

# e-Ticker News of Claremont

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**Fire Destroys Home  
on River Road;  
page A6**

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January 8, 2018

## Major Disaster Federal Aid Approved for Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Sullivan Counties

CONCORD, NH--Governor Chris Sununu announced Wednesday that President Donald Trump has granted his request for a major disaster declaration for Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton and Sullivan counties in response to the severe wind storm and flooding that occurred between October 29 and November 1, 2017.

"This storm significantly strained state and local resources as emergency responders dealt with heavy rainfall, county-wide flash flooding, damaging winds, significant debris that restricted travel and operations, and historical power outages," Sununu said. "Through this major disaster declaration, those most heavily impacted by the storm can have access to federal support for response efforts. I thank President Trump for his timely response to my request."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), working with state and local emergency management officials, recently completed a Preliminary Damage Assessment, finding that the statewide costs for response efforts related to this event exceeded \$5,889,549.

The President's declaration also makes federal support available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program on a cost-sharing basis for hazard mitigation measures statewide. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable the implementation of mitigation measures during the immediate recovery from a disaster. FEMA can fund up to 75 percent of the eligible costs of approved projects. Federal  
(Continued on page A2)



## New Council Seated...

Members of the new Claremont City Council were seated Wednesday night. L to R— Claire Lessard, Andrew O’Hearne, Jonathan Stone, Asst. Mayor Allen Damren, Mayor Charlene Lovett, Jeremy Zullo, Abigail Kier, Nick Koloski and Scott Pope (Bill Binder photo).

## Residents to be Presented with Proposed \$31,148,256 Budget at Deliberative Session

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--When residents go to the Claremont school district’s Deliberative Session on Feb. 7, they will be presented with a proposed operating budget of \$31,148,256. That figure was voted on Wednesday, following a public hearing which was then followed by a school board meeting; both were held at the SHS auditorium, chosen to accommodate more people than the business room at the tech center can hold. The public hearing attracted about 70 people, and it

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**Aid, from A1**

assistance will be available to government entities and some private non-profits providing critical services.

“We are very pleased to receive this declaration,” Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Perry Plummer said. “We will be reaching out to emergency management directors within the eligible counties to provide meeting dates, information about the application process, and to assist with applications.”

In response to the storm, Sununu executed the State Emergency Operations Plan with an activation of the State Emergency Operations Center on October 29 through November 3, 2017. The combination of heavy rainfall and strong winds caused severe damage to hundreds of miles of local and State roadways, dozens of bridges and culverts, and left more than 270,000 electrical utility customers without power.

# Goshen Police Cruiser Reported as Involved in Pedestrian Accident in Newport

## Weather Cited as Factor

NEWPORT, NH--On Thursday, Jan. 4, at approximately 5:43 p.m., troopers from the New Hampshire State Police Troop C responded to a vehicle vs. pedestrian collision involving a Goshen Police Cruiser on Unity Road in the Town of Newport. Newport Police, Sullivan County Sheriff’s Department, and Newport Fire and Ambulance also provided assistance at the scene.

According to a statement from the NH State Police, the investigation revealed that Michael Batista, 42, was operating a motor vehicle described as a 2013 Ford Explorer. The vehicle was traveling southbound on Unity Road to a call for service in the Town of Goshen. According to NHSP, “The weather conditions were treacherous with blowing and drifting snow, causing ‘white-out’ conditions.” The cruiser was in its lane when it collided with pedestrian, Thomas Cummings, 68.

Cummings had just parked his vehicle in his driveway and was walking southbound in the roadway attempting to walk onto his walkway to go inside his residence. Cummings was struck by the Explorer in the southbound lane, sending him up onto the hood and ultimately back onto the roadway in front of cruiser, said NHSP. The Explorer had no damage and was able to be driven from the scene.

Cummings was conscious and alert at the scene. He was transported to Dartmouth Medical Center via Newport Ambulance for what was determined to be non-life threatening injuries.

“The weather was a significant contributing factor to the collision. At this time, the cause of the collision remains under investigation,” said NHSP.

Anyone with information pertaining to the collision is asked to contact Sergeant William Di-Legge or Trooper William Neilsen at Troop C – 603-223-8494.

## Newport School Board Meeting Rescheduled

NEWPORT, NH--The Newport School Board Meeting scheduled for Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. was cancelled last week. The Board will meet Monday, January 8, at 6:00 p.m. in the Lou Thompson Room at Newport High School.

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Member, Greater Claremont Chamber Of Commerce

### NH Lottery Numbers

**01/06/2018**

#### NH PowerBall

**12 29 30 33 61 26 3**

#### Mega Millions 01/05/2018

**28 30 39 59 70 10 3**

#### Megabucks 01/06/2018

**7 21 23 33 39 3**

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

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# Commentary

## NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier



### **Lead Bill to Help City While SB 193 Likely to Hurt Local Schools, Taxpayers**

New Hampshire's House of Representatives passed legislation last week which would help communities like Claremont better deal with the hazards of childhood lead poisoning.

