

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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May 9, 2016

Connecticut Valley Home Care Partnering With LSRVNA

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--With the t's crossed, i's dotted and letters to patients delivered, the mechanics of partnering Connecticut Valley Home Care & Hospice (CVHC) with Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice (LSRVNA) are underway.

"Valley Regional Healthcare is pleased to announce that it is partnering with Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice to assume the operations of its home care and hospice services, Connecticut Valley Home Care," said Peter Wright, president and CEO of Valley Regional Healthcare. "LSRVNA has a long tradition of excellence; home care and hospice are their only focus. Valley Regional Healthcare believes that this singular focus makes LSRVNA well suited and equipped to administer these services. We are pleased that we can entrust our community's home health needs to their high quality care."

As the delivery of healthcare continues to evolve, individual providers have continued to become more and more specialized, said Wright. "Change is the only constant, and adaptability is the key to long-term strength. Valley Regional Healthcare recognizes that the future of providing healthcare requires more focused excellence. And, while it remains their responsibility to champion and coordinate healthcare in the community, it does not necessarily own and control all community healthcare. Helping people regain their health at home in a familiar setting, while keeping them out of the hospital as they recover, is more important than ever in this changing healthcare scene. It could also be one of the best opportunities to reduce the cost of care."

"It is vital for the community to understand

that this is largely an administrative change. Home care and hospice services will continue to be provided in the community; the CVHC name will continue to be used, the phone number will be the same, and the staff in the field will be mostly unchanged," said Jim Culhane, President and CEO of Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice.

According to Wright, "Home healthcare represents a very specialized and unique component of the healthcare continuum. We are

pleased that LSRVNA is committed to working with Valley Regional to keep the people of Sullivan County healthy by providing the right care, in the right place, at the right time, every time."

CVHC has been operating with a \$3 million budget; when asked if the operation, which has been a department of Valley Regional Healthcare, was losing money, Wright said, "Yes." He quickly added, "Not \$3 million."

(Continued on page A2)



The Claremont Fire Department was called to a mutual aid fire in Newport on the John Stark Highway around 6:00 p.m. Saturday. The building housed Fosters Professional Painting Plus. It was called in by a passerby; no one was in the building at the time of the fire. See full story, more photos on page A24 (Bill Binder photo).

CVHC, from A1

Wright said that VRH began looking at the issue a year ago, and that he made the recommendation to the board that they proceed with transitioning CVHC to another agency. With continued cuts in Medicare funding, increasing costs and ongoing consolidation of health care in the region, larger organizations can find efficiencies that smaller organizations cannot, he said. Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice has been providing home care and hospice since 1970, is highly regarded and knows the home care business with its ever-increasing stringent regulations, said Wright. "VRH, always with the needs of its community guiding strategic decisions such as this, will continue to operate an excellent community based healthcare system. We chose LSRVNA because of their knowledge and expertise, but also because their culture and philosophy of care are so similar to that of CVHC." Because LSRVNA is a larger organization, it is already positioned to better handling the changes in Medicare funding and overhead. More than 90% of current CVHC staff will be offered positions at LSRVNA. In only a very few cases,

current CVHC positions will not be needed by or applicable to LSRVNA. "Those staff will be offered a fair and thoughtful separation package. We also anticipate that some CVHC staff may choose not to accept positions offered to them at LSRVNA," said the administration.

LSRVNA will lease a limited amount of office space in the CVHC building while it renovates space at its New London office to accommodate additional staff. All staff members will be advised which staff will be working in which location during the initial transition so that they know where to go for administrative support. Longer term, the CVHC building will remain a drop station for staff working this area. The Day Out Program will continue to be housed in this building until further notice.

When asked if the hospital was closing, as is often heard in rumors, Wright emphatically said, "No! I've been here three years and I say that every day." Wright said the organization would continue to focus its strategies on providing "exceptional care. I get my own care here. We needed to connect with a bigger organization. All they do is home care, we do a lot of things. They are experienced in it, and this will help us to plan strategically. Closing is not even on the radar."

Please contact Diane Harlow at the Claremont Community Center at 542-7019 or धारlow@claremontnh.com.

Catholic Daughters Annual Geranium Sale

CLAREMONT, NH--CDA Court Virgil H. Barber #892 in Claremont geranium sale now in progress. For sale: 4" pots in colors red, white, pink and salmon at \$4.00 each. The last day to order is May 18th. Delivery date is May 26th or 27th. For information, call Arline Marro at 542-5933 or St. Mary Parish at 542-9518.

Craft Fair At Cedar Hill

WINDSOR, VT--The Village at Cedar Hill is hosting its 4th Bi-Annual Craft Fair on Saturday, May 14th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., rain or shine. Featuring handmade crafts, food and music.

The Village at Cedar Hill, is at 92 Cedar Hill Dr. Windsor. For more information, contact: Andrea Lapins, Activities Director at alapins@cedarhillccc.com.

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The opinions expressed in articles or columns are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the e-Ticker News

Member, Greater Claremont Chamber Of Commerce

Community Garden Plot Deadline May 20

CLAREMONT, NH--This has been a great spring for new gardeners signing up for plots at the Claremont Community Garden. Four of 17 plots remain available, plus one plot which will require a raised or elevated bed. Deadline for applying is May 20th. Plots are approximately 300 square feet each. Annual fee is \$20.

NH Lottery Numbers
5/7/2016

NH PowerBall
5 25 26 44 66 9 2

Mega Millions 5/6/2016
14 26 27 32 36 7 4


Megabucks
1 12 13 22 38 3

Hot Lotto
6 15 36 38 40 5

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

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Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier



No Property Tax Relief

Unfortunately, for economically-challenged communities like Claremont, New Hampshire's Legislature, including the House of Representatives, has done little this term to provide even a small amount of property tax relief.

Although several pieces of property tax relief legislation have been debated by both the House and Senate, none as of today has been able to pass both bodies and go to Gov. Maggie Hassan for her consideration. I have written about some of this unsuccessful tax relief legislation in a few of my previous columns during this year and 2015, legislation, including Senate Bill 113, which would have established up to two gambling casinos in New Hampshire with some of the new revenue generated by the casinos being used to restore state aid to municipalities like Claremont. State aid was eliminated in 2009 during New Hampshire's operating budget crisis, which occurred in the aftermath of 2008 Great Recession, an elimination that cost Claremont nearly half a million dollars per year in needed revenue, and caused the city's property taxes to increase more sharply.

However, Senate Bill 113 wasn't the only unsuccessful tax relief legislation defeated during 2015 and 2016. There was also House Bill 634, which would instituted a new five percent state capital gains tax and made it applicable to state residents making more than \$5,000 per year in capital gains. Capital gains are basically profits on the sales of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and CDs (Certificates of Deposit). But this new capital gains tax could have raised an estimated \$90 million in new revenue for New Hampshire.

Furthermore, under the provisions of House Bill 634, this new revenue would have been used to restore the previously-mentioned state aid to municipalities eliminated in 2009. Also, the revenue would have been designated to provide more funding for catastrophic special education aid, local school building aid as well as municipal employee retirement costs, more funding which could have used to pay for many of these mandated and needed services that many municipalities are stuck paying for because of the lack of state financial support. This is funding that could have give roughly 55,000 New Hampshire residents lower property taxes.

