

The Limrik

A Quarterly Journal

For, by and about the people of Antrim.

Vol. 17 #2
March 2008

IMPORTANT YEAR FOR SCHOOL BALLOT

Mary Allen
ConVal School Board

On March 11, Antrim voters will be handed a separate ballot when they go to the polls. Under the official-ballot rules, voters in all nine ConVal towns make their final budget and warrant decisions at that time. Here's a preview of that ballot:

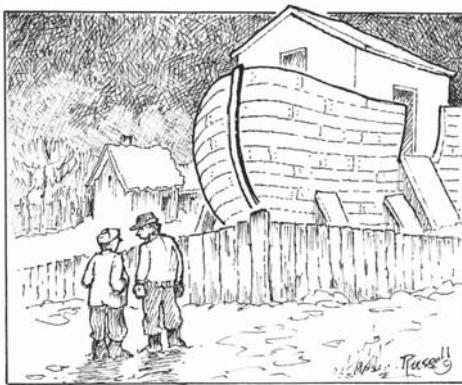
Article 1: The proposed district budget is \$42.4 million for 2008-09, or roughly the same as last year. A zero-based review of all line items was made with an eye to savings wherever possible. Balancing staffing with declining school enrollments has been tough, and 14.1 full-time equivalent positions will

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GOODBYE CONTENDER

Recently we noticed with sadness the disappearance of Lloyd Henderson's cogent and vital weekly newspaper, *The Contender*. Lloyd has been a friend to Antrim, and to the *Limrik*, and we regret the loss of his take on local events. We wish him well.

— The Editor



"You say a weather forecaster owns this property?"

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mike Genest

We have been busy the last few months preparing the budget and finalizing our plans for Town Meeting in March.

The Selectmen asked Department Heads to minimize expenses to keep the budget at a 0% increase and yet maintain our levels of services that residents have come to expect.

Considering the statewide problems with school funding, and the major concerns about the under-funding of the New Hampshire Retirement System and several other unfunded mandates, the Selectmen felt it important that they continue to control the Town's portion of the tax rate as much as possible, even though it is only 30% of our taxes.

With increases in the cost of fuel, heating oil, insurance, salt, and retirement funding, it was a challenge for all of us to keep the budget at current levels. The proposed operating budget is just a 1.5% increase over last year which we feel will be tight but achievable.

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ELECTION DAY

MARCH 11, 2008

8 AM – 7 PM

TOWN HALL

TOWN MEETING

MARCH 13, 2008

7 PM

TOWN GYM

WHY SO MANY POLICE?

Chief Todd Feyrer

On January 23, 2008 the Antrim Police Department was faced with a burglary in progress at 42 Main Street, the Mill Building. With police in town from all over the area and citizen curiosity at its peak, people asked questions: Why were there so many police? Why didn't officers enter the building on their own? Was the SWAT Team really necessary? Believe it or not, as a police administrator, I ask these same questions and many more in order to determine the proper response to any given situation.

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SELECTMEN CANDIDATES

The Editor

Ron Haggett and Gordon Webber are candidates for Ben Pratt's position on the Board of Selectmen. With the help of Ben Pratt and Bill Prokop, the *Limrik* has posed five queries to both candidates whose responses follow:

RON HAGGETT

1. *Why are you running for the office of selectmen and what skills do you bring to the Town?*

I am a candidate for selectman because I feel I have the knowledge, experience and both the energy and the time to do the job. We moved to Antrim over 10 years ago when I retired, and I have been

GORDON WEBBER

1. *Why are you running for the office of selectmen and what skills do you bring to the Town?*

Having grown up in Antrim and then having lived and worked in various states around the country, I have an appreciation for the small town atmosphere Antrim provides. I realize how

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Please make checks payable to the *Antrim Limrik*. We hope people will keep up with the expiration dates of their subscriptions to the *Limrik*. On the mailing label is the following information:
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The Limrik was founded November 1991 by Beverly Tenney, Lois Harriman, and Nancy Timko.

ADVERTISING FEES

Half Page (Back Page)	\$75 per issue
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Quarter Page	\$45 per issue
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	or \$100 for 4 issues

Advertising copy is due by the 10th of the month prior to the *Limrik* publication—February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Final decisions about acceptable content for ads will be made by the Managing Editor and the Advertising Manager.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E-mail your letters to the *Limrik* in care of Lyman Gilmore. The address is: l_gilmore@conknet.com.

CREDITS

Cartoon on page 1 was created by Russ Russell.

Illustration on page 7 was created by Virginia Dickinson

NEWS DEADLINE

News deadline is the 10th of the month preceding each issue. Issues are published in March, June, September, and December. For the next issue, copy deadline is May 10. Please e-mail your article to: Lyman Gilmore at: l_gilmore@conknet.com.

Selectmen

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We have continued to work on our bridge program and have solidified plans and funding with the state through 2014. This means that the state has agreed to pay 80% of the cost while the 20% balance will come from our bridges capital reserve fund.

At year-end we were hit with a series of snowstorms and cold weather that drove our Highway Department expenses over budget in the winter maintenance categories. But overall they were able to come in under budget by \$20,000.00 for 2007. The Board of Selectmen thanks all the departments and employees who helped get us through the snowstorms without any major incidents.

We also wish to thank all volunteers who do so much for the Town. It is you that make Antrim a great place to live and work. We also would like to ask residents to come forward and become involved with any board, commission, or activity that is of interest to you. Your participation is very important and helps the various boards and commissions to be successful. If you have any questions on how to get involved, please come to any Selectmen's meeting and ask questions. The more you are involved and informed, the better all things function.

In closing, I would like to thank Ben Pratt for his time on the Board of Selectmen. It has been a pleasure to work with him, and his wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and common sense will be missed. He has served Antrim in many areas, from Planning and Zoning, Water and Sewer, Library, and most recently the Board of Selectmen. We feel confident that he will continue to be a valuable resource whenever we need him.

Again, Ben, thank you for your years of service to the Town.

We look forward to seeing you all on voting day and at Town Meeting. Your vote and voice are important. ♫

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Diane Chauncey

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program is a nationwide effort encouraging children in kindergarten through eighth grade to walk or ride bikes to school. Children who gain an appreciation of walking and biking are more likely to remain active and physically fit into adulthood. Encouraging children to walk or pedal will also reduce traffic congestion around schools and contribute to clean air and a healthier environment. Antrim Elementary School and Great Brook School would like to form a Task Force that will identify the best ways to encourage walking and biking. The group will work together to identify any barriers to safe walking and biking and then find solutions. Interested in helping? Call Sarah Edwards (Antrim Elementary School, 588-6371) or Diane Chauncey (Town Hall, 588-6785, ext 228). ♫

VOTE FOR SKATE PARK WARRANT ARTICLE 16

Barbara Reynolds

The Antrim Skate Park Committee has a warrant article that you'll be voting on at our Town Meeting in March. We're asking you to vote "yes" on warrant article 16 and put your support behind a request for \$5,000 to be used to buy blueprints and special skateboard surfacing for two new pieces of equipment for the skate park. The new equipment will be built by parent and skater volunteers. Then we will incorporate them into an integrated design that will use all of our equipment, old and new.

The Antrim Skate Park Committee is a group of dedicated parent volunteers who are committed to the establishment of a free, quality skateboarding facility in Antrim. We view skateboarding as a healthy and fun recreational activity that develops coordination, body awareness and confidence. Skateboarding also fosters social interaction and cooperation among all ages. And most importantly, it fosters a sense of community, a much needed feeling of belonging that is so often missing from many of our lives and our children's lives. More and more, our children sit inside their homes and interact with each other through electronic media, or passively view the world on a screen. Let's get them back outside in the fresh air, learning social skills, cooperation and developing physical strength while they're having fun.

With a lot of help from friends and volunteers, last year we raised \$1250 for this project, and we're busy with raising more money in 2008. With the kids we hope to put together at least two skateboarding events this year, with pro demonstrations and an amateur competition. We had our first competition last fall at the Home and Harvest Festival. The kids were nervous as none of them had ever participated in a real competition with judges before. They had to reach outside of their comfort zones, something we encourage our kids to do. That can be difficult for any of us. They did it and were thrilled by the experience. It was a great confidence builder, a great day, and a great beginning. We need your support, so please vote to give the skateboard park \$5,000 at the Town Meeting.

Antrim Skate Park Committee and contributing volunteers: Barbara and Mark Reynolds, Lyman and Cinda Gilmore, Lisa Gilmore, Jane and Peter Lamb, Liz Brett, Richard and Susan Ellsworth, Sarah Burt, David Kirkpatrick, Janice King, Lisa and Scott Hendricks, Paula Trow and Trends of Fashion, and The Friends of Rec.

Warrant Article 16 is recommended by the Board of Selectmen and requested by the Antrim Recreation Commission. ♫

THE MONADNOCK PAPER MILLS

The paper on which this *Limrik* is printed has been generously donated by The Monadnock Paper Mills. For this, the *Limrik* is very grateful.

FAREWELL MARITA

Interview by Missy Tailor

Marita (Mary) Hammond recently resigned as Town Clerk and Tax Collector for health reasons after faithfully serving the town for almost 25 years. She is recuperating from surgery at her new home on Valley Lane, and, while currently unable to speak because of the removal of her larynx, nonetheless she spiritedly responded to my questions with paper and pen.

I didn't realize it had been almost 25 years that I'd been working for the Town. I knew it was a long time – but 25 years – no way.

I started as Tax Collector when the jobs were separate. I took over from Jan Boatright - I don't think she was there very long, and before her Sally Martel was Tax Collector. I don't think she was there very long either. Martin Nichols was the Town Clerk and had been for a long time. The following March, I ran for the position of Town Clerk because Martin was retiring. Jane Hill also ran and she was elected. It was not long after that when the town voted to combine the jobs (Town Clerk/Tax Collector). Jane didn't want both so she didn't run the next year. I ran and was voted in. A few years after that, the term was changed to a three year term. Only one time did a person run against me. She didn't win, obviously, but there were times I wish she had.

It was an eye opening experience for me, working with the public. I used to wonder why Martin didn't seem to smile very much. I learned why pretty quickly. Most of the public was great – it's only the one or two who can make things quite difficult at times.

I have worked with a lot of different boards of selectmen, some easier to work with than others. Very few knew what my job really consisted of. A few did take the time to try to find out, but because of the State of New Hampshire changing its rules and regulations it was very difficult for them to keep up. The job itself was much easier when I first started out, back in the days before computers were a necessity. I learned how to use them enough to do the taxes and then motor vehicles, but I was never comfortable with them. When I finally got a part-time deputy, Donna Hanson, it was a godsend. She's the one that kept and still keeps the Town Clerk and Tax Collector's Office up to date.

I really miss all of the people that I got to see or work with every day. When I first started, a lot of the elderly would drop in on their walk around town, and sit and visit with me. Sometimes it was a problem and I couldn't get things done, but I loved hearing all the stories they had to tell. That ended when one of the selectpersons decided I was wasting too much time and took away the visitor's chair. Most of the elderly couldn't stand that long so they no longer prolonged their visits. That was a big loss to me. The chair returned when a new Board was elected. Most of the time, the Selectmen didn't

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be eliminated next year. Meanwhile those savings have been off set by rising fuel oil and diesel prices.

There's been some confusion about whether the budget includes salary increases. The district's contract with its teachers ends June 30, 2008. State rules require that any salary questions beyond that point be handled by separate warrant article (Article 7).

Raises for non-bargaining employees – office staff, food service employees, maintenance personnel and school administrators – are included in the proposed budget. Those raises vary and aren't part of union negotiations.

Under the official-ballot rules, if voters defeat the proposed budget, a default budget is used. This year the default budget will be \$41.9 million, or roughly \$390,000 less than the proposed budget.

To learn more about the budget, go to the "Budget Frequently Asked Question" section on the home page of the district's Web site (www.conval.edu). Printed copies of those FAQs are available at the Antrim Town Hall, Antrim Elementary School, Great Brook School, and the Tuttle Library.

Articles 2, 3 and 4: These articles are fairly straightforward, and ask voters to add \$50,000 to an existing capital reserve fund for buildings; to add \$50,000 to an existing trust fund for special education costs; and to set the amount of the stipend for school board members and board officials.

Article 5: This is a petition asking for a change in the Articles of Agreement. The petitioners want to change how the data on student enrollment for each town is figured, moving it from the current "average daily membership" (ADM) calculated from two years prior, to a town's student enrollment as of October 1st each year.

While this seems like an easy question, there's a bit more to it. New data-gathering tools can produce a more current ADM figure or the district could use its own data from the end of the school year (June 30). And there's another data tool that calculates a rolling average (for three years, four years, or whatever number is picked) that might smooth out enrollment peaks and valleys in all nine towns. And while there is nothing wrong with proposing an October 1st benchmark, using a single date doesn't account for students who enroll or leave school after that date.

The school board is not recommending this article, which will need a two-thirds majority to pass. While the board thinks updating the method makes sense, more analysis is needed of all available methods.

And finally, if voters decide to adopt the October 1st method, the district will have to live with that change for five years. That's a long time if this isn't the right method.

Article 6: This is also a petition, spearheaded by Francis Chapman of Peterborough, to change the Articles of Agree-

ment requiring the district to maintain an elementary school in all ConVal towns except Sharon. The petition asks that the school board be given the power to make decisions about closing or consolidating elementary schools.

The school board isn't recommending this article either. Keeping an elementary school in each town has been a long-standing agreement among the ConVal towns. If the need to close a school becomes apparent, that is a decision the whole district should make – not the school board.

Article 7: As has been reported in the local press, negotiating teams for the school board and the teachers' union weren't able to reach an agreement on a new contract. After mediation, a fact-finder was called in and his report and its financial impact now go to the voters.

The report calls for a three-year contract with following salary and benefit increases: \$785,539 for next year; an additional \$1,209,360 increase in the following year; and an additional \$1,474,333 increase for the final year.

In late January, the teachers' union voted to accept the fact-finders' report and the proposed increases. The school board voted not to accept the report or the increases. *In addition, the school board is not recommending the adoption of this article.*

And now it's up to the voters to decide.

If the article passes by a simple majority on March 11, the voters are accepting the three-year contract and that ends negotiations. If the article fails, both sides go back to the bargaining table and start over with a clean slate and hopes of reaching an agreement by the end of the school year.

The full fact-finders' report is posted on the home page of the district's Web site (www.conval.edu). In addition, the home page also links to a position paper setting out the reasons behind the board's vote.

The teacher's union has also released its rationale for supporting the report and the increases.

Please take the time to inform yourself about this key vote. Reasonable people can disagree reasonably, and that's the case here. This is a great district because we have great teachers and the board looks forward to forging an agreement with the union in future talks.

Article 8: If the fact-finders' report is rejected on March 11, Article 8 calls for a special meeting later this year to consider a re-negotiated contract settlement.

Articles 9 and 10: These articles are of the "housekeeping" variety and call for accepting the reports of the committees and voting for new school board members and officials.

School board elections are handled on the same ballot as town officials. A three-year term for one of the two Antrim representatives is open and Lauren Kirkpatrick is running.

CONTROVERSIAL STONE CHURCH OFFERED TO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lyman Gilmore

Owners Jim and Carol Rymes have offered to donate the old Stone Church on Clinton Road to the Antrim Historical Society. The Society Board has spent the past year studying the possible advantages and disadvantages of owning the church, and all the Society members will vote on March 29th whether or not to accept it. As part of our study, and with Nina Harding's invaluable assistance, I have dug up the fascinating history of the Stone Church and its controversy.

The lovely old Stone Church built in 1898 down the hill from the Grange Hall was not always as peaceful and tranquil as it appears today. Indeed, it grew out of a bitter dispute that still echoes in some Antrim homes one hundred and ten years later.

