

FESTIVAL OF TREES CELEBRATES 6TH SEASON

Kristy Boulé

Put a little sparkle in your holidays by visiting the Festival of Trees. Explore three floors of elaborately decorated trees and holiday displays at the James A. Tuttle Library, 45 Main St., Antrim. The 6th season began with a special Open House on the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend and hosted the Community Tree Lighting and Visit with Santa. Voting for favorites continues through Dec. 12 and will culminate with beribboned certificates being awarded in time for *A Dickens of a Day at the Library* on Dec. 12 (1:00–3:00 p.m.), featuring readings from the works of Charles Dickens, musical interludes, period games, activities and refreshments. A special evening event, *Music Among the Trees*, is planned for Wed., Dec. 16 from 6:30–8:00 p.m., and will feature background musical selections on Celtic harp by Sharon Dowling—a special opportunity to take in the beautiful trees in full illumination on an evening when the Library is usually closed.

A special exhibit of beautiful handmade quilts loaned by the members of the Monadnock Quilters Guild and community members provide a seasonal backdrop to the myriad of trees. Displays by community artisans and crafters adorn the shelf tops in the main room, nestled among trees featuring décor as varied as Victorian, whimsical, Nightmare Before Christmas, Mardis Gras, hand painted wooden comic characters, the Cemetery Tree with unique epitaphs, and the Polar Express. The annual quilt raffle features an original handmade “One Block Wonder” quilt which was designed, pieced, quilted, and generously donated by Antrim’s own Jim Burnham. Chances



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Antrim’s Secret Gardener

Joan Gorga

I loved reading Frances Hodgson Burnett’s novel *The Secret Garden* as a child, and even occasionally sneak in a re-reading now that I’m in my dotage. The Secret Garden was hidden behind tall brick walls. It had been surreptitiously kept alive for ten years by gardener Ben Weatherstaff in memory of the mistress of Misselthwaite Manor, and no one noticed the children’s revival of the hidden garden’s splendor. Instead, in Antrim, we have a Secret Gardener in Joyce Davison, who quietly tends some of the most visible gardens in town.

Joyce’s family goes back for seven

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THE DREAM RIDE

Charles Butterfield

Not long ago I was on Meetinghouse Hill watching the masons move beautiful granite stones into place in the wall they are rebuilding around the cemetery there. I’m always impressed with the attention that old “burying place” receives, but never more so than now, graced as it is by a handsome fitted stone wall. In fact, much of Antrim Center boasts impressive, laid-in, as opposed to tossed, stone walls.

As I walked down the steep hill after my visit to the cemetery, I was struck, as I always am, by the long, straight stretch of road that comes off the hill and continues for a mile until it finally drops from view at Butterfield Farm. My dream ride returned. I probably only imagine it, but it seems as though I heard my father, born in 1894, talk about sliding down Meetinghouse Hill as a boy. Whether he did or not, I have been dreaming of that ride for nearly 80 years!

Suppose one winter day and night a snowstorm covered Antrim with a foot-and-a-half of the good stuff. Then suppose we could find a pair of oxen and someone to hitch them to the town’s snow roller, which I remember seeing stored behind Elmer Merrill’s barn. Yard-by-yard, the big roller would press down the

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— NEWS DEADLINE —

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— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

The Limrik accepts letters to the editor of maximum length of 250 words. Publication is subject to approval of the content. Mail letters to Editor, Limrik, PO Box 84, Antrim, NH 03440 or by email to Joan Gorga at: jgorga2@gorga.org.

— CREDITS —

Photos courtesy of Michelle Boulé, Laurie Cass-Griggs, Lyman Gilmore, Frank Gorga, Nancy O'Brien, Robin Rockwell, and Heidi Schultz

ANTRIM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tod Bryer

This past spring the Antrim Firefighters Association received several donations in memory of Mike Willet, who lost a long battle with cancer in March. With these donations the membership decided to build a pavilion similar to those at Gregg Lake, with construction starting late this fall. We would like to thank Richard Edmunds of Edmunds Ace Hardware for the donation of concrete mix for footings, Antrim Lumber for supplying the materials, Harry Payne for machine time in setting footings and John Baybutt with assisting in setting trusses.

The Antrim Fire Department is always looking for new applicants. Anyone with interest can contact any member for an application or stop by the station. Our equipment checks are every other Sunday from 10:00 to noon. As always thank you for your support. ☆

Thank you

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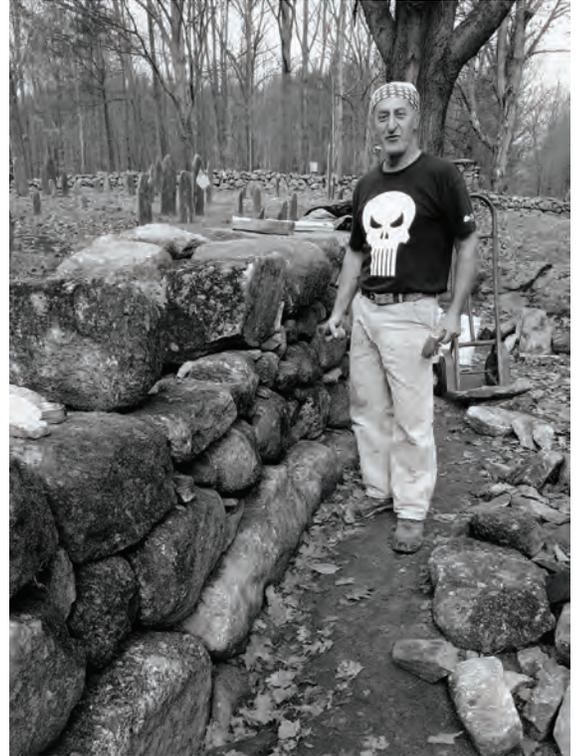
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REBUILDING MEETINGHOUSE HILL CEMETERY WALL

Lyman Gilmore

From the ground up, Antrim's Master Stonemason Andras Lazar has been rebuilding the ancient stonewall along the eastern edge of Antrim's oldest "burial-ground" begun in 1780 on Meetinghouse Hill at what was then the "Center" of Antrim. (The "Center" was supposed to be the geographical center of the town as determined by a surveyor hired by the town fathers in 1777, although the actual center was a mile west of Meetinghouse Hill. It is thought that they preferred to have their "Center" high on a hill.) The first burial occurred in 1781, and "in 1782 this burial ground was enclosed by a neat log fence." (Cochrane, 61) The log fence was soon replaced by an uneven "farmers' stone wall," and in 1911 the local DAR erected the gate and pillars with memorial tablets that remain today.

The town owns the cemetery and is responsible for its maintenance, and Peter Lamb, whose land abuts it, cares for the grounds, while Andras has been reconstructing and updating the wall off and on for about ten years, depending on the budget. On a cold and windy late November afternoon Andras (in his tee shirt) met me (in thick fleece parka) at the cemetery and explained that the old wall had been carelessly repaired with cement and was falling down. He has taken the old wall stones down to and sometimes into the earth and rebuilt a solid dry stacked stone wall (no cement) about forty inches high by thirty-six wide, using stone he has imported from Dick Winslow's and others' local land, as well as stone from the original wall. All the old walls throughout New England are about the same height, forty inches, because that is waist high for the average man, and waist high is as far as a heavy stone can be lifted by hand. For some of the huge stones Andras works with, he is helped by his long-time assistant Dan Walsh, his short-time helper Bryan Morgan, and his son Jesse's backhoe.



Why not visit the top of lovely and historic Meetinghouse Hill—old cellar holes as well as the cemetery—and see Andras's wall, a beautiful and sturdy combination of art, function, and muscle. ☆

DEVELOPING AN ANTRIM VISION:

A COMMUNITY PROFILE

Janet McEwen, Planning Board

Antrim, who are we, where do we come from, what are our needs and challenges? How do we define our community and envision Antrim in the future?

This October the Planning Board invited Sharon Cowen of UNH Cooperative Extension to present their program that assists towns in engaging resident involvement in developing a community profile. The Planning Board voted to collaborate with UNH Cooperative Extension to embark on a ten-month project to develop a community profile for Antrim.

We are looking for a committed and diverse group of 8-15 individuals willing to serve on a steering committee. A representative from UNH Cooperative Extension will facilitate the meetings and guide the group through the process. Ultimately, the information will be used towards updating our Master Plan. The group will investigate ways to collect as much input as possible from all members of our commu-

nity, long term residents and new, a cross section of all ages, backgrounds, interests, education, talents, employment and life experience. This will create the components of the community profile.

The final culmination of the project will be a community weekend in the fall of 2016 when all residents of Antrim will be invited to attend and actively participate in reviewing the components of the profile. Small groups will break out to discuss strengths and challenges and develop action plans to address our future needs while preserving the good things that define our town.

To learn more about the project or to volunteer contact Colleen Giffin, Antrim Planning Board Assistant at antrim-plan2@tds.net or 588-6785, ext. 246. To view similar projects go to extension.unh.edu/communityprofilereports.

Your voice matters. Please participate and let it be heard!

☆

are available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5 through Dec. 12. Community Calendars for 2016 are available. A great way to keep track of what's going on in the community and contact info for community businesses, it's a must for any household and great as gifts at \$5.00 each. Proceeds from the Quilt Raffle and Community Calendar sales directly support the Festival of Trees and allows it to remain free of charge for all to visit and enjoy.

The Festival continues through the month of December and can be visited during regular library hours: Mon. & Wed. 2:00–6:00 p.m., Tues. & Thurs 2:00–8:00 p.m., Fri. 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon, Sat. 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Festival of Trees Committee members for 2015 are Kristy Boulé, Connie Vandervort, Laurie Cass-Griggs, Imogene Drabble, Christine Guzman, Kerry Holt, Gerry McGlory and Bev Weymouth.

For more information call 831-1802. Follow us on Facebook and check our website at www.AntrimFestivalofTrees.org. ☆

American Red Cross Transfers Medical Transportation Program to CVTC

Marsha Gibson
Coordinator, Volunteer Driver Program
Contoocook Valley Transportation Company

For many years the American Red Cross has provided medical transportation in the Monadnock Region for people who've needed help getting to doctors' appointments and treatments. The Red Cross has transferred this valuable service to the Contoocook Valley Transportation Company (CVTC) that has been providing transportation in the region since 2009.

While Antrim is not currently a town that ARC covers, CVTC understands from their drivers that some Antrim residents have ridden with ARC. Antrim is on CVTC's list of covered towns, and residents may continue to request services from us.

This shift will take place over the course of the next several months to ensure that all clients and medical centers have time to understand how the change will work and to make preparations for new processes.

The Red Cross will continue to support the program by making referrals to CVTC. Last year, the Red Cross assisted 440 people with 8000 medical rides.

CVTC, based in Peterborough, NH, operates a medical transportation program that serves the 13 towns in the eastern Monadnock region. The organization currently relies on 35 volunteers who use their own vehicles to provide this service. People interested in volunteering or who need assistance with medical transportation should contact CVTC at 1-877-428-2882 ext. 5. ☆

ANTRIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sgt. Brian Lord

The Antrim Police Association hosted its annual Father-Daughter Dance on Saturday, October 24. With the help of many people, the dance was a great success. The Association would like to thank the local businesses and individual sponsors for their generous donations, as well as all the volunteers who helped make this annual event so special.

A friendly reminder from the Antrim Police Department that the Winter Parking Ban goes into effect November 15, 2015, restricting overnight parking on any and all roads in the Town of Antrim from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The Antrim Police Department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season with their families and loved ones. We thank you for your continued support. ☆

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SELECTBOARD

John Robertson, Selectman

It's been a very active fall season. The new truck for the Highway Department was finally delivered. We're in the middle of the 2016 budget process. Colleen Giffin is the new face at town hall. We will soon have two new employees at the Highway Department. The contract for a new furnace at the fire station was awarded. And, the survey for the Highland Ave./Pleasant St. project has been completed.

The new Kenworth ten-wheel dump truck arrived in October with its seventeen-yard dump body and snow plow. This new truck replaces one of our 2007 six-wheel trucks. The new truck will help the Highway Department be more efficient. With a recently implemented more aggressive maintenance program, we anticipate town-owned equipment to remain in service much longer. The highway crew will be more involved in tracking and maintaining the equipment they use.

At March Town Meeting there will be a warrant article to replace the water mains and provide improved drainage on Highland Ave. and Pleasant St. Donna Hanson has been hard at work completing a census of water users so that we may apply for grants to assist with the cost.

The Selectboard has been meeting with department heads to determine budget needs for the coming year. The goal is to keep the budget flat for the coming year. As of this writing we have met with Police, Planning, and Library.

The tax rate for the coming year is set at \$27.73/\$1,000 valuation. We are very fortunate that we can reduce the rate at a time when many municipalities are forced to increase tax rates.

We are in the process of hiring one full time and one part time staff for the Highway Department to fill two vacancies. Hopefully by the time you read this we will be at full staff and ready for the winter season.