On Jan. 3 by a 266-87 roll call vote, the House gave final approval to an amended version of Senate Bill 247, which is aimed at preventing the poisoning of children from lead in paint and drinking water. Final approval came after brief debate on the House floor and an overwhelming positive recommendation by the House Finance Committee to adopt the bill's version as amended by Finance. On May 4 of last year, the House had given preliminary approval to the measure on a 233-109 roll call vote following a nearly-unanimous recommendation by the House Health, Human Services, & Elderly Affairs Committee to support it.

Senate Bill 247 is sponsored by a bipartisan group of 11 legislators led by Concord Sen. Dan Feltes, and including Hanover Sen. Martha Hennessey, who is Claremont's state senator. It is strongly supported by the Claremont School District, including Supt. Middleton McGoodwin, as well as Claremont Mayor Charlene Lovett, who made several trips to the State House Complex to work on persuading legislators to approve this worthwhile measure. The bill now returns to the New Hampshire Senate, which has three options for dealing with the amended legislation. Senators can either concur with the House amendments, request a House-Senate Committee of Conference to hammer out a compromise version of the bill, or simply non-concur with the amendments, and just totally refuse to give final approval to it. But it is unlikely a majority of senators will simply non-concur on amendments this Senate legislation-now publicly supported by Gov. Christopher Sununu. Anyway, I predict that the bill will eventually be sent to Gov. Sununu for this expected signature, although the process may take a few more weeks, especially if a Committee of Conference is requested.

For the record, I again voted for Senate Bill 247 as I had earlier done so on May 4, 2017. While not perfect legislation, I believe the bill should help New Hampshire more effectively deal with the problem of childhood lead poisoning, a problem which the Claremont School District says results in more special education students, and thus higher special education costs. I am pleased it passed.

However, I was not pleased that also on Jan. 3 that a majority of my fellow representatives gave preliminary approval to Senate Bill 193, which would create so-called "education freedom savings accounts" for all public school students aged 5-20. Preliminary approval of this popularly-known school voucher measure as amended by the House occurred on a 184-162 roll call vote came after some debate, and a rec-

ommendation by a slim majority of the House Education Committee to approve the amended version. The bill now goes to the House Finance Committee for further examination of its fiscal impact, followed by a second House vote within the next few weeks. It is sponsored by a duo of Republican legislators led by Deerfield Sen. John Reagan.

During the debate on the House floor, Senate Bill 193 proponents like Tuftonboro Rep. Glen Cordelli stated that the amended bill "is about the kids." Rep. Cordelli claimed that the measure as amended was targeted at children from lower-income families, rather than wealthy families; in other words, children who need education freedom savings accounts the most. He added that while New Hampshire has "many great schools", even a great school might not be the best fit for every child. Also, he said the legislation would provide grants for school districts losing students and state dollars to private schools because of the education savings accounts above one quarter of one percent of their budgets. Finally, Rep. Cordelli stated that the amended bill was a five-year pilot project which would have plenty of oversight, including a special commission to supervise it as well as the New Hampshire Dept. of Education and Board of Education.

However, Senate Bill 193 opponents included Sunapee Rep. Linda Tanner, who spoke passionately against the bill on the House floor. Another opponent, Contoonock Rep. Mel Myler, stated the amended measure was a "flawed" one for several reasons. First, there are "limited tax dollars," currently available for our state's public schools, and such dollars should not be "diverted to private and religious institutions." Second, this diversion will put additional property tax burdens on communities like Claremont to help make up for the balance of lost tax dollars to private education. Third, the legislation as amended violates the New Hampshire Constitution's principles of "the separation of church and state." Fourth, the bill's education freedom savings accounts should be administered by the New Hampshire Dept. of Education as done in five of the six states that now allow similar accounts-not private organizations.

Furthermore and fifth, Rep. Myler said that because New Hampshire's schools are some of the best in the nation, ranking "at the top of key national indicators," he questioned why should the education freedom savings accounts be introduced to a "successful system." Sixth, he added that while there are some struggling public schools, he has seen "little state commitment or leadership" to assist such schools. Seventh, he expressed that Senate Bill 193 as amended would diminish our state's to supervise the adequate education of students attending private with public tax dollars. Eighth and finally, he declared that while he believes in parental choice within the public school system--choice that be could be done thru charter schools--he believes that public dollars should remain with public schools, not be diverted to private schools.

