

Festival of Trees

Kristy Boulé

Little did they know ...

In the fall of 2009, when the effects of the Great Recession were felt strongly in our town, local area and state, three women got together and pondered what could be done to put a little sparkle in the holidays for our community. It had to be free of cost and appeal to a wide variety of people. Thelma Nichols and Missy Taylor of the Antrim Historical Society approached Connie Vandervort, a friend of the Tuttle Library, with an idea of putting on a community event. Local businesses and townspeople were approached with the idea of decorating a Christmas tree for display at the library. People could bring their families, for free, to enjoy a little holiday spirit. The display would stay up until the first of the New Year so that everyone (and their holiday guests) could have a chance to enjoy it. As Thelma recounts, when proposing the idea to one local business owner, she remembers telling him “and it isn’t going to cost you a penny!” Little did she know that this business owner’s wife would get so involved.

Gerry McGlory and I joined the committee the following year, each having decorated a tree the first year.

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Photo by Frank Gorga

Ladies' Night at Edmunds

Joan Gorga

Ladies of Antrim (and beyond), tie up your sneakers and get ready for the 3rd annual Ladies' Night at Edmunds to be held from 6–8 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, at both the Antrim and Henniker Edmunds locations. The event is again designed as a charity fundraiser, with the recipients the first two years having been breast cancer support and the food pantry.

This year's fundraiser will be for the animal adoption services of Pope Memorial SPCA in Concord. The way it works is you pay \$5 for a large stocking when you walk in the door. The \$5 goes to the SPCA, and then you get 20% off anything that fits into the stocking. You can even give the stocking back and take your loot home in a bag, if you decide your husband doesn't really deserve to have the biggest, best-stuffed stocking in the house, although mine would disagree. Most of us admit we aren't really looking for anything for the men in our lives, anyway.

There will also be a box for material donations to the SPCA, kind of like

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All Roads Lead from Antrim

J. Alfred

If I was going to Hancock
I'd head to Clinton a few blocks
Then hit the dirt road, dodging rocks
Till paving resumed, and check my shocks

If I was going to Stoddard
I'd follow Route 9 westward
Past the Old Stone Bridge, on my guard
For the North Branch crossing—it's not hard

If I was going to Bennington
I'd stop at Tenney's and then,
After ice cream—if I kept goin'—
I'd get there, but don't know when

But if I was goin' to Timbuktu
I know exactly what I'd do
I'd start out on 202
—and ask for directions

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— SUBSCRIPTIONS —

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Subscriptions
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Antrim, NH 03440

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— SUBMISSIONS —

The Limrik welcomes submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, news and calendar items by, for and about the people of Antrim. Submission deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Submissions should be no more than 1500 words in length and should be submitted in digital form as a Microsoft Word-compatible document attached to an email. Submissions should be sent by email to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org. Call 588-2569 for more information or to discuss ideas.

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

The Limrik accepts letters to the editor of maximum length of 250 words. Publication is subject to the Editor's discretion. Email letters to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org.

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

Ladies' Night at Edmunds continued from page 1

for the food pantry. The SPCA has a wish list on their website (popememorialsPCA.org) that includes several varieties of dog and cat toys and treats, Purina One dog and cat food, cat beds, clay cat litter, fleece blankets, gently-used towels and wash cloths, paper towels, Dawn dish detergent, dish-washing pods, laundry detergent, and tall kitchen and heavy duty trash bags. Many of these items will be available on Ladies Night at a bargain price. Rick Edmunds says they will have a list of needed items posted at each location.

The Edmunds staff will be preparing another sumptuous layout of easy-snack foods and everybody who's anybody will be there. It's a great chance to leisurely peruse the aisles (if you can get through), and a little conversation may also take place. A few brave men have even been known to work their way through the crowd. So come on out for Ladies' Night at Edmunds! It's always a fun night. ❄



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For several years, the Festival was run by a committee of three or four. Laurie Cass-Griggs joined the group early on. As the Festival grew and visitorship increased, more and more was added each year. More than a dozen people now volunteer their time on the Committee. Planning for the next year often begins before the current one is done. Little did they know how much it would grow and what a treasured event it would become. Hundreds of people attend Open House on the Saturday of Thanksgiving Weekend. Hundreds more visit each week and special event, totaling thousands per year.

2019 marks the tenth anniversary for Antrim's Festival of Trees. We believe it's the best one yet! Come and celebrate this milestone with us and reminisce with a display of past year's events, enjoy the wreaths made by community members during our evening Wreath Workshop, delight in the display of quilts and handcrafts showcasing the artistry of the region, and take a crack at the Scavenger Hunt. And of course, the trees! Be sure to vote for your favorite—voting for favorites will continue through 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14.

A couple of special events are scheduled for this (shorter) holiday season. In collaboration with the Antrim Historical Society, "Ringing in the Holidays" will feature a performance by the Village Ringers [handbell choir] of Hancock, under the direction of Sarah Hale. The program will take place at the First Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Antrim on Sunday, December 8, at 3 p.m. Free admission.

The Festival Gala & Meet-the-Artist Night is Saturday, December 14, from 7–9 p.m. at the James A. Tuttle Library, 45 Main Street in Antrim. There'll be entertainment, seasonal refreshments, appetizers and desserts, Donation Basket Raffles, Quilt Raffle winner drawing and announcements of this season's favorites!

Little did they know what they'd begun ... Thank you! ❁





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LETTER TO THE EDITOR


Over the last several weeks the Antrim Select Board has read several news articles published by some members of our local media regarding two areas of interest taking place within our community. The Select Board felt it fitting and appropriate to clarify to our residents a more accurate and substantive understanding of these events.

First is Antrim Wind Energy, LLC (AWE), the holder of the certificate of site and facility, with conditions, issued by the NH Site Evaluation Committee on March 17, 2017. One of the conditions requires AWE to remain in compliance with its Agreement effective March 8, 2012, and with its amended Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) document executed with the Town of Antrim.

The PILOT document requires specified payment amounts be made to the town when anticipated construction phase milestones require additional time to complete and when AWE expressly communicates to the town their intent to continue the Project. Payment date milestones have always been part of the PILOT structure from the inception of the project and have recently been reported in the media as a possible penalty or fee paid for an extension of time granted by the town in order to allow them to reach their commercial operation date (COD). The required date to achieve the Project's COD was extended by a year during 2018 to December 31, 2019, and financial consideration was paid to the town at the time the extension was granted. AWE and the Select Board believe at this time that AWE will reach its estimated COD date by December 31, 2019. If achieved, 2019 will be its formula-based transition payment year, with tax year 2020 becoming the first year the full PILOT payment amount will become effective.

The second area of confusion relates to a local media reporting regarding the resurfacing and related funding of the gymnasium floor located at our Antrim Community Memorial Gym at Antrim Elementary School. The Select Board want to clarify that the gym floor has been sanded and refinished, not replaced. In terms of the Project's funding, the Select Board, in concert with Antrim's Trustees of Trust Funds, agreed to request a portion of the project cost be

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Great Brook Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Tom Dowling, Veterinarian
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funded through a partial disbursement of accumulated earnings from long-ago established Town trust funds left to the Town for the benefit of Antrim schools. A formula was provided by the Select Board suggesting an equitable percentage of cost sharing between town funds, AES and GBS trust funds, as the Town as well as students from both schools benefit from usage of the gym. The noted trust funds are exclusively managed by Antrim's Trustees of Trust Funds. Only annual earnings from the Funds have been forwarded to ConVal School District as the Antrim School Board was dissolved when Antrim joined the ConVal Cooperative School District. In a recent vote, the ConVal School Board voted to close their holding account and return the entire amount to Antrim's Trustees of Trust Funds to manage all future distribution of earnings in accordance with the terms and wishes of the donors. The School District to date has not contributed any funding in support of the recently completed floor resurfacing but the Select Board remains hopeful that they will do so.

Thank you.

Town of Antrim Select Board

John Robertson, Chair
Michael Genest, Selectman
Robert L. Edwards, Selectman



Antrim Police Department

Chief Scott R. Lester

A principal function of the Police Chief is to provide leadership within the department and the community—to ensure that the police department can provide quality law enforcement services throughout the community as a partnership, without jeopardizing the safety of our officers and our citizens. I work very hard to maintain a department that can preserve peace, protect life and property, and enforce laws economically and effectively. The act of structuring and organizing the department is indispensable to proper management. When proper organizational concepts are poorly understood or applied, the efficiency of the department and its effectiveness will be severely affected.

For years we have relied on our five full-time (FT) officers to maintain 24/7 coverage. Four of seven day shifts are normally staffed by two uniformed police officers (Chief + one Patrol) and two of seven night shifts are covered by two uniformed officers, with all remaining coverage being handled by a single officer. This excludes times when the department is understaffed due to illness, injury, vacation, training and court appearances. All officers are responsible for the day-to-day calls for service, specific services requested by the residents, courts, schools, civic groups and traffic enforcement at specific locations and much more. Often times, these officers carry an active case load (investigations) of 5+ incidents to work on between emergency and non-emergency calls. Mutual aid is available most times but cannot be relied upon.

Since 2012, we have only had two of five part-time (PT) positions filled. To hire an uncertified, "green" officer to train and develop for a PT position, it takes about 18 to 24 months at an expense of approximately \$52,000. Once our investment has been made, we really don't have any method of retaining this officer, who most likely wants to go FT. This means that the five FT officers consistently maintain a heavy workload. Not having PT officers to rely on, we operate with just the five FT officers and have often been without one, and sometimes two, of those officers due to turnover.

In 2016, we established a 32-hour-a-week part-time officer in lieu of trying to fill three PT positions that had been vacant for over three years. This position was presented through the budget process and filled in July 2017. In November 2017, we lost our only other PT officer, leaving us with a total of six officers (five FT and one PT). The 32-hour position was the only PT position funded for 2018. In February 2018, the officer hired for the 32-hour position could not fulfill the commitment and returned to his previous status, and his availability became very limited. We advertised and searched for another candidate to fill the open position and received little to no interest. I feel that the lack of interest was a direct result of the law changes which would strictly limit the ability of retired FT officers to con-

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tinue “working after retirement” within law enforcement.

I continued to evaluate the patrol and investigative practices of the department and how each relate to the number of officers assigned to crime prevention, detection and investigation details in the foreseeable future. The need for focused attention and training with regard to crime prevention (Patrol) and the investigation of serious crime is essential, as the frequency of serious crimes continues to increase. The safety risks to officers hasn’t been this high since the ’80s. As officers focus on investigating and documenting reported crimes, their focus on officer visibility and motor vehicle enforcement decreases. I also struggle with the fact that I have been unable to rely on and maintain just two PT officer positions since 2012. From an administrative view, I see documentation is sometimes late and lacking information due to officers being overwhelmed with an active caseload. The FT officers are shouldered with the feeling of not being “on the road” and visible.

