

e-Ticker News of Claremont

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First Night Activities
Announced;
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Dec. 12, 2016

Council Makes Choice For City Manager Post

Contract Negotiations Remain To Be Finalized

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--Following a second non-public meeting Tuesday night, the City Council made its choice for City Manager Guy Santagate's successor. Santagate will be retiring on Dec. 31.

Down to two finalists, the council voted 9-0 to select David Johnston as the new manager for Claremont. He most recently served as City Manager for Maple Valley, WA, a community in the Seattle metro area (population: 25,600), leading a team of 45 FTEs plus 35 seasonal employees



David Johnston
(Photo courtesy of The
Courier-Herald)



The Claremont School Board honored the Stevens High Football Team for winning the Division III NHIAA Championship, at the Board's Wednesday night meeting. The banner was donated by Doolittle's Print Serve (Bill Binder photo).

with an annual budget of \$29 million. The other finalist was Ryan McNutt, a Town Administrator for the Town of Lancaster, MA. Both were highly regarded by the Council and the Search Screening Committee which worked with MRI, the consulting company hired by the City to help with finding the next City Manager. The Tuesday night vote authorized MRI to make a conditional offer of employment to Johnston for the Claremont City manager post, conditioned upon successful negotiation of employment agreement and background investigation, said Mayor Charlene Lovett after the meeting.

Assistant Mayor Vic Bergeron said that he and his wife "had the privilege of escorting Mr. Johnston and his wife around Claremont dur-

ing their visit during the interview process." Bergeron said he was impressed with Johnston's background and that he "liked him very much, very easy to talk with; he brings a lot to the table." He was chosen from a pool of 37 candidates from 18 states who applied for the position.

Other councilors and Search Screening Committee members were also pleased with the selection and only had positive comments to make about Johnston. "Everyone on the council was pleased with how personable he is, very easy to talk with. He's approachable," said Councilor Allen Damren. "He has a heck of a background in economic development and management." Damren also liked that he

(Continued on page A2)

Johnston, from A1

asked a lot of questions during the interview process. "We feel we have the right person," he said.

"Yes, I'm excited to see him come to Claremont," said Debora Matteau of the Screening Committee. "He had an impressive resume and I think he will be well liked here, he seemed to be in the community he was at last. He certainly has some big shoes to fill, so I'm excited to see what he will be able to accomplish." School Board Chair and Committee member Brian Rapp concurred. "The Council couldn't have gone wrong with either of the announced finalists," he said. "Dave Johnston has a record of positive growth in his previous positions. While change can sometimes be stressful, I see this as an exciting time for Claremont. I think Mr. Johnston will continue Claremont on the right path."

During a phone call with the *e-Ticker News* on Wednesday, Johnston sounded positive and upbeat about the job in Claremont, saying he saw great potential in the community but that there was work to be done. He expressed appreciation for the "confidence of the council."

He acknowledged that the next step was completing the contract negotiations which he said can "go quickly or sideways." He added that he didn't anticipate any major issues to surface and that he and his wife were looking forward to relocating to Claremont and buying a home. Johnston has an admitted interest in history, particularly in the Northeast, something of which he will find an abundance in Claremont.

His resume cites several pages of accomplishments, including positioning Maple Valley's "Economic Development Committee as Ambassadors with local and regional representatives, cultivating partnerships and collaborative relationships with commercial development, transportation, education, banking and utilities sectors, as well as with local businesses and citizens. Initiative transformed the City's previously marginal reputation with the development community, enhanced its prominence and visibility, and generated significant opportunities, including development of 2 major shopping centers during the recent recession, and receiving 10 designations as a desired place to live, work and conduct business."

According to the Maple Valley City Council minutes of the May 23, 2016, meeting, the Council accepted Johnston's resignation as City Manager on that date, citing "differences in philosophy between himself and a majority of the members of the Council." The departure was described as amicable and mutual. He served in that position from April of 2009 until mid-June of this year. Several residents spoke during the meeting to thank Johnston for his work in Maple Valley, according to the minutes.

An exact start date for Johnston as City Manager has not been determined; buttoning up details and the contract negotiations will determine when Johnston takes the reins as Claremont's

anticipated new City Manager.

Bridge Repairs In Sunapee

SUNAPEE, NH--The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) announced that bridge repairs are scheduled to begin Thursday, Dec. 15, on the NH Route 103B bridge over Sucker Brook in Sunapee. This bridge deck repair project is expected to take three and a half months to complete and will require single lane alternating traffic controlled by signs.

Alstead Public Informational Meeting

ALSTEAD, NH--The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) will hold a Public Officials/Public Informational Meeting in Alstead to discuss the proposed replacement of the NH Route 123A bridge over Warren Brook. Historical properties may exist within the project area.

This public meeting will be part of the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. at the Alstead Town Hall Meeting Room, 15 Mechanic Street in Alstead.

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NH Lottery Numbers
12/10/2016

NH PowerBall
12 21 32 44 66 15 2

Mega Millions 12/09/2016
19 27 47 67 68 1 5

Megabucks
1 12 20 29 39 2

Hot Lotto
10 14 30 35 37 12

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

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Commentary

NH House Happenings

By Rep. John Cloutier

NH House Begins Its New Term

New Hampshire's House of Representatives began the new 2016-2018 Term last week in Concord, with a lot of ceremony but no changes in its top leadership.

I and 386 of my fellow representatives were sworn into office by outgoing Gov. Maggie Hassan on Dec. 7 in the House Chamber, using the oath as designated in Part II, Article 84, of the New Hampshire Constitution. The Governor, soon to become New Hampshire's junior United States Senator in January, was joined on the House rostrum, while administering the required oath, by four out of the five New Hampshire Executive Councilors. The four included Christopher Sununu, a Republican who will become the state's next governor on Jan. 5, as well as Democrat Colin Van Ostern, whom Sununu defeated in the Nov. 8 General Election. My 13 fellow representatives, who were absent on Dec. 7 will have to wait until the next regular meeting of the Governor and Executive Council to be sworn so they may officially become House members.