For readers' information, I voted against Senate Bill 193. I voted "no" for most of the reasons just mentioned by Rep. Myler. This is a terrible measure for Claremont's schools and taxpayers, in my opinion. Hopefully, some of my fellow representatives will change their minds and ultimately vote to deny its final approval within a few weeks.

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<https://www.hassan.senate.gov/>

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<http://kuster.house.gov/contact>

**To find out who your local state  
representatives/senators are in Sullivan  
County, please visit**

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/wml.aspx>

**and click on “Who Is My Legislator”**

## Letter to the Editor

### Help Available with Energy Needs During Weather Challenges

#### To The Editor:

Because of the Arctic cold weather, many of our citizens have broken pipes, fuel shortages or power outages. It is important to check in on your neighbors and family members to see if they need any assistance. The State of New Hampshire has an initiative led by Granite United Way to call 2-1-1 (1-866-444-4211, out of state) in order to provide people with information on how to address their current energy needs. Also, the Governor's Citizen Services number is 271-2121. According to the Director of Emergency Management (603-271-2241) there is no oil shortage in the state of New Hampshire. However, there is a shortage of drivers and a slowdown in distribution. Emergency Management is working with local emergency directors to help citizens in the worst situations to facilitate vendors or to create short-term solutions until fuel deliveries can be made later. Community Action Programs are on alert to help low to moderate income people with fuel assistance needs <http://www.nhcommunityaction.org/contact-us>. The Office of Strategic Initiatives who handles the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can be reached at 271-2155. ServiceLink is there to help coordinate appropriate resources: <https://www.servicelink.nh.gov/contact-us/index.htm> 1-866-634-9412.

Please call my office, 271-3632, if you are having problems in connecting with anyone.

**Joseph D. Kenney**  
Executive Councilor District 1

## Governor Sununu Statement on SB 193

CONCORD, NH--On Wednesday, Governor Chris Sununu issued the following statement on SB 193, establishing education freedom savings accounts for students:

“Today, the House listened to parents across the Granite State. Our legislature has signaled to families that we are focused on the kids, giving parents and children the ability to choose the education path that is best suited for them. This is the first step in ensuring that New Hampshire’s education system continues to be on the forefront of innovation, closing the opportunity gap and opening pathways like never before, regardless of economic status. I applaud the House of Representatives for reaching a compromise that puts New Hampshire families first. We will continue to champion this groundbreaking legislation and will work with members of the Senate as this bill moves through the process and reaches my desk.”

## Senator Hassan Cosponsors Bipartisan Legislation To Help Prevent Sexual Harassment In The Workplace

WASHINGTON, DC--Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) has cosponsored bipartisan legislation introduced by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) to help prevent sexual harassment in the workplace. The Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Harassment Act of 2017 would void forced arbitration agreements that prevent sexual harassment survivors from getting the justice they deserve.

An estimated 60 million Americans are subject to forced arbitration clauses in their employment contracts. The bipartisan legislation would void forced arbitration agreements that require arbitration of sexual harassment and discrimination claims and allow survivors of sexual harassment or discrimination to seek justice, discuss their cases publicly, and eliminate institutional protection for harassers.

“Sexual harassment, misconduct, and assault in the workplace must never be tolerated, and forced arbitration policies contribute to a broken system that allows unacceptable behavior to continue,” Hassan said. “...We [must] empower women and all survivors of sexual harassment and assault by ending forced arbitration, enabling real reform in workplaces across the country...”

## Fire Destroys Home on River Road

CLAREMONT, NH--On Jan. 3, at 11:31 a.m., the Claremont Fire Department was dispatched to 293 River Road for a reported basement fire. Initial response was two engines and a ladder truck to include Car-1. On arrival at 11:39 a.m., Car-1 reported a well involved residential structure. "The initial attack lines were deployed defensively as at that point the building was deteriorating to the point that an interior attack would put firefighting crews in harm's way," said Claremont Fire Chief Bryan Burr. Initial information from the City's dispatch center indicated that all occupants had exited the building safely. The fire was deemed under control at 12:33 p.m., but crews spent several hours suppressing the flames and continued extinguishing hot spots. Crews will continue to monitor the scene throughout the night. The fire department was



area of the electrical service panel; an exact cause had not been determined.

According to the fire department, "The home is owned and occupied by Jeffery Dustin. The

**The home at 293 River Road in Claremont was destroyed by fire on Wednesday (Bill Binder photos).**



assisted by the Claremont Police Department, Golden Cross Ambulance, Newport Fire Department, Cornish Fire Department and Ascutney Fire Department. There were no injuries reported either by the occupant or firefighters, said Burr.

The cause and origin were being investigated by the fire department investigator. As of Wednesday night, it had been determined that the fire did start in the basement in the

home is a total loss and was reported to be fully insured," said Burr.



