



Rick Edmunds presents a check to Grapevine staff from Edmunds Hardware for \$1,500.00, a result of their Ladies' Night and Customer Roundup events! Photo by Carol Lunan

TOWN ELECTION DAY
March 14 • 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

TOWN MEETING
March 16 • 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

Open House Weekend
MARCH 18-19

Antrim Maple Sugar Houses
Charlie Levesque

Maple Sugar House open houses are happening in Antrim and all over in NH this month. Maple Weekend is March 18-19, 2023, but call your favorite sugar house to make sure they are open so you can visit. Consider stopping by at Antrim's Sugar Houses for maple goodness!

Tap and Sap Sugar House
Location: 34 Turner Hill Road
Phone: 603-731-5128
Proprietor: Gene Willett

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Candidates for Town Offices

Town elections will be held on Tuesday, March 14, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall. Candidates for town offices were contacted via the email address they gave when filing and given the opportunity to submit short statements introducing themselves and summarizing their motivation for running.

SELECTBOARD

3-year term, 1 open position

John Robertson

WHY WOULD I SEEK REELECTION? The answer is a simple one, continuity and experience for the town of Antrim Board of Selectmen. We have three very dedicated people as your selectmen.

Over the past three years there have been several changes to town leadership. Two selectmen have resigned and Donna Hanson retired as your Town Administrator.

In August 2021 Bob Edwards submitted his resignation that was accepted by the Board. Michael Ott was appointed to replace Bob. Mike is a great asset to the Board.

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Limrik Staff

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The Limrik was founded November 1991 by Beverly Tenney, Lois Harriman, and Nancy Timko.

The Limrik is published quarterly: March, June, September, and December and is delivered free to every mailing address in Antrim. The Limrik does not receive any town funds and is supported entirely by subscription and advertising revenue.

— SUBSCRIPTIONS —

Subscriptions are available at \$20 for one year and \$35 for two years. Please make checks payable to the Antrim Limrik and mail order to: *Subscriptions*
Antrim Limrik
PO Box 84
Antrim, NH 03440

— ADVERTISING RATES —

Half page (back page only) SIZE: 5" H x 7 1/2" W
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Quarter page SIZE: 5" H x 3 5/8" W
\$50 per issue

Business Card SIZE: 2 3/16" H x 3 5/8" W
\$35 per issue or
\$125 for 4 issues

Required file format: PDF or JPEG

Advertising copy is due February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Ad content is subject to approval by the Managing Editor and the Business Manager. For more information, contact Frank Gorga at: 603-588-2569 or by email at: business@antrimlimrik.org.

— SUBMISSIONS —

The Limrik welcomes submissions of articles, drawings, photographs, news and calendar items by, for and about the people of Antrim. Submission deadlines are February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10. Submissions should be no more than 1500 words in length and should be submitted in digital form as a Microsoft Word-compatible document attached to an email. Submissions should be sent by email to Joan Gorga at: editor@antrimlimrik.org. Call 603-588-2569 for more information or to discuss ideas.

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

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

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

Antrim Sugar Houses continued from page 1

Chris-Mich 3 Farm

Location: 285 Elm Ave
Phone: 603-588-2157
Proprietors: Bernadette and Ernest Todd

Old Pound Road Sugar House

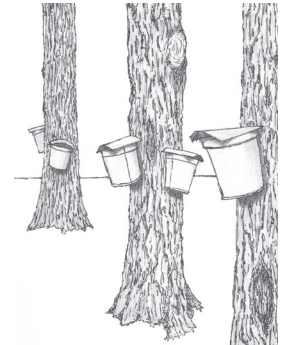
Location: 37 Old Pound Road
Phone: 603-588-3272
Proprietors: Charles Levesque and Galen Kilbride

Patten Hill Farm

Location: 133 West Street
Phone: 603-588-2122
Proprietor: Gordon Webber

Redneck Sugarhouse

Location: 30 Pleasant Street
Phone: 603-440-9511
Proprietor: David Belliveau



Gone Fishin'?