The need to establish additional patrol support in an effort to assist patrol officers with their growing responsibilities, fill open shifts, create additional coverage during busy hours and reduce the number of days with on-call hours came to a head in September, 2018. At this time, we had lost another FT officer and our FT administrative assistant. We were able to combine the administrative assistant posi-

tion with the Prosecutor’s secretary position. There was no increase in benefits; the position had less accrued vacation and better management/utilization of resources. This merger was a cost savings for both departments and has been working out great.

With the remaining funding from the vacant 32-hour PT position and the savings from the restructured administrative assistant position, I proposed a sixth FT police officer position to the Select Board in September, 2018. This additional position would create a safer environment for the officers and our community, provide more time for officers to focus on their active investigations and maintain a reasonable amount of time for patrol efforts. Following a lot of discussion, the Select Board voted to approve the additional position, with some opposition (2–1). With the need to fill the vacated FT position we held two hiring processes. We hoped to find two quality candidates to fill both positions. Unfortunately, we were not able to find the right candidate to move further in the process to fill the additional position. The availability of quality candidates that I felt would fit our agency and our community had diminished. Retention concerns are compounded right now, as several local agencies, as well as agencies all over the state, are actively looking for qualified officers. Some agencies are even offering signing bonuses!

When presenting the 2019 budget in January, due to my concerns with finding the right candidate, I felt comfortable removing the full funding for the additional position knowing we had not found a viable candidate by that time. This allowed me to present a slightly lower budget for 2019 than 2018. In waiting for some of the other positions in the area to be filled, and allowing the “word of mouth” to advertise our opening and what we were looking for in a candidate, I felt we could attract the right FT certified candidate who was familiar with our agency and wanted to be here.

For 2020, I have added the funding back in the budget to support a sixth FT officer. The Select Board and I have discussed this position at length for several years and I feel it is time. I would appreciate your input and support when we go through the 2020 budget discussions. ❁



Building Materials

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Free Community Suppers

December 19, 2019

January 16, 2020 • February 20, 2020

5:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church

73 Main St, Antrim

Response to Our Recent Losses

Melissa Gallagher
The Grapevine

To our friends, families and community,

The past two months have been painful and difficult for our community as we grieve the loss of youth and parents in Antrim and surrounding towns. We have heard from many parents and community members who want more information and resources to support youth, especially those who are struggling with mental health and experiencing feelings of guilt and grief.

On October 9th, The Grapevine convened a Community Gathering as a start to conversation related to Suicide Response and Prevention and how to talk to and support our young people in the face of such a loss. People also shared ideas on what additional resources are needed. Staff from NAMI-NH and the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team attended and shared information. We are grateful for their quick and compassionate response.

At this gathering, we heard that adults want to see more mentorship opportunities offered for young people. We heard that families want increased access to mental health supports and that despite our collective best efforts, there are still barriers to getting help when it is needed. We took note of requests and possible solutions to these and other identified needs.

In November, we convened two separate gatherings for high school and middle school youth to come together, share and learn how to support one another when faced with mental health struggles such as depression and anxiety. This is especially timely as we head into the holiday season, which can be a difficult time for some.

Our next step is to deliver more information and training to both adults and teens. Potential supports and resources to come:

- The Connect Program: Suicide Prevention & Intervention for Individuals: A 4-hour training for adults delivered by NAMI trained instructors
- The Connect Program: Peer Suicide Prevention Training delivered by NAMI-trained high school students for middle and high school youth
- Grief & Loss Support Group Session with the potential for a group series
- Listing of local mental health counselors working with children and teens who are currently accepting new clients

If you are interested in any of the trainings listed above, please contact us to let us know, which will help in our planning.

The Grapevine is incredibly grateful for the support and participation of our community as we work to build a wider net of mental health awareness and support for our youth and families. ❀

Supporting Our Youth, Supporting Each Other News from Avenue A

Jacqueline Roland

Our community faced difficult losses this fall—and our youth have certainly felt the strain of this. Being a part of The Grapevine's community efforts to build a wider net of mental health awareness and support continues to be a focus here at Avenue A. In November, we held two gatherings for teens to learn how to support each other through grief, depression, anxiety, and other challenges. This January we plan to host a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Connect peer suicide prevention training for youth. We look forward to continued conversations around mental health education and prevention.

Now more than ever, we are grateful for the volunteers who give their time to support local youth and make our programs possible. With the help of volunteer Bill Horton, we began our new Life After High School program in October. The group meets every Tuesday, giving seniors and gap year students an outlet for support and resources as they figure out their next steps.

Glenn Stan and John Conklin led our Woodworking/Carpentry Crew in building a handicapped ramp for a family in Peterborough this fall. They're working on more community projects this winter! Sue Conklin, Nancy Blair, and Bev Montgomery stopped by in October and November to teach our Dinner Club teens new recipes. We look forward to welcoming more "Guest Chefs" (and eating more delicious meals) soon! Heartfelt thanks to the Antrim Presbyterian Church for letting us use their kitchen.

Jeff Wilson continues to coach our pick-up basketball program at the Antrim Town Gym—the boys love playing on the new gym floor! John Anderson, Mark Murdough, and Steve MacDonald lead our lively Tabletop Game/Chess Club on Wednesday evenings. Teens gather at Avenue A on Thursdays, with the guidance of our volunteer Kathleen, to practice music together. Throughout November they practiced carols for the Festival of Trees Tree Lighting event.

If you visit us this winter, you may notice that our Avenue A mural is being re-done! Led by local artist Danis Collett,



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Write Out! program high school writers, along with guest writers Christopher Clauss and Diana Feige. Photo by Jacqueline Roland

teens from our Expressive Art program are painting a new mural. Our art program also connected with Farmsteads of New England recently. Artists from Farmsteads are visiting Avenue A to do Expressive Art with our teens!

Coordinated by Arlene Soule, our Avenue A Club afterschool program for middle schoolers is brimming with thirty youth. Ted Brown continues to be our amazing volunteer and Popcorn Chef! Our other volunteer, Dave DeWitt, brings electronic learning circuit boards to the Club and teaches interested youth basic electronics principles.

Tanja Schmitt, Aino Millikan, and Meghan Gould teach yoga for us on Fridays—a dedicated group of teens attend and are constantly improving their skills. Our amazing team of regular Friday Night volunteers—Rick Wood, Sue Conklin, Barbara Roland, Jocelynn Drew, Jess Gerrior, and Tara Greenblat—provide a safe, welcoming space for local

youth to unwind each week.

Thanks to the generosity of Monadnock Paper Mills and Bank of New Hampshire, our next Write Out! anthology will be in print by the time you read this article. We are thankful for their support, and the tireless efforts of Cynthia West, our Write Out! program leader. When we published our first Write Out! anthology of poetry and prose three years ago, there were eight teens in our Writing Club. Today, there are about thirty teens in Write Out!

We've welcomed wonderful new interns this year! Corinne, a graduate of our Write Out! program, co-facilitates our Middle School Writers' Society. Paula, another Write Out! grad and Mass College of Liberal Arts student, is assisting with our anthology tour. Savannah, from Keene State College, is also joining us as a writing intern.

Over 75 volunteers bring our programs to life! We regret that we can't mention them all in this article (but, we'll continue to highlight as many as possible in future articles)! We are so grateful for our community's support of Avenue A. Thank you for being a part of this. Please follow us on Facebook for updates. If you'd like to get involved, contact Jacqueline at avenuea@grapevinenh.org or call The Grapevine Office at (603) 588-2620. ❄️

Thank you ...

to Richard Verney, owner of the Monadnock Paper Mills, for his generous donation of the paper on which the *Limrik* is printed.

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DEERING

There was a young man from Deering
Who'd yet to master steering
He crashed his pickup and took it
Three-fourths across the Contoocook
So Antrim kept his key ring

HANCOCK

There was a man of Hancock
Bemedaled as a peacock
During the National Anthem
He saluted the men of Antrim
And curtsied to a windsock

STODDARD

A family up to Stoddard
Had a prickly fickle daughter
Just to throw a tantrum
She ran away to Antrim
Then wondered why she bothered

PETERBOROUGH

I'm poetical as I can be, though
Poesy is quite new to me, so
If Antrim can lend an ear
I hope to find some helpers here
To find a rhyme for Peterborough

NELSON

I learned of a farmer from Nelson
Who forgot to bring his cows in
They milled about
To find a way out
And their mooing woke roosters in Antrim

WINDSOR

Why not put turbines in Windsor?
There's nine in Antrim next to her
But it blows there Sundays
And very few Mondays
And that's just not enough wind, sir

HILLSBORO

Now I live in Hillsboro
She said with a hint of sorrow
Antrim's where my heart is
But it's also where my ex is
So Antrim is a no go

News from First Presbyterian Church

Sharon Dowling, Music Director

First Presbyterian closed out the summer with a BBQ at Gregg Lake on September 8th and a busy table at Home and Harvest, where thirst could be quenched and a trip to the Revival Shop could prove very rewarding. Our kitchen was busy with the Historical Society baking their famous apple crisp, and a number of people enjoyed visiting our beautiful sanctuary.

While our congregation is small, we continue to be a hub for community and mission. Collections are ongoing for ConVal End 68 Hours of Hunger, the Food Pantry, the Veterans hospital, and once again, for the Hundred Nights Cold Weather Shelter in Keene. The Senior Center is open weekday mornings, and Avenue A has had fun with a cooking class weekday afternoons. Monthly Community Suppers are still enjoyed in our Fellowship Hall, and another GBS fundraising craft fair will be held there on Thanksgiving Weekend. Lots of good stuff happening!

We start the new church year on Dec 1st as Advent begins! We will be lighting the Advent wreath, decorating the Chrismon tree and celebrating Holy Communion as we begin the four-week solemn preparation for the Christmas Season.

This year we will be offering a very special service the weekend of the Winter Solstice. At 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 22nd, all are invited to a "Blue Christmas" service as we face the reality together that this time of year can be a challenge for many. More information on this beautiful service can be found elsewhere in this issue of the *Limrik*.

Our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 7 p.m. and will include both traditional and contemporary music, candlelight, joy and Fellowship. All are welcome!

The first Sunday after Christmas will see us hosting our Baptist neighbors and enjoying a hymn sing in place of a sermon. We will continue to celebrate the season of Christmas until the Epiphany arrives on January 6th. This will be our last service in the Sanctuary for the winter, as we will then move worship into the Fellowship Hall to conserve energy and enjoy the warmth!