In the late 1700s and during most of the 1800s, the majority of the town's residents lived at Antrim Center near Meeting House Hill, the geographical center of the town. In 1826, families at Antrim Center erected just west of our current Grange Hall a beautiful brick Presbyterian Church with a tall, graceful steeple and a Paul Revere bell. Because so many of our early settlers were Scots Presbyterians, the Center Church had the largest congregation in town, two hundred and sixty three by 1880. But as more and more families moved to the South Village, our current downtown, they wanted a Presbyterian Church closer to home than the Center Church, a two mile walk, horseback, or buggy ride uphill. Having discovered from the official Presbytery in Boston that two Presbyterian churches could not exist in so small a town, the South Village group, called the "Presbyterian Society," petitioned for permission to build a new church in the South Village. In 1893 the new Presbyterian Church was completed at its current location next to the Maplehurst Inn, and in March of that year the Society voted to "sell their old meeting house at the Centre of Antrim, to be removed from said premises within two years, the vestry, the bell, the land and all property" with the proceeds from the sale to be used for the new Presbyterian Church in the South Village.

Naturally, many residents of Antrim Center wanted to maintain their beloved Center Church, and led by angry resident Eben Bass, they attempted to prevent efforts of the South Village Presbyterians to eliminate it. When the South Village congregation, the Presbyterian Society, filed a lawsuit against the Center congregation for ownership of the Center Church, the Center group came up with an imaginative ploy in an attempt to establish legal ownership and win the lawsuit. This ploy consisted of attempting to reestablish the "Central Society," a long defunct committee formed in 1826 to give "legal agency" to the Center Presbyterians for the construction of the original Center Church, as the legal owner of the Center Church. Then, in 1893, having created this "Center Society," which in fact had never possessed any legal status, Bass and his group voted to expel from the Central Society the South Village Presbyterians who had already left of their

own accord. Thus, although the Center Church group contested it aggressively, the South Village group won legal ownership of the Center Church at trial in July 1895. Having won, they removed to their new church the Center Church bell, pews, doors, windows, rugs, and bricks, and in 1896 the Center Church was demolished.

Defeated but unbowed, and determined to have their own church at the Center, Eben Bass and colleagues began construction out of fieldstone found on the pasture site what would be completed in 1898 as the 1st Congregational Church of Antrim, "The Stone Church." As described in *Parades and Promenades*, "The church prospered for many years. At times, the congregation reached the two hundred mark. Morning and evening services were held regularly, as well as mid-week and preparatory services. Church suppers (for as little as ten cents in the early days), harvest suppers served by the best cooks in town, it was said, and strawberry festivals were-not-to-be-missed events. But with the attrition of time, the attendance dwindled, and by the year 1960 the meetings were reduced to an early service during the summer only." In 1992, deciding that it could no longer maintain the Stone Church adequately, the Congregational Society deeded it to James Rymes who promised to keep it in repair as a meetinghouse. In 2007 Rymes offered it to the Antrim Historical Society under the same conditions.

If the Society votes to accept it, the Stone Church will be used for public meetings, weddings, musical events, and for storage and display of artifacts owned by the Antrim Historical Society. ♫



It is my goal with this article to shed some light on these questions. I hope to help you understand that police response to any incident, motor vehicle stop, or arrest is a very dynamic situation that can change at a moments notice. It is our job as police, and mine as an administrator to prepare for these situations and handle them in the safest way possible.

This extremely large building had been broken into on numerous instances over the past two months in what appeared to be a very deliberate attempt to steal copper wire and scrap metal for profit. These particular crimes are becoming more and more prevalent and sometimes very difficult to solve. This individual is believed to be solely responsible for taking approximately \$2,000 - \$5,000 worth of copper wire and metal. In addition, damages to the building are estimated to be over \$41,000! It is difficult to conceive how so much damage could have taken place when the return was so little. We have learned that although a three-foot piece of cable may be illegally sold for a small amount of money, maybe \$30-\$40, the entire 400 foot cable is now useless and a new cable must be installed at a significant cost. Breaker boxes with just a little copper wiring taken from inside are now useless and cost over \$5,300 to replace.

As I mentioned, this is an extremely large building with three floors and endless places for someone to hide or escape from one location while officers are searching in another location. This brings me to the point of securing the perimeter once the suspect is seen entering the building. As we all know, the Antrim Police Department is very small, with normally one officer on duty at a time. It would have been extremely impractical, unsafe, and foolish for this one officer to follow the suspect by crossing a small foot bridge, traversing around the edge of the building next to the river and climb up and enter through a broken window. Once in the building

the suspect could have gone anywhere. An officer is always thinking ahead about consequences if he were to enter the building in this instance. Could the suspect escape through a different exit as he now knows the police are on to him? Could the suspect be hiding in some unknown location, waiting to ambush the officer? Does the suspect have a weapon? Are there other suspects that he is working with who could pose a danger to him on the outside?

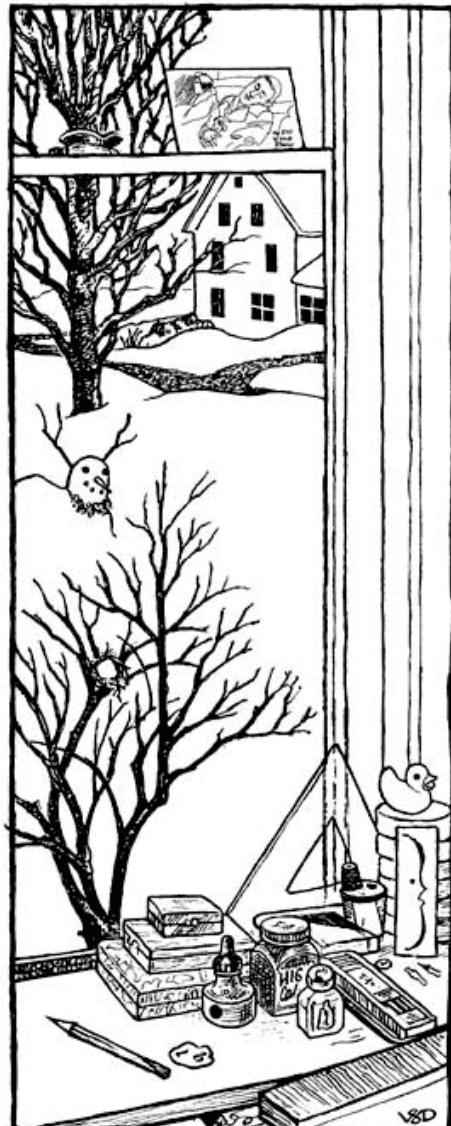
Some might think that these questions may portray officers as afraid or not willing to "run in with guns blazing" as may have been done in the old days. However, these questions are posed after history has made us wiser. As noted in the Officer Down Memorial Page (www.odmp.org), 181 officers were killed in the line of duty in 2007. 64 of these tragic deaths were caused by gunfire, second only to automobile accidents with 47 deaths. There have already been 18 officers killed in the line of duty in 2008. Six of these incidents were from gunfire.

Regardless of the size of the police department, most rely on mutual aid assistance from other jurisdictions. This is especially true for smaller departments with much less manpower and fewer resources. This was the case in this situation when we needed enough officers to not only secure the outside of the building, but to enter the building. To enter a building safely during a tactical situation requires specialized training, which in this instance involved the Keene SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) Team. It is their protocol to activate the South Western NH SOU (Special Operations Unit) to assist them with a building of this size.

Although I have been a police officer for almost 13 years, I can honestly say that the logistics and planning of this situation was one of the largest I have been involved with. The feeling of working "alone" in a small town was quickly dissolved with the cooperation

from all those agencies that assisted Antrim in resolving this incident.

There is no arguing the fact that at 7:00 am on January 23, 2008 downtown Antrim was flooded with police officers and cruisers from all over the place. WMUR Channel 9 was anxiously waiting on Main Street to put the story on the morning news, while the phones were ringing off the hook from the local newspapers. On January 24 the Town was back to normal. The Antrim Police Department is extremely grateful to those who helped us end the burglary spree in a safe manner. ♫



THE 5:47 TO NORTH WHITE PLAINS &
1:20 IN ANTRIM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

RON HAGGETT

active in town affairs for the past 8 years as follows:

- Volunteer assisting with the automation project for the Tuttle Library
- Elected to Library Board of Trustees
- Member and Vice Chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Elected to the Board of Selectmen
- Member Ex-officio of the Planning Board
- Member of the Master Plan and CIP committees
- Member of the Emergency Management Operations Plan Committee
- Member of the School Funding Committee
- Member of the Selectmen's Advisory to the Conval School District
- Member Ex-officio of the Recreation Commission

I am currently a member of both the Zoning board and the Recreation Commission. The town depends on active volunteers, and as long as I am able I feel an obligation to serve.

2. What do you think are the major issues that will face the Town in the next three years that are not now planned for, and what do you think should be done about them?

I think the major issues facing the town in the next three years will be:

-School Funding. We must work with the other Towns in the district, the School Board, and our legislators to find funding sources other than the property tax to pay for the latest adequate education proposal from Concord. \$3,600 per pupil support level for state aid is totally inadequate and if funded by the property tax will produce yet one more court fight.

-Consolidation of major services with the surrounding towns. Small towns like Antrim will have to begin exploring the possibility of creating public works and public safety districts to share costs and achieve economies of scale in order to relieve the increasing burden on the property tax. This will become more critical as future development of open land puts greater demands on existing infrastructure.

3. What are the major issues that should be addressed in the current update of the Town's Master Plan?

The major issue to be addressed in the current update of the town's Master Plan will be encouraging future commercial development to increase the town's tax base while at the same time preserving the historic rural character of Antrim. This can best be accomplished by implementing the Commercial Development Zones proposed in the update and implementing developer funded impact fees to the extent possible.

4. What do you consider to be the most important role of a selectman?

I consider the most important role of a Selectman is to look to the future and prepare the town for the coming changes



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GORDON WEBBER

fortunate I am to have had that upbringing. I have a personal interest in the future of Antrim and would like to keep its rural character while balancing the growth and economic wellbeing. I have operated a successful masonry and tile business here for 30 years, giving me insight to the construction trades and administration and financing of a business.

2. What do you think are the major issues that will face the Town in the next three years that are not now planned for, and what do you think should be done about them?

The town has done a good job of planning for the future. I believe the main issues not planned for over the next three years are the ongoing changes in state and federal regulations. The challenge will be to stay abreast of the changing regulations.

3. What are the major issues that should be addressed in the current update of the Town's Master Plan?

Controlling growth while increasing the commercial tax base. Creating regional services with border towns. Create a Department of Public Works.

4. What do you consider to be the most important role of a selectman?

The Board of Selectmen is the main regulatory authority for the town in setting and enforcing policies and regulations and issuing licenses and permits. Fiscal responsibility while carrying out these duties is the most important role of a selectman.

5. There seems to be a major concern throughout the state regarding the fiscal health of the New Hampshire Retirement System. What is your opinion of the NH Retirement Study Commissions report and how do you feel it will impact the Town of Antrim?

The NH retirement system provides for state and municipal workers, teachers, police, and firemen. The funding system is flawed as it does not pay 100% of costs. The NH Retirement Study Commission report (175 pages available online) offers a number of alternatives for funding all of which will cost the employer (the town of Antrim) more money. How much is yet to be determined. HB 1645 is the Omnibus Retirement Bill which incorporates the recommendations from the NH Retirement Study Commission Report as well as other minority reports, and is the bill which will finalize the funding methods.

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ELECTION DAY

**MARCH 11, 2008 8 AM – 7 PM
TOWN HALL**

MAYFLOWER

By Nathaniel Philbrick

A Penguin Book 358 pp \$16.00 in paperback

Reviewed by Dick Winslow

In 1620 Pilgrim life in New England began in purity and ended fifty-five years later with a disastrous war. There were two catalysts for the progression from the admirable to the awful: (1) the Pilgrims' difficult need for a stable, humane relationship with Native Americans in order to exist; and (2) the desire for land.

In the beginning, the Pilgrims, one of whose leaders was Edward Winslow, developed an admirable, mutual-aid relationship with the Indians, one of whose leaders was Massasoit. The relationship was generous on both sides. Without this relationship, the Pilgrims would literally have starved during that first brutal winter. But as time went on, friendship between the Pilgrims and the Indians unraveled, to an important degree because of a quest for land ownership. The English population grew rapidly, with shipload after shipload of new arrivals creating a need for more and more land. Land purchases from the Indians became huge, cheating on both sides became cancerous and BANG!, in 1675 war broke out – King Philip's War, the bloodiest war ever fought on American soil. The war lasted only 14 months, from June 1675 to August 1676, but during those months, 8% of the New England colonists and over 60% of the Indians were killed, and thirty of the one hundred New England villages were burned to the ground. Not counted in these statistics were the estimated 1000 Indians who, at war's end, were sold by the Pilgrims into slavery in the Caribbean Islands. At that time, Josiah Winslow, son of Edward Winslow, was governor of the Plymouth Colony. Josiah rationalized and approved the slave selling. I'm proud to claim Edward as a forebear but embarrassed by Josiah.

Another father-son team played a key role in the above-mentioned disaster: the Indian sachem (chief), Massasoit, and his son Philip after whom the bloody war was named. (The Pilgrims had sarcastically dubbed Philip "King," and the name stuck.) Massasoit tended toward reason and generosity: his son Philip thought of himself in outsized terms and could be rash in his actions.

King Philip and Josiah Winslow. Each was in a position to prohibit the terrible war, neither did so.

SOME RELEVANT FACTS

- All Pilgrims were Puritans, strict, fundamentalist Christians who held that divine wisdom was to be found in the Bible and nowhere else. In the 1600s, this made them enemies of the Church of England which was sanctioned by the Crown. Puritans felt that the Church had arrogated to itself powers that had nothing to do with divine truth. When Puritans expressed that view in extremist terms, they were harassed, jailed, and even executed.

- In 1608, a group of about 400 Puritans fled England and took refuge in religiously-tolerant Holland. They settled in the city of Leiden where, by dint of backbreaking labor, they were able to support themselves.

- In 1620, some 50 of these Leiden Puritans sought an entirely new life in America where they hoped to establish a community both rooted in English customs and providing religious freedom. In early September 1620, they sailed aboard the ship Mayflower calling themselves "Pilgrims," folks on a religious pilgrimage to a place that was, in their minds, not unlike the biblical Promised Land. Also aboard were some 50 others (the Pilgrims referred to them as "Strangers") leaving the Old World to establish a better life in the New World.

- The Mayflower's voyage lasted two months and was extremely difficult. Seasickness prevailed, the sleeping quarters were unbelievably cramped, and the weather was fearsome. Half way across the Atlantic, the ship's captain, Christopher Jones, almost decided to turn around and go back to England.

- It had been planned that the Mayflower would land at the mouth of the Hudson River on what we now call Manhattan. Adverse sailing conditions, however, forced landings first on Cape Cod (Nov. 11th); then, after a month of scouting expeditions, at Plymouth (Dec. 17th) where a permanent colony was established.

- The Pilgrim's new life in America was haunted by hunger and fear of the Indians. After one year, almost exactly half of the 102 Mayflower passengers had died, mostly from disease, but also from cold and malnutrition.

