

Claremont Country Club - Ladies League News

CLAREMONT, NH—The opening banquet for the Ladies league is Thursday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m. If you are a golfer and would like to join our league, we would love to have you. We play throughout the summer on Thursdays at 5:15 p.m. You do not need to be a member of the club to join the league.

If you're interested or know someone else who is, please call 603-543-0435.

Opening Day for CYBSA Cancelled Due to Weather

CLAREMONT, NH—Opening Ceremonies for the Claremont Youth Baseball & Softball Association, scheduled for Saturday, were cancelled due to rainy weather and soggy grounds at Monadnock Park. Initially, the event had been pushed back to 11:00 a.m. with games set to start at noon, but upon further evaluation of the fields and how wet they were, all the events ended up being cancelled. A new date has not yet been announced.



4th Annual Donald I. Gurney Sr. Field Day

SPRINGFIELD, VT—The 4th Annual Donald I. Gurney Sr. Field Day – A Celebration of Springfield Athletics will be held on Saturday, May 11. The event will be held in continued collaboration with Springfield Parks & Rec Dept. and the Springfield School District and will be celebrating more than 300 athletes – grades K-12.

Donations are greatly appreciated and can be sent to the Springfield Booster Club – PO Box 666 – Springfield, VT 05156. We also welcome donations of goods and services. For more information, contact Rachel Hunter at 802-375-5722 or hunner1@gmail.com with

questions. Be sure to like us on Facebook for all updates at Springfield, VT Booster Club.

SHS Baseball Roundup

04/13/19	at Merrimack Valley	L	0 - 6
04/17/19	Pembroke	L	3 - 7
04/19/19	Plymouth	W	4 - 3
04/24/19	Fall Mountain	W	10 - 0
04/29/19	at John Stark		4:15 PM
05/01/19	Lebanon		7:00 PM
05/02/19	ConVal		4:00 PM
05/03/19	at Windsor		4:30 PM
05/06/19	Kearsarge		7:00 PM
05/10/19	at Newport		3:30 PM
05/10/19	Newport		7:00 PM
05/11/19	at Hanover		2:00 PM
05/13/19	Hanover		4:30 PM
05/17/19	at Kennett		4:00 PM
05/18/19	at Bow		10:00 AM
05/22/19	at Lebanon		4:00 PM
05/24/19	at Fall Mountain		7:00 PM

SHS Softball Roundup

04/13/19	at Merrimack Valley	L	0 - 12
04/17/19	Pembroke	L	2 - 3
04/19/19	Plymouth	L	3 - 4
04/22/19	at Hanover	W	19 - 2
04/24/19	Fall Mountain	W	14 - 2
04/29/19	at John Stark		4:15 PM
05/01/19	Lebanon		7:00 PM
05/02/19	ConVal		4:00 PM
05/10/19	at Newport		3:30 PM
05/10/19	Newport		7:00 PM
05/13/19	Hanover		4:30 PM
05/15/19	Hollis-Brookline		4:00 PM
05/16/19	at Windsor		4:00 PM
05/17/19	at Kennett		4:00 PM
05/18/19	at Bow		10:00 AM
05/22/19	at Lebanon		4:00 PM
05/24/19	at Fall Mountain		4:00 PM

SHS Lacrosse Roundup

04/12/19	at Lebanon	L	1 - 13
04/17/19	at Milford	L	1 - 21
04/19/19	at Laconia	L	1 - 17
05/01/19	Kearsarge		5:30 PM
05/03/19	Trinity		4:00 PM
05/06/19	at Hopkinton		4:00 PM
05/08/19	Bishop Brady		4:00 PM
05/10/19	Inter-Lakes-Moultonborough		4:00 PM
05/13/19	at Gilford		4:00 PM
05/15/19	Plymouth		4:30 PM
05/17/19	Pelham		4:00 PM
05/20/19	at Monadnock		4:00 PM
05/22/19	at Campbell		4:00 PM

SHS Tennis Roundup

04/10/19	at Conant	L	0 - 9
04/12/19	Lebanon		4:00 PM
04/16/19	at Kearsarge	L	0 - 9
04/19/19	Gilford	L	0 - 9
04/29/19	at Wilton-Lyndeborough		4:00 PM
04/30/19	Kearsarge		4:00 PM
05/02/19	at Trinity		4:00 PM
05/03/19	Trinity		4:00 PM
05/06/19	Wilton-Lyndeborough		4:00 PM
05/07/19	Monadnock		4:00 PM
05/08/19	at Lebanon		4:00 PM
05/10/19	Conant		4:00 PM
05/15/19	at Inter-Lakes		4:00 PM
05/17/19	at Monadnock		4:00 PM

Opening Night at Claremont Motorsports Park May 3

CLAREMONT, NH—Claremont Motorsports Park will hold its Opening Night for this season on Friday, May 3. Racing begins at 7:00 p.m.; grandstands open at 4:00 p.m. The former Claremont Speedway was sold earlier this year by Phil Hayes and his partner Jim Ambrose to Norman Wrenn Jr. and Ben Bosowski who own three other tracks, including Hudson Speedway. Haynes is staying on as general manager.

SHS Baseball Team Has Full Week Ahead

The Stevens Baseball team has had a number of postponements with the early spring rain, but have gotten in a few games since their opener at Merrimack Valley back on April 13th.

Stevens played their home opener on April 17th versus Pembroke. Stevens trailed 3-2 going to the bottom of the sixth, but rallied to tie the game on Cam Macia double, but the Spartans tallied 4 runs in the top of the seventh inning to go on to the victory. Ethan Johnson started for Stevens and Josh Stithen took the loss in relief. Owen Taylor had a pair of doubles. Ethan Johnson, Josh Stithen, Alex Taylor, and Macia had doubles in the game for the Cardinals.