Finally, our Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6 p.m. on February 26, 2020. This is a quiet contemplative service to usher in the season of Lent. And the year rolls on!

We believe that all people are equal in the eyes of God, and God loves us all; we have been instructed to love and serve our neighbors; and Love is always the answer. Come share the Love—all are welcome here! ✱



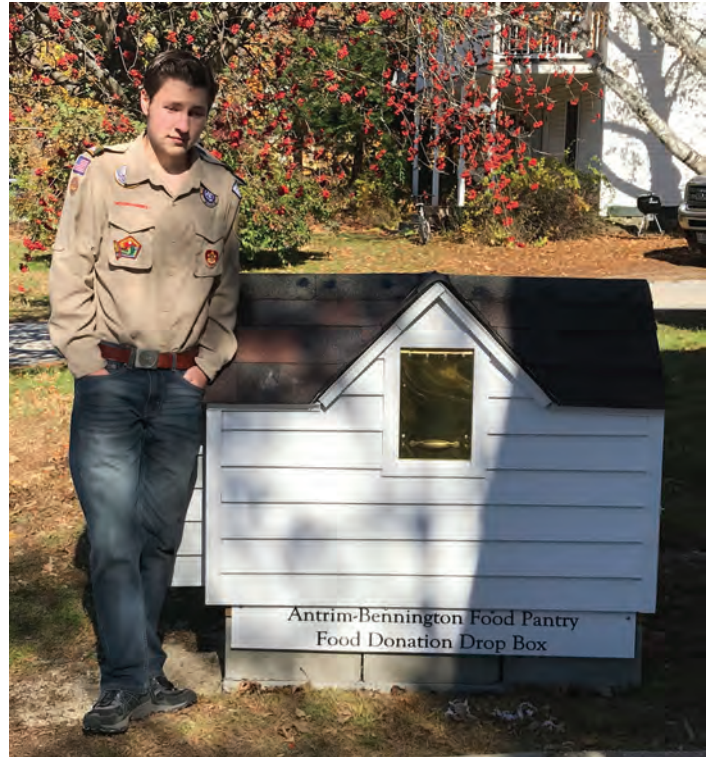
Local Boy Scout Builds Food Donation Box

Jennifer Colby

Driving through downtown Antrim you may have noticed a new “little church” just outside the side door of the Antrim Baptist Church. This new church is actually a food donation drop box slightly in disguise. Life Scout Garrick Colby of Boy Scout Troop 2 designed and led this project as his leadership project for his Eagle rank. He is hoping that our community will make use of this receptacle on a regular basis, and thus increase the amount of food that goes to the Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry. Garrick also wanted to add to the aesthetics of our downtown area and not subtract from them, which is one reason the donation box is in the shape of a mini-church and not just a box.

The Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry is now serving over 1,000 local people, and the need for a constant supply of food is real. If you ever feel like helping out, this box makes it easy. Just pull up beside the sidewalk and place your food through the shiny brass door. It will be taken into the food pantry by the next day.

The donation box has been there for just a little while and our community has already started to make great use of it. During the Boy Scouts’ annual fall food drive during the week of November 2–9 over 300 items of food were placed into the box, and we could not be happier about that. Thank you Antrim! I hope this becomes a habit for many of us. ❁



Scout Garrick Colby stands beside the food donation drop box he built beside the Antrim Baptist Church as part of fulfilling requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout.



Antrim's 10th Annual Festival of Trees

Nov. 30, 2019 through Dec. 30, 2019

Open daily Mon./Wed. 2–6 • Tues./Thurs. 2–8 • Fri. 9–12 • Sat. 10–4

Special Events

Open House

Sat. Nov. 30 10 – 4 pm

Entertainment, Voting for Favorites, Scavenger Hunts, Quilt Raffle, Refreshments

Community Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa

Sat. Nov. 30 4:00 pm

*Ring in the Holidays **

Sat. Dec. 8 3:00 pm

Village Ringers bell choir under the direction of Sarah Hale

* Held at the First Presbyterian Church, co-sponsored with the Antrim Historical Society.

Festival Gala and Meet-the-Artist Night

Sat. Dec. 14 7 – 9 pm

Entertainment, Favorites Awards, Donation Raffle Baskets and Quilt Raffle Drawing

Quilt and Craft Displays by area artisans and Monadnock Quilt Guild. Free admission

All events held at the James A. Tuttle Library, 45 Main St., Antrim 03440

www.AntrimFestivalofTrees.org

Info: 603-831-1802 or antrimFOT@gmail.com

Blue Christmas Service

Led by Rev. Peter Howe
First Presbyterian Church of Antrim

Pat Grant

Blue Christmas is a service that has been put together especially for those of us who are not feeling particularly merry and bright right now.

This is somewhere to come if, despite all the decorations, the cards, the music playing in the shops, the concerts, parties, and the advertisers who want you to believe that you can buy “wonderful,” you don’t really feel very wonderful or much like celebrating. Somewhere to come if the idea that a Merry Little Christmas is all you need for your troubles to be miles away has a decidedly hollow ring to it.

We hope that you’ll find this a safe place to be transparent with yourself and with God. A safe place to admit that maybe you’re not okay at the moment, that maybe what you’re really feeling is sad, discouraged, or even angry. A place for you to be real with your struggles and your questions.

Those of us feeling a little blue at this time of year can feel edged out and forgotten as everyone else seems caught up in the mad frenzy of their own preparations and celebrations. We hope that as you think about the Christmas message, you’ll find comfort and hope in knowing that you are not alone.

Please join us on December 22nd at 5:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church for a Blue Christmas Service to be led by the Reverend Peter Howe, as we commit this time together to God. ❄

Thanks to ...

Marguerite Roberts, Karen Weisswange and Ruth Benedict for faithfully delivering *The Limrik* to sites all over town every quarter. ❄

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**Pitching the tent under the walnut tree
seemed like a good idea in July ...**

Illustration by Virginia Dickinson

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Conservation Corner

Peter Beblowski
Chair, Antrim Conservation Commission

This issue of Conservation Corner introduces the topic of shoreland protection and the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (SWQPA).

The State of New Hampshire recognized early on the importance of our lakes, rivers and seacoast to not only our quality of life, but also the economic health of our state, and has adopted regulations to protect our waters. These regulations are intended to protect sediments and plant nutrients from entering lakes and streams from shoreland properties through erosion and stormwater runoff. Leaving a vegetative buffer along the shoreline and directing runoff to areas where the water can be filtered to remove sediment and pollutants before entering waterways goes a long way toward protecting water quality.

The SWQPA, originally named the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA), was enacted by the 1991 session of the NH Legislature under State of NH Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 483-B, which may be viewed online at <https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/l/483-b/483-b-mrg.htm>. The initial act established minimum standards for the subdivision, use and development of the state's shorelands along larger water bodies (lakes over ten acres in size and other water bodies).

The act has been amended over the years, first in 2008, where several changes took effect, including limitations on impervious surfaces, revised vegetation maintenance requirements and the establishment of a permit requirement for many construction, excavation and filling activities within the protected shoreland. During the 2011 legislative session, the CSPA was renamed the SWQPA, and additional changes were made to vegetation requirements within the natural woodland, waterfront buffers, and impervious surface limitations in order to protect the water quality of the state's waterbodies.

The shorelands protected under the SWQPA are generally those lands that are located within 250 feet of the shore reference line. The reference line is the point from which setbacks are determined, and its location varies depending on the type of water body. For lakes, ponds and impoundments larger than ten acres the reference line is defined by the surface elevation listed on the Consolidated List of Water Bodies kept by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) which may be found at https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/water_bodies.htm.

All lakes, ponds and impoundments larger than ten acres, all 4th order (medium-size, such as Great Brook) and greater streams and rivers, all designated rivers and river segments under RSA 483 (the Rivers Management & Protection Act) and all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide are



Peter Beblowski, Keith Wolsiefer, Ron Cheetham and Frank Gorga celebrate the re-opening of the Lily Pond Trail. Photo by Joan Gorga.

covered under the act. Water bodies protected under the SWQPA are also located on the Consolidated List of Water Bodies. The SWQPA is administered by NHDES under a comprehensive set of administrative rules identified as Env-Wq 1400 Shoreland Protection Rules, which may be found at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rules/index.htm#envwq1400>.

Of special note, the Antrim Conservation Commission, along with the Antrim 2020 Trails Group, is proud to announce that the trail to one of our smaller water bodies, Lily Pond, has been fully rehabilitated this past summer and fall. The Lily Pond Trail starts at the back (west) side of the Antrim Center Cemetery and traverses westerly along a stone wall nearly 1,000 feet to the Lily Pond across private property over a trail right-of-way that was given to the Antrim Conservation Commission. The Lily Pond is a former glacial kettle hole that has filled with water (glacial kettle-pond) and has been enlarged by a series of beaver dams. Over the years, it has been well known as a productive heron rookery and productive habitat for other waterfowl as well. It is a relatively short hike (0.25 miles round trip) to a very beautiful, quiet place. Please note: the terrain is rough in spots so care should be taken when hiking. Short bog bridges have been installed over traditionally wet or boggy areas to protect wetlands. Finally, it should be noted that the Center Cemetery is fronted on NH Route 31 by private property. Please do not interfere, and respect the private property of others. ❁

EDITORIAL

Antrim's Shea Field

Joan Gorga, Chair
Antrim Parks & Recreation Commission

Antrim—did you know that Shea Field, Antrim's athletic field at the corner of School Street and West Street, is neither owned nor maintained by the ConVal School District? GBS does, in fact, have an athletic field—a rough and poorly-maintained kickball field on the south side of the school. It's no wonder they prefer to use Shea Field, which is maintained in excellent condition by the Town of Antrim. This is something we do for our community.

Antrim pays for and/or pays our staff to perform all maintenance on Shea Field. We paid to put the lights on the field. In 2006, ConVal collaborated with us to install irrigation and fencing, but since then has contributed only a one-time payment of \$4500, negotiated by our School Board representatives from a "Community Relations Fund," which we used for upgrades to the baseball infield in 2017. ConVal has also paid half of the costs of portable toilets at the field since 2017.

Antrim has been allowing ConVal to use Shea Field for many years because we want our children, and those of our neighboring towns, to have a safe and well-maintained place to play. For quite a few of those years, the field was harmoniously shared, with ConVal recognizing that Antrim's recreational sports programs have a legitimate place on the field and Antrim Recreation doing its best to accommodate requests from GBS and AES to use the field. In the last ten years or so, relations have deteriorated as ConVal has become more aggressive in its claims over Shea Field. Perhaps with turnover at ConVal, there was a loss of institutional knowledge of our field-sharing arrangement.

