

COMMUNITY PROFILE: ANTRIM 2020 Event Slated for October 21 & 22

Kristen Vance

Please save the date! “Antrim 2020” is a way for all Antrim residents to take stock of where our town is today and where we want it to be in the future, and to develop a plan to get there. The October event will bring residents together to discuss what makes a community a great place to live and how Antrim measures up. We will talk about issues that are most important to Antrim,

and decide on three or four projects to get started.

Michael Rondeau and I co-chair the Antrim 2020 steering committee, which is working hard to plan and promote the event.

A question that keeps coming up as we talk with residents about Antrim 2020 is “Will this result in good things actually getting **done**?” The short an-

swer in my experience is yes, **if** we are successful in getting lots of people to come to the October event. We’re aiming for about 200 residents with diverse backgrounds and experience—young and old, long-time residents and new-to-town, those involved in community groups and those who aren’t, business owners, students, parents of young or school age children, grandparents, etc. In order to figure out what we need to do

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MEET THE KINGSNAKES

Joan Gorga

While you aren’t likely to meet a wild kingsnake in the environs of Antrim, you would likely thoroughly enjoy an encounter with the lively band of local musicians who call themselves the Kingsnakes. They play mostly blues, jazz and popular music from the 20s, 30s and 40s. You can’t help getting carried away with them, since they are so clearly having a good time playing good music.

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Courtesy Photo

LOST MY TRUCK TODAY

Peter Moore

Lost my truck today. Well, it’s still in the yard, but its spirit has risen, and I’m just now coming to terms with the loss. Sold it off to a recycling company for peanuts, and Mike’s is coming to get it any day now. The funeral procession is included in the deal.

My 1995 Ford F-150 pickup truck was a one-lover vehicle, and over our 20-year relationship she performed with every expectation, with hardly a memorable hitch. By most of today’s standards, it wouldn’t be considered much of a truck: half-ton, two-wheel drive, straight six, manual 5-speed, and power-nothing. The bench seat was hot or cold vinyl, the bed long and voluminous, and the tailgate sound and unbent. My truck was dark blue, had two gas tanks, and in 1995 ran me around \$11,500. Doug Stone at Hillsborough Ford sold it to me, and I think he is still there.

Over the years, and over the roads of Antrim and beyond, that truck earned its keep. It, and we, saw many a hot,

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— NEWS DEADLINE —

All news copy is due by February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Please email your article to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org.

— 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: editor@antrimlimrik.org.

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

HOME & HARVEST DAYS

Rick Davis

Home & Harvest Days will be held this year on September 16 and 17. This will be our 13th festival, which continues to be anticipated as Antrim's most exciting weekend of the year. The fireworks by Atlas and cookout will again be on Friday night, kicking off Home & Harvest in a spectacular event. Saturday will again feature wall-to-wall crafters, with local bands up and down Main Street. The big parade is always a blast with local bands and floats. The ISSA skaters are back this year to skate at high speeds down Summer Street.

NEW this year will be ANTRIM'S IDOL. On Saturday night, eight of Antrim's best and most talented singers will sing along with a DJ to see who will be ANTRIM'S IDOL.

More information on our website, homeandharvest.org, or you can always call me at 464-9915 or stop in at Rick and Diane's. ❀

Thank you ...

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

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LAND USE BOARD ALTERNATES NEEDED

Colleen Giffin and Chris Condon

What is a Land Use Board? The American Planning Association states “the goal of land-use planning is to further the welfare of people and their communities by creating convenient, equitable, healthful, efficient, and attractive environments for present and future generations.” In Antrim, Land Use Boards are a bit easier to define: The Planning Board and The Zoning Board of Adjustment.

The Planning Board is responsible for hearing land owners’ development plans and ensuring that they meet our town ordinances and regulations. The Board also maintains and updates the town’s zoning ordinances, subdivisions, Master Plan and other documents.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has the ability to grant dimensional variances to a zoning ordinance. For example, a property owner can appeal to the board for permission to build closer to a property line. The board also grants conditional uses that may not normally be allowed in a zone but may be approved if the use is deemed suitable.

When a Land Use board member is absent or can’t participate in a matter due to a conflict of interest, we call upon an Alternate to temporarily take their place. Each board can appoint up to five Alternates. That’s why we need you!

Why should you be an Alternate? First, it’s a great way to participate in local government and give back to the community without all the stress and anxiety of running for office. Second, you’ll get free training, and learn a lot about land use just by being there.

Alternates attend board meetings just like regular members. Even if they aren’t appointed to sit in place of a regular member and vote, we encourage Alternates to participate and ask questions. An informed Alternate is one who is ready to step in when needed!

We recommend that you attend a few meetings to observe and see if you are interested. The Planning Board’s regularly scheduled meetings take place the first and third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. The Zoning Board of Adjustment meets when needed. You can also check the town website for the schedule, where you’ll also find the minutes from meetings all the way back to 1962. Browse through the minutes and learn what goes on in a meeting!

Alternates are appointed by each board. If you are interested in becoming an Alternate just submit a letter expressing interest in joining one of the boards. Don’t worry if you think you aren’t knowledgeable enough about land use. The members of both boards are not expert town planners, but they have put the time into learning all that they can to make our community a better place to live. They are also more than happy to share their knowledge with others. With the laws always changing, the learning never stops. ❀

ANTRIM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Scott R. Lester

As we all look forward to a fun and eventful summer, please take a moment to consider all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of yourself and your family while enjoying your activities. Be sure to obtain campfire permits and take note of fire danger levels before starting campfires. Be sure to review water safety and bicycle rules with your children, to include wearing their bicycle helmets. You can enforce this by setting a good example and wearing yours when you ride. We look forward to seeing you and the kids around town and taking advantage of the established recreational areas.

For the added safety of our senior citizens who prefer to live independently, we are working with the Hillsborough Police Department and our Dispatch Center to provide seniors with an opportunity to subscribe to a Check-In Service Program called “Are You OK?” in the near future (see *ruk.com* for more information). This is a telephone reassurance system or call check-in service for senior citizens and their friends and family. Loved ones who find it difficult to maintain consistent contact or who are concerned about a loved one’s safety can use this system for added security.

After the subscriber is entered into the system, they will automatically receive a check-in call each day at a pre-determined time that has been designated by the subscriber. If the “Are You OK?” subscriber doesn’t answer after the preset number of call attempts, an alert is given visually and audibly on the Hillsborough Dispatch Center’s monitor.

A printout containing emergency information on the subscriber, including doctor’s name and phone number, contact name and phone number, next of kin and brief medical history is generated and either the person who is monitoring the senior through the “Are You OK?” program or the local authorities go to the home to check on the senior. If the “Are You OK?” software detects voicemail it leaves a recorded message. The check-in service can also be used to remind seniors to take medication or give other quick messages.

Currently the Hillsboro Police Department is utilizing this program on a trial basis and is determining the value and accuracy of the program. Chief Roarick has extended an invitation to join the service and we will be establishing a procedure to extend the program to our community.

On behalf of all the members of the Antrim Police Department, we greatly appreciate your continued support and hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer. ❀

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

ANTRIM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Steve Ullman, President

Recent Events

Lyman Gilmore and The Limrik

On Sunday, April 17, Dr. Lyman Gilmore spoke about the history of *The Limrik* and his decade as Managing Editor. Lyman, author of two books and former professor at Nathaniel Hawthorne and New England Colleges, documented the evolution of our community through those years. He spoke of the spectacular sketches of Russ Russell, and those more recently contributed by Virginia Dickinson. Of the replacement of the war memorial, fishing derbies, the transitions of the Nathaniel Hawthorne College property, Home & Harvest parades, Main Street businesses coming and going, community citizens recognized for their service to the town or their creative endeavors, the dawning of the Festival of Trees, Paul Hardwick dwarfed by his hops, and climbing up to inspect the bell at the old stone church. Lyman emphasized that what makes *The Limrik* such an effective community voice is the number of regular contributors who volunteer to submit news of the town.

History of the Antrim Grange

On May 15, Arthur Merrill, Town Moderator and holder of several important Grange posts at the regional and state

level, including Grange Master at the tender age of 19, teamed up with Dr. Lynne Rosansky, cultural anthropologist, university administrator and 25-year Grange next-door neighbor as owner of the Uplands Inn, to discuss the history of the Antrim Grange. The Grange, officially the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, was started following the Civil War as an agricultural advocacy group. Antrim Grange was organized in 1883 and meets in the building that was the original Town Hall in Antrim Center. Merrill family members have guided the Grange as officers for more than a century, and Beth Merrill was once one of the six top-ranking officers of the National Grange. Lynne Rosansky also was a country girl, and even rode her horse to school. She offered other illuminating insights into this symbol of Antrim's agricultural past.

Upcoming Programs

Founding of the Grapevine

On June 12, the Antrim Historical Society will be presenting a panel discussion by the "Founding Mothers and Fathers" of The Grapevine. This vital community resource center continues to fill critical gaps in the social service and education realms. If you want to learn about the earliest days of this vital organization, as well as its subsequent evolution, please join us on Sunday, June 12, at 3 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Antrim.

Independence Day

Join us on Monday, July 4 at the Bandstand in Memorial Park beginning at 8:30 a.m. for coffee, tea and homemade baked goods, music, singing, flag-raising, and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by members of the Antrim Players. Contact Bill Nichols (588-6539, 831-9733 or at boleywnic@gmail.com) for more information.

Ask an Antrim Historical Society Archivist

If you are interested in exploring the contents of the Antrim Historical Society archives, you should know that members of the society will be staffing the archives Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. To be absolutely certain that one of our crack researchers is going to be present, you should phone me at 588-2005 or email me at sullman@brockport.edu.

Invitation

We invite you to join the Antrim Historical Society 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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A RELIC OF SOME IMPORTANCE

Charles Butterfield

For sure, you can drive right by and not see it. The Town Pound has all but faded into the rocky, wooded roadside. But if you want to find the remains, quite distinctive when you stand within its walls, the pound is at the junction of Old Pound Road and North Holt Hill Road, on the edge of Antrim Center.

Ben Pratt and I visited the site one spring day. We found the heavy rock walls mostly still intact, the tops about level with the roads that embrace the pound. They enclose a square 28 feet on each side. A couple of cows, a few sheep, and a hog or two would fill the pound to capacity.

We didn't find any evidence that the pound had a roof. And we puzzled over what might constitute a gateway. Still, the enclosure walls, about four feet high and two feet thick, prove that the structure was built well. It was important.

Antrim Center, along with Clinton, was bustling in the 1850s. In addition to several farms, the village contained a beautiful brick church, two cemeteries, a town hall, an eight-grade schoolhouse, cabinet shops, saw and cider mills, Twiss's blacksmith shop and three dozen homes.

Many of those residences would have had a barn to house a cow, perhaps a horse and a pig. Any or all of which could get loose and trample gardens, forage crops, break down fences, desecrate the cemetery, and foul and block the roadways. Or be stolen.

Antrim farmers constructed the pound in 1817, though the need was apparent as early as 1779, according to town meeting minutes. Asahel Cram, who lived at what is now

Stoney Hill Farm just above the pound on Old Pound Road, was the town's first pound keeper.

Suppose you woke to find a cow in your garden. You'd drive her out and tie her up. Then you'd either contact the owner, if you knew him or her, or you'd alert the pound keeper who would come and take the cow to the pound, collecting six cents a mile, to be laid to the owner. If no one knew whose cow she was, notices would be posted in neigh-



Photo by author

boring towns, charging the owner 25 cents each, plus travel.

The owner, learning the whereabouts of his vagrant cow, couldn't collect her until he settled with you for any damage done to your garden. In addition, the pound keeper collected 30 cents a day for feeding the cow, and three cents a day for his trouble. The cow remained in the pound until all fees and charges were paid. If the owner squabbled, the cow remained confined until the selectmen could name an arbitrator to settle the matter. If no owner came forth, the cow could be sold. The pound keeper recovered his expenses, and the overplus was added to the town treasury. All this and more was spelled out in New Hampshire state statutes.

A free-roaming cow (horse, sheep, hog) was no joke in the days when people lived on what they grew and harvested.