## Fire at Durgin & Crowell...

A massive fire at Durgin & Crowell in Springfield, NH, Wednesday night destroyed the lumber yard's planer mill. Some 100 first responders were on the scene. The Red Cross supplied drinking water and snacks for the crews. Fortunately, no injuries were reported from the four-alarm fire (Photos courtesy of Jonathan Ryba Photo Art).

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**Budget, from A1**

was clear from both that and the school board meeting that there remains deep division amongst residents and board members as to what to do: Cut the budget to help save a little for taxpayers or spend more and not make cuts that some fear will negatively impact students.

The board had settled on some \$328,000 in cuts on Dec. 20, which would have lowered the tax rate by 47 cents, but adding the SREA's collective bargaining agreement to the operating budget since then means the board will have to cut another \$300,000 if it wants to achieve the same level of reduction. The proposed budget of \$31.45 million presented at the public hearing would have had an impact of adding about 32 cents to the tax rate.

The situation is made more complicated with the fact that adequacy aid will continue to be reduced by the state, by \$213,528 for FY19, increasing the burden on taxpayers once again.

Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin pre-

sented a PowerPoint during the public hearing, detailing budgets over the last several years as well as costs dropped onto the district due to the ongoing cuts in state aid and down-shifted costs.

During the public hearing, a number of people addressed the board, with some supporting the proposed \$31.45 million budget and the others calling for cuts instead. Cuts could include several teaching positions, a crisis counselor at the high school and a school psychologist, amongst other line items. Pleas were made, for example, not to cut an English teacher position at SHS, but others got up to argue that taxpayers need a break, no matter what. Carolyn Towle said she was 71 and was working full-time, sometimes 45 hours a week, so she can keep her house. Heather Irish said she could see the "demonizing and polarizing of both sides" and that the deep divide was not going to get the community anywhere.

Following the public hearing, the board moved to a regular

meeting where budget discussions continued, with the board wrestling with the idea of having to find some \$635,000 in cuts if it wanted to pass the budget proposal the board narrowly agreed on in December. The board meeting was nearly as contentious as the public hearing, two camps clearly defined: Those who found deep cuts something they could not support while the rest siding with taxpayers seeking relief.

During the long night, vice chair Chris Irish said, "What I saw tonight was pretty clear, fifty-fifty split. Let the voters decide."

The need to cut the budget by another \$307,000 was too much for chair Brian Rapp, who described it as "a cut too much too stomach." He was also opposed to the first cut of \$328,000 "Not too much to stomach for everyone," countered board member Michele Pierce.

**(Continued on page A11)**



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## Ann's Property Of The Week

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**Budget, from A8**

“I would not recommend staff cuts if there were other areas,” said McGoodwin, who is caught in a place of having to provide the staff and services so many demand, while contending with reduced revenues from the state and rising fixed costs and a desire on the part of some residents and board members calling for a tax break. He asked of the board, “Please, I need your help. In what line items are these funds available?”

Two votes were needed before the board decided on a final budget proposal.

The first was a motion by board member Alex Herzog in the form of an operating budget of \$31,455,410, which included the teachers’ bargaining agreement, saying that he wanted to let the voters decide if that figure was too high. It failed, 4-3. Following that, Irish made a motion for the board to vote on, offering a figure of \$31,148,256 as the proposed operating budget, leaving it up to the administration to make the additional cuts to match the cost of covering the bargaining agreement and the original cut of \$328,000 the board decided on in December. The motion passed, with yes votes from Irish, Frank Sprague, Michele Pierce and Rebecca Zullo.

The Deliberative Session will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6:00 p.m. in the SHS Auditorium.

Voters will also see several other warrant items on the ballot: School bus lease, roofing improvements and security upgrades. Several school boards seats are opening up this year as well: Three for three-year terms and one for a one-year term.

**Cornish and Plainfield Energy Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, Jan. 9  
 Open to the public  
 7:00 p.m .  
 At the Cornish Town Office, 488 Town House Rd.  
 In the conference room

Join us while we make plans for the Vital Communities Weatherize program, Ready for 100, summer plans for a DIY electric bicycle workshop, and more.

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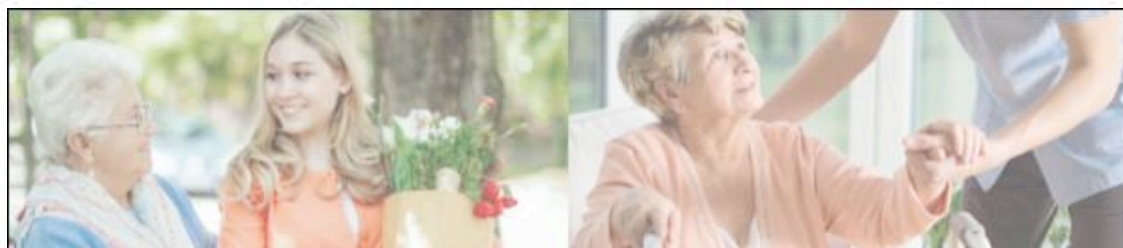
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By  
Charlene Lovett



### Now that 2018 is Upon Us

If the first week is any indication, 2018 promises to be a very productive year. In Concord, the Governor and Legislature are focused on a number of issues that impact Claremont directly. Here at home, a new Council was sworn in and will soon be adopting the goals and objectives for the year.

