Beatrice Thompson Brooks; and infant brother Charles Howard Thompson, Jr.

A private burial for family and close friends will be held in the spring at Hope Hill Cemetery in North Charlestown NH.

The Stringer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



### *'Halo' There...*

**Halos are a sign of high, thin cirrus clouds drifting 20,000 feet or more overhead. Clouds contain millions of tiny ice crystals. The halos you see are caused by both refraction, or splitting of light, and also by reflection, or glints of light from the ice crystals. The crystals have to be oriented and positioned just so with respect to your eye, in order for the halo to appear. That's why, like rainbows, halos around the sun – or moon – are personal. Everyone sees their own particular halo, made by their own particular ice crystals, which are different from the ice crystals making the halo of the person standing next to you. Halos can have many forms, ranging from colored or white rings to arcs and spots in the sky (Phyllis A. Muzeroll photo).**

**The Claremont City Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, February 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall and via Zoom.**

To join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81529457408?pwd=dmpEQ1BRNXNibVFUblYNU1nWnZIQT09>

Passcode: 739587

Or by telephone: 1-646-558-8656

Webinar ID: 815 2945 7408

Passcode: 739587

If there is a problem getting through to that number, please call 603-542-7002.

### AGENDA

- 6:30 PM 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 6:32 PM 2. ROLL CALL
- 6:34 PM 3. AGENDA CHANGES
  
- 6:35 PM 4. MAYOR'S NOTES
  
- 6:40 PM 5. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
  
- 6:45 PM 6. CITIZEN'S FORUM (Comments on Non-agenda Items Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker (Council Rule 24))
  
- 7. OLD BUSINESS
  - 6:55 PM A. Legislative Update
  - 7:00 PM B. Lead Update
  - 7:15 PM C. Donation Policy Discussion
  - 7:25 PM D. Council Goals Discussion
  - 7:40 PM E. Ordinance 582 Amend Merit Plan – Second Reading – Public Hearing
  - BREAK
  - 8:05 PM F. Merit Plan Employees Raise Discussion
  
- 8. NEW BUSINESS
  - 8:20 PM A. Resolution 2021-25 Updating the Merit Plan – Public Hearing (City Manager)
  - 8:35 PM B. Order for Abatement Costs Pursuant to RSA 147:7-b – 302 Plains Road (City Manager)
  - 8:50 PM C. Apply for Grant Funds from the N.H. Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) (City Manager)
  - 9:00 PM D. Resolution 2021-22 Airport Fuel Credit Card Reader – Public Hearing (City Manager)
  - 9:10 PM E. Content of Departmental Reports (Mayor Lovett)
  - 9:20 PM F. Council Budget Priorities (Mayor Lovett)
  
- 9:35 PM 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES
  
- 9:40 PM 10. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
  
- 9:45 PM 11. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: Claremont City Council's next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall and via Zoom.



VALENTINES DAY IS COMING FAST,  
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A FRIEND THAT'LL LAST?

NO KIDS, NO PETS, I'M A ONE MAN SHOW,  
I'VE COMPLETED MY TRAINING, AND I'M READY TO GO!

5 MONTHS IN A SHELTER IS WAY TOO LONG,  
IF YOU'RE A SINGLE MAN OR WOMAN,  
I KNOW WE'LL GET ALONG.

IF YOUR HEART HAS ROOM, CONSIDER ADOPTING ME,  
MY NAME IS SPUD; I'M FIVE YEAR'S GOING YOU SEE!

HOPEFULLY THIS VALENTINE HAS STRUCK A CHORD.  
READ MY BIO, AND APPLY AT [WAGSWIGGLES.ORG](http://WAGSWIGGLES.ORG)



Ryan and Ryleigh Smolnik toast one another over a pepperoni pizza-for-two (Courtesy photo).



Brandon and Emma Langlois had a great night playing games, eating pizza and then ended the night with snacks and a movie (Courtesy photos).

Bud Marro hand-delivers the evening's treats to Olivia and Sean Colby (Eric Zengota photo).



## Hearts and Flowers — and Pizza!

### Daddies and Daughters Enjoy a Special Date Night

The annual Daddy Daughter Dance at the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center couldn't happen this year because of COVID-19 restrictions. Instead, the Parks & Recreation Department, along with sponsor Mascoma Bank, came up with Date Night to continue the Valentine's Day-themed tradition. Dozens of families picked up their pizzas, gift bags and carnations at the Center before enjoying the treats — and time together — at home.

Nicholas MacLeay surprised Reagan (left) and Sawyer on their date night of treats and flowers (Courtesy photos).





## ATTENTION CLAREMONT MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS!

**ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SPRING ACTIVITY THAT IS:**

\* IN PERSON (with safe social distancing measures)

\* FREE

\* FUN WITH YOUR FRIENDS?



IF YES, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR THE **FINDING OUR STRIDE** RUNNING TEAM, COACHED BY POLICE CHIEF MARK CHASE!

**Questions? Please contact:**

Justin Martin at the Community Center: [cccprograms@claremontnh.com](mailto:cccprograms@claremontnh.com)

Or Jenny Williams at Finding Our Stride: [jenny05055@gmail.com](mailto:jenny05055@gmail.com)

THE TEAM WILL MEET AT THE CLAREMONT COMMUNITY CENTER 2-3 DAYS PER WEEK AFTER SCHOOL FROM MID APRIL THROUGH EARLY JUNE 2021, FOR RUNNING, STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY EXERCISES AND GREAT TEAM FUN.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO ALREADY BE A RUNNER TO PARTICIPATE - JUST COME WITH A GREAT ATTITUDE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO TRY A RUN/WALK....YOU WILL PROGRESS FROM THERE!

**THE FIRST 20 RUNNERS TO SIGN UP AND ATTEND AT LEAST THREE PRACTICES WILL RECEIVE A VOUCHER FOR A FREE PAIR OF RUNNING SHOES AT HUBERT'S OF CLAREMONT!**

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY AT**

**<https://forms.gle/wBdd7pLRj74gURCZ8>**

**[WWW.FINDINGOURSTRIDE.ORG](http://WWW.FINDINGOURSTRIDE.ORG)**