

# e-Ticker News of Claremont

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Plan Announced To  
Save County Bus  
Service; Page A3

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September 12, 2016



## *Drought Conditions...*

A lack of snow last winter combined with little rain this spring and summer in New Hampshire has reduced water levels in lakes and rivers, as is seen here with the Sugar River in Claremont this past week. While the North Country part of the state is not experiencing a drought, the coastal and southern interior regions have been classified as being in a severe drought. The Upper Valley area and Cheshire County are categorized as having a moderate drought, while the White Mountain area has been classified as abnormally dry (Bill Binder photos).





# Arrest Made In Dusty's Cafe Burglary Case

CLAREMONT, NH--Shortly after 1:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30th, the Claremont Police Dept. was called to Dusty's Cafe on Pleasant St. for a report of a burglary.

The initial investigation into the burglary by the Patrol Division and the Criminal Division revealed that Scott Berry, age 35, Claremont, NH, was suspected of breaking through the wall of an adjoining business and gaining entry to Dusty's Cafe. Once inside, Berry is



Scott Berry

alleged to have stolen an undisclosed amount of cash from the business. After allegedly taking the cash, Berry exited through the same wall that he initially entered through. Security camera footage from both businesses was crucial to identifying Berry as the suspect in this case, said the police.

Berry was arrested by the Claremont Police Dept. at approximately 2:20 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 30th, for Felony Burglary and Misdemeanor Criminal Mischief. Berry was arraigned in the 5th Circuit Court, Claremont District Division where pleas of not guilty were entered and bail was set in the amount of \$25,000 cash only. A probable cause hearing on the felony charge was held Sept. 8.

Intoxicated, Operating After Suspension and Disobeying a Police Officer; Kristoffer Paine, age 28, Sunapee, NH, Operating after Suspension; and Noah Crosby, age 31, Claremont, NH, Operating After Suspension.

The New Hampshire State Police, Colonel Robert Quinn and the Newport Police Chief James Burroughs as well as the officers of their departments consider the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers to be a top priority, said the NHSP in a statement. "(We) will continue to collaborate and utilize sobriety checkpoints and other means to deter, detect and remove impaired drivers from New Hampshire's roadways," said the agency.

## NH State Police Conduct Sobriety Checkpoint In Newport

NEWPORT, NH--During the hours of 9:00 p.m. Saturday, September 3, through 3:00 a.m. Sunday, September 4, New Hampshire State Troopers from Troop C in Keene and officers of the Newport Police Department conducted a sobriety checkpoint on Route 11/103 in the town of Newport.

The checkpoint was authorized by an order of the Sullivan County Superior Court and conducted under guidelines promulgated by the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office.

A total of 172 vehicles and operators were screened and 3 arrests were made:

Daniel Thurston, age 34 of Claremont, NH, Driving While

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## Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to email, message or call me to extend good wishes and make offers of help last week during my absence. I appreciated each and every one of them.

With gratitude,

Phyllis "Pam" Muzeroll

**e-Ticker News of Claremont LLC**  
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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

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# Plan Announced To Save County Transportation Services

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--A dark cloud hovering over the future of transportation services in the area was lifted on Friday when it was announced that another non-profit agency would be stepping up to the plate to provide bus service in the wake of the Community Alliance's recent announcement that it could no longer provide that service in the county.

On Friday, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) released a statement announcing that Southwestern Community Services (SCS) would be taking over the much needed and relied-upon service.

"The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) is very pleased to announce that Southwestern Community Services, Inc. (SCS) the region's Community Action Agency, has agreed to provide transportation services in Sullivan County, which includes public transit services in Newport, Claremont, and Charlestown and volunteer driver transportation services throughout Sullivan County," said the statement. "The NHDOT is committed to working with SCS through this transition with operational and management support in order to maintain these important transportation options for the region," said NHDOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan.

"Medicaid funded trips will still be provided through Coordinated Transportation Services, Inc. (CTS), the Medicaid transportation broker for the State of New Hampshire.

"SCS will provide these transportation services under contract to NHDOT and will receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding, matched with local funding, for rural public transportation and transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities."

Friday night the Claremont City Council held an emergency meeting to discuss the situation; Mayor Charlene Lovett had called the special session prior to the development that SCS would be stepping in to help. Many at local, county and state levels had been working furiously to try to come up with a solution since the announcement earlier this summer that the Alliance could no longer run the service, and discussions of various kinds had been taking place, all in the hopes of finding a resolution. The Alliance had announced in August

that it would 'regrettably cease operation of its Sullivan County rural public transportation service as of the close of business on September 9, 2016. CAHS and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) are working together to secure another provider for bus and volunteer driver services in Sullivan County."

Approximately 300 people in Sullivan County utilize both the bus service, and an average of 30-50 people per month receive rides through CAHS volunteer drivers. Service has been available in Claremont, Newport and Charlestown.

NH House Reps Ray Gagnon and John Cloutier both spoke at the council meeting Friday night; Gagnon praised a number of people for pulling together to find a solution, adding, "I'm very excited that Southwestern is going to be the provider." He credited County Manager Jessie Levine as having been the push behind getting SCS into the picture, and said that Cloutier had done "yeoman's work" as well in finding a solution. Bus service

could be interrupted for up to a month as the transition takes place; the CATS buses were driven up to Enfield Friday evening to be parked until service resumes.

The council approved a motion to support the new service and will be sending a letter of that support to the NHDOT and SCS. The question of how the City will support the service in the future remains to be determined; NFR, VRH and RVCC have indicated they will be supporting the effort, with NFR saying they see the service as "economic development."

