

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**Trying to 'Avert a Crisis',
Police Chief Proposes
Retention Contract to
Council; page 6**

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Dec. 13, 2021

Morris Submits Resignation, to Take Town Manager Post in Enfield

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH— With City Manager Ed Morris submitting his official resignation from the City of Claremont on Friday, the new City Council in January will be facing a big challenge right out of the gate to fill the position.

"I have accepted the position as the Town Manager with the Town of Enfield, NH," said Morris.

"I first advised the City Council of my intent to resign based on accepting a conditional offer on November 29, 2021. The conditions attached to this offer have now been met, and my last day with the City of Claremont will be January 7, 2022."

In a joint statement to the *e-Ticker News*, Mayor Charlene Lovett and Mayor-Elect Dale Girard said, "First and foremost, we would like



Claremont City Manager Ed Morris during Wednesday night's council meeting (CCTV screenshot).



Thank You's All Around...

Outgoing Mayor Charlene Lovett was presented with a plaque by also outgoing Asst. Mayor Allen Damren at Wednesday's council meeting. She was also presented with flowers from friends and a large holiday/floral arrangement from the council. Several other pending retirements were also recognized Wednesday night. Story, photos, page 12 (Eric Zengota photo).

to thank City Manager Morris for his contributions to the community since September 2019. During his time as our city manager, we have been able to fulfill a number of goals: greater investment in infrastructure, rehabilitation of multiple buildings in the historic district and the construction of the Pleasant Street Project which has been a community discussion since the 1960s. We wish him well in his new position and are now focused on a seam-

less transition as we begin the process of hiring the next city manager."

Morris was extended a conditional offer of employment as city manager by the City Council in July of 2019. He had previously served as Town Manager for Weathersfield for three and a half years. Prior to this position, he was a career firefighter for the City of Twin Falls, ID, for over 16 years and also served a

(Continued on page 2)

Morris, from page 1

year as Assistant to the City Manager in Jerome, ID.

A City Manager Search Committee was formed in 2019 to search for qualified applicants for the city manager position following the dissonant departure of Ryan McNutt. The Search Committee consisted originally of three, later to become four, city councilors, two city department heads, and five community members; it received over 50 applications. The Committee ultimately chose four candidates to interview in person. Members of the committee and city councilors interviewed the four chosen applicants and from that process Morris was chosen and the offer was extended on July 25.

It's not clear yet who will lead the City on an interim basis following Morris' departure on January 7 or how the council will proceed with searching for a new city manager.

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Still Time to Support Giving Tree

CLAREMONT, NH—For the fourth year, Claremont Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Division for Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) to help local children who are in need.

DCYF has provided Parks & Rec with anonymous information about children in our community who are in need of support during the holidays. A Giving Tree in the lobby of the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center is decorated with ornaments. Each ornament has information specific to a child. Anyone who would like to help with this project can take the ornament from the tree and purchase the item listed on the back. For those who would like to give but are trying to limit interactions in crowded shopping areas due to the pandemic, DCYF is also accepting gift cards, which can be dropped off at the Community Center.

The CSBCC is accepting gifts and donations through December 15th.

taught by certified R.A.D. instructors from the Lebanon Police Department.

There is no cost for the program and class size will be limited. You must attend all four of the Basic R.A.D. classes. Women ages 13-17 will need parental permission to participate. We will be offering this class from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. The first class will be at the Lebanon Police Department and the remaining three will be held at Anytime Fitness on 66 Benning St., Suite 2 in West Lebanon on the following dates:

- Monday, January 10
- Tuesday, January 11
- Thursday, January 13
- Friday, January 14

If you would like to participate in the January session, or would like further information, please contact Carli Maruca at Carli.Maruca@lebanonnh.gov or 603-448-8800.

You may also visit R.A.D.'s website at <http://goo.gl/U9LZ2O> for further information about the program or our department webpage at <https://goo.gl/bpgh52>.

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January Basic R.A.D. Course Offering

LEBANON, NH—The Lebanon Police Department is offering Basic R.A.D. classes in January. The course, Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) Basic is the largest women's self-defense program in the country. It offers no-nonsense, practical techniques that women of all ages and abilities can participate in. The course is designed to give the participants realistic and dynamic hands-on training.

The course is

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12/11/2021

NH PowerBall

3 25 44 53 64 10

NH Mega Millions 12/10/2021

23 25 40 42 60 8

Tristate Megabucks 12/11/2021

12 15 20 22 34 4

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

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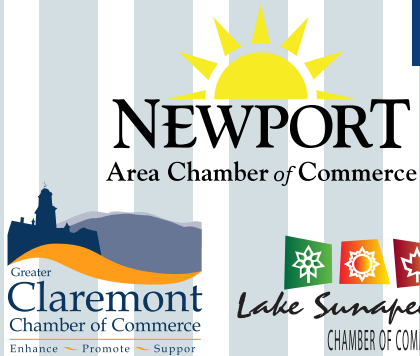
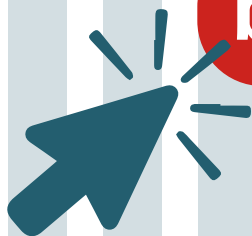
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Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier

2 Bills of Local Interest

New Hampshire's House of Representatives will again not gather together in Representatives Hall at the State House in Concord for its first few meetings, and instead will convene in Manchester for at least its first few meetings in January 2022.

On Dec. 8 the New Hampshire House Communications Office announced that the House would be meeting off-site for its next three scheduled gatherings—Jan. 5, 6, & 7, 2022, at the Double Tree Hotel and Exposition Center (formerly the Center of New Hampshire) in Manchester. The Communications Office also announced the New Hampshire Senate would meet Jan. 5 in Representatives Hall for its first 2022 gathering, rather than in the much smaller Senate Chamber. This Dec. 8 announcement was sent via email to all representatives, senators, and legislative staff, and was signed by both House Speaker Sherman Packard and Senate President Chuck Morse.

Senate President Morse did not specify why the Senate will be meeting again in Representatives Hall for at least early January, but I would guess it has to do with the continuing spread of the COVID-19 virus, which is now hitting us severely. But Speaker Packard stated later according to *N.H. Journal-Inside Sources*, an online publication, that with COVID-19 hospitalizations and community transmissions still high, the most responsible action was to “maintain health and safety protocols for legislators, and hold off returning to the House Chamber, at least for now.”

In the same emailed announcement, Speaker Packard and President Morse described some of the other measures they are taking to “ensure the safety of our staff, legislators, and visitors” to the State House Complex, which includes not just the State Capital Building, but the LOB (Legislative Office Building) as well. These protective measures include acquisition of live streaming equipment and a media team to run the equipment so House and Senate committee meetings will be streamed live for public viewing. Additionally, all House and Senate committee rooms will be “set up so legislators will be socially distanced during meetings.” But from my understanding, citizens wishing to testify on all legislation will now have to testify personally, not remotely as was done earlier this year. Also, the announcement indicated that air handling equipment will be upgraded so as to bring more outside fresh air into the two buildings, as well as the installation of MERV 13 (highly rated) air filters into the air handling system. MERV stands for “Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value”. The air handling equipment upgrade as well as MERV 13 air filter installation is on top of the previously-installed portable HEPA (High-Efficiency Particulate Absorbing) air filtration units throughout the complex that provide HEPA filtration treating



the air with UV light, which can kill airborne contagions such as viruses, mold, and bacteria. The units ensure that air exchange rates are equal or greater than CDC (Centers for Disease Control) requirements.

In their Dec. 8 announcement, both legislative leaders promoted a COVID-19 vaccination/booster shot clinic held Dec. 8 in the LOB for all legislators and staff. They also encouraged legislators, staff, and visitors entering the State House Complex to self-screen for COVID symptoms beforehand by using temporal body temperature scanners at two separate locations of the complex. Finally, they said that face coverings, hand sanitizer, and sanitization wipes are available throughout the complex, and encouraged the just-listed individuals to utilize them, though use of such items won't be mandated.

For the record, I generally applaud Speaker Packard and President Morse for these steps to help protect the health and safety of all legislators, staff, and visitors. Though I do wish both would permit citizens the option of again testifying on legislation remotely or in person, an option that I believe worked well earlier this year. I especially applaud Speaker Packard for at least moving the House's first 2022 gatherings away from the cramped Representatives Hall to the more spacious Double Tree Exposition Center, where more social distancing between us House members can occur. This move should encourage more of us to attend these important meetings so as to serve our constituents while reducing our risks to COVID exposure during the continuing pandemic. I would prefer the Speaker hold House meetings remotely, or at least giving us representatives the hybrid option of meeting remotely or in person. But sometimes compromise is necessary with a Speaker who is currently against holding either remote or hybrid meetings.

As I had indicated in a previous column, the House at its first Jan. meeting is scheduled to only debate gubernatorial vetoes as well as approximately 191 measures retained from the 2021 Session. After Jan. 7, House committees will begin public hearings on at least 885 pieces of legislation filed for the 2022 Session according to the legislative website (www.gencourt.state.nh.us). In future columns, I plan to write in some detail about some of the more important and interesting pieces. But this week will briefly list and describe a few 2022 bills that could affect Claremont and Sullivan County, if they become law.

Among these bills is House Bill 1029, which gives the Claremont City Council authority to remove members of the Claremont Police Commission. This bill is a further clarification to House Bill 88, which had been passed by both House and Senate, and signed into law by Gov. Christopher Sununu earlier this year. While House Bill 88 gave the City Council authority to appoint the three members of the Police Commission, it did not specifically give the Council the authority to remove the members. House Bill 1029 is sponsored by all four of Claremont's state representatives—Walter Stapleton, Gary Merchant, and myself under the leadership of Andrew O'Hearne, who is additionally a City Councilor. Lebanon Sen. Suzanne Prentiss, who is Claremont's state senator, is also a sponsor. House Bill 1029 will be examined by the House Municipal & County Government Committee.

(Continued on page 5)

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To find out who your local state representatives/
senators are in Sullivan County, please visit
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/>

Letter to the Editor

Calls Out Council for Removing Discussion Regarding COVID

Letter to the Editor:

My dismay with the Claremont City Council continues. The council has eliminated any mention of the COVID pandemic at the council meetings. At the Wednesday, December 8, 2021, council meeting, Councilor Stone asked to have the agenda item for a COVID update by Councilor Contois removed. The council agreed to remove it. While many Upper Valley communities struggle with mask mandates, climbing infection rates, vaccination availability and the economic havoc of the Pandemic, the Claremont City Council has chosen to ignore the pandemic. By burying their collective heads in the sand, they believe the pandemic has gone away. The facts are that the pandemic has not gone away. At the meeting, a moment of silence was held for a recently deceased former city councilor who died of COVID-19, according to his obituary. COVID is real. The transmission rate for COVID-19 in Claremont is high. There are currently 134 cases of COVID in Claremont. Sullivan County has a total of forty deaths. New Hampshire has a total of 1,757 deaths, The vaccination rate for Claremont is 45.3%. We have a testing positive rate of 16%. This pandemic is real, and people are dying every day. The continued denial of the obvious effects of COVID on our community is not working. Call your councilor and ask them to act, take a stand for common sense, wear a mask, and please put our citizens health and safety first.

Jim Contois
Claremont, NH

Rep. Cloutier, from page 4

Another measure to be studied by the Municipal & County Government is House Bill 1046, which would change how Sullivan County elects its three county commissioners. At present, each commissioner must reside in one of three County Commissioner Districts drawn by the New Hampshire Legislature every 10 years as part of the elective office redistricting done after each decennial U.S. Census. Then the three commissioners are elected by all Sullivan County voters, not just the voters in their residential district. But if House Bill 1046 becomes law, the three commissioners would be elected only by voters in their residential districts as is done in several other New Hampshire counties.