More specifically, the two-part oath as written in Part II, Article 84 of our state's constitution and recited by us representatives on Dec. 7 reads as follows: "I (State my name and community of residence) do solemnly swear, that I will bear faith and true allegiance to the United States of America, and state of New Hampshire, and will support the constitutions thereof. So help me God." The second part continues with the following, I (State my name) do solemnly swear and affirm that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all duties incumbent on me as a representative according to the best of my abilities, agreeably to the rules and regulations of this constitution and laws of the state of New Hampshire. So help me God." By the way, those who have religious objections to swearing can omit the word "swear," under the same article. Also those who object to the sentence "So help me God," at the end of both parts can substitute the sentence, "This I do under the pains and penalties of perjury," under the same article adopted in 1784.

After those of us who were present on Dec. 7 were sworn in, we turned to the business of electing our officers for 2016-2018. Hudson Rep. Shawn Jasper, who is now serving his 11th term, was re-elected to a second consecutive term as House Speaker by secret ballot. Speaker Jasper, a Republican, garnered 214 votes to 165 votes for Concord Rep. Steven Shurtleff, a Democrat, now entering his 7th term. There were also eight scattered votes for various other candidates. Rep. Shurtleff, who served the previous 2014-2016 Legislative Term as House Democratic Leader, was then officially reappointed as Democratic leader by Speaker Jasper after the Speaker was re-elected. The Speaker also reappointed Merrimack Rep. Richard Hinch as House Republican Leader, after Rep. Hinch had previously served as Republican



Leader in the 2014-2016 Term.

Frankly, Speaker Jasper's re-election was not a big surprise to me given that there are now 226 Republicans and only 174 Democrats in the House for the new term. This re-election was especially true after the Speaker was renominated by the House Republican Caucus on Nov. 30, though by a narrow 109-106 secret ballot vote over his nearest challenger, Bedford Rep. Laurie Sanborn. But his re-election was not as dramatic as his initial 2014 victory when he defeated former Speaker William O'Brien, a victory only achieved with the help of most House Democrats, including myself, and several fellow Republicans over Rep. O'Brien, who had been the official nominee of the House Republican Caucus. Among the the Speaker's strong supporters was Charlestown Rep. Steven Smith, who officially nominated him at the Dec. 7 meeting.

For readers' information, I voted for Rep. Shurtleff for Speaker. I had already committed my vote to the House Democratic Leader some months when he entered the race because I believe he would have been a firm, but bipartisan presiding officer over the House. But I am not that disappointed to be again serving under Speaker Jasper because I feel he has also been an firm, efficient, and bipartisan presiding officer most of the time, despite several policy disagreements with him.

After the House re-elected Speaker Jasper, it then re-elected House Clerk Paul Smith and House Sargent-At-Arms Walter Sword-both by voice vote without opposition. Mr. Smith of Concord was re-elected to his second term as Clerk, while Mr. Sword of Hopkinton was re-elected to his fifth term. I had no problem voting for the two because both have done good jobs in my opinion. Both officers were then immediately sworn in by the Speaker.

The House's final piece of business for Dec. 7 was to meet jointly in the House Chamber with the members of the New Hampshire Senate. Senators who were also sworn in on the same date for the new term. The joint meeting then re-elected by voice vote New Hampshire Secretary of State William Gardner and State Treasurer William Dwyer. Mr. Dwyer of Gilford was re-elected to his second term as Treasurer, while Mr. Gardner of Manchester was re-elected to his 21st Term as Secretary of State. Mr. Gardner, who was first elected in 1976, is the longest serving Secretary of State of any state in our nation. He is best known for his strong defense of New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary.

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We welcome Letters To The Editor.

Please send to etickernews@gmail.com

and include your name, address

and phone number.

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phone: 202-225-5206
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To find out who your local state representatives/senators are in Sullivan County, please visit

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

and click on "Who Is My Legislator"

Letter To The Editor

Thank You To The People Of Claremont

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Claremont for allowing me to serve as your City Manager for the past 15 years. It has been a period of time that has been challenging and rewarding. Your cooperation and understanding will always be remembered by me and I will forever be grateful for your support.

In addition, I want to express my deep gratitude to an outstanding staff that, over the years, performed way above the expected level. Their hard work and continuing contributions within their departments keep this city running smoothly.

The reception that the staff recently held in honor of my retirement is something that I will always be thankful for. As expressed by many of the residents who attended, it was a "night to be remembered". The speakers included Councilor Bruce Temple, Deb Matteau, Anthony Lyons, Jeff Goff, Jack Barnes, Kim, Jonathan, Michael and Stephen Kossuth and Zach Williams. I want to publicly thank them all for their presentations. They were informative, interesting and funny. I especially want to thank Bethany Yurek, who did an outstanding job as the master of ceremonies. Additionally, I want to thank U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen for her kind words delivered via video from her Washington, DC, office. The Senator has always done well by the city. I truly felt honored to have her reach out in this manner.

As I close this chapter of my life, I do so with the confidence that the city is posed well for the future. There is no doubt in my mind that the best years for Claremont lie ahead. I will follow with deep interest the progress which I know is imminent. Once again, thank you for all your support over the years.
Sincerely,

Guy Santagate
City Manager

Kuster Bill To Facilitate Trade Between The United States And Canada Passes Congress

WASHINGTON, DC--Saturday, Congresswoman Annie Kuster (NH-02) applauded final passage of her legislation the Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act, which would improve trade opportunities for businesses in northern border communities and help to strengthen national security. The legislation will now head to President Obama's desk for his signature. "I'm thrilled that we were able to come together in Congress to pass this commonsense proposal that will help increase trade and tourism between the United States and Canada," said Congresswoman Kuster. "So many businesses throughout New Hampshire sell to Canadian customers or benefit from Canadian tourism and this bill will help foster trade and travel, creating jobs and supporting our economy."

The Promoting Travel, Commerce, and National Security Act paves the way for expansion of pre-clearance facilities, operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, at land, rail, marine, and air ports of departure in Canada. The United States currently operates pre-clearance facilities at 15 airports in six countries, including Canada. These facilities allow travelers to pass through CBP inspections prior to traveling, expediting their arrival in the United States, and protecting national security by preventing those who should not be traveling to the United States from doing so before they arrive.