However, House Bill 634 never got a chance to become law. It was rejected by a 197-109 roll call vote on Jan. 27 by the full House after a brief debate and a recommendation by a majority of the House Ways & Means Committee to nix the bill. House Bill 634 opponents led by Nashua Rep. William Ohm stated that the measure, if it had passed, would have levied a targeted income tax on many senior citizens who would have been forced to pay a new capital gains tax on their "nest eggs," like interest, dividends, stock trades, bonds, and CDS. Rep.

Ohm added that the new capital gains tax would be unfair to those citizens because there is currently no income tax on wages for other citizens.

Nevertheless, House Bill 634 proponents led by Jaffrey Rep. Richard Ames, who was also the bill's prime sponsor, presented a different viewpoint from that of the opponents. Rep. Ames said that his legislation would have, among other provisions, modified New Hampshire's existing tax on investment income. This existing tax, the Interest & Dividends Tax, which for all intensive purposes is a targeted income tax on individuals, especially senior citizens, who earn so much above a certain threshold in interest and dividends annually on their financial nest eggs. He then explained that under House Bill 634 the rate of the Interest & Dividends Tax would have remained at five percent, but individual exemption from the current tax as well as the proposed capital gains tax would have increased from \$2,400 to \$5,000 annually. Also the current annual exemption for married couples would have increased from \$4,800 to \$10,000, and additional annual exemptions for the blind and disabled would have gone up from \$1,200 to \$2,500. In summary, Rep. Ames declared that House Bill 634 could not only have raised \$90 million in more revenue for New Hampshire, but made our state's present tax structure a little more equitable. A little more equitable by requiring our wealthier citizens to pay slightly more in taxes so as to help fund essential state services from which we all benefit.

As indicated earlier, Rep. Ames, a Democrat, was the prime sponsor of House Bill 634. Other sponsors included a bipartisan group of eight other lawmakers. These lawmakers included Lebanon Sen. David Pierce, who is Claremont's state senator, and myself. Frankly, I was honored to be one of the co-sponsors of this measure because like the other proponents I believe it could have made our state's presently antiquated and inequitable tax structure a little fairer. This fairness would have included some property tax relief for Claremont, which would again have received the extra \$470,626 per year in municipal state aid that it had lost in 2009. Not to mention to additional special education aid. Its rejection by a majority of my fellow representatives was a shame in my opinion.

Speaking of Sen. Pierce, I was a bit surprised and saddened on May 5 when he called to inform me that he would not be running for re-election to his District 5 State Senate Seat this year. Sen. Pierce, a Democrat, said that he isn't running for re-election because he plans to relocate from Lebanon to Nashua later this year in order to be closer to his children from a former marriage. District 5 currently consists of the four Sullivan County municipalities of Claremont, Charlestown, Cornish, and Plainfield. But it also includes the five Grafton County municipalities of Canaan, Enfield, Hanover, Lebanon, and Lyme. Immediately after Sen. Pierce's surprise announcement, Hanover Rep. Martha Hennessey, another Democrat, indicated that she would run for his seat. By the way, the filing period for Sen. Pierce's seat as well as all other state, county, and federal offices begins on June 1.

Email: jocloutier@comcast.net

House of Representatives – Claremont

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603-558-1038

andrew.ohearne@leg.state.nh.us

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603-542-2180

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202-224-3324

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Rep. Anne Kuster

137 Cannon House Office Building
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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

Votes No On Proposed Sculpture For Bullpen

To The Editor:

As voters in Ward 3, we are voting a resounding "NO" to the proposed sculpture in the bullpen. Over the years, the center of the square has assumed numerous forms, some good, some not so good. However, the present one is very nice. The fountain and the patio of memorial bricks is poignant. There is an attractive, and safe, walkway through the area, sided with trees. Numerous people have spent many hours planning, planting and maintaining attractive gardens on a yearly seasonal basis. There is no need to disturb or compete with any of this. Listening to the discussion at the public forum, we learned from the DPW Director that there is considerable infrastructure under the area that could potentially need attention and the structure would be in the way. Referencing all the focus recently about distracted driving, we believe the proposed structure could be a real distraction, especially with vehicles entering from numerous directions and exiting in numerous directions. The proposed concrete support pillars could become a safety hazard, visually as well as if someone attempted to climb upon one of them and fell. Last, but by no means least, the proposed structure certainly does not add anything visually pleasing to the area or to the view of the Moody building as one is driving down Pleasant Street.

Edward & Nancy Miville
Claremont, NH

Shaheen Christens USS Manchester

MOBILE, AL--U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, participated in the christening ceremony for the USS Manchester Saturday at the Austal USA Shipyard in Mobile, AL. As the official sponsor of the Littoral Combat Ship, Shaheen is considered a permanent member of the ship’s crew, and her initials are welded into a part of the ship’s hull. In keeping with the storied naval tradition, Shaheen also broke a bottle of champagne over the USS Manchester’s bow following an official blessing of the ship.

“I am honored to be the USS Manchester’s official ship sponsor and the City of Manchester is very proud to once again have a Navy vessel as its namesake,” said Shaheen following the ceremony. “American shipbuilders are the best in the world and this ship is another remarkable feat of engineering. But what is always most impressive, to me, is the professionalism and excellence of the sailors and officers who serve on these vessels. I’m very proud to be counted as a crew member of the USS Manchester and to be included in the Navy family.”

Shaheen spoke following remarks from top U.S. Navy officials, Congressman Bradley Byrne (R-AL) and Craig Perciavalle, President of Austal USA.

Granite State Manufacturing (GSM), based in Manchester, built critical systems and components for the ship. The President and Vice President of GSM also attended Saturday’s events.



The Case Of \$240 And The Trump Campaign

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--For some, it was a tempest in a teapot. For others, it drew outrage. "It" apparently started with a long tirade posted on Facebook on May 2 claiming that the Trump campaign owed the City "thousands of dollars" for expenses incurred when "The Donald" held a rally at Stevens High School on January 5. According to SAU Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin, the campaign did owe \$240 for renting the school. He provided the invoice which showed an application for use of the building on the date of January 5. In addition, Claremont Fire Chief Rick Bergeron confirmed that the campaign owes the City \$838.65 for services his department provided.



Jeremy Herrell (File photo).

"For such events the fire department pre-approves the proposed set up plan," Bergeron told the *e-Ticker News*. "That is, whether chairs are used, or tables, or both, or none, and calculates the occupancy rate as determined by the Life Safety Code. At this point a maximum number is attached to the event. The Fire Department does this as a matter of normal day to day operations and there is no charge. At the Trump rally, the fire department also placed on duty firefighters at the entrance points and controlled what the actual maximum head count would be by monitoring the number of people who actually entered. All went well and the firefighters also kept the Secret Service advised as to when the venue was about to reach capacity, as they would restrict entry after that point. This activity is what the fire department normally charges out as detail pay, which in this case, is what was billed to the Trump campaign."