I couldn't find any record of the pound's use, but in 1852 the town paid Selectman Clark Hopkins \$1.25 for a half day of oxwork repairing it. Wear and tear continued (you can

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Mark Reynolds, who developed the concept of the Kingsnakes, says he picked the name even before he had any band members. "It seemed like a good fit for the kind of music I wanted to play, with a kind of royal implication, and a kind of sexual inference." Mark used to play in a Celtic band doing Irish and Scottish music. They were occasionally hounded by what he called the "trad Nazis" - the regulators of the genre, who would criticize music that was not entirely traditional. He says, "I want a band that we can make stuff up and tell stories and nobody can say that's not traditional. We don't have to play New Orleans. We play 20's, 30's and 40's music mostly, or any other period, if we think it's Kingsnake music." One of the other band members adds, "It's just about having fun. People are so hooked into their electronic devices. We're real people playing real music, making our own music ourselves, having fun creating our own music." As they say on their Facebook page (*legendarykingsnakes*), their record label is "RCA Viper."

Watersnake, a.k.a. Robert "Woody" Wood, plays guitar and sings harmony vocals. Woody lives in Peterborough, is Associate Director of the environmental non-profit Lake Sunapee Protective Association and is a handy carpenter. He's been playing the guitar since the 4th grade, but was challenged to relearn fingering a few years ago after damaging his index finger in a construction accident.

Blacksnake, Antrim resident Andy Chapman, plays the clarinet, or "licorice stick" in the parlance of the 1930's big band era. In his other life, he teaches 4th grade at the Jaffrey Grade School.

Slidewinder or "Dr. Slidey" is Stoddard resident Dr. Richard Doherty, who plays the ukulele bass and lap-steel guitar. He's been playing music since 2nd grade, was in his first band in middle school, and used to play in the house band at the Rynborn Blues Club. He is an environmental educator and consultant and an adjunct faculty at New England College.

Brer Cottonmouth, on slide trombone and vocals, is Antrim resident Mark Reynolds, a writer and editor for Marketing and Communications at Keene State College. He started learning guitar and played in a band in middle school and has been "singing forever."

Purple Ratsnake, drummer Tom Reynolds of Antrim, rounds out the band. He has just graduated from Keene State College with a major in Film Studies. He took up the drums in middle school and also plays in another band. He'll be slaving away on the McDowell Colony grounds crew this summer.

The Kingsnakes started as a quartet around 2000, morphed into a duo, and took their present incarnation in 2008, although they have known each other since the mid-1980s. They first got together to play at a *MoveOn.org* "Stop Mad Cowboy Disease" fundraiser. They say in the past their

weekly practices were more about getting together for dinner and socializing, but they've started to take it more seriously since they've started to perform. Things started to click in the fall of 2014, when they were well received as featured performers at the Heard it Through the Grapevine Open Mic at Avenue A. It struck them that if they worked to put together full sets of songs, they could really put on a show.

They say no one is really the leader, but it helps that they're all in the same zone, at similar musical levels, have similar goals, and want to make a good appearance on stage. They are respectful of each other's opinions, and understand their abilities and needs. They don't criticize each other and don't lose sleep over mistakes, which gives them the freedom to just enjoy playing. They feel they've come far enough to feel good about their music, and say their secret is that they are such good friends that they really want to play with each other. And luckily, their spouses are good friends, too.

The Kingsnakes have been busiest in spring and summer, including playing in a lot of summertime outdoor events like the Antrim in the Evening concert series and the Home & Harvest Festival, as well as summer concerts in Hillsboro and at Lake Sunapee. They're also available for parties and graduations. As of this writing, their next gig is scheduled to be at the Hancock Fireworks on July 2 (rain date, July 9). They'll be playing Antrim in the Evening on August 3, Hillsboro Concerts in the Park on August 4, and the Lake Sunapee Protective Association at 10 a.m. on August 14. They say "Come and see us." You'll be glad you did. ❀

14TH ANNUAL ART SHOW

Antrim Grange's 14th Annual Spotlight on Community Artists exhibit will be held June 17-19 at the Antrim Grange Hall. In addition to the usual acrylic, oil and pastel paintings, visitors will view photography, pottery, glass, quilt, and sculpture exhibits. A special exhibit by school students is also being planned. The People's Choice Award is selected by popular vote of guests and patrons of the exhibit.

The hours of the show are as follows:

Friday • 2 p.m.-5 p.m. • Art Viewing

Friday • 7 p.m.-9 p.m. • Evening Gala and Art Viewing

Saturday • 10 a.m.-3 p.m. • Art Viewing

Sunday • 12 noon-4 p.m. • Art Viewing

Sunday • 4 p.m. People's Choice Award presentation

Attendance at Friday's evening gala offers the opportunity to meet many of the exhibiting artists, enjoy live music and partake of a bounteous refreshment table. For more information about the Art Show, check the Antrim Grange Facebook page, website (www.grange.org/antrimnh98) or call 588-6615. ❀

SELECTBOARD

John Robertson, Chair

Many thanks to Gordon Webber for his service as Selectman. He leaves many great memories of deeds well done. Antrim is a much better place because of his service.

We welcome Bob Edwards as our new member of the board. Bob takes Gordon's place. Bob's many years on other town boards stands him in good stead as a Selectman. Previously he served on the Planning Board and as one of the Trustees of Trust Funds. Bob's many years in the banking industry are a great resource for the Selectboard.

The Board is hard at work on all the items approved at Town Meeting. First on the agenda is to arrange financing and award the contract for the Highland Avenue/Pleasant Street water and drainage project. Hopefully bids will be out soon and construction can begin.

The Highway Department's new pickup with plow has been ordered and should be here soon. The old Chevy was traded toward the new Dodge 2500.

With regard to the proposed wind farm, in May the technical sessions were held before the SEC in Concord. At the sessions intervenors *pro* and *con* were given the opportunity to question Antrim Wind officials on the many aspects of building and operating the wind farm. Hearings to determine permitting construction are scheduled to begin in September.

Your Selectboard continues to support the wind project because of its many benefits to Antrim and the support it has from the majority of Antrim residents. This project will, through the PILOT contract, provide added revenue to the town. We look forward to the continued support of Antrim residents as we move ahead with Antrim Wind and the many other projects that face us.

As always you are welcome to stop in at the Town Hall to get information or ask questions. Feel free to attend Selectboard meetings. We welcome public comment that is thoughtful and constructive.

Have a great summer. ❁



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to improve life in Antrim, we need **all** residents represented at the Antrim 2020 event this fall.

The steering committee and subcommittees are hard at work, and we're beginning to get the word out. Here's what we're working on:

Website and Social Media

Thanks primarily to Michael Rondeau and Frank Gorga we have a great website, *Antrim2020.com*, as well as a Facebook page. Please pay a visit and share it with your Antrim friends. You can sign up to get email updates, and you can give us your ideas about how to improve Antrim. As summer progresses, look for such features as the Antrim Photo Gallery (where you'll have the opportunity to submit your photos), quizzes to test your knowledge of Antrim, and photo projects and contests by our teen steering group members, Bailey Kirkpatrick and Jack Vance, and other Antrim youth—all designed to both share and increase your knowledge of Antrim.

"Old School" Activities

For those of us who aren't as adept at technology, or who enjoy using a marker and holding things in our hands, we're working on two hands-on projects that we hope will both inform and engage. Art teacher Carole Storro is partnering with the 4th grade teachers at Antrim Elementary to create a children's art project about the Antrim community we expect will be on display at community locations this summer and at the October event. Also, you will see posters featuring a big light bulb and inviting you to share one "bright idea" to improve the town. You'll find these posters at various places around town.

How Can You Help?

1. Visit www.Antrim2020.org.
2. Talk with your neighbors about ways to improve our town.
3. Find Antrim 2020 on Facebook and share with your Antrim friends.
4. Write your idea on a lightbulb poster.
5. Help with the event, for example bring a potluck dish or help with childcare.
6. Plan to come to the event the evening of Friday, October 21 and the morning/early afternoon of Saturday, October 22 at Great Brook School. More info on that later, but please Mark Your Calendar!

For more information, contact co-chairs Michael Rondeau (588-6885; mrondeau@tds.com) or Kristen Vance (588-4904; kvance@mcttelecom.com), or talk with another member of the Steering Committee: Bianca Acebron Peco, Jeanne Cahoon, Kathleen Crawford, Amy DeLisle, Frank Gorga, Bailey Kirkpatrick, Janet McEwen, Renee Mercier, Beth Merrill, Shelley Nelkens, Kim Proctor, John Robertson, Lynne Rosansky, Carole Storro, Steve Ullman, and Jack Vance. ❁

HOW DOES ANTRIM VOTE?

Joan Gorga

The day after my 21st birthday in 1976, I left my native USA for a six-week trip to Russia with a group of American students. Russia was then part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Many of the Russians to whom we were officially introduced spoke an easily discernible party line, and told us what we were supposed to hear. I had taken several years of Russian language in college and, though not quite fluent, could speak well enough to roam alone away from the group and talk to people on the street. Babushkas were not afraid to tell me what they thought or how the people in a certain cemetery died, and I learned a lot that I wasn't supposed to find out. Ironically, after being lost for several hours in Moscow on July 4th, the 200th anniversary of signing of the US Declaration of Independence, there was nothing so comforting as seeing the spires of Saint Basil's Cathedral near the Kremlin in Red Square. However, after six weeks in Moscow, Krasnodar, Sochi and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), my tolerance for being fed propaganda was very low. The collective sigh of relief was palpable as our train crossed the border back into Finland, and I vowed that I would take my responsibilities as a citizen of one of the world's premier democracies seriously from then on.

We in the United States have fought hard to gain voting rights. In colonial America, voting was restricted to landowners and taxpayers over age 21, mostly male, who were considered to be the most committed members of the community. When the US Constitution was adopted, states were given the power to set voting laws. Only 6% of the population could vote when George Washington was elected president in 1789. Gradually, over the next 180 years, Catholics, Jews, white men, freed slaves, women, Native Americans, people of Asian origin, and 18- to 20-year-olds gained the right to vote. And we are still debating voting rights and identifying discriminatory practices.

Along with the right to vote come the responsibilities of citizenship. Informed and engaged citizens are the foundation of a democracy. It is our responsibility to seek out information on the issues put before us. We have not only the right to be informed, but also the responsibility to become informed and to be civically engaged enough to understand the issues on local, state, regional, national and international levels.

Voter turnout nationwide held at around 80% for most of the nineteenth century. Voting was public at first. During the first half of the century, voting by ballot replaced voting by voice, but the ballots were not secret, and sometimes were even color-coded so a voter's choice could be told at a glance. Secret ballots began to be introduced in the late 1800s, and by 1896, 39 out of 45 states used them. Disappointingly, in spite of the advent of near-universal suffrage and the adoption of the secret ballot, voter turnout in the US

has fallen to around 55%, much lower than in most established democracies.

What is Antrim's voting record? Town-by-town voting statistics for approximately the last 25 years are available from the New Hampshire Secretary of State's office. Antrim does pretty well when it comes to general elections, especially in presidential-election years (Figure 1). On average, around 70% of registered voters have turned out for general elections over the last 25 years, close to 80% in presidential-election years, and about 60% in off years. Participation has averaged 55% in presidential primaries but only 25% in state primaries.

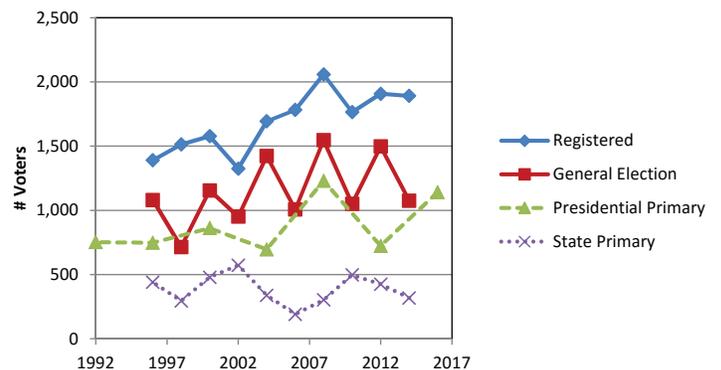


Figure 1. Antrim voter participation in general elections, presidential primaries and state primaries. The number of registered voters is shown, along with those casting ballots in each election year. Data taken from sos.nh.gov/election/results.aspx.