A bobhouse had been dropped off at the boat launch to await safe ice on Gregg Lake. One frigid day I was walking by and noticed that it had been blocked in by two pickup trucks. I was worrying that the owner might not be able to access the bobhouse to move it out onto the ice when I noticed several silhouettes inside. I wonder what tales those guys told their wives about the fishing that day? ☐

CORRECTION: On page 15 in the December *Limrik*, we misspelled the name of the fallen Korean War soldier for whom the Meyers-Prescott-Olson American Legion Post 50 was named. His name was Lelon Olson, not Leland. Our sincere apologies to the Olson family.

HARDING Plumbing & Heating

We are committed to careful service during this critical time. **Stay safe.**

588-2442

NH License #2456

December 2021 brought the retirement of Donna Hanson and the hiring of Russell McAllister as our new Town Administrator. Russ has many years experience in municipal government. He is another great addition to the team.

Summer of '22 brought the resignation of Tom Davis. Donna Hanson was appointed to replace Tom. She is a great asset to the Board given her experience as Town Administrator

With the many challenges facing our town in the next three years it is very important that we keep this team in place. We are aware of these challenges and are ready to manage them to the benefit of everyone.

As always, I am grateful for your support.

Robert L. Edwards

I am excited to once again run for the position of Selectman. Having not been able to complete my second term, I have taken the opportunity to keep informed and participate in municipal affairs by attending most of the Select Board and other town board meetings throughout 2022.

For those who aren't familiar with me, I have lived in Antrim for 53 years and have served as a Selectman, Planning Board Chairman, and was a Trustee of Trust Funds member for 28 years. I also currently serve as an official member of the Assessing Standards Board in Concord. In terms of other community service, I have been a member of the Lions Club for 51 years in service to our community.

Being a Select Board member in the 21st century has evolved dramatically since I moved to town. The municipal operating environment of today requires a considerable giving of one's time and goes far beyond attending meetings. It requires independent research with NH laws, following crucial House and Senate bills that affect towns, continuing education to understand and implement improved administrative policies and procedures, including budgeting.

A Select Board member in today's world must have the time and desire to embrace new best practices that are connected to so many components of town government. Implementing current best practices that are appropriate for Antrim serve well our residents and our taxpayers.

Challenges continue to place stress on our town and school district budgets and that is not going to subside in the near term.

Antrim, like so many other small communities, are facing less financial support from Concord, and we must always think smarter in the best interests of our fiscal management. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve our great town for another three years.

1-year term, 1 open position

William Bryk

William Bryk graduated from Manhattan College and Fordham University School of Law. He worked for the City of New York in jobs ranging from file clerk to disciplinary

prosecutor to Administrative Law Judge to Special Assistant to the City Council President. He's presently retired and an inactive member of the New Hampshire and New York bars.


He lives on Clinton Road with his wife, Mimi Kramer-Bryk, a retired educator and cultural critic. He serves Antrim as a Supervisor of the Checklist, working to ensure honest elections. He's served Antrim in several other offices, including vice chair of the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Library Trustee.

A former speechwriter, Bill contributes articles to *The Limrik*, Antrim's town quarterly, and frequently publishes in *The Daily Beast* and *Splice Today*. He began learning to ride at the age of 62, knows from experience that the hardest thing about riding is the ground, and happily admits that he's learned more than a bit about humans while working with horses.

The State legislature in Concord imposes unfunded mandates on Antrim's taxpayers. They compel the Town government to do things without providing the money to do them. The consequence is ever rising local taxes. From chatting with his neighbors, Bill sees that many seriously fear being taxed out of their homes.