The contract to replace the heating system at the main fire station on Clinton Road has been awarded to Harding Plumbing and Heating. A warrant article was passed at the 2014 town meeting for this project. Maintaining a reason-

able room temperature is critical to keep water in the trucks from freezing. Medical supplies must also be kept at room temperature. The present system is no longer dependable.

There are two commercial renewable energy projects currently in process in Antrim. They are Steels Pond Hydro and the solar array to be constructed at the Water & Sewer plant. Steels Pond Hydro is working to bring the plant up to its full capacity. A net-metering contract with the University of New Hampshire has been signed. NH Solar Garden, Inc., just completed the required State permits and will be constructing a 5,400 square foot solar array near the Water & Sewer plant next year. They have leased the property from the Town for \$8,000/year. In addition the Town will pay a reduced rate on electric usage.

Antrim Wind Energy has filed a new application with the NH Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) to construct a wind energy facility in Antrim. The wind farm would produce 28.8 megawatts of energy from wind. The SEC held a meeting on November 18 to determine if the application was complete.

Developing renewable energy sources is key to our future and Antrim is already making important contributions toward that effort. NH and our nation have set goals to make renewable energy sources a significant part of our energy supply. The Selectboard encourages everyone to become more informed about the many renewable energy resources and the role they play in our future.

Plans are in the works for March Town Meeting. Voting is March 8 and Town Meeting is scheduled for March 10.

We encourage Antrim residents to attend meetings of our town boards so that they may learn the hows, whys, and purposes of issues put before the public for a vote.

As always we wish all a happy holiday season and a prosperous, enjoyable new year. ☆



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COLLEEN GIFFIN – NEW FACE AT TOWN HALL

Joan Gorga

Perhaps you've noticed a new face at Town Hall? Colleen Giffin has been hired as Assistant to the Town Clerk and Assistant to the Planning Board.

Colleen grew up in Salem, NH, and has lived in Antrim for the last fifteen years. Her daughter, Melanie, is a sophomore at ConVal, and son, David, is 21 and works in Portsmouth. Her husband, John, is an Antrim Police Officer and has a long town history. Colleen has a soft spot for rescued animals, which currently include cats Devi, Bonnie and Clyde, dogs Lucy and Athena, and any injured animals the kids bring home. Colleen likes to paint and draw, and has recently taken up cross-stitch. She also admits to a weakness for forensic shows. She and John have enjoyed travels to Italy and Germany and a cross-country drive to watch the races on the Salt Flats in Utah. They're hoping to explore their family heritage with a trip to Scotland before too long. Colleen drove a school bus for six years, and is now enjoying watching the school kids she knew make their way out into the world. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees for Antrim's James A. Tuttle Library.

Colleen comes to Town Hall with a wide range of skills. She originally studied to be an English teacher and graduated with a BA from Keene State College. She taught English and Life Skills at the Antrim Girls' Shelter, covering grades six through twelve and reading levels from first grade through college. She moved on to a job in the probate court in Keene, where she "enjoyed tying up the loose ends of peoples' lives." Her job expanded dramatically after the family department blended with the probate court, and she eventually moved to working for the NH e-Court Project in Concord. She loved the job and found it hard to leave, but is looking forward to working in Antrim and taking a bigger part in the community. She admits to being nervous about how much she now has to learn, although she also says that "being static would be the scariest thing for me."

In spite of her many accomplishments outside the home, Colleen says her kids and her husband are the most important job she's had. Eventually, she and John are hoping to retire to someplace warm down south, or maybe go even farther south, like Fiji or Malaysia, where Colleen could indulge her love of animals to include giant sea turtles and monkeys. ☆

CLASH OVER GREAT BROOK

Eric Tenney

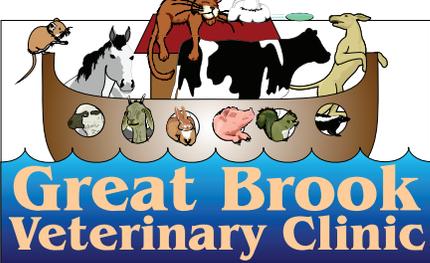
This article could also be called "The Way Things Used To Be." It happened before the advent of town Planning Boards, State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES), or the Federal EPA. The basic philosophy was that a property owner could pretty much do what he or she wanted because it was their property and they paid the taxes on it. The people involved were Robert Caughey and Stanley Tenney.

In 1953, Stanley purchased what was known as the Colby Farm (aka Contoocook Valley Farm) from Sydney Winslow, Jr., who owned the Hob-Nob Farm in Frankestown. During Winslow's ownership, a concrete bunker with a roof was built in back of the barn on Depot Street (about 50 feet from Great Brook) to store animal "honey" during the winter. The roof is now the Salamys' garage on Depot Street.

When my family moved to Antrim in 1954, the brick building (the Cucumber Shop) on Water Street was owned by Goodell Company. At that time it was a sawmill, where Goodell sawed logs brought in by railroad to begin the process of making knife handles. In the late 50s or mid-60s, Goodell closed the building and moved the sawmill just north of the "Apple Parer" building (now vacant) on the west side of Great Brook.

After Goodell closed the building, it sat empty until Bob Caughey came along—ask Margaret Warner when this happened. Bob was an engineer who was attempting to find ways to use the wastes (slabs, sawdust, etc.) from sawmills. He developed a way to make brush backs from the wastes by pressing them together with formaldehyde. One of the side effects of this process was that the whole area smelled of formaldehyde. At least it has almost a sweet smell. Remember, the building was only 50-100 feet from Great Brook.

Enter Stanley into the side-effect war. When he was spreading the "honey" from the winter, the honey pile gave off a gas whenever it was opened. This could go on for a month. During that time there was a clash of the two gases over Great Brook. Depending on the wind direction, both Bob and Stan received a dose of the other's gas. Stan and Bob were good friends—they had gone to school together—so none of this was a problem. ☆



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MARY MCGRORY: THE FIRST QUEEN OF JOURNALISM

By John Norris

Reviewed by Lyman Gilmore

Why is Mary McGrory—famous newswoman, scourge of political rascals and presidents, avid scotch drinker, wild party giver, devout Roman Catholic, savior of orphans—buried in Antrim’s Maplewood Cemetery? This splendid biography will tell you.

What a life she had! Mary McGrory grew from a naïve, working class, Boston Roman Catholic Irish schoolgirl born in 1918 to the tough, sophisticated, world famous Pulitzer Prize winning columnist (the first ever for a woman) who dominated the male world of Washington politicians and journalists for fifty years. As a columnist for the *Washington Star* and later the *Washington Post*, she brought an insider’s understanding of the nation’s capital to millions of Americans in her more than eight thousand columns syndicated in fifty newspapers throughout the country. She dated John F. Kennedy and was propositioned by President Lyndon Johnson, and she courageously took on some of the most powerful people of her day, including the unscrupulous anti-communist Senator Joseph McCarthy and disgraced President Richard Nixon, to both of whom she “spoke truth to power,” adding authenticity to the cliché.

While Mary McGrory was fearless in her quest for truth and could outdrink the male politicians and journalists surrounding her, she was equally committed to her Catholic faith and to “an abiding belief in the importance of doing good works,” particularly the orphan children at St. Ann’s Infant and Maternity Home near her home in Washington’s Dupont Circle neighborhood. *“Mary became a fixture at St. Ann’s. Since many of the children struggled with the rolling r’s of her last name, they took to calling her Mary Gloria. Mary loved the mispronunciation; it sounded exotic and Italian. For more than five decades, she spent hours each week reading with the children and trying to give them small, unremarkable luxuries of a normal family life—someone to kiss a skinned elbow or teach them the alphabet song.”*

In this fascinating biography you get not only the extraordinarily successful and colorful life of a great newspaper-



woman, but also an intimate account of American history between 1960 and 2003 during which she covered eleven presidential campaigns. In June of 1961 she accompanied President John F. Kennedy to Europe where she met the French president, General Charles de Gaulle, and saw JFK confront Nikita Krushchev. In 1963 she was at Andrews Air Force Base when President Kennedy’s body returned from the assassination in Dallas. Mary had shared a Boston, Irish Catholic friendship with Jack and Bobby Kennedy, and her writing about President Kennedy’s death was heartfelt and stunning. “Under the weight of tragedy, Mary produced a remarkable series of pitch-perfect columns—moving but not maudlin, graceful and understated . . . the best thing I have ever seen in American journalism,” said one of her journalistic colleagues.

In 1968 she visited and wrote brilliantly about the “dull and lifeless Miami Republican convention” and the violent Democratic convention in Chicago. The 1970s saw her covering two major Nixon scandals—the Vietnam Pentagon Papers and Watergate—that brought down President Nixon, whom she detested. She was proud to have been included on Nixon’s infamous “Enemies List” of people he tried to destroy. To intimidate her Nixon had the IRS audit Mary three years in a row.

Mary always said that she wrote about the trees, not the forest; that she concentrated on individual people, not grand ideas. Author Norris summarizes one important quality of Mary’s writing: “It is no coincidence that Mary’s most famous columns—on the Army-McCarthy hearings, Nixon’s ‘exit snarling’ press conference, JFK’s funeral, and the Watergate hearings—were all written about public events. She helped people make sense of public life. She humanized the players on the stage.”

Vivacious, pretty, and flirtatious, Mary had a way of attracting important men who, thinking her a simple girl innocent of subterfuge, would disclose political secrets that she then capitalized on in her columns to their embarrassment and her readers’ delight. Mary dated occasionally, and fell in love at least twice, but her devout Catholic faith discouraged sexual affairs, and her grueling work schedule precluded marriage and children, a loss she regretted to the end.

Mary’s life in Washington was rife with political drama and hard work, and Antrim became a peaceful retreat she came to cherish. From childhood Mary visited Antrim and

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generations in Antrim. She was brought up in the "Brooks House," which was home to at least six generations of the Brooks family, and has lived here for most of her life. Although her parents worked at the Abbott Company, she had an extensive farming background, and even reluctantly admits that she was treed by a rooster as a child. Her husband, Punk, was an avid fisherman. They loved to spend time camping on the Androscoggin River, and often brought flowers back to their garden from there. After Punk died, Joyce downsized and simplified her life, and now lives in Antrim Village with her oversized cat, Columbus. Her sons, George and Peter, and daughter, Rebecca, have all returned to live in Antrim. Joyce has "been a nurse and teacher all my life."

As Joyce says, she "is not one to sit," although she does enjoy reading at night. She loves to work outdoors and in the soil. Having left gardens at her former houses, she asked if she could put in a small garden at Antrim Village. Granted permission, she set up four containers and a window box with high quality soil and organic fertilizer. She changes the plantings seasonally to keep them looking fresh, and even spruces them up with winter arrangements.

Joyce also started working on the flower beds at the Tuttle Library following the addition of the new wing and children's room. Lynne Lawrence laid out the library landscaping design, and Joyce began working with Library Director Kathy Chisholm to set up the memorial garden. The soil compacted during construction was plowed under and thoroughly enriched with compost, and planting began. Joyce divided some of her own perennials, and adds to the garden as donations arrive. She and Kathy are planning to leave space for a pleasant walkway through the garden bed. "It is a work in progress, but every garden is."

Two years ago, Joyce felt the new police station could use a little interest out front, and worked to design a couple of garden beds that would add to the ambiance without creating headaches for the maintenance crew. Beds were installed around the rock and the cannon. The poor soil was improved somewhat, but she is still working on that. Another work in progress.

If that isn't enough, Joyce also tends the Memorial Garden in the new part of the North Branch Cemetery, and has been known to walk all the way back to town after being dropped off there, in spite of the fact that she will be turning 80 in December of this year. She preferred that I take pictures of the gardens, rather than of her, and wants to quietly remain Antrim's Secret Gardener. Feel free to thank her as you admire some of the most visible spots on Main Street. As you'll find if you take the time to talk with her, Joyce may be Antrim's Secret Gardener, but she is far from the crotchety old Ben Weatherstaff of *The Secret Garden*. ☆

Gregg Lake every year, at first to visit her aunt Emma Jacob's cabin at White Birch Point, later to rent cottages on the lake from long-time summer resident Jim Franco and current Antrimites Steve and Marcia Ullman, and finally to stay at the Maplehurst Inn where she got to know local folks including Izzy Nichols and Mary Allen, and entertained world-renowned journalists. She loved Antrim's rural quiet after the maelstrom of Washington's Capitol Hill, and when she decided to be buried here she called Martin Nichols who was on the Cemetery Committee. They visited Maplewood Cemetery and picked out a lot where she lies today under a small headstone with the humble words that Mary chose for herself.

Mary McGrory, August 22, 1918—April 21, 2004
 NEWSPAPER WOMAN AND VOLUNTEER

A copy of *MARY MCGRORY: THE FIRST QUEEN OF JOURNALISM* is available in Antrim's Tuttle Library. ☆

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ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Steve Ullman, President

During Home & Harvest Days, the Antrim Historical Society once again offered its world-famous Apple Crisp topped with our custom, low-calorie vanilla ice cream. In addition, we sold the much-copied, but never equaled, AHS tote bags, as well as copies of *Parades and Promenades*, *A Stroll Through Antrim, New Hampshire* and Don Dunlap's book on his family's two hundred-year tradition of woodworking, *The Dunlap Cabinet-makers*. For Home & Harvest, Rick Wood, ever the inventive graphic designer, created four historical postcards (Wayno's 1960's store, the Bennington railroad station, Gregg "Pond," and the Goodell Company), which we offered for sale, and which now can be bought at Edmunds Hardware.