On January 2nd, the Governor held a press conference and conveyed his support of Senate Bill 247, otherwise known as the lead bill. I had an opportunity to attend the event. During the press conference, Jessica Livingston spoke of how her two young children were poisoned by lead while living in an apartment in

Concord. Her story reaffirmed why this bill is so important, and why so many people have dedicated themselves to resolving this very preventable public health issue.

During his press conference, Governor Sununu mentioned the work that Claremont has done to address childhood lead poisoning. Though this is a statewide issue, it was rewarding to hear him speak of our efforts to be proactive in protecting the health of our children. By identifying this as a community-wide priority and working together, we have gained recognition at the state level and demonstrated local support for this legislation.

The following day, January 3rd, the House of Representatives held their first session of the year and voted to pass SB247. The support was overwhelming with a vote of 266 to 87. The bill will now go to the Senate for review and, if it concurs, to the Governor's desk for signature.

This is just one of the many bills, either retained over the summer or newly introduced, that impact Claremont and will be addressed by the Legislature over the next six months. Those that impact Claremont fiscally will have to be closely followed as we grapple with

budgets that reflect a reduction in state funding support.

Also on January 3rd, the Claremont City Council met for the first time for the swearing-in ceremony. Councilors Lessard, O'Hearne, Stone and Zullo are new to the Council this year. Given the number of new Councilors, orientation training will be conducted so that everyone has the background information needed to "hit the ground running."

In January, the Council will be focusing on setting the goals and objectives for 2018 and completing the city manager's annual evaluation. As of January 31st, Mr. McNutt will have completed his first year as our city manager, and it will be the Council's responsibility to clearly relay its priorities for the upcoming year.

*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).*

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### Students of the Month...

Principal Paulette Fitzgerald and Assistant Principal Audra Bucklin recently recognized several students for displaying the 4 Pillars of Excellence as the Claremont Middle School Students of the Month.

November (left): 6th grade: Ryleigh Riggs Sanders, 7th grade Matthew Becker, 8th grade: Dylan Chambers. December: 6th grade: Evan Laplante, 7th grade: Kaden Thyne, 8th grade: Caden Berry (Courtesy photos).



*Saturday January 13th at 7pm*



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# e-Ticker Business News

## Mt. Ascutney Hospital Celebrates 20 Years of Volunteers in Action at “Grateful Gathering”

WINDSOR, VT--Recently, Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) hosted a special event to commemorate 20 years of its Windsor-based program Volunteers in Action (ViA), which supports local seniors with an array of volunteer services. Since 2001, ViA has served seven towns including Windsor, West Windsor, Reading, Hartland, and Weathersfield, Vermont, as well as Cornish and Plainfield, New Hampshire.

Continuing an annual tradition, dozens of volunteers, former volunteers, and community members gathered over lunch to commemorate the organization founded by the late Doug Hall and others in 1997. The event also paid tribute to all of the people who have contributed their time and energy to ViA—including 198 current volunteers who logged 33,066 hours this year. The meal for the event included a range of vegetarian and non-vegetarian options, and was served by non-ViA volunteers, with cider donated by River-view Farms.

Speakers from the Hospital included MAHHC CEO and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joseph Perras, and Director of Community Health Jill Lord, RN, MS, who commended the work of ViA and its role in supporting patients, staff, and the community. Doug Hall’s widow, Rosemary, read a letter from Margaret A. Campbell, who worked with him during the early years of ViA. She related, “Why did Doug do it?...I believe that Doug did the work because he was a man of faith—a faith that included the idea of service to others. In addition, Doug believed in community—not community as a geographic place...but community defined as a set of relationships—people caring and sharing. In short, neighbor helping neighbor.”

Current ViA Director Martha Zoerheide outlined how Doug Hall’s vision has blossomed over the years. Since the beginning, ViA has

provided and continues to provide transportation to seniors who need help getting to medical appointments, pharmacies, food stores, and other locations. “From there,” said Zoerheide, “it has grown to be the place anyone can call for just about any basic needs problem they may have. This can mean help finding a home for a family or person in need, bringing food to a family that has none, or providing transportation to receive needed services.”