Antrim voters have participated in town elections at a slightly higher rate than in state primaries, but substantially fewer voters attend Town Meeting (Figure 2). Since 2007, on average, 33% of registered voters have cast ballots in town elections, whereas only 9% have voted at Town Meeting.

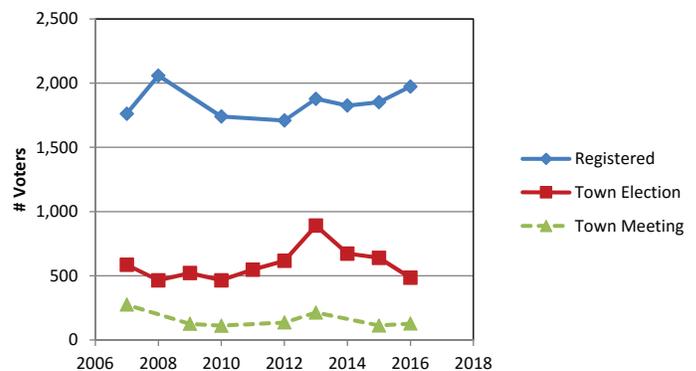


Figure 2. Antrim voter participation in town elections and Town Meeting. Data taken from *Town of Antrim Annual Reports* and www.antrimnh.org/Pages/AntrimNH_Town_Meeting/index.

What are the trends in Antrim voter registration? I was unable to find statistics giving the number of eligible voters who have not registered to vote. But among those who do choose to register, Antrim residents have increasingly registered as “Undeclared” for general elections, while the number of voters registered as Republicans has slightly decreased and those registered as Democrats has slightly increased over the last twenty years (Figure 3). Studies have shown, however, that most people who register as “Independent” or “Undeclared” consistently vote with one party.

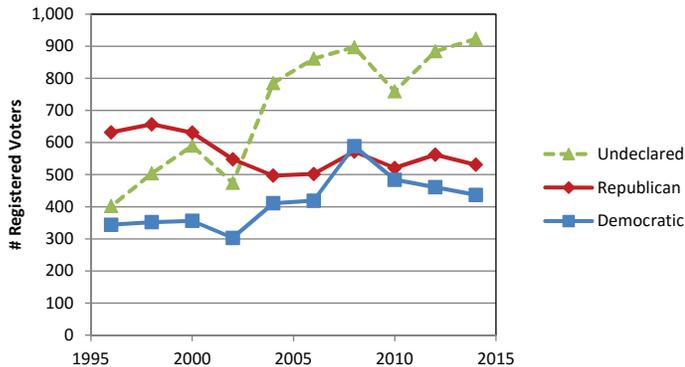


Figure 3. Antrim voters registered as Republican, Democratic or Undeclared for recent general elections. Data taken from sos.nh.gov/election/results.aspx.

To vote in primary elections, voters must temporarily choose a party. In presidential primaries, the numbers of voters taking Republican and Democratic ballots has evened out in Antrim over the last 25 years (Figure 4), although the number of ballots cast in the Republican primary dropped in 2004, when George W. Bush was the incumbent Republican president, and in the Democratic primary in 2012, when Barack Obama was the incumbent Democratic president. As expected, voters have less interest when there is little contest.

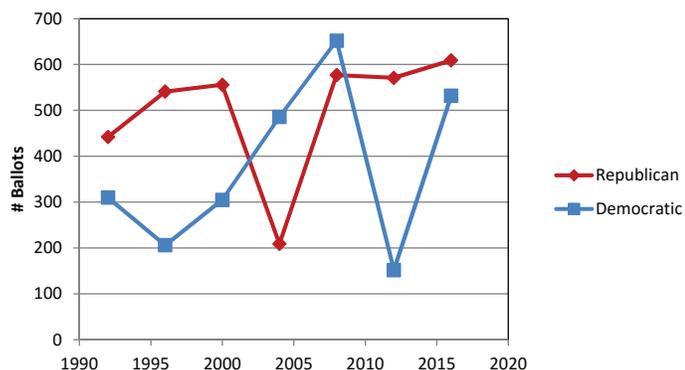


Figure 4. Ballots cast in presidential primaries in Antrim by party. Data taken from sos.nh.gov/election/results.aspx.

New Hampshire is expected to be a swing state in the upcoming presidential election, and Antrim looks like it is becoming a swing town, too. But, after all the hard-fought battles to win the right to vote, why do so few potential vot-

ers take advantage of what is one of the most basic tenets of democracy? Is it simply that voting in secret removes the stigma of not participating, as well as pressure to vote with friends, neighbors or bosses? Is it apathy? Is it laziness?

We are without a doubt living in an era of voter dissatisfaction with the status quo of government. The 2016 presidential campaign season has produced several unexpectedly strong candidates who arose outside of the mainstream political parties. It is clear that people are frustrated with the government paralysis of the past few decades at many levels. And many potential voters are so disaffected they don't see any reason to vote. Others feel that the voting is skewed, or not fully representative of the people's voices. Others will vote in a presidential election, but don't see the relevance of local elections, even though many of the issues decided at the local or state level affect our lives at least as much as issues decided at the national level. And some just think it is too much trouble to become informed about the issues.

We have the ability to vote. It isn't just a privilege, it is a responsibility. It is our burden as well as our good fortune to live in a democracy, where we can speak our mind, where we can participate in discussions of the issues, where we can hear more than one side, and where we can vote in secret.

The Soviet Union has now dissolved, but perhaps it would be good for everyone to spend some time in a totalitarian regime just to gain an appreciation of what we do have to work with. North Korea, anyone? ❀



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MICHAEL PON: JOURNALIST & NOVELIST

Lyman Gilmore

Michael Pon has been a reporter for *The Villager* for nearly twelve years, and Managing Editor for about five years. Thus he has written more about Antrim than any other living professional journalist. (We *Limrik* writers are amateurs.) So, although *The Limrik* is “for, by, and about the people of Antrim,” I think it reasonable to think of Michael as an honorary Antrimite.

On a rainy late April Sunday I sat down opposite Michael in a deeply soft leather chair at Hillsborough’s Eaton’s Furniture where *The Villager* office is located. He had said on the phone when I called for an interview, “If you can come Sunday the store is closed and we’ll have access to dozens of comfortable chairs.” I had two reasons for wanting to interview Michael, first as the Editor of *The Limrik* for ten years I had crossed his path many times and was curious about him, and second because I had read his exciting and informative novel *The Strongbox* about campesinos (poor peasants) in an isolated rural village in the Dominican Republic under the cruel dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo.

Michael’s path to New Hampshire was long and complicated. “My earliest memory was living in a tenement in a rough section of Hoboken, New Jersey” from which his parents commuted to jobs in the New York City public library system across the Hudson River. After a second apartment in Union City, New Jersey, the most crowded city in the country, just above Hoboken, his family moved to a relative’s house in one of the wealthiest towns in America, Greenwich, Connecticut. Michael describes his high school experience there as a big culture shock as he was confronted with “rich kids with expensive cars,” unlike anything he had previously known. Several years after graduating from Greenwich High School, having done some traveling, he started college at SUNY Purchase (State University of New York) but needing time to build a house for his mother in New Hampshire, he dropped out and went to work in construction. “In my youth I would go back and forth, from carpentry and construction, to wandering the world.” His first wander was to Peru in the 1980s “which was like a 60’s

renaissance year.” His second journey was to Mexico where he became very ill with hepatitis, and then after making some more money back in the states, his third jaunt was to the jungles and beautiful colonial towns in Guatemala. Michael’s final and most significant journey found him at thirty living for six months on a coconut farm in the rural village of Las Terrenas on the north coast of the Dominican Republic, and it changed his life permanently. He fell in love with and married a Dominican woman with a four-year-old son,



Michael Pon in his writing studio, where he worked on *The Strongbox* for some years. An old map of the Dominican Republic hangs behind him. (Photo by Shannon O’Connor.)

and he became inspired to write about the misery—impoverishment, torture, rape, murder—forced upon the Dominican people by the brutal Trujillo regime from 1930 to 1961.

Michael brought his wife Jackie and his stepson Kennedy to Washington, New Hampshire, where his great aunt owned property and gave him and his mother a plot of land on which he built a house for her and a studio where he could write. Hating the New Hampshire cold, Jackie left to live in New York City, leaving Kennedy in Michael’s care. In 1986 he moved his mother from Greenwich to New Hampshire. When he returned with Jackie and Kennedy, she had already sunk into the first stages of Alzheimer’s disease. And for the next eleven-and-a-half years he raised Kennedy and cared for his mother whose Alzheimer’s worsened so severely that he had to give up working to be with her constantly and went on welfare. His mother died in 2003, and in October, 2004, Michael was hired by *The Villager* and began his journalistic career.

Michael’s son is now thirty, Michael’s age when he first met Kennedy in the Dominican Republic. Like Michael’s

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culture clash when he went from an impoverished life in New Jersey to a wealthy Connecticut town, Kennedy had a difficult time adjusting to Hillsborough schools where he was the only person of color at the time with a Spanish accent. In addition to helping Kennedy cope with the unfamiliar culture of an American school—including name calling and bullying by other students—Michael had to deal with Kennedy’s Dominican family’s attempts to abduct the boy back to the D.R. But Kennedy ultimately decided to remain with Michael in New Hampshire, so Michael chose to resist Kennedy’s family, which ultimately he was able to accomplish. Now Kennedy lives in New York City near his mother and other relatives.

Michael’s sojourns in third world countries in general, and in the Dominican Republic in particular, created in him a desire to write about them. He told me that after his six months in the DR, “I felt I knew the Dominican culture intimately.” He began by writing about his own experiences on the Dominican coconut farm and the people he got to know there, but after completing ninety pages he realized that what he had written was all about himself, and that he wanted to tell the bigger story of how the poor Dominican people had suffered so gravely under the Trujillo dictatorship. With no formal writing training, he went back to school and in 2006 received a Bachelor’s degree in “Multicultural Literature and Creative Writing” from Granite State College, a branch of UNH for adults. This education plus lots of experience and practice has led him to success as a professional journalist and novelist.

I look forward to Michael’s reporting every week. As Managing Editor of *The Villager*, he writes about events in Hillsborough, Henniker, Antrim, Peterborough, Bennington, Washington, Deering, Hancock, Weare, Windsor, Hopkinton and Warner. I always read his stories with pleasure and illumination, but what has really impressed me is his vivid and moving historical novel about the poor people of the Dominican Republic, *The Strongbox*, my book review of which appears in this *Limrik*. ❀

The Strongbox

A Novel by Michael Pon

Reviewed by Lyman Gilmore

What I like about a good historical novel is an exciting story with vivid characters that tells me something I didn’t know about a real place and time, written in an aesthetically pleasing style. Such is *The Strongbox*, a tale of violent peasant oppression in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo by Michael Pon, Managing Editor of the local weekly newspaper, *The Villager*.

Sadly I must admit that the only thing I knew about the Dominican Republic is that it has given us some terrific baseball players, especially the Red Sox future Hall-of-Famer, David “Big Papi” Ortiz, currently in his final, heroic season. Not only did I enjoy *The Strongbox*, but now I understand something of the complex history of this “Caribbean nation that shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti.”

Pon provides some historical background in a brief “Forward” in which he explains that a brutal US military force occupied the Roman Catholic Dominican Republic from 1916 to 1924. Unlike today’s integrated and disciplined Marine Corps, these Marines “were all white, mostly Protestant men dispatched from a United States mired in Jim Crow laws. They invaded to collect a national debt to the US the great majority of Dominican campesinos, who could neither read nor write, had no idea existed.” While the Marines built some roads, “many of them also raped Dominican women and abused Dominican men, regarding them as niggers and spigs.” Most of the country’s campesinos—peasants—considered the Marines oppressors like their “own dictators and strongmen.” Rafael Trujillo, the worst of these strongmen, was a “ruthless and opportunistic” thug who capitalized on the US occupation to become the dictatorial and murderous President of the DR from 1930 to his assassination in 1961.