On October 18, Dr. Ronald and Grace Jager discussed the history of the Congregational Church in New England. Mrs. Jager served as an editor of the Harvard Library Bulletin and Ron Jager taught philosophy at Yale. The Jagers focused on three critical turning points in the history of this most important institution.

Immediately following the Community Supper on Thursday, November 19, AHS presented a talk by Dr. Jo Radner on "... foolproof ways to mine memories and interview relatives for meaningful stories." Jo Radner earned B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard University, and spent 31 years as a professor at American University in Washington, D.C., before returning to her family home in western Maine as a freelance storyteller and oral historian. She is also a past president of the American Folklore Society. Seven AHS members attended a preliminary workshop with Jo Radner on "Building Community Through Oral History" in Plainfield on November 7, and returned enthusiastically primed for the main event, which was designed to bring together GBS students and community elders who might have stories to tell.

We have added new attractions to the AHS Archives on the second floor of the Tuttle Library. If you drop by, you can examine our newest, uncommonly cool Goodell Company contraption, a pencil sharpener, kindly donated by Frank Mooney of Nashua, who bought it from an antique



dealer upstate and thought it should come home to Antrim. No electricity required! Richard Reilly has also made several generous contributions of Goodell Company products.

If you are interested in upcoming Antrim Historical Society programs, you can consult the events schedule on the AHS website, <http://www.antrimhistoricalsociety.org/index.htm>, or on our Facebook page. You might also sign up for News and Events at AntrimNH.org.

The Antrim Historical Society is interested in converting older photos of Antrim (both people and places) into scanned digital photographs to post on the web/Facebook sites. We would also be eager to review any old photo albums that your parents or grandparents may have stored in the attic or basement. Photos would be returned once converted to digital images.

Please look for the Antrim Historical Society entry at the Festival of Trees. The AHS is grateful to elves Barbara Black, Liz Robertson and Kathi Wasserloos, who are leading this project.

An Invitation

Let me end with an invitation to join the Antrim Historical Society (AHS) which is dedicated to the celebration of Antrim's history. Dues are just \$10 a year for an individual and \$20 for an entire family. To join, please contact me at sullman@brockport.edu or 588-2005, or Eric Tenney at 588-2793. You can also join by sending a check to the Antrim Historical Society, P.O. Box 172, Antrim, NH 03440. ☆



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snow all the way from the Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery to the Flat below the fire station—a clean, white ribbon of hard-pack close to three miles long.

My great-great-grandfather, George Parmenter, had the job of rolling snow in Antrim. On Christmas Day, 1860, working for the town, he spent 22½ hours breaking road for ten cents an hour. He entered \$2.25 in his daybook that snowy day. (He broke roads for 12 hours on December 23 and again for 18 hours on New Year’s Eve that year.)

So, if George could do that, we could surely roll down three miles. Wouldn’t take half a day. Of course, we’d have to solicit a great deal of cooperation from the State Police and the Town constabulary to close off all traffic from the hill to the village (about as likely as finding a pair of oxen and an intact snow roller). We’re dreaming here, right?

With everything set, we’d haul our sleds up to the top of the hill, and one-by-one each rider would take off. Time wouldn’t matter; whoever slid the furthest distance would win.

We would coast very fast down the hill past the Grange Hall and Stone Church, and whiz past Bass Farm. We’d slow down in Parmenter Brook valley, but I think we’d have momentum enough to carry us over the Butterfield Farm knoll. Then we’d gain a little speed as we headed into Clinton Village, and maybe, just maybe, creep to the top of Abbot Hill. From there it would be smooth sledding, as the saying goes, all the way to Great Brook and beyond. Would we make it up the slope to the fire station? Maybe someone on a Flexible Flyer (the Cadillac of sleds in my day) could do it. A Yankee Clipper, my sled, maybe not.

But if some of the sleds could pass the fire station, then it’s a guess how far they might go across the Flat below. I doubt anyone would slide into the village. That is, unless we gave the road the Will Kidder treatment.

Will lived where S. R Jones’s office is today. Behind his barn, Kidder’s land sloped down to Parmenter Brook. In that pasture, Don Paige, Manny Worden, and I created a serpentine downhill sled track. At night we carried pails of water and splashed it along the track, especially on the curves. The next day, if it were freezing, we would travel so fast it was

all we could do to stay in the track. It would be a bit more effort, but wetting down the rolled snow on Route 31 would almost guarantee a free ride into the village.

The Dream Ride is the kind of thing that happens to me when I come to Antrim. Most of what I see there, like the new wall on Meetinghouse Hill, reminds me of things I was familiar with once, and sets my imagination into motion. I know how fortunate I am to have Antrim, Antrim of the 1940s, in my memory bank, which each trip there unlocks.

One reviewer of my book on the Parmenter place wrote, “We should all be so lucky as Charles Butterfield to have such a lifelong attachment to a place on the land.” Yes, a place on the land, and also the hill roads around it. ☆

ANTRIM AUTO NEW GARAGE

Lyman Gilmore

Recently renovated Antrim Auto on South Main Street will open early spring, say partners Kristopher Demmons and Rick Sousa of Hillsborough. It will be doing “general repair” along with state inspections and oil changes. A unique feature will be selling Subaru vehicles, says Sousa who has extensive experience with Subaru. Antrim Auto is something of a family affair because Demmons’s wife Nicole is the daughter of Patty Grant whose husband Claude was a former owner of the garage before he died. Patty Grant owns the land and building and has constructed a new home just behind Antrim Auto. The partners say they will provide high quality work at reasonable prices. ☆

HOME & HARVEST SUCCESS

Lyman Gilmore

Rick Davis reports that H&H was a success, though attendance and vendors were “down a little.” The new Friday night date for the cookout and fireworks seemed to work well, and a good time was had. Rick thanks the sponsors, as well as his committee for its hard work: Jonas Taub, Ted Brown, Crista Salamy, Brad and Ella Kemp, Rick Wood. ☆



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GREGG LAKE ALGAE

Joan Gorga

This summer, several people mentioned to me that they had never before seen quite so much algae growing in Gregg Lake. We all wondered what was causing the algae bloom and whether there was anything we could do to prevent it from happening again or possibly getting worse. I decided a little sleuthing was called for before taking the matter to the experts.

Many forms of algae are natural parts of an ecosystem. The patchy green clouds under the water surface in Gregg Lake this year looked like filamentous green algae to me, although I didn't think of collecting a sample and sending it off to the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) until it was too late. More worrisome than green algae are blue-green algae, whose blooms tend to look more like a green surface scum. Blue-green algae, more correctly called cyanobacteria, can produce toxins that cause skin irritation, rashes, gastrointestinal distress and sometimes liver or neurological damage.

Algae grow rapidly if nutrients are available. When they die, the decay process depletes the water of oxygen, and fish and other aquatic animals and plants can die off. Jerry Schultz sent me some Wikipedia articles describing fertilizers and household cleaning products as common sources of phosphates, which can act as a nutrient source for freshwater algal blooms. Excess carbon and nitrogen from decaying organic material are also suspected to be nutrient sources.

In mid-September, I paddled slowly around the circumference of the lake to see whether there were spots where the algae growth was especially thick. It seemed to be scattered pretty evenly in the shallower waters all around the lake. I found a few spots where runoff is carrying sediment into the lake, especially off of Brimstone Corner Road, but there was no single spot that called out, "Here's the nutrient source flowing into the lake!"

I spoke with residents in various locations around the shore. Many had noticed the increase in algae, and all denied using fertilizers on their lawns. Jeanne Baker and Carol Carnes said

they had measured the water temperature at their float to be above 80°F every day from early July well into September, a much longer span of time than they've seen in other years. Along those same lines, but less scientifically, I had observed that the lake was comfortably swimmable starting on May 9 this year, and remained so into October. (There are those, especially my husband, who disagree with my definition of "comfortable;" however it was still warm remarkably early and late.) I noticed that the algae rapidly disappeared as the water temperature began to drop in late September.

This was also an unusual year with regard to rainfall. We had a long dry stretch in the spring, followed by several inches of heavy rain at the end of June, and then relatively sparse rain for most of the summer, with sporadic downpours. Could this have had an effect on algae levels in the lake?

Armed with information about different kinds of algae, nutrient sources and unusual weather effects, I figured it was time to go to the pros with some questions. 1) Was this an unusually bad year for algal blooms in NH lakes? 2) Could high temperatures alone be responsible for the green algal blooms? 3) Should we search harder for nutrient sources feeding into Gregg Lake? 4) Could a combination of events, such as lumbering upstream in the Gregg Lake watershed, along with a heavy late-June rain after a dry spring, be responsible for more nutrient load than usual? 5) Should we head into next spring with an action plan?

Amy Smagula, who is the Exotic Species Program Coordinator for NHDES, and our contact for the Lake Host and Weed Watcher programs, referred me to Sonya Carlson, who, as the Beach Programs Coordinator at NHDES, tracks algal blooms in New Hampshire water bodies. First of all, Sonya assured me that there is no record of a toxic cyanobacteria bloom at Gregg Lake. She sent me several reports of water testing records for Gregg Lake and also referred me to Sara Steiner, the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program Coordinator at NHDES.

 — continued on page 14

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GREGG LAKE CAMP

Nick Teich

This was our camp's first summer at our new home on Gregg Lake. Our campers come from often marginalized communities, and this camp is where they can have a safe home and get to experience the magic of summer camp. All told, we served over 300 campers in Antrim in 2015 and over 150 more in California. Our flagship camps are for ages 8–15 and our leadership camp is for ages 16–18. We also have a family camp long weekend, and we rented the facility to another small camp for three weeks in August. Our activities include archery, rock climbing wall, canoeing, kayaking, paddleboarding, swimming, arts & crafts, drama, music, creative writing, and a variety of sports. We are already filling up quickly for next year, and look forward to serving a new population for youth with skeletal dysplasia. We continue to grow and love our new home in Antrim! ☆

Grandma's Christmas Traditions

Susan Ellsworth

Every December Grandma would get out her recipe book and write down the items she needed to make her Christmas cookies for all the family. She would make butter cookies, flower and butterfly cookies, prune cookies and many more. It took her days to make enough for all of her three children's families and herself. She made a list of ingredients needed, and Mom would take her shopping. The next day she would get up early and start. She got out her big wooden bread board with a back that hugged the table. She laid out the ingredients to make sure the eggs and butter were at room temperature. She would make one type of cookie and then prepare the ingredients for the next type. Our home smelled like a bakery. We were not allowed to help, but only to watch.

She spread whipped egg whites on top of the butter cookies, and then sprinkled them with little colored or silver ball sprinkles. The flowers and butterflies were pancake cookies made on metal forms that were dipped in the batter, fried, drained and cooled. She sprinkled powdered sugar or honey on them, and it would collect in the wells of the cookies. They were my favorite. The prune cookies got powdered sugar dusted over their tops, too. They were Grandma's favorite. When her baking was done she would store the cookies in a cool place in pretty metal tins and upside-down Tupperware cake carriers. She told us we could all sample one of each. It was hard not to want any more! When her baking was done, after several days in the kitchen, she would move on to her next project. It was time to bring out her Christmas tree.

Grandma had a three-foot fake Christmas tree that was wrapped in a clean sheet and stored until December. It had no lights. Grandma would take out her decorations each year to transform the little tree into a work of wonders for all to see. It would take her several hours to carefully unwrap and decorate the tree with these beautiful family heirlooms. There were little wooden hand-carved and painted ornaments from East Germany. There were angels who sat on gold metal hoops that she would slide over the branches. There were little trains, flowers, and birds, and more angels flying or sitting, and my favorite, an angel holding a little suitcase. I said that angel looked like she was leaving town! There were musical decorations, too.

I remember sitting for hours just looking at all the little decorations on the tree. Each year Grandma would go to Ridgewood, New York, to a German store to buy some new additions for us to admire on the tree. She collected them for many years. I remember bigger ones under the tree, too. There was a Santa with a sled with a little pine tree, a bag of toys, pies, flowers, and so many more. She even had ornaments that were like windmills. They had children holding flowers and would spin around when little candles were lit.

As Grandma got older she didn't have the energy to do it anymore. She knew I loved the sweet little statues and had started my own collection. My cousin had started a collection, too, but had only a few, as there were not many stores near her that sold them. One day after Christmas, while my cousin and I were playing, she called us to her room. She told us she was not going to be able to do this any longer and wanted us to carry on the tradition. She let us each pick one ornament at a time, taking turns until they were all divided up. We were both so proud and happy to be the ones chosen to carry on Grandma's Christmas tradition. I am looking forward to the day when it will be our turn to pass the tradition on to our children, as Grandma did for us. We owe it to our wonderful loving grandmother to keep the tradition alive. ☆

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NEWS FROM GREAT BROOK SCHOOL

Jim Elder, Principal

As many of you *Limrik* readers remember, Great Brook School was given the prestigious award of New Hampshire Middle School of the Year in 2014. We continue to work hard, and to improve our practice, and so now we are applying for regional recognition. The paragraphs below come from our application for the New England League of Middle Schools 2015-16 "Spotlight School Award."