Nathaniel Philbrick's *Mayflower*, is laid out in 16 chapters covering the first 56 years of the American experience, 1620-1676. The fact that those years began in peace and ended in a fierce war shadows the entire book. Vignette after vignette illustrates a complicated, delicate balance between settlers and Indians: the perpetual mutual fear, the perpetual need for cool heads and wise decisions, the persistent presence of violence enacted by both Pilgrims and Indians. An example:

In 1623, a number of attacks by Indians had angered the Pilgrims, especially its aggressive, chip-on-the-shoulder military officer, Captain Miles Standish (a very short man who was sometimes referred to behind his back as "Captain Shrimp"). To quote Philbrick, "Standish invited two Indian leaders, Wituwamat and Pecksuot, into one of the settlement's houses for a meal ... The two were wary of (Standish) but that did not prevent them from accepting the invitation... Wituwamat and Pecksuot entered the room, accompanied by Wituwamat's brother and a friend, along with several women. Once they had all sat down and begun to eat, Standish signaled for the door to be shut. Then he proceeded to stab to death Pecksuot while other Pilgrims as-

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THESE ANTRIM HILLS

ROBB MOUNTAIN

Peter Moore

Perhaps the “wildest” of the hills and mountains of Antrim is Robb Mountain. Due primarily to its lack of access for the casual hiker, four-wheeler, or snow mobile, this broad summit, and its steep, stream-laden eastern slope, has been left pretty much undisturbed by the two-legged intruder. No homes nearby, no roads or trails, at least not the sort that you or I might use. Some logging on the lower western slope perhaps 15-20 years ago.

But take a snowshoe traverse up Robb in mid-winter, as I did in late January, and you will find that this is not the snow-capped, deserted place one might imagine it to be. What you will find are the recent and obvious signs of moose, deer, coyote, red fox, snowshoe hare, porcupine, fisher, wild turkey, and Pileated Woodpeckers. And what you will less likely witness are the glimpses of short-tailed weasel, red squirrel, barred owl, grouse, bobcat, and a multitude of subnivian (under snow) invertebrate and smaller mammals.

Robb Mountain is one of the four mountains that make-up what was referred to during the first two centuries of Antrim’s settlement as the western “high range.” Robb, whose wide summit is just over 1823 feet above sea-level, the third highest in town, sits nestled on the range between Willard Mountain’s twin summits at 1870 feet, and Bald Mountain to its south, the loftiest promontory in Antrim at 1978 feet, and likely the most climbed in town. Interestingly, Willard Mountain whose summits are about 50 feet higher than Robb’s, isn’t even mentioned in W.R. Cochran’s 1880 *History of Antrim*, nor does it appear on the early Antrim maps. Here is Cochran:

“On the south side of Branch river (now Route 9), extending along the west part of town five or six miles, and reaching Hancock, is a range of mountains of considerable height. This ridge extends to Monadnock on the south, and to Washington, Stoddard, and other mountains to the north. The middle part of this chain, as it is divided in our town, is Robb Mountain, named after Andrew Robb, who settled on its western declivity about 1796, and owned a large part of it. It is nearly the same height as Tuttle Mountain. At a distance it seems like a vast and regular elevation; but has many depressions and elevations, several summits, many wild and romantic spots, and, but for difficulty of access, would be often visited by the tourist. Various names have been given from time to time, to peaks in this part of the range.”

Having studied topographical maps and hiked and explored these mountains and discussed them with people who know them well, I have come to the conclusion that when Cochran described Robb *alone* as having “...many depression and elevations, several summits, many wild and romantic spots...” he is also describing what he conspicuously does not name, and early maps do not depict, and that is the land-

scape of Willard and Robb Mountain *as one*, which they clearly are not.

Accurate, however, is the “difficulty of access” that Cochran described over 145 years ago in reference to reaching the summit of Robb Mountain, which I think is a good thing. But these slopes weren’t always uninhabited nor this summit unvisited as they are today. Our later history, *Parades and Prominades*, introduced by the Antrim Historical Society in 1977 recalls that:

“In the eighteenth century Robb Mountain to the west was well populated. About a dozen families, sixty persons in all, lived there with Andrew and Moor Robb, and they were considered prosperous farmers. All lived in log houses...and had their own school. But they began to move out, one at a time, and by the early nineteenth century all had gone. Their log houses rotted away. No roads have ever been built to this community and to this day the only routes to the mountain are hiker’s trails.”

“Hiker’s trails” perhaps, but I have yet to discover any easy path to the summit of Robb Mountain, although I have tried several times. From the west, leaving Robb Reservoir, and hiking with my wife several miles in and up, and almost getting lost—or momentarily disoriented, as I like to say—we came upon a brown bear on that autumn foray, or should I say, we came upon each other. We did not reach the summit that day. I’ve made a few attempts from the summit trail over Willard Mountain but have never made the connection, or found a trail south to Robb. There are thousands of acres of wilderness on the western side of Antrim’s high range in the triangle between the mountains, Route 9, and Route 123. A hike into that area should be taken only if one knows the trails or is well prepared for the challenge of land navigation through very rough terrain. A map, a compass, and even a GPS—and knowing how to use them—are strongly advised.

So, when I heard about a Harris Center-sponsored January hike dubbed “strenuous” and led by Swift Corwin and Mark Reynolds, I couldn’t resist this ticket to the summit of Robb and joined the hike, er...a...should I say “bushwhack.” Leaving Willard Pond, we went up the steep side of Bald Mountain’s north summit. The climb is easier in the winter on the snow-pack a foot above snags and boulders, and with a clear view through the woods to the height of land above, this is perhaps the best access one will find in this trail-less area. Once on the ridge, this north shoulder of Bald Mountain gently rises northward to Robb through stout hemlock and spruce that give way to magnificent oak and maple hardwoods and huge glacial boulders.

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SOCIETY LAND

Eric Tenney

Geographically Antrim came from an area in New Hampshire that was known as the Masonian Grant which dates back to the early 1600s, long before New Hampshire and for that matter the United States existed. The whole thing was owned and controlled by the King of England. What I attempt to do here is explain how Antrim was formed by the breakup of the King's land.

People coming from England settled in New England and petitioned the King to form what was called a "colonial government." Massachusetts was one of the first areas to do this, and its grants from the King became "The Massachusetts Bay Colony." The King established a council to administer these grants, and one of the councilors was John Mason. Mason obtained a grant for land west of the Piscataqua river which he named New Hampshire. In 1635 Mason died, and because his New Hampshire grant was so young, the settlers looked to Massachusetts for help in getting started. So, most of New Hampshire was under the control of the Massachusetts Bay Colony for about a hundred years. Gradually Massachusetts started giving grants to tracts of land in what is now southern New Hampshire. Some of these grants were the present towns of Weare, New Boston, and Peterborough. Remember that while all this was occurring, there were still large tracts of land that were not granted as towns.

After a period of time, the citizens of New Hampshire petitioned the King to formally establish their own colony. This went on for years because Massachusetts contested the border between the two colonies. Another problem surfaced with the final settling of the estate of John Mason which had been in court for many years. These two problems were finally settled about 1740, when, with the establishment of the New Hampshire-Massachusetts state line, all the New Hampshire towns' charters granted by Massachusetts were rendered null & void. The Mason descendants sold their rights to the grant to a group of Portsmouth businessmen called the "Masonian Proprietors." Now New Hampshire was owned by people who lived in New Hampshire.

The Proprietors first settled on very easy terms with the existing towns that had been chartered by Massachusetts. Next they sold grants to other areas inexpensively; the towns of Rindge, Marlboro, Nelson, Stoddard, and Washington were started this way. However, the Proprietors initially kept some land for themselves and for public use, and this common land became known as "Society Land." The center of this Society Land was near Crotched Mountain, and it included the territory that makes up the present towns of Francestown, Deering, Antrim, Hancock, Bennington, and Greenfield.

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Mayflower continued from page 8

saulted and killed Wituwamat and his companion." Philbrick continues: "But the killing had just begun. Wituwamat's brother was quickly hanged. Standish then sent word to Pilgrims elsewhere in the settlement to kill any Indian who happened to be with them. As a result, two more were put to death. In the meantime, Standish and his cohorts found yet another Indian and killed him."

Edward Winslow, writing in his 1624 book *Good Newes From New England*, puts Standish's killing spree in the best possible light, pointing out that the Pilgrims "had been operating in a climate of intense fear" since learning about terrible massacres in Virginia the previous spring. Furthermore, said Winslow, since the Plymouth pilgrims believed that local Indians were planning to attack them, there seemed little else they could do.

However, back in Leiden, Pastor John Robinson, when he heard of

Standish's actions, was less forgiving. He wrote William Bradford, the Plymouth Colony governor, "where blood is once shed, it is seldom staunched for a long time. You say they deserved it ... But upon what provocations and invitements?"

Mayflower, is based on enormous research with findings presented in a web of materials that is both endlessly fascinating and demanding. I was grateful for the book's excellent index to help me keep in mind who did what to whom and, let's see, just when did such and such happen? Exactly who, for instance, were Wituwamat and Pecksuot? Tracked down through the index, they were both important leaders of the Massachusetts, a tribe of Indians living to the north of Plymouth. (The "Massachusetts" were a people before their name was given to a State.)

At the book's end, there is a complete list of the Mayflower's 102 passengers, with asterisks beside the names of the 52 who died during the first year. The chances are good that numerous Antrim residents are related to one of those passengers or know someone who is. In 2002 it was estimated that there were approximately 35 million descendants of Mayflower passengers in the U.S. which represents roughly 10% of the total U.S. population. This list is followed by 40 pages of Notes, and a Bibliography containing some 600 titles of relevant books, pamphlets and articles (including one with the title *The Unkindest Cut or Who Invented Scalping?*)

Mayflower is, finally, a stunning piece of historical revelation. It may be borrowed from Antrim's Tuttle Library.



As time went on, people started settling in the Society Land, and eventually they wanted to establish their own political entities. Towns that abutted the Society Land complained that they had no access to their towns through this area. The idea of a common area was not working. So starting in 1772, when Francestown was formed, the Society Land started shrinking. Every time a new town was charted, Society Land shrunk. In 1774 Deering was chartered which enabled people to travel from New Boston to Hillsborough on town roads. In 1777 the Town of Antrim was finally chartered. Hancock was chartered in 1779 and Greenfield in 1791. After 1791, Society Land had shrunk to a small parcel in what is now Bennington. Bennington was chartered in 1842 on the last section of Society Land and some small pieces of Hancock, Greenfield, Francestown, and Deering. Bennington

is the smallest of all the original towns formed from Society Land as it was created from what was left over.

When Antrim was chartered it was not quite as big as it is today. Stoddard, which was chartered before Antrim, wanted some land on the west side of their town. The only way they could do this was to give up some land on its east side. They actually talked Antrim into taking this land, and Antrim eagerly acquired the land that now encompasses Willard Pond and the west side of the hills west of Gregg Lake. Antrim has complained about this ever since because we have had to spend money on roads far to the west of town that we seldom use, for example, Antrim's part of Route 123 that runs from Hancock to Stoddard. The only road that the town contributes to now is its section of the Willard Pond road. If our ancestors had not been so greedy, life would have been a little easier and cheaper for us today. ☺

pay much attention to what I did as long as my work was done and the auditor was happy.

One of the things I miss the most is the very early morning coffee break with the town administrator, Bob Varnum and whoever else came in before we opened at 8 am. We all talked about what was going on in the Town and really figured out how to take care of the problems. I was always expected to make and serve the coffee because I was the first one in. That changed when Bill Prokop started working at the Town Hall since he gets in even earlier than I used to.

Working with former Police Chief Brian Brown was a great pleasure. As many of the Limrik readers know, he has a great sense of humor and he told more entertaining stories than anyone I've ever known. He has a serious side too and I am lucky to live near him now so that I still get to see him.

Another joy was getting to know Anne & Phil Dwight. He was great for the town in a lot of ways. He was the force behind changing the school funding formula that saved us, the taxpayers, a lot of money. I often told him that if he yelled at me, I'd cry or tell Anne. I don't know which would have been worse for him. It was great to visit with them recently on their visit to Antrim from their new home in Salem, Massachusetts.

I was born in Concord, New Hampshire, lived in Massachusetts for a few of my early years, and then my family returned to Henniker where my father grew up. There are a number of people from Henniker who now live in Antrim – Bob Flanders, Mary Chagnon, Steve Schacht. I met my husband, Donnie, when we were both working at New Hampshire Ball Bearing. We married in 1976 and moved into our home on Mescilbrooks Road where we lived until we built this house a few years ago. I have always said that Donnie was perfect. He's always done the cooking and cleaning and now, with my illness, he has taken over even more. He's been a wonderful companion and help to me. I wouldn't trade him

for anything in the world. I'm just sorry there aren't many people around like him. "I also have five grandchildren who have really been my pride and joy and have helped me through my illness just being there."

I've always liked Antrim—it was a great place to raise my two sons. For many years they were very involved in the Boy Scouts so for quite awhile I was the driver on many of their hikes and camporees. Now my older son, Ric, is a Cub Scout leader and my other son, Shane, was very involved in the Cub Scouts before he died. There is a campground for the Cub Scouts named in his memory.

The people are my favorite thing about Antrim. When something happens to you or your family, the people of the town are there for you. I couldn't believe how people were there for me when my son died and then again when I got sick. I'm sure we will never leave this wonderful town.

The town has changed a lot in the years I've lived here, most of it for the good. There's been a lot of growth which I think helps with the taxes. I believe like many do that we need more business. When I get better physically, and I hope, be able to talk again, I want to do something for the town again. Whether as an employee or a volunteer, I'd love to be able to keep up on what's going on and to help out. I have found out how important it is to be involved in your town.

In the meantime, I miss everything about working for the Town. Even after all the changes, it is still my town and my people. There aren't too many people around anymore that have been involved with the town for so long. We all know (the older ones among us, anyway) who they are. Now it's time for the younger people to start to get involved.

Thank you to everyone who helped me stay in my position for so long. I couldn't have happily done the job for so long without you and your continuing support made it all worthwhile. ☺

THE DEER PILE

Peter Gagne

The cold this December morning made the tractor start hard and quickly formed ice on my beard. It was the 17th day of the month, officially not yet winter. There had not been a day above 20 degrees in several weeks, and many nights were in single digits. It was shaping up to be one of the coldest Decembers on record. I went inside the barn to warm up and also get the two buckets of deer remains to load into the tractor. It was feeding time, but not the usual feeding in a barn as there were no horses, sheep, cows, goats, or pigs to throw a meal to. I was headed out to feed nature's creatures that love the deer remains from the butcher shop I run during our hunting season. Besides deer remains, the big barrels contained moose, bear, beaver, and some smaller game such as rabbit. This morning as my tractor put-putted up one of the trails I had cut, twenty to thirty crows and ravens exploded off the pile and went to making as much noise as thirty kids opening Christmas presents because they were so displeased at being disturbed at their early morning meal. They are an everyday occurrence on the pile, my most common visitors. Some early mornings, or late evenings, as I make my way to different spots to lay out the remains at the edge of the woods, I am pleased to see a majestic pair—sometimes two pairs—of bald eagles that have graced my piles for more than ten years. My best day so far came this December with the sheer joy of sighting five eagles roosting together in my trees. When I watch one of these symbols of power and glory lift off from a tree and fly to a different height and then turn and swoop down with the strength of a fighter plane but the grace of a glider, I am awed and speechless. They visit the pile from November through spring, and it is a wonderful personal experience I want to maintain by protecting these birds and myself.

The pile is also favored by red tail hawks who sit with wise patience for the eagles to finish. But the hawks don't hesitate to chase off the crows or do sky battle with the ravens, and in the past I have found the bodies of losers of these battles, sometimes a hawk, sometimes a crow or raven. Nature, though beautiful, is often brutal and harsh, and the strong survive while the others get eaten. Simple fact, no way to change that. My piles of entrails may provide plenty of food, but they do not decide who will benefit the most from it.