House Bill 1046 is sponsored by three Sullivan County representatives led by Sunapee Rep. Linda Tanner, and including Rep. Merchant and fellow Sunapee Rep. Suzanne Gottling.

Finally, there is House Bill 1525. This bill would require our state government to establish a Nursing Home Capital Reserve Fund to help all 10 counties pay for construction or renovations to county nursing homes. More specifically, a reserve fund that could assist Sullivan County in renovating its aging nurse home, an issue with which the New Hampshire House’s Sullivan County Delegation has been dealing for more than the past year. House Bill 1525 is sponsored by a bipartisan group of 10 legislators led by Acworth Rep. Judy Aron. The group also includes seven other representatives, including four from Sullivan County—Claremont’s Walter Stapleton, Grantham’s Brian Sullivan, Charlestown’s Steven Smith, and myself. Senate co-sponsors include Sen. Prentiss, who not only represents Claremont, but three other Sullivan County municipalities in the Senate as well as Sen. Ruth Ward, who represents Sullivan County’s remaining 11 municipalities. The bill will be scrutinized by the House Ways & Means Committee. I applaud Rep. Aron for introducing this bill and am pleased to be a cosponsor.

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Trying to ‘Avert a Crisis’, Police Chief Proposes Retention Contract to Council

By Eric Zengota
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Police Department has been working on an emergency schedule since July 1. The department is critically understaffed. Line officers have been working 12-hour shifts and hundreds of overtime hours.

At the City Council meeting on Dec. 8, police chief Mark Chase explained the numbers that have brought the department to a critical stage.

“Right now we have 21 full-time officers out of a possible 25, if we were fully staffed. But of those 21, five are not currently available to us. Two officers are deployed with the National Guard; they should be back with us in 30 to 60 days. Our three newest officers have been in the 16-week training program at the Police Academy since August; but even after they graduate and are certified, they won’t be able to go out on patrol on their own until April because we have three months of field training. Basically we have only 16 full-time officers to provide 24/7/365 coverage for the City.”

One solution to minimal staffing (and a stop-gap measure, at best) has been Chase’s authorizing overtime hours — at last count, more than 1,000 of them. “I’ve already gone through 89% of my overtime budget for this year. In the last ten months, one officer has worked 500 overtime hours. Another has worked 350 hours and a third has worked 300.”

In addition, Chase noted that he and deputy chief Mark Grasso, both in technically administrative positions, “have covered the roads, even on the night shift. The officers appreciate that.”

Chase decided to offer a retention contract to the certified officers. “I want to make it clear, this was my idea, not something that the union came to me about.” He had also discussed it with Grasso, who is in charge of hiring, as well as the three members of the Police Commission. All support the idea.

Each certified officer would have the option to sign the 3-year contract; those who do would receive a bonus of \$10,000. The schedule of payments is yet to be determined. One possibility is to pay half in 2022 and the balance in 2023.

Officers would be expected to remain employed throughout the contract. There would

be a provision that if they leave employment with the City before the contract expires, they would be liable to pay the money back at a prorated amount.

Chase has already approached the collective bargaining unit, New England Police Benevolent Association Local 217. “They have reviewed the proposed contract and are in favor of this contract,” he noted in his memo of Dec. 1 to the Council.

There are no guarantees of how many officers would sign the contract. “But it’s a start,” he said. “Our officers — your officers — have been approached by other agencies. I have to combat that.”

Chase had only praise for the current employees. “It’s time to brag about them. They all have a can-do attitude. I’m proud to be their chief. They don’t have to be here in Claremont, but they want to be. They’re buying homes and supporting local businesses.” He doesn’t want to see them leave for other communities just for the sake of higher pay.

Losing officers also would hamper the need to create institutional knowledge, the result only of long years of service in the same department. That said, Chase noted, “This is a very young department. I’m one of the dinosaurs with more than 30 years of service. But 18 of our officers have fewer than ten years of service, and of those 18, ten have fewer than four years.” The longer an officer stays in the department, he added, “the better return you have for your investment in that person.”

In certain ways the department is on solid ground. “We have all the equipment we need,” said Chase, “and we have those features that attract new officers, like the motorcycle and the K-9.” The department has also been recognized by New Hampshire’s Law Enforcement Accountability, Community, and Transparency Commission (LEACT), which was created in 2020 by Governor Sununu and is made up of law enforcement and community leaders from across the state. “We already had three of the things LEACT recommended: body cameras, civilian oversight [the police commission] and accreditation.”

The police commissioners voiced their support of the retention contract. John Hall said, “We’re no closer to where we want to be, after an entire year. We need to buy time, hire new officers and get out of crisis mode.” Joel Trem-

blay remarked, “We have to stop the bleeding.” Alison Raymond offered a view based on “the human perspective. This is about more than just pay. It shows the effort we’re putting into our officers.”

In response to questions from some of the councilors, Chase clarified a few points.

The cost of supporting a retention contract would be \$160,000 (\$10,000 for each of 16 officers). Chase made it clear that the amount is already in this year’s budget, so there is no request for additional appropriations and no effect on taxpayer dollars.

The \$160,000 can be applied to a retention contract because, as he reported, only about 36% of the department’s total budget of \$3.4 million has been expended in the first six months of the year. Of that total, 92% is spent in three areas: payroll, retirement benefits and health benefits.

The officers’ health and safety must be taken into account. One 12-hour shift after another will eventually take its toll on an officer’s alertness and policing skills. Retaining current officers and training the newest ones will go a long way to evening out the workload.

Chase agreed with councilor Nicholas Koloski, who observed that “the Claremont Police Department cannot become an expensive revolving door, a training department for other departments.”

As to the possible reaction of other City employees who hear about an incentive, Chase acknowledged that “the other directors know we’re bleeding — we all are.” To this point, Mayor Charlene Lovett (a retired U.S. Army veteran) said that an incentive bonus is like the re-enlistment bonus in the armed forces. “They’re offered to members who serve in critical positions, people you have to retain. And in Claremont, no other department is working on an emergency schedule.”

Chase summed up his presentation by saying, “A retention contract is critical. We are near the breaking point if we have to do this again next year.”

The Council voted on the motion, which read: “The Claremont City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager or his designee to execute any documents which may be necessary to effectuate the Claremont Police Retention Contract”.

Councilors voted 6 to 3 in favor of the motion.



NH DHHS COVID-19 Update December 10, 2021

Cases Continue to Surge in NH

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

On Friday, December 10, 2021, DHHS announced 1,146 new positive test results for COVID-19 for Thursday, December 9. Those results included 839 people who tested positive by PCR test and 307 who tested positive by antigen test. DHHS also announced an additional 52 new cases from Friday, December 3 (29 by PCR and 23 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,699; an additional 94 new cases from Saturday, December 4 (75 by PCR and 19 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,397; an additional 6 new cases from Sunday, December 5 (3 by PCR and 3 by antigen test) for a new total of 750; an additional 39 new cases from Monday, December 6 (0 by PCR and 39 by antigen test) for a new total of 837; an additional 2 new cases from Tuesday, December 7 (1 by PCR and 1 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,193; and an additional 28 new cases from Wednesday, December 8 (19 by PCR and 9 by antigen test) for a new total of 1,436. Test results for previous days are still being processed and updated case counts for prior days will

be reflected on the COVID-19 interactive dashboard. There were now 10,138 current COVID-19 cases diagnosed in New Hampshire.

Several cases are still under investigation. Additional information from ongoing investigations will be incorporated into future COVID-19 updates. Of those with complete information, there were three hundred and fifty-seven individuals under the age of 18 and the rest are adults with 50% being female and 50% being male. The new cases resided in Rockingham (266), Hillsborough County other than Manchester and Nashua (166), Merrimack (151), Cheshire (122), Strafford (109), Grafton (86), Belknap (71), Sullivan (57), Carroll (50), and Coos (23) counties, and in the cities of Manchester (106) and Nashua (65). The county of residence is being determined for ninety-five new cases.

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

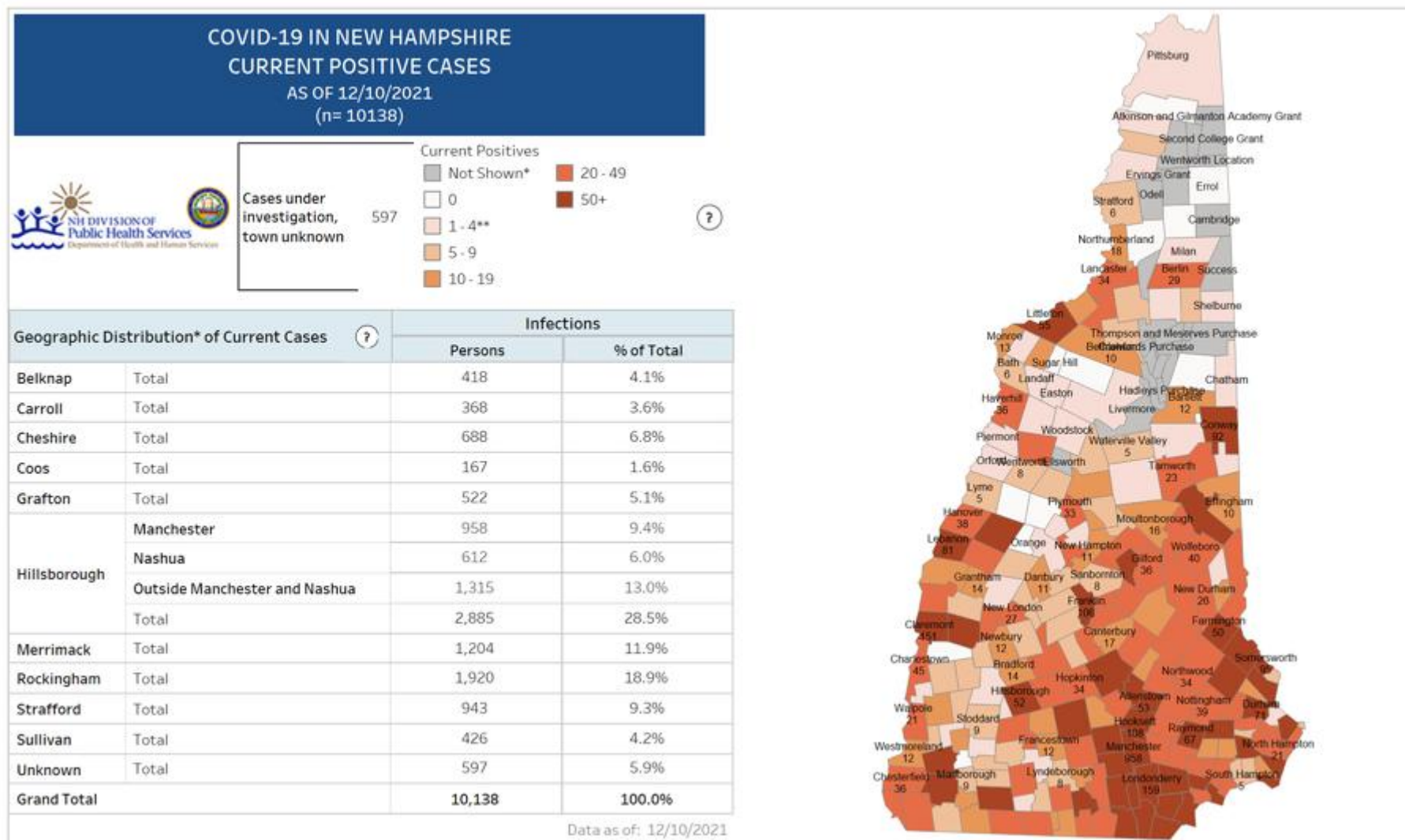
- 2 male residents of Coos County, 60 years of age and older
- 2 female residents of Hillsborough County, 60 years of age and older

- 1 male resident of Hillsborough County, fewer than 60 years of age
- 1 female resident of Rockingham County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 female resident of Strafford County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Strafford County, 60 years of age and older

There were currently 466 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. In New Hampshire, since the start of the pandemic, there have been a total of 174,456 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed.