Great Brook School is dedicated to the idea that all students see themselves as integral members of a school community, and a great deal of emphasis is placed on each student "belonging" to the Bobcat family. We are a fully inclusive middle school for students in fifth through eighth grade. We work tirelessly to help students feel accepted and truly known for who they are. Great Brook staff provide a safe and compassionate environment where students are encouraged to take academic and social risks. Students form caring relationships with all staff members: teachers, paraprofessional educators, administrative staff, cafeteria workers and custodians. Each staff member actively works to ensure that every child is seen, heard, and understood through a depth of commitment and determination to empower every student with an invitation to succeed the "Bobcat way."

We also put a great deal of effort into building a sense of pride in our school, and we build our sense of unity in very deliberate ways. At our monthly "Bobcat Pride" assemblies, we celebrate student success for excellence in academics, strength of character and school citizenship. We have an advisory system that builds team relationships between heterogeneously grouped children.

At Great Brook School we believe that engaging our students in community service experiences can cultivate a sense of connectedness and bring them closer together with their neighbors and communities. Students learn that by serving they can have a positive impact beyond their school boundaries. Each student is required to do ten hours of service, yet a sizable percentage exceeded this expectation, and last year 37% of our students went beyond thirty-five hours, many earning Presidential Service Awards. This sense of unity encompasses all of our students, and we practice inclusion for students with various needs in ways we believe to be exemplary.

There is a very wide range of activities for students to pursue at Great Brook School. We have traditional sports programs, and our philosophy is to include all those who try out for teams. Additionally, we have a broad spectrum of clubs for student involvement. An example of this is a student leadership group, which leads the way in planning assemblies and school-wide activities, for instance the annual Turkey Trot. Students are charged with meaningful roles in running the school. During our day we offer numerous opportunities, such as a rich music program with band and chorale, and also have an "Extended Learning Program," which taps into students' interests. Examples of ELP classes are: Chemistry,

Lego Robotics, Improv, and Griffins' Nest, where students are trained and mentor elementary students at a nearby primary school. While the initial mission of ELP was for enrichment, just as often, it serves as an accommodation. If, for instance, the RtI [Response to Intervention, i.e., problem-solving] team determines that the function of a student's behavior is to obtain peer attention, we may enroll this student in Improv to provide a positive way to be noticed.

Great Brook is a model PBIS [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports] school, and we can show dramatic progress that proves this system's effectiveness. [We have seen a] precipitous decline in behavior problems that have occurred at this school since our adoption of PBIS. The Great Brook staff looks at our data on an ongoing basis, and perseveres to stay on the "same page" around behavioral responses. We actively teach pro-social behavior so that students can be successful in interactions with their peers and staff. It is a very frequent occurrence to have guests who visit our school or instructors on field trips say, "This is the best-behaved, most attentive, and most polite group of kids we have seen in years!"

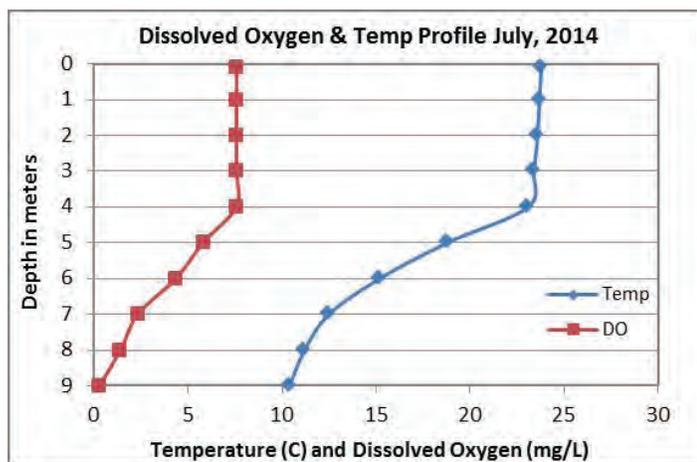
Great Brook is innovative in a number of ways. One of our proudest innovations is our daily announcement system. The Great Brook Morning Show is a live broadcast that is seen in every classroom throughout the school, as well as posted on our website for our parents. This is a student-run show in all aspects, from writing to anchoring to engineering. This system meets three major student objectives: providing students with a sense of belonging, challenging them to learn at a high level, and instilling a sense of fun.

Including parents in our community is a central part of the "Bobcat way." We have an active and lively PTO, which focuses on helping improve the student's experience. One parent who recently moved her children into the school said, "When I first toured Great Brook School, I was overwhelmed by the kindness that permeated through the building... I have never felt such warmth and kindness as I have at Great Brook." ☆



2015 Home & Harvest Best Float
Festival of Trees Committee

Gregg Lake is ranked as an oligotrophic lake, which means that it is still young in the lifespan of a lake. In the summer, oligotrophic lakes tend to have three water layers. The upper layer, where the water mixes and is warmed by the air, is a constant, relatively warm temperature. In the middle layer, where there is less mixing, you find a steep temperature gradient from warm to cold. And the bottom layer is a constant cold temperature. The results of testing performed by Bob Southall for Gregg Lake in July of 2014 bear this out. The temperature was a constant 24°C (75°F) down to 4 meters (13 feet), dropped rapidly to 12°C (54°F) over the next 3 meters (10 feet), and then began to level out at about 10°C (50°F) over the last 2 meters (6 feet) to the bottom. The dissolved oxygen levels for 2014 were not too bad in the upper layer, but it is somewhat worrisome that they decreased in the lower layers, as they indicate that decay of organic matter in the lower layers is depleting oxygen that might otherwise support desirable plant and animal life.



2014 NHDES VLAP Individual Lake Report for Gregg Lake

Measured phosphorus levels were low in the upper two layers, but slightly elevated in the bottom layer, which suggests that phosphorus may be accumulating in the sediment at the bottom. Phosphorus levels were also slightly elevated at the lake inlet.

Sonya Carlson said it is unlikely that elevated temperatures alone triggered this summer’s algal bloom, although they would have encouraged it. She said it makes more sense that there was some sort of increase in nutrients, as well, and suggested that perhaps the bottom layer of water mixed in more phosphorus this spring than in past years, prompting more growth.

Sara Steiner agreed with Sonya’s assessment, and added that she received “numerous observations by volunteers of above average filamentous green algal growth this summer, as well as above average Bladderwort growth. In recent years, the filamentous algal growth observations have increased. Filamentous algae like warmer water and sunlight and may

take advantage of groundwater inputs for nutrients as it congregates along the shallows of lakes and ponds. With a dry summer like 2015, I suspect there was more groundwater influence rather than surface flow from tributaries. This could contribute additional nutrients to feed algal growth, particularly if the groundwater is influenced by septic systems. However...it is difficult to pinpoint exact causes of shoreline algal growth.”

While we don’t yet have all the answers, perhaps we can draw a few conclusions about this summer’s algal bloom in Gregg Lake. It was a particularly bad year for algal blooms in New Hampshire lakes. The long period of warm sunny weather heated the water up early and kept it warm for a prolonged period of time. The dry summer meant the lake was disproportionately fed by groundwater, which may carry more nutrients that would allow algae to proliferate. The dry summer also may have led to more mixing of the bottom water layer, which has higher measured levels of phosphorus, with upper layers, again favoring algae growth.

Is there anything we can do? We should redouble our efforts to limit the flow of nutrients into the lake, either from surface flow or from groundwater, as it does seem that nutrients are accumulating in the bottom water layer, and dissolved oxygen levels are moving in the wrong direction. All of us who live in the Gregg Lake watershed, especially those in the immediate vicinity of the lake, should make sure that we do not allow fertilizers or animal wastes to be carried into the lake from our yards. We should also ensure that our septic systems are working as designed, and not allow grey-water or large amounts of storm drainage to flow unchecked into the lake. We might try to perform multiple water tests next summer to try to get a clearer picture of the overall condition of the lake. The Gregg Lake Association and the White Birch Point Association currently alternate years in paying for the testing. We may want to seek additional funding sources for water testing. If you have other thoughts regarding how to care for one of Antrim’s precious natural resources over the long term, please share them. ☆

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MELISSA GALLAGHER
Grapevine Interim Executive Director

Joan Gorga

I recently had the distinct pleasure of chatting with Melissa Gallagher, who has accepted the post of Interim Executive Director at the Grapevine. Kristen Vance and Lyman Gilmore kindly came along to introduce us and to officially hand over the two sets of reins. Melissa and I quickly bonded over the fact that we both have big shoes to fill.

Melissa is a born-and-bred New Englander. She spent most of her youth in Connecticut, graduated from the University of Connecticut with a major in Human Development and Family Relations, and earned an MBA in Health and Human Services at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University. Her entire career has been spent in the non-profit sector, including stints in Boston at United Way and in Providence at the Providence After School Alliance, where she worked to enhance after-school opportunities, especially for middle school kids. Melissa and her husband, Mark, established an information technology consulting company for small businesses and non-profits in Northern New England and relocated to Frankestown eleven years ago. Melissa continued to work on legislative child advocacy issues in Concord, with a focus on child health, well-being and educational opportunity.

Melissa first came to the Grapevine in 2007 as a parent, when she enrolled her young son in the “Better Beginnings for Babies” program. She gradually developed a close connection with the staff as she participated in parent support groups and as her son, and then her daughter, attended the Learning Vine Preschool. Melissa joined the Grapevine Board in 2011, and became Chair of the Board in 2013. When Kristen Vance resigned after eighteen years as Executive Director, Melissa agreed to serve as Interim Director. She says she feels a built-in level of respect and rapport with the staff that might not be there if they had not already interacted on so many different levels.

As Melissa begins to describe what’s unique about the Grapevine, her eyes light up. She says this is her dream job. She knows she’s inheriting a wonderful legacy left by Kristen, built

with programs that have arisen from the ground up in response to needs voiced by clients. “The programs grow from what we see and hear,” she adds. As an example, she cites the “Grandparents as Parents” group. Grandparents who find themselves raising children a second time face unique challenges and benefit from mutual support. In the group they’ve found a shared interest in becoming advocates for their grandchildren’s needs, and have asked for speakers to address a variety of topics.

Melissa says Antrim is beginning to feel like her second home. She felt warmly welcomed as she met many people at September’s Home & Harvest Festival. She is also cognizant of the fact that the Grapevine should not become too Antrim-centric. Grapevine programs are open to anyone, and currently serve families from as far as Jaffrey and Henniker. As she settles into her new role, she is learning to reach out to draw on support from a broader base, and is looking forward to developing new relationships that will enhance the development of much-needed programs for residents of Antrim, Frankestown, Hancock, Bennington, and beyond. ☆



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BOY SCOUTS

Brian Beihl

2015 NH Jamboree

Troop 2 has barely stopped moving this fall, beginning with the 2015 NH Jamboree, a gathering of over 5,000 Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Venturers from around New England, New York and even Quebec, Canada. The event was held at NH Motor Speedway in Loudon, and included hundreds of activities from rock climbing to robotics, and racing to rifle shooting. The once-every-four-years event included fireworks, a concert, and only a little amount of "liquid sunshine." Almost all of Troop 2's nineteen Scouts attended.

Scouting for Food Sets New Record for Generosity

Again, Antrim, Bennington, Hancock and Frankestown residents have been extraordinarily generous, and the Scouting for Food drive achieved a new record on Nov. 14 with 5,225 items collected that day. Well done, citizens! Troop 2 and Pack 2 would like to extend a special thanks to the Girl Scouts of Bennington and Hancock for assisting this year. Our next drive is next spring on March 19 and 26, 2016.

Troop 2 Wreath Sale

Scouts will be in downtown Antrim on December 5, and at Hilltop Farm weekends until Christmas Eve. If you prefer, pay just \$4 more and we will bring your wreaths to you! If you need a wreath sent by FedEx Ground to a family member in Florida, please call us at 525-7096 to make arrangements.

First Quarter Boy Scout Activities

Winter weather? No problem! Scouts will be out in the new year, including a cabin camp out at Hoge Base in Walpole in early January, Klondike Derby and winter campout in early February, and the Community Supper on February 18 at the First Presbyterian Church of Antrim, featuring a free meal made from scratch by Scouts. If your boy spends more time playing video games, and not enough time outside and doing community service, it's time for a change. Contact Scoutmaster Brian Beihl at 588-3014 or beihl@comcast.net for more information. ☆

ANTRIM GRANGE

Beth Merrill

Election of officers at Antrim Grange this fall resulted in only a few changes. We have installed Armond Gerritsen as Assistant Steward and Davi Penny as Pomona.