Today, the organization collaborates with Senior Solutions and Historic Homes of Runnemedede to deliver Meals on Wheels to five towns, serves Community Meals in conjunction with Senior Solutions and MAHHC, and connects volunteers with the Vermont FoodBank’s

VeggieVanGo produce delivery program.

In addition to thousands of miles on the road each year, ViA helps with local blood drives; runs a knitting group giving away knitted items to those in need; provides referrals to other community organizations including SASH and Senior Solutions; and runs a pen pal effort to create connections between elders and local fifth graders. As a Hospital program, ViA staffs multiple volunteer positions within MAHHC, including greeters, patient advocates, lay chaplains, housekeeping assistants, emergency and purchasing department volunteers, as well as providing volunteers to help at a local community food shelf.

(Continued on page A15)

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# e-Ticker Business News

## Mt. Ascutney, from A14

Zoerheide added that "we are very proud that all of the seven towns we serve now have an Aging in Place group," with ViA organizing dedicated neighbors in each town who work to make life easier for elders, and who make sure no one falls through the cracks through access to needed resources and support.

Zoerheide closed her remarks with a thought from Buddha: "A thousand candles can be lighted from a single candle and the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness is never decreased by being shared," and she thanked ViA volunteers and supporters for "letting your light shine."

The facility invites individuals, organizations, businesses, churches, and foundations to join Volunteers in Action. For more information, call (802) 674-5971.

## Energy Charges Decreasing for Eversource Customers in the New Year

### Adjusted rate covers three-month winter period

MANCHESTER, NH--Eversource customers in New Hampshire will begin the new year with a modest decrease in the company's Default Energy Service Charge. The NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) recently approved the company's request to adjust its Energy Service Charge to 11.25 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) starting January 1, a slight reduction from the current rate of 11.66 cents/kWh. The new Default Energy Service Charge is for the three-month period from January 1 to March 31, in anticipation of the closing of the sale of the company's power plants, and to facilitate the implementation of a new method of calculating the energy charge.

"We anticipate that later this year the sale of our power generation plants will be complete," said Eversource NH President Bill Quinlan. "At that point, our Energy Service Charge will be based on the price of purchasing power from the competitive regional wholesale energy

market and will no longer include the costs associated with owning and operating our New Hampshire power plants."

Combined with several adjustments on the delivery portion of the bill, residential customers who purchase energy from Eversource and consume 600 kWhrs/month will see a monthly bill of \$123.64, compared with the previous \$124.50 - a decrease of about one percent. This current energy charge adjustment was calculated based on the actual cost of producing or purchasing the energy Eversource requires to serve its customers in New Hampshire.

Following the initial shift to a competitive

market-based Default Energy Service rate, Eversource's Default Energy Service Charge will be adjusted twice each year on February 1 and August 1. Shifting away from a January 1 adjustment will help insulate customers from price volatility by spreading out the higher energy costs typically experienced during the winter period.

Eversource provides Default Energy Service to those customers who have not chosen a supplier or who have been denied service by a supplier. A list of registered energy suppliers is may be found at

<http://www.puc.state.nh.us/consumer/energysuppliers.htm>.

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## VALLEY REGIONAL HOSPITAL ANNUAL MEETING



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#### Keynote Speaker:

*Dr. H. Gilbert Welch, MD, MPH*

Dr. Welch is a general internist and professor of Medicine at the Dartmouth Institute for Health Policy and Clinical Research in the Geisel School of Medicine. He is also a professor of Public Policy at Dartmouth College and a professor of Business Administration at the Amos Tuck School.



**Date:** Tuesday, January 16  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

**Location:** Claremont Savings Bank  
Claremont Community Center  
152 South Street  
Claremont, NH 03743





## Public Invited to Participate in Focus Group at Saint-Gaudens for Planning Process

CORNISH, NH--Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site invites you to participate in our upcoming visitor services and education planning process.

The site will hold a public focus group in the upstairs meeting room at the Cornish Town Offices (488 Town House Road Cornish) on Thursday, February 1st, from 6:30 to 8:30pm, for the citizens of Cornish, Claremont, Plainfield, and Windsor.

Share your thoughts and ideas about the park's visitor services, interpretive programs, and educational offerings during this facilitated meeting.


RSVPs are appreciated, but not required.

Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information or to RSVP, contact: Stephanie Kyriazis, Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Visitor Services, 603.675.2175 ext 151, [stephanie\\_kyriazis@nps.gov](mailto:stephanie_kyriazis@nps.gov), [www.nps.gov/saga](http://www.nps.gov/saga).