As of Friday, the 10th, there were 151 current positively identified cases in Claremont, 45 in Charlestown, and 119 in Newport, with additional cases identified in other county communities, including 7 in Lempster; 26, Cornish; 14, Grantham; 20, Sunapee; 7, Goshen; 16, Plainfield; 5, Croydon; and 1-4 in other Sullivan County communities. DHHS reported 426 currently positively identified cases in Sullivan County, compared to 369 last Friday.

Continued on page 8



COVID-19 Hotline

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

Vaccine Information in NH

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

Claremont School Cases

On Dec. 10th CMS reported 18 new families reported positive COVID-19 cases in their homes. SHS reported 2 cases on Dec. 6, 3 additional cases on the 7th, and 2 more positive cases on the 10th.

Claremont Clinic Delivers Hundreds of Vaccinations in First Five Days

CLAREMONT, NH—A fixed-site vaccination clinic opened in Claremont on Dec. 7, and it was busy from day one.

The clinic is run by On-Site Medical Services under contract to the State of New Hampshire. Walks in only — no appointment needed. All three vaccines for adults — Moderna, Pfizer and J&J — are available for the first two doses as well as booster shots. They also offer the pediatric Pfizer vaccine for children ages 5 to 11.

From Tuesday through Friday, staff administered between 200 and 300 doses each day. On Saturday, filling 300 to 400 slots, which required reservations, helped make the statewide Booster Blitz a success.

What: vaccination clinic

Where 367 Washington St., Claremont, in the former New Hampshire Liquor & Wine Outlet location

When: 10am to 7pm, Monday through Friday; 9am to 2pm, Saturday

For more information, and to check on holiday closings, visit www.on-sitemedservices.com/claremont.

D-H Updates Visitor Policy at Lebanon-Area Locations

LEBANON, NH – Due to high levels of community transmission and record-high cases of

COVID-19 in New Hampshire and Vermont, effective Friday, December 10, 2021, no visitors will be allowed for admitted inpatients or for outpatient appointments and procedures at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) facilities, but caregivers will be admitted in very specific and narrow circumstances.

This change applies to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) in Lebanon; D-H's outpatient clinics in Lyme and on Heater Road in Lebanon; the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative and Hospice Care in Lebanon; the D-H Outpatient Surgery Center in Lebanon; and at Norris Cotton Cancer Center North in St. Johnsbury, VT.

A caregiver is defined as a support person for a patient with a cognitive or physical disability. Caregivers must not have any symptoms of COVID-19, be on quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 or travel, or have a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the last 10 days.

Visitors may be allowed for end-of-life patients, as outlined below. A visitor is defined as a friend, family member, or support person who is not required to assist a patient due to cognitive or physical disability. Visitors must not have any symptoms of COVID-19, be on quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19 or travel, or have a diagnosis of COVID-19 in the last 10 days.

For hospital inpatients at DHMC:

No visitors are allowed. COVID-19-negative patients will be allowed one caregiver per day. Multiple caregivers may not rotate throughout the day, and, to the extent possible, should not rotate through the length of the patient's stay. For pediatric patients, two dedicated adult parents, guardians, or support persons are allowed, for both COVID-positive and COVID-negative patients. Caregivers cannot rotate through the patient's stay.

For adult outpatient visits and procedures:

No visitors are allowed. For adults, one caregiver is allowed with the patient. For prenatal appointments or prenatal ultrasounds, one adult is allowed with the patient.

For pediatric outpatient appointments and procedures:

No visitors are allowed.

Two dedicated adult parents, guardians, or support persons will be allowed for pediatric appointments and procedures.

In the Birthing Pavilion:

No visitors are allowed.

One dedicated adult support person is permitted, for both COVID-positive and COVID-negative patients.

For patients at the end of life:

Three visitors at a time are permitted for COVID-negative patients only.

Two visitors at a time are permitted for COVID-positive patients, for a total of one hour, for a total of four visitors.

Visitors must check in and out to allow for new visitors.

Exceptions other than those listed above will only be made by local leadership at the inpatient unit or clinic level. Providers cannot make exceptions to the visitor policy without approval from unit/clinic leadership.

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Physical Therapist

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Newport Man Arrested, Faces Multiple Charges

NEWPORT, NH—On December 4, at approximately 9:20pm, the Newport Police Department responded to a residence on Fletcher Road for a reported domestic disturbance. During the at-scene investigation, the patrol officers attempted to arrest the following subject for Domestic Violence Simple Assault: Sean A. Murphy, age 43, Newport, NH.

According to Newport Police Chief Brent Wilmot, Murphy allegedly resisted arrest, and a lengthy struggle ensued which included Murphy allegedly placing one of the officers in a choke hold, restricting the officer's breathing. Wilmot said that "Officers had to deploy a Taser in order to get him into custody."

Murphy was charged with Second Degree Assault (Class B Felony), Witness Tampering (Class B Felony), Simple Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer (Class A Misdemeanor with enhanced penalties), Domestic Violence Simple Assault (Class A Misdemeanor) and Resisting Arrest (Class A Misdemeanor). He was transported to the Sullivan County House of Corrections without bail pending arraignment in the Sullivan Superior Court.

5th Annual "Teddy Bear Toss" Collects Nearly 1,300 Toys for CHaD

PLYMOUTH, NH—The Marketing Association of Plymouth State University (MAPS, PSU) hosted its 5th annual Teddy Bear Toss event benefitting patients at the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (CHaD). The event took place during the men's ice hockey game against Wesleyan University on Friday, December 10, at PSU's Hanaway Ice Rink.

Attendees were invited to bring new stuffed animals to the game to be tossed onto the ice when PSU scored its first goal. Teddy bears were also available for purchase at the game, with all proceeds from the sales donated to CHaD. The Panthers' first goal came midway through the first period on a blistering wrist shot from freshman Ethan Stuckless prompting the crowd of 655 to shower the ice with nearly 1,300 stuffed animals of all sizes and colors.

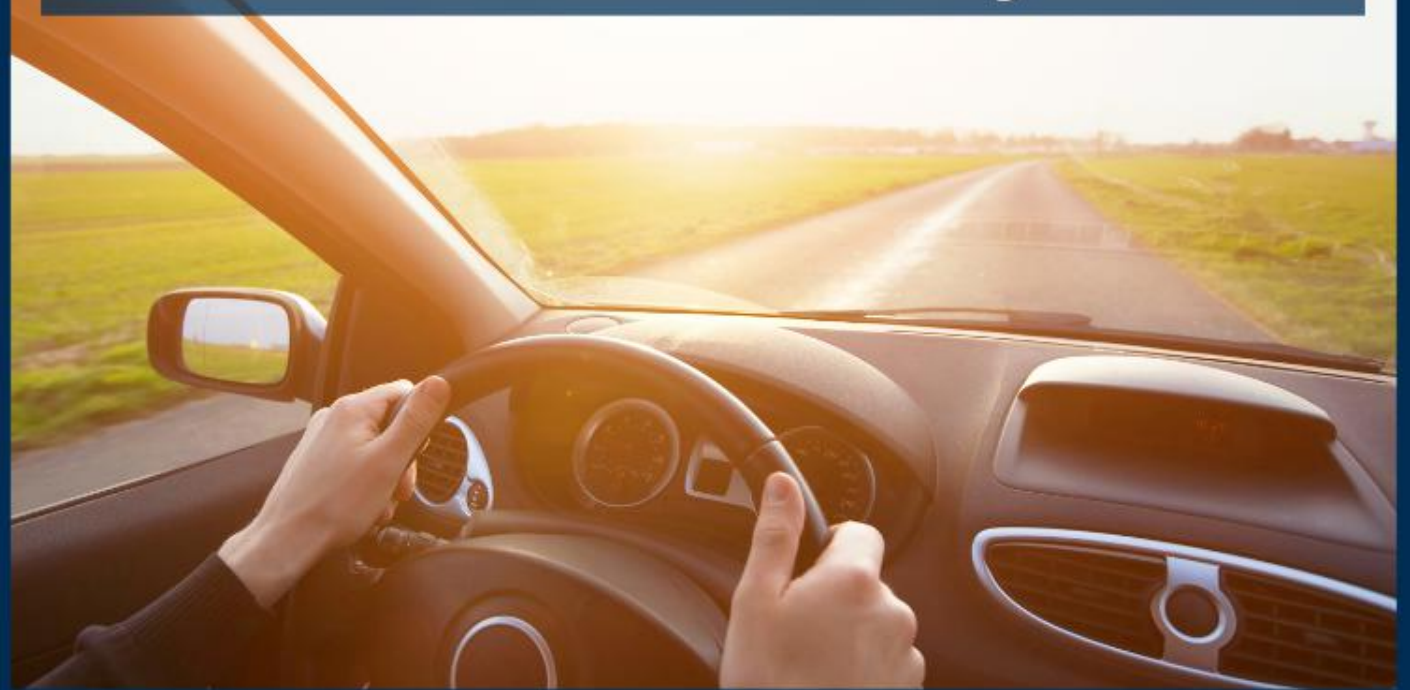
Ten-year-old Elliot Perry of Bedford, NH, a CHaD ambassador and patient who spent 121

days in CHaD's neonatal intensive care unit after being born prematurely, was the Guest of Honor and performed the ceremonial puck drop. Elliot also sat on the bench with PSU's ice hockey team during warmups, visited the team's locker room and received a signed varsity jersey.

PSU's Teddy Bear Toss is the largest event

of its kind to collect stuffed animals for pediatric patients at CHaD. The previous four events have resulted in the donation of more than 6,500 stuffed animals. This year's event collected 1,298 stuffed animals, and proceeds from the sale of teddy bears and other items totaled almost \$800.00, which will also be donated to CHaD.

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Classified Ads

Selling your house during the holidays?

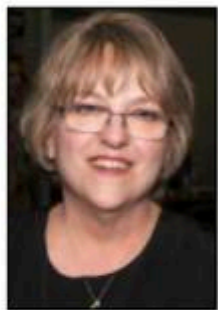
Here's something to consider:

You don't **need to close during the holidays**, just get your home **under contract** and close **after** the holiday season.

There are usually fewer homes on the market and Buyers likely need to purchase quickly, therefore may be willing to pay a higher price.

If a Seller lists during an inventory shortage, they could have a higher asking price.

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PRICE: \$155,000

Clinical Mental Health Provider \$30.00 - \$35.00 per hour



TLC Family Resource Center is seeking a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Provider. The LCMH will be a key partner in providing intensive services to families and children who have experienced trauma and/or are impacted by substance use, child abuse, and neglect. The LCMH will be responsible for child and family screenings, assessments and follow up, Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) or similar parent-child therapy, responding to and making referrals as needed, actively participate in team meetings about wraparound services for TLC clients receiving or referred for CPP and prepare reports as needed for court hearings.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

For a meeting of the
Claremont Development Authority

Full Board

To be held on

Thursday, December 16th, 2021 at 7:30am

At the

Visitor Center, 14 North Street, Claremont NH

Friday, Dec. 17

Arrowhead Recreation Volunteer Opportunities:
7:30 pm, Masonic Hall, 40 Maple Avenue,
Claremont.