Five members of Antrim Grange marched in the Grange Day parade at the Big "E." Many hand-made items were donated by our members to the New England Grange Building for sale throughout the seventeen-day fair. The Antrim Grange exhibit that was displayed at Cheshire, Hopkinton, Hillsborough County, and Deerfield Fairs won many blue ribbons, and Gloria Davis and Dawne Hugron, who were responsible for its creation, transport and construction, were thanked for their efforts.

Unfortunately, the Grange booth at Home and Harvest was a bit difficult to find, and we are sorry that there was not more activity at the fun "family portrait" display board that was constructed by Armond and Renee Gerritsen. Our first-ever parade float was awarded the prize for being the Most Original entry!

As of this writing, we are working on securing funding for purchasing dictionaries for our 14th year of participating in the Dictionary Project. Each year, we donate a dictionary to every third grade student in the ConVal elementary schools.

Mike Lombard, Joan Gorga, Grace and Tim Rowehl, and Paul Mercier, Sr., were presented appreciation awards for their support of our Community Garden. Others recognized, but not present to receive recognition, were Dave and Jeanne Cahoon, Jeremy Delisle, Matt Devlin, Jan and John Martin, Denis Nugent and the Antrim Selectmen.

At the recent State Grange session in Shelburne, NH, Antrim members Arthur Merrill, Adam Paquin Varnum and Beth Merrill served as Steward, Assistant Steward and Executive Committee representative, respectively. Adam also sat in on the Executive Committee and Davi Penny served as Lady Assistant Steward for the youth officers' team. Beth Merrill won awards for her needlework, greeting cards, and Christmas ornament in various contests. Sharon Stickney and Dawne Hugron each won prizes with their needlework entries. Arthur was named the top scorer in the Grange Knowledge Test sponsored by the youth department, and Antrim Grange was awarded the high youth score trophy for the second year.

 — continued on page 26

Have you seen what's new this week?

The Revival Shop

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 3 *Heard It Through The Grapevine Open Mic Night* • Avenue A • 7:30 p.m.
- 5 *Wreath Sale* • Troop 2 Boy Scouts • downtown Antrim
- 12 *A Dickens of a Day at the Library* • music by Ray Sweeney • Tuttle Library • 1:00–3:00 p.m.
- 13 *FREE Pancake Breakfast* • Antrim Baptist Church • 8:30–10:00 a.m.
- 13 *Advent and Children's Pageant* • Antrim Baptist Church • 10:30 a.m.
- 16 *Music Among the Trees* • music by Celtic harpist Sharon Dowling • Tuttle Library • 6:30–8:00 p.m.
- 17 *Antrim Eclectic Book Club* • Antrim Presbyterian Church • 11:00 a.m.
- 17 *FREE Community Supper* • Antrim Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 20 *Christmas Pageant during worship* • Antrim Presbyterian Church • 10:30 a.m.
- 24 *Candlelight Christmas Eve Service* • Antrim Baptist Church • 7:00 p.m.
- 24 *Christmas Eve Service* • Lessons and Carols • Antrim Presbyterian Church • 7:00 p.m.
- 27 *Joint Worship Service* with Antrim Baptist Church • at Antrim Presbyterian Church • 10:30 a.m.

JANUARY

- 7 *Heard It Through The Grapevine Open Mic Night* • Avenue A • 7:30 p.m.
- 17 *FREE Pancake Breakfast* • Antrim Baptist Church • 8:30–10:00 a.m.
- 21 *FREE Community Supper* • Antrim Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

- 4 *Heard It Through The Grapevine Open Mic Night* • Avenue A • 7:30 p.m.
- 7 *Drop-in Valentine Card Making* • Tuttle Library • 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- 10 *Ash Wednesday Service* • Fellowship Hall at Antrim Presbyterian Church • 6:30 p.m.
- 13 *Fancy Schmancy Tea Party* • sponsored by The Grapevine at Antrim Town Hall • 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- 18 *FREE Community Supper* • Antrim Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 21 *FREE Pancake Breakfast* • Antrim Baptist Church • 8:30–10:00 a.m.
- 22–26 *Vacation Week Drop-in Craft Making* • Tuttle Library • during open hours



Festival of Trees

All events at James A. Tuttle Library

*View over 100 trees
decorated for the season
throughout the month of December!*

Saturday, Dec. 12 • 2-4pm

“A Dickens of a Day”

*Enjoy light refreshments and works
of Charles Dickens read aloud.
Tree award winners and
quilt raffle winner announced.*

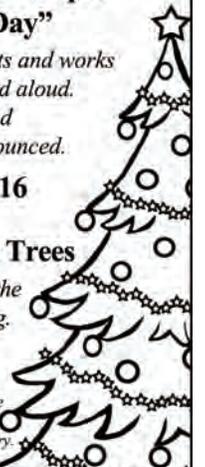
Wednesday, Dec. 16

6:30 - 8pm

Music Among the Trees

*Enjoy Celtic Harp with the
talented Sharon Dowling.*

*This is a free event sponsored by the
Antrim Historical Society and the
friends of the James A. Tuttle Library.*



GIRLS' SHELTER TO WOMEN'S SOBRIETY

Lyman Gilmore

Antrim's Girls' Shelter on Main Street that closed recently for lack of state funding has morphed into another outreach organization, The Sobriety Centers of New Hampshire, a facility for women who are recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. Last month I sat down in its beautiful 1850 house with its President Robert Draper who explained his vision for Antrim's Sobriety Center.

Draper, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Toyota of Nashua, has two motives in founding the Sobriety Centers. He spoke poignantly of family members and close friends who have suffered from alcohol and drug addiction, and he said "I want to do something for others battling addiction." Also, because he believes he can combine a benevolent addiction outreach program with a sound investment, Sobriety Centers is a privately owned corporation. The timing of his decision to treat addiction comes at a critical time when "booze is everywhere" and drug deaths in New Hampshire and throughout the country have reached epidemic proportions. He described the lack of in-patient beds available and said they were already receiving referrals from New England and beyond.

Draper took me on a tour of the facility that the Girls' Shelter had completely renovated and left in excellent condition, with twenty-one beds in spacious two-person bedrooms, a large meeting room, a gym, a well-equipped institutional kitchen, and quiet living rooms, all being tastefully decorated by his wife. They will offer thirty-to-sixty day programs including an Alcoholics Anonymous 12-Step program as well as individual and group counseling, with two supervisors on duty at all times. They accept all insurances and will accept referrals from the state and private agencies. Draper says he plans to offer prevention programs to local schools. Currently he is overseeing building repairs being made by local contractors—he cited Edmunds store across the street as very welcoming—and he is hiring staff. He anticipates opening by January 1. ☆



BLOSSOMS RECEIVES GRANT

Heidi Risman-Jones, Founder

Antrim's "Blossoms Early Learning Center" is the recipient of a \$1,000 grant by the Health Science Department at Keene State College with funding from the NH Department of Health and Human Services for its excellent nutrition program. Blossoms serves children participating in the NH State Nutrition Program.

Blossoms accepts private and state scholarship children and is presently enrolling children from infants to seven years. For more information contact Blossoms at 588-2405, email info@blossomsABC.com, or on the website at www.BlossomsABC.com. ☆



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ANTRIM'S HISTORIC BALLOT BOX

Diane Chauncey, Town Clerk

2016 is the 100th Anniversary of the “First-in-the-Nation” Primary. Every New Hampshire Town Clerk received an email from Dean Dexter of the Secretary of State’s Office noting this special anniversary and requesting information concerning the Town’s Ballot Box. It seems that in 1892, every New Hampshire town was issued a Ballot Box. The Secretary of State’s Office wanted to know how many towns have continuously used that Ballot Box.

I didn’t know the answer, but thought of two people in town who might remember—Nina Harding (longtime resident) and Bob Flanders (both longtime resident and longtime Moderator). I wrote a letter with pictures and asked for their help. Nina said she wasn’t sure. Bob said, “I think we have an original.”



Bob came to the Town Hall to view the Ballot Box, and his suspicions were confirmed. The box is the original—with modifications. The Ballot Box had become too small and so an addition was made to the bottom. At the same time, the box was cleaned up, and the Antrim Town Seal was added. This information was sent to the Secretary of State’s office, with pictures and Bob’s information. Mr. Dexter said, “It appears that your ballot box could well be the original, but significantly changed through cleaning and refinishing. The painted lettering is not original, but the size and the top design, as well as the tongue and groove corners, indicate it’s one of the state-issued boxes.”

Although Antrim now has an AccuVote electronic ballot box, the 123-year-old Ballot Box is still used for the overflow. Antrim is not alone. Evidently, dozens of towns are still using their officially-issued Ballot Boxes. Please come

to view Antrim’s Historic Ballot Box on display in the Town Hall for the month of December. ☆

2016 – BIG ELECTION YEAR

Diane Chauncey, Town Clerk

Antrim voters will have the opportunity to vote FOUR times in 2016! All elections will be held upstairs in the Town Hall from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The first election will be in February (maybe February 9) for the “First-in-the-Nation” Primary. On that Election Day, you will come to the polls to vote in the Presidential Primary. If you are a registered Republican or Democrat, you will receive that ballot. If you are registered as Undeclared, you need to decide which ballot you would like. After voting, you can remain with the just voted-in party, or return to Undeclared. The process is simple—a “Return to Undeclared” list will have your name on it—you sign your name. If you came in as a Democrat or Republican, and would like to become an Undeclared voter, a “Party Affiliation Change” form will need to be completed.

The next Election Day is March 8 to vote for Zoning Ordinance Amendments, Town Officers, and the School District Ballot.

The third Election Day is the State Primary on September 13. The same procedure is followed as for the first election. The only way you may have an issue is if, in the First-in-the-Nation Primary, you came in as Undeclared, chose a party, voted, and when you came out of the voting booth, there was a group of your friends that you hadn’t seen for months, you had a great conversation, and walked away—no return to Undeclared—and you never thought about it again until you were given the pink ballot or the blue ballot, and it is not the way you wanted to vote. Please don’t let that happen to you.

The fourth Election Day is the General Election on November 8 – one ballot for all. You will vote for President, Senator, House, etc. As you can see, 2016 will be a busy voting year. If you have any Election Day, Party Affiliation, New Voter, or Absentee Ballot questions, call the Town Clerk’s office (588-6785 x 223) or view the information at www.antrimnh.org. ☆

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ANTRIM RECREATION

Celeste Lunetta, Director

Greetings from the grateful staff and volunteers of Antrim Recreation programs! I would like to start this article by expressing gratitude to the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission and to the residents who have supported the lighting project at Shea Field. In October of 2015, phase one was completed. Three of the five lights are now operational and were used with tremendous success during the fall sports season. I am especially grateful to Peter Lamb for his vision, leadership and hard work during this project. Additionally, Joan Gorga and Isaac Lombard put in many hours of work during the planning stages, including a mid-winter balloon test in moderate wind, deep snow and bitterly cold conditions, and then again during the laborious ditch digging component—which just happened to be during the fall heat wave. Troopers for sure! Sam Harding and Mike Genest, who both for years helped search for land to meet the need for additional field space, provided constant advocacy and insight as the project progressed. Without all of these people, this project would not have come to fruition. The lights became operational just in time for the short days of fall, and provided the field space we needed for the nearly 170 soccer players who participate in our fall youth soccer program. We were also able to add a fall lacrosse program that earned the revenue to pay for the electric bill. In most cases, the lights have been off by 7:30 p.m. We are working with the lighting company, Musco, to make some adjustments to the shields on the towers, a step that will mitigate some of the glare and light spill. This work is done as part of our original contract with Musco, and is at no additional cost.

Phase two of the project will be the installation of the two light towers on the baseball diamond. The pads for these towers were installed during phase one. We plan to do this in fiscal year 2016. The additional field time we gained in the fall met the requirements of our current program, and allowed us to have additional field time for a new program. We are looking forward to meeting this same need for the diamond sports, baseball and softball. Thank you, Antrim!

In addition to the fall sports programs, we also welcomed

back Children's Stage Adventures for a one-week program that culminated in two performances of a musical rendition of *The Fisherman and His Wife*. Twenty-five local children between the ages of seven and fourteen participated in this program. We also brought back the Young Athletes Program, which we run in partnership with Special Olympics of New Hampshire. Jump Rope Club is also back!

In other recreation news, the Recreation Department and the Grapevine continue to strengthen our community connection as the Before and After School Clubs will, for a two-year period, fall more under the stewardship of the Recreation Department. The transition will be seamless for the participants of the program, as we will retain all of the current administrative and direct staff. Additional recreational programming will be incorporated, with the goal of increasing the participation of the children in activities that are lifelong recreational and leisure activities.

I'd like to include a note about the holiday tree lighting. The Antrim Friends of Recreation will not be holding this event in 2015. With declining participation and volunteers, we asked the amazing Festival of Trees group to accept this important seasonal tradition, since they are already putting on such a wonderful holiday season event at the beautiful Tuttle Library. Concerning the Antrim Friends of Recreation, more volunteers are needed to step forward to continue running the following programs: Teen Dances, Family Roller Skating, and the Spring Egg Hunt. Please contact us at the Recreation Department if you can help.