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City's First Night Fun, Activities Announced

CLAREMONT, NH-- Claremont Sugar-River Rotary Club is excited to announce the last event of the year and this event is sure to go off with a bang! On December 31, come celebrate the New Year with Arrowhead Recreation Club, Claremont Parks and Recreation Department, Claremont Opera House, Family Fun Zone and Meyer Maple Lanes at a free, fun community event. The evening



kicks off at 6:00 p.m. and will go until midnight with events scheduled at Arrowhead Lodge, the Claremont Savings Bank Community Center, Claremont Opera House, Family Fun Zone and Meyer Maple Lanes. "There will be something for everyone," said Mark Brislin, Claremont's Parks and Recreation Director. "Whether you are looking to go tubing at Arrowhead, take a dip in the pool at the Community Center, or enjoy some of the great entertainment that we have lined up, there will be something for everyone to do."

At 10:00 p.m., there will be a spectacular fireworks display over the ski area at Arrowhead, which will also be televised live on CCTV. After fireworks, the evening is not over, said Brislin. Myer Maple Lanes will continue activities for all to ring in the New Year until midnight with a live DJ. "Local businesses have been very supportive of this event and seem excited to bring a New Year's Eve Celebration back to Claremont," said Allyn Girard, President of the Claremont Sugar-River Rotary Club. "We are thrilled to be able to offer a free event to the community of Claremont and are looking for ways to help sustain this event for years to come," added Girard.

This year two new venues will be added to the evening's activities and events. There will be four performances held at the Claremont Opera House presented by World Under Wonder that will tell the Slavic story of Winter. Also added as a venue this year is the Family Fun Zone where people will have full access to the

inflatables and bounce houses. "It is exciting to watch this event grow," said Brislin. "When we brought the First Night activities back three years ago, all of the activities took place at the Community Center and Arrowhead. The community and local businesses are really embracing this event," he said.

Food and beverages will be for sale at Arrowhead Lodge, Claremont Savings

Bank Community Center and Meyer Maple Lanes. Parking will be available at the Arrowhead Lodge, Claremont Savings Bank Community Center Claremont Middle School, and Claremont Savings Bank with a shuttle service running from Broad Street Park to the Community Center between the hours of 6:00 and 10:45 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Claremont-Sugar River Rotary Club with the assistance of Claremont Savings Bank, Lake Sunapee Bank, Mascoma Savings Bank, Osgood Construction, SG Reed, Twin Pines Construction, the Canam Group, Huberts, The Insurance Center, KM Early – CPA, George Curt Insurance, Townline Equipment, Osgood Welding, Hannaford and Coca-Cola.

Please help support the Claremont-Sugar River Rotary in sponsoring the First Night events by purchasing a Claremont First Night 2017 button, which is available from any Rotarian or supporting merchant in town for \$1.00. The First Night Buttons will

get you discounts to participating businesses on December 31st. A schedule of events may be found on page A9. For up to date information, please visit www.claremontparks.com.

Programming At COH

On New Year's Eve, World Under Wonder will perform three short scenes for free to the public at the Claremont Opera House. The Slavic story of "Winter Violets", contains the feeling of the traditional Grimm's Fairy tales. "The Golden Buddha" tells of how we all start
(Continued on page A9)

JOZACH JEWELERS

MEN'S NIGHT

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First Night, from A8

out golden in life but cover ourselves with stone due to challenges. The final performance of the night is "The Happy Prince". This tale tells of a sparrow who nests on a statue of a prince looking over a city. They become friends and the sparrow helps the happy prince bring a little joy to some of the poor inhabitants of the city.

There will be four performances presented on First Night, at 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., and 9:00 p.m. This will allow people from around the city to come when it feels best; the last performance will give time for people to go outside and make their way to Arrowhead to watch the fireworks at 10:00 p.m. Sean Roberts, artistic director of World Under Wonder hopes that people come out to enjoy the performances and the hot cider and cookies that will be available. While the event is free, people could offer donations to World Under Wonder this night to help them in our goal of putting on the musical "Beauty and the Beast".

— First Night Schedule —

Event	Time	Location
Bowling	6-8:30PM & 9-12AM	Meyer Maple Lanes
Live DJ and Photo Booth	6-8:30PM & 9-12AM	Meyer Maple Lanes
Bounce House Fun	6-9PM	Family Fun Zone
Tubing/Skiing <i>(weather permitting)</i>	6-9:45 PM	Arrowhead
World Under Wonder	Shows at 6,7, 8 & 9 PM	Opera House
Pool & Gym Activities	6-9:45PM	CSBCC
Midway Carnival Games	6-10PM	CSBCC
Resolutions with CCTV	6-10PM	CSBCC
Horse Drawn Wagon Rides	6-9PM	CSBCC & Arrowhead
Dylan Tenney Magic (Show 1)	6:15-7:15PM	CSBCC
Castle Bay (NE Celtic Music)	7:30-8:30PM	CSBCC
Dylan Tenney Magic (Show 2)	8:45-9:45PM	CSBCC
Fireworks	10PM	Arrowhead

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Ann's Property Of The Week

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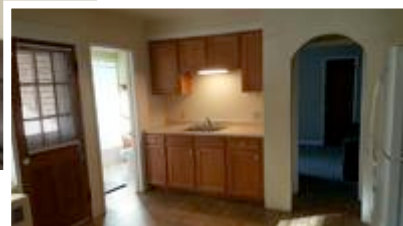
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Classified Ads

Voluntary Water Use Restriction Removed

CLAREMONT, NH--The Claremont municipal water system has endured and survived the drought of 2016, reported the Department of Public Works. In October the Sugar River had the lowest flow of any time in the last 88 years of record keeping. The river is now running above the 25th percentile.

The Whitewater Reservoir has been replenished with the recent precipitation.

NOAA reports that we may not get enough rain to replenish the ground water and private wells before the ground froze was helped by a warm November and timely precipitation, said the DPW.

"We appreciate everyone's conservation and environmental sustainability efforts to preserve our precious water supply," said Vic St. Pierre, Assistant Public Works Director.

City Tax Bills Due Jan. 3rd

CLAREMONT, NH--Reminder! The tax rate has been set and tax bills have gone out. They are due January 3rd.

Parks & Rec, COH Join Up To Present Double Feature

CLAREMONT, NH--On Saturday, Dec. 17th at 6:00 p.m., come enjoy a double feature at the Claremont Opera House free to all. The doors to the Opera House will open approximately one hour prior to show time. Features include "How the Grinch Stole Christmas": On the outskirts of Whoville, there lives a green, revenge-seeking Grinch who plans on ruining the Christmas holiday for all of the citizens of town; "The Nightmare Before Christmas": Jack Skellington, king of Halloween Town, discovers Christmas Town but doesn't quite understand the concept.