Bill knows from direct observation and conversation with Town employees that there is little waste in the Town's

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budget. As a member of the Capital Improvement Planning Committee in 2020 and 2021, he saw how the Town's workers strive to make do with little while striving to budget for replacing worn-out equipment, from trucks and compactors to buildings. The problem is expenses imposed on us by Concord. Bill will fight for our Town and other small Towns to maintain fiscal discipline and against unfunded mandates.

Donna Hanson

Antrim is a wonderful small town with a long history of good people making good things happen.

After serving as Antrim's Town Administrator until my retirement in December of 2021, I was asked to fill a Select Board position left vacant by a resignation. It was a new challenge and a way to continue serving the town I love. And, with my unique experience as a seventeen-year Town employee, it seemed a good next step.

I have not been disappointed. Helping our town navigate the challenges of the pandemic, rampant inflation, and reduced state aid, while maintaining vital services for our residents has been a difficult but highly rewarding experience. The many dedicated residents and employees who help make our town what it is, know that it takes hard work to keep our town a wonderful place to live.

Now, I would like to continue serving Antrim as your elected Selectman. My vision for our town is to continually improve the community by providing the support and infrastructure needed by our residents and local businesses. Well-maintained roads and bridges, strong and caring law enforcement, outstanding volunteer emergency medical and fire departments, award winning public water supply and treatment facilities, and so much more all contribute to the pride we feel for Antrim.

If you agree that Antrim is a great place to live and you want us to continue improving our town, please vote for me on Tuesday, March 14th. We need consistency, stability and commitment in our Select Board. I believe that with Mike Ott, John Robertson, and me we have that. Our interests are aligned to do what is best for our town. I am proud to call Antrim home and I need your vote.

Tamasine Wood-Creighton

As a retired Lieutenant Colonel, USArmy and my husband a retired Colonel, USArmy, we could have picked anywhere in America for our last move; Antrim was our pick. We purchased land and built a house, started two businesses, and got involved in the Church and the local Lions Club as well as the American Legion. My focus has always been to serve where I live; be part of the solution for the success of all! The Selectmen run the town ensuring that funds and assets made available to them by the taxpayers of Antrim are appropriately managed. I believe my background in the military as well as running a small business with my husband and serving as the Treasurer for the An-

trim-Bennington Lions club for the past 3 years has provided me with ample training to oversee assets and judge actions as appropriate or not. Two areas that I would like to concentrate my efforts on during the one year office is creating some kind of tax relief for retired citizens who are on a fixed income and to improve cell phone service coverage in the Antrim township. I will work tirelessly for the people of Antrim if elected to this important position as Selectman of the Town. Thank You for your consideration.

PLANNING BOARD

3-year term, 2 open positions

Kenneth Rubin

My name is Ken Rubin, and my wife Jenine and I moved to Antrim from Colorado in June 2022. We are the proud parents of two adult sons and two dogs. I joined the Antrim Planning Board as an alternate in October 2022 and became a board member in December when I assumed the remainder of a retiring member's term. My desire is to help Antrim maintain its unique character while supporting orderly growth and development. I am excited about the prospect of continuing a productive working relationship with the other dedicated Planning Board members. This February I also joined the board of the Antrim Historical Society. My background is in computer science, and I own an agile training and consulting business. In the past I have served on the board of directors of private companies and was the managing director of a large non-profit organization.

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

3-year term, 1 open position

Michael Connolly

I am again seeking your vote as a Trustee of the Trust Funds having served the last three years. The trustees are charged with the custody and management of the town's charitable and capital reserve trusts. The charitable trust fund is managed as an investment pool with RBC Wealth Management. Trust income is distributed to the Tuttle Library,

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Main Street
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Fax: 603-588-3036
appleshedrealty@tds.net

Paul E. Hardwick, Broker
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Maria Isotti, Realtor • 603-533-5413
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News From Your Antrim Community Board

Gordon Allen

Swap Shop—The Swap Shop is opening in March after taking a winter recess in January and February. Our Swap Shop Team of twenty volunteers is a dedicated and hardy bunch, but without heat or electricity in the Swap Shop, they decided to take a winter break and reopen in March when it's warmer and brighter.