The Strongbox is the story of the remote coastal Dominican village of Las Terrenas, isolated from the country’s population centers and its capital Santo Domingo by a mountain range and jungle. Although we come to know important people in Las Terrenas, essentially the village itself is the novel’s protagonist. The central characters are a father and son, old Papito who founded the village after escaping from Trujillo torturers and the county’s US occupation military force, and his son Radhames. Radhames idealistically wants to bring modern methods to the village’s traditional ways of harvesting coconuts, boiling them for oil, and selling the oil for cooking in the capital. But his idealism turns to betrayal as he steals his father’s money, cheats the villagers of their land, and sets himself up as a petty dictator with armed guards. The book’s title comes from the heavy wall-safe Radhames imports from the capital to store his money and the deeds to the peasant coconut farmers’ land he has swindled from them. For the poor villagers this safe becomes a

—continued on page 18

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FARMING, HOT TUB AND WOOD DUCKS

Sheila Nichols

Bare with me, oops thinking hot tub here, I mean bear with me and the connection will become clear.

Several years ago while attending a home show, Bill and I stopped and stared longingly at the hot tub exhibit. We thought how good it would feel to be submerged in that hot water with jets working out the knots a day of farm chores creates. We took the plunge, bought one and have not regretted it.

There is nothing as mesmerizing as sitting in the hot tub with snow banks piled high, looking up at the star-studded winter sky. The walk from the tub through the snow into the house is a bit sobering but does not detract from the soak.

We often have our morning coffee in the tub, discuss the day ahead and enjoy that time when we are just simply together.

Early one spring, during one of our morning coffee reposes, Bill noticed ducks flying overhead. They came from the direction of the marsh and flew north over the farmhouse, circled the field and landed in a nearby tree on the edge of the dirt road. This sequence took place several days in a row. Each morning Bill waited to see if he could find where they were nesting. He identified them as Wood Ducks. They are described this way on www.ducks.com:

The Wood Duck is one of the most stunningly pretty of all waterfowl. Males are iridescent chestnut and green, with ornate patterns on nearly every feather; the elegant females have a distinctive profile and delicate white pattern around the eye. These birds live in wooded swamps, where they nest in holes in trees or in nest boxes put up around lake margins. They are one of the few duck species equipped with strong claws that can grip bark and perch on branches. Reliable estimates of wood duck populations do not exist due to the difficulty of surveying birds in forested habitat.

We have an ancient maple tree at the end of our driveway, and sure enough one morning we saw the female leave from a hole in the tree and head out towards the marsh for breakfast. A few hours later she returned with the male in tow.

One morning, weeks later, as Bill left for work, he noticed a dark-colored duckling running down Liberty Farm Road in front of his car. He stopped to watch as it ran off the road, through the ditch and into the bushes towards the river. A fledging Wood Duck duckling for sure!

Each spring we wait with bated breath to see if they will return and every year we are rewarded once again with their presence. Although we have not seen any more ducklings fledge we enjoy watching this mating pair each morning. ❀

CUB SCOUT PACK 2

Matt Mair

Another busy few months have gone by for Cub Scout Pack 2! The individual dens have been out for walks in the woods, made play-dough, and helped their communities with service projects such as cleaning up the American Legion in Antrim and picking up trash on nature trails. The Tiger and Bear dens also saw a great presentation by the Frankestown and Hillsborough Police Departments on their K9 units and other police procedures—thanks, guys!

We recently held our Monadnock District Chuck Wagon—an event where packs haul a (sometimes heavy) wagon through a relay race course. Several stations were set up along the way where the boys had to stop and learn, solve problems, and work together. Activities included knot tying, first aid, and a problem-solving course. At one point the packs had to figure out how to get from one rock to another without touching the grass using only cardboard, working together because there were fewer pieces of cardboard than there were scouts. When the day was done, congratulations went to Pack 33 of Swanzy for earning the most points and winning the annual Chuck Wagon.

The 2016/17 Scouting year will see some interesting changes. The Daniel Webster Council has been given the opportunity by the Boy Scouts of America to hold a Lion Den pilot program. As Lion Cubs, kindergarten-aged boys will be introduced to the Scouting program and learn to work with each other and help each other grow.

If you or your child would like to be involved with Scouting, or would like more information, please contact Susan Dussell at (603) 568-3069. ❀

“Books are the perfect entertainment: no commercials, no batteries, hours of enjoyment for each dollar spent. What I wonder is why everybody doesn't carry a book around for those inevitable dead spots in life.”

— Stephen King



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ANTRIM HIKING GROUP

Joan Gorga

Working with Nick Duffy at the Antrim Recreation Department, Bob Holmes started up an Antrim Hiking Group this spring. Bob has always enjoyed the outdoors, but says his hiking really took off after he retired from the Post Office. He got a rescue dog and started doing longer walks. About four years ago, he decided

to hike all the 4000-footers in the White Mountains. He completed his quest last year, after finishing 10-12 of the hikes each year, and proudly displays his Four Thousand Footer Club badge on his jacket. He says he really enjoyed getting to know the plants, birds and other wildlife along the way, and he recorded observations about various flowering plants as



Photo by Nick Duffy.

part of the AMC Mountain Watch program.

Bob likes hiking, but says it can be tough to find people to hike with. Many of the big mountains are an hour's drive or more away, and he feels it is better to have company, especially to keep each other awake on the drive home. So he decided to see if he could get a group together to enjoy some time outside, with the support of Antrim Recreation.

The hiking group started modestly this spring, with an April 9 hike up Bald Mountain. The next trip was to Windsor Mountain and Bagley Pond, followed by Mount Kearsarge, Mount Sunapee, and Pack Monadnock on alternate Saturday mornings. They usually meet at 9 a.m., when it is cooler and fewer bugs are out, and try to be done by noon, at least for the shorter hikes. Eight to twelve people showed up for each of the first few hikes. As people have so many things going on on Saturdays, the crowd changes, but Bob says it is good to have so many people show up.

Next, the group will take on Mount Monadnock on June 11. After that, they hope to hike Mount Cardigan, Mount Moosilauke and the Welch and Dickey Mountain loop in Waterville Valley. If you'd like to join the group on any of these hikes, please contact Nick Duffy at the Antrim Recreation Office (588-3121 or at antrimrecreation@tds.net) to sign up. Bob hopes to get the group going again next year, so look for it again as the snow begins to melt. ❁

BLACK FLIES

It seems especially appropriate this year to reprint this poem recently rediscovered in the June 1994 Limrik by Sue Conklin. — Editor

Black Flies

Black flies!
They get into your pies.
They get into your eyes.
They cause styes!

They're here every day.
Don't bother to spray.
Just shoo them away,
But they'll still stay.

The pesty thing
Has such a sting;
And will cling
To anything.

They get in my hair!
They're everywhere!!
Do I care?
I'm in despair!!!

Do they bug you?
They do me, too!!
I don't know what to do!
I'm turning black and blue!!

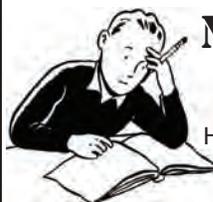
By former Antrim residents Jan, Ken and David Rix at Boulder Cottage, Hancock Rd., Antrim

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summer's day in the hay fields of East Alstead, hauling our piled-high loads, and tag-team-loading a convoy with Rick and Dale Sudsbury, Gene and Cheryl Willette and truck-loads of others. The rear leafs never let us down and certainly didn't understand the meaning of half-ton. On the cooling ride back to the barn, up and over Pitcher Mountain in lower gears, nary a complaint was heard from that truck, and we rode joyfully all the way in her airy cab.

And it wasn't only hay chaff that blew around her empty bed when that job was done. Cord wood picked up and delivered, me always pushing her for that full and rounded load...was asking a bit much at times. If you have an old home that never stops squawking for repair, renovation and a face-lift, the truck is a required member of the marriage. Old windows and doors taken away in exchange for replacements, lumber to trim, or replacement sills. A load of pea-stone, raised-bed lumber, bags of mortar and cement, squares of roofing, pipe-staging, broken-down power equipment, you name it...the list goes on; she carried it all. Even carried the Town Hall murals on their renovation run, to and from the Alabama Farm barn a few years back.

Friends and family know when you have a pickup truck, and because they don't often have a house to fix up like you, they don't need a truck like yours. As such it usually means that they rent, and from time-to-time need to change their address for one reason or another. And so the feared phone calls come...I'd swear there were as many requests over the years as there were years on that Ford! "Can I borrow your pickup next Saturday...we just have to move a few things to our new apartment, and..." What?!...They borrow my dear truck and load it roughly, shift it carelessly, and park it in places around obstacles unfamiliar. No...I will take my one day off and help you move, and I will be behind the wheel when I'm not breaking my back on one end of your fold-out couch! And, by the way, what have you been up to for the past three years?!?!?"

And, of course my F-150 was essential when it came to my bi-monthly runs to the Antrim Recycling Center. Both

ways...removing what I no longer needed or wanted, and proudly bringing home things that someone else no longer wanted or needed. Of all the tasks that the truck selflessly performed for me, the return with recycled goods in the bed was the least appreciated by my wife, so that practice ended, for the most part anyway. One of the carries that got little argument from her, between me and my truck, was on Sunday late afternoons in the warm season when we'd load the canoe, and everything else we'd need for a luxurious picnic, and ride up to Gregg Lake. It will not now be as easy or spontaneous with the truck and its easy-load bed retired out back.

When Glenn informed me a few years back that I'd get just one more year of legitimate on-road inspection...that the frame had lost much of its integrity...I absorbed the coming loss by fantasizing that the truck would make a good woods-buggy. Heck, I'd put lots of new parts into that rig over the years (even if I hadn't kept up with my original discipline of yearly oil-undercoating), and pretty good tires, an almost new radiator...surely I could squeeze a bit more life out of her in semi-retirement...But there she sat for another year and a half, sinking into the abandoned paddock. So, despite my dream of hauling down from the woods the cordwood I cut, my life-coach convinced me that it was of no practical use anymore and that she wanted it gone, recycled, away. As I write, my lifeless, dark blue Ford F-150 sits covered with a dusting of snow, awaiting the arrival of Mike's to take it on its last run. Sorry to say...lost my truck today. ❁

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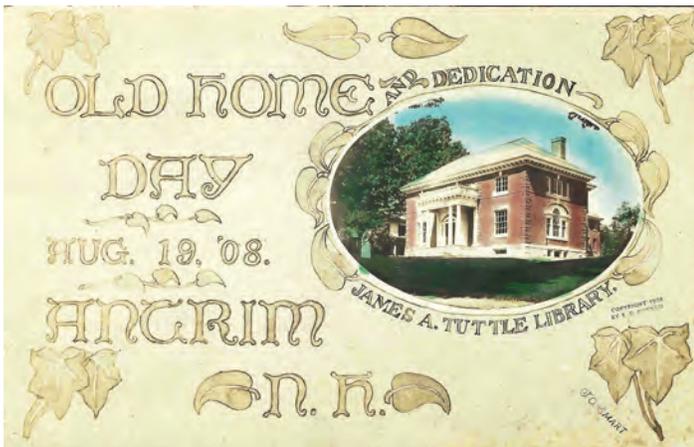
ANTIQUARIAN BOOKS, PART 2

Richard Reilly

In the last issue of the Limrik, Richard Reilly told his story of getting hooked on antiquarian books. Here he describes another aspect of collecting old books.

Ephemera and old postcards are other facets of antique book collecting. “Ephemera” refer to almost any antique papers, from old photos to maps to newspapers, which generally were only meant to have short-term usefulness. As in the case of antique books, the art and effort put into anything sold was very important, very colorful. Intricate illustrations were expected to catch the eye of customers, and they were not necessarily costly. For calling cards, business cards and business signs, art was an important measure of your commitment level. Each store would have beautiful giveaways. I’ve found many items from Fogg’s Market in Hancock. A 1905 large paper die cut of a beautiful woman amazingly displayed in rich colors and a beautifully painted plate with an owl perched on a calendar for 1910 are some of my Fogg’s favorites. Other great ephemera from Antrim are pamphlets, such as Goodell Company advertisements. Collectors seek out the more elaborate and colorful, which were also the most effective advertisements.