This year the third week of December brought a fine looking Bobcat to the pile. He could care less about the tractor as I came through the woods; he simply walked off about twenty yards and watched as I dropped off another bit of remains. As I drove out of the woods, he wandered in plain sight over to the pile and fed till he was full. He stayed for several days, and I'm pretty sure he will be back often throughout the winter. A timid red fox and less timid gray fox come to feed mostly at night, and their tracks pacing back and forth are easy to see. It doesn't happen often, but sometimes I spot

them during the day, usually when the winter turns very cold and we get over two feet of snow, as in December 2007. The crafty and intelligent coyotes are here too, their spine-tingling howls, yelps, and barks letting everyone in the neighborhood know who is coming. Their only enemies are a few humans who hunt and trap them, and they are our most dominant animal. Fisher cats come once or twice a week, usually after the coyotes have left with full bellies. Many a smaller bird also enjoys the pile, though blue jays and chickadees, along with the small woodpeckers, have no interest in the meat in the piles. But they are fond of the fat they need to survive. I have seen mice, weasels, and squirrels popping up and around the piles. Weasels love to tunnel under the piles and will often stick a head out and peep at you and then just go right back to feeding. When we get a bit of warming, a week or two of January thaw, sometimes I have come up on a bear, or raccoon. They are sleepers for the most part during winter, but if we get a good spell of weather, they will saunter out, fuel up, and return to their underground hotel. What a life: get up after two months, go to the store, eat till you get sleepy, and then take another two month nap.

I have never had the pleasure of seeing an owl on the pile, but I have seen them roosting in the trees, so I know they eat meat. They also are one of the most likely to die of starvation if we get a lot of snow. I talked to a woman early on in 2007 who rescues and cares for injured or starving birds. An expert, she told me that in December alone she had taken in eleven barred owls because of too much snow and not enough food. Starvation is terrible among wild animals. The barred owls suffer from too few fields and big cuts that would offer more mice, squirrels, moles, and small birds. Once again, human growth limits the growth in the wild, though my pile helps out a few that would starve. It is the most useful and satisfying recycling I do.

People will always hunt, I will always butcher, and the animals and birds will always be there to help clean up, allowing them a better chance at surviving the winter, and allowing me the knowledge that I have given them a better life.

Well, the tractor is warmed up, and I have thrown on my heaviest wool coat, mittens, and hat. It is 12 degrees out, and I can see the immature bald eagle and two red tail hawks just like statues sitting in the sun. They love my tractor more than I do. To anyone other than the animals and me, the pile is a nasty sight. But to us—and I take "us" very seriously and to heart—it is a tight bond of admiration. At these times they are mine and I am theirs. The pile is beautiful, but the bond lasts only a few months. It is a time that will stay a part of my life. Who would ever guess a pile of bones and fur could create such beauty?

The property and animals that Peter Gagne has written about here are extremely private and protected. He asks that there be no calls or visits.



MY GARDEN AND THE GOOD EARTH

Schatze Moore

Friday, January 25, 2008 and 4 degrees as I contemplate the fields of snow behind my house. It is my day off and I am a free woman. I laugh as I write those words. "Free woman" only means I'm my own boss today. I can vacuum, do laundry, grocery shop, walk the dog, clean the cat litter boxes or take a hike in any order I choose. I can start my day a little more leisurely and if I do it is certain I will feel the need to hustle later as the day gets away from me.

Just came in the mail from our gardening friends Dave and Linda Trumble at the Good Earth Farm in Weare (certified organic) is their 2008 plant order. Peter and I have ordered garden plants from them since the winter of 2006. Even though my vegetable garden is mounded with snow, I can lose several hours contemplating the seven pages of flowers and vegetables that I might choose and grow in my garden. Different this year is that the Good Earth Farm has a website with links from each of the plant varieties to descriptions and pictures. I really like pictures.

I love to garden. I admit to a good amount of success with my vegetable garden, though I don't consider myself to be a good garden planner or a particularly knowledgeable gardener. But I do love to garden.

I happened to keep a copy of my 2007 plant order. I searched for it in the dark and freezing recesses of the garage and found it in my gardening basket. I'm looking it over as I am struggling to keep my order for this season reasonable. I want everything, but when the time comes to put those plants in the ground I know I will feel very differently. Gardening is a lot of hard back breaking work, particularly hard on a back that was broken just eight years ago.

I always start the order process by thinking in the negative, in other words what I am not going to bother planting again. For instance, every year I say I'm not planting Eggplant again, but I always do. The last two years I have been plagued with both a red beetle and the potato beetle, and

These Antrim Hills - Robb Mountain continued from page 9

Here is a beautiful wild-place, a high, broad landscape where both the blatant and less obvious signs of wildlife indicate a winter sanctuary. We moved atop the frozen crust as quietly as possible, stopping briefly to observe the just vacated moose-beds and the deer trough through deep snow. Striped and Red Maples were stripped of bark by moose and porcupine, the young branches broken and buds snapped off eight feet from the ground. Snowshoe hare pellets, a loping weasel trail, the impression of a grouse landing in the snow with its little tracks leading to the protection of a snow-covered hemlock. Fresh snow scattered with "pileated" wood-chips, and the solo track of a coyote.

This is Robb Mountain. I feel good knowing there are wild places like this in our town, in these Antrim Hills. 

they decimate those poor plants. Even if they survive that, then there is always frost to worry about. Celery! There is nothing like it when fresh from the garden, but then I don't really know how to grow it, I wasn't sure the first time if it grew above or below the ground and besides I grow too much. Right now I have a store of it chopped and in the freezer. Great in soups.

I love to grow peppers and onions, the things I like to cook with. Garlic and Leeks get me pretty excited too. From the herb list I always get Arugula for that peppery taste, but it matures fast and the leaves become bitter after about six inches. I like to plant with my tomatoes three types of Basil: purple, sweet and Thai. Put those together with some curly Parsley, Tarragon and Oregano, and you have a really beautiful late summer bridal bouquet.

Kale is another one of those that I plant too much of, but they start off so small I forget how big they actually get.

A small apple-sized turnip just plucked from the ground and washed is surprisingly like eating an apple. Beets and potatoes from the grocery store are just beets and potatoes, but home grown and fresh out of the soil, amazing flavor!

Not everybody likes Brussels Sprouts, but my family does. They (the sprouts, that is) are best after a frost. I like to sauté them in olive oil with garlic and onion, fresh ground pepper, and a little salt.

I don't like my cucumbers much bigger than a finger; if I give them too much water they get big and bitter. Also, with summer squash, we prefer small and tender. Peter loves winter squash, especially Acorn, Butternut, Buttercup, and Delicata.

By now I have pretty much maximized my space limits because I still need room for my green and yellow wax beans, for my peas and lettuce, the spinach, and the companion plants I use for pest control, such as Marigold and Nasturtium. And what about Sunflowers, the Mammoth Gray Stripe and all its' smaller, shorter varieties with those breath-stopping colors? Three varieties of Morning Glory brought glory to my garden last season, Clarke's Heavenly Blue, Cardinal Climber, and President Tyler. And I simply must have some Bachelor Button, Snapdragon, Zinnia, Larkspur, Heliotrope, Alyssum, Calendula, Cosmos, Lobelia and 

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ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING PROGRAMS

Missy Taylor

The Antrim Historical Society has several interesting programs planned for the spring months in addition to an important meeting in March about the Stone Church on Route 31. The current owners of the Stone Church, Jim and Carol Rymes, have graciously offered to give this important historical building to the Society for its preservation and for its use as a repository of historical artifacts and as a meeting hall for Society programs and other public events. The Historical Society has spent the past year researching the positive possibilities and the potential problems in accepting ownership of the church and will hold a public Informational Session on Saturday, March 29 (snow date, March 30) at 3 pm at the Antrim Presbyterian Church to present its findings and recommendations. We welcome everyone with an interest in the Church to come for the presentation and participate in the discussion. A meeting of Historical Society members will be held later in the spring at a date to be announced to vote on whether to or not to accept ownership.

On Sunday, April 20, Ben Pratt will present a program on The Bridges of Antrim. Ben's recent talk on Gregg Lake was a standing-room-only event, so you will not want to miss this year's program on bridges. Many of our bridges are quite old, with interesting histories and varied conditions. As they continue to age and, in some cases, deteriorate, we will be confronted with the need for repair and replacement so this is a great opportunity to come and both learn about the past and the challenges we will face in the future.

May's program, sponsored by the New Hampshire Humanities Council, will be "400 Miles Down the Connecticut River," with Michal Tougias, based on his bestselling book *River Days: Exploring the Connecticut River from Source to Sea*. Mr. Tougias will present a narrated slide presentation about the history and natural history of the Connecticut River, taking the viewer down the entire 410 miles of the river on a

journey through the past and present. Along the way, he will discuss wildlife, environmental issues, Native Americans, log drives, major floods, and more. Practical tips will be given including his favorite sections of the river to paddle, fish, and camp. Mr. Tougias' slides will also help the viewer find the best spots for photographing wildlife such as moose and bald eagles. He weaves humor into the talk with a focus on some of his misadventures. The program will be held at 3 pm on Sunday, May 18, at the Antrim Presbyterian Church.

For more information, please pick up the Historical Society brochure and watch for program announcements in the newspapers and on the town's website at www.antrim.nh.org. Historical Society programs are usually presented on the third Sunday of every month at the Presbyterian Church at 3 pm.

The Antrim Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation and understanding of Antrim's heritage. All those who are interested in Antrim's past and preserving its present are urged to join. Dues are \$10 a year for an individual, \$20 for a family. For more information about joining, please contact Diane Chauncey, Membership Chair, at 588-6785, Ext. 228. The Society depends on member dues and donations for its operating support. All of the Society's programs and meetings are open to the public without charge. ♫

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ANTRIM POLICE ASSOCIATION

Matthew Elliott President

Greetings to all Antrim residents. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank all the members, residents, and businesses that helped make our inaugural year a success.

As of January 2008, we are now fourteen members strong. While we weren't able to accomplish all of our plans, we were still able to implement a few of them. We kicked off our efforts by hosting a free spaghetti dinner at the First Presbyterian Church with approximately seventy people attending, an event we plan to hold every year.

Last fall during the Home & Harvest Festival we challenged the Antrim Fire and Rescue Squad to a softball game. While the police went home with this year's trophy, we came away with a healthy respect for the effort Fire and Rescue put forth, and we look forward to next year's rematch. Special thanks to members of the Hillsborough Police Department, the NH Bureau of Liquor Enforcement, the NH State Police, the New Boston Police Department, the Litchfield Police Department, and the Fitzwilliam Police Department. We would also like to thank T-Bird's Convenience Store for supplying both teams with refreshments during the game. We would also like to thank former New England Revolution Soccer Star and Antrim resident Jeff Causey for participating in the game as the designated hitter for both teams.

At Thanksgiving we delivered food baskets to several locations including the Antrim Girl's Shelter, The Grapevine, and Antrim Village. Special thanks to Shaw's Supermarket in Hillsborough for helping us coordinate this effort. Also, we distributed food baskets and gifts to children during the Christmas season.

Selectmen Candidates continued from page 7

as a result of development and population growth in this part of New Hampshire.

5. There seems to be a major concern throughout the state regarding the fiscal health of the New Hampshire Retirement System. What is your opinion of the NH Retirement Study Commissions report and how do you feel it will impact the Town of Antrim?

The New Hampshire Retirement System is currently found to be 2.6 billion dollars under-funded to pay for pensions and health coverage in the future for the approximately 50,000 members of the plan. This is the result of underestimating the level of employer and employee contributions, expanding benefits and over estimating the investment income from the trust. The Commission's report recommends that the Legislature and the Retirement System Trustees begin to talk to each other and review the health of the plan on a scheduled basis in order to deal with problems before they become crises. How the 2.6 billion dollars will be made good is the issue. It looks like the taxpayers will pay. ♫

We participated in a fundraiser with Charmingfare Farms in Candia, NH. We sold tickets on behalf of the Farm for their annual Holiday Hayrides, and they were gracious enough to let the Association keep a portion of the proceeds. We plan to assist Charmingfare Farms with this event again in the future. See any Association member should you wish to purchase tickets to this worthwhile holiday event next Christmas.

We received many donations from town residents and area businesses, and if it weren't for their generosity, we would not have the resources to conduct our activities. While we were very grateful for the donations, we also gave back to area charities so that others could benefit from their generosity as well. The Association made contributions to the American Diabetes Association, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Women's Lunch Place. We also donated money to fire victims who lost their home in a fire just before the holidays.

This year promises to be very busy for the Association. We plan on adding two more events to our 2008 schedule, including a Halloween Haunted House and the Ralph "Buster" Brooks 5k Road Race sponsored by Monadnock Paper Mills. Any support you can offer to our Association in the form of goods or donations would be greatly appreciated.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and generosity. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Antrim Police Association if you have any ideas you would like to share to help continue our mission. Here's to a safe and prosperous 2008! ♫

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PRINCIPAL MUSINGS

By Debbie Lesure, Principal
Antrim Elementary School

WOW! That's the word we heard from representatives from the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH-DOE) when they visited Antrim Elementary School.

On January 16th, five representatives from the DOE spent the day at Antrim Elementary School. This was a random visit to look at our compliance with the Minimum Standards of School Approval. It was a full and wonderful day!

The day began with students giving the representatives a tour of the school. Third graders Isabella Edes, Carly Storro, and Coral Wolf, and Fourth Graders, Ivy Battaglia, Matthew Davis, and Harley Miller were excellent tour guides. The children impressed the DOE members with their manners, courtesy, and respect. We were told that, upon questioning, not one student identified something they would change to improve our school.

The DOE asked that we showcase something we are proud of at AES. Teachers presented on two initiatives. The Reverence of Place Committee, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Bernardi, and Mrs. Given, highlighted our ventures into McCabe Forest last year. Showing pictures the children had taken, they spoke about our motivation to connect students with their environment and to use McCabe as an outdoor classroom. These educators talked about the integration of curriculum in writing about "secret places" in the woods, culminating in a family picnic and community scavenger hunt at McCabe.

Mrs. Colby and Mrs. Bastarache presented on the process of Picturing Writing and Image Making. If you've been into our school, you will have noticed beautiful watercolor artwork combined with student writing adorning our walls. Using literature, teachers read stories to children and they note how the artwork adds to the message of the story. Our children are learning to create their own pictures and to incorporate vivid descriptions from their art into their writing. Representatives were able to view the developmental changes of children across grades.

One of the representatives met with Mrs. Kress and Mr. Cogan, and then she observed classroom lessons. Another representative met with Ms. Gregg, our Guidance Counselor. Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Mierins talked with representatives about our use of technology.

The DOE representatives ate lunch in the cafeteria with our students. They met with Dr. Bergeron, Superintendent, Mr. Johnson, Assistant Superintendent, and myself to review policies and procedures. We spoke about district changes and the challenges of finding quality time for teachers to work together for planning and professional development.

At the end of the day, the five representatives reported out to our AES Leadership Advisory and myself. **WOW!** They told us then that we should be a model school for the state, and they visit many schools. We've since received final reports. Following are just a few of the acknowledgements we received:

"Your students and staff made us feel most welcome. I am sure that you are aware of how wonderful they are...Great school. It is obvious within 10 minutes of entering the school that the entire staff is focused in one direction." — Ed Murdough

"It was a pleasure to see such an inspired school and curriculum." — Marcia McCaffrey

"The Reverence of Place program using the McCabe Forest Reservation as an outdoor classroom was outstanding on several levels...It is a program which deserves to be publicized as an example for others." — Marie Morgan

"What a delightful visit!...It was clear they strive to provide an experience for students that is hands-on, nurturing, and strengthened with the arts." — Cathy Higgins

"Strong Leadership...Principal is a very creative and supportive leader...A true Team Effort evident throughout the school...A most impressive school for any child to attend and for anyone to visit." — Leslie Higgins

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TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

Contributors: Kathryn Chisholm, Melissa Lawless, Kristin Readel

PROGRAMS

Friday March 28th at 10:00am Pre-School Storytime
Month long April Creative Arts Challenge
Friday April 25th at 10:00am Pre-School Storytime
Friday May 30th at 10:00am Pre-School Storytime

CREATIVE ARTS CHALLENGE

We are looking forward to creative art submissions from Antrim's children who are of school age K-12. Artwork may include, but is not limited to, cartooning, sculpture, paintings, collage, papier-mâché, photography, stories, and poetry. Please stop by and see Kristin Readel about details.