Antrim Welcome Project—The project started handing out Welcome Bags to new residents this fall. These include small welcome gifts and information about the town and local businesses. The response has been positive all around. If you are a local business and you would like to include something in the Welcome Bags, please contact the Antrim Community Board, aka the ACB, at AntrimCB@tds.net. Also, if you are a new resident and are interested in meeting other new residents, then keep a lookout for meetings of the new Antrim Newcomers Club. The club had their first get-together at the library in February and learned a lot about their new town from the Historical Society. All newcomers are welcome. For information, contact Jenine Rubin at jwr@innolution.com.

Community Visioning Session—Don't miss the Community Visioning Session coming in April. This is sponsored by the Planning Board. It is a two-day session, similar to our "Antrim 2020" visioning session in 2016 where over eighty of us participated—and where we had a good time while doing good work for our town. (And the brownies were so good, they alone were a reason to attend.) It is scheduled for Friday night, April 14, and Saturday morning, April 15. Its purpose is to create a picture of what we want Antrim to look like in the future, and then sketch out a plan for making it happen. We will look at all the parts of our town that affect our quality of life in this process. This picture of our future will guide the Planning Board's 10-year Master Plan update focusing on our physical infrastructure. And it will also guide the ACB's 10-year Master Plan focusing on strengthening our civic, social, and health-care infrastructure. The sessions are a great opportunity to take stock of all the things that make Antrim a great place to call home... and then to outline a plan to build on those strengths to make our community an even better hometown for us all.

Community Connection Cards—Look for our 4" x 6" cards for you to fill out to provide the information we need to put you in our "community connection" loop. Once in the loop, we can send you opportunities to connect with people in town who share your interests and ideas. And as you might expect, we are especially interested in your ideas on community improvement projects you would like to see happen. Your information is confidential unless you give permission to release it. Even in a small town like ours, it's surprising how many of our fellow townspeople like to do

the same things we like to do—and who do some incredible (and often inspiring) things, including some amazing hobbies, talents, and accomplishments.

Below is the card we will be distributing. You can also email us with your information at AntrimCB@tds.net.

An Invitation to Connect with your Antrim Community Board

Greetings from the Antrim Community Board. We are a new Town board responsible for strengthening our Antrim community and social well-being. To do this, our most important job is to help people and families in town to connect with each other and with our community groups.

Developing community projects is a focus for us. Launching our Welcome Team has provided a way for new residents to feel more connected to all that Antrim has to offer. Building a database of people in town, complete with their talents and interests, provides the opportunity to build new relationships that are there in times of need or just simply for the social benefit of getting together. This also enables us to put together teams able to carry out community projects. The fact is, the more connected the Antrim community is, the better we feel about calling Antrim home. And research tells us the more connections we have, the healthier we are and the safer, more accepted, and supported we feel.

To make this work, please provide your contact information and whether you are willing to talk with us about your interests, talents, and ideas for projects.

Please fill out the other side of this card with your contact information.
Your information is confidential unless you give us permission to share it.

Please tell us how we can connect with you.

First and Last Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

OK to Email you? Yes No Phone you? Yes No

We would like to talk with you about your interests, talents, skills, experience, hobbies, and your ideas for community improvements.

OK to talk to you? Yes No

If Yes, how would you prefer we talk: By Phone By Zoom In person

Any Comments? _____

To return, please contact AntrimCB@tds.net or put it in the blue Welcome Box at the Town Office.