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## Senate – Claremont

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County, please visit**

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## Letters To The Editor

### **Thank You For Supporting Go For FOOD Color Walk/Run**

#### **To The Editor:**

I wanted to once again thank all the participants, donators, sponsors and volunteers who supported Claremont's 4th Annual Go For FOOD color walk/ run event that was held Saturday, July 23, at Moody Park. We had close to 200 items donated to the soup kitchen, and \$1,500 was raised for the soup kitchen and community center scholarship fund! There were also over 160 participants. Much appreciation again to the sponsors and donators who were a major factor to the success of this event: Reed Optical, Mascoma Savings Bank, Lambert Auto Sales, North Country Smokehouse, Darvi Rosenberg, CPA, Claremont Savings Bank, CrownPoint Cabinetry, Hannaford Supermarket, Imperial Buffet, InkFactory Clothing, Co. Tremont House of Pizza, BJ's Wholesale Club, Claremont Parks & Recreation Department, Claremont Spice & Dry Goods, Color Blaze, Common Man Inn & Restaurant, Doolittle's Print Serve, Inc., e-Ticker News- Claremont, Farro Deli, Great Eastern Radio, Lake Sunapee Bank, Odalie M. Ince, Olympia Sports, Simply Sweet Creations, S & O Bernash, Triple Play Retail, and Subway-Washington Street- Claremont. It was wonderful to see so many people be a part of this event and support the community. Thank you so much!

**Odalie Bernash (founder/ organizer)**  
**Claremont, NH**

### **Asks For Your Vote On September 13**

#### **To The Editor:**

To the Voters of Newport and Unity New Hampshire,

The 2016 election promises to be one of significant importance to the Nation and to the State of New Hampshire. I am a Democratic candidate for the NH House of Representatives for the Sullivan District 6 seat, representing Newport and Unity. I currently represent you in the District 9 seat, which includes six more towns. I am asking for your vote so that I can continue to work for all of you, regardless of party.

I have had the privilege to represent Newport and Unity for four years and I have always had the needs of this area in mind when casting a vote. As you know, once we get to Concord, we must make sound decisions with two things in mind: how will it benefit the people of this state and how will it serve our constituents.

A look at my voting record will tell you that I have the ability to cross the aisle on many issues and hold fast on democratic values that provide necessary services to our citizens. Medicaid expansion is a good example, as well as the bi-partisan budget we passed in the 2015 session. I need your support on Tuesday, September 13, in the Democratic Primary in order to return to the legislature and continue moving our state forward.

While I will not appear on the Republican ballot, feel free to write my name in to show your support! Should I win the primary vote on September 13th, I will need the support of all Newport and Unity voters, and I hope I can count on you in November. It is an honor to be your State Representative, and I look forward to hearing from you if there is anything I can do on your behalf. You can reach me at [townmatters@gmail.com](mailto:townmatters@gmail.com)

Again, I thank you for your past support and ask for your vote on September 13, 2016.

**Representative Virginia O’Brien “Biddy” Irwin**  
**Newport, NH**

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## Skateboard, Scooter Competition In Sunapee

SUNAPEE, NH--The Sunapee Police Department and the Police Benevolent Association are sponsoring the 1st Annual Skateboard and Scooter Competition on Sunday, October 2, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Sunapee Skateboard Park on Route 11. The registration fee is one (1) nonperishable food item to be dropped off at the Police Department with the registration form. You can find the Registration Form on the Police Department's webpage under "Police Department Press/Activity Information". Drop your food item in the box in the building's foyer and the registration form in the drop box, also in the foyer.

Please contact Chief David Cahill at 763-5555 if you have any questions.

## Dowsing Group At Fiske Free Library Sept. 20

CLAREMONT, NH--On Tuesday, September 20, the Living Waters Dowsing group will be meeting at the Fiske Free Library in Claremont. Members of the group will be doing hands-on demonstration and instruction in the art of dowsing; there will be an opportunity for visitors to try their hand at this technique. You may also bring samples of your water for testing.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Sue Lawrence at 542-4321.

This program is free and open to the public.

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## Sheriff's Office Licensed To Administer Narcan

NEWPORT, NH--Sullivan County Sheriff John P. Simonds announced Sunday that with the assistance of Dale Girard of Golden Cross Ambulance, the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office has recently been licensed by the New Hampshire Department of Safety, Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of EMS, as a Law Enforcement Provider for the purposes of administering Naloxone, which is commonly known as Narcan. Narcan is an opioid antagonist that can be used to counter the effects of an opiate overdose, including heroin.

All Patrol Deputies of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office have achieved a New Hampshire EMS Provider License for Law Enforcement for the sole purpose of administering Narcan. Deputies underwent a formal application process and received training in Basic Life Support through the American Heart Association as well as online, classroom and practical training in Narcan and its administration. Simonds said that he is "committed to fighting the opioid epidemic that has plagued communities across Sullivan County and the State of New Hampshire. The Sheriff's Office is among only a small number of law enforcement agencies across New Hampshire who are licensed to administer Narcan."

Patrol deputies are regularly assigned throughout Sullivan County carrying out the responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office and because many of the communities are small and have limited resources, deputies can find themselves first to arrive on the scene of a medical emergency. Simonds hopes the Sheriff's Office can add another layer of assistance to these communities by providing Patrol deputies with Narcan. "This gives our deputies another tool that can be used in conjunction with other emergency medical services when confronted with an opioid overdose and hopefully save a life," he said.



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## City Manager Search...

Alan Gould of Municipal Resources Inc., the company chosen to search for Claremont's next city manager, was at the CSBCC on Wednesday, Aug. 31, to meet and talk with any interested citizens and get their input on what Claremont needs and what qualifications they feel the new city manager should have. Although the turnout was low, Gould said that he was pleased with the response he has gotten via email and phone concerning the search for the manager. If you would like to contact Gould and give him your thoughts, he may be contacted at [email--agould@mrigov.com](mailto:email-agould@mrigov.com) or 603-279-0352, Ext. 320. Claremont resident Bernie Folta (L) talks with Gould of MRI (Bill Binder photo).



## Newport Town Manager Resigns

NEWPORT, NH--It was announced Sept. 1st that the Newport Selectmen voted to accept Town Manager Shane P. O'Keefe's resignation effective immediately. O'Keefe, a Walpole, NH, resident, cited personal reasons for his departure.

