

# e-Ticker News of Claremont

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December 14, 2020

## SMCS and Springfield Hospital Emerge from Chapter 11

SPRINGFIELD, VT—The U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Vermont has confirmed the Chapter 11 reorganization plans of Springfield Medical Care Systems and Springfield Hospital. Confirmation of their Chapter 11 plans is the final step necessary for the two companies to exit Chapter 11 and the culmination of an 18-month debt-adjustment process. The companies' Chapter 11 exit plans bring existing debt to a level that the companies can each support and lays the groundwork to preserve their charitable health care mission, business operations, and jobs.

"Our Chapter 11 work began with the goals of immediately stabilizing our overall health system, conducting a complete financial and situational assessment, and developing reorganization plans that enabled us to restructure long-term debt in a way that allowed for sustainability. Ensuring local access to high quality healthcare services for our region was always our core consideration," commented George Lamb, Chairman of the Board for SMCS. "Achieving these goals, in spite of the many sudden and difficult challenges presented by COVID-19, is a credit to our employees, medical staff, and Board members, who have worked diligently to bring us to where we are today."

"We are pleased to share this great news with our communities, letting everyone know our team is here, and ready to provide excellent care whenever we are needed," added Rob Cantu, MD, Medical Staff President. "The corporate structure is different for the two organizations, since they are now separate corporations with unique governing Boards of Directors."  
**(Continued on page 2)**

## 'You Are All Heroes'

### Pediatrician-Professor Tours Claremont Schools, Observes Prevention Methods



**Nicole Gordon (right), assistant principal at Stevens High School, describes the recordkeeping and safety measures implemented in the cafeteria to Dr. Steven Chapman. School board member Heather Whitney observes how seated students are separated by transparent plexiglass panels (Eric Zengota photo).**

**By Eric Zengota  
e-Ticker News**

CLAREMONT, NH—SAU6 superintendent Michael Tempesta recently hosted Dr. Steven Chapman on a visit to three Claremont schools. Chapman is a pediatrician at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and an assistant professor of pediatrics at Dartmouth's Geisel School of Medicine. He had offered to look — from a medical point of view — at what the dis-

**(Continued on page 9)**



**Emerge, from page 1**

rectors. However, patients receiving healthcare services will experience the same quality of care they have come to expect from SMCS and Springfield Hospital.”

“The two organizations will continue to work in close collaboration. Primary care will continue to be available in the communities currently served by SMCS; namely, Springfield, Bellows Falls, Ludlow, Londonderry, VT and Charlestown, NH. Vision and dental services will also continue,” said Joshua Dufresne, Acting Chief Executive Officer for Springfield Medical Care Systems. “The primary care network will work closely with Springfield Hospital, as it has in the past, accessing a range of services including emergency care, specialty care, surgery, inpatient care and outpatient testing.”

The Chapter 11 reorganization plan was negotiated with several interested parties and includes reducing long-term debt to a sustainable level for each company. This restructuring provides needed financial stability, opportunity for growth, and a renewed commitment to serving evolving healthcare needs of patients

throughout the region.

“This success is certainly an important milestone and our entire team shares great pride in this accomplishment,” commented Michael J. Halstead, Interim Chief Executive

Officer for Springfield Hospital. “We must express our appreciation to our creditors for their cooperation regarding our reorganization plans; and especially the State of Vermont for their commitment to Springfield Hospital and SMCS. Ongoing success for both companies requires community support, and choosing local healthcare services whenever appropriate. We are excited about the future and know that, working together, we can sustain key healthcare services that are conveniently accessible within the region.”

Jim Rumrill, Chairman of the Springfield Hospital Board, added, “Both organizations offer essential services to our region and we have a responsibility to continue these critical services well into the future. We are grateful to our staff, Board members, and the communities we serve for the role they’ve

played in helping us



**Springfield Hospital (File photo).**

reach this important goal.”

For further information, a complete list of healthcare services available at SMCS and Springfield Hospital can be found at [www.springfieldmed.org](http://www.springfieldmed.org) or [www.springfield-hospital.org](http://www.springfield-hospital.org).

**e-Ticker News of Claremont LLC**  
is published Mondays

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**NH Lottery Numbers**

**12/12/2020**

**NH PowerBall**

**17 54 56 63 69 20**

**NH Mega Millions 12/11/2020**

**19 31 37 55 67 25**

**Tristate Megabucks 12/12/2020**

**9 23 25 34 40 6**

**For more lottery numbers,**  
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# Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



## PICKING THE TREE

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



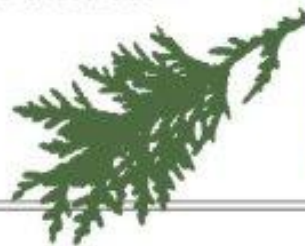
## PLACING THE TREE

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



## LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



## After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

## FACTS

- ! More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every four** of the fires.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

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# Commentary

## NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier

### Getting Down to Business, Remembering Two Colleagues



Sullivan County's Delegation to the New Hampshire House of Representatives began its new 2020-2022 Term as the legislative branch of county government by electing new officers last week.

The Delegation met on Dec. 11 and quickly got down to business in an organizational meeting that only lasted about 20 minutes; the meeting was required to take place under current state law during the second week of December of even-numbered years after we representatives start our two-year terms in the first week of December. Most of the Delegation's 13 representatives attended remotely either via the Zoom platform or over the phone. But two representatives chose to personally attend the meeting in Newport's Woodhull County Building and were put in the County Commissioners' Conference Room where they could socially distance so as to protect themselves from any chance of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

I was honored to be again elected to my fifth non-consecutive term as Delegation Chair on an unanimous voice vote of my 12 fellow representatives. Grantham Rep. Brian Sullivan was elected Vice Chair, and Claremont Rep. Andrew O'Hearne Clerk, also by unanimous voice votes. Furthermore, the Delegation again by unanimous voice vote elected five representatives to the EFC (Executive Finance Committee). These representatives included Claremont's Gary Merchant, Sunapee's Suzanne Gottling and Linda Tanner, Acworth's Judith Aron, as well as Charlestown's Terry Spillsbury. The EFC is the Full Delegation's most important committee, and deals with all financial issues, including recommending an annual county budget to the Delegation usually in June. Finally, I appointed four House members as Delegation representatives on four county committees. They included Rep. O'Hearne to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee, Rep. Aron to the Nursing Home Trust Fund Committee, Rep. Gottling to the UNH Cooperative Extension Advisory Council, as well as Plainfield Rep. Lee Oxenham to the Sullivan County Conservation District Board of Supervisors.

After the Delegation elected its officers, and I made the four previously-listed appointments, the Delegation adjourned and agreed to reconvene on Fri. Dec. 18, at 1 pm. At this next meeting, we will discuss whether to appropriate additional funds to finish construction of the county's new sober housing unit in Claremont, a unit which the previous Delegation voted to construct in February of this year. According to Sullivan County Manager Derek Ferland, this additional appropriation would be needed to leverage a total of \$2.3 million in separate

construction loans from New Hampshire Housing and the Community Loan Fund by the end of this year. Also, we will conduct further discussion on the future of SCHC (Sullivan County Health Care), more popularly known as the "county nursing home." As readers may remember, the previous Delegation on Sept. 25 agreed in principle to construct a brand new nursing home. But that Delegation could not decide on whether to construct the new SCHC near the present home in Unity, or in a different community like Claremont.

I will now switch over to my role as part of the legislative branch of state government. Like all my fellow representatives, I was shocked to learn of the sudden death of House Speaker Richard Hinch. Speaker Hinch died on Dec. 9 after being elected just one week earlier as our new presiding officer on Dec. 2. But I was further shocked to learn the next day, Dec. 10, that the Speaker had died from COVID-19, according to an autopsy released by the New Hampshire Chief Medical Examiner and Attorney General Gordon MacDonald with permission from his family.

This sad news followed a controversial Organizational Day Meeting of the House as biennially required by the New Hampshire Constitution held outdoors at Wildcat Stadium on the UNH Campus in Durham, rather than inside Representatives' Hall at the State House in Concord as usually so as to help protect representatives and their staff from being exposed to COVID-19. This was at the meeting in which the late Speaker had been unanimously elected by approximately 270 representatives after they had chosen to attend the Dec. 2 meeting, and been sworn in by Gov. Christopher Sununu and the Executive Council. The Speaker was a Merrimack Republican, who was serving his seventh House term, when he died. But as I wrote in last week's column, I and approximately 130 fellow representatives chose to be sworn in by telephone on Dec. 3 in our homes because we still had concerns about being exposed to COVID-19 despite the outdoor meeting.

Consequently, because of Speaker Hinch's passing, the House will elect a new presiding officer when it is next scheduled to convene indoors at UNH's Hamel Recreation Center on Jan. 6, 2021. In the meantime, Londonderry Rep. Sherman Packard, another Republican, who was earlier appointed by the late Speaker as Deputy House Speaker, will serve as Acting Speaker until Jan. 6. Whether we representatives attending this next meeting will be required to personally attend as originally scheduled, remotely attend as now permitted by the New Hampshire Supreme Court, or allowed to have a "hybrid choice" of either personally or remotely attending, is a question that is likely to be decided by House Leadership within the next few weeks in the wake of Speaker Hinch's death.

I will always remember my colleague Richard Hinch as a gregarious and eloquent individual. Though we were of opposite political parties, and sometimes disagreed on different bills, he always was very friendly to me. I will close with a quote from our late Speaker that he delivered as part of his Dec. 2 acceptance speech after being elected. He said, "I ask each of you not to look at each other as Democrats or Republi-

**(Continued on page 5)**



## House of Representatives – Claremont

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## **Rep. Cloutier, from 4**

cans, but friends and colleagues working towards the same goal. We have a responsibility to respect each other, work with each other, and understand each other. We are all here to make a positive difference in our communities and our state. We may have different ideas, but we all want to do what we believe is right, and there’s nothing political or partisan about that.”