Antrim is once again working with ConVal to reach a written agreement over the shared use of Shea Field.

We're hopeful that this agreement will protect the Town's interest in Shea Field, as well as providing our schools and our children with the use of a top-notch athletic field.

GBS parents—please recognize the privilege it is for GBS to have the use of Shea Field. We provide the field to ConVal free for the full school day and well into the afternoon for after-school athletics. On the rare occasions when GBS events overlap with Antrim recreational programs, please have the courtesy to move, if asked, to allow our recreational programs to share Shea Field. Encourage other parents to cooperate, as well. Please don't leave the field littered with trash or allow your children to dig up the turf, pick the guards off the fences or inflict other damage to Antrim's athletic field. The Town, not ConVal, foots the bill for cleanup and repair. Please teach your children to respect Town employees and Town property.

ConVal—please recognize that Shea Field is Antrim's athletic field and that we have long paid for and performed all maintenance. Understand that ConVal use inflicts considerable wear and tear on the turf, the equipment and the facility. Antrim Recreation and Highway Department staff and outside contractors occasionally need to work on the field during school hours. They do their best to work around GBS physical education classes and other scheduled events, but there are times when the request must be made for GBS to stay off all or part of the field, either for safety reasons or to protect the turf. We ask you to honor those requests. Please recognize that we're willing to share Antrim's Shea Field with you, but we respectfully ask you to reach out to us with an attitude of collaboration rather than antagonism.

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Tuttle Library News

Cindy Jewett, Laurie Cass-Griggs, Melissa Lawless

WINTER SCHEDULE

Ongoing Library Services—Free to You!

NEW! Mondays	Beginner's Computer Classes, 2–3 p.m.
NEW! Mondays	Dungeons and Dragons Club, 3–5:30 p.m.
Thursdays	Lego Club, 3:30 p.m.
Fridays	Storytime, 10 a.m.

December

All month	Festival of Trees at the Library!
3	Tues. Talking About Race Follow-up, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
24	Tues. Closed—Christmas Eve
25	Wed. Closed—Christmas Day
31	Tues. Closing at 6 p.m.—New Year's Eve

January

1	Wed. Closed—New Year's Day
20	Mon. Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr., Day

February

8	Sat. 3 rd Annual Chili Cook-off. Drop off, 10 a.m., tasting, 11 a.m. Valentine card make-and-take, 11 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
17	Mon. Closed—President's Day
24–29	Winter Break Check our website for fun activities!

Microsoft Word—Write a story or update your resume.

Social Media—How to create a social media account: Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp or YouTube

Contact the library at 588–6786 if you need more information or want to reserve a spot.

Dungeons & Dragons Club

Gather round Mondays from 3–5:30 p.m. and let us tell you a tale. A tale of warriors and wizards, of dragons and goblins and fearsome foes... The library is a great place to hang out after school and meet your friends for a game of D&D!

Take a Break!

Do you work from home but sometimes need a break or want to get away? The library has all the support you need. Use your laptop or Kindle with our free Wi-Fi; utilize our copying machine or fax machine. Read a book or a digital book, watch a movie or play a game.

Homeschool Support Group

The library wants to support Homeschool families. How can we help you?

—continued on page 14

Library Services—Free to you!

We bet you didn't know all that your library has to offer—all free to you! Check it out!

- Hoopla Digital Streaming—a digital streaming service for library users to access eBooks, eAudiobooks, music, movies, and TV shows using portable devices like smartphones and tablets
- Electronic books, audio books and a large selection of magazines using Overdrive/Libby—ask us how!
- Free Wi-Fi—check your email and more
- Genealogy databases and drop-in genealogy
- Comfortable reading chairs
- Printing services, including copying, scanning and faxing
- Notary services—call for availability. Free to card-holding patrons.
- Museum Passes—Boston Museum of Fine Art, Currier Museum of Art, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Montshire Museum of Science and the NH Historical Society
- NYT Best Sellers books and new movies updated daily—save money and borrow from the library!

New—Mondays! Beginner's Computer Classes

Every Monday afternoon the library is offering beginner's computer classes from 2–3 p.m. Each month the topics will include:

Email—How to create and send an email. Create an email account and send an email to friends or family.

Happy Howlidays From Our Woofs to Yours



UNDER ONE WOOF
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www.underonewoof.info

Do you wish the library had a book swap? Would you like the library to be a meeting place for families? If you have any suggestions we'd like to hear them. Please let us know!

Festival of Trees

For the entire month of December, join the Antrim Festival of Trees as they host their 10th year of colorful, festive trees displayed in the library. Join us for the fun and festivities!

Talking About Race Follow-Up

This is the second follow-up meeting to Talking About Race with Grace Aldrich, Jim Guy, and Doug Sutherland. This workshop is designed to encourage an open and thoughtful conversation on race and how as a community we can learn to appreciate and understand experiences and perspectives different from our own. Tuesday, December 3 from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Chili Cook-off

Do you make a mean chili? Join us for a chili cook-off on Saturday, February 8th! Bring in your yummiest or spiciest chili by 10 a.m. to be judged by our patrons. Tasting begins at 11 a.m. Who will win? Winner will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card. The 2nd place winner will receive a \$15 gift card. Patrons—come in to taste and cast your vote!

Valentine make-and-take

Also on February 8th, from 11 a.m.–2 p.m., make a Valentine card for your loved one. Join us in the children's room for a Valentine make-and-take. The supplies are free while they last!

Winter Break

We have some fun projects planned to liven up this cold February, including movies, crafts and more. Check out our website at www.jatuttlelibrary.org for more details and announcements!

Inclement weather—In case of inclement weather, please check the library website or Facebook page to see about closings. You can also call the library at 588–6786. If we don't answer during a storm, chances are we're closed!

Remember—the library is your place to get warm and cozy. Come sit in one of our comfortable chairs and read a book or magazine. We strive for a warm and friendly environment for you to relax in! ❄️

Antrim Eclectic Book Club

Sponsored by the Antrim Area Senior Center
Steve Ullman, Coordinator

Just like the black bear on Craig Road that I occasionally sprint away from, our book club will soon be going into hibernation. But not before a final celebration of literary greatness.

On December 19th, we will be examining Aldous Huxley's *Point Counter Point*, ranked 44th on the Modern Library's list of the greatest English language fiction of the 20th century. Based on actual historical personalities, including Oswald Mosley, leader of the World War II-era British Union of Fascists, Huxley's story has been transformed into a BBC mini-series. We will be meeting, as usual, at the Antrim Presbyterian Church on December 19th starting at 11 a.m.

Next Spring, as the Red Sox embark upon yet another championship season, we will be discussing John Fowles's *The Magus* on April 16th. Then we will follow up with Henry Green's *Loving* on May 21st and Iris Murdoch's *Under the Net* on June 18th.

Let me remind you that all of these books are available free at the Tuttle Library (thanks to Melissa Lawless). So, you can save money simply by joining the Antrim Eclectic Book Club. But wait—there's more:

Here's a testimonial from a member: "I enjoy the book club because the selections are quality works that have stood the test of time that I most likely would not have chosen on my own. We have thought-provoking, engaging discussions in a welcoming, friendly atmosphere. Participating in the book club has broadened my literary horizons."

For further information, please email stephenhullman@gmail.com. ❄️



Dry Firewood for 2020



We are sold out of **dry firewood** for this year but we have already been taking orders for delivery in fall of 2020. We sell out early so it is not too early to place an order for delivery next year. **We also have plenty of maple syrup from this year—it makes great holiday gifts.**



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Up Cemetery Road

William Bryk

Antrim's voters elected me a Cemetery Trustee in 2018. I'd help two other Trustees govern the town's four public cemeteries. It's meant receiving occasional telephone calls from relatives of deceased persons who wanted to be buried in Antrim. Among the usual reasons for this are that the deceased was born or spent many happy summers in the town. The callers generally asked about getting the grave dug. (I gather the correct term of art is "opening" the grave.) I referred them to a pleasant, good-natured and compassionate gentleman with a backhoe who performs this office for a funeral parlor in the neighboring town of Hillsborough and for anyone else in the area who needs his services.

Antrim's public cemeteries are Centre, Meeting House Hill, North Branch and Over East. I visited them all before my election—the town's Highway Department had maintained them well. Three of the four are full, with many dark gray, heavily weathered slate markers from the 18th and 19th centuries. Only North Branch is active, which is to say new customers are welcome. It is ten minutes' walk from my house.

Recently, after a friendly and sympathetic chat with an older woman who wishes to bury her son's remains here, I strolled down to Cemetery Road, a well-kept dirt road that borders our property, just beyond an unnamed stream that flows from my land toward Steeles Pond and the North Branch River. It was amidst the heat wave in mid-July 2019. The slightest breeze was welcome. As is usually the case with rural dirt roads, the trees lining both sides of the right of way had grown tall and large enough to form a kind of green tunnel, which I found beautiful and soothing.

Some of the older trees toward the top of the hill seemed to have grown as mirrors of one another, their upper branches entwined. Perhaps they are ideal lovers, growing side-by-side and together, completing one another.

When we first moved to Antrim, Portia, one of our kittens, ran off one day and after searching my own land I went up Cemetery Road to look for her, calling her name. I heard a mew and a rustling in the underbrush, she popped

into view, and we went home together. Some months later, Portia and her sister Jessica ran out the door together one night and never returned. They were much loved here and I hope they found a loving home—they were sweet and affectionate, though Portia was zany.

Anyway, I reached the cemetery and found the second gate open, so I entered and found my caller's family plot. It is large and inspires confidence that her relatives will find room there long after I am gone.

When I was a child, my family lived at 57 Columbia Street in Mohawk, New York—the first house my parents owned. It was across from the Mohawk Cemetery. My mother occasionally noted that, whatever one might say about a cemetery, its occupants were quiet neighbors. I often walked through it. I found the markers a kind of history book, nearly all bearing the names of ordinary people whose lives were quietly lived in a small town away from the shouting and tumult of the great world.

The Mohawk Cemetery had only one distinguished occupant, Francis Elias Spinner, who had been Herkimer County Sheriff, a militia general, a three-term U.S. Representative (once a Democrat, twice a Republican) and Treasurer of the United States under Presidents Lincoln, Johnson, and Grant. He was also the first Federal executive to hire women for clerical work on the same basis as men.

Spinner was renowned for his flamboyantly elaborate signature which appeared on millions of United States notes. He had developed it consciously, to discourage counterfeiting. The signature appears on his grave marker in the Mohawk Cemetery. It also appears on the plinth of his statue, across the Mohawk River in Herkimer, New York, which also bears this quotation: "The fact that I was instrumental in introducing women to employment in the offices of the government gives me more real satisfaction than all the other deeds of my life."