One individual outraged, that the Trump campaign was being singled out, was Claremont Trump supporter Jeremy Herrell, who made a point of paying the \$240 bill himself. Herrell, using his cell phone, videotaped himself going to the SAU office and writing out a check to cover the payment. In the video, posted on YouTube on

May 4th, he stated in part, "By the way, I owe more than that on my electric bill." He stated that the campaign was "not Trump's campaign, it's millions and millions and millions of people's campaign and we all have a duty and I'm going to do my duty right now."

When or if the City might get reimbursed for the services provided by the fire department is unknown.

Driveway Paving Scam Investigated

On May 2, Troopers from The New Hampshire State Police, Troop - C responded to the Town of Springfield, NH, to investigate a number of reports of a driveway paving scam along Main Street. According to one of the victims, a paving company arrived on his property on the morning of April 28th. The work crew then began unloading paving equipment and started working on his driveway.

The homeowner reported that he was confused and confronted the paving crew who used high pressure sales tactics and coerced him into allowing them to begin a low-cost paving project. The job ultimately came with a much larger than expected price tag, which was later discounted if the victim agreed to pay cash. One victim agreed to pay over \$10,000 before the paving crew packed up and left the job incomplete and his driveway in disrepair.

The incidents in Springfield, NH, are currently under investigation by the Springfield, NH, Police Dept. and NH State Police. State Police are asking that anyone with information regarding this matter or similar incidents to contact Trooper Michael McLaughlin at 603-223-8855.

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Little Resolved At Public Forum Regarding Proposed Sculpture

By Bill Binder
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--Comments in favor of and against the proposed sculpture in Opera House Square, aka—the “bullpen” – were brought forth in a public forum held at the CSBCC on Tuesday, May 3. Sculptor Ernest Montenegro showed his latest model of the arch shaped sculpture and his viewpoint of making the bullpen more inviting to pedestrian traffic. The 80-foot-long arches, 18 feet high in the center, would highlight benches, greenery and three fountains. As stated in previous articles in the *e-Ticker News* and on Facebook, the project is slated to be financed by donations, no tax dollars will be used for the project; however, future maintenance will fall to the City. The sculpture will be able to be lit up at night. Montenegro placed the estimated cost of the project at \$350,000

Councilman Allen Damren welcomed the crowd of about 50, which included City Man-

aging to comments from the crowd. The debate went back and forth with supporters voicing their opinions and detractors voicing theirs. Gary Trottier said, “I like this model, It looks like its inviting me to take a closer look at it.” Tom Rock was also in favor of the project, saying, “I think it would soften up the look of downtown.” Other members of the crowd gave reasons why they thought the project would benefit Claremont and the downtown area.



Others in the crowd felt differently. George Caccharro is not in favor of the project. “It doesn’t fit in with the historical aspect of downtown,” he said. He also questioned the maintenance aspect of the project. Others brought up questions about maintenance, liability, and vandalism.

Other issues were brought up by Interim DPW Director Scott Sweet, who said, “That area is cobwebbed with underground piping and fiber optic wiring. It will need an engineering study to make sure where the piping is before we dig. The overhead arches could also make maintenance or repair work more difficult.” Sweet said.

Saying “We don’t want to put the cart before the horse,” Jim Feleen questioned whether this project had been brought to the Master Plan Committee and if there had been a traffic study done of the area.

The project will be further discussed at the May 11th City Council meeting. Damren said that emails and calls received from citizens will be brought to the meeting and discussed at that time. Please feel free to contact your City Councilors with your thoughts on this project. Councilors emails can be found on the City’s website: www.claremontnh.com.

Above: City Councilor Allen Damren, left, with sculptor Ernest Montenegro; left: an overhead view of the proposed sculpture (Bill Binder photos).

www.facebook.com/etickernews



ager Guy Santagate, Mayor Charlene Lovett and Councilmen Vic Bergeron, John Simonds, and Keith Raymond and State Rep. Ray Gagnon along with some business leaders and concerned members of the public. Montenegro talked to the crowd about his vision for the area and how he feels that the sculpture would help draw more people to the downtown area and expand the pedestrian traffic in the shopping area.

Forum moderator Damren then opened the

area is cobwebbed with underground piping and fiber optic wiring. It will need an engineering study to make sure where the piping is before we dig. The overhead arches could also make maintenance or repair work more difficult.” Sweet said.

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Free Rocking Chairs For New Moms Available Through TLC Family Resource Center

CLAREMONT, NH--Research shows that holding, rocking, singing, feeding, gazing, kissing and other caregiving nurturing behaviors are crucial to the normal brain development of babies. Without early nurturing it is difficult for a child to become a healthy, happy, and productive person.

The Rocking Chair Project works with healthcare professional training programs and healthcare organizations. TLC Family Resource Center in Claremont was chosen as one of the partner sites. Pregnant moms who are enrolled in one the local home visiting programs provided by the family resource center may be eligible to receive a free chair. Executive Director Maggie Monroe-Cassel explains: "Our parent educators visit the mom and new baby in the home and assemble the new chair together. After the donation, the parent educator continues to work with the new mom on parenting skills for up to three years."

Montana Hurd was the first local recipient of a free rocking chair. She helped build the chair with her parent educator Sandy Gasset. She did not have a rocking chair to soothe her new son who was a week old when she received the chair.

The Rocking Chair Project is a non-profit, 501C3 organization that was founded in 2001 by Trish Magee, an early childhood educator, and her husband, Mike Magee, a physician. That year, they purchased a glider rocking chair for their daughter-in-law, Susanna, a Family Medicine resident at Brown Medical School, who was expecting their first grandchild. Having raised four children of their own, they recognized the importance of having a comfortable rocking chair to sit in and nurture newborn babies.

For the parents and children, the gift of a rocking chair is a concrete expression that people care about them. Every new mother and baby, and especially those experiencing the pressures of poverty, needs time and space for nurturing. Giving a glider rocking chair to a mother will help her nurture her baby.

TLC Family Resource Center is one of 35 agencies across New Hampshire that are members of Family Support New Hampshire, a coalition of non-profit family resource centers (FRC) and family support programs (FSP) that are designed to meet

the needs of the communities they serve. Programs and services provided by FRC and FSP vary, but they all seek to strengthen families by promoting health, wellbeing, self-sufficiency, and positive parenting through support and education. TLC serves families in

Sullivan County and Lower Grafton County. For more information on qualifying for a free rocking chairs, contact Rene' Couitt, Intake Coordinator for TLC Family Resource Center at 603-542-1848 x 302 or go to www.tlcfamilyrc.org.

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Ann's Property Of The Week

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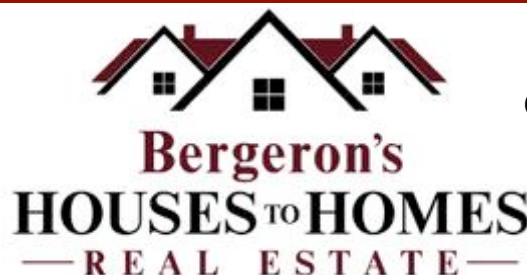
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administrator for the Direct Relief Program of Charlestown, NH. While meeting this responsibility, the position will be located at Charlestown town offices for 4.5 hours on 2 days each week. The remaining 10.5 hours/ per week will be dedicated to administrative assistance at the Community Alliance for Human Services located in Newport, NH. This position has a starting salary of \$14.00. Position requirements include: demonstrated customer service skills, maintain confidentiality, strong computer skills, and attention to detail. Familiarity with NH welfare administration strongly preferred. **To apply, send a resume to or stop by to complete an application at Community Alliance for Human Services, 940 John Stark Highway, Newport, NH 03743** All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, age, creed, sex or national origin.