Movies kick off at 6:00 p.m. and will play back to back.

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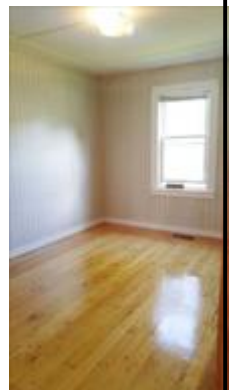


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Classified Ads



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- Providing safe transportation for medical appointments or community activities.

Full-time, part-time, weekend only positions are available as various locations within Sullivan and lower Grafton counties in NH!

Qualifications:

- High School Diploma or equivalent required. Must be at least 18 years of age.
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- Ability to work in a team environment
- Interested in assisting individuals achieve personal outcomes
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***\$60 per day travel stipend for those with long commutes to the Lebanon or Lyme area for your first 90 days!

***Up to a \$1,000 hiring bonus for Lyme and Lebanon locations only! Previous employees excluded.

If interested, please email khenning@pathwaysnh.org or download an application at www.pathwaysnh.org. You can also mail your resume to Human Resources, 654 Main Street, Claremont, NH 03743.

Classified Ads



Bank Robbery In Hartland

HARTLAND, VT--Saturday, at approximately 10:15 a.m., a lone male entered the Hartland, VT, branch of the Mascoma Savings Bank on VT Route 12 at the junction with US 5 and demanded money from a teller. This male is described as a 5'6"-5'8" tall, 150-160 lbs, brown mustache with facial hair, wearing a dark blue or black cap with ear flaps down, two tone zip up, hooded jacket black over grey in color with the interior of the hood being orange, tan pants, and black shoes. The male did not display a weapon and made off with an undisclosed amount of cash.

The suspect left the bank on foot and headed southwest on foot.

Anyone with any information regarding this robbery or who can identify the suspect in the photo at the top is asked to contact Det./Sgt. Eric Albright-Bureau of Criminal Investigation-Troop D-Westminster-802-722-4600.



Sullivan County, NH, seeks Director of Facilities & Operations for its Unity & Newport Locations

Sullivan County seeks a highly motivated and experienced individual to work in a team environment to provide leadership and management of the Facilities & Operations Department. The Director of Facilities and Operations is responsible for the planning and direction of structural maintenance and mechanical operations of all buildings, vehicles and accessory equipment in both the Newport and Unity complexes. For more information including a full job profile visit the Employment link at <http://www.sullivancountynh.gov>.

Minimum Qualifications: A candidate for this position should have a Bachelor's Degree in an appropriate discipline and at least five years of experience in management or supervisory responsibilities *or* any combination of education, training and progressively responsible work experience as would demonstrate possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the work. This position requires considerable knowledge in a variety of areas including engineering, construction, electrical, materials, heating & cooling systems, roads and drainage, motor vehicle mechanics, and budgeting and capital planning.

Position will remain open until filled; a preliminary review of applications will occur on or about **January 6, 2017**.

TO APPLY: Send cover letter, resume, and list of five professional references to:

Director of Facilities Search
Jessie Levine, County Manager
Sullivan County
14 Main Street
Newport, NH 03773

or via email to jlevine@sullivancountynh.gov.

Contact Jessie Levine, County Manager, Phone: 603-863-2560 ext. 101 or Jane Jontz, Director of Human Resources, 603-542-9511 ext. 216. A drug screen, criminal history & background check will be required of the finalist.

Sullivan County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Meet Author/Illustrator Harry Bliss In Plainfield

PLAINFIELD, NH--A program featuring author/illustrator Harry Bliss will be held on Saturday, Dec., 17, at 10:00 a.m. at the Philip Read Memorial Library

Bliss has created the pictures for "Diary of a Worm", "Diary of a Spider" and "Diary of a Fly" by Doreen Cronin, all *New York Times* best sellers. He is an internationally syndicated cartoonist and cover artist for the *New Yorker Magazine*.

Bliss will read and draw for the audience. Program is open to the public; children, teens and adults will enjoy his presentation.

e-Ticker Business News

NFR Expansion...

An artist rendering of the National Field Representatives expansion underway on Maple Ave. in Claremont. The second floor will include an outdoor covered area with tables for employees to enjoy outdoor breaks, including lunch. The expansion will enable the company to consolidate three current locations into one. The multi-million dollar project is expected to be completed by next July.



Mt. Ascutney Hospital Introduces MRI Imaging Services At Ottauquechee Health Center

WINDSOR, VT – MRI technology is an effective diagnostic tool that lets doctors “see” what’s going on inside the body for faster, more accurate diagnoses of tumors, internal injuries and other medical problems.

MRIs have revolutionized the world of medicine, but the technology isn’t available in every community, which is why Mt. Ascutney Hospital has made introduction of the service to the greater Woodstock area one of its top development goals this year.

A new Mobile MRI Unit, located at the Ottauquechee Health Center is now available every other Wednesday, with a schedule that may be expanded in response to community need.

Designed to fit the needs of both patients and doctors, the technology can be utilized quickly and easily at OHC regardless of where an individual gets their primary or specialty

care.

Terri DeMond, Radiology Manager at Mt. Ascutney Hospital noted, “MRI technology is particularly useful for the detection of abnormalities in glands and organs within the abdomen, and accurate information about the structure of the joints, soft tissues, and bones of the body. An MRI scan can provide information about blood circulation to aid in the detection of problems. There is no radiation with an MRI but rather it is a technique that uses magnetism, radio waves, and a computer to produce images of body structures.”

In addition to MRI services, Mt. Ascutney Hospital is in the process of completing installation of a digital x-ray system at OHC. The new system is expected to go online by late December and offers sharper images, lower radiation exposure and streamlined integration of digital information into a patients’ electronic

medical records and can be shared with other care facilities.

According to Mt. Ascutney Hospital Interim CEO Gay Landstrom, the addition of the Mobile MRI Unit for OHC and digital x-ray system in Windsor are part of the Hospital’s ongoing mission to bring advanced medical technology to patients in the rural communities it serves. “Mt. Ascutney Hospital was founded in order to provide people living in small towns with fast, easy access to state-of-the-art care,” said Landstrom. “We’re proud to offer these life-saving technologies so close to home. Providing superior capabilities with local convenience is why we’re here.”