Coming back to my summer's day in the North Branch Cemetery, I paused for a few minutes to look north, across the valley of the North Branch River toward Campbell Mountain in Hillsborough. Then I went down the rows of stones, noting several fellows who cantered off with the New Hampshire Dragoons during the Civil War and a quantity who had served in World Wars I and II (one fellow had served in both; when I was a boy, such men and women called themselves "Retreads") and a few in Vietnam.

There were also a few Revolutionaries, mostly identified by the militia company in which they'd served. Although I know he's buried in North Branch, I couldn't find a marker for the long-lived George Gates, born August 8, 1753 and died December 13, 1845. He had fought at Bunker Hill on June 17, 1775, among those commanded, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes," and helped prove, as



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✍ — continued on page 16

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Up Cemetery Road continued from page 15

one British officer wrote, “that the Americans, if they were equally well commanded, are full as good soldiers as ours.”

One fellow, named Tuttle (an old New England family), had a few small stones placed atop his marker. It's a touching custom derived from the Jews—flowers fade; stones endure. Perhaps a secular meaning might be found, too—as long as one is remembered by someone, one never truly dies. So I found a suitable pebble in the dirt road I was on and placed it among the others on the Tuttle marker.

Two markers were particularly memorable. One read:

Archie F. Perry

1886–1950

An Honest Man

There are worse things for which to be remembered.

The other was a bench for a member of an old Antrim family whose relatives I know. It reads:

Dennis C. Gale Sr.

1943–2008

We sit here thankful

He was the man

He didn't have to be.

There were several other benches about North Branch. They reminded me of the 19th century custom of picnicking in cemeteries, bringing the baskets to the family plots. Before Sir Alexander Fleming identified penicillin, death was a constant visitor for many families. Perhaps this custom allowed people to share good times with their deceased relatives. It waned by the Twenties as early deaths became less common.

The benches also reminded me of Conrad Aiken, the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and man of letters, who retired to Savannah, Georgia, where he had been born. He often sat by his parents' grave in Bonaventure Cemetery, at least in part for the view of the harbor and of the arriving and departing merchantmen. He once saw a ship with an intriguing name, heading down to the sea. He did some research at the Port Authority, where he confirmed the ship's name and looked up her destination. That information gave him a two line poem. His tombstone is a bench. He wanted people to sit and enjoy a martini by his grave. On it is the poem, which is his epitaph.

**Cosmos Mariner
Destination Unknown**



Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2019

- 3 *Gregg Lake Watershed Management Action Plan meeting* • Little Town Hall • 6:30 p.m.
- 3 *Talking About Race Follow-up* • Tuttle Library • 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- 5 *Ladies' Night at Edmunds* • Edmunds Hardware: Antrim & Henniker • 6 – 8:00 p.m.
- 7 *Boy Scouts Wreath Sales* • First Presbyterian Church and Antrim Transfer Station
- 8 *Festival of Trees Ringing in the Holidays* • Village Ringers bell choir • First Presbyterian Church
Co-sponsored with the Antrim Historical Society • 3:00 p.m.
- 14 *Boy Scouts Wreath Sales* • Antrim Police Station and Antrim Transfer Station
- 14 *Festival of Trees Gala and Meet-the-Artist Night* • Tuttle Library • 7 – 9:00 p.m.
- 15 *Annual Christmas Pageant* • Antrim Baptist Church • 10:30 a.m.
- 19 *Antrim Eclectic Book Club* • First Presbyterian Church • 11:00 a.m.
- 19 *Free Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 22 *Blue Christmas Service* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:00 p.m.
- 24 *Christmas Eve*
Candlelight Service • Antrim Baptist Church • 7:00 p.m.
Carols and Lessons Service • First Presbyterian Church • 7:00 p.m.
- 29 *Hymn Sing Service* • with Antrim Baptist Church at the First Presbyterian Church • 5:00 p.m.



JANUARY 2020

- 16 *Free Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2020

- 8 *3rd Annual Chili Cook-off* • Tuttle Library • Drop off: 10:00 a.m. Tasting: 11:00 a.m.
Plus: Valentine card make-and take, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- 20 *Free Community Supper* • First Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 26 *Ash Wednesday Service* • First Presbyterian Church • 6:00 p.m.



Photo by Frank Gorga



Where in Antrim?

Ida Crafts, Patrick Cogan, Sue Conklin, George Davison, Shelley Nelkens, Trish Fletcher and Bill Renda all correctly identified the site of the September *Limrik* photo as the front of the James A. Tuttle Library. Ida Crafts won the \$25 gift certificate to Edmunds Ace Hardware.

The names of all who correctly identify the location of this photo by December 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Patten Hill Farm. Email your response to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 588-2569. Photo by Frank Gorga. ❁



The Missing Cookie Cutters

Susan Ellsworth

Superhero Caleb's mom and grandma were getting ready to make some Christmas cookies for the family like they did every year. They had bought all the ingredients needed. They had the butter, flour, sugar and sprinkles. All were placed on the table. The measuring cups and spoons were there, too. They were almost ready to start. Mom went to the cabinet where the cookie cutters were stored, but they weren't there.

"Wait a minute! Where are the cookie cutters?" asked Mom.

Grandma came over to the cabinet to look but she couldn't find them, either. They looked at each other with sad faces.

"How can we make cookies now?" Grandma asked.

Just then Caleb and his dog, Webster, came walking into the kitchen and heard they couldn't make cookies. Caleb asked why and Mom told him.

Superdog Webster's ears stood up when he heard the word "COOKIES." Cookies were his most favorite things in the world to eat. Caleb offered his and Webster's help to find the missing cookie cutters. After all, they were superheroes and this was a job for superheroes. They looked in the pantry and in all the cabinet drawers, but they weren't there.

Then Webster took off wagging his tail and running up the stairs to Caleb's bedroom. He sat in front of the closet door and waited for Caleb to open it. When it was open Webster sniffed all the boxes of toys. Suddenly his tail began to wag faster and faster, and he pawed at one of the boxes.

"What is it, boy?" asked Caleb. Caleb opened the box, and to his surprise he saw his play dough and all of the missing Christmas cookie cutters. Caleb jumped up and down and said, "Good boy, Webster, you found them. You're a superdog!"

They both ran downstairs to tell Mom and Grandma the wonderful news. Caleb had forgotten he had taken the cutters upstairs weeks ago to play with.

Mom and Grandma said Webster was a true superdog and had a super nose that could smell the cookie smells that must still be coming from the cutters, and that's how he found them. Mom said, "Now we can make some yummy Christmas cookies for the whole family."

"Can Webster have one too?" asked Caleb.

"Yes, even one for our Superdog Webster."

Caleb's mom walked into the living room where Caleb had fallen asleep on the couch waiting for the ingredients to reach room temperature.

"Caleb, Caleb, wake up. You fell asleep again. It's time to start making the cookies. Do you still want to help?"

Caleb jumped up and Webster jumped down off the couch, where he was fast asleep with Caleb. Then a cookie cutter with colored dough fell to the floor. Superdog Webster picked it up in his mouth. Caleb took it and told his mom that

— continued on page 22

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Why Are Large Forest Blocks Important?

Charles Levesque

Wildlife, biodiversity and other important forest resources can be found in forestland anywhere, but large expanses of unbroken, unfragmented forests—at least 1,000 acres in size—bring special value.

What do we really mean by large forest blocks? New Hampshire is the second most forested state in the U.S., as a percentage of its land area, at 84% (following Maine at 90%). But just because the state is so forested, it doesn't mean these areas covered in trees all have the same value for wildlife, biodiversity, water quality filtration or forestry. A two-acre forest just out in the backyard may be nice for your personal use, but it doesn't contain the same natural resource values as a 100-acre area—or a 1,000-acre—block. Scientists have chosen the 1,000-acre minimum forest block size as a cut-off where many more benefits are provided compared to smaller tracts of forest. The stipulation is that the 1,000 acres are unfragmented—that means there are no permanent public or private roads within the block, be they gravel or paved. Further, these blocks have no development, i.e., no houses, commercial structures or anything else human-constructed, except maybe for stone walls.

So why does all of this matter?

Hunter and Gibbs¹ wrote in 2007 that a modern traveler looking down from a plane generally does not see vast expanses of unbroken landscape, but instead will likely see a landscape like a patchwork quilt—a mosaic of different land uses. They define “habitat fragmentation” as the gradual breaking apart of a natural landscape into smaller habitat blocks. Fragmentation typically begins when people build roads into a natural landscape and then perforate the landscape further with associated development. This typically leads to additional roads, energy infrastructure and land conversion and, over time, results in “patches” of natural habitat that are smaller and farther apart.

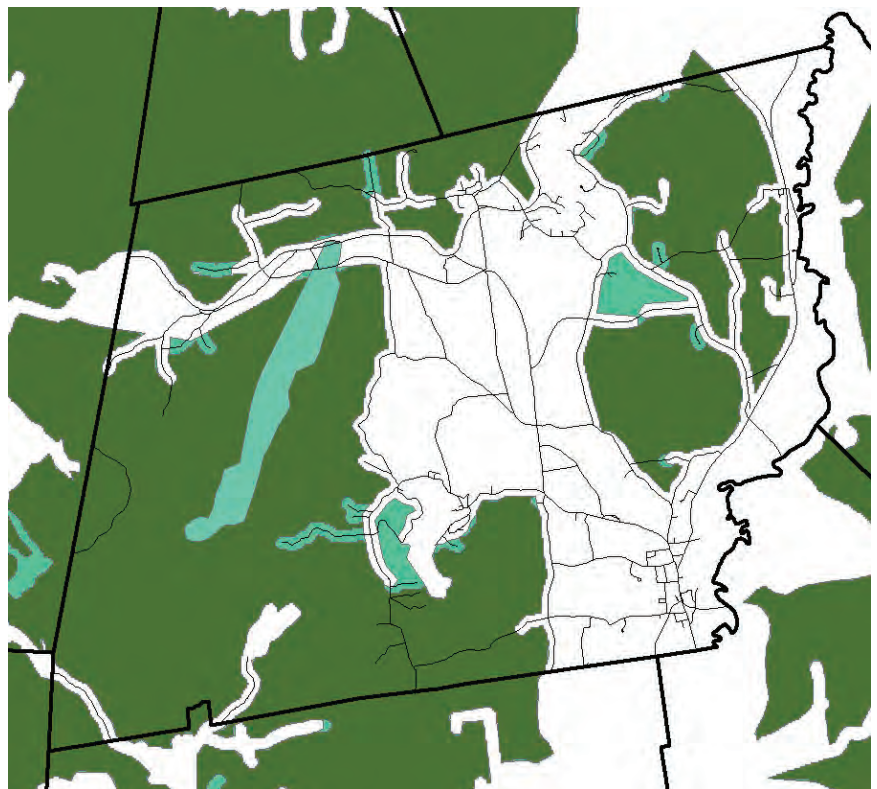
Larger habitat patches in a landscape mosaic are better able to support stable populations of more species than small ones. Hunter and Gibbs attribute this to three things. First, larger patches have a greater variety of environments—different elevations, soils, geology, streams and wetlands, which in turn support a greater variety of species. Second, larger patches support more species that require larger home ranges. Finally, animals and plants from other patches can more easily migrate in to replenish struggling or declining species if similar habitat patches are close by and if the

areas in between (matrix habitat) are connected and allow for movement. Fragmenting landscapes into smaller habitat patches over time is a leading cause of degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity.