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NH-JAG Aims To Help Claremont Youth Achieve Success

By Kelly Burch
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--A federally funded program that is new to Claremont aims to help young adults set themselves on the path toward career success.

The NH-JAG program opened in Claremont in last August and already has helped seven local youth get their high school diplomas, overcoming a massive barrier to employment that can blunt a person's career before it even gets started.

"Employers are really looking for people who are serious about going further in their life," said Cathy Slack, the youth specialist for JAG in Claremont. The Claremont office is just one branch of the NH JAG program, which in turn is a division of the national Jobs for American Graduates. The program has been helping youth gain meaningful employment for over 30 years, and has an 80% success rate in helping participants gain full-time employment.

The program helps young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 set themselves on a career path. For about half of the participants, the first step is obtaining a high school diploma or the HiSET, a graduation equivalency exam. However, NH-JAG also helps people who already have their diploma, but are seeking direction in their career choices.

"We're really a nice resource for people who are struggling to get ahead," Slack said. The first step is to apply to participate in JAG by visiting the office on the second floor of the Moody building, or by calling Slack at 287-8496. Almost everyone who doesn't have a high school diploma qualifies, as do parents (male or female), people with disabilities, and many other people who need a bit of extra guidance. After an initial assessment, Slack discusses career goals, and helps participants define options for their career path.

"We open it up so they're thinking about what the opportunities are that they can attack."

Slack can also help identify certificate courses or find scholarships.

"It's very individualized," she said. "Each student comes in in a different place in their life."

One of the most important pieces of the JAG program is work-based learning. JAG works

with local businesses and organizations to provide participants on the job learning opportunities unique to their career goals. JAG pays the students for the time that they spend on the job.

"It puts a little money in their pocket, which gives a little incentive," Slack said. "That helps spark the interest to do more."

Slack has helped participants find placements in fields from veterinary medicine to childcare.

JAG takes liability for the program participants, and businesses are under no obligation

to employ the participant.

"We develop a relationship with businesses in the community," Slack said.

Ultimately, the program benefits business and youth.

Slack is currently looking for more participants for JAG in Claremont. The program would like to expand to 20 participants, and can handle as many as 30. If you're interested, contact Cathy Slack at 287-8496. Participants can apply until their 25th birthday, and as long as the application is completed when they are 24 they can participate in the program.

Interview Rules

Tomorrow's the big interview, huh? Have you done your homework and researched the company? Have you looked over what they have asked for in their advertisement? Are you planning to go to bed early tonight so you feel well rested?

For a slam-dunk interview, let's get back to basics on general rules of etiquette:

Rule #1: Do not bring your phone in!! At best, turn it off. It is rude and at minimum, disruptive to the purpose of discussing the potential opportunity that is available to you.

Rule #2: Make eye contact. You may be nervous, but looking at the floor is impolite while speaking to someone... anyone. Employers want to know that you're confident in yourself.

Rule #3: DO NOT chew gum. This is disgusting (and unpleasant to look at in most public situations).

Rule #4: Dress appropriately. Many people dress too casually for interviews. You should wear something professional that gives a good first impression no matter what the position is that you are interviewing for.

Rule #5: LISTEN to the interviewer. We have two ears and only one mouth for a reason! You should double the listening and keep your mouth shut when appropriate. Employers want good listeners.

Rule #6: Don't talk too little... or too much. Prepare answers in advance as best as possible based on what the ad for the job, if there was one, stated is required.. If you say too little, it will be difficult for the interviewer to get to know you. On the other hand, you don't want to ramble.

Rule #7: Ask questions. Typically at the end of every interview, you will be asked, "Do you have any questions?" "No" is the WRONG answer. Asking questions shows that you're interested in the company and have done your homework. That said, do not let the first question out of your mouth be, "How much money will you pay me?" The time for talking about compensation should come later.

Rule #8: No swearing. Really? Do you need to be reminded of that one?

And for heaven's sake...

Rule #9: No begging. You really want the job, but let your skills and qualifications shine through... not your desperation.



Ann Milan
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School Board, SREA Remain At Odds Over Class Schedules At Stevens

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The topic of class schedules at Stevens High School was back on the front burner during Wednesday night's school board meeting. Superintendent Middleton McGoodwin presented a slide show on the evolution of the current SHS A/B schedule, dating back to 2011 as well as student achievement data.

According to the presentation, there had been a lack of positive results in some courses, such as Algebra I (A) with a percentage failing of 23%; Algebra I (B), 10%; Geometry, 31%; Algebra II, 19%, Grade 9 English, 25% and Grade 10 English, 31%. Late teacher Linda Beaulieu, said McGoodwin, "did not mix words about the importance of establishing a district-wide agreement involving the grade level academic expectations for all students, was never critical of her colleagues and believed that students need to write much more than they currently are."

In the fall of 2014, a SHS Scheduling Committee was formed to determine whether the then current 4 x 4 SHS schedule was meeting the needs of all SHS students. The committee's findings included an "academic gap in core disciplines, namely Math and English (sometimes up to 18 months); students had less time to grasp curriculum and succeed; failure rates were high and too many students had too few credits going into their junior or senior years; while 85 minute blocks allowed teachers more

time to go in-depth with their curriculum, often 1/3 of class time was used for homework or "down time; AP classes were suffering since they did not match up with the test time in May; the current schedule did not provide enough flexibility for students to access SRVTC courses."

Preparation for implementation of the 2015-2016 schedule included school board presentations, frequent discussions with SHS staff and public forums with parents and residents, said McGoodwin. In February of 2015, the union filed a grievance about the approved 2015-2016 SHS A/B schedule, and in April the arbitrator ruled that the school board violated the Collective Bargaining Agreement, a ruling which the school board rejecting, saying that state law permits school boards to set class schedules. In August of 2015, mediation between the school board and the union was rejected by the Sugar River Education Association (SREA), which later filed and then withdrew a Cease and Desist Order. In November of 2015, the union filed un-

fair labor practice with Public Employees Relations Board (PELRB) which recommended that both parties go back to arbitration. The same arbitrator recently again ruled that the new class schedule, where students take classes in individual subjects on alternating days for a year rather than four subjects every day for a semester, violates the CBA and sidebar letters of agreement. He ruled that the district must pay 33 high school teachers \$153,000 for additional instructional time required under the A/B schedule.

It was reported last week that the union is planning to file an unfair practice over the board's continued rejection of the arbitrator's ruling.

"I am not at war with the union. They are my colleagues, but I disagree with them," McGoodwin said. "We need to stop a small group from controlling the entire school district."