For more information about Imaging Services at OHC, visit MtAscutneyHospital.org/OHC, or call (802) 674-7276 to schedule an appointment.

e-Ticker Business News

Consolidated Communications Holdings To Acquire Fairpoint

MATTOON, IL-- Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: CNSL) announced Dec. 5th that it has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire FairPoint Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: FRP) in an all-stock merger transaction valued at approximately \$1.5 billion, including debt. The agreement and the proposed merger have been unanimously approved by the boards of directors at both companies.

"This transaction combines two companies with extensive fiber networks, complementary strategies focusing on being the leading business and broadband solutions provider," said Bob Udell, president and chief executive officer of Consolidated Communications. "This merger positions Consolidated to leverage its extensive product and services portfolio and consultative sales approach across 24 states bringing advanced solutions and a better experience to customers. We are well positioned to ensure a smooth transition for customers and employees as we leverage a solid track record of successful integrations."

"I am very proud of my team and our employees and all that we have accomplished in the last several years," said Paul Sunu, chief executive officer of FairPoint. "This transaction offers a number of benefits for FairPoint's shareholders including the enhanced scale of the combined company, the opportunity to benefit from the realization of synergies and the receipt of an attractive dividend going forward. I am confident the new combined company will accelerate our progress and bring numerous benefits to our customers, employees and shareholders. Together, FairPoint and Consolidated Communications create a highly competitive business and broadband company with a superior network to de-

liver a best-in-class experience to carrier, commercial and consumer customers."

"The financial benefits associated with the combination in the form of synergies and reduced leverage provide us additional operating and strategic flexibility going forward," Udell added. "The transaction is meaningfully accretive to free cash flow per share in the first year, strengthening the dividend payout ratio while maintaining our current dividend policy to shareholders."

Under the terms of the agreement, FairPoint shareholders will receive a fixed exchange ratio of 0.7300 shares of Consolidated Communications common stock for each share of FairPoint common stock. This equates to a premium of 17.3 percent to the 30-day average exchange ratio as of Dec. 2, 2016. After closing, Consolidated's shareholders will own approximately 71.3 percent of the pro forma combined company and FairPoint's shareholders will own 28.7 percent.

On a pro forma basis, the combined company generated more than \$1.5 billion in revenue and \$566 million in adjusted EBITDA before synergies or \$621 million after synergies for the 12 months ending Sept. 30, 2016. The combined markets are expected to

strengthen Consolidated's growth opportunities, enhancing its scale with a fiber-rich network that will extend across 24 states. Together, Consolidated Communications and FairPoint will expand upon the strong reputations each has built with its customers and in the communities they serve.

The transaction is expected to generate annual operating synergies of approximately \$55 million, which are expected to be achieved within two years after completion of the merger.

After the transaction closes, Bob Udell will continue to serve as president and chief executive officer of the combined company.

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e-Ticker Business News

Weinstein To Retire As CEO And President Of Dartmouth-Hitchcock

LEBANON, NH--Dr. James N. Weinstein, CEO and President of Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health (D-HH) system, will retire from that position at the end of his term, June 30, 2017, Anne-Lee Verville, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Boards Chair, has announced.

In a letter to Dartmouth-Hitchcock employees, she said: "The Board of Trustees accepts Jim's decision with great admiration and appreciation for all he has done during his many years of service to Dartmouth-Hitchcock, not only in his current role, but in past leadership roles including President of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic, Director of The Dartmouth Institute, and the inaugural Chair of the Department of Orthopaedics."

Weinstein, who first shared his retirement decision with Board leadership in 2015, will remain in the role of CEO and President through the end of his contract, after which he will also carry on his national work with the High Value Healthcare Collaborative, the National Academy of Medicine Board for Population Health, the VA Special Medical Advisory Group, and other bodies on which he serves. He will remain as Peggy Y. Thomson Chair in the Evaluative Clinical Sciences at the Geisel School of Medicine and will continue to hold his academic and clinical positions in the D-H and Geisel Departments of Orthopaedics.

A search committee of the Board is being formed and will oversee the hiring and leadership transition process. This committee will be co-chaired by William J. Conaty, former GE Senior Vice President of Corporate Human Resources, and Ms. Verville, former senior executive for IBM.

Weinstein assumed the role of CEO and President in 2011 following a transition from a dual leadership model in which the Presidents of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic co-governed the organization. As inaugural CEO and President, he laid out "a strategy for creating a sustainable health system to improve the lives of the people and communities Dartmouth-Hitchcock



Dr. James N. Weinstein

serves, for generations to come," said D-H.

"It has been an incredible privilege to lead this organization," Weinstein said. "Dartmouth-Hitchcock is blessed with a fantastic team of skilled and dedicated professionals who come to work every day in service to those who entrust us with their care."

Weinstein came to Dartmouth-Hitchcock in 1996, leaving a position as an endowed professor at the University of Iowa health system.

Claremont Businesses ID'd As Two Of The "Fastest Growing Companies"

Business NH Magazine (December 2016 issue) has identified two of the fastest growing companies on the NH Private 100 list as Claremont companies. Ranked third for growth is National Field Representatives and fifth for growth is Red River Computer. To quote Matthew Mowry in the The Fast Five article, "The Sugar River flows through the center of Claremont and the big question is: What's in that water and how do I get some of it? The former mill town is home to two of the five fastest growing companies on this year's Private 100 list."

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Choirs from St. Joseph Parish and Northeast Catholic College during the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday (Courtesy photo).



Fr. Brancich delivers the sermon at St. Joseph Church in Claremont during the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, Dec. 8 (Courtesy photo).

Latin Traditions...

A Traditional Latin Mass was offered at St. Joseph Church, 58 Elm Street, Claremont, on Thursday, Dec. 8, at noon in honor of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This was the first time since 1965 that the Extraordinary Form was offered in this parish. It was a sung High Mass, celebrated by a priest from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter. The Latin Mass was the norm before the changes made under Vatican II. St. Joseph Church did not undergo any of the post-Vatican II renovations that prevailed elsewhere; the high altar, side altar, and altar rails remain unaltered in their original condition.



Servers from Northeast Catholic College at St. Joseph church (Courtesy photo).