On April 19th, the Cardinals recorded a come from behind 4-3 victory, their first of the season and first in Division II, over the Plymouth Bobcats, a perennial playoff team in Division II. Again, Stevens came from behind, scoring 3 runs in the bottom of the 6th inning, to take the lead. Cam Macia had a big RBI double in the 6th inning, fighting off a tough 0-2 pitch for the big hit. Dennis Peaslee also fought off a tough pitch with the bases loaded getting the ball in play to short, and hustling down the line to first base. In trying to record the double play and retiring Peaslee, the Bobcats threw the ball away allowing both Owen Taylor and Josh Stithen to score and take the 4-3 lead. Derrick Stanhope worked his way out of trouble in the seventh inning as he got a big out when he got the ball by the Plymouth hitter trying a squeeze, and Macia tagged out the runner trying to score from third. A pop out to third ended the game and the Cardinals had their first win of the 2019 season.

Trey Theriault had 2 hits and an RBI. Owen Taylor, Macia, and Stanhope had the other hits for Stevens. Macia and Peaslee had big RBI's, as well. Stanhope hurled a complete game going 7 innings, allowing 3 hits, walking 6, striking out 7, and allowing just 2 earned runs.

Stevens got in one game last week, a Wednesday night game with the Wildcats of Fall Mountain. Stevens had 11 hits on the evening and Derrick Stanhope pitched another gem as the Cardinals won 10-0 in 6 innings to

move to 2-2 on the young season. Cam Macia led the Cardinals at the plate as he had 3 hits, and 3 RBI. Alex Taylor had a pair of hits. Josh Stithen had a hit and 2 RBI. Trey Theriault had a hit and scored a pair of runs, while Owen Taylor had a triple and scored twice, as well. Jarrett LaPointe had a hit an RBI and Tyler Bonneau had a hit and scored two runs. Stanhope pitched outstanding again as he went 6 innings, allowing 4 hits, walking just one, and recording 7 strikeouts in his complete game shutout.

The Cardinals have a full week as games are being rescheduled. They travel to Weare to play John Stark on Monday at 4:15 p.m., will host Lebanon on Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m., will play Con Val at home on Thursday at 4:00 p.m., before finishing a busy week with a game at Windsor on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Spring Turkey Season Opens this Week with Changes to Bag Limits

CONCORD, NH – Spring gobbler season opens this week in the Granite State, and New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Turkey Biologist Ted Walski predicts another good harvest during the 2019 season.

New Hampshire's spring turkey hunting season opens on May 1, a new starting date, and runs statewide through May 31. For the first time in New Hampshire history, spring turkey hunters can harvest a second male or bearded bird after their first bird has been legally registered. A second bird may only be taken in WMUs H1, H2, J2, K, L, or M.

Turkey hunters who harvest a second bird during the spring season forfeit their chance to take a fall bird during either the statewide fall archery season OR during the 7-day fall shotgun season. The fall shotgun season is restricted to WMUs D2, G, H1, H2, I1, I2, J1, J2, K, L and M. The fall season allows for the taking of one bird of either sex.

Detailed information regarding the 2019 spring and fall turkey seasons are available at:

www.huntnh.com/hunting/documents/turkey-regs.pdf.

About 20,000 people participate in turkey hunting in New Hampshire out of a total of approximately 60,000 hunters in the state. Last year, spring turkey hunters harvested 4,204 birds. See turkey harvest by town and Wildlife Management Unit in the newly published 2018 NH Wildlife Harvest Summary, available at www.huntnh.com/hunting/documents/2018-harvest-summary.pdf.

A New Hampshire turkey license is required for hunters of all ages (\$16 for state residents and \$31 for nonresidents). Hunters age 16 and older must hold either a current New Hampshire hunting or archery license and a turkey permit. Licenses are available online at www.huntnh.com or from any license agent.

If you want to try turkey hunting this spring and haven't completed Hunter Education yet, consider the Apprentice Hunting License. This license allows those 16 and older interested in trying hunting to do so under the guidance of an experienced hunter without first taking Hunter Education. Learn more at www.huntnh.com/hunting/apprentice.html.



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Inspiration

Colors

By Priscilla Hull

We expect the beauty of colors changing in the fall. It is bright, sometimes too bright, but always beautiful! We tolerate the leaf peepers and we enjoy the beauty that surrounds us even for that short period. It's almost like an encouragement before the dark and dull days of winter.

Do you ever look up in the spring? This was brought home to me one night many years ago by my son. It was a warm spring evening and he and I were walking the dogs. We talked about many things on those walks, but this night he asked me if I ever looked up at the trees. I'm sure I did, but I don't recall my answer. He told me to look up. "Really look up, Mom. What do you see?" What I suddenly saw was the ends of the branches and how lacy they were with the budding flowers and leaves. I'd never seen this before.

Since that time, I spend a lot more time "looking up" in all seasons, but mostly in the spring! In the evening when the deep indigo sky provides a sharp contrast to the dark branches, the branches seem like delicate lace on a woman's fine dress. During the day the changes are subtle and day by day. It starts with the pine trees which one day seem a little greener, as the new needles appear and give a brilliance to the dark green of the older needles. Each day they grow and the trees suddenly are brighter. Then the maples begin to change to red or green, depending on the kind. Soon the birches take on a yellow glow, as the tiny flowers appear. Then come the willow trees, which look like something from an oriental sketch book. Eventually the oaks add their individual colors to the palate until all the greens or reds of all the trees burst into the colors that they will maintain until the cooler days of fall reverse the process and once again we glory in the colors of all leaves as they prepare for the winter ahead.

Everything is in order. Everything has a time. Whatever we miss from the previous season, we'll be rewarded with something beautiful in this season.

What is your favorite season? Is it the anticipation of beauty to come, that makes you marvel at the wonders of the world? Surely there is beauty all around and all we have to do is "Look up" to see this beauty and to see from whence it comes.

"To whom can you compare me? Whom do I resemble?" says the Holy One. Look up at the sky! Who created all these heavenly lights? He is the one who leads out their ranks; he calls them all by name. Because of his absolute power and awesome strength, not one of them is missing.