EBSCO HOST RESEARCH DATABASES AND NH DOWNLOADABLE AUDIO BOOKS

The James A. Tuttle Library website (accessible through the Antrim town website, www.antrinh.org) has helpful links to EBSCO Host Research Databases and NH Downloadable Audio Books. Provided by the New Hampshire State Library to New Hampshire public libraries, EBSCO allows access to specific newspaper, magazine, and journal articles that aren't available in the library, or to quickly search a wide range of periodicals for information on current events and issues. Included is a Consumer Health option for researching health issues. You can also access other electronic research services including "NoveList" for voracious fiction readers and "Searchasaurus" for curious children. Contact the Library for your username and password.

NH Downloadable Audio Books gives our library patrons the option to browse through hundreds of titles and download audio books on to their own personal computers and mp3 players. Many titles can be copied onto CDs for enjoyment anytime, anywhere with the added bonus that there is no charge and no overdue or late fees. Once again passwords are available at the Library.

BOOKS RECENTLY MADE INTO FILMS:

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini; *Charlie Wilson's War* – George Crile; *The Golden Compass* – Philip Pullman; *The Seeker: The Dark is Rising* – Susan Cooper; *The Jane Austen Book Club* – Karen Fowler; *Into the Wild* – Jon Krakauer; *Atonement* – Ian McEwan; *The Spiderwick Chronicles* – Tony DiTerlizzi & Holly Black; *The Other Boleyn Girl* – Philippa Gregory; *Horton Hears a Who* – Dr. Seuss; *Nim's Island* – Wendy Orr - 4/4/08; *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* - C.S. Lewis - 5/16/08; *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* – J.K. Rowling - 11/21/2008.

AUTHOR FOCUS

Lloyd Alexander authored more than 40 books, mostly fantasy novels for children and young adults. Much to the horror of his parents who felt he should forget literature and focus on getting some form of sensible work, he first began

writing at 15 years of age. Lloyd's most famous contribution to the field of children's literature is the fantasy series *The Chronicles of Prydain*. The first two books formed the basis of the Disney animated film *The Black Cauldron*. Two of his books in this series won the Newberry Medal, *The Black Cauldron* in 1966 and *The High King* in 1969. He has also been the recipient of the National Book Award, the American Book Award, the School Library Journal Best Book of the Year, and the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for various titles. On May 17, 2007 at the age of 83, Lloyd Alexander passed away 2 weeks after the death of his wife Janine, who was the love of his life and his companion of 61 years. The library has many of his works in various formats.

HOLIDAYS / CLOSED

Thursday March 13th Town Meeting Closed at 6:00pm
Monday May 26th Memorial Day

SOME NEW BOOKS

New Fiction by: Susan Wittig Albert; David Baldacci; M.C. Beaton; Jim Butcher; Meg Cabot; Jennifer Chiaverini; Laura Childs; Jill Churchill; Patricia Cornwell; Clive Cussler; Richard Paul Evans; Jasper Fforde; Ken Follett; Dick Francis; Andrew Greeley; John Grisham; Laurell Hamilton; Charlaine Harris; Ursula Hegi; Iris Johansen; Jan Karon; Garrison Keillor; Dean Koontz; Mercedes Lackey; Donna Leon; Alexander McCall Smith; Debbie Macomber; Margaret Maron; Archer Mayor; Marcia Muller & Bill Pronzini; Robert Parker; James Patterson; Richard North Patterson; Anne Perry; J.D. Robb; John Sandford; Alice Sebold; Sharon Shinn; Danielle Steel; Vicki Stiefel; William Tapply; William Tapply & Philip Craig (their last collaboration).

New Non-Fiction by: Patti Boyd; Tom Brokaw; Eric Clapton; John Dean; Paula Deen; Alan Greenspan; Alex Korda; Suze Orman; Bill Richardson.

New DVDs: Alex Rider - Operation Stormbreaker; Amazing Grace; The Christmas card; Fantastic4 - Rise of the Silver Surfer; Hairspray; Oceans 13; Ratatouille; Shrek the Third; Sicko; Spider Man 3; Victory at Sea; The Bourne Ultimatum; Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix; High School Musical 2; Pirates of the Caribbean - At World's End; Stardust.



ANTRIM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Celeste Lunetta

With the 2008 Town Meeting on our collective agenda, I thought it would be a good idea to briefly describe the two warrant articles on the ballot from the Parks and Recreation team.

The first of these warrants is to purchase additional skateboard equipment. The skateboarders have raised over \$1,500 towards the purchase of equipment that they will build according to professional specifications. The equipment will be modular, and will be able to be relocated if a different location is decided upon. The equipment that we hope to purchase this year is made with a unique and durable riding surface which must be special ordered. Materials are much of the cost, and the committee has recruited volunteer labor to build the obstacles. For now, the equipment will be put at the skateboard area at Memorial Park. The skateboard committee and the Parks and Recreation Commission continue their commitment and efforts to find a positive solution for a skateboard park that meets the needs of the users and the abutters. If you have any questions about the equipment being considered, please ask Barbara Reynolds, Dave Kirkpatrick, or Sara Birt.

The other warrant is also for equipment for Memorial Park, but this equipment will definitely have its permanent home at the park. The warrant is to purchase swings, benches, bike racks, and aesthetic fencing for the grove area adjacent to the tennis courts, as well as the professional painting of basketball court lines on the hardcourt. The swings and benches in the grassy area between the tennis courts and Jameson Ave will facilitate activities for families which will provide a very positive impact on the park and the downtown area. If you have any questions about the specifics of the swings or other equipment we hope to install at the park, or general questions about the Recreation Department budget, please call Celeste Lunetta at 588-3121 or email antrimrecdir@tds.net.

2008 CAL RIPKEN YOUTH BASEBALL AND BABE RUTH SOFTBALL

Ages 5-13. There will be an informational meeting for the 2008 season at the Town Gym on Monday March 10, at 6PM. This is an opportunity for you to ask questions about the

upcoming season, or just to register your son or daughter. All players must be registered before attending preseason practices, and all players must be registered for the season before March 21st, in order to avoid paying a late registration fee.

Preseason practices for Baseball Majors and Minors will be on Saturdays and Tuesdays, starting March 8. Preseason practices for Softball Majors and Minors is already underway, on Tuesdays. Also, watch for details for the Pitch Hit and Run event.

LITTLE KICKERS

Indoor Soccer for kids just turned 6 years and under. This program is open to all players from our Fall U6 program. New players can register by contacting the Recreation Department at 588-3121. The program will run on Saturdays from 10:30-11:30 March 9 through April 19, with the exception of March 15, which will be the Easter Egg Hunt.

AFTER SCHOOL BOWLING

Grade 4 through 6. Thursdays, March 13 through April 17. Join us for a six-week session of bowling, including coaching, at Bowling Acres in Peterborough. The cost of the program is \$40 per student, and includes transportation on the Community Bus, a snack, and an hour of Bowling. Kids will return to the gym by 5:30.

AFTER SCHOOL TARGET ARCHERY

Join our popular program run through the New England School of Archery. Archery classes for beginners and students pursuing Jr Olympic Development will be held on Wednesdays March 5th through the 26th, and then on Mondays April 7, 14, 21 and 28. Equipment is provided. Classes start at 3:30.

AFTER SCHOOL DANCE DANCE REVOLUTION

Plans are heating up for regular hours for our hot new arcade style Dance Dance Revolution. Be alert for press releases and flyers with details!

HOCKEY GAME MONARCHS VS. PROVIDENCE

Friday March 14 Community Bus trip to the Verizon Arena. Bus leaves Antrim at 5:30 pm, various levels of seating are reserved. Call for reservations 588-3121.

 continued on page 20

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CALENDAR

MARCH

- 3 Home & Harvest Day meeting • 7:00 PM • at Rick and Diane's Pizzeria**
- 4 "When Your Kid Pushes Your Buttons" (8-week workshop) • 6–8 PM • The Grapevine**
- 5 After School Target Archery (thru March 26) • 3:30 PM • Rec Dept at Town Gym**
- 9 Little Kickers Indoor Soccer for kids (thru Apr 19) • 6 PM • Rec Dept at Town Gym**
- 10 Baseball/Softball Informational Meeting • 6 PM • Rec Dept at Town Gym**
- 10 Second Mondays workshop "Real Estate 101" • 6:30–8 PM • The Grapevine**
- 11 Election Day • 8 AM—7 PM • at Town Hall**
- 13 After School Bowling (thru Apr 17) • Rec Dept Community Bus to Peterborough**
- 13 Town Meeting • 7 PM • at Town Gym**
- 14 Hockey Game • 5:30 PM • Rec Dept Community Bus to Verizon Arena, Manchester**
- 15 Easter Egg Hunt • 9 AM • Rec Dept at Town Gym**
- 15 "Crazy For You" • 12:30 PM • Rec Dept Community Bus to Palace Theater, Manchester**
- 19 Meeting • Antrim Grange**
- 20 "Grandparents Parenting" workshop • 6:30–8 PM • The Grapevine**
- 21 Spring Talent Show • Rec Dept at Town Gym**
- 22 "Step Families" workshop • 9–11 AM • The Grapevine at Reynolds Hall, Peterborough**
- 28 Pre-School Storytime • 10 AM • Tuttle Library**
- 29 Stone Church Informational meeting • 3 PM • Historical Society at Presbyterian Church**
- 29 "Destination College" workshops • 8 AM • Rec Dept Community Bus to So NH Univ, Manchester**

APRIL

- Creative Arts Challenge • month long • Tuttle Library**
- 5 "Stop, Drop and Mop" • 10 AM–1 PM • The Grapevine**
- 7 After School Target Archery (thru April 28) • 3:30 PM • Rec Dept at Town Gym**
- 11 Antrim Players Children's Theater performance • 7 PM • Town Hall Auditorium**
- 12 Antrim Players Children's Theater performance • 7 PM • Town Hall Auditorium**
- 14 Second Mondays workshop "Living With a Preteen" • 6:30–8 PM • The Grapevine**
- 16 Meeting • Antrim Grange**
- 20 The Bridges of Antrim • 3 PM • Historical Society at Presbyterian Church**
- 21 April Vacation Open Playroom • 9:30–11:30 AM • The Grapevine**
- 24 April Vacation Art Play • 9:30–11:30 AM • The Grapevine**
- 25 April Vacation Wild in the Safari Day • 9:30–11:30 AM • The Grapevine**
- 25 Pre-School Storytime • 10 AM • Tuttle Library**
- 27 Borromeo String Quartet • 1 PM • Rec Dept Community Bus to Currier Museum, Manchester**



MAY

- 3 Fishing Derby • 8–10 AM • Rec Dept at Mill Pond**
- 3 4th Annual "Spring Walk for Families" • 10 AM • The Grapevine**
- 3 Bike Safety Rodeo • 12 NOON–2 PM • Rec Dept at Town Gym**
- 7 Youth Night • 7 PM • Antrim Grange**
- 10 David Copperfield • 12 NOON • Rec Dept Community Bus to Boston**
- 12 Second Mondays workshop "Family Gardening" • 6:30–8 PM • The Grapevine**
- 18 "400 Miles Down the Connecticut River" • 3 PM • Historical Society at Presbyterian Church**
- 18 Glenn Miller Orchestra • 5:30 PM • Rec Dept Community Bus to Dana Center, Manchester**
- 21 Community Awards Night • Antrim Grange**
- 22 Baseball Game • 9:50 AM • Rec Dept Community Bus**
- 25 Dr Suess Garden & Museum • 8:30 AM • Rec Dept Community Bus to Springfield, MA**
- 30 Pre-School Storytime • 10 AM • Tuttle Library**



JUNE

Summer Reading Program • Tuttle Library (see June issue)



NEWS ABOUT TOWN . . .

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

John Robertson

Jamie Trowbridge, CEO of Yankee Publishing, was the featured speaker at the Antrim Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner Meeting January 16th at the Maplehurst Inn. Jamie's description of the origins and changes in *The Farmer's Almanac* and *Yankee Magazine* were fascinating.

Other meeting highlights included the introduction of several new business people in Antrim, including Cindy Crockett at Bakery 42, Diane and John Kendall of Place in the Woods, and Terry Cutter of Cutter Flooring and Furnishings. Twenty-five businesses were represented at the meeting.

Robert Edwards of Ocean Bank was recognized for his achievements and dedication to the community. Bob was named by the Peterborough Chamber as "Business Leader of the Year" in February.

Officers and Directors for 2008 were introduced. Officers are John Robertson, Chairman, Terry Cutter, Vice Chairman, and Jane Butler, Secretary and Treasurer. Directors are John Robertson, Terry Cutter, Jane Butler, Robert Edwards, Paul Fabor, Christa Salamy, Bill Prokop, Brian Beihl, and Rick Edmunds.

The Directors are planning for 2008 programs, and we are seeking suggestions and ideas from the Antrim Community. Contact any director or Chamber member with your ideas.

The chamber has several events for this spring: March and May will feature two Chamber Businesses hosting "Business after Hours" gatherings to showcase their enterprises, and in April and June we shall have membership meetings with topics of special interest. Watch for dates.

If you would like to find out more about the Antrim Chamber of Commerce, you are welcome to attend our meetings and events.

#

ANTRIM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Todd Bryer

The department has had a very busy winter with three building fires in town, two mutual aid building fire calls to Deering, and one to Bennington, plus a few motor vehicle accidents and chimney fires which all add up.

All this activity over the winter highlights the fact that we are shorthanded, especially during daytime hours. There is a wide variety of tasks that need to be performed on all our calls, with many different skills needed. It's not all going into burning buildings or climbing roofs. There are engines to prepare, hose to deploy and move, generators for lighting to set up, fans to assist in ventilation, among other duties. And when we are done, everything needs to picked up and re-packed back on the engines. If you think you would have interest in helping us in service to the town, contact Eric Phillips at 588-3259, Tod Bryer at 588-2679, or Ken Kass the Good Day Cafe'. Also applications can be obtained from any department member.

Since the last *Limrik* we have received word from the Federal Grants for Firefighters Program that our application for new airpacks has been rejected. However we have recently been given twelve lightweight composite air cylinders for our existing packs which will upgrade the airpacks we presently have.

Our training program this winter has included a classroom session on flash-over hazards with a practical session at the Fire Academy in Concord. February's training will be on forcible entry. The departments training night is the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30, and anyone is welcome to observe. Our annual open house at the fire station will be at the end of June instead of May, hoping for better weather this year. More details will be posted as this event draws closer.

Thank you all for your continued support.

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

UPDATE

Ruth Benedict

Exciting things are happening in the Contoocook Valley Transportation Cooperative. The CVTC aims to provide affordable, accessible, inclusive community transportation in the fourteen towns of the Contoocook Valley. Regionally, the CVTC Board of Town Transportation Representatives has been formed. These town reps will help interested residents develop transportation options within their own communities. Town representatives act as liaisons between the CVTC and local governments. They meet monthly to share innovative developments with each other. Antrim's current representative, Ruth Benedict, is looking for a second rep to join her in this work.