SHS Student One Of 2 Chosen From NH As Delegate To US Senate Youth Program

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--Marion Lovett, a senior at Stevens High School, was recognized during the December 7th Claremont School Board meeting for being selected as one of only two students to represent New Hampshire as a

delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program to be held in Washington, DC, March 4–11, 2017. SHS principal Pat Barry received a letter announcing Lovett's selection from Rayne Guilford,

Program Director of the United States Senate Youth Program.

In the letter Guilford wrote, "We are very pleased to notify you that your student Marion Lovett has been selected as one of only two students to represent your state as a delegate to the United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) to be held in Washington, D.C. March 4 – 11, 2017. Marion will also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship to be utilized in accordance with the rules of the program.

"The USSYP was founded in 1962 through Senate Resolution and each year two of the highest-achieving students from each state, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense Education system overseas are selected through an extremely competitive merit-based selection process held at the state departments of education nationwide. Congratulations to Marion and to all of you at Stevens High School."

During Wednesday's meeting, Lovett was



Marion Lovett, daughter of Bob and Charlene Lovett, is also a Student Rep at school board meetings (Bill Binder photo).

recognized by those in attendance, including Barry who presented her with a cake and congratulations.

During the 55th annual gathering, delegates will hear major policy addresses by senators,

cabinet members, officials of the Departments of State and Defense and leaders of other federal agencies, as well as participate in a meeting with a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court and the president of the United States.

Second Harvest Food Drive



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Here's Your Retirement "To Do" List

At this time of year, your life is probably more hectic than usual – so you may have assembled an impressive "to do" list. This can be a helpful tool for organizing your activities in the near future – but have you ever thought of developing a "to do" list for long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement? If not, you may want to think about it – and here are a few list-worthy items to consider:

- **Examine – and re-examine – your planned retirement age.** You may have long counted on retiring at a certain age, but are you sure that this goal is the best one for your overall financial situation? Think about it: If you like your job, and you stayed at it for just a few more years, you could significantly boost the funds in your 401(k) or other retirement plan, and you might even be able to delay taking Social Security, which, in turn, would result in larger monthly payments.
- **Put a "price tag" on your retirement lifestyle.** When you retire, do you want to travel the world or stay at home pursuing your hobbies? Will you truly retire from all types of work, or will you do some consulting or take up part-time employment? Once you know what your retirement lifestyle might look like, you can better estimate your costs and expenses – and this knowledge will help you determine how much you need to withdraw each year from your various retirement accounts, such as your IRA, 401(k) or other employer-based plan.
- **Be aware of retirement plan withdrawal rules.** It isn't enough just to recognize how much you need to withdraw from your retirement plans – you also must know how much you must withdraw. Once you turn 70 ½, you generally have to start taking money out of your traditional IRA and 401(k). These required minimum distributions, or RMDs, are based on your account balance, age and other factors, but the key word to remember is "required" – if you don't withdraw the full amount of the RMD by the applicable deadline, the amount not withdrawn can be taxed at a 50% rate.
- **Review your health care situation.** When you turn 65, you will likely be eligible for Medicare, but you'll want to become familiar with what it does – and doesn't – cover, so you can establish an annual health care budget. And if you are planning to retire early, which might mean losing your employer-sponsored health insurance, you will need to be prepared for potentially large out-of-pocket costs.
- **Think about long-term care.** One service that Medicare doesn't cover – or, at best, covers only minimally – is long-term care. If you faced an extended stay in a nursing home, the costs could be catastrophic. A financial professional may be able to help you find a way to reduce this risk.
- **Develop your estate plans.** Estate planning can be complex, involving many different documents – such as a will, a living trust, power of attorney, etc. – so you'll want to work with a legal professional to ensure you're making the right choices for yourself and your family.

By checking off these items, one by one, your retirement "to do" list will eventually get "done." And when that happens, you may find yourself pretty well prepared to enjoy life as a retiree.

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



How Well Do You Know The Claremont School District?

Several months ago I was invited to the Greater Claremont Realtors quarterly meeting to talk about Claremont and what is happening in the community. One of the topics of con-

cern was the Claremont School District and the negative comments that realtors often hear from prospective buyers. Some of these comments are reflective of the challenges that the school district faces, others are based on perception not necessarily grounded in fact.

Often we are focused, and with good reason, on the challenges that the district faces. However, this can sometimes get in the way of acknowledging the opportunities that abound throughout the school district. One only has to look at recent headlines to know that students are excelling, but these are reported as independent and isolated events. Understanding the opportunities that the district offers as a whole is critical to growing the community and our tax base.

To provide realtors with some facts that could be shared with prospective buyers, I compiled the following fact sheet. Perhaps it will also be of interest to you.

CLAREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT OPPORTUNITY FACT SHEET

- As of 2015, the Claremont School District offers full day Kindergarten.
 - Studies show children who are not proficient in reading and math by the 3rd grade will struggle in school. Children entering 1st grade prepared are equipped to succeed.
 - In 2016, 94% of Claremont children entered 1st grade reading at or emerging level, and 90% at or emerging level in math as measured by iReady Diagnostic Assessment.
- The Claremont School District offers a variety of technical courses at the Sugar River Valley Regional Technical Center.
 - Technical courses include building construction, plumbing and HVAC, accounting, machine tool technologies, engineering, manufacturing, and culinary arts, with additional courses being offered at the Newport campus.
 - Students compete in these fields at the state and national level and often win.
 - Students taking these courses are often motivated to seek further training in these skill sets, and

many have started their own businesses.

3. Junior and seniors can earn college credits while attending high school at a fraction of the cost.

- Students enrolled in the Running Start program take River Valley Community College (RVCC) courses at Stevens High School.

- Students enrolled in the Catch the Wave program take RVCC courses at the local college campus.

- College courses taken while in high school are \$150 as opposed to \$600-\$700 if taken later.

- Credits earned fulfill both high school and college graduation requirements and are transferrable to other higher ed institutions.

4. The Claremont School District offers a wide variety of athletic programs and after school clubs.

- In 2016, the Stevens High School field hockey, boys and girls soccer, and football varsity teams went to the playoffs, and the golf team went to the state championship.

- In 2016, the Robotics Club went to Louisiana State University to compete internationally in robotics.

- These activities have provided students with scholarship opportunities and access to state, regional, national and international competitions.