O'Keefe has been the Newport Town Manager since July 2015. Finance Director Paul Brown was appointed as Interim Town Manager by the Board. Brown preceded O'Keefe as Newport's Town Manager, a position he held for three years.

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## REMINDER

### to all Owners of property in Claremont

– your 2nd quarter property tax bill is due by October 1st

This bill should be the same amount that was due on July 1st.





## Claremont Confidential

By Les St.Pierre



### “Poody”

Mention the name “Poody” and there is one, and only one, thought that comes to mind, and that is of the longtime sportswriter here in Claremont and so familiar to the residents up and down and on both sides of the Connecticut River Valley.

Lawrence “Poody” Walsh has been at the typewriter, and now at the computer, for half a century, giving hometown fans a front row rundown on the previous evening's ballgame or same-day coverage of current athletic events, whether it be football, basketball, baseball, cross-country, field hockey, volleyball, soccer, whatever. You name it, he's covered it!

Now he gets his due reward.

Word came through last week Walsh has been nominated and will be inducted into the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association Hall of Fame. The ceremony is set to take place at the Concord Marriott November 13.

It takes three nominations for consideration into the Hall and three local high school athletic directors took the matter to heart and entered “Poody's” name into the mix. They are Stevens High AD Doug Beaupre, Newport AD Jeff Miller, and Fall Mountain AD Gordon Dansereau.

The upcoming induction follows “Poody's” naming to the 2014 Vermont Principals Association Hall of Fame in Montpelier.

Walsh claims he worked “about” 35 years at the *Claremont Daily Eagle* and *Eagle-Times*, retiring in 2000 at the age of 62. “I never really kept track,” he said during an interview at his McKenzie Drive home Saturday morning sandwiched around Friday night's football game at Springfield, VT, and Saturday afternoon's football game at Newport.. The 75-year old still works at the keyboard covering sporting events for both the Lebanon, NH, *Valley News* and the Rutland, VT, *Herald*. All this follows a few years as a public relations person at the Hinsdale, NH, racetrack.

Naturally, the one question asked of Walsh more than any other is how he got the nickname he goes by to this day. “There's nothing really special about it,” “Poody” explained. “It came from my older brother as we were sitting around the bedroom one night. I get asked that question a thousand times. It's okay.”

Asked what sporting events stand out in his mind over the course of his 50-plus years covering local sports Walsh, without hesitation, mentioned the first boys soccer championship at Stevens High School when the Claremont booters, coached by Malcolm Longnecker, traveled to Hinsdale in 1976 to play Raymond. “I remember how cold it was that day,” Walsh quipped. “Gary Lawrence was the goalie and Billy Scott scored the goal. I can still see him making that shot today.” Stevens won, 1-0.

Another ballgame etched into “Poody's” mind is the 2005 championship football game played at Hanover High School which saw the Cardinals lose on a controversial game-ending field goal. “That stinks to this day,” Walsh revealed. “First of all, it was an unplayable field. You could walk across it and your shoe would come off. And, of course, the pass interference call that

never should have been made. It led to the game-winning field goal for Hanover.” Walsh, too, can never forget Claremont's Wild Bunch men's adult softball team back in the 1970's. “They were just marvelous, marvelous!” he reported. “I loved the Wild Bunch. I don't know how they could drink so much and still play!”

Individual athletes who caught Walsh's attention include Fall Mountain's Pat Aumand (“He was the best basketball player I saw”) and Stevens' Kelly Paton. However, it was the individual effort put forth by Stevens' Steve Bonner which serves as another unforgettable moment throughout Walsh's career. Bonner scored 44 points at the Brattleboro Holiday Basketball Tournament, netting 11 points in each quarter. “That's always stuck in the craw of my mind,” Walsh stated. “What could he

have done with the three-point shot we have now?”

Claremont is where Poody has spent the majority of his life, having come here from North Walpole, graduating from Bellows Falls (VT) High School. He and his wife, Shirley, have two daughters, Hilary and Shauna, and four grandchildren. Matthew Bean is 22 and an assistant on the Stevens High football team and Brendan is 16 and a Stevens High football and baseball player. Andrew Friend, also 16, is into golf, hockey, and baseball but excels in robotics. Allison Friend is a freshman and a dancer.

“Barnes Park is a pretty special place to cover games,” Walsh said of Claremont's Bernard Way facility. “It has that old-time flavor with the backstop and bleachers...and they take care of it pretty good.”

Also beloved to Walsh is his chairing the annual St. Joseph's Sports Night honoring the top scholar-athlete and Unsung Hero recipients at the Claremont school. Walsh became the chairman once it was clear he had the means to get the speaker every year after voicing his displeasure at some of the ones chosen up until then. He had nothing but praise, and a high praise it was, for the Elks in taking over the sponsorship of the fete. “I will con-

tinue to do this as long as I can,” Walsh voiced. “It is a wonderful night. These kinds of nights don't happen any more. I sit there and I see the parents crying. I like it when Tom Hoyt (the emcee) says, 'Before you leave here tonight take all the pictures you can because there will never be another night like this one.' This is why we want to keep this going,” Walsh said.

Walsh has written many a column in his day. Reading his Walsh's Rare Bits were a Sunday morning routine for most local sports enthusiasts. To this day he recalls the one he wrote about Paul Potter's Stevens High cross-country team, reporting what a fantastic individual sport the running fete was and heard back from one of the runners, a girl. “She told me that every time she ran she had my column

**(Continued on page A11)**



**Poody Walsh (Les St.Pierre photo)**



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### Poody, from A9

wrapped up in plastic inside her sock to inspire her," Walsh smiled.

Surely, over the last half-century Walsh has seen many-a-change in his profession. "The changeover was difficult for me," "Poody" cited. "It scared me for a while because I was so set in my ways. Kids today don't know what a typewriter is. We had cameras with flash-bulbs when I first started, and film. The price today of ink is incredible. We are now living through a stage where participation numbers are down. Everywhere now we have co-ops. Kids from Green Mountain (Chester, VT) are now playing in Springfield. Vermont Academy kids are playing at Bellows Falls. Schools are no longer having sub-varsity sports. The jay-vee teams are gone. We are not making as many babies as we used to. You don't see big families any more."