Two of the things that the CVTC staff and the reps are working to establish are a regional rideshare program and a volunteer driver network in each town. Please get in touch with Ruth at 588-6208 or the CVTC office at 924-2159 if you would like to join this effort.

In addition to ridesharing and volunteer driver networks, CVTC plans to develop other transportation options such as fixed route transit along major routes, as well as coordinate transportation options through information sharing. Technical assistance to local governments regarding transportation funding, liability insurance, and vehicle leasing/purchasing will also be available from CVTC. The Cooperative will be able to use bulk-buying power to offer discounts on training and vehicle/fleet maintenance.

CVTC is a transportation project created by the people, for the people. If you want to join us, or just want to receive our monthly newsletter, contact Ruth or phone the CVTC office at 924-2159, or e-mail info@cvtc-nh.org.

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SPRING TALENT SHOW: FRIDAY MARCH 21ST.

Celebrate spring by showing off those talents and skills you may or may not have been fine-tuning all winter. Join your outgoing friends and neighbors for an evening of unique entertainment. To sign up your act, call the Recreation Department at 588-3121 before Saturday March 15th. We will have a quick run through of the acts a couple of days before the big show. We hope to get acts from folks of all ages and abilities!

EASTER EGG HUNT

This years Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the Town Gym on Saturday March 15, starting at 9am.

CRAZY FOR YOU

Saturday March 15, leave Antrim at 12:30. Romance, mistaken identities, and show stopping musical numbers are all a part of this bold and brassy tap dance extravaganza. Join us on a Community Bus trip to the Palace Theater. Call for pricing information.

DESTINATION COLLEGE BUS TRIP

On March 29, families from Salem to Berlin will gather at Southern NH University in Manchester, NH for the ninth annual college convention for high school juniors and parents. We will fill up the community bus, leaving Antrim at 8 am, and returning by 4:30. This is an opportunity to enjoy a variety of workshops, participate in scholarship raffles and a college fair. Lunch will be provided.

BORROMEO QUARTET AT THE CURRIER MUSEUM: COMMUNITY BUS TRIP

Sunday, April 27 tour at 1 p.m., concert at 2 p.m. - The Borromeo String Quartet. Considered "Simply the best there is" by the Boston Globe, the critically acclaimed Borromeo String Quartet will perform pieces by Beethoven, Mozart, and Bartók. A special tour of works of art made during the lifetimes of these composers will precede the concert, and the Quartet will be available for a question and answer session after their performance.. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Prices include the tour, performance and admission to the museum. Bus is free for Antrim Residents.



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FISHING DERBY

The Derby will be held on Saturday May 3rd, 8:00-10:00 am at the Mill Pond. Open to all youth 15 and younger. Participants provide their own equipment and bait. Prizes are awarded in many categories. Call Steve Schacht for more information.

BIKE SAFETY RODEO

This event is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 3, from noon-2pm at the Town Gym.

DAVID COPPERFIELD AT THE BOSTON OPERA HOUSE

Saturday May 10, leave Antrim at noon, enjoy the afternoon exploring Boston's Theater district, catch the 5:00 performance of David Copperfield. Hailed by audiences and critics alike as the greatest illusionist of our time, Copperfield has elevated the ancient art of magic to new heights and redefined it along the way. Call for pricing and reservations. 588-3121.

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA AT THE DANA CENTER, MANCHESTER

Sunday May 18, Leave Antrim at 5:30. A Musical Tribute to America's greatest generation. This renowned orchestra with its unique jazz sound is one of the most popular and sought after big bands around. This orchestra keeps the legend of America's favorite orchestra leader from the cherished Big Band Era alive. Cost is \$24 per person, and includes transportation on the Community Bus.

BASEBALL GAME NH FISHER CATS VS. PORTLAND SEA DOGS

Thursday May 22, leave Antrim at 9:50. Join us for a day at the ballpark, with seats behind home plate! Enjoy lunch at the game, return back to Antrim around 3:00.

DR SUESS NATIONAL MEMORIAL GARDEN AND MUSEUM QUADRANGLE.

Sunday May 25: Community Bus trip to Springfield, Mass. Join us for a unique daytrip to see the outdoor, life-size bronze sculpture garden honoring author and artist Dr. Suess. Bus will leave Antrim at 8:30, arrive in Springfield for lunch and visiting, and return home for 6pm. Cost is \$10 for Antrim residents.

continued on page 22

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ANTRIM GRANGE NEWS

By Arthur Merrill

Antrim Grange members have been active this winter attending state, regional and national events. We participated in the National Grange Primary Fly-In held the last weekend in December. During the weekend, we toured the state capital and listened to speakers such as Secretary of State William Gardner, and House Minority Leader Dan Eaton. The attendees then spent a day in Manchester working for the campaign of their choice. It was a very informative weekend, and all who attended came away with a new and deeper appreciation of what it means to hold the first in the nation primary here in New Hampshire.

In January we were in Portsmouth for the Northeast Leaders' Conference. Among the workshop presenters were the new National Grange President, Ed Luttrell of Oregon and Leadership/Membership Development Director, Rusty Hunt of Washington. We also co-hosted a reception at the State Grange Building in Hooksett for Antrim Grange member and newly elected National Grange Lady Assistant Steward, Beth Merrill. She also attended the National Presidents' meeting in Dallas in February.

Several Antrim members helped construct and staff the State Grange booth at the Farm & Forest Expo in Manchester in February. We were most grateful for the beautifully designed sap bucket lid that Diane Gutgesell painted and donated for the Expo charity auction on behalf of the NH State Grange.

On a local level, we are making plans for celebrating the 125th anniversary of Antrim Grange throughout the year. We accepted members from Purlingbeck Grange in East Washington, who have closed their Grange and consolidated with us in Antrim. We are sad for the fate of Purlingbeck Grange,

but welcome these new brothers and sisters into our Grange. Dictionaries have been presented to third grade students in Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Greenfield, and Peterborough for our sixth year of participation in the Dictionary Project. Plans are under way for the sixth annual Art Exhibit to be held in June.

Our annual Community Awards Night will be held on May 21st, at which time our community citizen award and scholarship recipient will be presented, in addition to several other awards. The Grange welcomes any suggestions from community members who may observe citizens performing services for the community that they feel should be recognized and rewarded. Suggestions can be given to Liz Robertson at 588-2562. Scholarship applications can be picked up at Conval High School guidance office, Tuttle Library in Antrim, or downloaded from <http://antrim.nhgrange.org>.

Public programs with speakers on the subjects of gardening and legislative issues will be announced in local papers and on our website for meetings on March 19th and April 16th. Youth Night will be May 7th, with the NH State Grange Youth Drill Team and the Antrim Teen Center being the invited guests of honor. Anyone interested in seeing an exciting demonstration by the current Northeast Grange Drill Champions is welcome to attend this meeting at Antrim Grange Hall at 7:00 p.m.

A unique Grange calendar is available for purchase for \$6 by anyone interested in supporting the activities and programs of Antrim Grange. A photo of the calendar is available on our website <http://antrim.nhgrange.org>. Call Liz at 588-2562 to get your calendar!



Antrim Recreation Department continued

ADULT EXERCISE

Gentle Stretch: Increase flexibility and Range of Motion! Wednesdays at the Town Hall- 11:00-11:45; Starts March 19. Pre-register by calling 588-3121, please leave a message if we are not there.

BOOT CAMP

For diversity in your workout- don't need to be extra coordinated, just motivated! Antrim Town Gym, Wednesdays 5:30, ongoing.

YOGA

A great class, taught by Jeanine Clarke Edmunds, Tuesdays, 6:00-7:15, GBS Cafeteria;

STEP AEROBICS

Action! Get moving with this popular class, where you can individualize your workout under the guidance of expert instructor Heather Boucher. Saturdays, 9:00 at the Town Gym.

PILATES

This is the real deal- Kim Stearns is a Stott Certified instructor, and has been coaching people from beginners through advanced Pilates for many years. This class is held Saturday mornings, 7:45 at the Town Gym.

MODERN DANCE CLASS WITH RENEE BLINN

Wednesdays April 16 through May 21, 6:30 at the Town Hall. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Call the Recreation Dept to register.

AND MORE...

Open Volleyball: Thursday nights, 7-9 pm at Town Gym
Chess Club: Thursday nights, 7-9 pm Town Gym

Open Basketball: Sunday evenings, 6:00 pm.

For registration and general information on any of our programs, call us at 588-3121 or email antrimrecreation@tds.net

TROOP 2 BOY SCOUTS WINTER CAMPOUT

Brian Beihl

Ten Scouts trekked by land and ice to reach the Scout camping site at Gregg Lake on January 12. Braving temperatures in the low teens at night, the boys built snow shelters, went "sled sailing" by holding up tarps and letting the wind pull their sleds over the ice, and did their own cooking.

COMMUNITY SUPPER

Troop 2 also prepared the February Community Supper at the Presbyterian Church. We served homemade pancakes and ham to a crowd of between 70 and 100. In addition to providing a low-cost meal to many local residents, the Scouts also learned event-planning skills, cooking techniques for large crowds, and the etiquette required for hosting a public event.

BIKE TRIP PLANNED FOR MAY

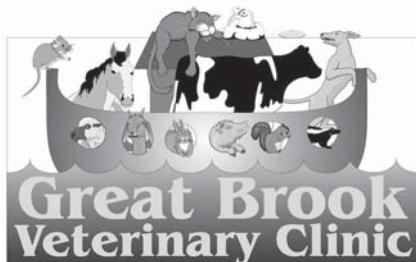
As a culmination of the Bicycling merit badge, Troop 2 will take a 50-mile bike trip on Cape Cod this May. In preparation for this journey, the boys will learn about the mechanics of bikes, types and uses of bikes, repair skills, and touring preparation. Other than the driving, this trip is being planned and executed by Senior Patrol Leader Luke Johnson, his assistant and his patrol leaders.

WANT TO SEND YOUR BOY TO CAMP?

The Daniel Webster Council runs some of the best summer camps in the country. Summer camp runs between \$300 and \$325 for incoming boys and commitments need to be made by March 31. Troop 2 will be sending groups to Hidden Valley Week 3, July 6-12, and Camp Bell Week 8, Aug. 10-16. If you would like details about having your boy attend camp this summer, please contact us at 588-3014 for more information.

JOIN TROOP 2

Do you like testing your limits? Does canoeing for a week in Maine or rappelling on a climbing wall in summer camp sound like fun to you? How about learning first aid skills and the chance to lead others? Scouting may be for you. Contact Scoutmaster Brian Beihl at 588-3014 for more information.



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Pack 2 Cub Scouts

WINTER FUN DAY

Scouts from Pack 2 and Pack 8 in Peterborough had a winter fun day at Bennington on February 2. The event was held at Sawyer Park in Bennington and featured sledding, snowshoeing, winter games, hot dogs and hot chocolate. About 45 Scouts attended.

PINEWOOD DERBY

Pierce School hosted the annual Pinewood Derby for Pack 2 on February 10, one of the most popular events of the year. Boys design, craft, and paint their own cars, then race them in 8 rounds of 6 heats. Of the 21 cars entered, 2008 winners were: 1st Place - Jonathan Bara; 2nd Place- Colin Brinkley; 3rd Place - Ben Heffernan. Over 70 family members and friends attended this year's event.

NEW CUBMASTER

Erik Anderson has agreed to take the mantle of Cubmaster for Pack 2, and has just begun his training for the position. Eric's son Brendan has been active in Cub Scouts the last three years. Erik is responsible for pack meetings, and the direction of the Cub Scouting program. If your son would like to participate in Pack 2, contact Eric at 588-6325 for more details.

DID YOU KNOW?

Every Scout troop or den is "chartered" by a local organization which helps provide a place to meet and oversees the leadership of the troop. From its initial charter in 1933, Troop 2 has been sponsored by the Myers - Prescott - Olsen American Legion Post 50, and the Cubs by the Waverly Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. We thank them for their decades of support of Scouting in Antrim & Bennington.



APPLESHED GROWS

Agricola

Appleshed Realty has joined the Contoocook Valley Board of Realtors. Now its listings will be in MLS (Multiple Listing Service). Appleshed has a new sales associate, Rick Davis. You all know Rick from Rick & Diane's Restaurant. Spring is just around the corner. If you are planning to sell your home, land or business, give Rick or Paul Hardwick a call.

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A NEW NAME ON MAIN STREET

CUTTER FLOORING AND FURNISHINGS

Janet MacLachlan

Cutter Flooring and Furnishings has taken over the building formerly owned by Jest Flooring and has been in business there on Main Street since May 2007. The owner is an enterprising young man named Terry Cutter who has several years of experience in the floor covering trade having been a sales representative throughout New England. Terry and his wife, Shelley Cutter, who is a 7th grade teacher at Great Brook School, live in Hillsborough with a son Tucker and daughter Chelsea. Some older residents of Antrim may remember Terry's grandparents Earl and Gwen Cutter. Earl was Antrim's postmaster before Phil Lang. There is a very able assistant working at Cutter Flooring named Judy Mills from Hancock. She works in the office and can also assist customers when Terry is out of the store.

As the name implies, Cutter Flooring carries beautiful wood flooring in birch, maple, and red and white oak. Laminated wood flooring is also available as well as vinyl, tiles and rug carpeting. There is something for every room in your house, and everything very attractively displayed to help you make your selections. If you are in the market for furniture, Terry can help you out there too with choices for your living

room, bedroom, dining room and kitchen. There is also a display of custom window treatments. Some of them can be seen in use in the new addition of the Tuttle Library where they very effectively act as a sunshade without keeping out the light. The flooring in the new No. 42 Bakery Shop was installed by Cutter Flooring, also.

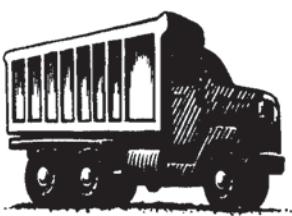
Terry has four different teams of experienced workmen who are available to do installations. For those do-it-yourself customers, Terry is very happy to furnish help and instructions free of charge.

He said he is very conscientious about the work done by his workmen and wants to be proud of each installation. There is 90 day financing available to his customers.

In the spring when the winter snows have melted away, Terry plans to add an outdoor children's wooden play equipment line. He expects to have it available for his Open House in May when he hopes townspeople will visit the store and see what a great selection he has to offer. He has met with a good response in the few months he has been open. The store has a web site at www.cutterflooring.com where you may find additional information. The phone number is 588-3711.

In these days of high gas prices, people should find it very pleasant to be able to do their shopping in town and not have to drive to a distant city for what they need. ♫

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A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY HOME FROM TOWN

Some friends were driving home when they passed a house and the wife saw a man lying on top of the roof waving at them. She waved back as they passed and then she said to her husband, "That was peculiar. I wonder if he was all right. Perhaps we should go back and check it out." To which the husband replied, "I'll be returning to town in an hour or so. If he is still up there waving, I'll stop." But his wife insisted they turn back, and so they did and pulled into the man's driveway. He shouted down, "Thank God you stopped. I've been waving for help but six cars have passed by, waved, and gone on down the road. I'm stuck up here on the ice and can't get back to my ladder. Could you bring it around to this side so I can get off this roof?" The couple was glad to help and the man was rescued.