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

We welcome Letters To The Editor.

Send to etickernews@gmail.com

Fugitive Of The Week

Quintin Hardy

DOB: 07/28/1986

LKA: 48

Puckershire Ave., Claremont, NH

Description: Height: 5'7", weight: 150, eyes: brown, hair: black

On Oct. 22, 2014, the Sul-

livan County Grand Jury indicted Quintin Hardy on two felony counts of Sale of Crack Cocaine.

On April 22, 2015, the Sullivan County Grand Jury indicted Hardy on one felony count of Sale of Crack Cocaine and one felony count of Assault by Prisoners.

On Aug. 17, 2015, the Sullivan County Superior Court sentenced Hardy on the above offenses. As part of his sentence, he was placed on probation. On Nov, 15, 2016, the NH Probation Department filed a violation of probation alleging Hardy had violated his probation.

On Dec. 7, 2016, the Sullivan County Superior Court issued a warrant for Hardy's arrest for violation of probation.

This information is provided by Sheriff John Simonds of the Sullivan County Sheriff's Dept.



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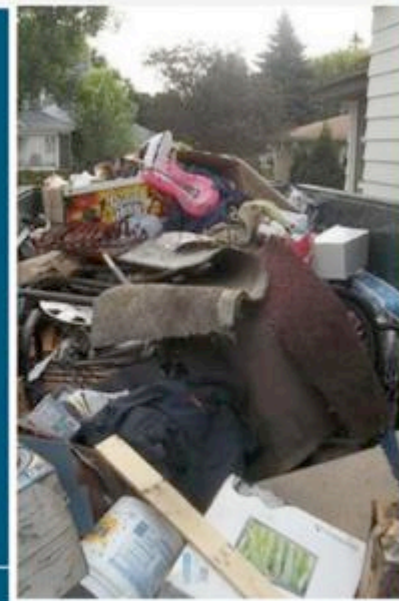


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Flight, Slapstick Science At Claremont Opera House

CLAREMONT, NH--Everybody wants to know how an airplane flies and on December 16, 10:00 a.m. at the Claremont Opera House, certified science teacher and former Ringling Bros. performer, Ted Lawrence, will demonstrate how it happens.

This show is a celebration of the Wright Bros. First Flight in 1903. The anniversary of the First Flight is December 17! Using a great deal of audience participation and dozens of classic demonstrations, some of which are only offered by Slapstick Science outside the walls of major science museums, Lawrence teaches how the Wright Bros. used the discoveries of other scientists that were centuries old before they managed to succeed where all others had failed.

Good for all audience K - 8 and even family audiences. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door. Call 603-542-0064.



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It's About Food By Johnny Navillus



Just Playin'

A really good thickening agent for beef stew is tomato paste. Take a small can and start adding to the stew. Stir some in and see how that thickens it. If you want it thicker, add more. It usually only takes me a half can to get it where I want it. What to do with a half can of tomato paste? I have no clue. I used to put it in a plastic container and put it in the fridge. After two weeks of shuffling it around I would throw it out. Now I just go straight to the sink monster (disposer).

Last week I sauteed some shrimp in olive oil, many garlic cloves minced, thyme, basil leaves and a pinch of oregano. I had a fair amount of the oil mixture left over. I saved it in a plastic container for what I had no idea.

A couple of days later I was frying some of those really thin pork chops and decided to use the leftover oil. I poured it on a few minutes before the chops were done. Very surprising result. There was no real shrimp flavor left but the chops were excellent. The oil and herbs gave a nice flavor to the pork. I did not start out thinking of this, but it just dawned on me in the process. Play with that leftover stuff. There is always delivery.

Here is a slow cooker dinner that is mainly a guideline. I don't like fennel and neither does anyone else in the house. So I just skip it. A recipe is just a guide. The only really mandatory items are cooking time and temperature and the main item. Everything else is open to interpretation.

Pork Roast Dinner

- 1 boneless whole pork loin roast (3 to 4 pounds)
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 2 teaspoons fennel seeds crushed
- 1 ½ teaspoons dried rosemary crushed
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1 ½ lbs medium potatoes peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 ½ pound large sweet potato peeled and cut into chunks
- 2 large sweet onions cut into eighths
- ½ cup chicken broth

Cut roast in half.

Combine the garlic, fennel, rosemary, oregano, salt and pepper.

Rub over the roast.

Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours.

Place potatoes and onions in slow cooker, top with pork.

Cover and cook on low for 8 to 10 hours.

Serve with applesauce.

However you want to change this, the 8 (or a couple more) hours marinating is essential. Enjoy.

Play with your food. All the best cooks do.

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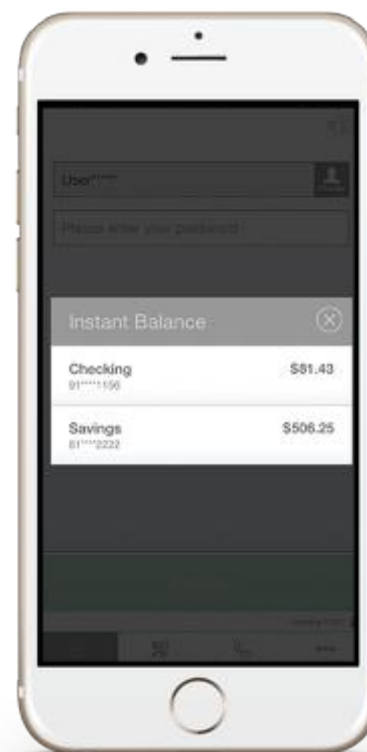


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Special Decorations Add To The Meaning Of The Christmas Season

By Phyllis A. Muzeroll
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--For everyone who celebrates the Christmas season, displaying special decorations and ornaments adds to the meaning of the holiday season. Such items can evoke memories of a wide range, from happy and funny to poignant and heartwarming. Recently some of our readers and followers shared items that have special meaning to them, in story and in picture.