Chuck Allen, Arrowhead representative, will talk about Arrowhead and what it provides for the community, its history and current needs. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mask required inside.

This program is sponsored by the Claremont Grange #9 which meets at 7:30 pm on the third Friday of each month.

For more information, please contact Joyce at 603-542-2530.

Spirits of Claremont on CCTV

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Historical Society and Off Broad Street Players have a new episode of Spirits of Claremont. It is now available on the CCTV website:

<https://reflect-claremont.cablecast.tv/Cablecast-PublicSite/show/12061?channel=2>

Look for Episodes 1 & 2 by Searching "Spirits of Claremont" on the website <http://claremontv.org/>.

Thursday, December 16

CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN CORNISH FLAT
6:30-7:30 pm

Join friends and neighbors and sing Christmas Carols by the lighted Christmas tree on the Cornish Flat triangle. Sheet music will be available. Please bring a small candle or flashlight. There will be a fire pit nearby. If it's storming or the roads are treacherous, we will do it the following evening.

If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Jacquier at 469-3245 or Nancy Wightman at 542-4813.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Trinity Church Christmas Pageant

9:30am

Coffee and Refreshments following the service
44 Main St. Windsor, VT

Live stream: <http://www.trinitywindsor.com/>



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Jan Ranney
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Rick Howard



Bonnie Miles



Viola Lunderville



Cathy Thompson



Brian Whipple



Anthony Emanouil



Jenn Boyer



Deborah Charlebois



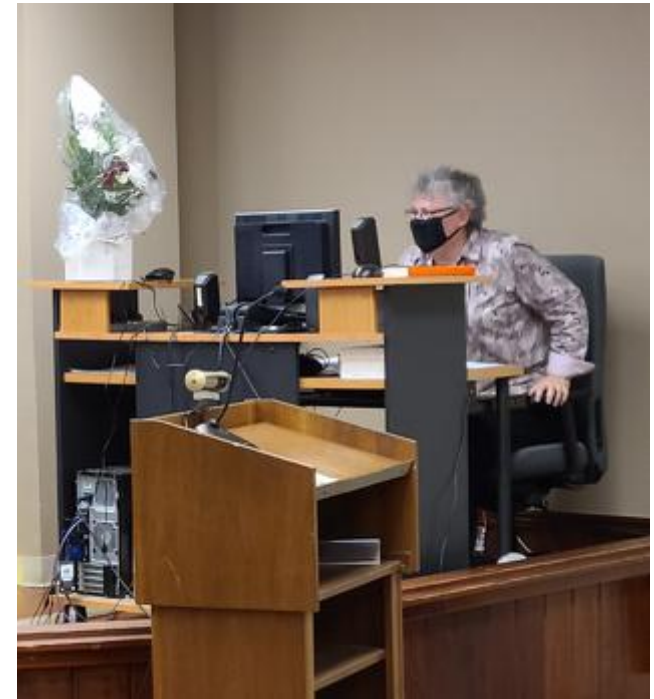
Courtney Chase



Mollie Ducharme



www.coldwellbankernh.com



Recognition and Appreciation

It was an evening of appreciation and emotion at Wednesday night's Claremont City council meeting. Recognition was extended to: Gary Dickerman, (top left), retiring from working many years handling CCTV coverage of municipal meetings from Council Chambers; Michael Demars (top center), departing City councilor; Dorée Russell (top right), who is retiring after 17 years of working as assistant to the City manager and council clerk; and Asst. Mayor Allen Damren (bottom left) who, like Mayor Charlene Lovett, did not seek re-election in November. Also recognized Wednesday was Deb Mozden (bottom right), executive director of Turning Points Network, who was recently awarded the seventh annual Sandra Matheson Award. Matheson created the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance at the Attorney General's Office and was its director for 26 years until her retirement. The award was established in 2013 to recognize other individuals that "embody commitment, collaboration and leadership to improve the rights and services for victims of crime in New Hampshire." State Senator Sue Prentiss was on hand via Zoom to extend congratulations and offer resolutions to Lovett and Damren for their service on the council. Lovett also led a moment of silence in remembrance of former councilor Paul LaCasse, who passed away from COVID on Dec. 4 (Eric Zengota photos).

Tis the Season—of Stress-Free Giving?

Submitted by
Dave Celone,
Diane Roston, MD

At this time of the year, gift requests arrive in droves. #GivingTuesday. GoFundMe. Facebook fundraisers. Online videos with giving links. Letters, oversized post cards, newsletters, and more. They land in our mail and email inboxes. They stack up in our social media feeds. They come from friends and family members in an overwhelming cacophony of urgent holiday pleas. A cousin wants a gift to her special cause. Friends press in on Facebook requesting donations to the charities of their choice. Birthday fundraisers are commonplace. #GivingTuesday is a bandwagon everyone wants to ride. So many people and places seem to want a piece of our purse.

“The Season of Giving” has become a well-worn mantra peddled by organizations seeking contributions. All those schools and small non-profits we’ve somehow affiliated with in the past arrive at our doorsteps and virtual thresholds like clockwork with special requests, enticements, and challenge matches imploring us to help them reach new and lofty goals. Recently, we spotted an email gift request with the added enticement of being entered into a raffle to win a box of fancy chocolates. Wait, what about that diet!

Take heart, fear not, and remember this simple fact...the act of giving releases oxytocin, a hormone that generates feelings of warmth and connection to others. And oxytocin reduces the stress hormone cortisol. But, here's the catch...your giving has to be to a cause that is meaningful to you in order for you to benefit from the act of giving.

Why? Because when you see a problem in society, it causes you anxiety. If you feel powerless to address that issue, your anxiety increases. When you give to support that specific cause—by volunteering, donating dollars, even posting something positive about it on social media, or telling a friend about its good work—you’ll ease your anxiety. That’s when your body will release oxytocin and give you that feel-good bump in your day, month, and year knowing you’ve helped support an issue you truly believe needs to be addressed.

Conversely, if you give to make others feel better out of feelings of guilt, or giving to get them to go away or take you off their list, you might feel some instant relief at reducing the pile of items on your holiday giving plate, but you’ll still feel stressed as cortisol kicks in without the oxytocin bounce your body needs. That’s because you are not addressing your own anxieties about giving to solve issues that matters most to you.

So, the next time someone asks you to give to something that doesn’t make you smile with pride, just let that person know you appreciate being asked, and that you have other causes you give to that matter more to you. That lets them know you are philanthropic, you do care to support non-profit causes, and that you wish them well in their fundraising endeavors. There’s also no shame in asking to be taken off a list, or in taking yourself off a list by unsubscribing online. That will reduce your burden for next year’s Season of Giving.

Our advice this holiday season? First, just say “no” with a friendly smile to those who implore you to support a cause you don’t believe in deeply. And don’t feel guilty about it, knowing that it’s important to help yourself before you can help others. Feeling good is good for your mental wellbeing, and your oxytocin bounce will go a long way to making you a happier person. That will benefit you and everyone around you, including the causes you care to support.

Then, just say “yes” to giving to what you truly believe will address a problem close to your heart. You’ll feel good, and less stressed.

Isn’t that what this “Season of Giving” should be all about?

The authors are, respectively, the director of development & external relations, and the medical director for the non-profit community behavioral health center, West Central Behavioral Health, which has clinical offices in Claremont, Lebanon, and Newport, NH. They may be reached at: dcelone@wcbh.org and droston@wcbh.org. Visit www.wcbh.org/.

Sunday, December 19, 4:30 – 6:00
Live Nativity & Christmas Pageant
Brownsville Community Church



Between 4:30 and 6:00, the community will have 3 opportunities to enjoy a narration of the Christmas story complete with Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men, shepherds and more acting in and around the manger at Tribute Park adjacent to the church.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14 - WED,
JANUARY 25, 2022**

Audubon’s 122nd Christmas Bird Count

Frank Chapman and 26 other conservationists initiated the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) as a way of promoting conservation by counting, rather than hunting, birds on Christmas Day of 1900. Now a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 120 years of community science involvement, it is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada, and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds. Visit: <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count>.

Gingerbread House Decorating - Take Out!
Dec 18, 11am -12:30pm

Cost: \$15/house kit

Registration (required): <https://gingerbread-housetakeout.eventbrite.com>

Order your take out homemade Gingerbread House and the fixings during this annual (take-home) event!

Join us for this Annual Tradition of Gingerbread House Decorating! While we can't be together in person this year, you'll be able to get your homemade houses with all the fixings via take out (curbside available). To guarantee availability on Dec 18th, please order your house(s) by Dec 12th.

Kits are \$15, and include a selection of candies, frosting, constructed house from homemade gingerbread, and the display board. Sponsored houses are available for families for which the registration fee would be a challenge (limit 1), please contact unionchurchnh@gmail.com to request a house.

Please indicate at checkout if you'd like your candy to be "Chocolate Collection", "Colorful Collection" or a mix. We'll do our best to include favorite candies if noted and available.

Kits can be picked up on Dec 18th, or by special arrangement.

Contact info: unionchurch@gmail.com, 802.738.0678.

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/Union-EpiscopalChurch>



The Claremont Repertory Theater is proud to present
Mark The Halls: A Very Merry Parody.

This comedic interpretation on those loved movies from that "*one channel*"
on television is sure to please audiences of all ages.

We hope you will be delighted by the popular Holiday music
that we have intertwined with this delightfully playful skit.

The performance will be at **6PM** at the **Claremont Opera House** on **December 31.**

Come and enjoy this free performance for Claremont's First Night Festival!

Enjoy the show!



~ Eric Zengota

New Hampshire Opens Fixed Vaccination Sites

CONCORD, NH – Governor Chris Sununu and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced the opening of several fixed vaccination sites in New Hampshire to assist with COVID-19 vaccination and booster doses in the state.

The fixed sites are walk-ins only. No appointments will be scheduled. Wait times may be expected.

The following fixed sites are currently open:

BERLIN: Open

Location: The Chalet at 161 East Milan Road

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10am – 7pm

Saturday: 9am – 2pm

Sunday: Closed

PLYMOUTH: Open

Location: The Common Man Event Room at 231 Main Street

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10am – 7pm

Saturday: 9am – 2pm

Sunday: Closed

CLAREMONT: Open

Location: Former NH State Liquor Store at 367 Washington Street

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10am – 7pm

Saturday: 9am – 2pm

Sunday: Closed

ROCHESTER: Open

Location: Spaulding Commons 306 North Main St.

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 10am – 7pm

Saturday: 9am – 2pm

Sunday: Closed

For more information about the sites, including dates sites will be closed for the holidays, visit

www.on-sitemedservices.com/vaccinationlocator.

Sites are managed by On-Site Medical Services, a privately-held company. The COVID-19 vaccination program is financed

under a contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, with funds provided in part by the State of New Hampshire and/or such other funding sources as were available or required, e.g., the United States Department of Health and Human Services. On-Site Medical Services is located in Newport, NH.

Holiday Light Tour

Join the elves at Sullivan County Transportation for their annual Holiday Light Tour Dec. 14-16th. Call (603) 542-9609 for more information, or to reserve your spot on Santa's sleigh!

Stressed About the Holidays?



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Business News

Claremont Savings Bank Opens New Branch in West Lebanon

CLAREMONT, NH—Claremont Savings Bank, a mutual savings bank headquartered in Claremont, NH, and serving personal and business banking customers throughout the region, opened their new branch located at 106 North Main Street in West Lebanon, NH, last Monday, December 6th. Grand Opening celebrations will take place in the spring of 2022.

The location was originally a bank over 50 years ago, and most recently was the home of the Great Eastern Radio Group, which has moved to the upper level of the building. The lobby, offices and teller pod area were designed by The Element Group out of Portsmouth, NH, and remodeled by Down to Earth Construction out of Massachusetts using local subcontractors.