Isaiah 40:25-26

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



Calendar Of Events

Iron Pour in Claremont

CLAREMONT, NH—Create your own piece of metal art! Carve a design into hardened sand blocks and watch as they are filled with molten iron. The Iron Guild will be hosting an iron pour demonstration Saturday, May 4th, from 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. at the Visitor Center Green in Claremont. This family friendly event welcomes all ages to observe or carve a personal design into pre-made sand molds and take home cast iron tiles. (Tools will be provided); \$10 fee for molds. A limited number will be available.

Events will also include a blacksmith demo by Stone House Forge and a display by the American Precision Museum.

Send inquiry for examples to: <http://www.ernestmontenegro.com/contact/>.

Memorial Brunch in Newport

Dave and Jane Heald Memorial Brunch Sunday, May 5th 11:30 – 1:00

South Congregational Church, UCC, Newport, NH

Traditional Heald Luncheon fare with Dave's famous chowders, quiche, baked ham, salads and pastries. In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, there will also be some Mexican flair--Chilaquiles and Taco Pie.

Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$6 for 5-12 and under 5 free. Rolling seating starting at 11:30. Vegetarian and dairy free options available. Call 863-3729 for reservations, tickets available at the door.

Free Beginners Bridge Course Set

CLAREMONT, NH—Spring brings a chance to learn to play bridge and for free.

A seven week course introducing people to the card game of bridge will be taught Thursdays at the Claremont Senior Center starting May 2 at 1:00 p.m.

Instructor Alan Grigsby will begin by describ-

ing the deck of cards, explain Standard American bidding, and teach effective card playing techniques. Sessions will run until 3:00 p.m. Attendees can go to the Senior Center's weekly luncheon on Thursdays before the course begins. The course will conclude on June 13.

Membership at the Senior Center is not required to take the course. Registration can be made at the Senior Center.

For further information, call Grigsby at 603-542-2031.

Kinship Raising Support Group

NEWPORT, NH—A support group in Newport for kinship raising family member's kids is meeting 10:00 a.m. to noon every other Friday. Meetings held at the old Towle School, 86 North Main Street. Learn more at New Hampshire Grandparents raising Grandchildren on Facebook; check the page for updates or call Stacey Hammerlind at 802-478-0844.

Tickets Now on Sale for the 63rd Apple Blossom Cotillion

SPRINGFIELD, VT—The 63rd Apple Blossom Queen will be crowned on Saturday, May 4, at Riverside Gymnasium in Springfield.

"The Apple Blossom Cotillion is both a community tradition and a fundraising event," said Tonia Fleming, Development Officer for Springfield Hospital. Proceeds are used to fund the Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career Award and to support local health care services.

Tickets for the Friday, May 3rd "Opening Night" performance cost \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Tickets for the Saturday, May 4th "Grand Performance" cost \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Both shows start at 7:30 pm and doors open at 6 pm. Tickets may be purchased at Tina's Hallmark Store in Springfield Plaza, Boccaccio's salons in Springfield and Bellows Falls, and at Members Advantage Credit Union in Springfield.

This Apple Blossom Cotillion welcomes back long-time directors Pam Church Shaughnessy and Carrie Jewell to continue the tradition started by the Springfield Hospital Auxiliary, continued by Bob Spindler, and now presented by the Hospital's Development Office. This year, 12 high school contestants and their escorts will be joined by 21 elementary school couples. The event's theme, "A Gleeful Evening," and will feature songs performed in

the long-running musical comedy-drama television series "Glee".

An exhibit of the Cotillion's past is on display on the 3rd floor of Springfield Health Center at 100 River Street in Springfield, VT, and will run until the week after the Cotillion.

For information, call Tonia Fleming, 885-7613 or tfleming@springfieldmed.org.

Reed Optical Hosts Book Drive and Raffle

CLAREMONT & SUNAPEE, NH—Reed Optical is hosting a Book Drive and Raffle to support two local libraries. During the month of April, Reed Optical will be collecting book donations at both its Claremont (Pleasant Street) and Sunapee (Post Office Road) locations. In exchange for a book donation, an entry will be given toward a drawing of fabulous prizes. Take a look at the prizes in either office or on the Reed Optical Facebook pages.

The public is invited to help celebrate Reed's 10-year anniversary with Optometrists Drs. Jeff and Tina Smrkovski by supporting this book drive. Books collected in Claremont will be donated to the Fiske Free Library, while books collected in Sunapee will be donated to the Abbott Library.

For more information about Reed Optical, or the book drive, please visit their website, <http://www.reedoptical.com>. Contact the Claremont location at 603-543-3125, sales@reedoptical.com or <http://facebook.com/ReedOptical>. Contact the Sunapee location at 603-763-7302, sunapee@reedoptical.com or <http://facebook.com/ReedOpticalSunapee>

CHARLESTOWN RECREATION COMMITTEE RECREATION NEWS

CHARLESTOWN'S TRAILS: Looking for some outdoor fun right here in town? The Charlestown Conservation Commission (CCC) maintains six (6) trails, listed below:

The Great Meadows Trail is 1.2 miles and is considered an easy trail. It starts on Lower Landing Road and follows the Connecticut River southward. There are great views of the Connecticut River as well as the "Great Meadow". Great Meadow is an important migratory stop for birds. A great spot for bird watching.

The Nature Trail is .5 miles and is considered an easy trail. It starts behind the firehouse, up over a ridge and down to Clay Brook, over the

culvert and upstream, up a hill through a variety of habitats, including the riparian buffer zone, hemlocks, hardwood, finishing in a pine stand. Once at Fling Road, if you look back over the brook, you'll see the remnants of a grist-mill dam.

The Reservoir Lot Trails is 1.8 miles and is considered a moderate trail. There are two trails that can be followed. The southern loop is mostly dominated by hemlock and the northern trail is mostly hardwood. Deer, turkey, and bear have been seen along this series of trails.

The Connecticut River State Forest Trail is 1.3 miles each way and is considered a difficult trail. It starts at East Street Ext, inclines for about a mile then flattens out. It ends at Lamb Road. Part of the trail runs through a hemlock stand that has been a deer wintering yard. Bear have also been seen in the forest.