Finally, a little closer to home, I was also saddened to learn of the passing earlier on Dec. 9 of Former Claremont Rep. Tom Donovan, who died, after a long bout with dementia, at the SCHC. I served with Tom, a fellow Democrat, for several terms in the House. I will always remember him as a dedicated Claremont citizen, who fought for the poor and disadvantaged not only as a representative, including service as Vice Chair of the House Health, Human Services, & Elderly Affairs Committee but also as one of the supporters of the Claremont Soup Kitchen. He leaves a wonderful legacy. Email: [jocloutier@comcast.net](mailto:jocloutier@comcast.net).

## **Bipartisan Cybersecurity Provision Introduced by Hassan, Cornyn, Peters, & Portman Passes Senate as Part of Annual Defense Bill**

### ***Bipartisan Amendment Will Create Cybersecurity State Coordinators in Each State***

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Senate passed the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which included a bipartisan amendment introduced by U.S. Senators Maggie Hassan (D-NH), John Cornyn (R-TX), Gary Peters (D-MI), and Rob Portman (R-OH), to require the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Cybersecurity State Coordinator position in every state. The bipartisan legislation now heads to the President’s desk to be signed into law.

Under the legislation, each state would have its own federally funded Cybersecurity Coordinator, who would be responsible for helping to prevent and respond to cybersecurity threats by working with federal, state, and local governments, as well as schools, hospitals, and other entities. This amendment mirrors the Cybersecurity State Coordinator Act that the Senators introduced earlier this year, and in March, the Homeland Security Committee voted on a bipartisan basis to approve this legislation.

“Cyberattacks on our hospitals, schools, and local governments are becoming an increasingly common occurrence, especially amid this pandemic. We must provide these entities with the support that they need to prevent and mitigate cyberattacks,” Senator Hassan said. “The Senate took an important step to help bolster cybersecurity at all levels of government by passing our bipartisan measure to create a Cybersecurity Coordinator position in every state as part of the national defense bill. These cyber experts will be a bridge between the federal government and state and local entities, and it is imperative that the President swiftly sign this bipartisan bill into law.”

## **Shaheen Joins Group of Senators to Introduce CARA 2.0 to Increase Access to Help, Bolster Fight Against Substance Use Disorder Epidemic**

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) introduced the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 2.0 to increase the funding authorization levels for the Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act (CARA) programs enacted in 2016 and put in place additional policy reforms to help combat the opioid epidemic that has worsened during the coronavirus pandemic. CARA was a bipartisan, national effort designed to ensure that federal resources were devoted to evidence-based education, treatment and recovery programs that work. In FY 2020, CARA programs were funded at \$658 million. CARA 2.0 builds on this effort by increasing the funding authorization levels and laying out new policy reforms to strengthen the federal government’s response to this crisis.

CARA 2.0 authorizes \$765 million in dedicated resources to evidence-based prevention, enforcement, treatment, criminal justice, and recovery programs.

## Councilor Announces Resignation Due to Family Move

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—City Councilors were surprised by the announcement at Wednesday night's meeting that At-Large Councilor Abigail Kier was submitting her resignation. She said her husband had been offered a new job opportunity in the DC area and that her family would be relocating soon. In a statement, Kier said "It is with a great deal of sorrow that I present you formal notification that I am resigning from my roles with the City of Claremont effective January 3rd, 2021. I will be relocating to the DC area in the coming months as my husband has received a job offer that advances his career significantly and provides a wonderful opportunity for our family.

"Thank you to the City of Claremont and all its citizens and employees for the support and the opportunities that have been provided to me during the last six years...I've greatly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities I've had to work with such a diverse group of professionals, and I've learned how to be a better partner and leader because of it, all of which I will take with me throughout my career. In my last days here I will do everything possible to wrap up my duties....I wish Claremont continued success, and I can't wait to see what amazing things Claremont continues to do."

Several councilors extended their gratitude to Kier and wished her well, saying she would be greatly missed.

The process for those interested in applying for the council seat will soon be announced.

The **new DPW director** was also introduced at Wednesday's meeting; Alex Gleeson participated in the Zoom meeting and said he was excited to be joining the team. "It's been an exciting and fun first week," he said. He complimented the "strong" team of City employees, which he called a "great crew."

City manager Ed Morris cited Gleeson's strengths in the areas of leadership, finance and grant work as some of his qualities that led to his hiring. Morris later told the *e-Ticker News*, "DPW Director Alex Gleeson comes to

us from Springfield Hospital where he served in Risk and Compliance, Finance Special Projects, and Director of the Springfield Health Center. Prior to working in Springfield, Director Gleeson held positions as an Army Officer, a Customer Service Manager for Ahold Delhaize, and a Department of Public Works Superintendent of Public Buildings for Cranston, Rhode Island. Director Gleeson's

strong background in leadership, finance, grant management, and strategic visioning will help the City's DPW department find efficiencies, continue to maximize the use of grant funds, and create long term infrastructure plans. His human-centered leadership philosophy will help me create a culture of respect and collaboration throughout our City staff."

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## Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine Achieves FDA Approval: First Shipment Coming to New Hampshire

CONCORD, NH – New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announced late Sunday the expected arrival of the first allotment of COVID-19 vaccine on Monday, Dec. 14, after the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was approved and given Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Two doses of vaccine, administered 21-days apart, demonstrated a vaccine efficacy rate of 95% during initial trials, said the statement from DHHS. Those vaccinated were shown to be maximally protected 1 – 2 weeks after receiving the second dose. Pfizer/BioNTech report no serious safety concerns to date among the more than 40,000 participants. The vaccine is approved for individuals 16 years of age and older.

New Hampshire expects to receive 12,675 in the first allotment of vaccine for immediate distribution to at-risk health workers, including front line clinical staff providing direct patient care. Subsequent weekly allotments of the vaccine will be distributed to all the populations and individuals included in Phase 1a, including

**Today, Dec. 14, the first shipment of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine arrived in the State of New Hampshire. The shipment is currently being unloaded, processed, and prepared for immediate distribution to at-risk health workers, including front line clinical staff providing direct patient care (Courtesy photo).**



at-risk health workers, residents of long-term care facilities, and first responders.

The timeline for widespread access to a COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be approximately 6-12 months.

## NH DHHS COVID-19 Update – December 13, 2020

CONCORD, NH – On Sunday, Dec. 13, DHHS announced 722 new positive test results for COVID-19, for a daily PCR test positivity rate of 5.9%. Today's results include 490 people who tested positive by PCR test and 232 who tested positive by antigen test. There are now 6,560 current COVID-19 cases diagnosed in New Hampshire. Of the results reported Sunday:

- 12/8: 23 new cases today, for an updated total of 972 cases
- 12/9: 170 new cases today, for an updated total of 688 cases
- 12/10: 42 new cases today, for an updated total of 818 cases
- 12/11: 92 new cases today, for an updated total of 477 cases
- 12/12: 395 new cases

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

Several cases are still under investigation. Additional information from ongoing investigations will be incorporated into future COVID-19 updates. Of those with complete information, there are ninety-five individuals under the age

of 18 and the rest are adults with 48% being female and 52% being male.

The new cases reside in Rockingham (188), Merrimack (142), Hillsborough County other than Manchester and Nashua (112), Strafford (54), Belknap (30), Cheshire (24), Grafton (18), Carrol (17), Coos (11), and Sullivan (2) counties, and in the cities of Manchester (67) and Nashua (38). The county of residence is being determined for nineteen new cases.

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

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

- 1 female resident of Coos County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Grafton County, 60 years of age and older
- 1 male resident of Rockingham County, 60 years of age and older

There are currently 251 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. In New Hampshire since the start of the pandemic, there have been a total of 30,956 cases of COVID-19 diagnosed with 861 (3%) of those having been hospitalized.

There are currently 22 positively identified cases in Claremont and 56 cases in Sullivan County.

Earlier this week, the NH DHHS closed out the outbreak at the Woodlawn Care Center in Newport. On Sunday, Hanover Terrace reported "27 staff positive, and 12 staff recovered; 64 residents positive, 10 residents recovered, with 4 deaths since the outbreak began."

For those not familiar with our Facebook page, we post the DHHS daily COVID update every evening when it becomes available. That feed is also available on our website.

## 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.

# INVESTING TIPS

PART 1

## IRA 101: Know the Facts

**If you own an IRA, then you should be as familiar as possible with the rules that govern your account.**

Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) are one of the most common assets people rely on to save and invest for retirement. In fact, more than a third of households.<sup>1</sup> in America own an IRA. If you're thinking of opening an IRA for the first time, it's a good idea to review the rules. Even if you have had an IRA for years, note that laws change.

### THE DIFFERENT TYPES

There are two main types of IRA accounts to choose from: traditional and Roth.<sup>2</sup> The timing of the tax advantages is the main difference between the two. For a traditional IRA, contributions are tax deductible and tax is paid upon withdrawal. Roth IRA contributions are taxed in the year they are made, and qualified withdrawals are tax-free. Both types are almost equally popular:

- 36% of American households have Roth IRAs
- 35% of American households have traditional IRAs
- 26% of American households contribute to both

There are also employer-sponsored IRAs. These may fall into either of the two categories.

### CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

The IRS set a 2020 annual limit<sup>3</sup> of \$6,000 for people under 50 years old. People who are 50 years and older can make a total contribution of

\$7,000. What some breadwinners do to maximize contributions is to file joint tax returns and open a second account for their spouses. They then make additional contributions to this account. The IRS states that the combined contribution cannot exceed the lesser of the couple's taxable income or the contributor's individual limit times two.