Every little New Hampshire town, Antrim included, has a rich history of postcards—the main street, any famous house, etc. Postcards have been in vogue since the late 1800’s, but the peak of creativity was the early 1900’s. Travel was open to everyone, and when anyone went somewhere exotic they sent a postcard home. For holidays, everyone sent postcards.



The most elaborate ones were produced in Germany, but in New Hampshire, those created by the Frank W. Swallow Post Card Company were some of the most amazing. As with books, postcard value is all about rarity and collectability. Santa Claus postcards are very collectable, whereas Easter postcards are of interest primarily to Easterholics. Real photos of disasters are also very collectable.

The advent of the internet has had varied impacts on books and ephemera. It has very much hurt books. When



I started collecting twenty-five years ago, the information contained in the books you had was like you held the Holy Grail. Collectors were narrowly defined by book topic, such as Civil War, military, trains, children’s, or Boy Scouts. If you had a book on, say, the 1895 memoirs of James Longstreet, a lieutenant general in the Confederate army, it was a rare thing, and collectors would literally joust over the chance to own it. There was no internet or any other source of that information. Now, if you go on eBay or even free book sites, you can own it in five minutes and be reading it in even less time, so the only people willing to buy true first editions are serious collectors, and prices have plummeted. Ephemera have survived the internet era a bit better due to being more visual and location-centered, as well as still having some mystery. ❁

DOG LICENSING

Diane Chauncey, Town Clerk

Each dog over four months old must be licensed by its owner or keeper prior to April 30 of each year. The license is effective May 1 to April 30 of the subsequent year. Your dog(s) must have a rabies vaccination. (Your veterinarian is supposed to send rabies updates to the Town Clerk). Failure to license your dog is a violation of State law. In addition to the annual license fee you will be charged a late fee of \$1.00 per month. A civil forfeiture fee will also be assessed in the amount of \$25.00, which is payable within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the notice of failure to register your dog(s). If the forfeiture fee is not paid within that time, you will receive a summons to appear in court. Any questions, please call 588-6785 x223. ❁



imagine the ruckus a frightened, runaway horse would kick up when confined by the tight walls), so George Hutchinson, who lived near the pound on what is now Rte. 31, earned \$3.00 in 1856 for fixing the place. Hutchinson's repairs held up pretty well, though in 1863, at the height of Civil War inflation, Prescott Parmenter (my great-great-great-uncle) who lived within sight of the pound collected \$8.44 for his work on it.

Parmenter's were, apparently, the last of the repairs. The town didn't pay anyone thereafter for work on the pound, though pound keepers continued to be elected into the 1870s.

When I lived in Clinton, Morris Woods was called the pound keeper, though he was never elected to the post. Morris, who lived at the junction of Old Pound Road and Rte. 31, is remembered for his caution. It took him most of the forenoon to get to the village and back, driving his Model T truck only a bit faster than I could walk. Could he catch a pig?

Left to frost action and gravity, the Antrim Pound deteriorated. Members of the Molly Aiken Chapter of the DAR recognized that here was a relic that ought to be saved. In 1948 the ladies recruited men to restore the walls. (Ben remembers that my mother pushed the project, so it's pretty likely that my father was among those hoisting the fallen

stones back into place.) The DAR mounted a commemorative bronze plaque (now broken loose) on one of the big stones and the pound walls stood strong once again.

Nearly seventy years later, Ben and I found tree trunks fallen into the pound. Some of the stones have tumbled in, and beech trees have taken root. Without attention, time and the elements will turn this once critical municipal facility into a rock pile. With some attention, a monument to an era of well-controlled domestic husbandry could rise again.

***A correction.** In the March Limrik I wrote about woodland management. I based my description of tree removal on a method I had witnessed on my own property in Hinsdale, thinking that must have been how the trees were cut in Antrim. I assumed the trees had been converted into logs as they were cut down, and the logs hauled to a loading site. Instead, forester Charlie Levesque tells me, in Antrim whole trees were cut and bunched together by a "feller-buncher." Another machine then carried the intact trees to the loading site where they were rendered into logs. I thank Charlie for setting me straight. ❀*

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

Can you identify the gentleman in this photo found in the Antrim Historical Society archives? Please email the editor at editor@antrimlimrik.org. ❀



Summer Art Camp

 **Weekly camps**
ages 4 ... 16

 June Princesses & Fairies	 The Magic Tree House	
 July Cartooning	 Harry Potter	
 August American Girl Doll	 Funky Clays	
 The Painting Camp	 Drawing Camp	
 Fun Art with Food	 Harry Potter	
 Graffiti-Recycled-Urban Art	 Art for Fun	
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symbol of Radhames's wealth and power, and they name the modern house he has built that contains it, "The Strongbox."

One of the strongest elements in this novel is Pon's rich, vivid detail describing Las Terrenas life. Here is how Papito prepared coconut oil: "Radhames walked off abruptly as Papito cracked a coconut with his machete and held it high, dribbling the juice into his mouth. Then he shelled it with several swipes, sliced the white fruit into the hot oil and watched the chunks shrink in the golden depths. He threw its broken shell into the flames and skimmed a bit of fibrous debris off the surface with a sieve made from an old shirt and a wire coat hanger. He knocked it clean on the caldron. The debris spat and hissed in the fire."

In the opening chapter we find these acute images—ending in a subtle irony—that expresses the Las Terrenas atmosphere: "Marcos's mama, Senora Aurelo, bustled out the back door of The Strongbox, down the cement stoop of five steps, past an organized squalor of crates stacked with empty bottles and old rice sacks stuffed with the remains of the restaurant's daily menu—a menagerie of poultry parts, fish heads, intricate white spines and the horny broken shells of crustaceans buzzing with flies—with her head held high."

Another quality distinguishing this novel is the villagers' belief in a strange mix of Roman Catholicism and Vodou spiritualism. For three hundred years the Dominican Republic was ruled by the Catholic Spanish, and, as Pon explains, "the land's original African slaves disguised their misterios (spirits) as Catholic saints to convince their masters they were converted Christians. Otherwise they would have been flogged for practicing their dirty vodou." With her screeching red-and-blue-feathered Macaw parrot, the Gypsy shaman Doña Magda is a wonderful character who can foretell the future, cure the sick, and create visions for villagers who consult her.

This is an exciting, eventful page-turner of a novel, full of hard-working, honest campesinos, dishonest city merchants who cheat the villagers, cruel Dominican soldiers who support Radhames and his greedy friends, lustful sexuality, and lots of fascinating "magic realism"—visions, portents, magic spells, future sight, and vodou. The novel builds to an astoundingly violent climax that settles all scores.

Antrim's Tuttle Library has a copy of *The Strongbox*, and others can be obtained from the Toadstool Bookstores, Amazon or the author Michael Pon: mpon@gsinet.net. ❁

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TUTTLE LIBRARY NEWS

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

Calendar of Events

- Lego Club each Thursday 3:30 p.m.
- Sat. June 18 • Dad's Donut Day • 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
- Mon. June 20 • Summer Reading Program "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" Sign-Up begins
- Sat. June 25 • Summer Reading Program Kickoff with Comedy-Juggler Bryson Lang • 11:00 a.m.
- Tues. June 28 • Letterboxing Info Night • 5:30 p.m.
- Mon. July 4 • Library closed for Independence Day
- Fri. July 8 • Summer Reading Program Story Time • 10 a.m.
- Fri. July 15 • Summer Reading Program Story Time • 10 a.m.
- Fri. July 22 • Summer Reading Program Story Time • 10 a.m.
- August – end of September • Community Art Display

Dad's Donut Day

Join us at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 18, for Dad's Donut Day. Bring your favorite Dad, Grandfather, or friend to enjoy a doughnut at the library. There will be complimentary coffee and juice, and a fun Father's Day craft for kids to do while Dad enjoys his doughnut.

"On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!"

Readers of all ages are invited to join us at the James A. Tuttle Library as we celebrate the summer reading program theme, "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" Our featured performer, Bryson Lang, will kick off the program on Saturday, June 25, at 11 a.m. with his comedy juggling routine! Held indoors in the Reference Room, this will be a fun show for kids and parents alike. There will also be light refreshments. Check out www.brysonlang.com for more information! Throughout the summer there will be other fun activities, which will include story-times and drop-in activities, games, and guessing jars! The 2016 summer reading program is open to all ages and reading levels, preschool through young adult. READ, BE READ TO, LISTEN TO BOOKS ON CD—whatever sparks your imagination; no rules, just fun! Registration for "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read!" begins June 20 and runs through July 30. Sign up at

any time during this period; all programs are free of charge. For more information, call the library at 588-6786 or stop in; we'd love to see you at the library this summer!

Lego Club

Have you heard about the Library's new Lego Club? Every Thursday from 3:30–4:30 p.m., join other Lego enthusiasts for building with Legos and K'Nex toys. We will also have some for younger kids to build with. Children under the age of 10 should be accompanied by an adult. Have some fun building and then take some books home until next week! If we find that there is any further interest in Legos among middle school or high school aged students, we will add an additional session in the Young Adult Room.

Letterboxing 101

Do you enjoy hiking outdoors? How about treasure hunts for old and young alike? **Letterboxing** combines artistic ability with "treasure-hunts" in parks, forests, and cities around the world. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by cracking codes and following clues. The prize: an image from a miniature piece of art known as a rubber stamp—usually a unique, hand-carved creation. Letterboxing has a rich history crossing continents and centuries of time. Letterboxes are hidden all over the world, with thousands right here in New Hampshire. On Tuesday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m., local letterboxer and library staff member, Ann Putnam, will share a little history, simple tools, materials and online resources you need to get started, including a special beginner's hunt to practice in the library. No experience or supplies required. Presentation = 20 minutes, practice hunt = 20 minutes.

Community Art Display

During the month of August we will be assembling artwork from our local artists, artisans and crafters. Please consider letting us display your creations for the community to enjoy. We prefer to keep this display up through Home and Harvest weekend to add some pizzazz to our Open House. Dig around in your studios, attics and barns to see if you have some treasures to share. The more the merrier!

New Books

Stop in at the library to look for some of our newest titles by your favorite authors, including Ben Aaronovitch, Jeffrey Archer, Maeve Binchy, C.J. Box, Bill Bryson, Mary Higgins Clark, Harlan Coben, Clive Cussler, Pope Francis, Lisa Gardner, Kevin Hearne, John Irving, Tami Hoag, Jonathan Kellerman, Dean Koontz, Laurie R. King, J.A. Krentz, Benedict Jacka, J.A. Jance, Debbie Macomber, Gregory Maguire, Joyce Maynard, Jacquelyn Mitchard, James Patterson, Amanda Quick, Anna Quindlen, Nora Roberts, John Sanford, Lisa Scottoline, Nicholas Sparks, Jacqueline Winspear, Stuart Woods and more... ❁



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ANTRIM GRANGE NEWS

Beth Merrill

At our March meeting, we learned about the activities of the Hillsborough County Gleaners from the Gleaning Coordinator, Hazel Gershfield, which was a great kickoff to making plans for the Community Garden that was established last year behind the Town Hall. This project is being continued this year to benefit local people in need of fresh produce.

We conferred the Third Degree on three candidates in May and were honored to welcome Chris Heath, Master of the NH State Grange at our meeting. Several of the officers made an effort to memorize their degree parts, which is often neglected and undervalued in Grange work these days. Also in May, we hosted Hillsborough County Pomona Grange, which sponsored the program "NH's Long Love/Hate Relationship with its Agricultural Fairs" by guest speaker, Steve Taylor (provided by a grant from the NH Humanities Council). A pot luck supper preceded the program. Arthur Merrill was invited by the Antrim Historical Society to present a history of Antrim Grange at their May meeting, which he was happy to do.

We've presented a free dictionary to every third grade student in Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Frankestown, Greenfield, Hancock, and Peterborough, as a continuation of our volunteer work with The Dictionary Project. Thanks to the Peterborough Kiwanis and Monadnock Paper Mill for their financial contributions that made this possible.