The Hubbard Hill State Forest Trail is 2.2 miles and is considered a moderate trail. It crosses and parallels power lines at points while following along a snowmobile trail.

The Halls Pond Trail is 3.1 miles and is considered a moderate trail. There are many deer signs and an occasional moose. There are also many birds, and, in the migrating season, the pond holds ducks and geese. This trail uses some private property and runs over the Acworth town line for a short distance and back into Charlestown, between a farmhouse and barn. The trail skirts some vernal pools so is strictly hiking and horseback riding only.

For more information, directions, and maps on Charlestown's Trails, go to this website: <https://www.trailfinder.info/> or <https://www.-trailink.com/city/charlestown-nh-trails/>.

BABE RUTH GIRLS SOFTBALL SUMMER LEAGUE: 12U (no older than 12 by 12/31/18). Please register at the Town Office. \$75.00 per player.

BABE RUTH BOYS BASEBALL LEAGUE: Ages 13-16. Please register at the Town Office. \$75.00 per player.

POOL DIRECTOR AND POOL GUARDS: Time to start planning for Summer! The CREC is accepting applications for a Pool Director and Life Guards. Training is available in February/March (dates to be determined). Guaranteed hours. Starting wage based upon experience. Applicants subject to background check. Please call or visit Town Office to submit an application.

CHARLESTOWN RECREATION DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PAGE

Please continue to check the Facebook page for all announcements and upcoming events.

Overeaters Anonymous Big Book Meetings

CLAREMONT, NH—Overeaters Anonymous Big Book Meetings are held at Valley Regional Healthcare in Claremont on Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the library. Please use Dunning Street entrance.

Claremont La Leche League

CLAREMONT, NH—Breastfeeding questions? Get answers and meet other breastfeeding mothers. Claremont La Leche League Claremont La Leche League will be meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the TLC Family Resource Center, 109 Pleasant Street: Mornings, from 9:30—11:00 a.m., evenings, 5:30—7:00 p.m. LLL Leaders are trained and accredited through LLLI to offer help to parents, families, and communities to breastfeed, chestfeed, and human milk feed their babies through parent-to-parent support. A leader will be available to answer your questions.

Assistance, information, and support are also available via telephone, email, and the LLLI website. ClaremontLLL@gmail.com, Jess (603) 630-0184, Zadiah (603) 306-9892; they may also be found on Facebook.

Caregiver Support Group

SPRINGFIELD, VT—A Caregiver Support Group (formerly Alzheimer's Support Group) is available to help enhance the lives of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Presented by Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter, the Caregivers Support Group meets the third Wednesday of every month, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Springfield Hospital Library, Level D, Springfield.

Help Available for Advance Directive Documents

WINDSOR, VT—Thinking about completing an Advance Directive as a loving gift to your family? Advance Directives (AD) are legal documents that allow you to decide what type

of medical care you want if you ever become unable to speak for yourself.

Mt. Ascutney Hospital offers free individual sessions for assistance in completing this important document. Our AD Clinics are being held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in Windsor from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The Clinics are led by Linda Wilson, APRN, DNP. Make an appointment by calling (802) 674-7483.

There is an additional AD Clinic in Woodstock at the Thompson Senior Center every 2nd Monday of the month from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Make an appointment by calling (802) 457-3277.

Join the Boy Scouts

CLAREMONT, NH—If you have a young man going into 6th grade and is 11 years old that you think needs an advantage in life, then have them consider becoming a Boy Scout. Boy Scouts learn valuable skills in leadership, team building and self-reliance. Boy Scouts that earn the rank of Eagle have a high likelihood of becoming successful in life and stay active in their communities. When the school starts, Troop 38 of Claremont, NH, meets every Thursday 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Mary's church gymnasium. Join us for a good time and new adventures. Contact Alex Herzog, Scoutmaster of Troop 38, at claremontscout@gmail.com for more info or come and join us at one of our upcoming meetings.

Croydon Ladies Auxiliary Bingo

CLAREMONT, NH--The Croydon Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring bingo every Thursday. Held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights off Maple Avenue in Claremont. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and games start at 6:30 p.m. Food and drinks available. Open to those 18 and older. Call Sandy at 543-7118 for more information. All paper games.

OPENING MAY 4 ASCUTNEY VILLAGE FARMERS MARKET

Ascutney Village Farmers Market will begin its season on May 4, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays all summer. Come enjoy our local vendors and artisans efforts and get your garden plants and flowers from the greenhouse before they're all gone!

Special events all summer, check our Facebook Page often for updates:

Ascutney Village Farmers Market

Vendors welcome, email ascutneyfarmers-market@comcast.net

Farm Day is May 18, baby animals.

Sullivan County Democratic Committee to Caucus on May 4th

CLAREMONT, NH—The Sullivan County Democratic Committee has announced its 2019 Democratic County Caucus to elect new Officers and Delegates to serve for the next two years. All Sullivan County Democrats are welcome to vote or run for an office.

Join the committee and the local Democratic community on Saturday, May 4th, at 3:00 p.m. The Caucus will be held in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Moody Building, 24 Opera House Square, Claremont.

About Sullivan County Democrats:

The Sullivan County Democratic Committee is a regional committee that represents all the Sullivan County Democratic Town Committees. The officers that will be elected at the Caucus include Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and two Delegates. Regional Officers and Delegates can vote at the New Hampshire Democratic Party Convention for the next Party Platform. If you would like to join this unique grassroots-style politics or start a town committee and/or learn more about our Caucus on May 4th, please contact: Judith Kaufman, Sullivan County Chair, at sullivancountymocrats@gmail.com or 603/542-7322.

100th Anniversary of Pete Seeger's Birth

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT—Gumbo, Grits & Gravy was formed in January 2019 by Guy Davis, Marcella Simien, and Anne Harris at a studio venue outside of Boston. Long time devotees of the late Pete Seeger, they were looking for a way to honor him on his 100th birth date. Kirschner Concerts and Twin Cloud Concerts have joined together to make that happen at the Briggs Opera House in downtown White River Junction, Vermont beginning at 8:00pm on Saturday, May 4. Proceeds from the evening will go to support

The Haven of White River Junction, and to help get started, The Friends of Pete Seeger Foundation.