### ELIGIBILITY

The IRS considers net income from self-employment, gross wages and gross salaries as qualifying income. Too much income, however, and IRA contributions<sup>4</sup> can get reduced or prohibited altogether:

- **Qualifying Widower or Married Filing Jointly:** The regular contribution rules apply up to \$196,000. From \$196,000 to \$206,000, the IRS reduces the contribution limit. No contributions are allowed after \$206,000.
- **Single, Married Filing Separately (did not live together) or Head-of-household:** Filers who earn less than \$124,000 follow the usual contribution rules. More than this up to \$139,000, the IRS reduces the contribution limit and after \$139,000, contributing is not allowed.
- **Married Filing Separately (lived together):** The IRS reduces the contribution amount for less than \$10,000 and prohibits contributions for \$10,000 in income or more.

*(Continued in next week's issue.)*



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<sup>1</sup><https://www.investopedia.com/articles/retirement/110116/6-surprising-facts-about-retirement.asp> <sup>2</sup><https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/investing/roth-or-traditional-ira-account> <sup>3</sup><https://www.irs.gov/retirement-plans/retirement-plans-faqs-regarding-iras-contributions> <sup>4</sup><https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/investing/roth-ira-contribution-limits/>  
Traditional IRAs are funded with tax-deductible contributions in which any earnings are tax deferred until withdrawn, usually after retirement age. Unless certain criteria are met, IRS penalties and income taxes may apply on any withdrawals taken from Traditional IRAs prior to age 59 ½. RMDs (required minimum distributions) must generally be taken by the account holder within the year after turning 72.

The Roth IRA offers tax deferral on any earnings in the account. Withdrawals from the account may be tax-free, as long as they are considered qualified. Limitations and restrictions may apply. Withdrawals prior to age 59 ½ or prior to the account being opened for 5 years, whichever is later, may result in a 10% IRS penalty tax. Future tax laws can change at any time and may impact the benefits of Roth IRAs. Their tax treatment may change.

This material is for general information only and is not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. There is no assurance that the views or strategies discussed are suitable for all investors or will yield positive outcomes. Investing involves risks including possible loss of principal. This information is not intended to be a substitute for specific individualized tax advice. We suggest that you discuss your specific tax issues with a qualified tax advisor.

This material was prepared by LPL Financial, LLC



## Tour, from page 1

trict has been doing to keep schools safely open in the face of COVID-19.

Joining Tempesta and Chapman were the elementary, middle and high school principals as well as members of the Claremont School Board.

Drawing from an official statement, Chapman noted that a CHaD task force of child health professionals and infectious disease specialists reviews medical literature and monitors COVID-19 public health data on a nationwide basis. The members' determination is that K-12 schools being open for in-person instruction has not driven the spread of the virus. "Schools are not super-spreader vehicles. There has been little to no transmission in a school environment. In fact, the data support in-school return even when the community rate of transmission is high."

Principals and board members alike agreed that students, teachers, support staff, administrators and parents want to return to the type of education that existed before the pandemic struck. On average, two-thirds of Claremont's elementary and middle school students have returned, while one-third engages in remote learning. Stevens has about a 50/50 in-person to remote ratio.

In their tour to Maple Avenue and the middle and high schools on Thursday, the group got to see how COVID-19 changed the layout and functioning of the buildings. They also imagined the challenges that a full return to the now-adapted schools might bring.

At Maple Avenue, for example, the gym is now set up all day as the cafeteria. Principal Kathleen Bunnell showed the group the assigned seats and the plexiglass panels separating each child, and described the disinfecting process that follows each seating. At the middle school, principal Frank Romeo pointed out that the smaller gym now serves as a second cafeteria and a "swing" room, while one of the classrooms has been turned into a small gym.

Romeo noted that the lockers are no longer used, and that "teachers move with their work to the classes instead of students changing rooms" so that contact in the hallways is minimized. Students go only to the unified arts rooms and the science lab because of the hands-on supplies, tools and equipment needed to remain in place.

The loss of socialization — an instance of



**The group discusses the ramifications of adding back desks in a classroom that has been redesigned to meet the 3-foot distancing guideline (Eric Zengota photo).**

Bunnell calls "what isn't happening" — is also evident in the Stevens cafeteria, where students are separated by clear panels and follow strict mask guidelines.

The group surveyed classrooms that have been reconfigured to accommodate the 3-foot distancing rule. They questioned how, for a full return, ten additional desks would fit back in. Further, what now in the room — building blocks, books and so on — might have to be taken out? And where will those items go?

Chapman and the educators recognized the good that has emerged from the pandemic. By facing up to its problems, they said, the entire school community has developed a great deal of resourcefulness. Team building and mutual support are strong. Above all, the students have risen to the challenge and adapted to a new model of education.

In the end, Chapman had nothing but praise for SAU6's efforts to ensure school safety. "I don't have a silver bullet for you, but I'm appreciative of the work you're doing. Yes, you need bigger buildings and more resources. But you couldn't be doing anything more at this point. How amazing you teachers are."

To which Bunnell responded, "We are warriors."

After the tour, Tempesta summed up the district's need to strike a balance between education and safety. "Everyone wants to get back to the way it was, but we don't know when that will be. Re-opening has always depended on the most up-to-date data and informed judgment on what is developmentally best for our students. Everyone on staff is doing everything possible for safety as well as providing the fullest educational experience."

Preparing for tougher times, Tempesta would like to have a one-week remote period for all students following the holiday break, during which family gatherings and travel could lead to a new spike in infections. He'll make this proposal to the school board at its meeting this Wednesday. His goal is clear: "We need a preemptive planning win."

### **Meeting with Dr. Steven Chapman**

*Michael Tempesta, superintendent  
Ben Nester, director of special education  
Principals Kathleen Bunnell (Maple Avenue);  
Dale Chenette (Bluff); Melissa Lewis (Disnard);  
Frank Romeo (CMS); Patricia Barry (Stevens)  
School board members Jason Benware, Frank Sprague, Heather Whitney*



# Classified Ads

## TWO FAMILY HOME



**Claremont - An attractive duplex off Maple Ave. helps with your living expense.** The right side has a new kitchen, 3 bedrooms, partially finished family room in basement. The left side has 2 bedrooms. **See MLS # 4840992 for more info and photos. \$159,900**



**Bonnie Miles**

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**Tammy Bergeron  
Owner/Broker**



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

131 Broad Street  
Claremont, NH 03743  
Office: 603-287-4856  
Fax: 287-4857  
Cell: 603-477-1872



**Ashley Bergeron  
Agent**



**Welcome Home to this 3 bedroom 1.5 bath New Englander.** Hardwood floors, tin ceilings, formal dining room. Wrap-around porch. Located with the convenience to downtown.  
**\$139,900**

## Help Wanted

### Experienced Dental Assistant

4 days/ wk, good salary, benefits, new modern office, Send resume to Jennifer at [areadentalservices@gmail.com](mailto:areadentalservices@gmail.com). Located next to hospital at 11 Dunning St. in Claremont

### Arrowhead Lift Training - Need Volunteers and a Few Updates

CLAREMONT, NH—The Claremont Arrowhead Recreation Club is inviting anyone who will or thinks they might volunteer this season to contact it for more information. The club is looking for help in many areas this winter.

“Please think about volunteering this winter,” said Chuck Allen, of the Arrowhead Recreation Club. “As for winter operational help, we had some experienced help move out of the area so we desperately need help on the lifts, on the tubing area, in the ski shop, ski and snowboard instructors, first-aid and in concessions. We also need help on equipment and lifts for maintenance and repairs.”

Gift cards and season passes are available for sale; those interested are invited to go to the site's website, at [www.arrowheadnh.com](http://www.arrowheadnh.com) to access the online store.

For more information, email: [arrowhead@arrowheadnh.com](mailto:arrowhead@arrowheadnh.com) - best contact method; Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/arrowheadnh>; phone: (603) 542-7016 - please leave a message.

### Cornish Giving Tree at Town Office

CORNISH, NH—The Cornish Giving Tree has been put up in the foyer of the Cornish Town Office. There are boxes underneath the tree to put gifts in for those who do not wish to go inside. There are still plenty of tags left.

For any questions or gift requests please contact Marie De Rusha either text/call at 603-558-0391 or email at [m\\_m\\_marie32@yahoo.com](mailto:m_m_marie32@yahoo.com).

### Cloth Mask Sales to Benefit Plainfield/ Cornish Food Pantry

Locally sewn cloth masks will be available through the holidays at Garfield's Smokehouse for a \$5 donation to benefit the Plainfield/Cornish Food Pantry. Masks are offered in S,M,L sizes, many colors and some are adjustable.