How is Antrim doing with regard to large forest blocks? The answer is a mixed one. The good news is that Antrim has a significant large unfragmented forested block in the western part of town (see map) and another in the east. The bad news is that we just perforated the western block with the permanent road and wind towers that now grace the Tuttle Mountain ridge. We certainly need more renewable energy to help with climate change, so maybe we need the wind towers. But all development and energy generation comes with trade-offs. In this case, we eventually will see some low-carbon electricity come onto the grid from the Antrim wind farm—a good thing. But that energy generation comes at a cost to wildlife and biodiversity as the large unfragmented forest in that part of Antrim is no longer.

¹ Hunter, M.L., Jr., and J. Gibbs. 2007. *Fundamentals of Conservation Biology* (3rd ed.). Blackwell Publishing. 482 pp.

Charlie Levesque, a NH licensed forester and natural resource consultant, can be reached at 603-588-3272 or levesque@inrsllc.com. ✱



Large forest blocks in Antrim. Areas that currently fit the criteria for large forest blocks (over 1,000 acres) are shown with dark shading. Areas lost to large forest blocks since 2006 are shown with medium shading. Areas where there are no forest blocks over 1,000 acres are shown in white. Map prepared in 2019 by INRS for a NH Forest Legacy Program Assessment Report.

Trophy Bass Lake No Longer

Joan Gorga

In 2008 and 2009, NH Fish & Game studied the black bass population, which includes both largemouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) and smallmouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), in Gregg Lake and several other lakes in our area. Since NH lakes are not stocked for bass, and therefore bass populations are managed only by natural reproduction, Fish & Game was seeking to identify lakes in which bass grew the fastest for a study on managing lakes for trophy bass. The idea was to test whether by changing bass harvest limits, the bass population could be enhanced for large fish.

In the 2008 and 2009 studies, Fish & Game compared overall fish condition, the size of the bass population, the number of bass of different sizes, the sizes of the young-of-the-year and the bass growth rates for each lake. Based on higher bass growth rates identified in the initial study, Gregg Lake was selected as one of four Quality Bass Waters in southwestern New Hampshire, and new regulations were put in place in 2011 to see if changes in bass management would create trophy bass waters, that is, increase the number of black bass over 15" in length.

Interestingly, Fish & Game reports that, although some bass are harvested from NH lakes during the open-water season, the bass harvest is much greater through the ice, and that harvest tends to focus on larger fish. In a 2007 report, Fish & Game found that 69% of largemouth bass harvested through the ice were 15" or more in length. The new regulations put in place for Gregg Lake in 2011 stipulated that no black bass between 15 and 20 inches in length could be taken between January 1 and March 31, but increased the number of bass that could be taken each day to three, with only one being greater than 20" in length. Would allowing more small bass to be taken, while restricting harvest of moderately-sized bass, lead to an increase in the population of large bass in the lake?

To assess the effects of the new regulations on the bass population, NH Fish & Game performed a follow-up survey in the summer of 2018. They sampled Gregg Lake three times by electrofishing after sunset and three times during the day with volunteer anglers using artificial lures. Anyone who saw the brightly-lit electrofishing apparatus out on the lake at night could be forgiven for thinking Martians had landed on Gregg Lake. Fish & Game sampled a total of 229 largemouth bass and 150 smallmouth bass, and used the data to estimate bass populations by length and age. They took scale samples to determine age and growth rates. For largemouth bass, the average length at age was found to be lower than the state average for fish at age 1 year and above the state average for fish aged 2–6 years old. Largemouth bass in Gregg Lake took an average of 3.57 years to reach quality size (about 12 inches), whereas the statewide average is 3.74 years. Although the survey results suggested that the population of largemouth bass greater than 15" in

length increased between the 2011 and 2018 studies, the results were not statistically significant, and largemouth bass growth rates appeared to decrease slightly. The number of smallmouth bass caught was too small for data comparisons to be made.

Fish & Game concluded that the goals of management for quality bass were not achieved—that there was no increase in the number of black bass greater than 15 inches in length, and growth rates did not significantly increase, during the seven years of the change in bass harvest practices. Therefore, Fish & Game has recommended that Gregg Lake revert to statewide black bass general rules. This means that the January 1 to March 31 regulation will go back to a two-fish daily limit, with only one fish greater than 16" in length.

Jason Carrier of the NH Fish & Game Department kindly provided the results of the fish studies performed in 2008–2009 and in 2018. ❁



Largemouth bass



Smallmouth bass

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Antrim Historical Markers

Rick Wood

If you were at the 2019 Antrim Home and Harvest Festival this year or have simply driven around town since then, you may have noticed one or both new historical markers that were installed by the Antrim Historical Society (AHS) during the Home and Harvest weekend. One marker is located in front of the Antrim Police Station and the other at the At The Cross Church (aka, the Old Stone Church or Antrim Congregational Church, depending upon what generation you associate with the church).

The marker in front of the Antrim Police Station is intended to show the five various locations of the centers of political and religious activity since Antrim was founded in 1777. This marker identifies Antrim Centre, Over East, Clinton Village, North Branch and South Village. Though it may not be obvious today, South Village was not always the center of important activities that resulted in our current-day Antrim. Many of the landmarks for the other centers may no longer exist. It's the hope of the AHS that we can record the historical significance of each location so we don't lose them for future generations.

The second marker, located at the Old Stone Church, highlights the history of Antrim Centre, where the first center of activity was established. This marker shows just some of the Antrim Centre landmarks. We hope to add smaller markers at various locations in Antrim Centre to help identify important historical locations. In tandem, the AHS is working on a web page that will allow us to provide much more historical information than we can possibly put on a single sign. This project is still in development, but you can see our progress by going to the Antrim Town Website at www.antrimnh.org, select Committees and then Antrim Historical Society.

The first two markers were sponsored by the AHS and the Antrim Congregational Church Association. The idea of these markers came from a Historical Society Board meeting a number of years ago, and implementation of the project was facilitated by funds donated by the Antrim Congregational Church Society. The project started with past AHS President Stephen Ullman and was picked up by current President Bill Nichols. Antrim's own John Anderson of Ragdoll Studios designed the markers. The AHS board was very fortunate to conscript John Anderson's unique design skills to develop a marker that not only stands out, but also blends in, all at the same time.

The AHS contracted the signage company Image 4 out of Manchester, NH, to fabricate the signs. Image 4 is an award-winning signage company with many large customers, including the NFL. Image4 delivered everything



we hoped for in implementing John's designs. With their help, we were able to get both signs installed the day before Home and Harvest.

Thanks to past and present AHS committee members Stephen Ullman, Joan Gorga, Bill Nichols, Barbara Black, Kathi Wasserloos, Neil Brown, Victor Rosansky, Priscilla Shook, Rick Wood and Eric Tenney. Each member of the AHS board brought their unique inspiration to this project and it couldn't have happened without each of their contributions. The AHS also wants to thank the various community members and regulatory bodies involved in guiding and encouraging this project. Additional thanks to Rick Davis and Chief Scott Lester for their support in identifying locations for the first two signs, as well as Jim Plourde and his team for assisting in installing them.

The AHS will not be able to fund additional markers without fundraising and donations to keep this project moving forward. We'd greatly appreciate any contributions, sponsorship or thoughts on how to raise funds for future markers. Please contact one of the AHS Board Members if you think you can assist in keeping the project going. ❁

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MIST

Odessa Vassar

The world is white with mist today
Fog hugs the ground
Breaking over rocks and trees
Coating everything in a faint haze
In the mist, edges are softened
And lines are blurred
Even those between right and wrong

RAIN DANCE

Odessa Vassar

The raindrops are dancing
Dancing on my windowsill
Tap-shoes of water
Breaking and splattering
And dripping down

I can't sleep
The rain is too loud
Will it ever stop?
And leave me in the quiet, at peace?

The rain is still dancing
My mind is dancing with it
A ballet of water and me
Back and forth, up and down, inside my head
Until the rain stops, I shall not sleep
I shall dance with the rain until it moves on

HOW I WRITE

Odessa Vassar

The words won't stop coming
Jumbled-up, twisted piles of thoughts
They clog my mind
Forcing me to unravel them
Into poems

Antrim Grange

Renée Mercier-Gerritsen, Grange Master

Antrim Grange has been and continues to be very busy. Many of us attended the NH State Grange Session in Lebanon in October. We look forward to next year's session.

We are currently making our ornaments and decorations for our tree that we are submitting in this year's Festival of Trees. We love doing this every year and enjoy how it brings our members together with their contributions toward the decorating.

On December 19th we will be serving our annual Community Supper at the Presbyterian Church. Please come and enjoy good food and great company.

Our Sponsor a Highway cleanup was postponed but eventually completed.

We are currently making up our programs for the next year. We will be having our Meet the Candidates Night, Community Awards Night and other public events. Look for postings of our future events on our or other Facebook pages or the website for the NH State Grange at www.nh-grange.org.

For any info on Antrim Grange or the NH State Grange, please feel free to contact Grange Master Renée Mercier-Gerritsen on the Antrim Grange Facebook page or call/text 547-5144. ❁



Antrim Grangers attended the NH State Grange Session in October: Back row: Arthur Merrill, Armond Gerritsen, Adam Paquin-Varnum, Bob Paquin-Varnum. Front row: Beth Merrill, Renée Mercier-Gerritsen, Gloria Davis.

The Missing Cookie Cutters

continued from page 18

he and Webster had found the missing cookie cutters!

Mom looked confused and told Caleb he must have been dreaming because she bought new cookie cutters as a surprise. They were in the kitchen just waiting for them.

Caleb said, "I guess I was dreaming again, but it felt so real! In my dream Superhero Webster found the missing cutters and you said he could have a cookie for helping. Can he have one for real when they're done?"

Mom looked at Webster and said, "Of course! He's our Superhero Dog and they can always have a cookie."