Tickets may be purchased by visiting the ticket website: <http://bit.ly/2GumboGritsGravy-May4>.

Tickets are \$25 and it is suggested that since the venue is small, that they be purchased in advance. There are a limited number of VIP tickets available for \$40 that include premium seating, a post-show get together with the artists, and other surprises. Ticket prices do not include sales tax and ticketing fees.

"This show brings Pete Seeger's life full circle in his recent history here in the Upper Valley," said co-producer Thom Wolke of Twin Cloud Concerts. Wolke produced a fundraising concert with Pete Seeger, his grandson, and Guy Davis at the Lebanon Opera House in 2008. The Trio performed eighteen shows that summer around the northeast, and helped raise close to a quarter million dollars for non-profits in the U.S. and Canada.

The vision behind Gumbo Grits & Gravy is to celebrate diversity, culture, family, love and food through a musical gumbo of style and tradition. In a review of Gumbo, Grits & Gravy,

6 Ways to Avoid Stress Before Your Big Interview

Think of calming things: Take a few minutes in the parking lot or on the subway en route to the office to close your eyes, put on a song you like and think about a relaxing scene such as the woods or the beach. You might be surprised how much this can calm you down.

Study up: The more you can do to prepare for the interview in a number of ways, the more confident you're likely to be going in.

Practice: One of the big reasons interviews can be so stressful for job seekers is they don't happen every day, if you can get a friend or family member to play the role of interviewer and talk you through such a meeting, you might be more inclined to feel relaxed for the real thing.

Don't think negatively: Rather than fretting about the missteps you might (but probably won't) make, instead you should think about potential questions you could be asked and what your answers will be.

Think about why they're interviewing you: It's important to keep in mind that you're being called in for an interview because the company thinks you're one of the most impressive candidates out of the dozens or even hundreds who might have applied.

Use the 'thank you' email to clarify: Everyone makes mistakes and sometimes you might say something in an interview you want to take back or clarify after the fact. Since you should be sending a "thank you" email after every interview anyway, you should use that opportunity to get your messaging right.



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Bingo at the Charlestown Memorial VFW Post 8497 Post Hall

CHARLESTOWN, NH--Bingo is held Wednesdays at the Charlestown Memorial VFW Post 8497 Post Hall, 365 Lovers Lane Road in Charlestown, NH. The regular games start at 6:30 p.m. with Early Birds games commencing at 5:00 p.m. Eight regular games, four two-part games, and three special games, including a winner take all with a \$1,000 kicker if won in 50 numbers or less, a carry-over cover-all game also paying off in 50#'s or less or a consolation of \$150, plus the final Jackpot game paying \$150. All regular and special games are now on PAPER. Bingo is the VFW Post 8497's primary fundraiser for its various scholarships and sponsorships. Food and drinks are available.

Newport Historical Society Museum Hours

NEWPORT, NH--Interested in local history? Come visit the Newport Historical Society Museum, 20 Central St., Newport, NH. Located in the 1837 Nettleton House, the museum has two floors of annually changing displays to wander through. Open Sundays (except holiday weekends), from 10AM to 2PM, and by appointment by calling 603-863-1294. The museum is free, heated, air-conditioned, and handicapped accessible.



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REV. MAR. 29, 2019

MONTHLY FOOT & BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1st WEEK of the month	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC COA, New London 9:45 – 11:15 am Lebanon Senior Center 10:00 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Meriden Congregational Church 12:00 – 4:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Newport Senior Center 10:45 am – 12:00 pm	FOOT CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Mascoma Senior Center, Canaan 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 10:30 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	FOOT CLINIC COA, New London 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
2nd WEEK of the month		BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Bourdon Centre, Claremont 10:00 – 11:00 am Grantham Methodist Church 11:15 am – 12:00 pm (Apr-Dec) Sugar River Mills, Claremont 1:00 – 2:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Bourdon Centre, Claremont 8:00 am – 12:00 pm Sugar River Mills, Claremont 12:30 – 2:00 pm	FOOT CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Charlestown Senior Center 11:00 am – 1:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Charlestown Senior Center 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	FOOT CLINIC COA, New London 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
3rd WEEK of the month	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lebanon Senior Center 10:00 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC North Ridge, Warner 9:30 – 11:30 am	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Newport Senior Center 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Marion Phillips Apts, Claremont 1:00 – 2:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Marion Phillips Apts, Claremont 1:00 – 4:00 pm	FOOT CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Bradford Senior Center 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Claremont Senior Center 11:00 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm Lebanon Senior Center 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	
4th WEEK of the month	FOOT CLINIC Newport Senior Center 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Cornish Town Hall 11:15 am – 12:30 pm FOOT CLINIC Lebanon Senior Center 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Warner Senior Center 10:30 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Newport Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC CSB Community Center, Claremont 9:30 – 11:00 am Plainfield-location varies 11:30 am – 1:30 pm FOOT CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	These events take place every month, except on holidays. Foot Clinics are by appointment only and cost \$25. For more information or to verify a date, call 603-526-4077 or visit: LakeSunapeeVNA.org

writer Bill Hurley wrote, "This music has a restorative, rejuvenating quality to it. The average listener has no idea what the words to 'Jolie Basset' mean but it is the quintessential example of why music is such a powerful and universal language. I don't know what it means but I know what it expresses because I see how Marcella Simien expresses it.

Kids: Music with Friends for Infants, Toddlers & Preschoolers

Friday mornings, ongoing

10:00-10:45am

Library Arts Center Annex

15 Main St.

Newport, NH

Experience making music with your children & friends in this class designed for young children and their caregivers. Music will come to life as everyone Sings, Dances, Drums & Claps for Fun, experimenting with voices, instruments & movement. For infants, toddlers & preschoolers, with a caregiver. *Pre-registration encouraged, but drop-ins are welcome. Find out more at libraryartscenter.org.