For more information about the Community Board including the survey questions we will be talking with you about: <https://www.antrimnh.org/antrim-community-board>

The ACB meets every fourth Wednesday from 5:30–7:00 p.m. in Little Town Hall. We invite you to come and share your ideas. See us at <https://www.antrimnh.org/antrim-community-board>. ☐

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Schools, Scholarship Committee, Town Poor, Town Recreation and Cemetery Trusts. The trustees manage investment funds for the Historical Society. The Capital Reserve Trusts are created and managed as a result of the Town Meeting. These funds are invested as separate accounts in The New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool. Trustee actions are subject to oversight by the Town Audit and The Charitable Trust Division of the NH Attorney General’s Office. Trustee meetings are held as required are public and posted according to “Right to Know” Law. Thank you and I would welcome your vote.

2-year term, 1 open position

Rosemary Novotny

Greetings Antrim Community. As a long time Antrim resident and trusted local banker, I am officially running for the Trustee of Trust Funds position I was appointed to last fall. It has always felt important to me to be immersed and involved in various ways. Some of you may know me as Rose from the bank, or you may have seen me and my family at the town beach, or recognize me from serving on a variety of boards or committees in town. My family and I love calling Antrim home! I am honored to be considered for such an important role and to have the opportunity to be connected to Antrim in a new way. Thank you friends and neighbors for your confidence in me.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

3-year term, 2 open positions

Nancy Frances Blair

Hello! I am Nancy F. Blair and have been a Library Trustee for the past three years. I would love to continue in this role as a Trustee for another three! The James A Tuttle Library is an amazing place and I want to continue to be a decision maker and facilitator in helping it to grow and be an integral part of the Antrim community. As a former teacher in the Conval District I am thrilled at the educational opportunities that the Tuttle offers to everyone in the community. The James A. Tuttle Library is an amazing place, and I wish to remain a part of all the wonderful things that happen there as one of its Trustees. Please consider a vote for me.

WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONER

3-year term, 1 open position

Melissa Lombard

I’m running for Water and Sewer Commissioner as a way to contribute to my local community in a capacity where I have knowledge and experience. I am employed as a research hydrologist and my professional career is focused on groundwater and drinking water quality. The Antrim Water

and Sewer district is in the midst of many large long-term projects and we have made significant progress with connecting the new water supply well to the distribution system, implementing energy cost savings, and developing plans for required improvements to the sewage treatment system. As the incumbent, I am very familiar with our ongoing projects and offer institutional knowledge and continuity. I will continue to address the issues facing the Antrim District and its customers in forward thinking and cost-conscious ways. Please vote in March!

COMMUNITY BOARD

3-year term, 2 open positions

Helene Newbold

Hello Friends and Neighbors! My name is Helene Newbold and I am running for a seat on the Antrim community Board. Many of you know me as I have lived in town for 43 years. I have served the community in various capacities in the past: Zoning Board of Adjustment, Presbyterian Church Treasurer, Middle School Math Teacher and now retired I serve on the Antrim Historical Society Board, volunteer at the Swap Shop and make blankets for Project Linus. My reason for running for this seat is to further support the people of this town. Neighbors helping neighbors makes a community and we have a wonderful community. Fostering positive new ideas and continuing some supports is what I hope to do.

Jenine Winesuff Rubin

I moved to Antrim from Colorado in June of 2022. My husband, Ken, and I have two adult sons and two childish dogs. I serve on the Boards of Directors for The Grapevine and Allotrope (a medical device company) and on the Steering Committees for 100+ Women Who Care–Monadnock and New Hampshire’s Women’s Investment Network. In 2021, I completed the Nonprofit Board Bound program, a six month course focused on developing the competencies, knowledge, and strategies necessary to be an efficient and productive Board Member. This year, I have worked with a

— continued on page 8

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Antrim Select Board

Michael Ott, Selectman

BRRRRRRR!!! That sure was a cold spell we had on February 4th with the mercury dipping down to -21°F in some parts of town. Thankfully, it seems Antrim fared no worse for the wear as hearty New England Yankees usually do. The Select Board has been busy staying warm as well with several different irons in the fire.