Recreation programs this winter include our ongoing adult and youth fitness programs. For adults, Zumba and Fab Abs on Mondays and Wednesdays, Yoga on Tuesdays, and Strength Training, Adult Volleyball and Pickleball on Thursdays. Indoor walking at the town gym will start up again in December. For youth sports, Tae Kwon Do on Thursdays, Ski and Ride lessons in January and February, Indoor Lacrosse, Baseball and Softball clinics through December, January and February, Basketball for pre-K-6th grade, and

✍️ — continued on page 22

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By the time you read this, our Book Club will have finished its discussion of *Our Kids* by Robert Putnam. Putnam, in my view, is the single most significant social scientist of our era. If you're wondering why fewer Americans today are active in churches, service clubs, and neighborhood associations than after World War II, you would find Putnam's *Bowling Alone* most illuminating. Curious about changes in Granite Staters' religious behavior? Interested in why nearly one-quarter of Americans now claim to follow "no religion?" Perplexed by the declining membership of mainstream Protestant denominations? Then Putnam's *American Grace* will explain how our religious traditions have evolved to both unite and separate us. And if you perceive that an Antrim child's opportunity for future success (however defined) is increasingly determined at birth by his family's socio-economic class, then Putnam's *Our Kids* will both confirm this pathological social reality and brilliantly explain it. According to Putnam, Horatio Alger may have already left the building.

In October, we discussed E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*, which incorporates real historical figures, e.g., Harry Houdini, Sigmund Freud and Teddy Roosevelt, into a fascinating fictional plot that adroitly conjures up New York City circa 1902-1912.

If you spotted Antrim readers skulking around town in September holding books covered in brown paper, perhaps you were detecting members of our Club engaged in reading *Lolita*. This novel, which describes how a pedophile abuses a child, nevertheless was fourth on the Modern Library's list of the 100 best novels of the 20th century. Despite its harrowing subject matter, we found Vladimir Nabokov's book to be darkly comic and brilliantly composed.

As I've said before, if you're looking for sprightly discussions of our culture's most notable fiction, please join us between 11 a.m. and noon at the Antrim Presbyterian Church on the Thursdays listed below. Melissa Lawless will once again be providing copies of these books at the Tuttle Library. We thank Melissa and other members of the library staff. Here's our upcoming schedule:

2015

Dec. 17 • Nathaniel West, *The Day of the Locust*, 156 pages

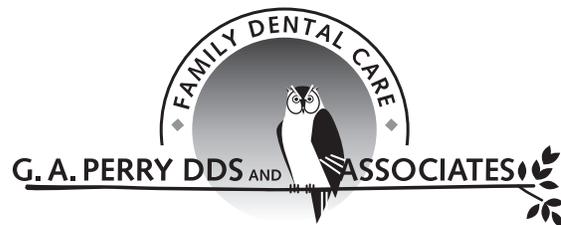
2016

April 16 • John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, 464 pages

May 19 • D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, 400 pages

June 16 • Dashiell Hammett, *The Maltese Falcon*, 217 pages.

July 21 • Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 384 pages ☆



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the Young Athletes Program for children ages 2-7 years old are all options for sports skills. Weekend Gymnastics will also start back up at the Town Gym. Details are pending, but this will likely be a Sunday afternoon program. Movies at Town Hall are scheduled the third weekend of each month. The schedule is updated online and posters are displayed in the Town Hall window. In December, an after school "Crafts for Giving" program will be held on Wednesdays, Jump Rope Club will continue on some Tuesdays. Toddler Playground, our popular morning indoor playground for babies and toddlers through age 3, starts in January on Wednesday mornings, 9:00-11:00. Jump Rope for Heart will take place in the month of February. During February vacation, we will hold sports clinics for all spring sports. We are planning a ski trip to a big ski area for Monday, March 7, a day off of school for ConVal. For details and more information on all of these programs, please watch the calendar at antrimnh.org, or call the recreation department at 588-3121. Information on all of the programs is also available at the Antrim Town Hall. ☆

FAST FRIENDS

Shatze Moore

This is the story of Big Black and Little Red, a true and simple story of how a friendship began.

One evening in mid-summer, after having had a delicious meal, Big Black was making her sleepy way home. On that very same evening on a stone wall sat Little Red, abandoned, hungry and somewhat frightened by his circumstances. Neither Little Red nor Big Black was aware of the other even though they really were quite near.

Big Black, her tummy busy digesting its nice dinner, gave a delicate little burp, and Little Red, worrying about his future, heaved a giant sigh. Each responded to the other with a jump and a gasp. Little Red puffed himself up at least three times larger than he actually was and snarled ferociously at Big Black. Big Black puffed herself up, too, and offered to make short work of Little Red.

But then something really special happened just at that place where day ends and night begins and the two, one big and the other little, stood glaring fearfully at one another. Little Red found he could see through Big Black's bluster and threat to the sweet and gentle soul. Big Black was all heart. Big Black, looking at Little Red with all the ferocity that her loving heart could allow, saw Little Red, not as an enemy to be feared and done away with, but as a little fellow who was down on his luck and possessed of great spirit.

As they stood looking at one another all the bluster and puffed-upness melted away. Each took a friendly step toward the other, first one step and then another 'til they became fast friends.

☆

Christmas Trees

Antrim-Bennington Lions Club
at Tenney Farm

Dec 5 & 6 and 12 & 13



JIM PLOURDE, ANTRIM'S NEW ROAD AGENT

Joan Gorga

What a pleasure it was to sit down with Antrim's new Road Agent, Jim Plourde, in his office aerie overlooking the new dump truck in the highway garage. There's just enough room for a desk and a few overstuffed chairs where exhausted road workers can rest briefly before heading back out into the fray. Of course, Jim is not new to Antrim at all, but was recently promoted to the top job in the Highway Department. He has been working on Antrim's roads for five years. Before that, he spent six years at the Greenfield Highway Department, and before that, two years in Milford. He still lives in Greenfield, with his wife and two daughters, ages 14 and 16, who he says are "great kids," although he does admit to being a little worried now that his elder daughter has started driving.

How does one learn to do what it takes to keep the roads of a busy town safe and passable for the public? Since he started working in Greenfield, Jim has been taking classes at the UNH Technical Transfer Center, which, he says, "does a great job making sure the needs of the municipalities and the state workers are met, and develops new programs where needed." Jim has now achieved the level of "Master Roads Scholar," the fourth of six levels recently defined by the NH Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). A Master Roads Scholar has attended more than 100 hours of instruction. Some of the courses are primarily taught in the classroom, while others, such as Grader or Backhoe Operation, are more hands-on. In each of the courses, the students are taught how to achieve the desired goal by using "Best Management Practices," which Jim says, "usually boils down to looking out for the public's interest, as well as what's environmentally correct." An especially helpful new program

✍️ — continued on page 24

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TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

Laurie Cass-Griggs, Ann Putnam, Kathy Chisholm, Melissa Lawless

Programs

Friday mornings • 10:00 a.m. • *Drop-In Story Time*

Sat. Dec. 12 • 1- 3 p.m. • *“Dickens of a Day”* with music by Ray Sweeney, games and readings

Wed. Dec. 16 • 6:30–8:00 p.m. • *“Music Among the Trees”* with Celtic Harpist Sharon Dowling

Sat. Feb. 7 • *Drop-In Valentine Card Making*

Feb. 22 through Feb. 26 • *Vacation Week Drop-In Craft*

Holidays – the Library will be closed

Thurs. Dec. 24 through Sat. Dec. 26 • *Christmas Holiday*

Fri. Jan. 1 • *New Year’s Day*

Mon. Jan. 18 • *Martin Luther King, Jr., Day*

Mon. Feb. 15 • *Presidents’ Day*

New Programs Coming this Winter!

First, for the entire month of December, join the Antrim Festival of Trees committee as they host their 6th year of colorful, festive trees displayed in the library. This year’s Open House is Saturday, November 28, from 10–4 p.m. At 4 p.m., Santa arrives via fire truck to visit with the children and their families in the library.

The festival continues throughout the month of December! Join in the fun and vote for your favorites until December 11. Winners of both the tree awards and the quilt raffle will be announced on Saturday, December 12, from 1–3 p.m., during a special event called “A Dickens of a Day at the Library” featuring the music of Mr. Ray Sweeney, games and readings from works by Charles Dickens. Light refreshments will be served. On Wednesday, December 16, the library will again host “Music Among the Trees” with Celtic harpist Sharon Dowling from 6:30–8 p.m.

Coloring Books for Adults

Have you heard about the popularity of adult coloring? This pastime is becoming a trend among young and old alike, and some adult coloring books have even been fea-

tured on the best seller list this year. This January, the James A. Tuttle Library will be offering up beautiful black and white pages for adults to color and some for kids, too! Just drop in to participate.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten

Help your child build the skills needed for school and lifelong success: read 1000 Books Before Kindergarten. Sign up for this new library program! Starting in January, we will have log sheets to track your reading along with rewards as you reach different goals. Sound like a lot? Ten books each week equals 520 a year! Children not yet enrolled in Kindergarten are invited to participate in this new program. Parents are urged to read 5 to 7 books per week to babies and toddlers to make this goal; 3-year-olds can start with 10 books per week; even 4-year-olds can start with 20 books per week!

“Reading aloud is the best way to help children develop word mastery and grammatical understanding, which form the basis for learning how to read,” says Dominic Massaro, who studies language acquisition and literacy. He found that picture books are two to three times as likely as parent-child conversations to include a word that isn’t among the 5,000 most common English words. Studies find that children who fall seriously behind in the growth of critical early reading skills have fewer opportunities to practice reading. Evidence suggests that these lost practice opportunities make it extremely difficult for children who remain poor readers during the first three years of elementary school to ever acquire average levels of reading fluency. Take the 1KB4K Challenge! You can do it!

Blind Date with a Book

In February, join us for a new program entitled: “Blind Date with a Book.” In honor of Valentine’s Day, choose a book blindly, based solely on a few limited descriptions written on a blank cover. Experience something new and don’t judge a book by its cover!

 — continued on page 24

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Jim just completed, called “Culvert Maintainer Certification Training,” allows the Highway Department to replace culverts without filing for a specific permit for each culvert.

Jim says he loves working here. He says Chip Craig was “a fantastic boss,” and the rest of the guys are great to work with. There are four other full-time Highway Department employees, as well as two part-timers on call for plowing, and he also oversees the Recycling Center. He’s glad that the Road Agent is a working position, not just supervisory, and he says that he has been welcomed nicely into the position. He enjoys working with all the Town departments, as well as fielding concerned phone calls. He is hoping to fill the last vacancy in the department soon, as they have a full schedule before the snow flies, but says they should be in great shape for winter.

The Highway Department plays a constant juggling game to complete the set schedule of projects and fit in emergency repairs as they come up. From Jim’s point of view, the worst time of the year is mud season, when they are forced to restrict loggers and big trucks from using some of the roads. They make a big push to complete summer projects between the time when the school buses stop running and the time they start up again in the fall. Maintenance on the vehicles is always ongoing, as they try to make them last as long as possible, and he is working on planning ahead for six years and beyond for budget purposes. ☆

Tuttle Library News continued from page 22

NEW BOOKS BY: Geraldine Brooks; Jim Butcher (new series); Jayne Castle; Lee Child; Patricia Cornwell; Clive Cussler; Janet Evanovich; Felix Francis; Robert Galbraith (JK Rowling); Elizabeth George; Tess Gerritsen; Sue Grafton; John Grisham; Benedict Jacka; J.A. Jance; Erica Jong; Jan Karon; Jonathan Kellerman; Mercedes Lackey; Alexander McCall Smith; Kate Morton; James Patterson; Louise Penny; Preston & Child; Kathy Reichs; J.D. Robb; Lisa Scottoline; Karin Slaughter; Charles Todd; Simon Winchester; Stuart Woods...and others.

NEW MOVIES: Cinderella (newest version); Doc Martin, Season 7; Elementary, Season 3; Grimm, Season 4; Hobbit: Battle of the 5 Armies; Inside out; Jurassic world; Last Tango in Halifax, Season 3; Marvel’s Avengers: Age of Ultron; Masterpiece: Home Fires; Max; Minions; Miss Fisher...Series 3; Murdoch mysteries, Season 8; Once upon a time, Season 4, Out of the dark; Outlander Season 1 – vol. 2; Pixels; Scott and Bailey, Season 3; Southpaw; Still Life: Three Pines Mystery; Stranger in Paradise; Tomorrowland; Walking Dead, Season 5, When Calls the Heart (several)... and more. ☆

THE HANCOCK WOMAN’S CLUB’S 2016 \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADULT WOMEN

The Hancock Woman’s Club annual scholarship is once again being offered, this year including Antrim residents. The scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000.

To qualify, an applicant must be:

- An adult woman in mid-career OR an adult woman who plans to either begin, change or return to a career after years of family rearing or other responsibilities.
- A current resident within the ConVal School District who has lived there for 2+ years.