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e-Ticker Business News

Bar Harbor Bankshares Expands Into NH, VT With Lake Sunapee Bank Group Merger

BAR HARBOR, ME AND NEWPORT, NH – Bar Harbor Bankshares and Lake Sunapee Bank Group announced Thursday that they have signed a definitive merger agreement pursuant to which Bar Harbor will acquire Lake Sunapee in an all-stock transaction valued at approximately \$143 million, or approximately \$17.00 per share. The market expanding merger is expected to create efficiencies and strategic growth opportunities for both businesses through the leveraging of each other's platforms and capabilities, and will create the only community bank headquartered in New England with a market footprint in all three Northern New England states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. It is expected that existing Lake Sunapee Bank branches will continue to operate under the Lake Sunapee brand after the merger is completed.

Under the terms of the merger agreement, each outstanding share of Lake Sunapee common stock will be exchanged for 0.4970 shares of Bar Harbor common stock. Upon closing, Bar Harbor shareholders will own approximately 59% of the combined company's stock, while Lake Sunapee shareholders will own approximately 41%. The merger is expected to be accretive to both Bar Harbor's and Lake Sunapee's earnings per share in 2017, excluding the impact of potential revenue enhancement opportunities and one-time transaction costs. Additionally, it is anticipated that the combined company's capital ratios will remain well in excess of regulatory minimums and that the combined company will not require additional capital to continue its growth strategy. At closing, the combined institution is expected to have approximately \$3.3 billion in assets, \$2.4 billion in net loans, \$2.2 billion in deposits and over \$2.0 billion in assets under management. Bar Harbor will have a pro forma market cap of approximately \$350 million and

50 branches serving customers and communities across three states.

Founded in 1868 as Newport Savings Bank, Lake Sunapee operates 35 branches in New Hampshire and Vermont and reported \$1.2 billion in net loans and \$1.1 billion in deposits as of March 31, 2016. Lake Sunapee's core operating segments are banking and wealth management. Its wealth management subsidiary, Charter Trust Company, manages over \$1.6 billion in assets. Following completion of the merger, William J. McIver, current Chief Operating Officer of Lake Sunapee, will continue with the combined company as Executive Vice President – Regional President, New

Hampshire and Vermont Markets.

"We are excited to welcome Lake Sunapee cus-

tomers, employees, and their 35 franchise locations to the Bar Harbor family. This combination represents the joining of two high performing community banks that have demonstrated a track record of strong financial success, exceptional customer service, and commitment to the communities we serve," said Curtis Simard, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bar Harbor. "We believe together, with our increased scale, expanded geographic footprint and investments in technology, we are well positioned to serve the marketplace and continue to be the bank of choice. Lake Sunapee's history of strong asset quality and profitability demonstrates to us a culture similar to our own and positions us for further success."

Stephen Theroux, Lake Sunapee's President and Chief Executive Officer expanded, "This merger creates value for the shareholders, customers and employees of both companies, while continuing to provide important contributions to the communities in which we operate. The compatible cultures of our two organizations make this partnership a natural fit. We look forward to working with Bar Harbor and

building additional value for our combined shareholders and communities."

Mr. Simard further commented, "The expansion into New Hampshire and Vermont provides Bar Harbor with similar but complementary markets with favorable demographics, increased access to attractive core deposits, and significant revenue and cross selling opportunities beyond the financial metrics of this transaction."

Mt. Ascutney Hospital Announces Departure Of President And CEO

WINDSOR, VT – Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) has announced that Kevin W. Donovan, Hospital President and CEO since 2010, will be leaving his position June 15, 2016.

Donovan recently accepted the position of President and CEO at LRGHealthcare in New Hampshire.

"The decision to leave MAHHC was incredibly hard," said

Donovan. "It's been a privilege to work with so many talented, dedicated healthcare professionals. But, this new position in New Hampshire is a great opportunity for me as it not only fits with my professional goals, but brings me closer to my children, who are enrolled in high school there--and at this stage of our family



Kevin W. Donovan

(Continued on page A17)

e-Ticker Business News

Donovan, from A16

life, that means a great deal to me.”

During his tenure as President and CEO of MAHHC, Donovan presided over a hospital that was undergoing significant change and renewal. A major capital campaign led to facility upgrades and the opening of a new Rehabilitation Center. Donovan also led MAHHC as it adapted to new regulatory challenges, and created major community health outreach programs. For the last few years, Donovan worked to establish a successful affiliation between MAHHC and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health.

“I am proud of what we’ve accomplished in the last six years,” notes Donovan. “But much of the credit has to go to the entire team here. Thanks to their energy and commitment, MAHHC is on a solid path forward.”

Donna Van Fleet, Board Chair at MAHHC stated, “Under Kevin’s exemplary and far-sighted leadership, Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center has continued and expanded its capability as a nationally recognized critical access hospital.” She further noted that “Kevin leaves a legacy of professional and personal qualities that will inform and inspire ongoing leaders at Mt. Ascutney.”

MAHHC has not announced a replacement for Donovan. A search committee is being formed and more information will be released later.

Padgett Elected To One Credit Union Board of Directors

SPRINGFIELD, VT-- One Credit Union has announced that Ricky Padgett has been elected to its Board of Directors. Padgett is the Director of Corporate Accounting and Controller at the University of Vermont Medical Center (formerly Fletcher Allen Health Care). Ricky joined the UVM Medical Center in 2011.

Padgett is a Certified Public Accountant with many active professional affiliations.

Within the community he is also on the Board of Directors at Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO).

“I am drawn to organizations that are committed to working in the best interests of our community members,” said Padgett. “I’m delighted to serve my fellow members at One Credit Union.”



Ricky Padgett

Miller Named Mt. Ascutney Hospital Employee Of Month

WINDSOR, VT – Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) has selected Emily Miller, RN, as Employee of the Month for March. In her role as referral coordinator for MAHHC, Miller assists institutions, patients

and families in arranging admission to the Hospital.

“Emily is an extremely bright and talented nurse,” says Belinda Needham-Shropshire, Director of Rehabilitation Services. “She has a clear understanding of the needs of patients and their families. She demonstrates initiative and a commitment to excellence in everything she does. In fact, this is the third time in five years that Emily has been selected as the Hospital’s Employee of the Month – a tribute to her outstanding dedication and performance.” Miller is also a strong patient advocate, and was instrumental in helping the MAHHC patient education committee create an improved system of patient education.

Miller lives in Brownsville, VT and has worked at MAHHC since 2008.



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Turning Points Network extends its sincere thanks to everyone in this ad, and the 950 individuals who stepped up with us last Saturday. All of you together with all of us at TPN raised more than \$98,000 to date! This was our most successful event ever!



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This ad is underwritten by the TPN Board of Directors

Here's How To Keep Your Portfolio Healthy

If you have a medical appointment this week, you might want to wish your nurse a happy National Nurses Week. This annual event is designed to celebrate the important role nurses play in health care. Of course, while nurses and doctors can help you in many ways, you can do a lot of good for yourself by adopting healthy living habits, such as eating right, exercising frequently, and so on. But you can also do much to help your financial health.