Town Meeting is coming up on March 16th with a slew of new Warrant Articles for your voting pleasure. We certainly hope each and every resident will be able to join us at Town Hall to discuss them.

The hearing for the Town's annual budget was a success with some excellent input from town department heads as well as members of the public. We would like to use \$250,000 of the Town's undesignated fund balance to increase the coffers of several capital accounts including the fire and police departments as well as highway and bridge funds. Please join us at Town Meeting to provide your input!

We were recently updated on the status of the High Street bridge with Quantum Engineering presenting its conceptual design of how the bridge will look and be constructed. Construction isn't slated to begin until summer 2024 so stay tuned for more information.

It's been a tough couple months for Town vehicles with one of the PD's cruisers being totaled along with one of the Highway Department's trucks. Additionally, several mechanical issues and a series of other unfortunate events have crippled some of the Highway fleet. Jim Plourde and the entire Highway team have been working tirelessly to maintain snow removal and ice control during the winter months while working to overcome these operational challenges. Residents' patience and understanding are greatly appreciated while we work to build back a robust fleet for all town departments.

The Select Board would also like to specially recognize the hard work and dedication of the Town Clerk Diane Chauncey and Assistant Town Clerk Crystal O'Brien through the changes over the last couple of months. Not only are Diane and Crystal both filling in with town planning assistant duties during that position's vacancy, but they have also successfully restarted extended hours on Monday evenings (now open till 6 p.m.!) to provide town clerk and tax collector services to residents after normal business hours. Thank you so much for your commitment to the Town and its residents.

I think it's safe to say that we are all looking forward to spring and the return of warmer temperatures. Despite the six more weeks of winter that Punxsutawney Phil predicted on Groundhog Day, I'm going to hope for a quicker warmup and not go with a giant ground squirrel type rodent with no degree in meteorology... Stay safe and warm out there and we'll see you at Town Meeting! ☐

Madelyn Curtis Klose Receives Boston Post Cane

Antrim's Boston Post Cane was presented to 98-year-old Madelyn Curtis Klose on February 19, 2023, at the Presbyterian Church, where the Select Board and the Antrim Historical Society welcomed friends and neighbors for a brief ceremony and reception.

The Boston Post Cane tradition began in 1909, when Edwin Grozier, the Publisher of the Boston Post, sent elegant gold-headed ebony canes to the selectboards of 700 New England towns, to be awarded to the oldest male citizen of the town. The canes were to be the property of the towns, and were to be handed down to the next-oldest resident upon the death of the recipient. In 1930, eligibility was opened to the oldest woman, as well.

The Boston Post went out of business in 1957, but at least 500 of the canes appear to still be in existence and many towns are still continuing the tradition of awarding them to their oldest resident. ☐



Madelyn Klose explains her ancestral connection to Antrim as she is awarded the Boston Post Cane as Antrim's oldest citizen. Photo by Frank Gorga.

Thank you ...

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

few others to startup the New to Antrim Group—a monthly meet up for new Antrim residents. I am running to join the Community Board to help continue to find new ways to make our town even more welcoming, enjoyable and vital.

Jennifer A. Adams

Jennifer A Adams has been an architectural-engineering consultant, author, and editor for 46 years. She moved to Antrim from Keene after retirement in April of 2020, and since then has joined the Antrim–Bennington Lions Club, the Friends of the James A Tuttle Library, the Swap Shop volunteers, is one of the leaders of the Antrim Newcomers Club, and is very active in local politics. She is still involved in UCC Keene activities and has been a member of their church choir for 25 years. Her goal as a Community Board member is to help facilitate the interaction of the Antrim Community Board with Antrim Town services and departments, local businesses, and fellow residents. She loves living in Antrim and doing what she can to help new friends discover their own “light under a bushel,” and find where to put it to good use in our community.

SCHOOL BOARD

3-year term, 1 open position

William Bryk

I am William Bryk. My wife Mimi and I live on Clinton Road near Old North Branch Road.