This new branch will be home to Ryan Tremblay, Vice President & Market Manager, and his staff Broghan Eaton and Megan Herschel who are seasoned Relationship Bankers moving from the Main Office of Claremont Savings Bank for the opening. In addition, Allison Childs, AVP Mortgage Lender, and Adam Pippin, AVP, Commercial Lender, will round out the staff.

“Community banking has been the cornerstone of our bank for over 110 years,” said Reggie Greene, President and Chief Executive Officer of Claremont Savings Bank. “We are excited to be opening a branch in West Lebanon. We have a great staff in the office in addition to many of us who have been doing business in the Upper Valley for years. We look forward to supporting our existing retail, mortgage and commercial customers in the area, and welcoming our new customers,” continued Greene.



From L to R: Broghan Eaton, Relationship Banker; Adam Pippin, AVP & Commercial Lender; Allison Childs, AVP & Loan Originator. Megan Herschel, Sr. Relationship Banker; and Ryan Tremblay, VP & Market Manager (Courtesy).

“West Lebanon, NH and the surrounding Upper Valley area have long been an important market for Claremont Savings Bank,” said Carol Vivian, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking. “The bank opened a Loan Production Office in spring of 2018, and discovered the need to further its services and become a full-service branch,” continued Vivian. “This new location on North Main Street will feature mod-

ern teller-pod stations equipped with secure cash recyclers, a comfortable and tech-savvy lobby and coffee station, touchscreen computer in branch, a 24/7 ATM machine, and a drive-up window for convenient service from your car.”

“We are thrilled to be expanding our presence in the Upper Valley,” said Tremblay. “We have an enthusiastic team of employees in addition to a Mortgage Lender and Commercial Lender full-time in our new office. I look forward to continuing to establish relationships and delivering valuable results to Upper Valley residents and employers,” Tremblay added.

Whipple Hits \$6M in Sales

CLAREMONT, NH—Coldwell Banker Homes Unlimited agent Brian Whipple has hit the \$6 million mark in sales. “We are so proud of Brian,” said the office. “The team at Coldwell Banker Homes Unlimited would like to say Congratulations, Brian, and thank you for your continuous due diligence.”



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***Let us wrap
for you this
season!***

Tuesday, December 7th

5pm-8pm

The Common Man Restaurant

OR

Saturday, December 18th

9am-1pm

CSB Community Center

Suggested Contribution:

\$15 for every 5 gifts

Reserve your drop off time and more at

bit.ly/Gift-Wrap-Reservation21

Don't Avoid 'Taboo' Topics With Older Parents

If your parents are getting close to retirement age, or are already retired, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, some of which may involve difficult conversations. For the sake of everyone in your family, don't avoid these "taboo" topics.

You'll need to be careful about approaching these subjects with your parents. Mention ahead of time that you'd like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a location comfortable for them and ask whom they might like to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money – this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broad-based discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably, one by one, rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Try to address these areas:

Health care – You'll want to learn if your parents have established the appropriate health-related legal documents – a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make important decisions about their medical care if they become unable to do so themselves, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.

Independence – As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered any options for long-term care, such as a nursing home stay, or the services of a home health aide? And do they have plans in place? If they plan to receive support from family members, do their expectations match yours?

Financial goals – Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have your parents updated their will or other arrangements, such as a living trust? Have they named a financial power of attorney to make decisions on their behalf if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies and retirement plan accounts? If you can position these issues as being more about your parents' control over their financial destiny, rather than "who will get what," you'll more likely have a productive conversation.

Last wishes – You'll want to find out if your parents have left instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express to them that you, or another close family member, should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met.

Money, independence and aging can be sensitive topics. Don't think you have to go it alone – you can enlist help from another close family member. Or, if you know your parents are working with a trusted advisor, such as an attorney or financial professional, you could see if they'd be willing to have this person participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce them to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but, if handled correctly, can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



Martha Maki, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Mayoral Notes

by
Charlene Lovett



Supporting Our Healthcare Community

As a veteran, I have experienced times when the operational tempo demanded long hours and little sleep over an extended period. Though necessary to complete the mission, such conditions often took a toll on military personnel, their families and unit. Such is the case currently for many in our healthcare system today. Staff shortages and higher numbers of people needing healthcare due to an ongoing pandemic have left frontline healthcare providers exhausted. Now, more than ever, it is important to show our support whether via monetary donations or words of gratitude.

Having a local hospital, especially during a health crisis, is of great value to any community as it gives residents quick and convenient access to healthcare. Valley Regional Hospital (VRH), a non-profit, 25-bed critical care access hospital, provides the Claremont area with both inpatient and outpatient care. As a result of this latest surge of COVID-19, the hospital is at full capacity. In response to this increased need for medical care, the hospital has brought in temporary help to augment current staffing levels. Still, much of the burden of providing services rests on the shoulders of existing staff who have responded to the current crisis by working extra shifts, extending their hours and covering other positions throughout the hospital wherever the need exists. Such an operational tempo takes a toll on our healthcare providers and their families, especially during the holiday season.

In recognition of this, acts of kindness and appreciation from our community to those who provide healthcare to us, our families and neighbors can offset the effects of fatigue. VRH is organizing events designed to boost staff morale and provide some respite. If community members would like to support the hospital in this effort, donations can be sent to VRH, Attention: Jean Shaw, 243 Elm Street,

Claremont NH 03743. By writing "donation for staff appreciation" on the check memo line, your gift will be restricted to that purpose.

To give donations directed to the organization and not for a specific purpose, community members can make an unrestricted gift to VRH. Currently, the hospital is conducting a fundraising campaign and such donations can be made either via the hospital's website at <https://vrh.org> or via mail to VRH, Office of Development, 243 Elm Street, Claremont NH 03743. As a non-profit, these campaigns play a vital role in providing the financial resources to adapt to the changing healthcare needs of a community. This has never been more important as VRH responds to the challenges created by COVID-19.

For anyone wishing to show their support in other ways, a letter of appreciation or thank-you card to staff is also very meaningful. Long hours, time away from family and absences from holiday celebrations are never easy. However, such conditions are more easily weathered when people feel appreciated for their efforts. Thank you to all of the healthcare providers who labor tirelessly to keep us well in these challenging times.

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

Rivers Healthier Thanks to More Than 20 Projects Completed Along Connecticut River

GREENFIELD, MA — This year, the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) has completed more than 20 river restoration projects across the 4-state Connecticut River watershed (NH, VT, MA & CT). These projects will restore natural river flow, improve wildlife habitat, and protect clean water. They also boosted local economies and local businesses like plant nurseries, tree planting crews, construction crews, engineering and design firms, and more.

"We are very proud of our restoration work and continue to build momentum with each successful project and each

passing year," said Ron Rhodes, Director of Restoration Programs at CRC. "Our team of partners, landowners, and funders work tirelessly for years to bring these projects to completion. These partnerships bring the benefits of clean water and healthy rivers to people and wildlife in all four states of the Connecticut River basin. Together, we have accomplished our goals for 2021 and look forward to an even more productive 2022."

The river restoration projects completed by CRC in 2021 include:

Removing useless "deadbeat" dams on Broad Brook in Guilford, VT; Turkey Hollow Brook in Windham, VT; and Sutton River in West Burke, VT;

Restoring wetlands along the Connecticut River in Piermont, NH;

Restoring four floodplains along the Cold River in Walpole, NH; the Ammonoosuc River in Lisbon, NH; and the Connecticut River in Colebrook, NH;

Instream habitat restoration in small tributaries to the Waits River in Corinth, VT;

Planting nearly 16,400 trees along rivers in 12 towns including Lisbon, Piermont, and Walpole, NH and Barnet, Bradford, Guilford, Lyndon, Newbury, Norwich, Strafford, West Fairlee and Woodstock, VT

Construction of a living shoreline in Fenwick, CT.

The dam removals this year have opened 27 miles of river by removing barriers for fish and other aquatic life to pass freely upstream. These other projects have also increased access to valuable floodplains, reduced erosion along 4.7 miles of stream habitat, and restored over 25 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat.

Leahy, Denault, Connair & Hodgman, LLP Attorneys at Law

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Thomas P. Connair, Esq., Jessica J. Hodgman, Esq.
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NH's 13 Mayors Recognized for Contributions to Municipality Issues

Each year, the NH Municipal Association (NHMA) presents the Municipal Advocate of the Year award to an individual that has gone above and beyond in advocating for his/her community. This year, for the first time since the award's inception, NHMA elected to present the award to a group. The 13 mayors in New Hampshire received the award as a result of their success in collectively advocating for NH communities.

Since October of 2020, the mayors have held roundtable discussions on a monthly basis. During the legislative session, the mayors meet twice a month and once a month when the Legislature is not in session. In preparation for the 2021 legislative session, the mayors identified homelessness, housing and revenue loss as their top three priorities. During the session, they successfully advocated in these areas.

"Because of my role as the organizer of the meetings, the group opted to have me receive the award on behalf of the group," Claremont Mayor Charlene Lovett told the *e-Ticker News*. "I encouraged all mayors to be there if possible. Mayors Becksted, Bouley and Craig joined me in receiving the award. Mayor Donchess's Chief of Staff, Cheryl Lindner, was in the audience, as he was unable to attend."

In her acceptance speech on behalf of the group, Lovett said, "On behalf of Mayors Becksted, Bouley, Brown, Carrier, Craig, Donchess, Grenier, Hansel, Hilliard, Hosmer, McNamara and former Mayor McCarley and Interim Mayor Zink, I would like to thank NHMA for this honor. Before we began holding our monthly roundtable discussions, we barely knew each other. We come from 13 very different cities, but we discovered early on that we share similar challenges. These similarities formed the basis of our partnership and throughout the legislative year we advocated successfully for our communities. We worked together to address homelessness, the housing shortage, lost revenue and got results.

"None of this would have been possible without a willingness to work together. Such collaboration has given us the opportunity to make real change and, in the process, gain



respect for each other. We are grateful to NHMA for recognizing our work and what can be achieved through partnership."

Lovett Honored for Advocating for U.S. Global Leadership to Strengthen Local Communities

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (USGLC) has honored Claremont Mayor Charlene Lovett for her work to advocate for U.S. global leadership as an imperative and effective approach to strengthening our country's local communities. USGLC paid tribute to Mayors across America at its virtual 2021 Tribute Celebration on December 7.

"USGLC is proud to honor Mayor Lovett because she has been an influential advocate for strengthening American global leadership to support our communities here at home," said Liz Schrayner, President and CEO of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. "Let's face it, mayors across the country are on the front-lines every day, addressing global issues that are now kitchen table issues – from the pandemic to our economy – that matter to their constituents. They uniquely understand that America simply can't ignore what happens outside our borders.

"Mayors across America are stepping up, knowing that diplomacy and development are essential to the health, safety, and economic interests of every American family. It's exciting to recognize them," added Schrayner.

Former U.S. Senator Norm Coleman, USGLC Co-Chair, and Michael Bloomberg, former New York City Mayor and head of Bloomberg Philanthropies, joined USGLC's Tribute to America's Mayors, highlighting Lovett among a bipartisan group of mayors across the nation honored for their leadership.

The American global leadership event included a tribute to former Secretary of State and General Colin Powell by two other former Secretaries of State, Condoleezza Rice and Madeleine Albright. It also included a recognition of U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Todd Young (R-IN) for their work in strengthening U.S. engagement around the world.

The USGLC event also honored Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency António Guterres. Throughout his 45-year long career in public service, Secretary-General Guterres has prioritized bringing together the global community to build a better, safer world for all. Ambassador Linda Thomas Greenfield, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, offered a special tribute and Henrietta Fore, Executive Director of UNICEF, interviewed the Secretary-General.