A half-hour interview with the "Poody" ended up being nearly two hours long and could have gone on longer. He is full of all kinds of anecdotes running from funny, to sad, to tragic, to loving, to exciting, to informative. The whole gamut. He deserves to have a good following at his induction. The ceremony is open to the public. There is a \$55 payment required for a reserved seat. The NHIAA can be contacted by calling (603)228-8671.

Charlie Burch, a former Stevens High football coach who passed away in 1978, will posthumously be inducted that same day.

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## State Primary Election Is September 13

The New Hampshire State Primary Election is set for Tuesday, Sept. 13. In Claremont, voting will take place at the following three wards: Ward 1, Claremont Middle School; Ward 2, Claremont Middle School; Ward 3, Disnard Elementary School. Polls are open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Those not registered to vote may do so at the polling place on election day.

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# 3rd Hearing Held On Proposed Campground At Racetrack

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll  
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The Claremont Zoning Board held its third hearing on a request for a variance for a seasonal campground at the Claremont Speedway Monday night. Now a decision looms before board members, the applicant and neighbors, some of whom support the proposal and some who do not.

The project calls for the creation of 149 sites and would include a rec hall, swimming pool and playground for kids. The owners of the speedway have said they would be willing to hook into City water to reassure abutters that their wells would not be impacted.

Richard Uchida, an attorney from Concord, spoke for the owners at the meeting. He told the board that the campsite would not be used for repairing stock cars and that the owners would agree to having a manager living on-site if the board made that a requirement.

Concord traffic engineer Steve Pernaw told the board that a new design for the driveway into the property "is now in a perfect spot", having been shifted to provide a 500-foot sight line. Most are 200 feet, he said.

Still, some of those living nearby continued to express concerns about the project, especially regarding issues of noise and traffic. Heather McNamara said this is a "residential area....What is this going to start?"

Chuck Egbert questioned traffic rates and other issues, saying that pedestrian traffic would be at risk because there are no sidewalks. "I think it's a serious safety issue," he said.

Another questioned what would happen if the campground didn't attract enough seasonal users, would the owners be back requesting a variance for transient use? Uchida said he did not think that would happen but said that the speedway would have to go back before the board with a new application if it did.

Another resident said that currently the track makes noise about 20 hours a week but that that condition would change significantly with the increase in traffic and population, saying it would be detrimental to the neighborhood.

Tom Dombrowski said he thought the

project would be a benefit to the City.

Both the DPW and fire department supplied letters, the first saying that there would be adequate pressure should the campground hook into the City's water system, and the second, from the fire chief, stating that he did not find any serious hazards relating to the campground and the proximity to racing fuel.

With City Planner Mike McCrory admitting "This is a complicated case", it's now up to the zoning board to make its decision on the application. That decision could

come at the Oct. 3 meeting as members wrestle with making their determination.

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**Claremont Police Dept. Log**

Aug. 31  
 1407 Sex Offenses  
 1925 MV Stops, Arrest: Chad LaFlamme, 46, Cornish, NH, Charges: Driving after Revocation or Suspension  
 2255 Request Officer

Sept. 1  
 0009 Request Officer; Arrest: Damien M. Sevene, 30, Claremont, NH; Charges: Bench Warrant  
 1106 Accident, Pleasant St.  
 1106 Domestic Disturbance  
 1526 Criminal Threatening

Sept. 2  
 0407 Missing Person--Juvenile  
 0809 Dog Complaints  
 1402 Sexual Assault  
 1615 Wanted Person, Pickup; Arrest: Kristi Richardson, 25, Newport, NH; Charges: Arrest on a Warrant  
 1720 MV Stops; Arrest: Michael A. Anderson, 27, Claremont, NH; Charges: Habitual Offender  
 1731 MV Stops  
 1841 Medical Emergency  
 2328 MV Stops; Arrest: Bret Tardif, 27, Bridgewater, VT, Charges: Driving After Revocation or Suspension, Disobeying an Officer

Sept. 3  
 1349 Accident, Washington St.  
 1626 Domestic Disturbance  
 1717 Criminal Mischief  
 1933 Disorderly Conduct; Arrest: Daniel Dibenedetto, 58, Claremont, NH, Charges: Disorderly Conduct  
 2216 Simple Assault

Sept. 4  
 1600 Accident, Tremont St.  
 1915 Accident, Washington St.  
 2010 MV Stops; Summons: Richard Miner, 21, Summit, NJ, Charges: Possession of Controlled/Narcotic Drugs  
 2150 Simple Assault

Sept. 5  
 1117 Accident with injuries, Bowker St.  
 1358 Accident, Washington and North Sts.  
 1625 Accident, Washington St.  
 1848 Simple Assault

Sept. 6  
 1227 Simple Assault  
 1248 Accident, River Road  
 1358 Accident with injuries, Chestnut and South Sts.  
 1639 Criminal Threatening

Sept. 7  
 0801 Dog complaints

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# September 13<sup>th</sup> Primary

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# e-Ticker Business News

## VNH Announces New Hires

WHITE RIVER JUNCTION, VT--Jason Des-sureault, CPA, has been named Accounting Manager for Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire (VNH). Des-sureault holds a Master's Degree in Professional Accountancy from University at Albany, State University of New York and has held accounting

positions for more than seven years. Most recently, Des-sureault worked as a Senior Accountant at New York State Office of the Comptroller in The Bureau of Financial Reporting.



**Jason Dessureault**

In this position, Dessureault will be assisting the Chief Financial Officer in supervising and coordinating the duties of all accounting personnel to assure daily functionality, accountability and integrity of financial systems. This includes payroll and accounts payable, financial statement preparation, statistical reporting, grants and budgeting.

"I am thrilled to be joining VNH," Des-sureault said. "I'm excited to be living in the Upper Valley and am grateful that I can contribute to the outstanding services that the Agency provides in the community."