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## Student Art Needed for Exhibit at COH

CLAREMONT, NH--In celebration of National No Name-Calling Week, Rural Outright, a program of TLC Family Resource Center, is working with the Claremont Opera House to host a student art exhibit in the John D. Bennett Atrium Gallery. The exhibit, #KindnessInAction, will run from Jan. 15 to Feb. 17. There will be an opening gala on Friday, Jan. 19, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Students in grades K-12 may submit up to five pieces in any medium. The deadline is Friday, Jan. 12. Submissions and questions can be submitted to [ruralnhoutright@gmail.com](mailto:ruralnhoutright@gmail.com).

TLC Family Resource Center supports and strengthens all families, children, and youth of Sullivan and Lower Grafton counties with a wide-range of free programs, support groups, and education. The Rural Outright program serves LGBTQ+ youth, their families, and allies with peer support groups, an educational series, and events throughout the area.

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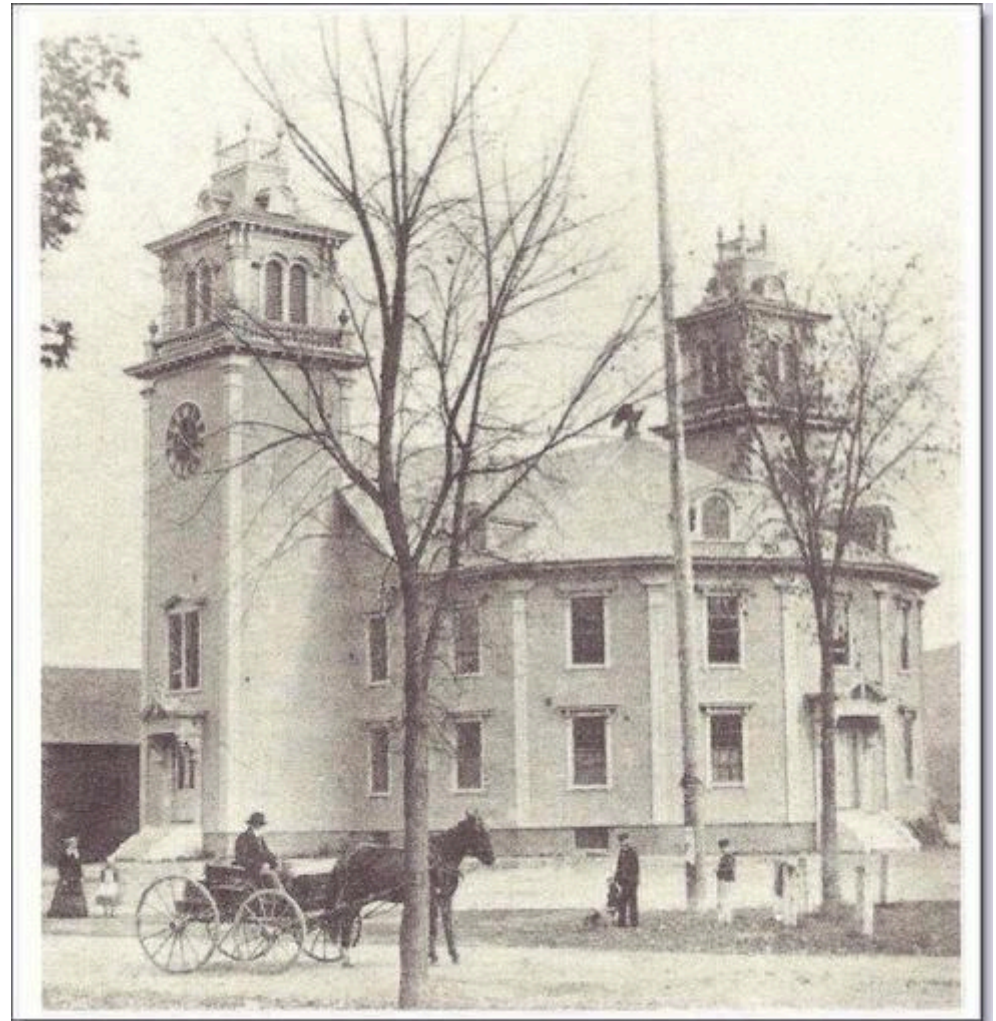
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## Past • Shots



Top left: The train on Union St. in Claremont;  
top right: Claremont Old Town Hall; Colonial  
Florist at its former location on Pleasant St.

(Photos courtesy of Merle Boardman).

## How Can You Improve Your Financial Fitness This Year?

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to get healthier, you may already be taking the necessary steps, such as improving your diet and increasing your exercise. Of course, physical fitness is important to your well-being – but, at the same time, don't forget about your financial fitness. Specifically, what can you do to ensure your investment situation is in good shape? Here are a few "healthy living" suggestions that may also apply to your investment portfolio:

**Build endurance** – Just as exercise can help build your endurance for the demands of a long life, a vigorous investment strategy can help you work toward your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. In practical terms, this means you will need to own some investments with the potential to provide long-term growth. These are the investments that, ideally, you can hold on to for decades and eventually reap the benefits of capital appreciation. Of course, growth-oriented investments, such as most types of stocks, will rise and fall in value over the short term, and there's no guarantee of profits, or even preserving principal. But if you choose wisely, and you've got the patience and discipline to hold on to your investments through the market's ups and downs, you may well be rewarded.