Open Studio Art Group

Wednesday mornings, ongoing (through May 29th)

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Library Arts Center

58 N. Main St.

Newport, NH

Price: \$8.00 to \$12.00 —\$8 members/\$12 non-members

Looking for a time to work on current projects? Be inspired to work in a studio environment alongside other area artists in this drop-in group that meets on a weekly basis. The class facilitator is available for light guidance. All mediums are welcome. No prior experience is necessary. Please bring all supplies you will need for your projects. To find out more, call the Arts Center at 603.863.3040, or visit libraryartscenter.org.

WEDNESDAY MAY 1

Forging Health Care as a Right, not a Privilege: Which "Medicare-for-All"?

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

at the Philip Read Memorial Library

(1088 NH-12A, Plainfield, NH 03781, USA).

Once we agree that universal access to care is a goal, the question becomes "How do we get there?" We will explore why a "Single-Payer" system is the best solution, in terms of cost, quality, and value; then we will look at the

various legislative approaches towards getting there. Come prepared to ask and answer questions.

The discussion will be led by Donald Kolisch, MD, a Staff Physician at the VA Medical Center in White River Junction and the Convener, Granite State chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program.

Sponsored by the Plainfield Democratic Committee.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

POETRY AND PIE AT MERIDEN LIBRARY

In honor of National Poetry Month, please join the Friends of the Meriden Library for a night of Poetry and Pie on April 30th beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Meriden Town Hall. You can feed your body and mind with delicious homemade pies and poetry from a wide variety of genres.

Feel free to bring your own selections of poetry to share with the group or just sit back and relax while other people share.

The Friends will provide tea, as well, but please "Be Green" and bring your own mug, plate and utensils if possible.

We look forward to seeing you on April 30th, and please note that children are welcome to share their favorite poems, too!

—*The Friends of the Meriden Library*

MAY 2 - 4

RUMMAGE SALE IN WINDSOR

Old South Church, Main St., Windsor, Vermont will hold its Spring Rummage Sale from May 2 - 4, 2019. Featuring: Clothing for men, women and children, Fall Decorations, Costumes, White Elephants, Jewelry, Glassware, Books, Sporting Goods, Toys, Furniture, Linens and Household Items.

Thursday, May 2, from 9:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 3, (Half Price and Bag Sale) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 6, Clearance from 9:00 a.m. - Noon. EVERYTHING IS FREE!

We will be accepting donations of sorted, clean, usable items on: April 29 and 30 from 11 am until 7:00 pm.

No electronics, and please do not leave things at the church at other times.

If you have questions, please call the church (802-674-5087) or email oldsouthchurchwindSOR@gmail.com.

MAY 3 AND 4

Nearly New Goods & Bake Sale

FRIDAY, May 3, 2019, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9AM-NOON

First pick, primary day of the Nearly New Sale at the Town Hall in West Windsor is Friday, May 3rd. All sorts of closely curated goods including clothes for all ages, household goods, sports equipment, books, and art (to give just a short list). Not to mention the home baked goods we will offer.

On Saturday morning, 9 - noon, what is left will be half price. If you've been to this sale, you know the quality and affordability of the materials we have. Hope to see you there!

This sale is a fundraiser for the West Windsor Historical Society, to update technology used for historic records and the museum. Questions; Please call Sherry Barbour at 802 484-9286.

MAY 3 AND 4

Classical ballet and contemporary dance collide in this tribute to 20 years of excellence in dance.

City Center Ballet celebrates 20 years of professional dance with a stunning evening of classical and contemporary repertoire at the Lebanon Opera House on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4. Experience the precision and beauty of classical ballet with Lander's Etudes a ballet in one act, staged by Jennifer Henderson. Then shatter expectations with three world-premiere contemporary dances created by emerging New York City choreographers: Alexander Brady, Michelle Manzanales and Jere Hunt. A fourth solo piece choreographed and performed by Andrew Matte completes the program. This versatile and wide-ranging performance goes beyond tradition to reveal the immense power of dance and the ongoing artistic legacy of City Center Ballet.

Reserved tickets: \$20.00 Adults and \$12.50 students

Visit <http://www.citycenterballet.org/> or call the Lebanon Opera House Box Office at (603) 448-0400.

An On Stage reception for Dancers, Board of Directors, Sponsors and Patrons - past and present - follows the Saturday evening performance--RSVP required; visit link listed above to make your reservation.

Send us your news and photos

etickernews@gmail.com



WE'RE HIRING!

Parent Education Program Manager and Parent Educator

To find out more about these Parent Education Program (PEP) positions, TLC Family Resource Center and its programs, please visit online at tlcfamilyrc.org.





Autographed CDs:

Hollyn, Newsboys United, & Mountain Man

To enter:

1. Follow me on Twitter and/or "Like" my Facebook Page.
2. Send email with "4/30" in subject field to etickernews.bernadette.oleary@gmail.com
3. "Like" drawing posts on Facebook and Twitter.
4. Send me a private message on Facebook or Twitter with "4/30"

Choose only one way to enter or all four and enter each week.

Concerned about our public schools?

Concerned about your property taxes?

In New Hampshire, the two are linked. 

Learn more & find out how you can make a difference!



TUESDAY, APRIL 30TH

6-8PM

NEWPORT MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

245 North Main St

All Sullivan County residents are welcome

RSVP at radnh.org/sullivanedfunding

Sponsored by Sullivan County Rights & Democracy Chapter

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.etickernewsclaremont.com

We did not receive any new obituaries last week.

Claremont Fire Dept. Log

Sunday 4/21:

12:30 AM: Engine 2 responded Mutual Aid to Unity for a barn fire.

12:03 PM: Engine 1 responded to Manor Drive for a report of a smoke alarm sounding.

6:42 PM: Engine 1 responded to Mill Rd. for a suicidal subject.

8:09 PM: Engine 1 responded to Washington St. for a smoke investigation.

8:35 PM: Engine 1 responded to South St. for an illegal burn.