The U.S. Global Leadership Coalition (www.usglc.org) is a broad-based influential network of 500 businesses and NGOs; national security and foreign policy experts; and business, faith-based, academic, military, and community leaders in all 50 states who support strategic investments to elevate development and diplomacy alongside defense in order to build a better, safer world.



Sports/Recreation

Left: The Stevens bowling team hung the 2021 state championship banner up at their home opening match Saturday morning. The JV & varsity bowling teams would both go on to win their matches Saturday. The JV team defeated Sanborn and the varsity team outlasted Sanborn and Souhegan at Maple Lanes.

Right: The varsity girls basketball team kicked off the regular season with an impressive win, 64-7, over the Lakers from Inter Lakes High School Friday evening at Frederick Carr Gymnasium (Courtesy photos).



Sign Up Now for Snowmobile and OHRV Safety Classes

CONCORD, NH – Winter is on its way, and free in-person snowmobile safety education

SHS Girls Basketball

12/10/21	Inter-Lakes	W	64 - 7
12/14/21	Fall Mountain		07:00 PM
12/20/21	at Winnisquam		07:00 PM
12/22/21	Hillsboro-Deering		07:00 PM
01/03/22	at Belmont		06:00 PM
01/05/22	Gilford		06:30 PM
01/07/22	at Mascenic		06:30 PM
01/10/22	at Hopkinton		07:00 PM
01/12/22	Campbell		07:00 PM
01/19/22	Kearsarge		07:00 PM
01/21/22	Newport		07:00 PM
01/25/22	Conant		07:00 PM
01/28/22	at Newport		07:00 PM
01/31/22	at Fall Mountain		05:30 PM
02/02/22	Mascoma Valley		07:00 PM
02/04/22	at Kearsarge		06:00 PM
02/07/22	at Newfound		06:00 PM
02/11/22	at Monadnock		06:00 PM

classes are now being scheduled in the Granite State. To operate a snowmobile or off-highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) in New Hampshire, any person age 12 or older must have either a valid motor vehicle driver's license or have successfully completed an approved OHRV/Snowmobile Safety Education class, which are taught by instructors and staff trained of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Those interested in attending a class should register soon by visiting www.wildlife.state.nh.us/ohrv/education.html.

OHRV/Snowmobile Safety Education classes can also be conveniently taken online. With recent changes to the state laws, all online classes will include a combination of practical OHRV and snowmobile safety information and the rules that apply to all trail riders. The cost for the virtual class is \$34.50. Learn more by visiting www.wildlife.state.nh.us/ohrv/education-online.html.

"The online safety courses provide a convenient option for students to obtain their

New Hampshire Rider Certificate, at their own pace, while learning key safety information important for riding both OHRVs and snowmobiles," said Captain Michael Eastman, OHRV/Snowmobile Education and Law Enforcement Coordinator for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. "The entire course can be taken on a smartphone, tablet, or computer and offers a fun approach to learning by using live-action video and interactive learning modules."

All children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a licensed adult over the age of 18 when operating a snowmobile or OHRV, including on property belonging to their parents, grandparents, or guardians.

In addition to safety education, NH Fish and Game Conservation Officers will be out on the trails this winter conducting patrols to detect and apprehend impaired snowmobile operators, enforce speed limits, deter unlawful off-trail riding, and detect machines with modified exhaust.

Inspiration

JOY

By Priscilla Hull

We've covered HOPE and LOVE, two of my favorite four letter words. The third week of Advent is JOY! Only three letters, but what a word! JOY! Joyous and joyful, two derivatives which just sound like good things to say. Joy is such a positive emotion. Just the sound of the word makes you smile. In fact say it aloud. Go ahead say it and pay attention to your lips as you finish. Joy! You're starting to smile as you finish the word. Now finish the smile and the word becomes a part of you!

Not every word is so connected to the feeling it suggests! I don't think for a second that it isn't meant to be. It is a word that expresses its meaning with purpose!

So, this is the season for JOY and while I don't intend to leave out those who have a difficult time with these days, I do want to emphasize the Joy of the season. It is so difficult for too many to rejoice in the season. Whatever the reason, from bad childhood experiences, to the loss of a loved one or other trauma of life, we must face the reality of those who are lost or unable to find the joy at this time. Be patient and kind, listen and know that your listening is important to them.

When we can rejoice, we must rejoice for so many things. First, we rejoice that we can help others who might not be as affluent as we are. We need to remember that the season that we enter into at Christmas is a season of approaching light. Minute by minute the days will be getting longer and the days magically become brighter. The darkest days of winter will soon pass. Into our dark world comes a light. It is a light that has illuminated the world for two thousand years. When the Baby was born in Bethlehem, a light came into the world. It is the light of HOPE and it is the light of LOVE. If we allow, it will lead us to a new emotion, JOY.

The shepherds rejoiced when they ran to Bethlehem. They rejoiced and told everyone about this Baby who was born on that day so long ago. That baby brought joy into a world that was foundering in darkness and despair. We might feel that we haven't come that far since then, but as long as we can find joy, the hope and love of that infant child will be with us and we too will have reason to rejoice!

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! 5 Let everyone see your gentleness. The Lord is near! 6 Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. 7 The peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:4-7

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



Calendar Of Events

American Legion Oratorical Competition and Scholarships

The 2022 American Legion Oratorical Competition is offering up to \$32,500 in scholarship awards for high school students under the age of 20.

The 2022 National Finals are scheduled to be held April 22-24 in Indianapolis at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel.

The overall national contest winner is awarded a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States. However, last year due to Covid challenges the National competition was cancelled and rather each State winner received a \$5,000 scholarship in addition to the \$2,500 that had been awarded for each state winner.

Competition begins at the post level where winners advance to a district level, then a state competition. Each post winner may receive up to a \$100 scholarship for those that advance to the district level. Each district awards up to \$300 for participants and each district winner then moves to the New Hampshire State competition. New Hampshire competition for district winners will be held March 12th beginning at 9AM at St. Anselm's College. New Hampshire awards \$2,500 to the first place winner

who will then participate in the national competition, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; additionally, a three- to five-minute speech on an assigned topic is also part of the contest.

For additional information please see <https://www.legion.org/oratorical> or contact the District 6 Oratorical Committee chair Liz Hennig at Lhennig878@gmail.com (603-454-8658), or your local American Legion Post.

Gallery of Gifts: Handmade for the Holidays

Through Dec. 23

Library Arts Center Gallery

Gallery Hours:

Tues.-Fri. 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Admission: Free

Library Arts Center Gallery

58 N. Main St., Newport, NH This annual favorite show features the work of more than 100 artists and crafters from the region, and is a perfect place to find unique handmade gifts like pottery, woodworking, artisan baskets, metalworking, stained glass, wool applique, soaps, local honey & syrup, and so much more. The show is open for in-person shopping in the gallery with health safeguards in place.

No appointments are necessary any time during the normal gallery hours.

Individual private shopping appointments are available outside of gallery hours for anyone who would like to have a little more

space when shopping, or to gather with small groups of friends/family to shop. See libraryartscenter.org for more details, or for updates throughout the duration of the show.

Croydon Ladies Auxiliary Bingo

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

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

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

Sandwiches and snacks available and drinks.

Questions: call Sandy at 603-543-7118.

Open to those 18 and older.

Big Money Bingo

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

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83 Mummery Rd
E Goshen, NH 03752**

**603 863 0451
603 443 3747
djtreework51@yahoo.com**

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

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

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

Sandwiches and snacks available and drinks

Questions: call Sandy at 603-543-7118.

Open to those 18 and older.

Basket Bingo

Saturday, December 18, 2021

Doors open at 11:00 and games start at 1:00 pm

Only \$10 to play for one strip of 20 games

Extra strips are only \$5 each

Win a basket of goodies valued at least \$100

Pull tickets for chances to win money

50/50 raffle and more

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

Questions: call Sandy at 603-543-7118

183 Plains Road in Claremont, NH

Open to anyone 18 and older.

Lake Sunapee VNA Offers Three Grief Support Groups

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

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

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

Charlestown VFW Bingo Schedule

CHARLESTOWN, NH—Charlestown VFW Bingo is offering a weekly opportunity for some entertainment and socializing while helping us to raise funds for our many Veterans programs. Wednesday nights at 5:00 p.m. for early birds and 6:30 p.m. for regular fun and games. Currently, we play 12 regular and two 2 part games, as well as a 50/50 game, Winner-take-all game, Carry Over Coverall game and a Jackpot game. The Governor’s emergency order concerning COVID has expired.

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

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

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

Claremont Senior Center News

Center Closes Due to COVID Surge

Effective Monday, December 13th, the Claremont Senior Center will be closing until further notice. This is due to the high number of Covid in our area. Drive thru lunches and rentals will continue for now. This action was made for the safety and protection of our seniors.

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

We are still holding our drive-thru meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tuesday Dec 14 – Soup, Chicken Souvlaki, Vegetable, Dessert. Thursday Dec 16 – Soup, Cranberry-Apple Stuffed Pork Loin, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,

Vegetable, Cake. Must call 603-543-5998 by 10:30 to reserve your meal. Member price \$4 and non-member \$5. Drive-thru pickup is from 11:45 am to 12:15 pm. Meals are always subject to change.

Have you seen our 1st Annual Claremont Senior Center Car Show Calendar for 2022? It features winners of this year’s 2021 car show with each month featuring a picture of a different class winning vehicle. Only \$12 when picked up at the center, add \$6 shipping and handling for each calendar if we mail to you. Call at 603-543-5998 and we will set up an appointment for pick up. Makes a great gift or get one for yourself.

Our Ugly Sweater Cookie Contest will still be held. Please call the center to schedule a Tuesday or Thursday morning time to pick up an entry package. You can also make a Tuesday or Thursday appointment to renew dues.

“You can’t have a better tomorrow if you are thinking about yesterday all the time.” Charles F. Kettering

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

Claremont Fire Dept. Log

Sunday 12/5:

12:20 AM: Engine 4 responded to Washington St. for an alarm sounding.

1:01 AM: Engine 3 responded to Lincoln Heights to assist Golden Cross Ambulance.

2:12 PM: Engine 4 responded to Heritage Drive for a medical call.

4:48 PM: Engine 4 responded to South St. for a medical call.

Monday 12/6:

3:40 PM: Engine 4 responded to Thrasher Rd. for a fuel spill.

3:54 PM: Engine 3 responded to Bellevue Ave. for an alarm sounding.

6:38 PM: Engine 4 responded to Crescent St. for an alarm sounding.

6:49 PM: Engine 3 responded to Schmitt St. for a medical call.

7:16 PM: Engine 3 responded to Schmitt St. for a medical call.

8:27 PM: Engine 4 responded to Alderwood Court for a report of a tree on a house.

8:38 PM: Engine 3 responded to Dennison Ave. for a medical call.

Tuesday 12/7:

12:01 AM: Engine 4 responded to Sugar River Drive for a report of a tree and wires in the roadway.

6:05 AM: Engine 4 responded to East St. for a carbon monoxide alarm sounding.

9:46 AM: Engine 4 responded to Lincoln Heights for a lift assist with Golden Cross.

5:31 PM: Engine 4 responded to West Pleasant St. for a medical call.

6:04 PM: Engine 4 responded to Elm St. for a medical call.

6:43 PM: Engine 4 responded to Walnut St. for a medical call.

6:49 PM: Engine 4 responded to Pleasant St. for a medical call.

Wednesday 12/8:

12:07 PM: Engine 4 and Engine 3 responded to Lincoln Heights for a report of smoke in the building.