"Thanks mom," said Caleb. ❁

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Gregg Lake Watershed Management Plan

Joan Gorga

The Gregg Lake Watershed Management Plan Committee is making progress. We have now:

- Completed a full water quality analysis
- Set a water quality goal for phosphorus
- Identified current and future pollution sources
- Estimated the pollution reduction needed to reach our water quality goal

Our next challenge is to formulate an action plan, which is supposed to be a reasonable and achievable ten-year plan to reach the water quality goal we set in July. We'll be laying out options and recommendations at a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Little Town Hall on December 3. Please come and participate in the decision-making process.

Why do we need a watershed management plan?

Imagine what losing Gregg Lake would mean to the Town of Antrim.

If we continue along our current path, we may well begin to see beach closures due to cyanobacteria. Last year we measured cyanobacteria for the first time during our summer water testing and saw our first-ever suspected cyanobacteria bloom. Cyanobacteria can produce a range of toxins that can have severe effects on organs, such as the lungs, liver and brain, and beaches are closed when cyanobacteria counts get high enough to be of health concern to humans, as well as dogs and other animals that might come in contact with the toxins. Thankfully, we didn't observe a cyanobacteria bloom in Gregg Lake this year, but Manahan Beach at Franklin Pierce Lake was closed for six days, Dublin Pond beach for five days, and Scobie Pond beach in Franconia for ten days this summer due to cyanobacteria blooms.

For the past four years, we've seen widespread nuisance blooms of filamentous brown or green algae in Gregg Lake. While these algae don't produce the toxins that cyanobacteria can secrete, they do affect swimming, boating and fishing activities on our lake. These nuisance algal blooms will

increase with increases in plant nutrients, such as phosphorus, contributed by erosion, runoff from more frequent and intense storms and shoreline development.

Fecal bacteria counts at the town beach, although still generally quite low, have increased significantly since measurements began in 1985. The public beach was last closed due to high fecal bacteria in 2012, but again, nearby beaches have lost summer days to high fecal bacteria counts: Manahan Beach was closed for two days, Island Pond Beach in Stoddard for four, and Middle Beach at Greenfield State Park for sixteen days this summer.

Our environmental consultants predicted that full build-out of the Gregg Lake watershed, meaning reaching the maximum possible number of dwellings based on buildable land and current zoning regulations, will occur between 2180 and 2214. While these dates seem far in the future, modeling predicts that the concentration of phosphorus in the lake water will more than double in that time, making it likely that the already-present algae and threatening cyanobacteria blooms will increasingly dominate the lake.

The time to act is now, when we're just beginning to see deterioration of water quality. It's much easier to reverse degradation in its early stages, and there are many actions we can take now to address the losses of water quality that we're already seeing. Our water quality and watershed studies show that there is not going to be one silver bullet here. We have to take a multi-pronged approach that will take commitment from all lake users, watershed residents and the town, in order to protect the resource we have in Gregg Lake for the long term.



Funding for this project was provided in part by a Watershed Assistance Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



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The Antrim Fire Department is in need of volunteer Call Firefighters and EMTs. You must be 18 years or older, have a valid driver's license, pass a background check and should reside or work in Antrim. Members receive all training, uniforms and protective equipment and gear and are paid on a per-call basis.

What are the benefits of volunteering? You will get personal satisfaction and pride in helping others. You will make new friendships and lasting bonds. Most important, you will make a difference in your community.

Contact Antrim Fire Department, 82 Clinton Road. Call 588-2114 or email antrimfd@antrimfirerescue.com.



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AB Lions

Nancy Blair

Well, the Antrim Bennington Lions Club has been busy and the members have been enjoying every minute of their activities. Home and Harvest was a big weekend for the club, and it started with Friday night popcorn sales at Shea Field. Lion Rick Wood was so busy that he sold out of popcorn and was able to enjoy the new festivities that took place.

Of course the club took part in the parade. The famous wooden chicken stately rode upon a wagon pulled by various Lion members to remind everyone of the barbecue to take place later that day. Much candy was thrown to the delight of young and old alike!

Despite the gray day, many turned out for the barbecue, and the members served in rare form, wearing their chicken, hot dog and hamburger hats to remind everyone of the good food to come and to show just how fun-loving those Lions members are! Veggie burgers are becoming quite the seller at the barbecue and we will need to search out a veggie burger hat for next year!

In the fall, the Lions' capstone project is the Vision Screening that is done in some of our local schools. Headed by Lion John Conklin, this is a major project that requires a great deal of planning and organization. John pulls everything together—contacting schools and setting things up. There is training involved for the members and they assist in the various schools, as needed. Five hundred seventy-four (574) students were screened at Antrim Elementary, Pierce School, Greenfield Elementary, Hancock Elementary, Frankestown Elementary, Great Brook and the Grapevine. If a student requires a doctor visit or is prescribed glasses, the club can provide assistance. Many families have been helped through this program!

The club continues with business meetings on the first Tuesday and pot-luck speaker meetings on the third Tuesday each month. September was busy with Home and Harvest, so our first speaker, District Governor Sue Lindberg, visited on October 15th. More speakers are scheduled throughout the year and anyone is invited to attend. Please call Nancy Blair at 588-8015 for details.

In January, the club will hold a blanket-making activity for Project Linus. This group provides "security through blankets" for children in need from all walks of life. This will be AB Lions Club's second blanket-making workshop. No sewing required and everyone is welcome to help!

As Membership Chair, I encourage everyone to look into becoming a Lion. This is a warm and caring group of people you will thoroughly enjoy being connected with. Meetings are at the Presbyterian Church on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 6:30–8:00 p.m. Call Nancy Blair at 588-8015 for info. ❄



Photo by Frank Gorga

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Antrim Water and Sewer Commission Updates

Melissa Lombard

The Antrim Water and Sewer Commissioners wanted to provide an update on some of our activities. Thank you for passing the warrant article this past March, which allows us to complete an asset management plan for our sewer collection system and treatment plant. An environmental consultant has been hired and we will most likely have a project kick-off meeting before the end of November. The consultants will work with our staff to catalog all of our assets, repair and maintenance schedules, and estimated replacement costs. This is very useful information for planning into the future.

This past year we completed work on an asset management plan for the water system. Some fun facts from the completion of that plan are that we have 8.3 miles of water main pipe distributing water to 370 connections, and the estimated replacement cost for all of our water assets is \$17.9 million (in 2018 dollars). Also as a result of the asset management plan, the locations of our water mains and hydrants, and information about them, have been put into an electronic geographic information system (GIS).

As many of you are aware, our water has high levels of iron, which is a nuisance and results in orange-brown staining from faucets and in toilets. This iron also builds up around the inside of the well and causes the productivity of the well to decrease over time. Over the past several years we have been working with environmental consultants and drillers to find a location for a suitable replacement well and hoped to find a location on the Antrim side of the Contoocook River. Our current water supply well is located on property in Bennington, and the transmission line is shallowly buried under the Contoocook. We were successful in drilling a replacement well, but it is located on our existing property in Bennington. Now that we have a well drilled, it needs to be connected to the water system and a well house built. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has also recommended that we horizontally drill our water connection line under the Contoocook, where it will be less prone to failure. These are large projects for our small system to absorb, with an estimated cost of approximately \$2 million. We have been applying for grants and loans to assist with these projects. In order to prepare for some of these upcoming costs the commissioners voted to raise water rates by 20%. These new rates will be reflected in your January 2020 water bill. Water rates have not increased since June of 2016. It's not an easy decision to raise rates, but we hope you understand our decision. ❄

The *Limrik* is privately published for, by, and about the people of Antrim. It does not receive any town funds and is entirely supported by subscriptions and advertising revenue.

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Order Your Boy Scout Decorated Christmas Wreaths Today!

Every year the Boy Scouts of Troop 2 sell beautiful fresh Christmas wreaths as one of their biggest fundraisers. This helps the boys with the costs of many of their activities throughout the year, including summer camp.

This past summer, with the help of wreath sales, the Boy Scouts were able to take an incredible cross-country 2-week trip to Yellowstone National Park.

Wreaths will be on sale in Antrim on the following dates:
December 7 – First Presbyterian Church and the Antrim Transfer Station

December 14 – Antrim Police Station and the Antrim Transfer Station

Online orders are also available: 4 sizes starting at \$20.
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Photo by Frank Gorga

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Antrim Historical Society

Kathi Wasserloos and Bill Nichols

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat...and the Antrim Historical Society, along with many other individuals and organizations in town, have decorated a tree to display at the Festival of Trees. Be sure to visit the Tuttle Library to see all the wonderful trees on display before the festival is over.

During the coming winter months, the displays in the Historical Society room will be overhauled. Many thanks go out to several Antrim residents who, over the course of the past few months, have provided us with artifacts and documents to add to our collection. As always, board members of the AHS are available to help you with your research throughout the year.

Our Sunday afternoon programs at the First Presbyterian Church run from April through November, and this past year they included

- April—Maple Sugaring in New Hampshire with Steve Roberge, Extension Forester
- May—Madelyn Klose reminisced about her brother's remains returned to her from WWII
- June—Rebecca Rule entertained us with her program "That Reminds Me Of A Story"
- July—We hosted our annual coffee, doughnuts, music and reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Bandstand
- August—Two former employees and one former tenant talked about working at the Goodell Company
- September—At Home and Harvest, our loyal volunteers provided almost 300 people with Apple Crisp, and on Sunday we instituted a collaborative event with Antrim's Conservation Commission, an historical nature walk and talk in old Antrim Centre
- October—Half a dozen residents talked about their experiences with the supernatural at our "Strange Happenings" program

- November—Local railroad buff Dale Russell from Greenfield talked about Trains in Antrim
- December— With the Festival of Trees committee, we are co-sponsoring the Hancock Bell Ringers at 3:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church

Now is the time when we start making our schedule of programs for next year. If you have a topic of interest or a suggestion for a future speaker, please let us know.

The AHS board is extremely busy with several large ongoing projects. Some of the projects include rebuilding the town's last snow roller; viewing, cataloging and digitizing over 1000 glass plate negatives that have been donated over the past year; and the ongoing historical marker project that you can read more about in this issue. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with these and many other projects. If you think you might be interested, please get in touch.

Last month, one of our most trusted and experienced board members, Barbara Black, stepped down from the board. We are truly going to miss her insight, devotion and most of all her historical knowledge of Antrim. Even though it will be difficult to replace her, we do need to fill her seat with a new board member as soon as possible. Could you be the one?

If you're not a member of the AHS, please consider joining this coming year. The membership dues that we collect are a major source of funding for our Sunday afternoon programs. Dues are only \$10 for an individual or \$20 for a family.