"We are very excited to welcome Jason not only to VNH, but to the healthcare industry in general and the home health and hospice segment in particular," said VNH Chief Financial Officer Michael Counter. "Jason will bring a needed accounting acumen and discipline that comes with his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation. This will benefit VNH tre-

mendously as we continue to grow."

Also, Gerald Best II has been named Revenue Cycle Manager for Visiting Nurse and Hospice for Vermont and New Hampshire. Best brings more than 20 years of revenue cycle management experience to the agency. He worked for VNH from 2002 until 2004 and was one of the original five members of the McKesson Implementation Team. McKesson is VNH's Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system.

In this position, Best will be responsible for all billing and document management. This includes managing all aspects of payer relations, claim submissions and collections in a highly complex and regulated environment, guidance and oversight of the patient accounts team, and assisting with the development of patient account operations.

"I'm very excited for this new opportunity," Best said.

"Homecare and hospice have a special place in my heart, as my father utilized both services throughout his battle with Leukemia. My family and I were very thankful that such services were available during this difficult time."

"Gerry brings with him years of revenue cycle and customer service experience," said VNH Chief Financial Officer Michael



**Gerald Best II**

Counter. "We are so pleased to have him back on board to oversee an increasingly complex and highly regulated billing department."

## Mt. Ascutney Hospital Names Sheehan Employee Of The Month For July

WINDSOR, VT-- Liz Sheehan, RN, has been named Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center (MAHHC) Employee of the Month for July, 2016.

Sheehan heads the nursing staff at Ottauquechee Health Center (OHC) and was cited by Anel Sirois, CMA Nurse Manager/Clinical Leader for her hard work and dedication to the

**(Continued on page A16)**



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# e-Ticker Business News

## Employee, from A15



**Liz Sheehan**

staff and patients at OHC. "Liz is not only kind and considerate, she is also deeply involved in improving patient outcomes by collaborating with other MAHHC staff members to improve and standardize processes," said Sirois, adding that "Liz is a great team leader who encourages her nurses to learn and grow in their careers, and helps make sure that OHC is always "survey-ready."

Sheehan also works in-house with Dr. Steven Smith on the Hospital's Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), which delivers training and support on the Medical Annual Wellness Visit, Chronic Care Management, Advanced Care Planning and Dementia Care.

"We feel very fortunate to have Liz on our team," said Sirois, "and we congratulate her on being named MAHHC's July Employee of the Month."

Sheehan has worked at OHC since November 2013. She lives in Ludlow, VT.

## Eversource Working To Reduce Impact Of Drought-Stressed Trees On Electric System

MANCHESTER, NH--As the Granite State continues to suffer extreme drought conditions, Eversource tree crews are working to identify trees that have been weakened by the severe dry weather and pose a threat to the reliability of the electric system.

"The effects of a drought on tree systems are cumulative, and the region has experienced drought conditions for two of the last three years," said Bob Allen, Manager of Vegetation Management for Eversource in New Hampshire. "This year is expected to be the warmest on record, and the high temperatures coupled with lack of rainfall are affecting the trees. In order to prevent tree-related outages, our crews are working to identify signs trees are experiencing drought stress, such as early fall color and shedding of leaves and branches."

Eversource said its rigorous tree trimming programs, which include removing hazardous trees along critical lines that serve high numbers of customers, play an important role in identifying and removing drought-stressed trees along overhead electric power lines.

"Our crews have been trained to look for the general health of the tree and to be aware that the drought has exacerbated any issue the tree is already suffering from," Allen said. "It appears more trees are failing. We have seen incidents where trees or branches fell onto

power lines when the weather was nice. That's because the root systems that anchor

the trees have been compromised by the extended drought."

In New Hampshire alone, Eversource will invest \$30 million this year trimming more than 2,800 miles along overhead power lines and removing hazardous trees. So far, the company has completed more than 1,730 miles of tree work. The company services 11,000 miles of overhead power lines in New Hampshire, where trees account for more than 60 percent of all power outages.



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Lauren Boreham, RN-BC

*Accepting most insurances, including the Anthem Pathways Network, purchased through the NH Insurance Marketplace (The Exchange).*



## Nick's Pizzas...

Team Nick and the Coombs family have partnered with the Tremont House of Pizza to raise funds for CHaD. For the month of September, Tremont will donate 20% of each "Nick's Pizzas" that are sold. Coombs personally picked the makings of his pizza for this event and according to the reviews, it is great! It is made up of Vegataball's Pesto (locally made), spinach, mozzarella, tomatoes and grilled chicken. Stop into Tremont House of Pizza and order your "Nick's Pizza" and help support CHaD!

Photos--Top: Nick gets ready to pick up a pizza for a special delivery from Jocelyn Peterson; Nick, Mom Jenn and Tracy Hanson help Nick carry the pizza to the car (Bill Binder photos).



## Acworth Brush Fire Keeps Crews Busy For Three Days

ACWORTH, NH--WMUR reported Wednesday that a stubborn brush fire in Acworth kept crews busy for three days. Some 60 firefighters were called to the scene, and water was pumped in from Crescent Lake to extinguish the flames. The fire was located off Grove Road and was believed to have been started by an unattended campfire. Authorities reminded people not to use campfires during these unusually dry times unless they are prepared to bring water with them to put them out. About two acres were burned, reported WMUR.

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## Use “Open Enrollment” To Help Improve Your Financial Outlook

It's Open Enrollment Season, so if you work for a medium- or large-sized company, you will need to make some choices regarding your employee benefits — and these choices can have a big impact on your financial situation.