Seven members attended the Grange Bowling Tournament. Arthur Merrill took first place in the Class A Men's High Triple Category. Members also participated in the Grange Spring Fling workshop day (with Beth Merrill providing one of the workshops) and the Grange Legislative Day at the State House in Concord, and we assisted in conferring degrees at the recent State Grange Degree Day held at Blazing Star Grange in Danbury.

Recipients at our annual Community Awards Night in May were as follows: The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club was given the Community Spirit Award, Mary Maughan received the Educator Award, and Gordon Webber was honored for his service on the Antrim Selectboard. The Community Citizen Award was presented to Steve Ullman in recognition of the many services he provides to the town including, but not limited to, Library Trustee, Trustee of the Trust Fund, Eclectic Book Club, Great Decisions discussion group, Antrim Historical Society, the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club, and the Brown Bag Coalition. Comfort bags intended to assist children in crisis were presented to representatives of the Antrim and Bennington Police Departments. Those present enjoyed the fruits of the Grange blueberry muffin baking contest.

Our Grange is active in the State Grange Youth program and had several members participate in these State Grange-sponsored youth events: Spring Fling, Fun @ Fun Spot, and drill team practices. This summer we will attend the June Youth Rally in Franconia, the Northeast Youth Conference in New York (including the Public Speaking Contest, Sign-A-Song Contest, and the Drill Team Competition), and the Grange Family Camp Weekend at Gunstock. Not to mention that our July meeting at Antrim Grange will feature a program of, by, and for youth members.

We ask for support of our **fundraising efforts** to aid us in ongoing efforts to preserve our historic building. We are seeking friends willing to volunteer on July 16 at the NH Motor Speedway in Loudon with trash removal and other services. Please contact Adam Paquin Varnum at 588-2622 or arpaquin@gmail.com if you can help at this event. Also, please mark your calendars for our third Summah Suppah at the Grange Hall on August 13. After the meal we will draw the winners of the dozens of prizes that will be up for grabs during our August 12 and 13 Penny Sale. This is a fun, inexpensive way to try for many prizes in a wide variety of categories, from gently used household goods, locally produced arts and crafts, gift certificates, and more. We also will gratefully accept donations of items and certificates from individuals and businesses, too!

COMING UP THIS SUMMER:

Mystery Ride on June 15: destination under the direction of Lecturer, Renee Mercier. Where will we go? It's a mystery! Meet at the Grange Hall and find out with the rest of us!

Antrim Grange will hold the **14th Annual Community Art Show** June 17-19. Exhibitors and patrons are all welcome to participate.

Check local listings, www.grange.org/antrimnh98, and/or the Antrim Grange Facebook page for further details on all these events. ❁

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BOY SCOUT TROOP 2

Brian Beihl

Troop 2's slogan is "Adventure, Leadership and Service Since 1913," and there's been a lot of everything to go around this year. With hosting the gourmet mac & cheese Community Supper and the Spring Food Drive, Scouts worked hard to help feed the community. This summer, though, it's time for fun!

Summer Outings Begin June 15. Each summer, our schedule changes slightly to accommodate fun outings each week. Scouts meet at 6 p.m. and head out for a variety of activities, which this year include a "travois" race June 15, kickball on June 22, cardboard castles on June 29, battle boats, July 6, and the Great Brook Challenge on July 27. But the troop will spend a few of those outings preparing for a 50-mile canoe trip on the Androscoggin River and Lake Umbagog on the Maine and NH border August 1-5. After earning Canoeing merit badges on Saturday, June 18, the first tune-up trip is scheduled on the Contoocook on Saturday, June 25, followed by a trip on the slightly faster Piscataqua (water level permitting).

Summer Camp at Hidden Valley. We expect that as many as 12 boys will be attending summer camp this year, July 17-23, at the Griswold Scout Reservation. After two years of improvements, Hidden Valley is in the best shape it's been in for years. New floating activities at the waterfront

were the highlight last year, and even more such floats have been added for 2016. Thanks to the generosity of our communities in supporting our wreath sale, most Troop 2 boys have half of their camp costs paid, making camp accessible to more families.

50-Mile Backpacking Trip in August. Assistant Scoutmaster Ed Forster leads the 50-mile backpacking trip again this year, this time into the White Mountains. This year's trip will be a "spoke" style trip, using one base camp, then launching out in a different direction each day. The 50-milers are a long-time tradition in Troop 2 dating back to former Scoutmaster Dick Jennison.

Troop 2's Newest Eagle Scout Inducted July 10. Henry Johnson, son of Ian and Sheenah Johnson became Troop 2's newest Eagle Scout, the 19th since the founding of the troop in 1913. Working with the Antrim Historical Society, Henry mapped the locations of Antrim's 19th century mills, and created a kiosk in Goodell Park, at the corner of Pleasant and Main Street. The kiosk is made from a weatherproof material with etched aluminum panels and can also be expanded if additional information needs to be added. The public is invited to the Eagle Court of Honor on Sunday, July 10, 7 p.m., Town Hall (2nd floor), with a special invitation to Eagle Scouts and former Scouts of Troop 2. Refreshments will be served. ❁



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ANTRIM RECREATION

Celeste Lunetta

At Antrim Recreation, seasonal weather contributes to the ebb and flow of our programs, and this was quite an interesting quarter as the weather played its tricky game. While the winter left us wistful due to poor conditions for skiing, snowshoeing and skating, we certainly did enjoy our basketball season, and now, with spring sports well underway, we welcome the sun and longer days.

Some **thanks to members of our community** are in order. Our basketball coaches, Kevin Proctor, Bob Holmes and Clinton Harris, provided a full season of commitment to many young athletes! A.D. Guislin Construction, Edmunds Ace Hardware and the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club are our spring sports sponsors! Steve Schacht again coordinated the Youth Fishing Derby, the Lovelands are organizing Pickleball, and our partners for the Bike Safety Event are the Antrim Police, Antrim-Bennington Lions Club, Rick and Diane's Pizzeria and Tenney Farm!

Summer is here, and there are many programs in place for you and your friends to enjoy.

Antrim in the Evening starts on July 6, with events for everyone to enjoy at 6 p.m. every Wednesday through August 17. The location is Memorial Park, unless there is a situation with the weather—and in that case, we head inside to the Town Hall. Please check out the poster included in this edition of *The Limrik* for all of the events.

We will have **seven weeks of programming for kids** this summer:

Jonathon Roitman from **Flying Gravity Circus** will start out the summer with a week of circus arts designed for boys and girls ages 9 through 14, June 20–24, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Jonathon is a skilled circus coach, and kids will learn the basics or practice their more intermediate to advanced skills of juggling, acrobatics, tightwire, unicycling, rolling globe, human pyramids and more.

June 27–July 1, 9 a.m.–3 p.m., we welcome **New Hampshire Dance Institute** with “The Creation Station-Inventing Dance,” for youth entering grades 1 through 6. The kids love NHDI.

There will be no camp programs the week of July 4–8, but keep your eye on the website and your ear to the ground, as we plan some excursions, events at the beach and events in the parks, including a **jump rope tricks** clinic for kids ages 6 and older.

JT, Coach Ketchum, and your favorite troupe of camp counselors return for three weeks of **Antrim Days of Summer Camp**, programs appropriate for kids entering 1st through 6th grades (6–12 years old). The first week, July 11–15, is **Sports Mixer**, with full-day (9 a.m.–4 p.m.) or half-day (9 a.m.–noon) options. The second week, July 18–22, is **Field and Forest**, with no half-day option, as we plan on taking some great treks to local hills and valleys. The third week, July 25–29, features the ever-popular **Ketchums Kickers** in the morning and **SPLASH**, our annual celebration of all things water, in the afternoon.

Finally, for the weeks of August 1–5 and 8–12, we welcome Carole Storro and Patrick Cogan from **Just Create Summer Art Camp** to the Town Gym for two weeks of art camp!

Details and registration forms for all of these camps can be found at the Recreation Department, Town Hall, Tuttle Library and online at antrimnh.org.

Swimming lessons for children ages 4 through 12, American Red Cross Level 1 through early Level 4, will take place at Gregg Lake Beach during the month of July. Lessons will be offered in the afternoons, Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 5–28. Lessons for Antrim Residents are \$15, and for non-residents, \$25. We will have swimming lesson registrations and a Beach Opening celebration party at Gregg Lake, on Saturday, June 25. Watch the board at the lake and the town website for details.

We are excited about a new **jump rope clinic** to be offered twice this summer, and combined with a Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser. Kids will get a chance to learn cool jump roping tricks, and also spend some time off this summer fundraising for the American Heart Association. The Jump In clinic will be led by Sarah Spires, an 11-year-old state, regional and national jump rope champion! Sarah spends her summers on

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Gregg Lake, and we are delighted that she is giving time this summer to teach us some jump roping wizardry! The clinic is for boys and girls ages 6 and up. Our first clinic will be held on Thursday, July 7, 4:30–6:30 p.m., and the second on Thursday, July 21, 4:30–6:30 p.m. Sarah will be supported by Recreation Department staff and her Mom, Kim Spires. The cost for either clinic is \$5, and that buys you your own jump rope! More information on the clinic, as well as our Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser, is online at *antrimnh.org*. Kids participating in the Jump Rope for Heart program have a chance to learn about healthy hearts and helping others, and can earn prizes for their work collecting donations.

Tennis lessons will be offered by Greg Morris, a town resident who has coached tennis for many years. Please call the Recreation Department if you're interested in tennis lessons, so they can be scheduled at convenient times.

Finally, a word about our various **parks** around town. All parks have been designated **tobacco-free**. All parks are open to the public from **dawn to dusk, or 9 p.m.**, whichever is first.

Weather permitting, **Gregg Lake Beach** is staffed 7 days a week between June 15 and August 23. Hours vary slightly depending on the day and the weather, and there is not always a lifeguard on duty. Although all Antrim parks have been designated tobacco-free, Gregg Lake Beach does have one small area designated for tobacco use. Other rules for the use of Gregg Lake include: **No glass bottles, no pets** between May 1 and October 1, **no alcohol, parking permit** required (free for Antrim Residents, \$5 per day or \$25 per season for non-residents). In addition, Gregg Lake is a **carry in, carry out** facility. While trash cans are there to prevent littering, we request that groups carry out their own trash, particularly for group gatherings and parties. We are recruiting volunteers to learn about "**Lake Hosting**"—a stewardship activity at the boat launch, where boaters from near and far are provided with educational material and conversation on best practices for preventing the spread of nuisance aquatic species. We will have local training in Antrim on Saturday, June 25. Please contact Celeste at the Recreation Department if you are interested. We are once again honored

to have received a grant from the New Hampshire Lakes Association to support the operation of the Lake Host program at the Gregg Lake boat launch.

Memorial Park in downtown Antrim provides a nice space for enjoying the Mill Pond, playing tennis or pickleball (that's what those funny yellow lines are for), enjoying the bucolic setting of the bandstand, riding scooters and skateboards on the ramps at the skate park, shooting hoops, fishing and more.

Shea Field is our beautiful athletic field on School Street. The field is a great size for ultimate Frisbee, and there is a baseball diamond and plenty of room for playing soccer. To use the field for a group activity, contact the Recreation Department to see what time is available.

Many programs are added to the schedule as the summer gets closer. Please watch the town website and the bulletin board at Town Hall to learn about movies, special events, fall soccer signups and more. You can reach us at the Recreation Department by calling 588-3121, or emailing us at *antrimrecreation@tds.net*. ❁

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Please join the Antrim Historical Society as they celebrate Independence Day, Monday, July 4, at the Bandstand on Jameson Avenue. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., we will be serving coffee, tea and baked goods. At 9:00 a.m., a well-known Antrim musical group will perform some popular patriotic songs. At 9:30 a.m., the colors will be presented and we'll lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. Promptly at 9:45 a.m., members of the Antrim Players will read the Declaration of Independence, followed by more refreshments. This event is free and open to the public of all ages, rain or shine. The Historical Society would like to welcome everyone to attend this Antrim tradition.