**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 6:00 PM

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

The public is invited to join the Zoom meeting online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82804560175?pwd=RWJsZlRzQlBEdDEwcl-JTK0tOK2F0dz09>

Passcode: 358246 By Phone: US: +1 646 558 8656 Webinar ID: 828 0456 0175

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

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**HDC 2020-00007 Leanna LeBarron, Ascutey VT** – for signage at 22 Pleasant Street. Tax map 120, Lot 80. Zone: MU (Cont. from 11/18/20)

**HDC 2020-00008 Joanna Stone, Acworth NH** – for signage at 16 Pleasant Street. Tax map 120, Lot 76. Zone: MU

**HDC 2020-00009 Claremont Soup Kitchen, 51 Central Street** – to add an extension of the roof over the door on the front of the building at 51 Central Street. Tax map 119, Lot 358. Zone: CR-2

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

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

David Messier, Chairperson

**Next Mobile NH Food Pantry  
Upcoming Drive Thru Mobile Food Pantries:**

\*Urgent need for volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering at one of these mo-

**Classified Ads**

**CLAREMONT, NH**

**2 Story New Englander 3 Bed 2 Bath**

- \* Large Master bedroom and living room
  - \* Walking distance to Middle School, Community Center and Monadnock Park
- MLS # 4835110 \$109,000**



**CLAREMONT, NH**

**2 Story Colonial 3 Bed 2 Bath**

- \* Welcoming floor plan with many options
  - \* Large 4 season enclosed porch
- MLS # 4806535 \$149,900**



**GRANTHAM, NH**

**1.5 Story Contemporary 3 Bed 2 Bath**

- \* Open concept kitchen, living room and dining room
  - \* Newly painted deck and exterior
- MLS # 4822420 \$186,900**



**HOMES UNLIMITED**

**112 Washington Street  
Claremont, NH 03743**

**Phone (603) 542-2503**



bile food pantry distributions please email [volunteercoordinator@nhfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@nhfoodbank.org)

**Tuesday, December 15th**

10am – 12pm (while supplies last) Runnings 403 Washington St. **Claremont, NH**

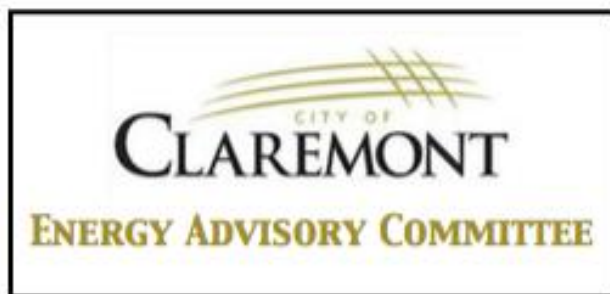
**Tuesday, December 29th**

10am – 12pm (while supplies last) Runnings 403 Washington St. **Claremont, NH**

This is a drive thru distribution model. Please remain in your car and we will distribute fresh produce, non-perishable items and more, right to you. These events are open to anyone in need.

**Got News? Send us your news and photos**





## News from Clean Energy New Hampshire

Newly available data demonstrates the enormous benefit of distributed solar power to all utility customers across New England. **From 2014 to 2019, small-scale solar in New England saved utilities and their customers more than \$1.1 billion.** Notably, these savings were enjoyed not only by people who own solar panels, but by everyone who relies on a utility company for their electricity.

In July 2020, ISO New England, the regional grid operator, published for the first time detailed data about the amount of electricity produced every hour by the thousands of small, local solar installations throughout the region. Analyzing this data, a new report from Synapse Economics reveals that local renewable energy sources produced 8,600 gigawatt-hours of electricity, enough electricity to power more than 1 million New England households for a year.

The new report also shows just how much money local solar saves by reducing the total amount of pollution associated with our electricity usage. From 2014 to 2019, the clean electricity generated by the region's **small-scale solar resources reduced climate pollution by 4.6 million metric tons.** This is the equivalent of taking 1 million cars off the road for one year.

In addition to reducing climate pollution, local solar also avoided the release of six million pounds of health-harming sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. Avoiding the release of these pollutants yielded **public health savings of \$87 million.**

*Cleanenergynh.org is dedicated to supporting policies and programs that strengthen New Hampshire's economy, protect public health, and conserve natural resources. This article is printed with permission.*

## Plumbers' License Renewal

CLAREMONT, NH—The next class for the Plumbers' License Renewal is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 16th, at 6:00 p.m. in Clare-

mont. Class size is limited due to COVID. Register now at: <https://rvcc.coursestorm.com/course/plumbers-license-renewal>.

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

## Solar Savings in New Hampshire December 2020

Electricity from solar reduces the need to run other power plants, which cuts the amount of electricity utilities need to buy and saves customers money. By avoiding the need to run the most expensive power plants (which are often powered by fossil fuels), when solar lowers the amount of electricity purchased, it also reduces the wholesale price of electricity.

Analyzing hourly data from ISO New England, we estimated what demand and prices for electricity would have been if not for local solar. These include benefits shared by all New Englanders, not just those with solar. **New Hampshire ratepayers saved more than \$83 million due to local solar.**

**On average, over the six years analyzed, local solar provided 11.9 cents per kWh of energy market benefits.** This calculation only includes weeks where there is a strong relationship between loads and prices; other likely energy savings are not estimated here.

### New England Solar Energy Savings

Year	NH	New England
2014	\$7 million	\$96 million
2015	\$9 million	\$118 million
2016	\$13 million	\$171 million
2017	\$16 million	\$206 million
2018	\$20 million	\$258 million
2019	\$17 million	\$211 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$83 million</b>	<b>\$1,060 million</b>

*Numerous heat waves and especially high summertime energy prices in 2018 contributed to higher savings that year. Benefits in this figure only include impacts related to the wholesale energy market. Other benefits (e.g., public health, climate, capacity, transmission and distribution, reliability, or retail margins) are not included.*

### From 2014 to 2019...

- ☀ Solar created **\$1.1 billion** in energy savings in New England, including **\$83 million** in NH
- ☀ New England solar cut **4.6 million metric tons** of CO<sub>2</sub> pollution, equal to taking **one million cars** off the road
- ☀ Solar created **\$87 million** in public health benefits in New England and **\$1 million** in NH

### In New Hampshire in 2019...

- ☀ Local solar produced **52 million kWh** of electricity, equal to **0.5 percent** of the state's needs
- ☀ Local solar powered the equivalent of **7,000 homes**
- ☀ Local solar created **\$3 million** in CO<sub>2</sub> benefits, and removed the equivalent of **6,000 cars** from the road



# e-Ticker Business News

## ‘You Click. We Shop.’

### Claremont Hannaford Inaugurates Pick-Up Service

By Eric Zengota  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH—“A lot of our customers have been asking when Claremont will get Hannaford To Go,” said store manager Chad Myhre. “We started here on December 10. I’m excited that it’s up and running as another way we can help support our community.”

The Hannaford To Go service lets customers order items online, then drive to the store for pick-up. In between those first and last steps, associates in the store roll carts through the aisles, selecting items and preparing the order in the new service area.

“Claremont is the 101st Hannaford to get this service,” said Michael Ducharme, an operations specialist who sets up the system in stores throughout the region. “We’ve designed the online experience to make remote shopping as easy and streamlined as possible.”

“You start at [hannaford.com/togo](http://hannaford.com/togo), on a PC, laptop, tablet or a mobile device,” he explained. “Customers who sign into their account [by entering their phone number and password] will have clipped coupons and the 2% rewards for buying Hannaford brands automatically applied. You select the store and reserve a 1-hour time slot for pick-up. Orders can be placed up to 72 hours before the pick-up date, and can be changed until late in the day before.

“Under the drop down Shop menu,” he continued, “you can search by keyword, recent purchases, from the weekly flyer, and Hannaford brands.



You can also create shopping lists.”

Almost every item in the store can be ordered, and down to a level that matches in-person shopping. For example, you can order three bananas, or post a note on how thick or thin you want ¾ lb. of low-sodium ham to be sliced. If you choose an item that is not available, that message will display. There’s an option to have substitute items added to an order.

Payment can be made by credit or debit card; a 110% hold of the estimated final cost is applied. EBT payments have a hold of 100%; a customer has to bring the EBT card and an additional form of payment for any remaining balance.

There’s a fee — waived for a customer’s first order — of \$5 for orders under \$125, \$3 over that. “Our customers have been more than willing to pay for the convenience,” noted Ducharme. “And these days, when more people are less willing to leave home because of COVID-19, they’re happy to have us shop for them.”

At the Claremont store, all the time slots in just the first four days were reserved with orders. Said Myhre, “Our launch has been wildly successful.”

**Associate Jason Seaver selects organic fruit from the produce section. Operations**

specialist Michael Ducharme set up the equipment that records customer orders from first step through fulfillment to pick-up. The monitor shows the five parking spaces just outside the store. Customers park at one of the five numbered spaces, then call the store to announce their arrival. An associate — here, Hannah Duffett — rings up the final order (including taxes, coupons and rewards) on a portable register, prints the receipt and loads the order into the customer’s vehicle (Eric Zengota photos).





# e-Ticker Business News

## To Help Ensure Housing Security, D-H Health Invests \$3 Million in New Hampshire Community Loan Fund

LEBANON, NH—Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH) has announced a \$3 million investment in the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund. The Community Loan Fund provides financing and technical assistance to help homeowners in manufactured-home parks purchase and run their parks as resident-owned communities, or ROCs; offers mortgage loans to low-wealth homebuyers; and lends to developers of affordable multi-family rentals.

“Affordable housing is already hard to come by in New Hampshire, and with many out of work or seeing reduced incomes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, there’s never been a more critical time to do our part to make sure safe, affordable housing is not a luxury,” said Michael Waters, D-HH Treasurer. “We’re proud to support the work Community Loan Fund does to make homeownership a reality for many Granite Staters.”

Resident-owned communities can provide affordable, stable and safe housing for lower income people. In most mobile home parks, the residents own their homes, but not the land on which they sit, often leaving them vulnerable to predatory land buyers who raise rents to untenable rates. New Hampshire law gives mobile home park residents the right of first refusal when there is a proposed change in

park ownership, which is where the Community Loan Fund comes in. They have a strong record of helping manufactured home residents fend off predatory buyers and convert to ROCs.

“The goal of the Community Loan Fund, to promote and protect access to safe, affordable housing, is very much in line with D-HH’s goal to support healthy lives and communities for all,” said Sally Kraft, MD, MPH, vice president of Population Health at D-HH. “Our health is impacted by the health care we receive in clinics and hospitals and even more so by the conditions in which we live and work. Having a stable, secure place to call home means protection, less stress and better quality of life. Our values are aligned with the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund and our investment in this fund is also an investment in the health of the communities we serve.”

The Community Loan Fund also works with communities to support local businesses, early childhood centers and other nonprofits.