He asked that they not tell his wife about his predicament to which they agreed. However, as they drove off they wondered how the man was going to explain why his shovel was stuck in the snow on the roof. ♫

ANTRIM COMPUTER OPENS ON MAIN STREET

Agricola

Our neighbor Matthew Burke's computer business has moved into the Main Street building where the video rental shop used to be. Matt started Antrim Computer Repair & Service out of his home in 2004, and it has been such a success that in December 2007 he decided to expand and be available to customers who would rather save some money by bringing their computers to him rather than have him come to them. (He still makes house calls.) He repairs all brands of PCs for failed hardware, the removal of harmful viruses, and the elimination of spyware that can be used to steal your identification. He also sells used computers and can create a new custom computer for any customer. He includes a "recovery disk" which reloads the computer back to factory specifications, free updates, one year of free Norton Anti-Virus protection, and a three-year warranty. Until the end of the month, he is running "clean-up" for the special price of \$75. Matt is married to Virginia Warren, and they have a redheaded six-year-old son Matthew from whom it is our pleasure to receive a wave every day. Matt can be reached at 588-3247 or matthew@antrimcomputer.com. ♫



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FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW

Joyce Davison

Has anyone else had turkeys? Good Grief! Since late fall, before the first snow, here they came, up over the stone wall behind my little house, out from under the pines where they had roosted over night I suspect. In a line they walked, looking to choose which of the three bird feeding stations that I have, would they stop at. There were fifteen in all, not attractive birds, and they certainly need a lot of help in the brain department. Entertaining, nonetheless! They have continued to come throughout the winter, not every day, but at least two or three times a week. These big cumbersome birds fly up as cars go by and head back to their favorite roosting limb in the pines. I can't help but think back fifty years or so when, as a kid, we raised our own domestic turkeys and never saw a wild one.

During the fall I had many various animal visitors from the woods. Because I am close to the road, I'm surprised a little. I think the brook, just down over the bank, draws them in, and of course the bird feeders prick their curiosity and offer a free meal. The deer came, a doe with two fawns, and it was interesting to watch the fawn grow. As it grew colder, a group of five deer would come in just at dark leaving their pointed tracks along the edge of my gardens. During the summer I lost two bird feeders to bear, my grandson Jacob finding one down in the woods, and the other one resting as a twist of metal beside my neighbor's lawn. The bears bent for good the bird feeder pole that my son Pete put up for me! I have gone back to having food at that feeding station hung from the limbs of the old lilac bush, easy pickings for the multitudes of grey and red squirrels who think they own the place. One large grey came right up to my side door and looked straight into the eyes of my two big indoor cats. I argued with myself for a minute or so whether to let them out and watch the fur fly or let things be. Quickly I decided for the latter, as they all deserved to survive. And let me tell you, the squirrels are surviving beautifully!

Early morning and at dusk I have counted up to six bright red male cardinals and four or five softer beige females pecking at the ground under my feeders. They tend to flock in the winter, males and females separately, and I look forward to hearing that great spring song from the males in a few months when their territorial feuds begin.

One Saturday afternoon I noticed something that looked like a stray cat stretched out dozing in the sun under a bird feeder. I opened the door, and it woke and turned to look at me. When I saw its tufted ears, a dark strip down its back, and a stub tail, I realized with excitement that I was seeing a bobcat for the first time. It was injured, running away on only three legs, with one of its front paws held high. Perhaps being unable to catch its natural prey, it saw the bird feeder as a golden opportunity.

The usual fall coon visitors came chattering in the night, climbing up to the bird feeder and breaking a fairly large limb from the lilac bush. I have had a resident hawk who drops down and grabs a pigeon every once in a while, leaving a pile of feathers. I was finally able to identify it this year as a beautiful Coopers Hawk, not a Sharp-shinned I had thought it might be. They look very much alike. Watching from my window is far better than anything on television, that's for sure.

We have had a real old fashioned winter, haven't we? Snow and cold blustery winds by Thanksgiving. However, "frigid" when I was growing up in the 1930s meant it was 20 below zero, not the teens and twenties that excite the weathermen and women today, who forecast the weather with dramatic shock appeal.

I remember walking to school (there were no busses in those days) with my brother and sister on a below-zero morning. I was probably a first or second grader, my brother just a year ahead of me and my sister older by six years. We were walking from the house that we grew up in, built by my great, great grandfather here in "Clinton Village" to the school which is now the Schoolhouse apartments on Main Street, about a mile from our house. As we came down over "Hugh Graham's" hill (where Peter and Schotze Moore live) and hit the flat where Great Brook flows close to the road, my sister noticed white/grey areas on each of my cheeks. After some heated discussion they decided that my cheeks were probably frost bitten and that we should turn back for home. I was not happy and brought my scarf up over my nose and cheeks, where most of us kids pulled the scarves that were always around our necks, holding our winter jackets close in the cold. Then we headed home into the icy northwest wind, and I was a little concerned about what was going to happen to my cheeks. If you haven't already guessed, going home was farther than if we had continued on to school. My mother was happy to have us stay at home for the day, close to the kitchen stove with the oven door open, or wrapped in a blanket near the old chunk stove in the living room where most of the heat went up the chimney. Not to worry! My cheeks were a little tender for a couple days but thawed out nicely.

The election primary on January 8th this year was quite a day for our community. A constant line of town folks came to vote in our small town office. It is a great day to see people you know, those you don't know, and lots of new voters. I think I have written about the town meetings when I was in school, when all the students went to town meeting in the town hall. Unlike now, all voting took place on the morning of town meeting day, with the moderator and selectmen positioned on the stage running the meeting as folks voted and crossed the stage to pass in their ballots to the person behind the ballot box and then walked down the stage steps and back to their seats. Many people stayed after the meeting and the

—continued on next page

polls closed to hear the results of the votes and the budget for the next year. There were no microphones in those days, and a loud, clear voice was necessary to control discussions which at times were pretty loud and colorful.

We students were allowed in the balcony so we could look down on the adults we knew, and of course they knew what families we belonged to in the event that we made too much noise. That is how we learned about town government and the strong New England personalities that spoke so forcefully. We knew what warrant articles we wanted passed, and one year it was to have showers put in the town hall. At the time basketball games and practices were held in the town hall, and so the showers were a question of hygiene. But the showers didn't pass, thanks to my father and others who spoke eloquently that if after walking home the kids were still not cooled down, they could take their showers or baths at home.

Every town meeting Smoky Merrill was always recognized with appreciation for the hours, usually at night, he drove the unheated caterpillar tractor plowing the roads after heavy storms. Helpers had to be stationed all over town with gasoline for Smoky's tractor. I remember waking up in the middle of the night hearing that tractor labor up our road, knowing that the storm was over and the road would be cleared. At town meeting we understood the warrant articles because we knew the people they would affect. Sometimes business

would get wrapped up and over in the morning, but often the meeting went on into the afternoon, what with ballots to be counted and budget figures to be added up. Town meeting noontime dinner was across the street in the Presbyterian Church, readied by the ladies of all the town churches along with many good cooks, especially excellent pie makers. You can imagine that the town officers rarely got across the street to dinner, so dinner would come over from the church for them. Several of us students would have volunteered to hustle over to set up tables and chairs, wait on tables, and clean up after dinner was over.

I appreciate all of you who see me walking early mornings and toot your horns, dim your lights, and drive out around me. I am reassured to see the morning come, sometimes cold, sometimes with the moonlight on one side and the morning horizon on the other. I am grateful for the community around me, some people I know, and others I've yet to meet, all on their way to work. I know that if a 911 call comes in reporting a woman is "down" on Old Hancock Road or Route 31 or West or Pleasant Streets or perhaps Smith Road or Miltmore Road, they will know who it is and be there to help. All kidding aside, I've seen mornings when negotiating fresh snow and icy patches that I've thought of that! Bob Varnum has stopped a few mornings to see if all is well and warn me that traffic comes by too fast on a given stretch. Thanks Bob! A couple years ago I was about ready to turn on to Hancock Road across from Arthur and Christina Bryer's house at Clinton Corner when I heard a big truck come up behind me and brake to a stop. A voice called and when I turned there was Rick Sudsbury with a reflective vest under his arm, "You know, Joyce, you blend right into the snow bank with your dark leggings and grey sweatshirt, so you'd better put this vest on." So, I did. Thanks Rick. My son Pete gave me a blinking red light, and I wear that too. Even if there are no lights on, I always wave as I go by Dale and Rick's place on Hancock Road, and to the Webbers as I round the corner on to West Street. I like to think that's the way people are in our town.

Until next time. . . .



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FROM THE OVEN THE KEY TO FRESH BREAD

Cindy Crockett

Let me begin with a hearty "Thank You" for the enthusiastic response to Bakery 42 on Main Street. Your positive comments and support are appreciated and we hope to see all of you on a regular basis. Now that our sign is up, we are easy to find, directly across from Antrim's Tuttle Library. We are happy to provide the area with something a little bit rare these days – a freestanding bakery, as someone called it.

I recently read a fascinating column in the Boston Globe on why bread goes stale faster in the refrigerator than if left out. I remember my grandma used to have a bread box on the counter and it was always full of good things that kept fresh for a reasonably long time. While that breadbox may be mostly a thing of the past, there is a reason for keeping bread (and any many other fresh-baked goods) on the counter instead of in the refrigerator.

When you think about it, most things slow down when cooled. A pot of stew on the stove stops bubbling when the heat is turned down; flowing water slows and eventually freezes when temperatures are cold enough; ice stops melting when temperatures drop; some chemical reactions go more slowly at lower temperatures. The same is true for food. We place food in the refrigerator to slow the chemical and biological reactions that cause the food to decay and eventually break down and go bad.

Bread is different. The essential ingredients in a loaf of bread are flour, water, salt, and yeast. Hugely simplified, when mixed together, they interact and develop among other things gluten, gases, and starches. Here is where bread is special. When cooled the starches in bread start to crystallize faster, changing the structure and texture of the bread. When combined with the drying out of the bread (loss of moisture due to the low humidity in the refrigerator) the bread becomes tough and stale faster. Yes, bread will eventually go stale on the counter at room temperature, but not as fast. And yes, bread will get moldy at warmer room temperatures if left there for too long. (Good, old-fashioned, hand-made bread lasts a lot longer than commercially produced bread.)



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An alternative for keeping bread longer is to freeze it while it is still reasonably fresh. The temperature in the freezer is too cold for the starch to crystallize quickly and so preserves the bread better than if in the refrigerator. The bread can always be thawed out and will be fine to enjoy. Having said that, bread that is already stale and then frozen will still be stale when thawed.

An additional means to keeping bread fresher longer is to slice only what you need when you need it. Less exposed surface of the bread means less contact with air and less drying out of the bread. Keep bread wrapped in its original paper bag on the counter for best results. If you choose to freeze the bread, first tightly wrap it in the paper bag and then in a plastic bag. Bread will keep for a few months in the freezer.

Enjoy! We'll bake more bread and share more secrets next time from Bakery 42. ♫

LOCKS OF LOVE

Agricola

Antrim's eight-year-old Bailey Kirkpatrick is happy to have donated her beautiful long hair to some child whose illness has meant a loss of hair. She worked with Locks of Love, a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss. The hairpieces help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers. ♫

HOME AND HARVEST 2008

Rick Davis

Last years Home & Harvest celebration was great success and 2008 will be even better but **we need volunteers!** You do not need to attend a lot of meetings, just call Rick Davis at 464-9915 and sign up. Better yet, just come to our first meeting on March 3, 2008 at Rick & Diane's at 7:00 pm.

This years dates are September 20 and 21 Help make it great! Call Rick 464-9915. ♫

LIMERICK CONTEST

As in the past, the *Limrik* will award a \$50 Toadstool Bookstore gift certificate to the best entry completing this Teen center limerick by our resident Limricist Harlow Richardson. Mail entries to the Antrim Limrik, PO Box 30, Antrim, NH 03440 or email to l_Gilmore@conknet.com

The Teen Center now is the spot
For great games and music that's hot.
You just can't go wrong,
Foosball or Ping-Pong,

SAVING ENERGY AT HOME MEANS SAVING MONEY

Sandy Snow

Antrim's Energy Committee conducted its second meeting in January to determine what the town can do to save energy. Included in the discussion is what individuals can do in and around their homes to save energy. The great thing about being energy conscious is that you also will save money. In some cases it can be a substantial savings.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY AND DOLLARS:

By doing an energy audit of your home, you can save 5% to 30% in energy costs. Do it yourself, or contact Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) to find out how to have a professional complete a more thorough audit. For tips on doing it yourself go to http://www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/your_home/energy_audits/index.cfm/mytopic=11170.

Look for places where hot air is leaking out of your house in the winter and into it in summer. Plug, fill, cover, and eliminate as many air leaks as possible.

Since heat rises, attic insulation is critical in making your house energy efficient. Make sure it is evenly spread and the proper thickness. Attic ducting should be insulated to stop cold air infiltration. Also, be sure your fireplace damper works and that it is closed when there is no fire.

Make sure weather stripping around doors and windows is pliable and there are no air leaks. Caulk cracks, gaps, and seams in siding and trim around doors and windows. The table below shows where most heat is lost.

WHERE AIR LEAKS OUT

Floors, walls, and ceiling	31%
Ducts	15%
Fireplace	14%
Plumbing Penetration	13%
Door	11%
Windows	10%
Fans and Vents	4%
Electric Outlets	2%

Replace your incandescent light bulbs with fluorescent bulbs. By replacing a 100 watt incandescent with a 25 watt fluorescent, you will save 135 kWh of electricity annually and can reduce associated carbon dioxide emission by 193 pounds (based on 5 hours per day use and 1.43 lbs CO₂/kWh). In addition, fluorescent bulbs last 6 to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Compact fluorescent bulbs have come a long way since their introduction. Older bulbs sometimes had an annoying flicker and took a minute or more to reach full luminosity. Plus the bulbs were significantly more expensive than incandescent bulbs. Those problems have been overcome. Purchase fluorescent bulbs from PSHN. Cost for a 15 or 20 watt bulb is around \$1 to \$1.25. You can also purchase them at Edmunds, Home Depot, and other outlets offering money-saving coupons. The government says that if every household in the United States replaced its next light bulb or fixture with an Energy Star qualified model the country would save more than 8 billion kilowatt hours of energy. (Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.)

Speaking of Energy Star, are you considering replacing an old appliance with a new one? Consider purchasing an Energy Star model. The Energy Star web site points out that the cost of an appliance is not just what you pay for it at the store. It says that the average home spends \$1,900 per year on energy costs. An Energy Star product can save \$80 per year in energy costs. My wife and I recently bought an Energy Star clothes washer. Not only does it wash the clothes better, but we use only cold water. For more information go to www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=appliances.pr_appliances.

⌘



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THE GRAPEVINE

Kristen Vance

Teen Center News: At this writing, more than 100 teens have dropped by the teen center at 42 Main Street to play pool, do homework, improve their table tennis skills, jam on the many musical instruments available, and do community service. The Open Mic sessions have been so popular that it's now a regular event, held on the 1st and 3rd Friday nights of the month. The 2nd and 4th Saturdays are late nights, open 6-10PM for grades 9 and up. Tournaments and workshops are typically scheduled during regular hours. If you haven't been to the teen center yet, drop by Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 2:30 to 5:30 and Saturdays 2 to 6, or contact Dave Kirkpatrick for events information at 588-3334 or teencenter@tds.net.

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

The Grapevine welcomes all children birth to 5 years of age and their parents to our weekly children's programs. The Aiken Street Barn, where The Grapevine is located, is fully accessible.

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-11:30—Better Beginnings parent-child program

Monday 1:30-3:30—Better Beginnings for Babies—*New Group Forming for babies under 12 months!*

Wednesday and Friday 9-11:30—The Learning Vine preschool

Friday 10:00-11:30—Better Beginnings for Babies *and Toddlers up to age two*

Better Beginnings parent-child programs are for toddlers to children 5 years of age and their parents. The focus of the children's program is on language and social skills development in a fun, nurturing, and supportive environment. Parents join other parents in an adjacent room for coffee and tea, and discussions about child- and family-centered topics with our parenting educators.