I regret that our neighbor and friend Steve Ullman is not seeking re-election to the Conval School Board. He brought intelligence, common sense, and moral courage to the board during these difficult times.

Our teachers are targeted with poorly drafted laws that do not clearly define permissible and impermissible subjects and evade painful areas of our nation’s past. The State does not fund an adequate education in our public schools and gouges us taxpayers to finance handouts to religious schools, both policies in defiance to our State’s Constitution.

Our schools should broaden our children’s minds with the humanities – art, music, and literature – as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Such an education will open their minds to all that makes us more fully human.

These are sound policies worth fighting for.

CEMETERY TRUSTEE

3-year term, 1 open position

Martha Pinello

I am standing for election as Cemetery Trustee. This position involves assisting families seeking burial plots in the town cemeteries open for new interments, recording graves and working with the Highway and Public Works

Department for the cemetery upkeep. I have hosted tours of Antrim’s cemeteries and worked with middle-school aged children to match historic church records and grave stones at the Meeting House Cemetery. As an archaeologist, I have documented cemeteries and graveyards (private burial grounds) for restoration and provided input for the 1994 revision of NH burial and cemetery laws.

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

5-year term, 1 open position

Erin Pils-Martin

Hello, My name is Erin Pils-Martin and I am one of the current Supervisors of the Checklist. I am also a mom, a wife, a member of the Antrim Recreation Department, a local Girl Scout leader, and the vice president of the AES PTO. I have enjoyed getting to know more about the behind the scenes process of elections in this past year as a Supervisor, and am hoping to be able to continue my service to the community in this capacity moving forward. ☐

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Antrim Police Department

Brian Lord, Chief of Police

Even though we are in the dead of winter and things are dark and gloomy, we can look ahead to longer days and warmer weather as February is a short month and March is just around the corner. And, in March, we start to see warmer days which means the sap is running, the snow is slowly melting, and thoughts of spring start filling our hearts and minds.

In keeping with this positive outlook, the Police Department is looking forward to a good year as we are now fully staffed and are working on upgrading our computer system to be able to meet certain requirements for the keeping of our records.

Technology is ever changing as hardware ages out quickly and software updates seem to happen faster rather than slower. In response to this we have purchased new laptops to replace our old and outdated desktop computers. These laptops will eventually be used in the patrol vehicles, which will give the officers access to dispatch in real time and to services they need to perform their job successfully.

As mentioned, we are now fully staffed with the addition of our newest officer, Cody Lacombe. Officer Lacombe graduated from the Police Academy in November of 2022 and is currently in field training. He will be out on his own very soon and we are very happy to have him as part of our team. This comes at a time when most police departments in this state and across the country are facing staffing shortages.

In closing, I would like to say thank you for the continued support of our police department and our officers as they show up every day to make sure everyone, residents and visitors alike, are safe and secure as they go about their business with thoughts of spring in their hearts and minds. ☐

Antrim High School Reunion

Save the Date—September 16, 2023

Cathleen Johnson

Anyone who attended Antrim High School through 1970 is welcome to attend a reunion at the Hillsboro American Legion. We are looking for a volunteer from each class to assist with locating class members. Please reach out to the following if you are willing to help!

Wanda Martel Clough
wclough@tds.net

Bonnie Rockwell Scheidler
Bonnie.Scheidler@gmail.com

Cathleen Greenwood Johnson
CathleenRJohnson@gmail.com

More details will follow in the next *Limrik* edition. Thank you and look forward to seeing you on September 16. ☐

Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice

Linda Bundy

With a new year beginning, the members of Antrim's Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice decided to use our January meeting to reflect upon what we've done, where we are, and how we want to proceed. We have learned much history that we weren't taught in school. We feel the need to take responsibility for our new knowledge. Raising our awareness is the first step, but is that enough? What can we do individually to go beyond ourselves to make a difference? We discussed having the courage to speak up, even in small ways. In spite of living here in rural New Hampshire, mini acts of courage can take place. Other possibilities are sharing our learnings with family and friends (and then listening to them), writing letters to the editor, participating in rallies and vigils, taking advocacy trainings, and joining activist groups. Patronizing Black-owned businesses is a simple, non-confrontational action that can make a difference. We are planning a field trip to a Nashua diner owned and operated by a Black chef that was vandalized with a racial slur in April 2022. Each of us has individually viewed a documentary film that chronicles the history of anti-Black racism in America, and we hope to host a public viewing in the coming months.