## Cheney Joins VNH as Director of Hospice and Palliative Care

WHITE RIVER JCT., VT—Jessica Cheney, BSN, RN has been named Director of Hospice

and Palliative Care at Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH). Cheney holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Norwich University. Prior to joining VNH, she was an Ambulatory Nurse Manager for Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Endocrinology, and Infectious Disease at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.



**Jessica Cheney**

“I am beyond thrilled, humbled and excited to accept the Director of Hospice position at the VNH,” said Cheney. “I am so happy to join a dynamic, collaborative, compassionate team that is invested in delivering high quality patient care throughout Vermont and New Hampshire.”

Cheney will be responsible for the oversight, growth, and development of Medicare certified hospice services and related clinical programs. She will lead a team of interdisciplinary managers, clinical, and administrative members to manage all aspects of the program including fiscal, quality, regulatory compliance, team growth and development, and community needs.



CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM  
OF  
**CLAREMONT**

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## Mayoral Notes by Charlene Lovett



### New Hampshire Legal Assistance – A Critical Resource for Many

In criminal cases, defendants are assigned a court appointed attorney if they do not have the funds to hire an attorney. In civil cases, there is no such legal provision. So, what do people do to protect their civil rights when they don't have the funds to defend themselves? They turn to New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA). Today, NHLA's services are even more critical as an increasing number of people are facing civil legal crisis due to the pandemic.

NHLA has offices in five cities throughout the state: Berlin, Claremont, Concord, Manchester and Portsmouth. Its mission is equal access to justice by providing civil legal services to low-income individuals and elderly NH residents, including education and empowerment, advice, representation and advocacy for systemic change. For almost 50 years, NHLA has provided these services which range from legal advice to representation in court.

NHLA's work not only benefits the clients served. There is a community benefit as well.

By helping clients navigate the legal system to access the resources that exist, NHLA becomes a partner in facilitating community prosperity.

Below is an overview, by category, of some of the services that NHLA provides:

**Public Benefits:** The Benefits Project helps individuals get the assistance they need for income stabilization and self-sufficiency. Currently, this project assists people in navigating the complexity of the unemployment programs created to help people affected by the pandemic and economic crisis. Those with disabilities receive assistance with accessing Social Security Disability, Supplemental Security Income, and Assistance to the Permanently and Temporarily Disabled benefits, as well as help with access to healthcare through Medicare or Medicaid.

**Domestic Violence:** The Domestic Violence Advocacy Project represents victims and survivors of domestic abuse in legal proceedings such as domestic violence restraining order hearings, and divorce and parenting/custody cases.

**Housing:** The Housing Justice Project helps individuals and families who are without shelter or are in danger of becoming homeless. The Fair Housing Project investigates complaints of discrimination and assists those who are victims of housing discrimination.

**Seniors:** The Senior Law Project helps seniors with civil legal issues such as consumer protection/debt collection, healthcare, public and private housing, family problems, food stamps, public assistance benefits, utility shut-

off, and nursing facility and assisted living/residential care facility problems.

**Youth Law Project:** The Youth Law Project works with children and teenagers who are facing long-term suspensions and expulsions from school, delinquency or CHINS petitions, as well as youth who are at risk of having such petitions filed against them. The project helps to secure the educational, health, mental health and other services that are necessary for children/teenagers to stay in their homes and out of the juvenile justice system.

During this global pandemic, the need for these services is on the rise. The good news is that New Hampshire Legal Assistance is ready to offer help to those who qualify. To determine eligibility, please call 1(800) 639-5290 or visit [www.nhlegalaid.org](http://www.nhlegalaid.org). If you are not in need of these services and would like to support NHLA's work in NH communities, a donation can be made via the website.

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

## Public Notice

### Claremont School Board

**Regular Meeting December 16, 2020 at 6:30pm Location Sugar River  
Valley Regional Technical Center**

The Claremont School Board will be holding an in person, audio broadcast, hybrid, and streaming school board meeting.

**Open to the Public (in person) - limited seating**

Due to covid-19 and the health and safety of our residents, only a limited number of citizens are allowed to attend. Those in attendance will need to adhere to safety rules which include: temperature check, hand sanitizer, wearing a face mask, social distancing, and others deemed necessary. To reserve your seat, please call Melissa Small at 603-543-4200 ext. 6009

**Audio Broadcasted** on CCTV Channel 8 - Citizens without access to CCTV 8 may call in to listen by dialing 1 -929-436-2866 ID 934 3857 3447 Passcode 218861

**Streaming by using this link** <https://zoom.us/j/93438573447?pwd=UXliZUN4R3VjWDVBUH-14Z2N4Rm1tQT09>

Please visit our website: [www.sau6.org](http://www.sau6.org) under School Boards to review agenda.

*We'll be there to keep you on track!*

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## Informational Meeting on Local Crowd Funding Platform 'The Local Crowd'

New Hampshire businesses, farmers, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, community initiatives: Do you have an incredible project just waiting to happen? Want to grow your organization, our community, and the local economy, but don't have access to capital?

The Local Crowd Upper Valley is a rewards-based local crowdfunding platform that helps communities invest in local businesses, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, and initiatives that are mission-driven social enterprises. If your organization contributes to the community and could use a lift, apply to be part of a Route 11 Corridor cohort of campaigns.

Interested in learning more about The Local Crowd? Join us on Dec. 16th at 6 PM for an overview, including recent success stories, how to apply and have any of your questions answered.

Register for this event below and the Zoom connection information will be shared via email.

Learn more at <https://vitalcommunities.org/blog/crowdfunding-available-for-nh-projects/>.

Register for this event here: <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events#!/event/2020/12/16/crowdfund-your-project-with-the-local-crowd>.

## Drive-in Holiday Concert

The Hanover Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is offering to the local community something that is very rare in this time: a live concert. This is possible due to our investment in audio technology that allows the audience to sit in their cars and listen to our music on a short-range radio station. Our singers will be masked and socially distanced or singing from their cars.

So come to Plainfield Town Hall on Rte. 12A on Saturday, 12/19, at 2PM to listen to the North Country Chordsmen and the VoxStars regale you with acapella songs of the season.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16**

**DID YOU KNOW? from the Cornish/Plainfield Energy Com.**

Granite State & Vermont Clean Cities

Coalitions are hosting a virtual lunch-and-learn spotlighting Electric Lawn Equipment! A curated panel of experts will shine a light on the upfront costs, purchase incentives & funding, operation & "fueling," and how electric compares to conventional lawn equipment. Join us Wednesday, December 16th at 11:30 AM.

Click the link provided here and register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-lunch-learn-electric-lawn-equipment-tickets-131049242813>.

**Happy Holidays from  
the e-Ticker News**

# Take a break. Enjoy the holiday season.



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# 4.99% APR\*

[Learn More](#)

# One

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John Stark Hwy, Newport**

\*Federally Insured by the NCUA. APR is annual percentage rate. Rates quoted "as low as," subject to credit approval. Rate may vary based on your credit history. Maximum loan amount is \$2,000. Maximum term is 12 months. A \$2000 loan is 12 monthly payments of \$171.20. Offer valid November 16, 2020 through January 31, 2021.



## Are You Still Planning to Retire Early?

Have your retirement plans changed because of COVID-19? If so, you have plenty of company. Nearly 40 percent of those planning to retire say the pandemic has disrupted their intentions, according to the Edward Jones/Age Wave Four Pillars of the New Retirement study. You might have been thinking about retiring early – can you still do so?

Even without a crisis, it's not a bad idea to review your important life goals from time to time. So, in thinking about the possibility of early retirement, consider these factors:

- *Your retirement lifestyle* – Your ability to retire early depends somewhat on what sort of lifestyle you're anticipating during your retirement years. If you think you'll be traveling extensively or pursuing expensive activities, you might not be able to afford to retire as early as someone with more modest ambitions. Of course, there's no "right" or "wrong" way of living in retirement – we all have our own dreams and preferences. But be aware that different lifestyles do carry different price tags – and have different effects on when you can retire securely.

- *Sources of retirement income* – Obviously, a key factor in knowing whether you can retire early is the amount of retirement income you can rely on. So, you'll have to assess all your sources: Social Security, any other pensions you might receive, and your investment portfolio, including your 401(k) and IRA. The amounts you receive from these sources will depend on a variety of factors.

For Social Security, the longer you wait until collecting, the larger your monthly payments (although they will "top out" when you reach 70, excluding cost-of-living adjustments). In regard to your investments and retirement accounts, you'll need to establish a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for the length of time you expect to be retired. So, by adjusting these variables – taking Social Security earlier or later, taking more or less money from your retirement accounts – you can help determine if the retirement date you had in mind is viable.

- *Your feelings about work* – Your goals are not static – they can change in response to any number of reasons, both external and personal. When you first decided you wanted to retire early, you might have been motivated by, among other things, a weariness of your current job. But has that changed over time? Have you found new challenges that interest you at work? Or, if you were forced by the pandemic to work remotely, did you actually enjoy the arrangement and want to continue it?

After all, many employers have found that their workers can be just as productive working at home, so, even when we've gotten past COVID-19, we might see a sizable shift in the geography of the workplace. In any case, if your feelings about work have changed in some way, leading you to think you could work longer than originally planned, you'd likely gain some financial advantages. You'd make more money, for starters, but you'd also keep building your 401(k) and IRA, and you could even possibly delay taking Social Security.

The pandemic may lead to a reevaluation of many financial goals – and taking early retirement might be one of them. By thinking carefully about your situation and your options, you can come up with a course of action that's right for you.

*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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Claremont, NH 03743  
603-542-7667

edwardjones.com

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



# New Fiber Network Under Construction

Story and Photos By Bill Murgatroy

LEMPSTER, NH—In July, NH Electric Co-op submitted an application to the State seeking funds to expand high speed internet service to its members in Lempster and Colebrook. The funds would come from New Hampshire's Emergency Broadband Expansion Program. The Connecting NH Program received more than \$50 million from the federal government through the CARES ACT- Corona Virus Relief Fund with the stipulation that the money be used before the end of 2020 or the unused portion returned.