For more information, contact Bill Nichols, Vice President, Antrim Historical Society, at 588-6539 or 831-9733 or *boleywnic@gmail.com*. ❁

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THE VIEW FROM THE ICEHOUSE

Frank Malinoski

There is no doubt that when traveling along Route 9 past Franklin Pierce Lake once in a while you've noticed the sign for Icehouse Road. Perhaps you've wondered about what's at the end and what the Icehouse looks like. In the past large blocks of ice were carved from the lake surface and brought to the Icehouse for storage and transport to homes and businesses. While harvesting ice has gone away, the Icehouse was converted to a summer and then an all-season home. Several years ago new owners moved in and have made this their year 'round home. In doing so they have also become another set of our eyes and ears as to the lake's seasons.

Perhaps you haven't been out to the lake this winter—the ice wasn't strong enough for snowmobiles most of the winter, and you're waiting for the water level to rise for launching your boat. Here are some observations from those Icehouse owners, Randy and Kathy Allen, and others who are loyal members of the Franklin Pierce Lake Association, the lake's stewards of information and efforts to protect the waters, wildlife, and shores of this precious resource.

Waters: The water level in the lake was dropped by Ever-source (formerly PSNH) 15 to 20 feet during the winter, exposing a wide swath of the shoreline and the full "bodies" of many boulders that return to hiding as the spring waters return. The waters had their revenge on some properties, with the owners still trying to locate at least one dock that broke loose from its mooring and floated away and a swim dock that got loose. Now that water levels are rising, some 8 pontoon boats and 4 speedboats have already launched from Manahan, while a few bass boats have come and gone and one of the seaplanes has been practicing takeoffs.

Wildlife: While the fishing in April and early May has been slow, you'll be pleased to know that NH Fish and Game stocked 400 rainbows and 400 brown trout, all 6 to 8 inches, in the lake near Manahan in May. Sunfish are returning to docks, anticipating worms and breadballs from our summer fishing apprentices. An active flock of common mergansers spent many weeks feeding across all 500 acres of the lake during the winter. Folks marveled at their synchronized diving to herd their meals of small fish (likely perch) and on several occasions our resident bald eagle(s) were seen swooping in to take their own quarry back to their nest in the hills overlooking the lake. Now that spring is here several loons have been sighted and we look forward to them nesting off of Breezy Point. And on the shores red fox have entertained those eager for winter's end.

Shoreline: When you make your way to Manahan boat launch you will now be greeted 24/7 by a new bulletin board funded and built by one of Hillsboro's Eagle Scouts. Here you'll find information about the lake, about keeping our waters free of invasive plants, a map of the lake, various postings courtesy of the Franklin Pierce Lake Association,

and a common area where you can post information or post about things that may be lost that you'd like help finding. Returning to the lake you will want to check out the new home built off of Marina Road and the shoreline repairs across from Breezy Point.

Your Franklin Pierce Lake Association has not been idle in the quiet winter months. We have successfully obtained our annual grant from the New Hampshire Lakes Association to support funding of our Lake Host Program to educate visitors and boaters on how they can help keep the lake waters clean. Plans for the Annual July 4th Boat Parade, Annual Meeting with Pot-luck dinner and auction, Boat-In Concert on the Lake, and membership drive are all gearing up for the summer months. We continue to have residents and visitors share stunning photos, commentary, and updates on topics like the cell phone tower issue through our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/fpiercelake/>). Please join us there and on the lake.

Your friends at the FPLA. ❀

COMMUNITY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Charlie Boucher

Community Vacation Bible School is coming to Antrim! "Cave Quest: Following Jesus the Light of the World" will be held July 18–22, at The Antrim Baptist Church from 5:00–8:00 p.m. each evening.

This fun-filled week begins each night with a free dinner for the family. Then people gather together for "Sing and Play Rock" with songs and skits. The children then go to their stations—Deep Bible Quests, Cave Crafts, Spelunker Sports, Cavern Café, and KidVid Cinema. The Adults even have their own group they attend. Everyone then reconvenes for Cave Quest Closing. The evening ends at 8:00.

VBS is a joint effort of The Antrim Baptist and The First Presbyterian Churches. Ages 3–99 are invited to be a part of "Cave Quest." Please call 588-6614 for more information and if you wish to register your child. ❀

WANTED

Have you or a family member got a great story or tale about an event or person of interest in Antrim? If so, we would love to hear from you. Your stories about old-time happenings are of interest to us. We can interview you and even leave you with a copy of the interview as a family memento. How 'bout it folks? Don't be shy. We love all things (and people) historical.

Contact Kathi Wasserloos at kathiwasserloos@hotmail.com or 588-2253, or any other member of the Antrim Historical Society Board (see www.antrimhistoricalsociety.org).

ANTRIM-BENNINGTON LIONS CLUB

Steve Ullman, First Vice-President

Community Spirit Award

Early in May, the Antrim Grange informed the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club that the Grange had decided to honor our group with a special Community Spirit Award at the Grangers' annual Community Awards Night. Though we derive much satisfaction from our eye screening and other community activities, the fact the Grange chose to salute us was most heartening.

Community Activities

To celebrate Arbor Day, the A-B Lions presented saplings to the third and fourth graders at the Antrim Elementary School and the Pierce Elementary School in Bennington. John Robertson received and delivered the trees; Sarah Edwards made all the arrangements with the teachers; and Bob Edwards and Sue Conklin presented the trees. AES teacher Mrs. Colby showed her students a picture of a tree in her yard which had been given to her children just like the ones that we Lions had distributed.

Lions Club Speakers Series

One of the purposes of American service clubs is to provide a forum for respected speakers. The Reverends Peter and Jan Howe spoke to us in February on their decisions to enter the clergy, their varied roles in the community, and the evolving character of American Protestant churches.

In March, Rebecca Rule addressed us on the history of the New Hampshire Town Meeting. As we anticipated, Ms. Rule was both hilarious and illuminating as she guided us through colorful happenings at the Granite State's unique expression of direct democracy.

In April, Representative Marjorie Porter updated us on proceedings in the state legislature. Ms. Porter has served as both the Chair and Ranking Member of the Municipal and County Government Committee, an assignment of considerable relevance to residents of Antrim and Bennington. While I had been aware the State Reps receive only a \$100 annual salary, I did not realize that they had to pay personally for

their own distinctive license plates, badges, and stationery. Given these financial realities, it appears that our legislators actually have to pay out of pocket for the privilege of representing us.

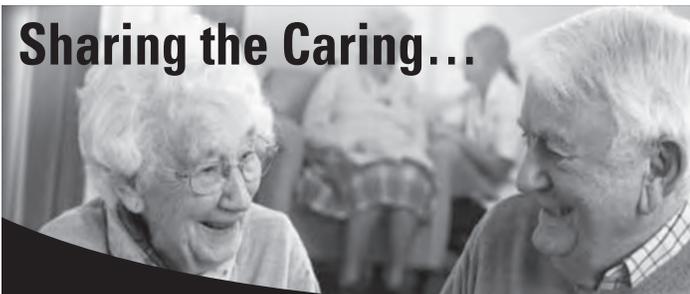
Dick and Robin Loveland

When the Lovelands returned from their Florida vacation, they told us that they would be moving away from Antrim. The Lovelands have been instrumental in mounting and sustaining the A-B Lions' eye screening activities which have safeguarded the vision of thousands of children. Dick actually wrote the book on how to operate the advanced technology which we employ, and Robin was a steady, resourceful leader as we Lions administered our examinations. For this and for their many other contributions to the Club and community, we will greatly miss them.

Join Us

If you are interested in joining our dedicated crew and thereby helping with our community service programs, please contact any A-B Lion. Our meetings are generally held at Antrim's First Presbyterian Church on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. ❁

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AVENUE A TEEN & COMMUNITY CENTER Reflections, and Looking Ahead

Heidi Schultz

As some of you may know, I will be moving on as the Coordinator of Avenue A this June. It is certainly with mixed emotions. The past two+ years have been filled with fun and a lot of learning. While I will remain involved with The Grapevine and Avenue A as a volunteer, I have decided to focus my energies on healing from chronic Lyme disease and one of its co-infections.

I have to admit that what I will miss most about this job is the connections that I've made with the youth, as well as the staff and supporters of The Grapevine. This past Friday night at Avenue A was a bittersweet evening for me. Several of us were watching a Star Wars movie on our new HD TV, others were enjoying the computers, while across the room there were others painting. I thought to myself, "Wow, this is a real place." This is exactly the kind of place that I had hoped it would be when I first started. We want this to be a safe space where young people can simply hang out, have fun and be themselves.

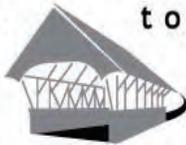
Some of the accomplishments that I'm most proud of in my tenure at Avenue A are the important relationships that I have built with the youth, the creation of the after-school

Avenue A Club for GBS middle schoolers, modernizing the space, and bringing in fantastic technical upgrades. In the past year we've received computers, generously repurposed by Tom Griggs, and a big screen TV donated by Bruce French. I'm also proud of my involvement with substance misuse and mental health groups, like Antrim's very own HOPE committee, Monadnock Community Hospital's Be The Change Taskforce, and the hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment feedback team. These are initiatives with which I will continue to stay involved into the future.

Finally, I want to mention how much I've enjoyed working with so many people from the Antrim community. I feel like Antrim has become my second home, and I thank you all for your ideas, time and support. As I look ahead, I'm excited for the next Coordinator to continue these efforts, and create some new ones of his or her own. The Grapevine would like to bring in someone with programming experience to fill the position, as well as expand open hours after school. We are also hoping to enhance our fundraising efforts, so that we can continue to grow, which includes more rentals of the space by groups. If you have a talent or skill that you would like to share with middle or high school-aged children, or wish to volunteer at Avenue A, please be sure to contact The Grapevine. I look forward to remaining connected to this very special community through my volunteer efforts. Have a great summer! ❁

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ANTRIM ECLECTIC BOOK CLUB

Coordinator: Steve Ullman

For 2016, our merry band of bibliophiles selected books that The Modern Library listed as being among the 100 best novels ever written in the English language. Rest assured, however, that we did steer clear of lengthy novels.

On April 16th we dissected John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. Although high school and college English departments are fond of assigning this book, this did not discourage us. The book's continuing relevance to the economic problems that our country confronts today, as well as Steinbeck's compelling prose, reminded us of why Henry Fonda (a very young Henry Fonda) chose to star in the renowned film version.

On May 19th we explored D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, which was extremely controversial when first published in 1913. The notice I posted around town stated: "While the novel initially incited a lukewarm critical reception, along with allegations of obscenity, it is today regarded as a masterpiece by many critics and is often regarded as Lawrence's finest achievement."

On June 16th we will tackle Dashiell Hammett's *The*

Maltese Falcon (only 217 pages long). Many readers will remember the renowned film noir adaptation directed by John Huston and haunted by Peter Lorre as the astonishingly creepy villain who tries to hire Sam Spade (played by Humphrey Bogart) to reclaim "a black figure of a bird."

And finally, on July 21st we will examine Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning *To Kill a Mockingbird* (384 pages). With the recent death of Harper Lee, Americans were once again reminded how immensely influential this book has been since its publication in 1960.

So if you are looking for thought-provoking discussions of our culture's most notable fiction, please join us between 11 a.m. and noon at the Antrim First Presbyterian Church on the dates listed above.

Copies of these books will be available at the Tuttle Library thanks to Melissa Lawless.

For additional information please call Steve Ullman at 588-2005 or email him at sullman@brockport.edu. Please join our low-key, informal conversations. ☘

This photograph that appears to be Antrim High School circa 1930 was uncovered by Liz Robertson. She thinks she can identify Forrest Tenney, Rachel Caughey, Robert Caughey, Judy Pratt and Margaret Pratt. Can anyone add more id's? Send names to editor@antrimlimrik.org.