Depending on your employer, your benefits package may include various types of insurance, plus access to a 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Here are some suggestions for getting the most out of these benefits:

- **Health insurance** – Companies regularly change plans and providers, so the coverage and premiums you had last year may not be the same this year. In any case, look at all aspects of your coverage options – premiums, deductibles, co-pays and total out-of-pocket limits. A lower premium may seem attractive, but you could end up paying even more if the coverage is not as good. So, choose wisely.
- **Life insurance** – You may want to take whatever life insurance your employer offers, but it still might not be enough. To determine how much life insurance you need, consider a variety of factors – your age, income, family size, spouse's income, and so on. If your employer's coverage is insufficient, you may want to supplement it with a separate policy.
- **Disability insurance** – This could be a valuable employee benefit – but, as is the case with life insurance, your employer's disability coverage may not be enough for your needs, especially if you'd like to protect yourself against an illness or injury that could sideline you from work for a long time. Consequently, you might want to consider purchasing your own disability policy.

Apart from reviewing your insurance options, you may want to examine your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Of course, your employer may allow you to change your 401(k) throughout the year, but you've got a particularly good opportunity to do so during open enrollment, when you're already looking at all your employee benefits. So look at your contribution level. Are you putting in as much as you can afford? Your 401(k)'s earnings can grow tax deferred, and you typically contribute pretax dollars, so the more you put in, the lower your taxable income for the year. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals made before age 59½ may be subject to a 10% IRS penalty.)

At a minimum, invest enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. And increase your own contributions whenever you get a raise.

As far as your investment choices, you'll want to spread your dollars among the different investments within your 401(k) in a way that reflects your risk tolerance and time horizon. During the early stages of your career, when you have many years to go until you retire, you can probably afford to invest more heavily in growth-oriented accounts. These will fluctuate more in value, but you have time to potentially overcome the downturns. When you're nearing retirement, you may want to shift some of your assets into more conservative vehicles – but even at this point, you still need some growth opportunities. After all, you may spend two or three decades in retirement, so you'll need to draw on as many resources as possible.

Open enrollment isn't just a time to fill out a bunch of papers. It's also a chance to reconsider – and maybe even upgrade – many areas of your financial outlook.

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



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# Mayoral Notes

By  
Charlene Lovett



## Why Raise The Water Rates?

On July 27th, the Council received a presentation by Michael Maker, Senior Manager at the Municipal and Financial Services Group, regarding water and sewer rate recommendations. After conducting a study of the current rates, Mr. Maker recommended keeping the sewer rates at their current level and increasing the water rates. Here is why.

Both water and sewer are enterprise funds, meaning the cost of operating and maintaining each system is paid by the users of the system. The user fees or rates must cover not only operating costs, but also capital improvements and any debt created by those improvements. In addition, a minimum cash balance should be maintained in each fund to cover emergencies or unanticipated events. During the study it became clear that current water rates did not generate the revenue needed to even cover the operating costs.

In 2010, the City Council increased both the water and sewer rates. The increase to the sewer rate was higher and, according to the study, prevented the need to raise sewer rates today. The 2010 rate increases were spread over a 6-year time period, and the last increase during this period was in 2015. During the same time period, the number of users on each system did not grow and there was a

slight decrease in user consumption. Simultaneously, the cost of operating and maintaining each system rose about 2% each year.

Today, we find ourselves in the position of needing to increase water rates again in order to sufficiently fund the operation of the system. Yet, increasing water and/or sewer rates on a near annual basis is not a sustainable solution. Given our water distribution system is operating at about 50% capacity, there is plenty of opportunity to add more users to the system. There is also opportunity to lower the cost of operating the system by making strategic capital improvements.

Some of these opportunities will become reality in the near future. When North Country Smokehouse opens its new plant next year, new revenue will be generated as the expansion of this company will also create an expanded need for water. New industry to the area, such as NH Industries, also brings additional revenue to these enterprise funds. Capital improvement plans to the water distribution system, such as reducing our reliance on the Sugar River as a water source, will also reduce operating costs and increase efficiency.

Bringing more users onto the water and sewer system, reducing operational costs, and increasing system efficiencies must be the long term strategy. On September 14th, the Council will be discussing the issue of water rates and a first reading of the proposed ordinance on the topic will be held. Please consider attending this meeting and/or providing feedback to the Council prior to the meeting.

In the meantime, customers of city water and sewer


should be aware that the average semi-annual bill for a family of four is \$683. If your bill is higher, you may have a leak and addressing it as soon as possible will save you money. You may also want to consider investing in water-efficient appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines, as well as water-efficient toilets and shower heads. Reducing water consumption will not only reduce your bill, but also help protect the environment.

*Charlene Lovett is the Mayor of Claremont, and welcomes your feedback. Please email any questions, comments or concerns to her at [char\\_lovett@hotmail.com](mailto:char_lovett@hotmail.com).*

## Donated Books Welcomed

PLAINFIELD, NH--Through September 15, the Friends of Philip Read Memorial Library in Plainfield are accepting donated books of all types except textbooks and *Reader's Digest* condensed books. Drop books off at the library on Rt 12A during open hours or the Plainfield Town Hall if volunteers are sorting.

The Book Sale begins Saturday, September 17, at 9:00 a.m. and ends Sunday at 2:00 p.m.



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## "Slavery And The Underground Railroad In New Hampshire"

CORNISH, NH--On Monday, September 12th, at 7:00 p.m., the Cornish Historical Society will present the program "Slavery and the Underground Railroad in New Hampshire" presented by Michelle Amosky Sherburne from Newbury, VT. She will share her research regarding the Underground Railroad network in the state of New Hampshire and the Abolitionist Movement in the 1800's. Sherburne is the author of the book, "Slavery and the Underground Railroad in New Hampshire". The program will be held at the Cornish Town Office Building at 488 Townhouse Rd. The program is free and all are welcome.