1:38 PM: Engine 4 responded to Heritage Drive for a medical call.

1:42 PM: Engine 3 responded to Pleasant St. for a medical call.

1:57 PM: Engine 4 responded to Pleasant St. for a medical call.

3:58 PM: Engine 4 responded to Bailey Ave. for a public assist.

9:07 PM: Engine 4 responded to Hillside Terrace for a medical call.

10:51 PM: Engine 4 responded to Clover St. for a medical call.

Thursday 12/9:

10:29 AM: Engine 4 responded to Heritage Drive for a medical call.

1:16 PM: Engine 4 responded to Broad St. for a medical call.

1:23 PM: Engine 4 responded to Bowen St. for a medical call.

4:34 PM: Engine 4 responded to Pleasant St. for a water problem.

Friday 12/10:

4:44 AM: Engine 4 responded to Broad St. for a medical call.

8:33 AM: Engine 4 responded to Buena Vista Rd. for a wire down.

5:17 PM: Engine 4 responded to School St. for a medical call.

6:58 PM: Engine 3 responded to Washington St. for a motor vehicle accident.

Saturday 12/11:

1:39 AM: Engine 4 responded to Res Water Brook Rd. for a medical call.

2:06 PM: Engine 4 responded to River Rd. for a report of a tree on wires.

9:56 PM: Engine 4 responded to Crescent St. for an alarm sounding.

10:23 PM: Engine 3 responded to Glenwood Drive for a tree on wires.

Celebrate the Holidays at Billings Farm & Museum

WOODSTOCK, VT—Experience the traditions of a late 19th-century Vermont Christmas with a visit to the Billings Farm & Museum this holiday season. Christmas at the Farm will be featured daily Dec. 18 – Jan. 2, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (closed Christmas Day).

Festive holiday trees and decorations will fill the Visitor Center and historic barn. Visitors can learn about a Victorian Christmas, experience the authentically decorated parlor of the 1890 Farm Manager's House, and dip candles. Be sure to vote for the best staff-made gingerbread house on display. Don't miss the to-scale 1890 Farm Manager's House recreated in gingerbread in the Visitor Center lobby.

On the farm, guests can meet Jersey cows, draft horses, chickens, sheep, and goats in the barns. Visitors can gather around the fire pits and warm up with hot chocolate, coffee and s'mores, available for purchase. Light adventure can be found on a snowshoe hike along the Ottauquechee River, weather permitting.

Santa is coming to Billings Farm. Santa will visit Billings Farm 10am-3pm on December 18 & 19.

SUNDAY ONLY: Horse-Drawn Wagon or Sleigh Rides, 11am-2pm. Conditions permitting. 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 these timed activities throughout December (offered daily unless otherwise noted):
 Victorian Christmas program: 12 and 2pm
 Meet our Gentle Jerseys: 11am & 1pm
 Daily Milking: 3:15-4pm
 Dec. 18-Jan 2: Make your own Mini-Mince Pie: 10am-3:30pm
 Dec. 27-Jan 2: Horse-Drawn Sleigh Rides, 11am-3pm. Conditions permitting. Reservations for rides will be taken upon arrival at the Ticket Desk, on a first come, first served basis.

Visiting safely. For the continued safety of our staff and guests, all guests over the age of 2 are required to wear a face covering in all indoor spaces. All guests must wear masks when around people and unable to maintain 6' physical distances outdoors. No entry is permitted without a face covering. Visit billingsfarm.org/safety for details.

2nd Annual Teen Writers Competition

The Center for the Arts-Lake Sunapee Region is pleased to announce the second Annual Teen Writers Competition. Winners of the competitions in each genre will receive prizes from local business, publication in the Teen Writers Journal and a spot in the next session of the Teen Writers Workshop. Entries will be judged by local author and Colby Sawyer professor, Megan Baxter. Megan will lead the workshop that follows the competition.

Rules and Awards for the Competitions

NEW Deadline for submission: January 15, 2022

Open to all writers between the ages of 12 and 18 and who live in Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Grantham, New London, Newbury, Newport, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, or Wilmot.

Accepting submissions in short fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Writers are welcome to submit to multiple genres. For all submissions, please include the TITLE of your piece, your NAME, ADDRESS, and EMAIL address as well as the NAME OF TEACHER you'd like to recognize. Please see the specific genre requirements below.

- Short Fiction: Send your best short stories and flash fiction! Submissions up to 6,000 words, either one story, or several shorter pieces totaling 6,000 words. Must be double spaced and include page numbers.
- Creative Nonfiction: Send your best true stories, creatively crafted! Submissions up to 6,000 words, either one essay or memoir or several shorter pieces totaling 6,000 words. Must be double spaced and include page numbers.
- Poetry: Send your poems, all styles welcome! Submit up to 5 poems or no more than 10 pages single-spaced.

For complete rules, submission requirements and prizes, please visit <https://centerforheartsnh.org/students>.

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

John A. Granger, 67

John A. Granger, 67, formerly of Madison Place in Claremont, NH, died peacefully Thursday afternoon, December 9, 2021, at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.

He was a native and long-time resident of Claremont and also lived for several years in Bonita Springs, FL. John was an avid hunter, fisherman and wildlife photographer. He loved spending time with his daughter and grandchildren, visiting with friends and family and spending time outdoors or travelling.

John was born on July 10, 1954, to Helen M. (Garneau) & Andrew A. Granger. John grew up in Claremont where he graduated from Stevens High School in 1971 and proudly served as a part-time firefighter. John married Shawny Partridge in 1992 and they spent many happy years together, but after later divorcing, continued to be lifelong friends. He also worked for Joy Manufacturing, APC Paper Company and most recently as a Night Stockperson at Wal-Mart. After retiring in 2016, he spent time traveling around the country and visited many National Parks along the way, fulfilling a life-long dream of his.

John is survived by his daughter Jessi-

ca Tenney, of Barre, VT, and her children Alexander and Isaac, his sister Gloria A. Martell and her husband, Brad, of Charlestown, and his brother Michael R. Granger and his partner Mitzie Burger, of Canaan. His family also includes two nieces, Echo Granger and Christy Martell, a nephew, Nathan Martell, as well as numerous great-nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

John was preceded in death by his father, Andrew and mother, Helen, as well as his grandparents, and several aunts and uncles. John also leaves behind many cherished friends and hunting & fishing buddies.

Visiting hours will be held at the Stringer Funeral Home from 10 to 11AM on Thursday, December 16th, with a prayer service at 11 AM with Father Arockia officiating. Interment will follow in St. Mary Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Elk's.

Susan A. Williams, 65

Susan Ann "Sue" (Swensen) Williams, 65, of Cornish, NH, passed away peacefully at home

on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. She is survived by her beloved husband of 32 years, Randy Williams.

Susan was born November 20, 1956, in Victoria, TX, a daughter of Lee Marshall Swensen and Emily Ruth (Holmes) Swensen. She graduated from Stevens High School, class of 1974. Sue had been employed by Dartmouth College and previously at Holson Photo Albums.

Sue enjoyed gardening, canning, crocheting, her fur babies, but most of all spending time with her grandchildren: Aiden & Ashlynn Hamel, Matthew Balser, Isabelle, Rowan, and Dexter Caffrey, Logan Caffrey and Noah Farnsworth, and Tyler Flood.

She is survived by her children, Shawn Caffrey of Cornish, NH; Kristen Balser and husband Gregg of Rochester, NH; Kathryn Williams and fiancé Travis Handt of Claremont, NH; and Kevin Caffrey and wife Chelsea of Quechee, VT. Also surviving are her siblings, Bob Swensen of Enfield, NH; Mike Swensen and wife Wendy, of Wakefield, RI; Linda Brown and husband Jeff of Moncks Corner, SC; Patricia Olivier and husband Bill of Cornish, NH;

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-Dr. Sam Giveen

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and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Sue was predeceased by her parents and younger brother Jon Swensen and niece Elizabeth Swensen.

In honor of Sue's down to earth nature, the family asks that casual dress be observed at the services and in lieu of flowers they request donations be made in Sue's name to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center at

<https://cancer.dartmouth.edu/donate>.

There will be a visiting hours from 5-7 PM, with a service at 7 PM. on Monday, December 13, at the Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad Street in Claremont, NH.

Dr. Joseph A. Bouchard, 97

Dr. Joseph A. Bouchard, 97, of McCusker Place in Claremont, NH, died December 6, 2021, at Valley Regional Hospital. He was born in Nashua, NH, on February 17, 1924, the son of Joseph A. and Gratia S. (Bellerose) Bouchard and had been a resident of Claremont for 51 years.

He attended schools in Nashua and was a graduate of Tilton School, Tilton, NH, in 1943. Inducted into the United States Coast Guard Reserve in 1943, he was active in the invasion of Okinawa. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 8497.

After military service in 1946, he attended Providence College, in Providence, RI. He was a member of the first track team at Providence College, coached by Harry Coates. He then enrolled at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, graduating in 1954 and receiving the degree of Doctor of Optometry. He proudly served his profession for 55 years, retiring in 2009.

In July 1954, he married the former Claire C. Bissonnette of Nashua, NH. In October of 1954, he began practicing optometry in Manchester, NH. While living in Manchester, he was elected to the Board of School Committee from Ward 8. He was also a member of the Joint School Committee, responsible for the purchase of Connor Land where Memorial High School and Middle School were built. He was very active in the decisions for building Memorial High School.

While in Manchester, he was a founding member of the Club Richelieu and a member of Club Joliet. He was also active in St. Anthony's Parish and, for many years, a member of the choir. He was a Past-President of the

New Hampshire Chapter of the National Ice Hockey Officials Association, officiating high school and college hockey games in New Hampshire. He also officiated many Manchester Blackhawks games.

In 1969, he purchased the Optometric Practice of Dr. Porter O. Dexter in Claremont, NH. He moved his family to Claremont in 1970. He was active in his profession, serving the New Hampshire Optometric Association as President, being named Optometrist of the Year in 1985, and serving this association for over 25 consecutive years. He was a Past President of the New England Council of Optometry and served as a board member for 14 consecutive years. In addition, he was a Past President of the Rotary Club of Claremont and a Paul Harris Fellow. He was also a member of the American Canadian Genealogical Society of Manchester, NH.

An active member St. Mary Church, he has been a daily lector for the past 43 years, a choir member and an altar server. He was a member of Knights of Columbus, Fr. Cote Council 1820, and a Fourth Degree Member of Knights of Columbus, Assembly 0635.

He is survived by his son, David Bouchard of Weston FL, his daughter, Celeste Bouchard of Claremont NH, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Visiting hours were held at the Stringer Funeral Home from 9:30 to 10:30 on Monday, December 13th, with a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at 11 AM in St. Mary Church with Father Shawn Therrien, Pastor officiating. Interment will be Tuesday at 11AM at the St. Louis Cemetery in Nashua, NH.

Gladys L. DeVeau, 81

Gladys L. DeVeau (Cook), 81, of Claremont, NH, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 4, 2021. An avid reader and lover of video games, Gladys is fondly remembered amongst her towers of books and stacks of Sega cartridges. With a sharp wit and sense of humor to match, Gladys loved a good laugh and loved making others laugh alongside her. Born in Claremont, Gladys was the daughter of the late Millard Cook and the late Gladys L. Winot (Russell).

She was predeceased by her brother John Cook and sister Ginny Ann Wright. She is survived by her brothers, David Cook and his wife Joyce, Ralph Cook and his wife Linda, and Millard Cook Jr. and his wife Mary, along with two

sisters, Betty Rosencranse and Cheryl Marandino.