A public announcement found on NHEC's website explains why the company wants to enter into the high speed internet business. "The COVID-19 pandemic has brought into focus the critical need for high speed internet service throughout New Hampshire. For far too long rural communities have been disadvantaged due to the lack of high-speed internet. As virtual business activity, remote learning, and telemedicine have become the norm, the limited, often unreliable, services available in these communities today do not meet the needs of NHEC members.

"Video conferences for business, or between a student and teacher, require a much higher level of connectivity and reliability than exists today in many areas. Ever evolving technolo-

gies, emphasize the importance of developing systems that will meet the needs of NHEC members into the future."

NHEC'S Board of Directors needed a bylaw approval from its members before entering into the internet business. Some 88.4% of the voting members approved the measure by a margin of 8,853 YES and 1,158 NO.

In October, NHEC selected Tilson, a national network development and information infrastructure firm, to design and build a new fiber network providing fiber to premises, delivering overall service up to 1 gigabit per second. Within weeks a small army of infrastructure engineers from Tilson broadband began examining poles, road clearances and measuring route lengths throughout Lempster. Once the field data collection was completed, plans were drawn up and materials were ordered.

Tilson sub-contracted the Massachusetts firm U.C.X. (Underground Construction Experts) to place the strand and fiber optic cable,



**The metering station, where service branches out to the other parts of town. The source of internet comes from Manchester via a fiber optic cable routed through Keene.**

and CAVCOM, LLC from North Haven, CT, will splice and turn up the network. While many outside plant construction crews blanketed the Town, groundwork began on a metering station located in NHEC's right of way between State Route 10 and the Lempster Fire Department. No matter the weather, numerous crews in Lempster are forging ahead as the December deadline for the end of CARES ACT money approaches.







# Shining Success

Positioning You for a Brighter Future



Learn how to impress in an interview and set yourself apart from the competition!

## TWO OPPORTUNITES TO SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS

DECEMBER 19TH

10am in Claremont

2pm in Newport

In this FREE in person workshop participants will learn how to deliver a lasting impact from their first impression. Pre-registration is required and COVID-19 safety procedures will be in place. Register online at <https://bit.ly/First-Impression-Workshop> or by calling your local Chamber of Commerce



**Dartmouth  
Lake Sunapee  
Region**





# Elves in Full Uniform

## Law Enforcement Officers Treat Kids to a Shopping Spree

CLAREMONT, NH—For the sixth year, members of the Claremont Police Department and the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office escorted some children from Claremont schools around Walmart during Shop With a Cop. Up and down, in and out of the aisles — mostly in the toy department — the kids were free to choose gifts for themselves, their siblings and friends. Keeping in mind the “budget” each child had, officers and deputies suggested games and toys, and happily toted dolls, Lego sets, Nerf guns and modeling clay to the checkout.

School Resource Officer Crystal Simonds, who has organized each event, noted that generous donations helped make 56 boys and girls among the happiest in town. Each child signed oversized thank-you cards, which will be sent to this year's donors: the Jack and



**Chief Mark Chase helped Kloe Wade, Karsyn Hebert went home with art supplies plus a Fortnite action figure.**



**It was Barbie all the way for Vanessa Gomez, who shopped with her mother, Patricia, and Deputy Heather Shea-Clark.**



**Dorothy Byrne Foundation; the Rosebud Fund; Michael J. Bonneville, trustee, Zurek-Couto Family Trust; the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; and Walmart for its community grant.**

**Story and Photos by Eric Zengota**

### Story and Photos by Eric Zengota

**Arielle Smith shopped with not only Officer Margaret Barry but also police officer (and comfort dog) Sully.**



**Kale Derepentigny headed straight to the Adventure Force and Fast & Furious shelves with Chief Deputy Jeremy Wilson.**



**Fenixia and Luca Axline asked Sgt. Megan McDevitt to escort them out of the store.**



**Elexis Nyhuis and Sheriff John Simonds had their arms full of gifts.**



# Inspiration

## Make a Little Sunshine

By Priscilla Hull

When I moved to Colebrook for a short time 20 years ago, one of my fellow pastors reminded me that to see the sun from October till March was one of the joys of life! He is right and it really applies to us, a bit further south. This year it seems more grey, less sunny than usual. There is so much to worry about, or fear, that when the sun came through for those 20 minutes the other day, we all should have run outside to soak up the blessed rays! I was busy inside, so I didn't go out, but I wish I had. In fact, I didn't even see the sun right away. All of a sudden I looked and there it was, bright and shining. Lovely sight in the neighbor's yard!

How can we brighten our days a little? A little game to play in the midst of these dark, dull difficult days, when the bed or sofa look so inviting, when it is so easy to grab a blanket and wrap up in it and cuddle with your dog or cat and take a little nap, is to purposely seek out some area of joy.

I just want to be clear that a nap is a good thing, research has shown that for many, a 20 or 30 minute nap is refreshing and re-energizes the mind and body. However, too much of a good thing takes away the good effect.

So, what is this game? Well, there are several things and they might not fall into the category of "game", but during these times maybe they do! You'll have to find your own "games", but here are some hints:

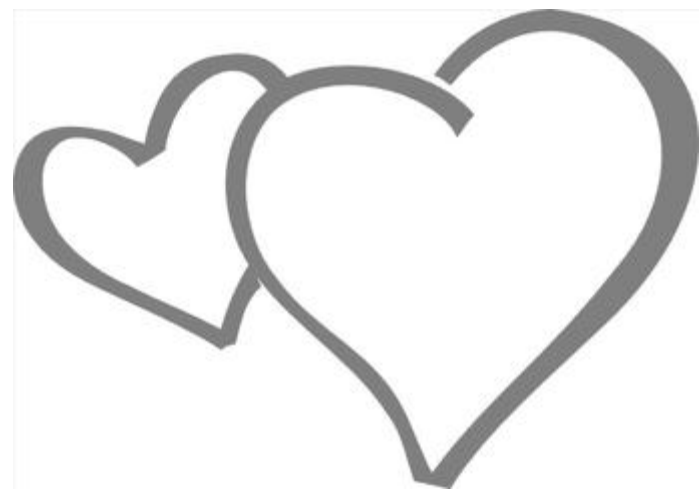
- Since we hesitate visiting, especially older folks, make a phone call to someone you might, in normal times, stop to visit. You've no idea (maybe you do) how welcome that phone call might be!
- Send a card to someone who lives further away! A card in the mail is always a cheerful reminder that someone cares and a welcome change from the junk mail that the carriers are required to deliver.
- Gear up your artistic challenge and make a simple collage from all that junk mail. It'll be something colorful to hang on a door and will change the scene for a while.
- Learn a new skill; cross stitch (start with something small and simple) or grow plants from kitchen seeds—lemon, lime, avocado trees. (I once grew a mango tree, beautiful). Growing things takes time, but it's fun once they start.
- Paper crafts. Make snow flakes, that's always easy, and decorate your doorways.
- Take a walk. That gets the blood flowing and keeps muscles in shape! You can even make that phone call while walking.
- Do something for someone else!

There are lots of things "online" that you can discover, but the best things are the simple ones of reaching out to others for a friendly chat. The best part of that is that both the receiver and the giver will feel better.

Share the joy of life with another. It's amazing how that joy will come back to you in double measure. Excuse me, I've got to make a phone call!

*"I have had great joy and encouragement because of your love, for the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother."*  
Philemon 1:7

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





# Calendar Of Events

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Union Church (Digital Service)

December 24th – Service premiere 7:00PM, then on demand

Due to the pandemic, we will not have an in-person service this year. However, we will be producing a beautiful digital version of this community service we all love for us to enjoy together from the safety of home. The service will be available at 7pm on Christmas Eve on YouTube, Facebook, and Claremont CCTV8, and will be available on demand after airing.

A traditional service that was historically the first gathering by candlelight in the area. The community service is held in the historic Union Episcopal Church which is decorated with boughs of evergreen and lit by the warm glow of real candles. The service includes a Christmas Sermon by Rev Susan Eibner, the readings of the Christmas story, special music, and carols. Event info: [candlelightchristmasseve.eventbrite.com](https://candlelightchristmasseve.eventbrite.com) (with optional registration that will send service links to your email).

Contact info: [unionchurch@gmail.com](mailto:unionchurch@gmail.com), 802.738.0678; <https://www.facebook.com/UnionEpiscopalChurch>.

## The Holiday Giving Tree at CSBCC

CLAREMONT, NH—For the third year, Claremont Parks and Recreation Department

is partnering with the Division for Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) to help local children who are in need. In the past, DCYF has provided the center with anonymous information about children within the community who are in need of support at this time.

This year due to the pandemic, DCYF is accepting gift cards to give to the families they support. If interested, you can drop off a gift card to go to this program at the Community Center before Dec. 16th.

For more information, please feel free to call the CSBCC at 542-7019 or stop in.

## Claremont Democrats Hold Virtual Caucus January 7

CLAREMONT, NH—The 2021 Claremont Democratic Caucus is scheduled to take place on Thursday, Jan. 7, at 7:00PM to adopt new bylaws and elect officers for a two-year term. Elected officers are automatic delegates to the NH State Convention.

“We need to reboot our local organization,” said State Representative John Cloutier (Sullivan County District 10). “As Claremont Democrats, we have a great deal of work ahead of us to reclaim majorities in the NH House, Senate, Executive Council and County offices. It is also vitally important to recruit successful candidates and win City-wide elections this March. Caucusing locally is the first step to electing candidates who will make sure working families in the Granite State have a strong voice here in Claremont, as well as in Concord and Washington.”