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Stay invested.** During times of market volatility, it can be tempting to head to the investment "sidelines" until things "cool off." Going to the sidelines can mean a few different things – you could simply not invest anything for a while, or you could move a substantial portion of your portfolio to "cash" instruments, which are safe in the sense of preserving your principal but offer almost nothing in the way of return or protecting against inflation. If you're not investing during a market downturn, or if you've moved heavily into cash, you might well miss out on the beginning of the next market rally.
- **Rebalance your portfolio.** It's a good idea to periodically rebalance your portfolio to make sure it still reflects your goals and your comfort level with risk. Over time, and without any effort on your part, your portfolio can become unbalanced. For example, following a long "bull" market, the value of your stocks could have risen to the point where they make up a greater percentage of your portfolio than you had intended. When that happens, you may need to rebalance by adding bonds and other fixed-income vehicles.
- **Diversify.** Rebalancing is important. But a balanced portfolio should also be a diversified portfolio. If you only owned one type of financial asset, such as U.S. growth stocks, you could take a big hit during a market downturn. But different types of financial assets don't always move in the same direction at the same time, so by owning a wide variety of investments – U.S. stocks, international stocks, government securities, corporate bonds, real estate, certificates of deposit (CDs) and so on – you may help reduce the effects of market volatility on your portfolio. Keep in mind, though, that diversification by itself can't guarantee profits or protect against loss.
- **Maintain realistic expectations.** If you expect the financial markets to always move upward, you will be disappointed many times. Market downturns are a normal part of the investment process, and they will always be with us. Once you accept this reality, you will be less likely to make questionable decisions, such as abandoning a long-term strategy. If you've designed an appropriate strategy, possibly with the help of a financial professional, you can stick with it through all market environments.

By following the suggestions mentioned above – staying invested, rebalancing your portfolio as needed, diversifying your holdings and maintaining realistic expectations, you can go a long way toward maintaining the fitness of your financial situation.

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Mayoral Notes

By
Charlene Lovett



Your Input Is Vital

The first week of May proved to be as busy as expected with a public forum on the proposed sculpture in Opera House Square, the first of a series of budget discussions for fiscal year (FY) 2017, and the 106th May Day Breakfast at the First Congregational Church. In the weeks ahead, the Council will make decisions that impact the community. Your participation in that process is critical if we are to make decisions that reflect the will of the people. Hearing from you, whether via email or phone, at a public forum or meeting, or at a community breakfast is vital to our success.

Last Tuesday, the Council and City Administration hosted a public forum in order to give people the opportunity to learn about Mr. Montenegro's latest design for Opera House Square and provide feedback. Given the amount of emails that the Council has received and the number of people who attended the event, it is clear that this is a topic that has evoked strong emotions. To capture everything that has been stated on the topic, the council clerk has compiled a folder of emails addressed to members of the Council and the minutes of the public forum. The Council will review the material on May 11th and then discuss how to best move forward.

Last Wednesday, City Manager Santagate introduced his proposed budget for FY 2017 which begins on July 1, 2016. Recognizing

that the "number one problem that we must address is the property tax issue," Mr. Santagate presented a budget that reduces the City's tax rate by 1%. However, the same proposed budget does not provide funding for pavement of roads and sidewalks. Rather it relies on the remaining funds (approximately \$750,000) from the \$1.5M bond taken last year, as well as monies earmarked from grants awarded in previous years.

Given that roads and sidewalks are of great concern to the public, I hope that residents will take time to learn about the city manager's proposed budget and provide feedback. Only one member of the public attended the first budget discussion, and I hope that number will increase as we move forward. May 11th is the Council's regularly scheduled business meeting and has been reserved for non-budget topics only. Thursday, May 19th, at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall is our next budget meeting and we will be discussing streets and roads, sanitation, cemetery, water and sewer. Please consider attending the meeting if these are topics of importance to you. If you cannot attend, please contact your Council with any questions and/or comments that you may have.

The week ended on a festive note with the First Congregational Church's 106th May Day Breakfast. The people of this church are to be commended for keeping alive what may be the longest running tradition in Claremont. Since 1910, the church has hosted a community breakfast that has brought brought

people together in times of war, economic prosperity and recessions. The fact that it continues to this day speaks to the value of community events.

Coming together to discuss proposals or to fellowship is vital to the success of our community. Thank you to all who have participated to date. I look forward to hearing from even more citizens as we move forward.

Charlene Lovett is the Mayor of Claremont. Please email questions, comments or concerns to her at char_lovett@hotmail.com.

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Your River Story Will Help Improve Our Rivers

WINDSOR, VT--Do you care about your rivers? Join the Connecticut River Watershed Council and Art for Water in creating a "river of words" to draw attention to five major hydro-operations including Vernon, Bel-lows Falls, Wilder Dams to north of Hanover, NH. This public participa-tion, community art project will tell a thousand stories urging officials to improve the ecological health and recreational opportunities of the Con-necticut River. Add your voice by attending a presentation at the Wind-sor Town Welcome Center (near the Amtrak station), 3 Railroad Ave., Windsor, on Tuesday evening, May 10, at 7:00 p.m. Free and open to the Public.

To learn more about the presentation, please call 413-772-2020, ext. 206.

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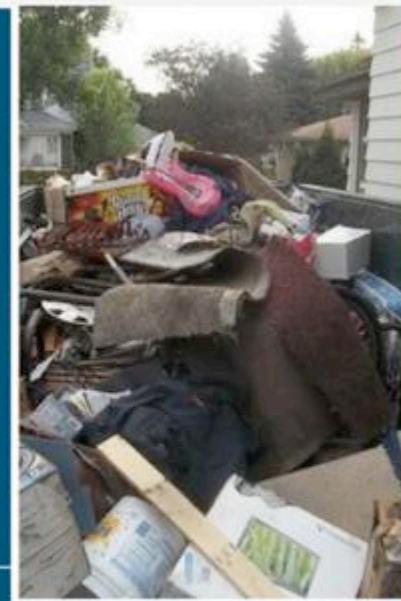
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Summerfest Concert Tickets Available

CLAREMONT, NH--You can visit the Summerfest concert series website and order tickets. Just go to Tickets on the website and buy the tickets you want for the concerts you want. Check out the Season Pass. All proceeds from the concert series are earmarked to go to the Arrowhead Recreation Area. Go to:



www.claremontsummerfest.com.

The series includes Battle of the Bands, May 28; other dates include June 18, July 3, July 17, Aug. 13 and Aug. 27. For more information about performances, ticket pricing, etc., visit the above listed website.

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It's About Food By Johnny Navillus



History

I received a really great email from Marta at the Fisk Free Library. Even though I asked readers to keep it to themselves, Marta sent it along anyway. Maybe she thought I was anemic and needed more iron in my diet. Anyway, here it is for all you liver fans. I know you are out there.

Liver Spoon Cakes

1 pound sliced liver
1 tsp salt
1/8 tsp pepper
2 eggs beaten
4 tlbs lard or drippings

Add just enough drippings to prevent liver from sticking (about 1 tlb). Cook until browned on each side, about 5 minutes (Do not cook until done). Grind liver, add salt, pepper and beaten eggs mix well. Drop mixture by tablespoons full into hot drippings and brown well on both sides. (4 servings).