My first Christmas as a married woman, I wanted something really special to put on top of our tree for the rest of our Christmases. We couldn't afford something really nice, and the stuff in the stores nearby was chintzy, so I built an angel and dressed her in the clothes I wore on our first date. (My name is Angela, I made an angel, yes that was on purpose.) I have zero talent in the visual arts, so she doesn't have a face because I didn't trust myself to get it right. It's been 12 Christmases now, and I still can't bring myself to try--Angela Biggs



My beautiful Grandmother passed away a few years ago. She was the rock of our large family. I remember going to her house for Christmas every year, since I was a little boy. She made sure Christmas was awesome for everyone. This is one of her antique ornaments that I was able to obtain. Merry Christmas in Heaven, Gram Hooper. I love and miss you--Ted Russell



My husband is an Army veteran. This is one of the ornaments we have proudly hanging on our tree--Brenda Perkins

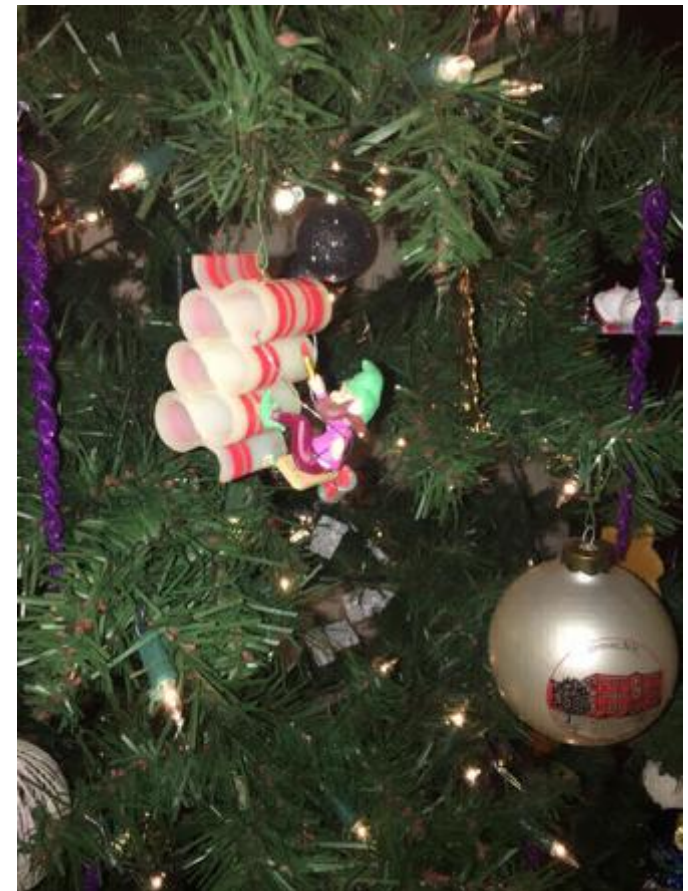
I got this ornament in the summer of 2011... My Uncle Albert Minckler passed away suddenly in July of 2010. He was a well known member of our community, he owned A&M Automotive, and he would have given the shirt off his back to anyone in need. I bought this ornament in the Summer of 2011 while my family and I were at Santa's Village. When it isn't hanging on my Christmas tree, it's hanging on my wall because I'm too afraid that it may break if I pack it away with the rest of the Christmas stuff--Jessica Rose Marie



Blown glass, one of my most precious but no story to it--Michelle Chase



These are two that I have, and adore, along with many others, of course. My grandparents gave these to me last year because they had them for 26 years and found them while re-doing their house. They were in the original boxes and kept them for me so when I got older I could have them--Kayla Gonyea



We call him Ralph the Candy Elf. As a kid during the Christmas season, Ralph would show up one night and leave candy canes on the tree, as well as a note to tell us he has been watching us and to be good for Santa to come on Christmas. Later in life my dad wrote a short story about Ralph and gave it to us for Christmas, along with an elf charm for our charm bracelets--Danielle Plourde

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Decorations, from A24



My favorite Christmas ornament is the one my husband used to propose to me 2 years ago on Thanksgiving weekend. It has always been our tradition to get our Christmas tree the weekend after Thanksgiving. That year was no exception. Little did I know my talented father-in-law had carved and painted this ornament and he and his girlfriend went to Bishop's Christmas Tree Farm in Springfield, VT, to decorate a tree in advance prior to our arrival. My husband always takes special care to walk the entire tree farm before making a selection, and as we walked the lot we "stumbled" upon the decorated tree. Me being gullible as I am, read the ornament and thought, "Oh, isn't that cute", assuming it was for some other couple. Next thing I know my handsome man was on one knee, popped the question and we took that special tree home, placed the ornament in the perfect spot and, well, the rest is history. Every year we will hang this special ornament on our tree in honor of such a special memory--Kaity Ferland

Every year we always get a special ornament that summarizes the accomplishments and memories we made during that year. For example 2 years ago we went to Disney World for a family vacation and each of us brought our favorite Disney characters ears and we came home with a Minnie Mouse ear ornament. Last year we went to Storyland and got our family picture taken on the bamboo shoots and we purchased our picture in an ornament for the tree. This year we started karate as a family got a black belt penguin ornament--Becky Prew

I have one that my fitness trainer got me last year for Xmas--Kayla Millette



While not an ornament, it is my most important Christmas decoration. This house came from Germany. My dad served in the Army there and brought it back with him. This was the first house my father had in his Christmas platform that he built every year. It grew from under the tree when he lived with his mom to filing our entire basement year round. It took from Thanksgiving till Christmas Eve every year to redesign it. This was our time together. I cherished being able to help design (it). When he moved to an apartment, he boxed everything up and tucked notes in them for me to share with the boys. Each note had a story, 50+ years of history. This single piece is all that is left from over 60 boxes of train designs. This piece, with the hand written note, is my only physical memory from my childhood that survived the house fire from 2012--Cindy Gallagher



I have four one from 2003, Rick and my 1st Christmas together, and the other three are homemade ornaments, including this one, from the kids which are what I want most on my tree--Missy Bonner

Editor's note--Thank you to everyone who shared these memories with us for others to enjoy and appreciate.



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E Salonce

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 12:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Wednesday 10:30 am - 2:30 pm
Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



On behalf of the Claremont Parks and Recreation Department,

We would like to thank all the community volunteers, especially the Broad Street Park project team leaders, Michelle Pierce, Tracey Osgood, Leslie Minckler, & Cully Thurston. Without the help from many more volunteers, the lighting of the park would not have been such a great success.

A special thanks to the following for their generous donations & time spent volunteering:

**Home Depot
The Claremont Fire Dept.
The Heart of Claremont
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The Clermont 4-H Groups
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