4TH ANNUAL AES FOOD DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS

Brady Proctor, AES Graduate and GBS Student

This was the 4th year that AES provided our community with food through the *Cans Can Help* food drive. This was our largest food drive yet, doubling last year's record total! This year AES worked together to collect 2,183 food items for the Antrim Bennington Food Pantry located at the Antrim Baptist Church. The AES PTO graciously matched each food item with a 25 cent donation. This was given to the food pantry at South Meadow School. The PTO contributed \$545.75 to fight hunger! By donating the food to our local pantry and the money to a district school food pantry AES helps feed many people throughout our community and brings together our school district.

It is amazing how hard the students worked to gather food items. Our biggest contributing class brought in over 900 items! Seven different classes brought in over 100 food items each! We had 111 different people contribute to the food drive



which means nearly everyone participated! AES teachers work hard to show students the value of kindness. One way they do this is by giving out eagles for kind, cooperative, and honest acts. This year there was a new challenge. Any student who was awarded a kindness eagle was also handed a food item to add to their class boxes. There were 199 kindness eagles given out over the course of the food drive. There is a lot of kindness in this school! We all hope the AES students can realize how important kindness is to others and that even a small act of donating a can of food can make a difference.

The *Cans Can Help* food drive has become a yearly event to help feed our community. We know there are a lot of grateful people in town and would like to thank AES's teachers, staff, students, and families. Thank you for your kindness! ❁

LIMRIK WEBSITE

The staff of the *Limrik* is pleased to announce the launch of our own website. The main function of the site is to provide access to information about the *Limrik* and especially to serve as an archive for back issues of our publication. Please visit the new site at www.antrimlimrik.org. Comments about the website may be emailed to webmaster@antrimlimrik.org.

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HOPE IN THE FACE OF THE DRUG CRISIS

Marcia Ullman

By now everyone is well aware that we face a drug crisis in our state. We cannot pick up a newspaper or turn on the news without learning about another overdose or death related to drugs. Tragically, even here in our idyllic hamlet, we had two drug-related deaths last year.

I would venture to say that everyone reading this article has been touched, in some way, by the negative effects of alcohol and other drugs (including tobacco), either as a result of personal experience or that of a family member or friend. In the face of this stark reality, parents often feel at a loss about what they can do to help their children make wise decisions.

Last month was National Alcohol Awareness Month sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Inc. (NCADD). The focus of the campaign was on prevention, and the theme was: "Talk Early, Talk Often." NCADD offered the following guidelines for parents:

Listen Before You Talk -- Encourage Conversation: As parents we want to have "all the answers." And, sometimes we are so anxious to share our wisdom – or our opinion – that we don't take the time to listen. For kids, knowing that we are really listening is the most important thing we can do to help.

Talk to Your Child and Ask Open Ended Questions: Talk to your child regularly – about their feelings, their friends, their activities. As much as you can, and sometimes it's not easy, try to avoid questions that have a simple "yes" or "no" answer.

Be Involved: Get to know your child's friends and continue to educate your child about the importance of maintaining good health – psychological, emotional and physical.

Set Expectations, Limits and Consequences: Make it clear that you do not want your child drinking or using drugs and that you trust them not to. Talk about possible consequences, both legal and medical, and be clear about what you will do if the rules are broken.

Be Honest and Open: Care about what your child is going through as they face and make decisions that will affect their lives now and for the future.

Be Positive: Many parents have discovered that talking about these issues with their children has built bridges rather than walls between them and have proudly watched those children learn to make healthy, mature decisions on their own.

Family History: Both research and personal experience have clearly documented that **addiction is a chronic, progressive disease** that can be linked to family history and genetics. So, if you have a family history of problems with alcohol or drugs, be matter-of-fact about it, as you would any other chronic disease, such as heart disease, diabetes or cancer.

"Alcohol and drug use is a very risky business for young people," says Andrew Pucher, President and Chief Executive Officer of NCADD, "and parents can make a difference. **The longer children delay drinking and drug use, the less likely they are to develop any problems associated with it.** That's why it is so important to help your child make smart decisions about alcohol and drugs."

There are several community based initiatives which focus on prevention:

The Grapevine, our Family and Community Resource Center, in partnership with GBS, AES, the PTOs and the Bank of New Hampshire, routinely offers a reasonably priced program entitled "Guiding Good Choices." This nationally based program for parents of 9-14 year olds helps parents to: "Build and practice the family management and communication skills that help reduce your child's risk for using alcohol, tobacco and other drugs."

The HOPE Committee (Health, Opportunity, Prevention and Education) meets monthly to address drug-related issues and is always interested in having new members. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact Marcia Ullman at 588-2005.

The "Be The Change" committee, which originated at Monadnock Community Hospital, is made up of local professionals and concerned citizens. This committee offers ongoing educational programs. One such program is a free movie and discussion the last Tuesday of each month at the Peterborough Community Theatre. One month the movie deals with a drug-related topic and the next month, a behavioral health issue.

By taking action, together, we can prevent more individuals from falling victim to drugs. As Joseph Maloy Roach wrote in his 1950's lyrics, "If everyone lit just one little candle what a bright world this would be!" ❁

Have you seen what's new this week?

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THE GRAPEVINE

Melissa Gallagher

To Friends and Supporters of The Grapevine and Avenue A Teen and Community Center:

For the past two years, Heidi Schultz has led Avenue A Teen and Community Center with energy, creativity and passion. Under her leadership, Avenue A has furthered its outreach and connections within our community - including schools, service organizations and other key partners. Heidi has represented Avenue A among various committees and task forces addressing the drug and opioid crisis in our community, as well as issues of mental and emotional health. Beyond this, Heidi has shown a wonderful ability to connect with youth and quickly earn their trust and respect. As of May 31, Heidi will step down from her role as Avenue A Coordinator. We are grateful for her work with us and wish her health and success in the personal and professional opportunities that lie ahead. Please join me in thanking Heidi for her work and dedication to Avenue A and The Grapevine. We know she will be missed!

We would be remiss not to mention that we will be searching for a new Coordinator of Avenue A. This is a part time position (approximately 12 - 15 hours per week) and a formal job announcement will be released soon. If you or someone you know may be interested, please email us at admin@grapevinenh.org or call 603-588-2620. Thank you for your support!

Spring Walk. By the time you read this, our Annual Spring Walk for Families will have come and gone. We thank those who collected pledges, participated and sponsored our walkers. We are well on our way to meeting the anonymous \$5,000 challenge grant that was generously renewed this year! We are also grateful to our many business supporters for their continued backing of our largest fundraising event, including **Bank of NH** for prize giveaways, **Edmunds Ace Hardware** and **Northern Vista Creative** for the Spring Garden Kits given to all children, **C&S Grocers** for donated food items, **High Tide Restaurant** for their donation of an ice cream sundae party for the team that raised the most in pledges, and **PG European Automotive** for their donation of oil changes. We couldn't have done it without our many volunteers, most notably our Parent Events Committee: **Eren Pils-Martin, Jenn Fessenden, Jessica Ethier, Molly Cook** and **Sue Conklin**.

Black Fly Community Art Show, Saturday, June 4. Join us between 10 a.m. & noon to view works of art by children, youth and adults in our community. People of all ages are invited to participate by making projects at the various arts and crafts stations.

Yard Sale to benefit The Learning Vine Preschool, **Saturday, June 18, from 8:30-noon** (rain date June 19) in The Grapevine parking lot. Loads of treasures and bargains! Donations of new and like-new items are welcome—please call 588-2620 before you donate.

Grapevine Summer Hours: July 5 – August 24, Monday – Wednesday from 9 a.m. – noon, or by appointment.

Pay It Forward. Looking for a way to volunteer but not sure who needs what you have to offer? Need a hand with something but don't know anyone who has the skill or time to help? Summer is a great time to join the People's Service Exchange and get connected. Call Nancy at 588-2620 or visit pse-nh.org.

Thank you...

Rick and Diane Davis for once again hosting *Eat Out for The Grapevine* and donating \$400 to support our programs. **Fiddlehead's Café and Catering, The Common Place Eatery** and **The Hancock Inn** joined Rick and Diane's this year for a total donation of \$1,060!

Jess Pescitelli and **Emily Dean** for volunteering this year in our Better Beginnings program.

Tom Badgley and **Rick Edmunds** for their donation of time and supplies for our new vegetable garden at the Grapevine, created in recognition of Kristen Vance and family! We also thank **Ideal Compost** for their donation of soil mix and **Joan Gorga** for a wide assortment of vegetable plants to get us started. If you are interested in helping maintain the garden over the summer, please call the Grapevine.

Larry Schwartz for serving 59 families at the Grapevine this spring doing tax preparation.

Finally, it is with deep gratitude and respect that we acknowledge the passing of Antrim resident **Betty Avery**. Betty was a devoted supporter of The Grapevine and one of its founding members. Indeed, she is remembered as the person who was inspired to name us "The Grapevine" to reflect *spreading vines of support and reaching those in need*. We remember Betty for all the ways she worked to create *community* in Antrim and beyond.

Summer Adventures at The Grapevine

Please ask about financial aid if your family cannot afford the full fee. Call 588-2620 for more information and to register.

Backyard Adventures for children ages 4½ to 6 years. Led by Carol Lunan M.Ed., Learning Vine teacher. Activities include investigating flying creatures, creepy crawlers and swimming bugs; exploring mud and water; and scavenger hunts, hikes, nature stories, songs, crafts and paint-

 — continued

ing. This is a wonderful opportunity for young children to discover the natural world—and their place in it!—with their peers under the guidance of our early childhood educators. **July 11–15, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$110.** Parents may drop off their children or stay.

Backyard Science for 7-9 year olds with Carol Lunan, back by popular demand! Nature exploration through the lens of science. Daily challenges and science experiments will pique the children’s natural curiosity. Activities include camp songs and games, scavenger hunts, and science through art and play with mud and water. **July 18-22 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost: \$130.**

Backyard Art Adventures for 4½–7 year olds with Amy Doyle and Carol Lunan, both Grapevine early childhood educators. No skills needed, just come create for the fun of it! Explore with art materials and everyday objects: soap, spatulas, paint, small cars, straws, cups, and other things that we think of. Have fun while creating projects and doing some messy outdoor art. **July 25–29 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$65.**



Tori Gelinas, son Cooper and daughter Avery of Hillsboro, enjoy The Grapevine Spring Walk for Families. (Photo by Michael Pon.)

Now Enrolling for September

Call 588-2620 for further information or to register.

Better Beginnings Parent-Child Program—Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30—Children to age 5 play and explore with guidance from our early childhood educators while parents talk with parenting educator Carol Lunan, M.Ed., or Nancy Macalaster, M.A., and other parents about child- and family-centered topics.

Better Beginnings for Babies—Wednesdays—Parents come together with infants and young toddlers to play and talk with our early childhood educator and other parents about the joys and challenges of parenthood, including topics such as nutrition, breast and bottle feeding, crying, sleep issues (for baby and parents!), developmental expectations and more. Facilitated by Parenting Educator Nancy Macalaster, MA. Parents with babies who are crawling and young toddlers meet from 10–11:30 a.m. and parents with younger babies meet from 1–2:30 p.m. Expectant parents are always welcome.

Learning Vine Preschool—Looking for a preschool program for your child who will be 3½ to 5 years old in the fall? Choose two or three mornings a week, with afternoon enrichment in the spring to prepare for Kindergarten.

Before and After School Clubs—Before and after school care Monday through Friday for elementary or GBS students, with time to finish homework, play games, and enjoy other outdoor and indoor activities. Children currently enrolled have priority until June 15.

Avenue A Club for GBS students—Runs October–May on Wednesdays from 2:15 to 4. Snacks, fun, homework help, games, pool, foosball, crafts. Registration forms available at The Grapevine or at www.GrapevineNH.org.

Services Available at The Grapevine...

- Community Wood Bank: we’re looking for summer donations of firewood – preferably split and ready to be stacked!
- Child and family counseling through Monadnock Family Services
- Information and supported referral for resources to meet basic needs such as housing, home heating and food
- Tax preparation and financial planning
- Home visiting support

The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located at 4 Aiken Street, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 588-2620. Tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted at PO Box 637, Antrim, or drop by the center at 4 Aiken Street (behind the library). Visit us on www.GrapevineNH.org and “like” us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/grapevinenh.org/>. ☘

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