Now before we disparage the lowly Liver spoon cakes, let us remember those other culinary follies of bygone eras! The 60s craze of mixing Jello and mayonnaise into weird molds and colors. I think it was also about the time when the average housewife discovered the 101 uses for Spam, although to be fair, I actually don't think Spam is a bad thing. My family makes Spam and egg sandwiches for parties and showers, etc. and it's really good, I promise! Then in the 70s there was the fondue craze-also not a bad thing, except they couldn't just stop with the meat fondue, or the cheese fondue, or even the fruit fondue-they had to fondue everything! Then, let us not forget the ground meat extender of the 80s that made everything taste slightly sandy, of course with the price of ground beef? Meat? Whatever that was everybody had to cut a few corners- if we only knew what was coming in 2016 when a sale on ground beef starts at \$4.00 a pound! So, I guess what I'm saying is at least the Liver Spoon Cakes were for a good cause, it was during rationing and it was for the good of the country!

I am often amused at this generation who thinks they invented conservation and recycling and making our resources last. Hah! My grandparent's generation saved everything-every rubber band, piece of waxed paper, bread bag and glass jar to be reused. My grandmother always cooked extra food for the next day-an extra big roast and lots of boiled potatoes for the Sunday meal and then on Monday or Tuesday she would grind it up for hash or even add some beets and make red flannel hash-Yum! She never had anything premade or "convenient" in her cupboards or pantry. Possibly the fact that they had to work so hard to grow, prepare, preserve and serve every meal made them healthier and more self-sufficient than any other generation after them will ever be, I'm not sure-but I know it made her an amazing cook and every meal at her table was incredible!

Marta, thank you very much for your email. I wish I could have included the whole thing, but my space is limited.

Marta makes an excellent point about trends and pricing. Growing up we had Flank steak and roast leg of lamb frequently. They were cheap and there were a lot of mouths to feed. As these things became popular, I guess they became a little scarce. Far be it from me to accuse a whole industry of profiteering.

Play with your food. It's a tradition.

Write to Johnny at etickernews@gmail.com.

Personal Fitness Training with Dawn Zombeck At CSBCC

A Personal Fitness Trainer is an exercise professional with the knowledge and experience to offer advice and guidance in the areas of exercise and fitness. They assist you by designing a safe and effective exercise program to help you reach your personal goals. You may choose to have a one-on-one session or in a group of 2 or more with like goals. Depending on your personal needs, you may want to meet with your trainer once or twice a week or have a program designed for you then meet every 4-6 weeks for an update.

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- Lower Blood Pressure & Cholesterol
- Injury Rehabilitation
- Decreased stress
- Decreased insomnia



Dawn graduated from Bancroft School of Massage Therapy in 1997 and opened BodyFit the same year. She is an ACE (American Council on Exercise) Certified Personal Trainer with over 25 years of experience in the fitness field.

Through both of these careers, Dawn has acquired an in depth knowledge of anatomy and physiology helping her to understand the body and all its' unique movement patterns. She applies this knowledge, in massage and fitness, to help her clients achieve their goals in the safest, most effective way. She believes you should take care of your body so you will have the energy, stamina and strength to live the life you want!

**Call or Email for more information or to book an appointment
603.477.3632 bodyfitherapies@yahoo.com**

Cause Of Newport Fire Saturday Said To Be Electrical

NEWPORT, NH--The Newport Police Department Communications Center received a call at 6:18 P.M. on Saturday, reporting a structure fire located at Foster's Professional Painting Plus at 1060 John Stark Highway.

Newport Fire, EMS, and Police Departments were dispatched to the scene, enroute receiving multiple reports of a confirmed Building Fire. Upgraded to a 1st Alarm Building Fire for Tankers. First fire apparatus arriving on scene at 6:24 P.M. Initial units discovered a large commercial building with heavy smoke and fire smoking from the front bay doors. There were no occupants at the business at the time of the fire. Newport Fire-EMS received assistance from several mutual aid towns. Responding to the scene were Claremont, Sunapee, Ascutney, Croydon, and Goshen Fire Departments. Eversource was on scene to disconnect power to the building. Covering the Newport Fire Station were the Lempster and New London Fire Departments.

Personnel made an interior attack into the front door, finding fire. Interior crews were able to quickly knock down the bulk of the fire. Extensive overhaul and ventilation was required for hot spots. The fire was deemed under control at 7:25 p.m. The building was released to the owner, Jason Foster, at 8:31 P.M.

An investigation was conducted by Newport Fire-EMS with assistance from Newport Police Department. The cause of the fire was determined to be electrical in nature. If anyone has further information and/or questions, s/he is asked to contact Fire Chief Wayne Conroy at 863-1416.

SHS Class Of '71 Meeting

CLAREMONT, NH--Stevens High School class of 1971 will hold a meeting May 11 at 7:00 p.m., at LaValley's Claremont Building Supply. Please use the Pleasant St. entrance.

www.facebook.com/etickernews



Newport Fire-EMS received assistance from several mutual aid towns. Responding to the scene were Claremont, Sunapee, Ascutney, Croydon, and Goshen Fire Departments (Bill Binder photos).

Newport Fire Dept. Toned To Building Fire Sunday Evening

NEWPORT, NH--Newport Fire-EMS was toned to 3 Golf Club Rd at 18:34 Sunday evening for a reported building fire. Engine 2 responded and the first arriving unit on the scene confirmed smoke showing from the front door of a single family residence. A First Alarm was called for a working building fire. Engine 2 arrived at 18:37 with Ladder 3 and Engine 4 shortly after. Crews made entry and found a basement fire with some extension to the first floor. Two hand lines were used, and the fire was knocked down, going under control at 18:50. Damage was kept to a minimum.

Sunapee, Goshen Engines and Lempster Ladder provided coverage for the town while Newport operated at the scene.

**June 21
5 to 7 PM**

Buckley Room

**Valley Regional Hospital
243 Elm Street
Claremont, NH**

RSVP Requested

Attendance is Free



Women's Night Out



Panel discussion of women's health topics

Join our medical staff for a panel discussion over a glass of wine.

Featuring:

Dr. Gailyn Thomas, Board Certified Ob/Gyn

Liza Draper, MA, SHINE Coordinator for
TLC Family Resource Center

And other practitioners

Wine & Hors D'oeuvres served.

Limited seating for this free event. RSVP required by June 20.

RSVP:

Online via Eventbrite; look for Women's Night Out

Or to Kyle at 543-5601 or email kyle.ranney@vrh.org



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Saturday, June 25th 8 AM—3 PM

100+ spots | Food Vendors | Ample Parking

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Contact: Brooke Salls

Brooke.Salls@vrh.org or call (603) 543-5610

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\$15 /Public | \$10 /VRH employees

Rain Date June 26th. VRH will advertise this event. Spots are the size of parking spaces. Your reservation of multiple spots will be grouped together. Payment due by June 17th to VRH.

Chester, VT, To Celebrate Its 250th Year During A Variety Of Events To Be Held July 14-17

CHESTER, VT--Plans are gearing up for the Town of Chester, VT, to mark its 250th year. The celebration will provide guests with a historical perspective, while offering fun events and activities for the whole family. Full details to be announced as they become available, and will be on the event's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Chester250th.