For more information, write to the Hancock Woman’s Club, PO Box 366, Hancock, NH 03449, or call Joyce Perry at 525-3304. Applications must be received no later than March 31, 2016. ☆

PIERCE LAKE: Your Backyard Getaway

Frank Malinoski & Judith Sanders

As we approach the 100-year anniversary of the creation of Franklin Pierce Lake and our 10th year of being residents of the lake, we have to wonder what non-lake residents of Hillsborough and Antrim think of the lake we cherish as our home (at least through summer, holidays, and family events). And we wonder if non-lakers ever ask WIIFM (what’s in it for me), or if folks ever imagine our towns without the lake. So, here’s our incomplete list of what you might miss without your and our lake:

First, there are about 500 acres, stretching a distance of about three miles, of fresh, clean water accessible to the public for summer and winter recreation: A place to escape the heat or enjoy the cold and snow in the pure and peaceful New Hampshire outdoors just minutes from your homes. Waters that have been stable over many years, free of choking weeds and home to many species of New England wildlife, including a pair of “resident” loons that return to the lake yearly. (They hatched two chicks a few years ago, something we’re told hasn’t happened in over 20 years.) Wildlife to “capture” (and release) on a lead-free sinker line or with your camera or cell phone. A place to sail, motorboat, jet-ski, and swim through the summer, with free boat-ramp access and a great beach and park provided by the Manahan Trust and managed by the Town of Hillsborough. A snowmobiler and ice fisher’s paradise, with long stretches of fresh snow and hungry pike in the flowing waters below.

Then there are the economics. Green energy from not one, but two, hydroelectric plants, a very small one in Antrim at the south end of the lake, where the water enters from Steels Pond, and the larger Eversource plant in Hillsborough, fed by the outflow at the north end of the lake. There’s also the revenue to the towns from our “view” property tax. With about 300 properties on the lake, it’s likely (based on our

✍️ — continued on page 26

ROBIN BRINGS BATMAN TO ANTRIM

Robin Rockwell

Two years ago my wife, Linda, and I were riding in our car on Gilbo Avenue in Keene. We were approaching Main Street, about 100 yards away, when I got a glimpse of what I thought was the Batmobile. I turned to Linda and excitedly asked, "Did you see Batman?!" She answered "No." Once I arrived on Main Street I attempted to catch up to Batman, but he was nowhere in sight. I raced ahead as quickly as possible in a twenty mile-per-hour zone, but still no luck. Poof! Gone! He just vaporized. Linda said I was seeing things, that there was no way he could have vanished so quickly.

Over the following weeks I asked several of my friends if they had seen the Batmobile in town; no one had. Months passed, and then a year, and I thought maybe it was my imagination after all. I had given up hope when, driving on the same street, Gilbo Avenue, I saw the Batmobile cruising down Main Street. Once again I gave chase, and to my dismay he was gone. Poof! But this time Linda saw him too, and now she knew I wasn't crazy.

A few more months passed with an occasional sighting by my friends. One was at the Target parking lot and then another at Walgreen's. But still I wondered, "Who was this man? Where did he live?" The answer would come a few weeks later with a Keene Sentinel article in October 2014 titled "BATMAN UNVEILED." To my surprise, I learned Batman lived a half mile from my house! Also, I knew of this man; he and his family used to be members of the church I attend. I thought to myself what a thrill the children of Antrim would get if I could convince Batman to ride in the annual Home & Harvest Festival parade. On one of my weekly stops at Rick & Diane's after golf at Angus Lea I spoke to

Rick Davis about my idea. It took him less than five seconds to agree.

I initially made contact with Batman on his Facebook page, which led to a phone call. When I asked him if he was available for the Home & Harvest parade his answer was, "I'm usually fighting crime at that time." However, he had one major problem: work. He needed to get permission to take time off. I found out later that his employer agreed to a three hour lunch break.

So now the stage was set for the parade. I met Batman for the first time at the parade gathering place on Elm Street. He kindly posed for photos with kids and got in line behind the Polar Express float. Once the parade was over he parked his Batmobile on Main Street for forty-five minutes for many more photos. I believe Batman has earned a second invite for 2016. If you agree, let Rick Davis know. ☆



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Sharon's embroidered vest and Beth's Christmas ornament were selected to be sent to the National Grange convention to be displayed in the Best of Show exhibit.

In November, Arthur and Beth attended the 149th National Grange convention in Lincoln, NE. Arthur was a prominent member of the cast that conferred the Seventh Degree, and Beth was the coordinator for the Idea Fair and Best of Show exhibit. They witnessed the historic election of officers and were honored to assist in the installation of the first woman Master of the National Grange.

By the time you read this article, our "See the Grange Grow" tree will be on display at the Festival of Trees. Our nineteenth annual cookie decoration meeting was moved to earlier in the season this year due to the date change for the town Tree Lighting event. Antrim Grange is happy and eager to prepare and serve the December 17 free Community Supper at the Presbyterian Church. We hope you will join us for supper!

At press time our winter speaker programs were not yet set. Please watch for future announcements of these free public programs in January and February. "Meet the Candidates Night" where you can meet and ask questions of the folks who are running for town office and will be seeking your vote on Town Election Day in March, will be held on February 24.

On January 23, the Merrills will host the Moon Stomp, an event of the State Grange Youth Committee held annually on a mid-winter, full-moon weekend evening. Warmly-dressed, adventurous Grangers and friends from near and far are welcome to join us on our moonlight stroll through the woods, as well as for refreshments and good fellowship.

And finally, members of our Grange will join participants from around the nation in the National Grange Legislative Fly-In, being held in Concord February 4-6. This is a very unique opportunity for people to learn about the presidential election process and to spend time as a volunteer for the candidate of their choice just days before the First in the Nation Primary. This is just one example of why, if you are not already a member of the Grange, you might like to consider joining our "family," so you, too, can take advantage of the many opportunities that Grange has to offer! Any inquiries may be directed to Beth Merrill at 588-6615. ☆

Pierce Lake continued from page 24

own tax bill) that the lake property owners contribute (gladly we would add) some two million dollars or more in tax revenue to the towns of Hillsborough and Antrim. And there's the benefit to the businesses in the area from the summer and holiday spending of lake residents who need supplies and sustenance. (The fishing's not that good!) We don't want to imagine the stress on our towns without those revenues.

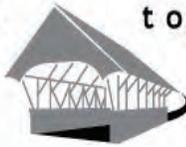
Lastly, there are the people who live on those properties. We have funny accents. Most are not from around here, with many from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and even North Carolina, where we're from, y'all. We probably drive too fast for the New England pace we seek. We sometimes want to see things done yesterday, even though we want our time here to last forever. Yet we truly enjoy these towns and the rest New Hampshire has to offer. We love finding new restaurants and bargains at antique shops, and are saddened when places we enjoy go out of business in the struggles of this economy. We slog through many of the same family and personal ups and downs as our non-laker neighbors. And while we like to socialize and party, enjoying celebrations like the many July 4th fireworks displays put on around the lake, we also take keeping this lake healthy and enjoyable seriously. More than ninety residents are members of the Franklin Pierce Lake Association, which is dedicated to the protection of the health and beauty of our waters. Members volunteer time, energy, and funds, and work with organizations like the NH Lakes Association and the NH Loon Preservation Committee, as well as town Conservation and Parks Boards, to preserve and protect this wonderful resource for all to respect and enjoy.

Yes, come summer we may be squatting in your backyard, but we hope you find it worthwhile, because we're proud and glad to be your neighbors. ☆

Merry Christmas

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AVENUE A TEEN & COMMUNITY CENTER

Heidi Schultz, Coordinator

Annual Halloween Bash

On Saturday, October 31, during Antrim's Trick or Treat hours, Avenue A hosted its annual Halloween Bash. Between 75 and 100 people came through our doors that night to partake in tricks and treats. Kids and parents enjoyed free pizza from Rick and Diane's, drinks, lots of treats and music, and were able to paint their faces and grab some glow sticks along the way. We held our teen costume contest, where our winner received a \$20 Target gift card. We had a great time, and lots of families had a chance to see Avenue A for the first time.

Avenue A Club

Avenue A Club began last December for Great Brook middle school students, as a way for pre-teens to enjoy the Avenue A space and all it has to offer, which includes pool, ping pong, foosball, games, puzzles and art supplies. Arlene Soule and Ted Brown, our fabulous volunteers, helped organize and supervise the club. Avenue A Club begins again this winter on Wednesdays from 2:15-4 p.m. In addition to free time, we also perform team-building exercises, provide free food, check in with the kids about their lives and discuss what input they have on club management. We also take an occasional field trip. You can register your child by requesting a registration form from me, or picking one up at the GBS office or at The Grapevine during office hours. Come join the fun!



Community Service

This past September, Arlene Soule joined me to meet with several members of the Great Brook School staff to discuss beginning a community service club. Community service is something that we value at Avenue A, and is emphasized at GBS, as well. We want to provide middle school students with community service opportunities to help them understand the importance of this concept and to reach their GBS community service goals. If your child has interest in participating in our community service club, please let me know!

Volunteers needed

We are always looking for volunteers to help out at Avenue A. We need supervision for teen open hours, and volunteers to help us with the Avenue A Club. We also need adults who want to provide programs for teens or preteens, and to help out with fundraising. Please contact me if you have interest!

Not just a teen center

Some of you may have noticed that we are now calling ourselves Avenue A Teen & Community Center, to better reflect the fact that we serve not only teens, but all members of

the community. We provide programming for middle school students, and offer our space to groups, individuals and companies looking for a place to meet for a minimal donation fee. There are currently four groups that use the space on a regular basis, and a band that practices here. Avenue A can also be used for birthday parties and other celebrations, as well as corporate trainings and meetings. Contact me (Heidi Schultz) or The Grapevine to learn more.

Heard It Through The Grapevine Open Mic Night

On the first Thursday of every month, Avenue A opens its doors to talented musicians and to people who want to hear great live music, free of charge. Rick Fitzgerald does a fantastic job gathering local musicians to play in our cozy, coffeehouse space. We provide coffee, drinks and snacks. There is always a featured band, and anyone else who wishes to play for open mic can arrive a half hour early to sign up. Music begins at 7:30 p.m., and all donations go to supporting The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center.

We want your opinion!

Avenue A is a place that exists for the community, by the community. We need your feedback and support to stay viable! Please let me know how we can attract your teens and what programming they might be interested in. We also need parent involvement in the running of Avenue A, so please contact me if you would like to be a part of our Planning Committee.

Stay in touch

There are many ways to find out what is going on at Avenue A and to provide your feedback. Please find our contact information below, and be sure to let me know if you would like to be on our email list for programming and events. If you use social media, we have several Facebook pages, and are on Instagram and Twitter. Thank you!

Avenue A Teen & Community Center A program of The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center

Email: AvenueA@grapevinenh.org

Like us on one or all of our facebook pages:

<https://www.facebook.com/AvenueATeenCenter/>
<https://www.facebook.com/AvenueAParentsPage/>
<https://www.facebook.com/avenuea.teensonlypage>

Instagram: [avenueatc](#)

Twitter: [@avenueatc](#)

Leave a message at The Grapevine: 603-588-2620 ☆

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sharon Dowling, Music Coordinator

Greetings! Things have been busy at First Presbyterian this year. The New Beginnings Task Force has submitted the new Mission and Vision statements, and the Congregation is onboard. The focus is not on building Membership. The focus is on being actual Disciples of Christ. To that end we have been looking for needs among our community that we might be able to help with. We are a small congregation with a big heart—and our Mission statement reflects that: “SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL THAT LIFE IS EVERLASTING AND LOVE IS ALWAYS THE ANSWER”

In a world filled with pain, fear, violence, intolerance, condemnation of others, and injustices of all kinds, we are putting the words of Christ into meaningful action. Our Vision Statement tells how we are to be loving, caring Disciples who share the Love of God; acknowledges that we are rooted to our church for spiritual nourishment as we grow in faith together, desiring to do good in the community; and to know that God is Divine Love, Wisdom and Power as we follow the commandments to act justly “unto the least of these” by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, the widowed, those in prison, etc...” We left the last statement incomplete, as different needs will arise and new challenges emerge. However, Love will always be the answer!

We will be collecting food for the Food Pantry, housed at the Baptist Church. Also we are collecting clean (in the package) socks and underwear for Veterans, and socks/sweatpants for children who may be unexpectedly soaked with winter snow and rain for AES (all sizes). We are helping to provide snacks for AES for those children who may be coming in without a snack. Our Prayer Circle is busy with folks willing to pray throughout the day for many needs. Our sanctuary is open Monday thru Friday when the Senior Center is open, for private prayer in a quiet place. Dress warmly in the winter, as we only heat the sanctuary to 60 degrees or so! There are fleece throws to help keep you warm as well. Also, we have a prayer box in the sanctuary for prayer requests and you can always call the office and

leave us a message! Our Prayer Warriors are ready!