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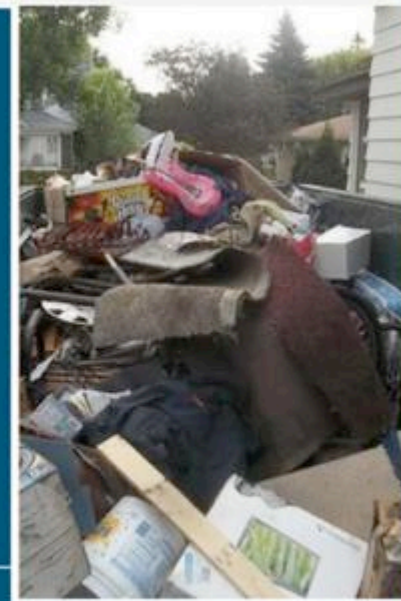
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## Adult Day Out Program Seeks Volunteers

NEWPORT, NH-Do you enjoy music, storytelling, walking, chatting over tea, crafts, games, gardening or engaging new people in general? The Connecticut Valley Adult Day Out Program, operated by Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice at 958 John Stark Highway in Newport, is looking for additional volunteers to assist with activities for its clients. "We are happy to have volunteers any time they can come," said Christine Phipps, LPN.

The Adult Day Out Program is run by licensed nursing staff Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and provides all-day care for adults with medical, therapeutic and/or social needs. Volunteers are welcome any time during those hours. For more information or to set up a time to observe the program first-hand contact Jeana Newbern, volunteer services and marketing coordinator, at 526-4077 or [jnewbern@lakesunapeevna.org](mailto:jnewbern@lakesunapeevna.org).

## It's About Food

By Johnny Navillus



### Chicken

The chicken breasts seem to have returned to the usual size. No more huge breasts. What was that all about?

With chicken breasts on sale lately, I'm finding trays of chicken in my refrigerator. I can take a hint as well as the next guy.

#### Johnny's Autumn Chicken

2 chicken breasts, boneless, skinless  
1 apple  
Thyme  
Maple syrup  
Crushed walnuts (optional)

Wash and pat dry the chicken.  
Spray a baking dish with non-stick spray.  
Place the breasts in the dish.  
Slice the apple and place around the edges of the dish and in between the chicken.  
Sprinkle salt, pepper and thyme on the chicken  
Pour some Maple syrup over the meat.  
Sprinkle some chopped walnuts over the breasts  
Bake in a 350° oven for about an hour. When the internal temperature reaches 160° it's done.

You can also add some Apple Wine or Apple Brandy or even Maple Brandy.

This is so simple and the reviews are so good, it's almost embarrassing. I said almost.

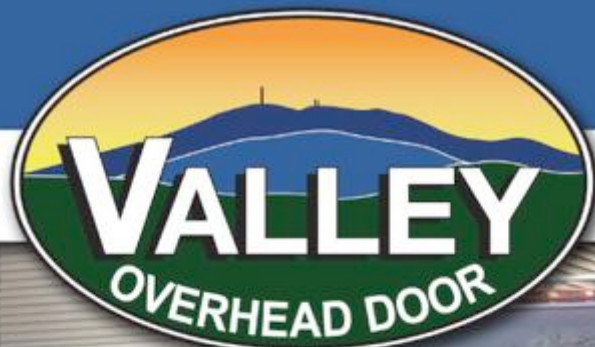
I got a question about the Seafood Newburg. I use Sherry because the flavors are so delicate you don't want to overpower them. Also, a red wine will make the sauce too dark. A white will not come through like the Sherry. Sherry, Port and Marsala are "enriched" wines. That is they are blended with Brandy. Which is why you don't see them in grocery stores who only have a wine license.

Chicken Cordon Bleu is one of those "restaurant" dishes that few foodies seem to make at home. Just butterfly a chicken breast or two. Fold up a slice of ham and a slice of Swiss Cheese. Add an asparagus spear if you like. Fold it over. Coat with bread crumbs. Close them up with toothpicks and bake at 350° until internal temperature is 160°. Not that difficult but it impresses people who feel it is restaurant only.

I usually do a big Sunday dinner except during football season. That is why we have delivery. Or microwaves. It's only 16 weeks. Give me a break.

Play with your food. Omaha Mitch does. You can, too.

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



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## Time To Sign Up For Chili Cook-Off, Other Events

CLAREMONT, NH--Calling all chefs, bakers and runners! The registration period to sign up for the Chili Cook-Off and the 5K Road Race, part of the Fall Festival on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, has now opened.

Residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations are invited to participate in the Annual Chili Cook-Off, sponsored by the Claremont Parks and Recreation Department. Register online at [www.claremontparks.com](http://www.claremontparks.com) or call the Claremont Parks & Recreation Department to enter your favorite chili. The deadline to register your chili both online and through the office is Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. If you like good chili, come tease your taste buds and cast your vote for the best chili at the Fall Festival! Cook-Off tasting fees: \$5.00 adults; \$3.00 children; no fee for chili chefs. The chili tasting begins at 10:30 a.m. and will end at 2:30 p.m., followed by awards.

If you feel you need to work up an appetite in order to consume all that wonderful chili, then sign up for the popular Chili Cook-Off 5K Road Race. This year the 5K is sponsored by Valley Regional Hospital. Runners will receive a complimentary ticket to the cook-off. Pre-registration is available until September 30<sup>th</sup> for \$15.00. Same day registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and is \$20.00. Kids' Race begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by the Valley Regional Hospital 5K Road Race. The race begins on Water Street at 9:00 a.m. The race course can be viewed on [www.Mapmyrun.com](http://www.Mapmyrun.com)

For further information about the Chili Cook-Off and 5K Road Race, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 603-542-7019.

## Three Injured In I-89 Crash

LEBANON, NH--On September 7, at approximately 10:30 p.m., New Hampshire State Troopers from Troop D along with Lebanon Police Department responded to motor vehicle crash involving two vehicles on Interstate 89 southbound near Exit 20 in the City of Lebanon.

The preliminary investigation indicates the driver of a black 2006 Pontiac Torrent, Bianca M. Williams, age 27, Chicago, IL, was traveling southbound on Interstate 89 when she was



## Freshman Orientation Day...

Freshman orientation day was held on Thursday, Sept. 1st at Stevens High School. The newest members of Stevens received room assignments, had a chance to meet their teachers and see some of the school, got to visit with their classmates and ended the day with a BBQ in the cafeteria (Bill Binder photo).