Thursday, July 14th, kicks off the celebrations with a free concert (Chester Music Series at the Academy Building) where Gypsy Reel plays acoustic tunes from Ireland, Scotland, and early Americana!

On Saturday, July 16th, join the fun at the Pinnacle (Lover's Lane Road) for BBQ style food, non-alcoholic beverages and music, various games, activities and contests. You can also enjoy a softball tournament put on by Chester Recreation, horseshoes, swimming at the pool and along with popular traditional games--a variety of old-time games and demonstrations—watermelon seed spitting contest perhaps? Also on hand will be Deep River Snacks, who will be sponsoring potato sack races, offering prizes and more.

Other activities around the historical sites of Chester to see and do, all free of charge, will include: Various churches open and available to view architecture and learn of their history, walking tours (self-guided) of the main Village and the Stone Village, Train Station tours with a speaker, dedication of historic marker, and vintage train.

At the Chester Festival Fairground (across from Heritage Bakery, Rte 103 South) on display will be Vintage motorcycles, snowmobiles, chainsaws, and tractors hosted by the Chester Snowmobile Club. VAST will be offering pulled pork and chicken, pies, fixings, BWM, and others for a "ride in" destination. Parking will be available for the Fireworks viewing.

Saturday's festivities will wrap up with a spectacular fireworks display beginning at dark, near the American Legion, Route 103 South.

On Sunday, July 17th, start the day off with a community breakfast, visit one of the area churches that will be offering historical sermons, Walking Tours of the Village will continue (self-guided and guided) at the Hearse House, Town Tomb and Cemetery with the Historical Society offering Tours and an En-

campment of 1766 Re-enactors and demonstration (out behind Historical Society) with storytelling in the evening.

There are many other celebratory activities in the works, and a full schedule of events will be published soon.

The Chester 250 Planning Committee will be actively fundraising for the Fireworks event to be held on July 16th. Please watch for your opportunity to help fund this portion of our historical celebration! Please send your donation in to: Chester Fireworks, c/o TDBank, PO Box 446, Chester, VT 05143. If you would like to volunteer at one of the many activities or events, or have an idea for consideration of the committee, your thoughts are welcomed, and you are invited to email organizers at ChesterVT250@gmail.com.

Hanover Plant Sale

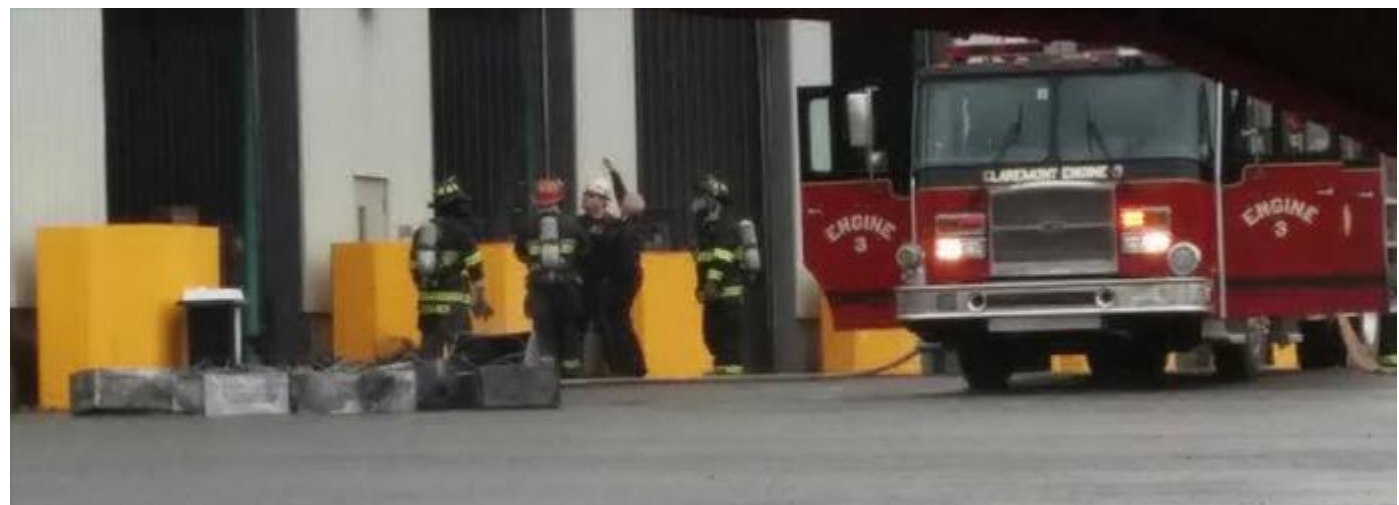
HANOVER, NH--The Hanover Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale will be held on their 80th anniversary, Saturday, May 21, from 9:00 a.m. - noon, at the Garden Club Shed at Pine Knolls Cemetery. For more information, please visit www.hanovergardenclub.org.

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Bethany Lapine Owens shared this photo of a visitor Friday in her yard on Martha Street, off Maple Ave., across from Moody Park in Claremont. Bear sightings have also been reported in the areas of the Bluff and Park Ave. over the last several days.



Claremont Fire was called to Canam last Monday afternoon for a fire in one of the company's air handling units, catching the filters on fire. The situation was quickly brought under control. The CFD stretched an inch and three quarter line, shut down the power to the machine and extinguished the fire (Bill Binder photo).



River Theater Presents:

OLIVER!

May 13 & 14, 7pm
May 15, 2pm
Claremont Opera House

Adults \$15 / Children (Under 16) \$12
Tickets available at the door
Advance tickets are available at Charlestown Jiffy Mart, Kit 'N Kaboodle Consignments in Claremont, NH, Marro Home Center in Claremont, NH, and The Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, VT

Based on Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist" | Book, Music, & Lyrics by Lionel Bart

This production is sponsored by Brad Tenney Roofing of Charlestown, NH.

For more information: rivertheater@yahoo.com | www.rivertheater.org



On Saturday April 2nd, the Claremont and Newport school districts held their first annual Stemfest with UNH. Approximately 20 college students from the math and sciences departments came to host various science and math activities with groups of kids from around Sullivan County, including Claremont, Unity, Newport, and Sunapee. Some of the activities included bridge building, connecting electric circuits, building a container that protects an egg from

breaking during a fall, learning to put together CAT5 computer cables, robotics, wind energy and more. Lunch was sponsored by TomTom of North America, the Claremont Middle School PTO, and the Claremont Kiwanis (Courtesy photos).



Outstanding Vocalist 2016

Student Achievements

Left: On Saturday, the Stevens High School musical theater class, the concert choir, and the concert band took part in the Music in the Parks competition at 6 Flags in Springfield, MA, winning a number of titles. The musical theater class took first place in the show chorus class with an excellent rating, the concert choir competed in the mixed chorus class, taking first place with an excellent rating and the concert choir also took home the best overall chorus trophy. The concert band took first place in their category with a superior rating. They also took home the best overall instrumental group trophy. Scott Foisy, shown left, was awarded the best soloist medal. Foisy has been accepted at Plymouth State for its theater program (Courtesy photo).



Sugar River Newport, NH, taken this past week

Photo by Ken Coulombe