The hour-long caucus will be held remotely. Any resident of Claremont registered to vote as

a Democrat may participate. Email [claremont.NH.Democrats@gmail.com](mailto:claremont.NH.Democrats@gmail.com) to obtain an agenda, along with proposed bylaws and a zoom link for the meeting.

Membership in the NH Democratic Party consists of all Democrats registered to vote in the State and is open to all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national or ethnic origin, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, economic status or philosophical persuasion.

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

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

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

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

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

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**Corey Beard**      **Ralph Beard Jr**  
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 Sunapee, NH 03782  
 603-454-4850

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Let Sullivan County Humane Society help wrap you in warmth this winter!

## Home Heating Raffle

**\$500** credit to the company of your choice towards oil, propane, kerosene, pellets or wood

**\$5 per ticket or 3 for \$10**

Stop in to purchase your tickets today!

14 Tremont St, Claremont NH

Hours:	Tuesdays	5-7pm
	Wednesdays	4-7pm
	Thursdays	10am-2pm & 5-7pm
	Fridays	10am-2
	Saturdays	3-5pm

Visit our website for additional locations where tickets can be purchased.

[sullivancountyhumanesociety.org](http://sullivancountyhumanesociety.org)

**Drawing to be held on**

**December 28, 2019 @ 9AM**

Be sure to follow us on Facebook as we'll be announcing the lucky winner on our page!



**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16****Exploring Business Resources With The SBA (Free Virtual Learning)**

12NOON

Are you part of a small business and want to learn more about resources available? Are you interested in starting a business or an entrepreneur in the exploration stage? Join us for a presentation from the U.S. Small Business Administration to learn about resources and tools to become better prepared. This event is free and presented via Zoom.

Visit <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!event/2020/12/16/exploring-business-resources-with-the-sba>.

## Exploring Business Resources With The SBA

CLAREMONT, NH—Are you part of a small business and want to learn more about resources available? Are you interested in starting a business or an entrepreneur in the exploration stage? Join us at MakerSpace for a presentation from the U.S. Small Business Administration to learn about resources and tools to become better prepared.

This event is free and presented via Zoom. Upon registration you will receive the connection link.

Visit: <https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!event/2020/12/16/exploring-business-resources-with-the-sba>.

This event is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 16, at noon.

### Gallery of Gifts: Handmade for the Holidays Through Dec. 23

**Saturdays: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm****Tuesday-Friday: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Library Arts Center

58 N. Main St.

Newport, NH 03773

Admission: Free

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, ornaments, and so much more. The show is open for in-person shopping in the gallery with health safeguards in place. \*\*Please note that a limited number of shoppers will be allowed in the gallery at a time, and masks are required inside the Arts Center at all times.

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

Individual private shopping appointments are available after the opening for anyone who is considered vulnerable or at-risk, or who would feel more comfortable with a little more space when shopping. See [libraryartscenter.org](http://libraryartscenter.org) for more details, or for updates throughout the duration of the show.

## Virtual Grief Support Available Through Lake Sunapee VNA

NEW LONDON, NH – Lake Sunapee VNA is now offering two virtual grief support groups, since its in-person support groups are still on hold. To help anyone grieving during this pandemic and time of social distancing, a Virtual Bereavement Check-in is available on Wednesdays every three weeks from 4:00-5:00pm.

In addition, a Virtual Widow to Widow group is held on the first Monday of every month from 3:30-5:00pm. Anyone interested in participating in these free groups should email their contact information to Lori O'Connor at [loconnor@lake-sunapeevna.org](mailto:loconnor@lake-sunapeevna.org) and a member of the bereavement team will call with further details.

Send us your news and photos

## Charlestown VFW Bingo Holiday Schedule

CHARLESTOWN, NH—Charlestown VFW Bingo will be back for fun and games in December on the 16th before taking two weeks off for Christmas. At this moment in time we plan on bingo as usual in 2021. If plans change, we will update you here in the *e-Ticker* and through our Facebook page. To all our patrons, thank you for your patronage and we wish you a happy, safe holiday season. Tom St.Pierre, Commander, Charlestown Memorial VFW Post 8497



Sullivan County Transportation will be offering a Holiday Light Tour in Claremont.

**Monday, December 14, 2020 starting at 5 pm**  
**Tuesday, December 15, 2020 starting at 5 pm**  
**Thursday, December 17, 2020 starting at 5 pm**

Tours are by appointment only. If interested, please call in advance to reserve your seat.  
**603.542.9609**



Southwestern Community Services  
 people helping people



## A Message from ServiceLink

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

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

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

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

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

### Area Grocery Store Hours Reserved for High Risk Population

HANNAFORD - Most stores reserve 7 AM – 8 AM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. In Massachusetts, those special hours are 7 AM – 8 AM daily  
 MARKET BASKET 6 AM - 7 AM EVERY DAY Claremont  
 CO-OP FOOD STORES 7AM - 8 AM EVERYDAY WRJCT, Lebanon & Hanover  
 PRICE CHOPPER 6AM - 7AM EVERYDAY-Windsor & West Lebanon  
 SHAWS 7AM - 9AM TUES & THURS West Lebanon  
 WALMART 6 AM - 7 AM TUESDAYS ONLY Claremont & West Lebanon  
 PLAINFIELD COUNTRY STORE Call ahead for curb side pickup, 709-7055. Prepared meals, grocery items.

### Make a Chain Maille Bracelet (Virtual Learning)

CLAREMONT, NH—In this virtual Claremont MakerSpace class, we'll create a Byzantine

bracelet by weaving links of chain. Byzantine is an ancient pattern for weaving chain and is an excellent starting point for learning chain maille. The finished chain features an intricate appearance and great flexibility.

Upon registration, you will be emailed to coordinate how to purchase the required class materials (~\$15).

This class will be presented via Zoom. A connection link will be sent prior to the class start.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 06:00pm

<https://claremontmakerspace.org/events/#!event/2020/12/17/make-a-chain-maille-bracelet>.

### PUBLIC NOTICE PLANNING BOARD HEARING Monday, December 14, 2020 7:00 PM

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

Join the Zoom Webinar Online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86070699369?pwd=QzJSV0lxQmd-QYXFEenZJRmc4YnZnQT09>

Passcode: 638273 By Phone: 1-646-558-8656 US (New York) Webinar ID: 860 7069 9369

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

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

A. (PL 2020-00019) **Katherine Pongratz, Elkins NH** – Application for a Conditional Use Permit for the conversion of a single-family home to a duplex at 23 Stevens Street. Tax Map 107, Lot 113. Zoning District: CR-2

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

Richard Wahrlich, Chair

### PUBLIC NOTICE Claremont Development Authority Full Board Meeting Thursday, December 17, 2020 7:30 AM

\*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City is suggesting citizens participate in this meeting by Zoom.

Join online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85295527381?pwd=TzdNQ3hMZ1RxREZx-VWN5alpQNE0vUT09>

Passcode: 702642 Or Telephone: 1 646 558 8656  
Webinar ID: 852 9552 7381

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

### PUBLIC NOTICE Conservation Commission MEETING Thursday, December 17, 2020 6:00 PM Gary Dickerman, Chair

\*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City is suggesting citizens participate in this meeting by Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting Online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85052654141?pwd=dzdBuJdYcVU1SnRGLzkWfEgyV0Vz-QT09>

Passcode: 767874 Or by Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 Webinar ID: 850 5265 4141

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

### Claremont Senior Center News

The Senior Center is closed until further notice. Drive-up meals will continue.

Holiday Celebration Turkey Dinner for December is a drive through special lunch on Tuesday, December 22, \$10.00 pp. Roast Turkey w/Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Cranberry Sauce, Squash and Pie. Don't cook for Christmas, buy 2 meals and sit back and enjoy yourself on Christmas Day.

Special, Special, Special. The Ugly Sweater Cookie Contest is underway. Watch for a winner to be chosen on 12/17/20.

VNA foot clinic: December 16 and 23. Call for an appointment, 603-526-4077.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, Monday, December 21, 2020, 12 – 5pm. Appointments online or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

Weekly drive-up meals:

Tuesday (15) Soup, Shepherd's Pie, Dinner Roll, Dessert



Thursday (17) Soup, Pot Roast, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Veggie, Cake

Call 543-5998 to reserve your meal by 10:30AM. Members-\$4, non-members-\$5. Takeout meals only: Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reservations required. Pick-up-11:45AM-12:15PM.

The Penny Sale, May 8, 2021 is no longer taking items.

Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights, Claremont, NH. (603) 543-5998. Smoke Free. Worry Free. Stress Free. Call 543-5998.

Thought for the week: "Kindness is like snow. It beautifies everything it covers." Kahlil Gibran

**Friday, December 11th**

0013 E3 responded to a medical call on Elm St.

0332 E3 responded to a medical call on South St.

0801 E3 responded to a medical alert on Sullivan St.

0825 E3 responded to a medical call at Barnes Park.

1138 E3 responded to Heritage Dr for a well-being check.

1303 E3 responded to a medical call on Maple Ave.

1317 E3 responded to a medical call on Union St.

1601 E3 responded to a lifeline activation on Grandview St.

1816 E3 responded to Mulberry St for a motor vehicle accident.

1849 E3 responded to North St for a motor vehicle accident.

**Saturday, December 12th**

1155 E3 responded to Bellic St for an illegal burn.

1303 E3 responded to a medical call on West Pleasant St.

1630 E3, Brush 1 responded to Cat Hole Rd for a car fire.

## Claremont Fire Dept. Log

**Sunday, December 6th**

1705 E3 responded to Opera House for a person stuck in the elevator.

**Monday, December 7th**

0717 E3 responded to a lift assist on Grandview St.

1055 E3 responded to Sims St. for a low hanging wire.

1250 E3 responded to Lindy Ave for a low wire.

**Tuesday, December 8th**

0944 E3 responded to a medical call on Washington St.

1033 E3 responded to a medical call on Orchard Rd.

1315 E3 responded to a medical call on Myrtle St.

**Wednesday, December 9th**

0912 E3 responded to Washington St for a propane leak.

1707 E3 responded to a medical call on Grandview St.

1756 E3 responded to Red Water Brook Rd for a chimney fire.

1946 E3 responded to Spofford St for an alarm sounding.

**Thursday, December 10th**

0406 E3 responded to a medical call on Paddy Hollow Rd.

1722 E3 responded to a lifeline alert on Grandview St.

1835 E3 responded to an unknown medical call on Broad St.



**Colors of the Season**

~ Eric Zengota



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](http://www.etickernewsclaremont.com)

#### Irene B. Stearns

Irene B. Therrien (Andriski) Stearns, 93 of Claremont, NH, passed away peacefully in the care of Sullivan County Healthcare in Unity, NH on December 10, 2020 after a long illness.