Better Beginnings for Babies: Our Monday afternoon session is for parents with babies under 12 months, and our Friday session is for infants to 2-year-olds and their parents. Expectant parents are welcome, too. Parents have found this group a great opportunity to meet other parents while their babies make their first friends. Facilitated by one of our early childhood educators. Drop-ins welcome!

Please call Beth at 588-2620 to sign up for programs, or for more information.

THE PEOPLE'S SERVICE EXCHANGE

The Exchange has 150 members and over 200 services to choose from, ranging from computer repair, shoveling, tax prep and massage, to companionship, resume writing, haircuts and rides. Here's how it works: One hour of service equals one hour of credit called a "time dollar." As a new member, you receive three time dollars you can spend right away on a service. A members-only gathering is scheduled for March 22 at The Grape-

vine. You, too, can participate by becoming a member—it's easy! Call or email Exchange coordinator Christine Polito at 588-2620 or peoplesserviceexchange@hotmail.com for more information.

SECOND MONDAYS WORKSHOPS

March 10—Real Estate 101 for the First Time Home Buyer—Meet with Janet McEwen, a local REALTOR® from The Mollers Inc. in Hancock. Janet will give a brief presentation on the process of buying a home and answer questions on the local market and resources to assist the first time home buyer. She will also invite a local mortgage representative to answer your questions on financing. Janet has lived in Antrim for over 20 years and is a member of the local, State and National Board of REALTORS®. She recently was awarded the designation as an Accredited Buyer Representative by the NAR.

April 14— "Not Your Baby Anymore: Living With a Preteen." In this workshop, we'll take a look at the special issues of rapid growth and puberty for middle school youngsters changes in behavior, attitude and moods suggestions for improving communication

May 12—Family Gardening with Kin Schilling of the Cornucopia Project and Susie Spikol of the Harris Center. Gardening tips and secrets to success for gardening with children. Learn which plants are guaranteed winners, games to play, projects to do, and recipes to try.

About Second Mondays: Sessions run from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Walk-ins are welcome if space is available, or call The Grapevine to sign up in advance. On-site childcare can be available if you call ahead.

"When Your Kid Pushes Your Buttons," an 8-week workshop with certified *Buttons* instructor Carol Lunan, starting March 4th from 6-8pm. To paraphrase *Buttons* author Bonnie Harris: As parents, there are times when we react to our children's behavior, or say things we swore we never would and wish we could take it back. In this class you can identify your "buttons," shift your perceptions of behaviors, and examine beliefs that can determine how you respond to your child. Childcare provided – sign up required. Cost of

 continued on next page

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this workshop is sliding scale from \$60-\$120. Payment plans and other options available if the minimum fee is a hardship.

"Grandparents Parenting," Thursday, March 20 from 6:30 to 8pm, a discussion facilitated by parenting educator Jane Richards-Jones. Join other grandparents who are parenting their grandchildren for an informal discussion about the challenges and rewards, as well as support and resources for parenting grandparents. Call ahead if you need onsite childcare. This discussion is in response to requests, and if there is enough interest the group will be ongoing.

"Step Families: How To Live With Other People's Children," with Judy Osborne, Director of Stepfamily Associates, Saturday March 22 from 9-11:30am at Reynolds Hall in Peterborough. Judy will explore the various stages of family change that can be challenging to stepfamilies: Dating, joining households, changes in custody, the new baby, and others.

This workshop is intended for stepfamily members, mental health professionals, educators and others who work with children and families. Pre-registration for workshop and childcare required—call The Grapevine at 588-2620. Cost: \$15.00 per person; \$20.00 per couple. Limited scholarships are available. Co-sponsored by The Grapevine Family and The Family Center.

FREE APRIL VACATION FUN!

Monday, April 21 from 9:30 to 11:30—Open Playroom for children birth to 5 and their parents. Kim Duthie will be on hand to offer activities and a nutritious snack. Drop in.

Thursday, April 24 from 9:30-11:30—Art Play for children age 4 and up. Come for some fun surprises with Carol Lunan, bring your creativity (and your parents if you wish). Sign up.

Friday, April 25 from 9:30-11:30—Wild in the Safari Day with Carol for children age 4 and up. Sign up.

"Stop, Drop and Mop," Saturday April 5 from 10-1. Your child enjoys playtime with others and a nutritious lunch will you do some spring cleaning, run errands, read a good book, or take a nap! \$5 per child, sign up required.



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SPRING WALK FOR FAMILIES SATURDAY, MAY 3

Tune up your strollers and lace up your walking shoes for The Grapevine's 4th Annual *Spring Walk for Families* on Saturday, May 3 at 10am in Antrim. April is "Strengthening Families Month," which we will continue to honor on this first Saturday in May as we walk in celebration of families and community. Last year's walk in Franconia drew a big crowd on a fine spring day, and we look forward to just as much fun this year. Look for details in the papers, around town, and on www.antrimnh.org in April.

SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE

Information & Referral: Information about area resources for financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs.

Community Wood Bank

Heating Fuel & Electric Assistance information.

Child & Family Counseling provided by Monadnock Family Services.

Family Conflict Resolution offered by Milford Area Mediation Services.

Help finding meaningful employment: A.C.C.E.S.S. offers support for people with disabilities in their search for meaningful employment.

Help Finding Shelter for families who are homeless or face homelessness.

Healthy Kids Insurance application assistance.

Visitation Site for noncustodial parents and their children.



ANTRIM CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The Antrim Players Children's Theater is presenting two plays: "Yo-Ho! Yo-Ho! A Pirate's Life For Me" and "Perseus & Medusa." Performances are Friday and Saturday April 11th and 12th at 7pm at the Antrim Town Hall. General Admission is \$5.00. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at T-Bird Mini Mart in Antrim or at the Toadstool Bookshop in Peterborough. For more info please visit our website at www.antrimplayers.com.



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KAITLIN HARDING IN GUATEMALA

At the end of 2007 Coleen and Sam Harding's daughter Kaitlin responded to the Limrik's request for information about her semester in Guatemala. Here is an excerpt from her letter.

—Editor

I am in my third year of study at Marlboro College in the hills of southern Vermont. I am studying international relations and development with a minor in photography. Currently I am in the most exciting part of the program, a six-to-eight month foreign internship. As a part of this program I am required to find an internship in a foreign country of my choice, make all the arrangements for the internship, and create a curriculum of independent study courses with reports via e-mail with my professors while I am abroad. My internship has led me to Santiago Atitlan in the highlands of Guatemala. This 95% indigenous Mayan town is also home to the organization Pueblo a Pueblo where I have set up my internship writing grants, developing projects and doing general office work. I also have two volunteer positions, one in a Guatemalan organization where I help with grant writing, and the other the U.S. based FotoKids where I teach photography to Mayan children.

As part of my research on natural disasters in Guatemala, I visited a town called El Palmar Viejo. In 1990 Hurricane Mitch hovered over Guatemala causing terrible lava slides and mudslides in the area around El Palmar. When I visited El Palmar, I met a family who toured me around the area. The family included a pleasant mother who wore the traditional Mayan guipil (a colorful woven blouse), a father who was taller and quieter, and a talkative teenager who wore jeans and sandals. The girl lead the way, and she and I walked at a faster pace ahead of her parents, chatting in Spanish. We went straight up a path and reached the edge of a deep ravine that cut a gap in the path and which was crossed by a small footbridge. The girl continued to walk fast, not hesitating over the bridge, and I followed her. Connected with wire, rope, and wooden planks, the bridge swung over the ravine. Nervously I climbed on focusing on the wooden planks, taking bigger steps where planks had rotted away, holding on securely to the handrails. Thankfully, it was a short walk over

the bridge. On the other side we waited for her parents and then continued along the path of patted down grass through a field. The girl pointed right indicating a lagoon in that direction, but we continued straight, towards the cemetery. As we climbed up a hill to the cemetery, a church came into view ahead of us. The small whitish building was wearing away, its paint chipping off and its wood rotting. The doors hung open, inviting us into the dusty and vacant interior. To the left of the church was a row of colorful boxes lined up like dresser drawers. The boxes, the girl said, held the bodies of people from a long time ago. A few of the boxes were pulled out just a little bit, and one was cracked open on the top allowing one to look in. I walked near the box to take a peek, but inside was dark and seemingly empty. I continued on after the girl, and she led me through the cemetery paths, passing by more caskets and crosses cradled by weeds and brush. The cemetery felt as if it had been abandoned for hundreds of years. We walked by a circle of ashes the father informed me was a Mayan altar. Fresh candle wax was splattered throughout the ashes, serving as one of the few signs that people had actually been in El Palmar Viejo in recent years. As we left the cemetery, the family asked me if I wanted to continue on my own or go with them to their own land. Excited to see their home, I followed them down through the woods. Along the way we stopped at some of their fruit trees, and the girl climbed one and chopped off several brightly colored fruits. She came down and cracked them open and handed one to me. "It's cocoa, suck on it." I picked up the yellow shell with a slimy pink interior and began eating the sweet cocoa as we talked with their neighbor, a man tending his plants in the nearby plot of land. Like the neighbor and the family, everyone comes to El Palmar to tend land, but not to stay. After picking our fruit and chatting briefly, we continued down the path through the woods to the family's old house. I pulled up a bench next to the house and sat talking with the family as they picked fruit here and there. The girl handed me a green Clementine and I continued munching. "We used to live here, but we don't live here anymore." the mother explained. "When the lava came in 1990, we moved out with everyone else."

To be continued in the next issue of the Limrik.

⌘

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SPIRALSCOUTS

Jess Baribault

Silverling Circle #58, the local chapter of SpiralScouts International, had a magical winter season. In December, we completed our Nutrition and Cooking badges, and joined our sister chapter, Spiral Bear Circle in Londonderry, for the third annual Yule Festival. There were terrific drum circles, a vendor fair with local merchants, and a special Winter Solstice pageant, performed by the scouts, to welcome the rebirth of the Sun. In January, we completed our Birding badges, and in February, earned our Sculpture badges. We also made our second annual trip to Herban Living Farm in Temple, where we celebrated Imbolc by a well dedicated to Brigid, the Celtic goddess of poetry, healing, metalsmithing, and other creative arts.

In March, we make our annual trip to Stonewall Farm for the Sap Gathering Contest, which falls near the spring equinox, also known as Ostara or Eostre. The scouts always look forward to visiting the animals, and tasting the gifts of our local trees. March will also be the time for our Spring badge ceremony to recognize and honor the work we've accomplished with badges and award pins. April will find us involved with community service; since respect for the Earth is a big part of the SpiralScouts philosophy, we will plan some activities related to Earth Day. In May, we will continue with badge work, plan our annual Summer Solstice camping trip, and have the opportunity to join with others in New Hampshire's Earth-centered community to celebrate

Beltane, also known as May Day. We will again participate in Children and the Arts Day, and spend plenty of time outdoors.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

A balance of male and female leadership is part of the SpiralScouts philosophy. We invite teens and adults in the community to consider volunteering within our group. Helping opportunities can include small jobs such as teaching a skill or craft, or large jobs like organizing fundraisers.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT

SpiralScouts™ International is an independent, non-profit, co-ed scouting organization for youth ages 3-18 and their families. Its activities are directed by the goals and interests of its members, and include everything from drumming and mythology to gardening and astronomy. Its philosophy is rooted in the ideals of ecology, inclusivity, and balance of gender energies, and its mission centers on boys and girls working together to heal our Mother Earth. For more information about the SpiralScouts program, visit www.SpiralScouts.org.

GET INVOLVED

Silverling Circle #58 meets the second Sunday of each month at 2:00. Please get in touch if you'd like to attend. Registration is \$15 per year, and interested families or volunteers are welcome to check out a meeting before deciding to join. For information, call Jess at 588-4219. ☺



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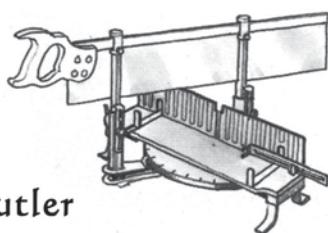
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CHURCH NEWS

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

588-2209

REV. PEGGI KEPHART BOYCE

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

(childcare available for 4-year olds and under)

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 AM

THE BRANCHES 12-1:30 PM

(lunch and study for young people)

AA Meetings Sundays 7:00 PM

Spectrum Art Association Thursdays 9:00 AM-12 NOON

March 16 • Palm Sunday Service

March 20 • Maundy Thursday worship at 6:30 PM

March 23 • Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 AM on lawn

Easter Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

May 3 • May Breakfast (Saturday)

May 11 • Pentecost Sunday

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SUNDAY SERVICE 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM

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588-6614

PASTOR CHARLES V. BOUCHER

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL (preschool–8th grade) **10:30 AM**

Youths Groups (grades 6-12): **Fridays 6:30 pm**

March 5 • Lenten Luncheon 12 NOON to 1 PM

Bring a bag lunch; dessert and drink provided

March 13 • Lenten Luncheon 12 NOON to 1 PM

Bring a bag lunch; dessert and drink provided

March 20 • Maundy Thursday Service at 7 pm
with communion

March 23 • Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 AM

on lawn at Presbyterian Church

March 23 • Easter Service at 10:30 AM with musical

April 19 • Turkey Dinner 5-6:30 PM

Adults \$8, children 5-12 yrs \$5, family max \$30

April 23 • Community Movie Day 12 NOON-3 PM
with hotdog lunch

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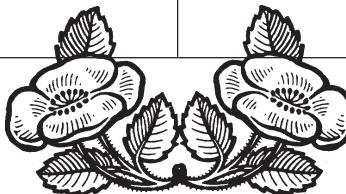
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GREAT BROOK SCHOOL

G. Bruce West, Principal

On February 21st, Great Brook School Celebrated ARTS DAY with host artists from around the region. Over forty workshops were offered throughout the school, and students had the opportunity to participate in many activities including African drumming and dance, watercolor painting, animation, needlecraft and beading, hip-hop and contra dance, macramé, songwriting, sculpture, poetry writing, blacksmithing, hand bell ringing, and origami. We concluded the workshops with an assembly, the culmination of a fine day spent in engaging and challenging activities.

This special day reflects the belief that the arts provide each of us with opportunities for meaningful self-expression. By continuously reinforcing and nourishing our students' innate creativity, we are helping them develop critical self-expression skills. We believe these abilities are crucial to their future opportunities and success.

On behalf of the G.B.S. community, we would like to thank all the artists who came and offered their time and talent. *The G.B.S. Arts Day Committee: Joan Bando, Marge Moran, Jahna Moncrief, and Kathi Wasserloos.*

On February 22nd, Great Brook School continued our celebration of literacy and the national "Read Across America Day" by sharing stories with one another. The focus of the day was students reading to students. There were over forty books read to students at GBS, and a number of literacy groups read stories with students at Antrim Elementary School. This is our second day of reading this year as we shared holiday stories prior to our winter break. Our students and staff had wonderful times both days.

We continue to see improvement in our students' reading comprehension and their increased enjoyment in reading. We look forward to discovering what this focus of time and energy brings to our students' growth as readers. I want to thank Terri Sittig and the staff and students of Great Brook for their hard work in making this initiative a success. ♫

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THE LIMRIK LIMERICK

CONTEST WINNER

We received five submissions to December's limrick contest from Richard Block, Janet Edwards, Trish Murphy, Mike Nugent, and Amy Proctor. All were fine, but two were so good that we could not decide between them and so award each a \$50 gift certificate to the Toadstool Bookshop. Here are the winners.

From Richard Block:

Pretty wrappings all over the floor
And ribbons. once bows, now no more.
There's nary a tummy
That hasn't said yummy
To sugar plum candy galore!

From Janet Edwards:

Pretty wrappings all over the floor
And ribbons. once bows, now no more.
There's nary a tummy
That hasn't said yummy
While elders share stories of yore.

See page 28 for the new limerick contest.

— Editor

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