**Maintain an ideal "weight"** – You can help yourself stay healthy by maintaining your ideal weight. This can be challenging – as you know from the recently finished holiday season, it's easy to put on a few extra pounds. And, just as inadvertently, your portfolio can tack on some unneeded weight, too, in the form of redundant investments. Over time, you may have picked up too many similar investment vehicles, resulting in an overconcentration, or "flabbiness," that can work against you, especially when a market downturn affects the asset class in which you're overloaded. So, you might be better off liquidating some of your duplicate, or near-duplicate, investments, and using the proceeds to help broaden your investment mix.

**Get proper rest** – Many studies have shown that we need adequate rest to stay alert and healthy. In your life, you've probably already found that if you over-tax your body, you pay a price in your overall well-being. If you look at your investment portfolio as a living entity – which, in a way, it is, as it certainly provides life to your goals and aspirations – then you can see that it, too, can be weakened by stress. And one of the main stress factors is excessive trading. If you're constantly buying and selling investments in an attempt to boost your returns, you may rack up hefty fees, commissions and taxes – and still not really get the results you wanted. Plus, if you're frequently moving in and out of different investments, you'll find it hard to follow a unified, long-term strategy. So, confine your trading to those moves that are really essential – and give your portfolio a rest.

To enjoy your life fully, you'll want to take care of your physical and financial health – and, as it turns out, you can make similar types of moves to help yourself in both areas.

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



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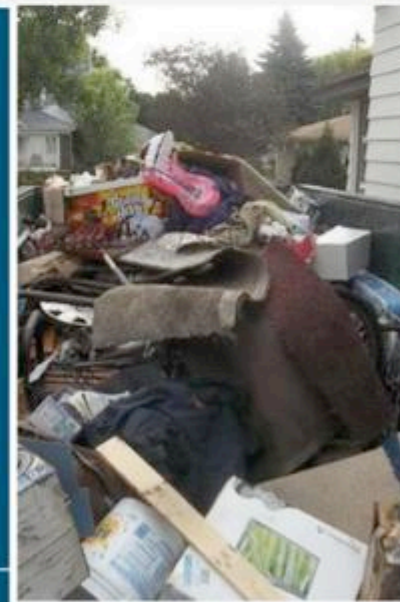
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## It's About Food

By Johnny Navillus



### Eggs

I've been buying and cooking eggs for more years than I care to admit to. Eggs and I have been together through all those years when it was taught that eggs were bad for you and would clog up your arteries. I've always used large eggs, either brown or white. Sometimes I noticed an egg or two that looked smaller than the rest. I really didn't pay much attention, just shrugging it off as an error. No big deal.

Recently I discovered that egg size is not determined by the physical dimensions but by the weight. If an egg is more dense, then it could look like a medium but still qualify as a large. Many of you have probably known this for years, but it was a revelation to this "city boy".

Here's another egg related item I came across recently. Do you know why a chicken has two doors? Because if it had four doors it would be a sedan.

Sorry.



### Linguine with Ham and Swiss Cheese

8 ounces of uncooked linguine broken in half  
2 cups cubed fully cooked ham  
1 can cream of mushroom soup undiluted  
2 ½ cups shredded Swiss cheese divided  
1 cup sour cream  
1 medium onion chopped  
½ cup finely chopped green pepper  
2 tablespoons butter melted

Cook linguine according to package directions.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine all the ingredients, saving ½ cup shredded Swiss for topping.

Add the pasta and toss.

Transfer to a 13x9 baking dish. Cover and bake at 350° for 35 minutes. Uncover and sprinkle the rest of the cheese on top.

Bake uncovered for another 15 to 20 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

Play with your food. Avoid puns.

Write to Johnny at [etickernews@gmail.com](mailto:etickernews@gmail.com).



## *Yep, it's Been that Cold...*

**Above left:** With the exception of two places with open water, the Coy Dam in Claremont is all iced in (Bill Binder photo).

**Above right:** The dam at APC Paper in Claremont, with its waterfall frozen in time (Photo courtesy of Dennis Shea Jr.).

**Right:** The water at the dam near the bridge on Broad St. is also frozen solid. Residents awoke to temps above zero this morning, for the first time in roughly two weeks. Residents and businesses in the path of the arctic blast have struggled with heating problems, frozen pipes and dead car batteries (Bill Binder photo).