If you'd like to join the AHS, volunteer to help with one of our projects or learn more about anything you've read here, feel free to contact any member of the AHS board, email us at info@antrimhistoricalsociety.org or antrimhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or leave us a note at the front desk of the library. ❁



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Advocacy—You Can Make a Difference!

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Diane Yeo

An advocate is defined as a person who publicly supports or recommends a cause or policy. In New Hampshire you have the opportunity to interact with our legislators in ways those in other states do not. You can make a difference and have your voice heard.

The New Hampshire Legislature is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Together they are called the General Court. There are four hundred State Representatives and twenty-four Senators. Our Legislators are elected to serve two-year terms, with the first year being a budget year and the second an election year. The Legislative Session runs from January to June, but committee work continues throughout the year. Information about the General Court and our Legislators can be found at www.gencourt.state.nh.us.

How does a bill become law? There are many steps, but they begin with having a Representative or a Senator sponsor a bill. They would then file a legislative service request with the Office of Legislative Services. Do you have an idea that you would like to become policy in your community or in your state? Policy is defined as a plan, a course of action, or set of regulations or laws adopted by the government or another decision-making body to determine decisions or procedures. Examples might be a no-vaping policy in public places, supporting suicide prevention education in our schools or creating a commission to study a certain issue in the state that may require legislative change.

Advocacy is the action to create change. Changes in law influence public perceptions and human behavior. Changes in our culture often influence which laws are created. In Antrim, the HOPE Initiative is working for education and awareness around behavioral health and substance use issues in order to reduce the stigma around these issues that affect our community.

There are many ways you can be an advocate. Personal stories humanize policy. Personal storytelling is powerful to effect change. Every time you share a heartfelt story you are advocating for change. Some examples of advocacy in-

clude calling your legislators, testifying, writing letters to the editor, posting on social media, emailing your legislator and attending an event. Be a voice in your community. The HOPE Initiative often hosts informative events in our community—the latest was a “Mock Teen Bedroom” at Avenue A. You can make a difference... One small step at a time...

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it’s the only thing that ever has.” —Margaret Mead

Diane is a resident of Antrim and a member of the HOPE Initiative, the Board of Directors at The Grapevine, the NH State Commission to Study Grandfamilies and the National Ski Patrol and is the Kinship Navigator Coordinator and Family Resource Program Specialist at New Hampshire Children’s Trust. ❁



Antrim H.O.P.E. Initiative

Health-Opportunity-Prevention-Education
For Substance Misuse Awareness and Prevention
Supported by The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center

AHS Membership

The Antrim Historical Society depends on the generosity of friends in and outside the community to enable us to preserve the history of the town of Antrim. Please consider a membership in the Antrim Historical Society to help us with our endeavors. Individual membership is \$10/year and family membership is \$20/year. Please send your remittance to:

Antrim Historical Society
PO Box 172
Antrim, NH 03440

For information, contact Neil Brown by phone at 352-571-0124 or email at brownneilh@aol.com. ❁

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The Grapevine

Melissa Gallagher, Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As 2019 draws to a close, we have much to celebrate and be thankful for. Yet, we have experienced significant loss and tragedy in our community in recent months. Please see our separate article for more information on the Community Gathering that took place on October 9th at the Antrim Town Hall, as well as follow-up supports we have planned.

Our thanks to all who donated to and participated in our 2019 Online Auction in November. We are able to provide our many programs and resources because of local, individual support. As always, we truly value your feedback. Please email me directly with your input at melissag@grapevinenh.org. And if you haven't already, please consider supporting us this holiday season with a financial contribution. Thank you for your continued support!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To **Bantam Grill** of Peterborough. For the fifth consecutive year, Bantam has hosted the BeastMaster's Classic dinner, with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to The Grapevine. Owner Harris Welden and his entire staff—especially Russell Novotny and Morgan Jadis—worked for many months to prepare for this October event, which raised **\$15,000!** We are incredibly grateful and honored to receive this gift. Special thanks also to food and beverage donations from **Kevin Powell of Vinilandia Wines, Amoskeag Beverages, Don Grandmaison of Ief Farms, Linda Osienski of Glory Be Farm, Ben Watson** and musicians **Brad Faucher, Ted Mann and Jeff Costello** for their contributions to this event.

WELCOME

Please join us in welcoming staff member Michelle Avron to The Grapevine! Michelle assists in our children's room in our Better Beginnings program, as well as our Hillsborough parent-child playgroup. She is a wonderful addition to our team and we are very fortunate to have her!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Free Tax Preparation

IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Monday afternoons by appointment from January 20–April 13. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine now to schedule your appointment, as slots fill quickly.

✍️ — continued on page 30



A small, but mighty team of volunteers sorted and stacked two cords of wood at our Community Wood Bank Party on October 19.
Photo by Melissa Gallagher

Guiding Good Choices Parenting Program

We are currently making plans to offer the prevention program Guiding Good Choices, to our community. This interactive program for parents/caregivers of children ages 9–14 supports parents to strengthen their bonds with their children and reduce the risk their children will take part in risky behaviors. Parents will set up clear family guidelines, help their children to develop healthy behaviors, and increase the children's family involvement. Call The Grapevine; ask for Carol for more information.

Dads' Support Group

Interested in a Dads' Group? We have heard that dads don't usually get the time to talk together about being a parent and all of the other things that come up along the way. We are considering offering a Dads' Group at a local Hillsborough location. Please let us know if you are interested by calling 588–2620 and asking for Carol.

ONGOING PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES

Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren

If you are parenting your grandchildren, you are not alone. "Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren" meets monthly and is free. Grapevine parent group facilitator Carol Lunan supports discussions on topics of interest to participants. Recent discussions have focused on advocacy, going to court, parenting children who have experienced trauma and speaking on behalf of all children. Call and ask for Carol for more information.

Weekly Child & Parent Programs

The Grapevine welcomes all children from birth to 5 years of age and their parents to our weekly children's programs.

- Better Beginnings for Babies: Parents and their little ones meet on Wednesdays from 10:00–11:30 a.m. Expectant parents are always welcome.
- Better Beginnings Playgroups in Hillsborough (at the Dubben House on Main Street): Mondays from 1–2:30 and Fridays from 10–11:30

- Better Beginnings playgroups and parent groups: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9:30–11:30
- The Learning Vine parent co-op preschool: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9:00 a.m.–12 noon for children 3 to 5 years old—call for details.

Please call Carol at 588–2620 to sign up for programs, or for more information.

Community Wood Bank is open—still seeking donations of WOOD!

The purpose of our community wood bank is to act as a temporary resource in emergency situations for those who use wood as their primary heat source. We have a bit of wood that still needs to be split. If you have access to a splitter and can volunteer some time to split, it would be very helpful. If you are able to help us deliver to a neighbor who finds themselves suddenly in need, give us a call at 588–2620.

Our Community Tool Lending Shed is open!

Do you need a special tool or piece of equipment? We may have the right one for you. Please email the Toolshed Committee at: toolshed@grapevinenh.org with your request or if you would like to donate tools! *Please do not drop off any tools without contacting us first.*

Watch Me Grow—Developmental Screening Tool Available to Families

Watch Me Grow is a statewide initiative to offer families "information about children's health and development, developmental screening questionnaires based on your child's age, tips on how to help children grow and learn, and connections to services, supports and resources when needed." The Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) is the screening tool offered by Watch Me Grow. If you are interested in trying out an ASQ3 with your child, call The Grapevine and ask for Carol or visit the website watchmegrownh.org to complete the screening online.

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Before and After School Clubs (BASC) 2019–2020

The programs operate on the Antrim schools campus on school days, with Before School running from 6:45 to 8:20 a.m. and After School from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. Clubs include social time with peers, homework help, board games, Legos, free and creative play, and activities outside and inside the Antrim Town Gymnasium. Clubs currently serve Antrim Elementary and Pierce Elementary students. If you have questions or would like more information please contact Lisa Hennessy, Before and After School Coordinator at basc@grapevinenh.org or call our office at 588–2620.

Are you 60 or older and looking for a local and friendly way to maintain and increase your strength, balance and independence? Call us about the Strong Living Senior Exercise program on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:30–2:30 at The Grapevine.

An additional thank you to the many people who supported The Grapevine in so many ways over the fall, including:

- Our Home and Harvest float driver **Andrew Robblee** with trailer donated by **Robblee Tree Service**, all our wonderful family & friends that joined us for the ride!
- **Elaine DeMello and Ann Duckless with NAMI-NH and Diana Schryver with the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team** for their support and assistance to our community with suicide response and prevention education and resources
- **Bank of New Hampshire** for sponsoring Avenue A Teen & Community Center's Anthology Book.
- The **local businesses, families, and shoppers** who gave to our 2019 Online Auction during the month of November.
- Our facility committee **Ben Pratt, Rick Edmunds and Tom Badgley** for their many efforts in addressing our building and grounds needs. Your service is priceless!

- **Brenda Hennessy** for her donations of paper goods, soaps, and more for our programs.
- **Glenn Stan, John Conklin, Rick Edmunds, Tom Badgley and Cheryl Rasmussin** for continuing to promote and lend tools at our Community Tool Lending Shed.
- **Glenn Stan** for his support with our planned mental health training and supports.
- **Lemire and Sons and Patrick Cogan** for donating wood to our wood bank.
- Community members **Jeromey Brett, Peter Moore, Rick Wood, Joe, Aimee, Hazen, & Emerson Mullahy, Shawn Hugron, Keegan Parisi, and Aiden Maroney** for stacking wood at the Community Wood Bank this October.
- **Samantha Gallo** for offering up monthly meeting space at the Fuller Library in Hillsborough
- **Grapevine families** who have donated snacks and supplies to our programs.
- **Grapevine staff and board** who always go above and beyond their normal duties and volunteer their time for needed projects such as painting, wood stacking, garden maintenance and more!
- See the Avenue A article for many more volunteer recognitions!

Services Available at The Grapevine...

- Information and Referral to resources for food, housing, heating and other needs
- Community Wood Bank—for urgent needs
- Community Tool Lending Shed—email toolshed@grapevinenh.org for requests
- Tax Preparation and Budgeting Assistance with Larry Schwartz of PHC Financial
- Onsite child and family counseling—by referral to counselor. Please call us for more information.

The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located at 4 Aiken Street in Antrim, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 588–2620, or email info@grapevinenh.org. We gratefully accept donations, which are tax deductible. Please make your donation online at www.grapevinenh.org or mail a check payable to The Grapevine to PO Box 637, Antrim NH 03440. Visit us on social media at facebook.com/grapevinenh.org and Instagram: [@thegrapevinefric](https://www.instagram.com/thegrapevinefric). ❁



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