US. Sen. Kelly Ayotte joined members of the Sullivan County ATV Club Sept. 3 in Newport for a ride which started at the propane depot in the Sunshine Town (Courtesy photo).

distracted for an unknown cause. She lost control of her vehicle and struck the guardrails off of the travel lane. Williams' vehicle then rolled back into the travel lane and was broadsided by a 2011 white BMW X3 operated by Peter Tourin, age 76, Jericho, VT. Tourin and his

passenger, Jean S. Twombly, age 75, Springfield, NH, were transported to Dartmouth Hitchcock for non-life threatening injuries. Williams was also transported to D-H, for life-threatening injuries.



## Richmond Selected As New St-Gaudens Music Director

CORNISH, NH--Saint-Gaudens Memorial announced that, as of September 1, Melissa Richmond of Claremont takes over as the new music director for the summer music programs.

Richmond is an award winning arts administrator, a performer, and an educator. She is passionate about the power of the arts in life and in education, said the music committee. In 2015 Governor Maggie Hassan – who also sits on the Saint-Gaudens Memorial Board of Trustees – awarded her the Governor’s Arts Award for Distinguished Arts Leadership from the NH State Council on the Arts. In 2014, Richmond helped commission and performed Kinan Azmeh’s “Concerto for Flute and String Orchestra” in honor of Claremont’s 250th Anniversary. Richmond is the founder and Executive Director of the West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts, a classical and modern music performer, and a flute instructor. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Dalhousie University, and an MS Management Degree in Non Profit Leadership from New England College. She was born and currently lives in Claremont and has also lived in Nova Scotia, Florida, and California’s Bay Area.

“I’m very excited to be part of the beautiful programs that Saint-Gaudens has going on already and to carry on the amazing legacy that Fern Meyers has built as music director before me,” said Richmond.

## King Pleads Not Guilty In Fatal Accident Case

NEWPORT, NH--The *Valley News* reported Thursday that Amber King, 37, charged with negligent homicide in a crash on Main Street that took the life of a Goshen woman in April, “pleaded not guilty on Wednesday” to that charge and several other felonies. King was allegedly under the influence of drugs at the time of the accident; the speedometer was frozen at 91 mph when first responders arrived on scene. Passenger Amanda Grasso, 32, was ejected from the car and landed in the Sugar River; she died from her injuries. Two others were also seriously injured. King remains free on \$2,500 bail and conditions set by the court.

## Fugitive Of The Week

**James Crary**

DOB: 7/27/89

Last Know Address: 30 Hayward Road, Plainfield, NH  
White Male, 6’, WGT 190, blue eyes, blond hair

On July 22, 2015, the Sullivan County Grand Jury indicted Crary on a Class B Felony charge of Delivery of Articles Prohibited.

Crary failed to appear in the Sullivan County Court on Nov. 2, 2015, for a hearing. On Nov. 13, 2015, the Sullivan County Court issued a warrant for his arrest for Failing To Appear.

This information is provided by Sheriff John Simonds of the Sullivan County Sheriff’s Office.



## Attitude, It’s Contagious!!

An employee with a negative attitude can quickly become an emotional drain on the more positive team members. Misery loves company, so you would be wise to nip negative behavior in the bud.

Chances are, your Gloomy Gussie’s attitude is a habit. She may not even realize she is coming across as a wet blanket. Here are some ways to encourage more positivity at work:

- o Smile at her (even if you don’t feel like it). Smiling is contagious. Try to beat the [statistics](#): 30% of people smile five to 20 times a day at the office, and 28% smile over 20 times per day at work. Smiling works more muscles than frowning!!
- o Encourage your entire team to find solutions instead of making complaints. In meetings, when Eyeore pooh-poohs an idea, turn the tables and ask how it *could* work and the talk about the benefits gained from making changes.
- o Give clear feedback – and potential consequences – in one-on-one meetings. Be sure to let Sad Sally know that while her work output is satisfactory, a positive attitude is just as important. Make sure to stress how much it can affect those people on the team, the quality of work and success as a whole.
- o Listen. It’s hard not to tune out Negative Nellie when she starts whining. But if you can get to the root of the dissatisfaction, you may just find the cure. There are often underlining causes that you can discover and work to find ways to alleviate those issues.
- o Praise progress. Be sure to catch her whenever she makes an effort, no matter how small, to be positive to encourage more of the desired behavior. Spread your positive attitude!!
- o Keep your own attitude in check. When interacting with Pessimistic Patty, don’t roll your eyes (even inwardly but especially to other subordinates). You need to keep it professional and driven towards the goal of the team.
- o If things don’t improve, you may have to let this bad apple go. Just be sure to document specific examples of negativity affecting performance as “attitude problem” is too subjective. There are those people who just cannot change and you need to be able to address that appropriately.



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# BAYADA Foundation 5K Family Walk/Run

**Saturday, October 1, 2016**

9:00 am

*Registration opens at 7:30 am*

316 Main Street, Norwich, VT

All proceeds benefit the not-for-profit BAYADA Foundation Hospice Fund.

To register, call **802-526-2380**, email [cdionne@bayada.com](mailto:cdionne@bayada.com), or visit the [event page](#).

Sponsorships also available!

## About BAYADA Foundation Hospice Fund

At the end of life, families have many concerns and dilemmas surrounding their loved ones' final weeks and months. But for some families, those concerns go beyond the typical as they try to figure out how they will pay for funeral arrangements, a replacement air conditioner to keep mom comfortable, or an overdue heating bill.

That's where the BAYADA Foundation enters. The not-for-profit Foundation helps provide for the non-medical needs of hospice patients and families in our community.



BAYADA specialty practices include Home Health Care, Pediatrics, Hospice, and Habilitation.



**BAYADA**<sup>®</sup>

Hospice

*A BAYADA Home Health Care specialty practice*



The Claremont Fire Department honored the memory of the victims of 9/11 Sunday with this moving display (Photo by Chelsea Hamilton).