Monday 4/22:

3:12 AM: Car 2 responded to Sullivan St. for a lock out.

3:40 AM: Engine 1 responded to Cossitt Ave. for a medical call.

Tuesday 4/23:

10:00 AM: Engine 1 responded to Sullivan St. for an elevator issue.

11:35 AM: Engine 1 responded to Opera House Square for an odor investiga-

tion.

1:52 PM: Engine 1 responded to Heritage Drive for a medical call.

5:27 PM: Engine 1 responded to Maple Ave. for a possible overdose.

8:10 PM: Engine 1 responded to Woonsocket Ave. for a medical call.

Wednesday 4/24:

11:51 AM: Engine 1 responded to Washington St. for a report of wires down.

5:48 PM: Engine 1 responded to Chase St. for a medical call.

6:02 PM: Engine 1 responded to Monarch Lane for a medical call.

6:27 PM: Engine 1 responded to Pleasant St. for an alarm sounding.

6:59 PM: Engine 1 responded to Winter St. for a medical call.

7:52 PM: Engine 1 responded to Main St. for a possible overdose.

7:55 PM: Engine 1 responded to Sullivan St. for a medical call.

Thursday 4/25:

12:21 AM: Engine 1 responded to Main St. for a medical call.

2:39 AM: Engine 1 responded to Schmitt St. for a medical call.

7:09 AM: Engine 1 responded to Maple Ave. for a medical call.

12:25 PM: Engine 3 and Engine 2 responded Mutual Aid for a shed fire.

7:10 PM: Engine 1 responded to Colin Place for a medical call.

Friday 4/26:

5:49 AM: Ladder 1 and Rescue 1 responded to Washington St. for a motor vehicle roll over.

10:05 AM: Engine 1 responded to Hillstead Rd. for a 911 hang up.

12:46 PM: Engine 1 responded to Krista Place for a medical call.

5:43 PM: Engine 1 responded to Spofford St. for a report of a tree down with wires involved.

5:45 PM: Engine 3 responded to Winter St. for a report of a tree down with wires involved.

6:30 PM: Engine 1 responded to Belmont St. for a report of a low hanging wire.

7:46 PM: Ladder 2 responded to Sullivan St. for a possible chimney fire.

“The true primary-care provider is Mom.”

-Dr. Sam Giveen

Most of the time, a doctor can't help anything until Mom decides something isn't right. She makes the first move and calls the doctor. Dr. Sam attributes any success he and his staff have with kids to that vital first step. Yay, Mom.

DOCTOR **SAM'S**
EYE CARE



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

Saturday 4/27:

7:33 AM: Engine 1 responded to Hanover St. for a medical call.

7:46 AM: Engine 1 responded to Heritage Drive for a medical call.

1:42 PM: Engine 1 responded to Bonneau Rd. for a medical call.

3:52 PM: Engine 1 responded to Bonneau Rd. for a medical call.

7:31 PM: Engine 1 responded to Grisom Lane for a medical call.

7:54 PM: Engine 1 responded to Myrtle St. for a medical call.

Public Warned about Phone Scam Using NH State Police Number

On April 27, the New Hampshire State Police was made aware of a suspicious phone call where a male subject had impersonated a NH State Trooper. The phone call was received on April 26 by a resident of Amesbury, MA, and utilized a practice called "spoofing" whereby the caller alters their caller ID to display a false number. In this instance, the call displayed 603-358-3333, which is a legitimate New Hampshire State Police phone number associated with the Troop C barracks in Keene, said the NHSP in a statement.

According to the NHSP, the caller identified himself as "Trooper Connors" during the phone exchange (No such trooper exists). He then explained that he had one of the victim's relatives under arrest, and solicited the victim for bail money. The victim quickly became suspicious due to the fact that the relative in question was deceased. The victim then reported the call to the Amesbury Police and the New Hampshire State Police.

The New Hampshire State Police wishes to inform the public that calls such as this are not legitimate, and are conducted as scams intended to defraud the caller of financial assets. While New Hampshire State Troopers sometimes contact the public by telephone in the course of their normal duties, such troopers will properly identify themselves and their assigned Troop/Unit and will never solicit money for any purpose. Anyone looking to verify the authenticity of a trooper who has contacted them can do so by calling New Hampshire State Police Communications at (603) 223-4381.

Claremont Senior Center, Inc.

Elections of four Board of Directors coming up in May. Ballots available at the center for your vote. Absentee Ballots also available.

Chair Yoga every Friday - (10:30 - 11:30 AM) in the Mozden Room. \$5.00 for members & non-members!

Tickets now available for our "Lottery Tickets Raffle." \$2 per ticket / \$5 for 3 / \$10 for 6. 1st Prize: \$250.00 / 2nd Prize: \$150.00 / 3rd Prize \$100.00 worth of raffle tickets.

Free Bridge Class starting May 2 - June 13 (1:00-3:00 PM). Beginners learn Standard American Bidding and How to Play the Hand and Defense.

Here are the dates and bands for our four upcoming "Summer Concerts"...July 5 (Firehouse 6 Dixieland Band). July 27 (Eastbay Jazz Ensemble). August 3 (Smoke & Mirrors). August 17 (Kearsarge Community Band). Still in need of a few "sponsors." Call the center for more info!

Menu on Tuesday - April 30 ...Fried catfish or baked Pollack, French fries, cold slaw, brownie. Thursday - May 2...Shepherd's pie, mashed potatoes, corn, vanilla pudding.

Tai Chi class continues to be held on Wednesday - May 1 (6:00 - 7:00 PM) in the Mozden Room.

Silver Sneakers every Tuesday at 10:45 AM in Mozden Room. Cost \$2.00 for members and non-members!

Sunday at the Center" - 1:00-4:00 PM for members and bona fide guests! Play pool, work on a puzzle, Hand & Foot card game most popular. Bring a snack to share and your own beverage!

Game Night every Tuesday (6:00 - 9:00 PM). Play pool, work on a puzzle, Hand & foot card game most popular. Bring a snack to share and your own beverage!