Irene was born in Claremont, NH, on June 29, 1927 to Joseph and Mamie (Timlin) Therrien. She attended schools in Claremont, and was a lifelong resident of Claremont, NH.

She married Mike P. Andriski on September 3, 1945, (predeceased) and Ted Stearns Sr in July of 2000 (predeceased).

Irene worked at several area businesses and retired from Valley Regional Hospital in 1993 where she worked as a CNA and EKG Technician for 26 years. She loved to read, do crosswords and word search and listen to country music.

Irene is survived by three children: Brenda Andriski of Hooksett, NH; Michael J. and his wife Deborah Andriski of Laconia, NH; and Bonnie Dyke of Claremont, NH. Five grandchildren: Christopher Andriski, Jon Andriski, Jodi Bingham, Jeremy Dyke and Heather Bagley. Great Grandchildren: Riley, Stone, Lily, Cali, Brody, CJ and Lia. Step grandchildren: Lexi, Sophie and Jackson. Two great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents, brothers Gordon Therrien and Harold Therrien and sister Beatrice Reynolds. Her son Robert H. Andriski and grandson Michael R.

Andriski as well as many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family requests that you donate to the American Parkinson's Association, The Alzheimer's Association or a charity of your choice in Irene's name.

The family would also like to thank the Sullivan County Healthcare staff of Stearns II for their kind and compassionate care for Irene during her final days.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in St. Mary's Church in Claremont on Tuesday, December 15th, at 11 AM with the Very Rev. Shawn Therrien officiating. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the funeral home and Andriski family ask all attending the funeral to abide with all regulations and please wear a mask and use social distancing.

The Stringer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

#### John E. Sprague, 77

John E. Sprague, 77, passed away peacefully at the Jack Byrnes Center at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital on December 8, 2020.

He was born in Easton, ME, on April 17, 1943 to J. Russell & Crystal Grass Sprague. He attended school in Easton and graduated from Husson College in Bangor, ME, with a BS Degree in Accounting. He joined the Maine Army National Guard in 1964 (while in college). He married Barbara Dow on December 5, 1970; they were together for 50 years.

After moving to Vermont in 1979, John continued his military career, joining the Vermont Army Reserves, retiring after 22 ½ years of military service, as a Master Sergeant. He was in the insurance industry for many years as a claims adjuster, and insurance agent. He retired in 2006 from Lawrence and Wheeler Insurance Agency in Springfield, VT.

He was predeceased by his parents.

Surviving are his sons, John Russell Sprague, II and wife, Roselind of California; Darrin P. Sprague and fiancée Stacy of Plymouth, MA; and Shady Blackwell, III and wife Melissa of Unity, NH; five grandsons, John Russell Sprague, Tyler, Kyle and Brady Sprague, Michael Blackwell; two granddaughters, Melissa Sprague and Catherine Blackwell; and one great granddaughter, Brynlee

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-Dr. Sam Giveen

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Blackwell; four brothers, Lynn and wife Helene of Nashua, NH; Gordon and wife Joan of Florida; Terry and wife, Jenny of Madison, NE, and Dale and wife Terry of California; one sister, Nancy and husband Merlin Newcomb of Westfield, ME, and several nieces and nephews.

He was very involved in the Springfield Lions Club in many capacities, including their secretary/treasurer for many years, as well as a term as their president. He was also involved with Vermont Lions Charities, and very involved each summer with their Lions Twin State Soccer matches with New Hampshire. On a district level, he was the Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer of District Governor, Ken Millay.

There will be no services. Memorial contributions can be made to the Springfield Lions Club, P.O. Box 776, Springfield, Vermont 05156.

The Stringer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

### **Mark W. LaQuire, 29**

Mark Wayne Johnson LaQuire, 29, of Acworth, NH, died unexpectedly on December 8, 2020. He was born in Springfield VT, on March 8, 1991.

Mark moved to Claremont, NH, at a young age and attended Stevens High School. Many know of him from his goofy ol' smile, Market Basket and Stone Creations. He was most recently employed at Okemo Mountain, which he loved.

In his free time he enjoyed snowboarding, which was his favorite, and spending time with his son.

Mark is survived by his son, Clark LaQuire, parents Mark and Maria "Johnson" LaQuire; his partner, Caroline Mailhot, who he loved dearly; his siblings, sister Michelle Johnson and her husband Stephen Faria; brother Micheal Johnson LaQuire and his wife Alexis; brother Mitchell LaQuire and his wife Brandy; and his little sister Mercedes LaQuire. Grandparents Sidney and Carolyn LaQuire, Scott and Blaze Carpenter, Harry Johnson, and Mary and David Laclair, including many loved nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles and his best friend forever, Ryan Kirkland.

Donations can be sent directly to Stringers Funeral Home at 146 Broad St Claremont, NH.

The family also has set up a bank account for his son Clark's future at the Bank of New Hampshire; if interested please make checks to Michelle Johnson and in the memo in mem-

ory of Mark LaQuire. The family appreciates everything during these difficult times.

Walk-through visiting hours will be held Friday evening, December 18th, from 5 to 7pm at Stringer Funeral Home, 146 Broad Street, Claremont, NH.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the funeral home and LaQuire family ask all attending the visitation to abide with all regulations and please wear a mask and use social distancing.

A celebration of Mark's life will be held in the summer of 2021.

### **Thomas E. Donovan, Jr.**

Thomas E. Donovan, Jr. died peacefully on December 8, 2020, at Sullivan County Healthcare after a long and brave journey with dementia.

Born on October 27, 1946, to Thomas and Rita Donovan, he grew up in Concord and attended Bishop Brady High School. After graduating from Fairfield University in 1968, Tom served his country for two years in the US Army. Following his military service, he began a social work career in NH and served in that role until retiring in 2013. Sworn in on 12/4/1996, Tom served seven terms in the House of Representatives, with six terms as Vice Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee and one term on the Resource Committee. A fierce champion of justice and an unwavering advocate for the poor and disenfranchised, he made significant changes in legislation, promoting better access to services for hundreds of people. Tom leaves behind a powerful legacy to his beloved community of Claremont where he initiated and supported numerous efforts to better the lives of young and old alike. A life-long Catholic animated by his tradition's social justice teachings, he served both St. Mary's Church and school in various capacities as well. Tom enjoyed flowers, feeding the birds, music and thoroughly enjoyed life.

He was predeceased by his wife, Debra; he leaves behind a daughter Betsy (Shane) and stepdaughter, Jasmine Sprague; three granddaughters, Kassandra, Karlie, Sammantha; five great grandchildren, his twin sister, Rev. Terry Donovan Odell (Greg); brothers, Michael (Finola) and Bill (Kathy), numerous nieces, a nephew and many beloved colleagues and friends.

The family wishes to express deep gratitude to the staff and administration at SCNH as well

as Lake Sunapee Homecare/ Hospice for the loving care that Tom received.

A walk-through visitation will be held from 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 19, at the Roy Funeral Home with masks and social distancing required. A committal service will be held immediately following the visitation in St. Mary's Cemetery, also with masks and social distancing. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Claremont Soup Kitchen, 53 Central Street, Claremont, NH 03743.

You are invited to share a memory of Tom with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guest book at [www.royfuneralhome.com](http://www.royfuneralhome.com).

### **Daniel D. Merrill, 73**

Daniel D. Merrill, 73, of Charlestown, NH, died unexpectedly on Saturday (Dec. 5, 2020).

He was born in Springfield, VT, on June 24, 1947, the son of Stanley T. and Alice (Holden) Merrill and had been a lifelong area resident. Daniel was employed as a machine operator by Tambrands in Claremont, NH, for more than 35 years. Although they have been together for 30 years, he married the former Marjorie "Midge" (Blewitt) Decoteau in August of 2004 in Las Vegas, NV. He enjoyed working on cars, gambling, hunting, the Red Sox, spending time with his family and attending storage unit auctions.

Members of his family include his wife, "Midge" Merrill, Charlestown, NH; sons, Scott Merrill, Windsor, VT; Joey Decoteau and his wife, Christine, Stamford, CT; daughters, April Coull, Charlestown, NH; Tressa Heinen and her husband, Craig, Charleston, SC; Julie Ploof and her husband, Mike, Weare, NH; Debbie Chase and her husband, Leroy, Windsor, VT; Amy Root and her husband, Chris, Windsor, VT; many grandchildren and great grandchildren, a brother, Gary Merrill and his wife, Sandi, Charlestown, NH, a sister, Sandy Hosking and her husband, John, Charlestown, NH and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, a son, Dan Merrill and two brothers, Teddy Merrill and Ronald Merrill. There will be no visiting hours or services at this time. A celebration of Daniel's life will be held in the spring of 2021.

You are invited to share a memory of Daniel with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guest book at [www.royfuneralhome.com](http://www.royfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the Roy Funeral Home and Cremation Service.





**Broad St. Park is dressed for the holidays.**

**~ Eric Zengota**