She is survived by seven children: Michael Cook, Debra Beebe and her husband Donald, Mark Cook and his wife Lori, Darcie Nemry and her husband Fadi, Matthew DeVeau, Marcel DeVeau, and Denise Hoyt and her husband Nathan. She is also survived by many loving grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Services will be held at a future date.

In honor of her memory, donations can be made to the Claremont Soup Kitchen at 53 Central St.

You are invited to share a memory of Gladys with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guest book at www.royfuneralhome.com.

Mary L. Kelley

Mary Lisa Kelley, a Claremont, NH, native and 1981 graduate of Stevens High School, passed away on November 29, 2021. A grandmother, mother, stepmom, aunt, teacher, social worker, lover of all things purple and a great friend to so many, Lisa's passing leaves those who knew her deeply saddened. Words cannot describe how profoundly she will be missed.

Lisa was born to Alice and Paul Kelley on September 26, 1963 and grew up just off Maple Avenue in Claremont. After graduating from SHS where she developed and applied her passion for music and theater, she later earned her undergraduate degree at Worcester State and a Master's from Plymouth State. For many years she worked in the education sector as a teacher and, for a time, as a high school principal. Lisa was emphatically proud of so many of her former students of whom she often spoke.

In November 2015, Lisa began work in the child protection field in Morrisville District Office for the Vermont Department for Children and Families where she specialized in Investigations and Assessments. This particular role is oftentimes a family's first contact with the department and is commonly a perceived adversarial relationship. Lisa was able to quickly form trusting relationships with children and their caregivers and help families negotiate a path forward, toward safety and stability. In a thankless job, Lisa was often called by families wishing to express their gratitude. Lisa's supervisors were also frequently called with compliments and positive feedback from fami-

lies. The professionals in this field of work with Lisa included law enforcement officers, lawyers, advocates and mental health professionals. All describe her as a fierce advocate, who was able to strike the elusive balance between being compassionate and direct. As a coworker and friend Lisa was loyal, supportive and always willing to help. Lisa worked in this role until her passing and has a left void in that office that will never be filled.

Anyone who knew Lisa can attest to her irrepressible energy, her remarkable, infectious laugh, and her unapologetic zest for life. When Lisa asked how you were doing, whether you were a friend, a client, a student, or a family member, it was because she truly cared about the answer. She listened deeply, and without judgement. Her compassionate nature is what made her such a great teacher and social worker as well as a caring friend. Always up for a spirited debate, Lisa lived true to her values and expressed herself passionately and articulately on the issues that mattered to her. Her pastimes often included Facetime with Coco, Adam, Kelley, and Alice, conversing with “her Peter,” long walks, listening to music from her favorite era and being crooned to by Tony Bennett. Sunday mornings were often spent teary-eyed from watching an endearing story on the show CBS Sunday Morning.

She loved being with her family and friends and was usually the life of any social gathering, drawing people in with her laugh and charisma. Lisa adored her son and her grandchildren. Being a grandmother was one of her greatest joys in life and the subject of many conversations.

Lisa is survived by her mother, Alice, her son Adam, his wife Kelley and their daughter Collette, known affectionately as “Coco.” In addition, she is survived by her brother Brian, his wife Lisa and their family, her stepsons Casey and Collin, Collin’s wife Brittany and their son Weston.

A sharing of memories was held on Dec. 8 at Stringer Funeral Home.

The family plans to establish a memorial fund in Lisa’s name. But for now, please know that Lisa cared deeply about her community and felt very strongly about issues related to mental health and child services. She was also an ardent supporter of public radio. The family asks that if anyone is interested in making a donation in honor of Lisa, to please consider non-profits in these fields. A few of the organizations she was supportive of are:

Planned Parenthood of Northern New England <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-northern-new-england>, the Lamoille Family Center <https://www.lamoillefamily-center.org/> and Vermont Public Radio <https://www.vpr.org/>

Paul D. LaCasse, 72

Paul D. LaCasse, age 72, of Claremont, NH, passed away on Saturday, December 4th, 2021, after a valiant fight against COVID-19. Paul was born July 5, 1949, the son of Joseph & Marcella LaCasse and grew up in Claremont, NH. After graduation from Stevens High School in 1968, Paul furthered his education in the field of electricity, earning his Master’s Electrical License in both NH and VT.

Along with being a self-employed electrician and electrical contractor, Paul worked for a number of companies in the area, including Cone Blanchard and LaCrosse Footwear. He retired in 2014 after 12 years as Code Enforcement Officer in Newbury, NH. Paul had a great love for his home town and did not hesitate to get involved – he served time on the Claremont Planning Board (3 years as Chairman), the Zoning Board, Appeals Board, Historical Commission, the Conservation Board and 9 years with the Claremont Call Fire Dept. Ladder Company. Not only did Paul serve his city, but he served the State of New Hampshire in the House of Representatives and his country as a member of the Army National Guard.

Paul had two children with his first wife – Paul Jr. and Charmagne. In 1977, Paul met Brenda Martin after responding to a request to fix a broken washing machine and the rest is history. They married during a blizzard, February 7, 1978, and Paul became stepfather to Edward, Tracy, Daniel, and Jessica.

In his retirement, Paul looked forward to meeting up with his morning coffee crew to solve the world’s problems. He also enjoyed frequenting gun shops in VT & NH with good buddies Mike, Ray and Joe. Paul never hesitated to lend a helping hand and share his expertise in all building trades, whether it be electrical, plumbing, heating or general construction. His children were fortunate beneficiaries of his skills.

Paul will be sorely missed by his wife of 44 years, Brenda, along with his children Paul Jr. and wife Shelly of Charlestown, NH, Charmagne Gerow of Milford, NH, Edward Mercier of Oakland, CA, Tracy Perry of Orford, NH,

Daniel Mercier & wife Shannon of Port Hueneme, CA and Jessica Filiault & husband Keith of Grantham, NH. Paul is also survived by his sister Mary Jane Desmarais, husband Keith and their three daughters of Charlestown, NH, and multiple grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Visiting hours were held at the Stringer Funeral Home on Saturday, December 11th, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated in St. Joseph Church with Father Arockia officiating. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery.

Judith K. Austin, 66

Judith (Judy) K. Austin, age 66, of Claremont, NH, passed away peacefully at the Jack Byrne Center for Palliative and Hospice Care in Lebanon, NH, on December 2, 2021, with her children and husband at her side to love and support her.

Judy was born on June 29, 1955 in Claremont, NH. She is survived by her loving husband, Andrew Austin of Claremont, NH, siblings Janet Grenier of Charlestown, Mary (John) Sasso of Springfield, VT, Kelly Dauphin of Claremont, Thomas Dauphin of Portland, ME, and Stephen Dauphin of Claremont. Judy had three children during her marriage to William Kennett of Claremont; Monica (Jamie) Landry, Tracey (Mike) Hurd, and Mark (Hannah) Kennett. Her marriage to Andy brought many stepchildren into her life; Frank (Theresa) Austin, Juanita (Eric) Johnson, Andrea Sharp, and Colleen (Rob) Haehnel who was a great help to Judy in her final days. Judy will be greatly missed by her grandchildren: Tasia Macie, Brett Hagerman, Kameryn Landry, Haley Landry, and Mackenzie Kennett, as well as many step grandchildren, step great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents Evelyn V. (Copp) and Lawrence (John) Dauphin, two grandsons Jason W. Hagerman and Greyson W. Kennett, and stepdaughter Katrina Austin.

She was always one to want to improve her life, graduating from New England School of Hair Design and later from New Hampshire Community Technical College with a certificate in Medical Administrative Assistant. Judy attended St. Mary’s School and later Stevens High School.

Judy had a passion for sewing and her favorite holiday was Halloween. She was a dog lover, the best listener, a fabulous cook, and a very loving person who made it known how

important family and friends were to her. All who knew her would agree that her smile lit up the room.

Judy's family wishes to thank Dr. Cecilia Vicuna Keady for her wonderful care. Judy bragged about her constantly. An additional thank you to the end of life care nurses and doctors that made her as comfortable as she could be. Judy was such a giving and caring person. If you can do anything to make someone else's day a little brighter, then bless them with a random act of kindness in her memory.

A service was held on Friday, December 10, at the Stringer Funeral Home.

Matthew B. Husband, Sr., 38

Matthew Bryan Husband, Sr, 38, of Claremont, NH, passed away unexpectedly November 30, 2021. Matthew was born April 3, 1983 in Claremont, NH, and graduated from Stevens High School in 2001.

Matthew enjoyed life, especially fishing with his great-grandfather, and was passing on his love of fishing to his sons. He was described as a man that would help anyone in need. Often described as a big squishy teddy bear. He worked in the hospitality industry prior to Covid then worked for TPI until health issues prevented him from working.

He is survived by his wife Misty; daughters, Madison and Gracie; sons, Mathias, and Matthew Jr.; his parents Cynthia and Raymond Smith of Claremont, NH; Bryan Husband of Windsor, VT; sisters Holly (Jay) Cannistraci, Erica (Richie) Smith, Jennifer Byrd, Ashley Husband, Morgan Husband. Brother Nicholas (Kayla) Smith. Uncles Doug (Beth) Hackett, Jon (Becca) Hackett, and Mark (Andrea) Husband, and Aunt Karen (Mike) Hamlin. Grandparents Earl and Florence Hackett. Mother-in-law Sarah Annala. Best friend Adam Svendsen whom he considered his brother. Stepmother Coralee Husband of NY and Aunt Emily Bernard. Several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents William and Mary Husband, great-grandmother Edna Hackett, great-grandfather Roger Warcup, great-grandparents George and Geraldine Husband, Charles and Yolanda Lysian. Father-in-law Tapani Annala.

There will be no services at this time per Matthew's wishes, but a celebration of his life will be held in summer 2022.

The Stringer Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.



The Claremont City Council will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 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. CITIZEN'S FORUM (Comments on Non-agenda Items Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker (Council Rule 24))
- 4. OLD BUSINESS
- 6:44 PM A. Transition Planning Follow-Up
- 7:25 PM 5. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
- 7:30 PM 6. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: Claremont City Council's next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

A Century of Makers

Art, Photographs Fill COH Atrium

CLAREMONT, NH—Last Saturday, several area makers took part in a sale sponsored by Claremont MakerSpace, where they work in metal, wood, paper and jewelry. Their creations filled the John D. Bennett Atrium Gallery at the Claremont Opera House.

Felicia Brych Dalke, president of the COH executive board, was so pleased with the success of the inaugural show that she said, “We want to make this an annual event!”

The sale was only one day. But the exhibit of historical photographs on the atrium’s walls is up through March.

George Albert Hale (1874-1957) was a life-long resident of Claremont, living at 5 Central Street and adding onto the building to run a photo studio and shop. Five Hale families lived along Maple Avenue. When the last resident, Lester Hale, passed away in 2000, George’s photo albums were discovered in a barn. David Hale preserved the albums, and his nieces helped with the current exhibit, which

focuses on winter in Claremont.

George Hale was divorced with no children. When he died, his home on Central Street went up for auction and the churches that flanked it competed. First Baptist Church (now Grace River) won and leveled the home for a parking lot.

Top: Eric Diven, a furniture maker from White River Junction, works with a variety of woods, some new and some reclaimed, to create reproductions of clocks, “gossip benches” and other pieces originally dating from as far back as the late 18th century.

Right: One of the Hale historical photos highlighting his work as a resident photographer (Courtesy photo).

Text and photos by Eric Zengota



Don Fitzpatrick, of Grantham, creates harmonographs and pendulum drawings using pens to design the pattern, then initiating the harmonic motion of this device.



Jo Ann Clifford, of Cornish, a self-described emerging metal artist, gives discarded objects new life through artistic expression.



~ Eric Zengota