Reminder that we have a "Donations List" that can be found at the front desk and in our monthly Newsletters. Thank you so much for your donations!

Seniors Bingo for persons 55 years of age and older every Wednesday at 1:00 PM. Sale of cards stops at 12:50 PM. No cards sold after that time! Reminder that we have a "wonderful lunch" available for purchase!

Bingo every Thursday run by Croydon Ladies Auxiliary, Inc. Doors open 4:30 PM. Refreshments available. Games start at 6:30 PM. Per NH State law, 18 years of age required for admission!

Give someone a great gift for a birthday, anniversary, any celebration or occasion with a \$5.00 gift certificate for a Tuesday or Thursday lunch at the center. Membership certificates also available for \$20.00.

Purchase a "Memorial Brick" on our Brick Wall for \$100.00 in memory of deceased family members and friends. Bricks in honor of living family members and friends also available.

Fun things to do at the center! Game Night every Tuesday & Thursday - 6:00 PM. Pool (Monday - Friday). - 9:00 AM. Exercise - Tuesday & Thursday - 10:00 AM. Coloring on Mondays 1:00 PM. Members free. Non-members \$1.00. Ping Pong - Monday & Wednesday - 10:00 AM. Bridge on Thursday - 1:00 PM. Mahjonn on Friday - 1:00 PM. Knitters on Friday - 12 Noon. Bring your lunch.

We are still collecting aluminum can tabs!

Rentals available for weddings, hourly, one-day, funeral receptions and our board room has an 8 persons capacity.

Businesses welcome to put a Business Card size ad in our monthly newsletter. Cost is \$200.00 per year (12 inserts).

We are a "Smoke Free" facility!

Membership dues - \$20 per year. Persons 50 years of age or older invited and welcome to become new members or renew your membership!

Thinking of joining the center? Come on over...we have a new program. Sign up for our "One Month Trial Membership" which means whatever date you sign up on will be good for one month. Come enjoy all of our programs and activities. Bring a friend.

The Claremont Senior Center...It's "The Place Where You Want To Be!"...Monday - Friday (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM). Call (603) 543-5998. Visit our Web Site (cnhcs.org.)



Photos from "The Locals" performance Saturday, April 27th, at the Claremont Opera House, featuring Magician Dylan Tenney and Friends who performed a "Music, Magic and More" concert supporting the local arts in our community.

Photos by Stacy Bathrick



The Claremont City Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

AGENDA

- 6:30 PM 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 6:32 PM 2. ROLL CALL
- 6:34 PM 3. AGENDA CHANGES
- 6:35 PM 4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
Minutes of March 27, 2019, City Council Meetings
- 6:37 PM 5. MAYOR'S NOTES
A. Proclamation – Andy Chamberlain
- 6:42 PM 6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT
- 6:55 PM 7. APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
- 7:00 PM 8. CITIZEN'S FORUM (Comments on Non-agenda Items Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker (Council Rule 23))

- 9. OLD BUSINESS
- 7:10 PM A. City Manager Search Update
- PM B. Food Truck Policy Ordinance 567 – Second Reading – *Public Hearing*

- 10. NEW BUSINESS
- 7:15 PM A. City Fee Schedule – Public Hearing
- 7:35 PM B. CM update on Encroachment on Rail Trail (from 3/13 meeting)
- 7:40 PM C. Authorize City Manager to enter into agreement with New England Family
Housing, regarding 147 Main Street
- 8:00 PM D. LCHIP Grant – 58 Opera House Square, City Hall
- BREAK
- 8:20 PM E. Budget Presentation
Sanitation
Streets and Roads
Cemetery
Water Enterprise Fund
Sewer Enterprise Funds

- 9:40 PM 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 9:25 PM 12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES
- 9:45 PM 13. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
- 10:00 PM 14. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: Claremont City Council's next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Movie Night Review: *Bumblebee*

By Bernadette O'Leary

Transformers has thrilled and amazed for decades with the idea that living robots that can transform into vehicles, and even dinosaurs, exist somewhere in the vast expanse of space. But have you ever wondered about the background of these heroes and villains?

Bumblebee takes this question and runs with it in this prequel to the Transformers franchise. Viewers get to see the origins of Bumblebee's years prior to the Autobots' descent to Earth. Bee finds sanctuary in a junkyard in California after being on the run from Cybertron hunters looking to round up the so-called rebels who dared to resist oppression on the robotic planet and engaged in the civil war that tore the planet's society apart. Scared and alone, Bumblebee is discovered by 17-year-old Charlie, a girl seeking to find herself after a heart breaking loss that she simply cannot move past. Unfortunately, Bumblebee's location is discovered by the enemy, and the action begins... more or less.

Sadly, *Bumblebee* lacked the excitement of the previous films. It seemed that the creators wanted to make him passive and pitiable. However, Bumblebee was a soldier... a strong and capable fighter who was in no way a puppy dog. It was truly a shame that this was how the robot was depicted. The characters were no better. They were shallow and poorly written.

Having said that, it's important to add that the talent and effects were quite good. The storyline had a great idea going, but when executed, it simply did not have the intensity or character depth that would have made this movie far better.

While the film lacked in a solid foundation, it did offer some entertainment value. If one can get past the weak character personas and childlike Bumblebee (rather than soldier on the lam) and view *Bumblebee* with the eyes of a child, it will offer a good viewing experience for the whole family. The humor was good, and overall, it was a pretty good movie. My family enjoyed it, and my 13-year-old son (who normally picks out all of the holes in the plot with laser precision) liked the movie a lot. I'm only thankful that I didn't pay movie theater prices to see it.

I find myself surprised at the rating I give this film. I give it a (slightly hesitant) 4 Crosses. I do so for one simple reason... In spite of the downfalls, it did manage to pull off a quality movie experience for my family's movie night. However, I also give it 2 Trash Cans for the weak character developments, including our beloved hero, from whom I expected more.

Even with the aspects I did not care for, I recommend *Bumblebee* for your next movie night. On DVD now, rent it and see what you think.