In other news, now that the Advent Season is upon us, we are busy preparing for Christmas! The morning service changes during this season, to give us some breathing space and clear focus before the hectic celebrations. We will have decorated the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary, which brightens the room as we wait for the Light of the World to arrive. On Dec. 20 we will have a simple pageant during the service, involving the children and the congregation. Christmas Eve will be our traditional Lessons and Carols service at 7 p.m. ALL ARE WELCOME!! As only Antrim does it, we will be joining forces and voices with our Baptist neighbors on the Sunday after Christmas. On Dec. 27 we will all meet in the Presbyterian sanctuary and enjoy some extra carol singing while Melissa Lawless leads the service. After the first of the year we will move worship into cozier quarters in the Fellowship Hall, which is where we will be celebrating the solemn service of Ash Wednesday, on Feb 10 at 6:30 p.m.

The Revival Shop continues to be a source of good quality used (and often new!) clothing for your family needs. Inexpensive and sometimes free, we accept consignments as well as donations. A reminder that we will stop accepting winter clothing for consignment after Feb. 1, and summer clothing on Aug. 1. Open Friday mornings and Saturday 10-2, as well as Thursday evening when we host Community Supper.

Check out our new webpage and our addition to the Festival of Trees at the Tuttle Library!

Questions, comments? 588-2209 ☆

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ANTRIM-BENNINGTON LIONS CLUB

Steve Ullman, 1st Vice President

Substance Abuse Programs

Like many of you, Antrim-Bennington Lions have been saddened by recent tragedies here in Antrim caused by substance misuse. We decided to heighten community awareness of our grave local problems by sponsoring a Town Hall forum on drug abuse on October 6, which was attended by about 65 people, and by donating money for the therapeutic "Comfort Bags," which were given out at Avenue A by the HOPE Committee during the "Great American Smokeout" on November 19.

Vision Screening

If I ever needed someone to plan a major project, Dick Loveland would be my choice. Dick has served as the Club Coordinator for vision screening for 7 years. He reminds us that "Early screening leads to early detection, which helps ensure that children get the follow-up care they need... We want to make sure that correctable vision problems don't stand in the way of our children learning and seeing the world clearly." Here is Dick's report on this fall's Lions Club vision screenings:

The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club partnered with school nurses at the elementary schools in Antrim, Bennington, Hancock, Frankestown and Greenfield during the week of September 28 to provide free vision screenings for children from Pre-K to the fourth grade. Lions Club members screened a total of 362 children at the five schools, with 18 children (five percent) being recommended to see an eye care professional for further evaluation.

Heather Boyd, RN at Frankestown Elementary School, said, "The screening in our school was organized, the people from the Lions Club were friendly, and the whole process went smoothly. I am grateful that the Lions Club offers this to the students here."

In addition, the Lions Club screened 19 children, the youngest seven months old, at The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center the same week. Melissa Gallagher, Interim Executive Director at The Grapevine, said, "This year, nearly all of our families with young children

participated in the Lions Club Vision Screen. The screen is quick and provides parents with an easy-to-read printout. During children's preschool years, when reading and writing skills are developing, it is especially important to catch vision issues early. We very much appreciate this valuable, free service to our community."

The Lions were only able to screen four children at the Home & Harvest Festival on September 19, a lower number than we hoped for. This event needs to be better publicized, as it is one of the few ways we have to reach young children who are not yet in daycare or elementary school.

More than 12 million school-age children in the United States have some form of vision problem, yet only one in three have received eye care services before age six.¹ Many vision problems run the risk of becoming permanent if not corrected by age seven, when the eye reaches full maturity. Vision also plays an important role in education. According to educational experts, 80 percent of learning is visual.

[The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club screening activity] ... is part of a nationwide initiative called Lions KidSight USA, a national coalition that brings together Lions programs that screen children from 6 months to 6 years of age. KidSight USA was developed by Lions in the U.S. to protect the eye health of America's children in their early years. Lions in the U.S. currently screen more than 500,000 children per year. Learn more about Lions KidSight USA at KidSightUSA.org.

¹ "Vision Screening." Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 27 February 2015, <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/programs/visioncreening/index.html>.

Christmas Trees

Once again, the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club will be selling trees at the Tenney Farm on the weekends of December 5 & 6 and 12 & 13, and, if any trees are left, December 19 & 20. We'll stick with the \$35 price, unless it's a huge tree. We would like to thank in advance our loyal customers for their continuing support. The proceeds from this sale go to Operation Santa Claus of NH, a program run by the NH State Employees Association to help children in need during the holidays. Needy children are identified by NH Dept. of Health & Human Services case workers, and each sponsored child receives necessities, such as a coat or boots, as well as some desired extras, such as a toy or game.

A Final Note of Thanks

The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club would like to thank its supporters for their backing during the Home & Harvest Dinner and Fireworks, special events for Antrim, Bennington and all the surrounding towns. Such generous community backing materially strengthens our Lions Club health programs. ☆

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THE GRAPEVINE

Melissa Gallagher

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I'd like to take this opportunity to say hello and introduce myself. My name is Melissa Gallagher and in September, I accepted the position of Interim Executive Director of The Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center. I am honored to step into this new position. My predecessor, Kristen Vance, has helped to build this organization from the ground up, and I certainly appreciate what a big role this is to fill. I want to thank all of you who have stopped by the Grapevine to say hello or extend a hand (or hug!) of welcome to me over the past few months. I am truly touched by the kindness and support that the people of this community bestow on our organization. A bit about me - I have lived in neighboring Frankestown for 11 years and have been involved with the Grapevine for nearly as long - as participating parent, volunteer and most recently as Chair of our Board of Directors. If by chance you have never visited, I invite you to explore this treasure of an organization and all that it has to offer. I am eager to hear from you on what you love about the Grapevine and also what you would like to see more of! Please email me directly with your thoughts and ideas at melissag@grapevinenh.org. Thank you for your continued support!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The Tools of Play

This is an experiential workshop exploring the materials and qualities of play for those working with the young child. Along with facilitators Carol Lunan and Nancy Macalaster, you will create a sleeping baby doll. We will also engage with each other in activities offering the opportunity to imagine what the essence of play might be for the young child. Be prepared to dive into the world of the child's playscape.

Saturday January 23, 2016 from 8:30-12:30 p.m. Cost is \$50.00 plus \$5.00 materials fee

3rd Annual Fancy Schmancy Tea Party

Get out your fanciest schmanciest outfits and get ready for our 3rd Annual Fancy Schmancy Tea Party on **Saturday, February 13, from 11-1 at the Antrim Town Hall**. Tickets are \$10 each, which include 1 adult and 1 child (max family expense of \$20). Tickets will be sold in advance at the Grapevine and at the door. (Reservations are recommended for preferred seating). Delicious baked goods, light lunch fare and beverages, with tea of course, will be served. Call 588-2620 for more information.

ONGOING PROGRAMMING

Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren

If you are parenting your grandchildren, you are not alone. "Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren" meets monthly and is free. Grapevine parenting educator Carol Lunan and River Center parenting educator Wendy Hill co-facilitate discussions on topics of interest to participants. Guest speak-

ers are invited to lead discussions in their area of expertise. For example, an attorney recently discussed issues related to custody and adoption, and a psychologist talked about trauma and related issues. Call 588-2620 and ask for Carol for more information, and to let us know you're coming and if you will need childcare.

Weekly Children's Programs

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

- Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. Better Beginnings playgroups and parent groups
- Wednesday and Friday 9-11:30 a.m. The Learning Vine preschool
- Wednesday 10-11:30 a.m. Better Beginnings for Babies —expectant parents welcome!

Better Beginnings playgroups and parent groups give children an opportunity to play in an enriching environment while parents enjoy time with each other in an adjacent room for coffee and tea, and discussions about child- and family-centered topics with our parenting educators.

Better Beginnings for Babies offers parents a great way to meet other parents while their babies make their first friends. Discussions include early development, nutrition, crying (and what to do!), sleep for baby and parents, and other topics of interest. Parents with infants and babies through 18 months meet on Wednesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. Expectant parents are always welcome. Call 588-2620 for more information.

Learning Vine preschool for children 3½ to 5 years old – *We still have space available for the 2015-16 school year!* This hands-on program focuses on social interaction and problem solving skills in a small group setting in a fun and engaging environment. Choose the program that's best for you and your child: Two or three mornings per week, with afternoon enrichment in the spring to prepare your child for Kindergarten.

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

Getting The Wood In

The wood bank is in need of donations of firewood. Our favorite form is cut-split-delivered, but we can come to your place to cut and haul tree lengths as well. And we're always looking for volunteers to join the Community Wood Bank Team. People with chainsaws and trucks are especially encouraged, but we could really use volunteers who would like to get a good workout splitting and stacking as well. Call 588-2620 to help.

The People's Service Exchange – www.pse-nh.org

The PSE is a Time Banking Project of The Grapevine, where members get the help they need and share their skills

— continued

with others. One Hour of Service = One Time Dollar, regardless of the usual dollar value. The PSE is building community one relationship at a time. For more information, contact Nancy at 588-2620 or email her at pse@grapevinenh.org.

Before and After School Clubs 2015-2016

Call The Grapevine to register your Elementary School or Great Brook School student in the Before or After School Club for the school year. The programs operate on the Antrim schools campus on school days, with Before School running from 6:45 to 8:20 a.m. and After School from 2:10 to 5:30 p.m. The programs include quiet time to read and finish homework, board games, Legos, and activities outside and in the gym. Stay tuned for new opportunities in partnership with the Antrim Recreation Department!

Are you 60 or older...

and looking for a local, affordable, friendly way to maintain and increase your strength, balance and independence? Call us about the Strong Living Senior Exercise program on Tuesdays and Fridays at 1:30.

Services Available at The Grapevine...

- Assistance with applications for food stamps and other State financial aid programs
- Community Wood Bank—Call now if you need wood, have wood to donate, or can help cut and split
- Child and family counseling through Monadnock Family Services
- Information and assisted referral for resources to meet basic needs such as housing, home heating, food and prescriptions

Thank you...

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

- The **local businesses, families and shoppers** who gave to the Second Annual Grapevine Online Auction during the month of November. Thanks to you, we had over 400 items to post for bidding!
- **Jeanne Baker and Carol Carnes** for donating backpacks filled with school supplies for families in need.
- Our play yard improvements including the new shelter overhang and swing donated by **Adam VonDette Carpentry of Hillsborough and Justin Coombs of Deering**, with sand (and our Home and Harvest float trailer!) donated by **S. R. Jones Excavation**.
- The local businesses who have contributed wood to our community wood bank for the upcoming heating season, including: **D. H. Hardwick and Sons, McClure Logging, LLC and Ed Lemire**.
- Our hardworking October Wood Bank Party volunteers including **Ben Pratt, Marcia and Steve Ullman, Isaac Battaglia, Mark Gallagher and Grapevine staff**, as well as **Andrew Robblee** for donating a day's use of their industrial grade wood splitter. Thank you also to

our youth volunteers, **Alana and Serena Edwards**, who came to help with childcare.

- Our children and families have benefitted from the delicious crates of apples donated by **Peggy McCloud of Norway Hill Orchard**. Thank you also to our program volunteers **Emily Dean and Jess Pescitelli**.

Avenue A has many people to thank for the generous donations, of time, services and goods. Thank you to all who donated items and time for our annual Halloween celebration/open house, including **Marcia and Steve Ullman, Sue Conklin, John Anderson and Maggie Stewart, and Sue Smith from Bennington**. Some of you may know that Halloween is the anniversary of Avenue A, and we will continue our annual celebration in the years to come. Thanks to our Avenue A Friday night teen volunteers, **Matt Ferrisi, Sue Conklin and Maggie Stewart**. Special thanks to **Tom Griggs** for his donation of two re-purposed computers for internet use at Avenue A, as well as games and puzzles, and **John Anderson**, for helping supervise Friday night hours, flyer development, technical assistance and tireless support of Avenue A! And a final thank you to **Rick Fitzgerald** for organizing and operating Heard It Through The Grapevine open mic night, from which donations go to support The Grapevine.

The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located at 4 Aiken Street in Antrim, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 588-2620, email us at admin@GrapevineNH.org or visit www.GrapevineNH.org. We gratefully accept donations, which are tax deductible. No contribution is too small—or too big! Please make your check payable to The Grapevine and mail it to PO Box 637, Antrim 03440. ☆



Jeanne Baker and Carol Carnes with Melissa Gallagher. At the start of each school year, Jeanne and Carol have donated school backpacks to The Grapevine for families in need.

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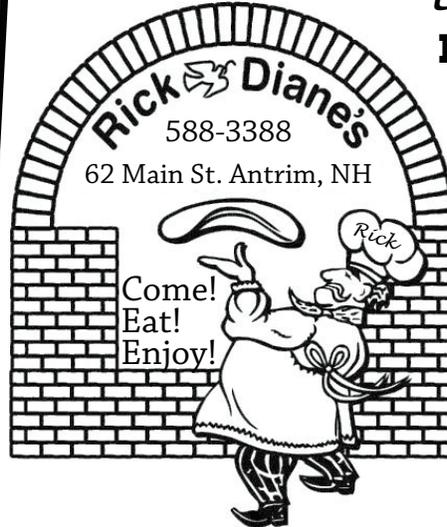
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