Our reading and discussion of books continues. Our current selection is *Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel* by Candacy Taylor. During our February 16th meeting we discussed the introduction and chapters 1, 2 and 3, up to page 102. On March 16th, it will be chapters 4–8, pages 103–225; and on April 20th, we'll consider chapters 9–11 and the epilogue. Feel free to join us whether or not you've done the reading. We meet at 6:30 via Zoom. Contact Linda Bundy at n_bundy@mcttelecom.com or 603–588–2254 for more information. ☐

Thanks to ...

Ruth Benedict, Thelma Nichols and Sonnie Fish for delivering *The Limrik* to sites all over town.

— Editor

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Antrim Recreation Department

Celeste Lunetta, Recreation Director

Spring is here, and we are looking forward to seeing people take advantage of our many programs.

Youth Sports Programs: Register by March 17 for tee ball, baseball and softball. These programs are for kids ages 5–12. Also, this year we are hoping we get a team of 9–14-year-old kids who want to participate in the Granite State Track and Field Event.

Young Athlete Program: Special Olympics Young Athletes is a sport and play program for children with and without intellectual disabilities, ages 2 to 7 years old. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills, like running, kicking and throwing. Young Athletes offers families, caregivers and people from the community the chance to share the joy of sports with all children. Young Athletes provides children with activities and games that meet their individual skill and ability levels, while allowing them to play together in a fun and inclusive environment. The program shows that all children should be valued for their talents and abilities. Children of all abilities take part, and they all benefit. The Antrim Young Athletes Program will be starting on May 2. Tuesdays, 4:15–5 p.m., for ages 4–7; and Fridays, 10:30–11:15 for children 2–5.

Adult Bus Trips: Scheduled for March 9, April 6, May 4 and June 1. See page 27.

Adult Exercise Programs:

Yoga will continue every other week on Wednesdays from 5:30–6:30 p.m. at Town Hall beginning March 1.

A Strong Living-style strength, balance and fitness program for adults 65 and older will be held in conjunction with The Grapevine at Town Hall on Tuesdays and Fridays from 1:30–2:30 p.m., led by Antrim Recreation staff, starting on April 11.

Spring Treasure and Egg Hunt at Memorial Park: Sunday, April 2, 1 p.m. Bring your own basket, and don't be late! Memorial Park will be the site for a glorious spring egg hunt, along with other treasures!

Bikes...Hikes...Scooters and more! Sunday, April 23. Spring and summer invite us to get out and enjoy the beauty of Planet Earth! Join us as we celebrate Earth Day Weekend, and host an event focused on fun and safe ways to enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us! We will have our bike safety day as part of this event. This event will be held downtown at the gym, or at Memorial Park. A full event flyer will be available on April 2.

Free Movie Nights: Through June, as long as there is participation, we have free movie nights at Antrim Town Hall. The first Saturday of the month features a kid-friendly film, and the third Saturday of the month features dramas,

comedies, mysteries, historical fiction, etcetera ... for our more mature audiences.

Days of Summer Camp: Meet new friends, make some crafts, learn to float, have some laughs, play a game, have a blast! Come spend your summer amongst friends at our Days of Summer Camp, Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m., July 10th through August 18th. Campers entering grades K through 6 can register by the week for camp, with an exciting new theme each week! Registration opens for Antrim residents March 7th; for returning non-resident families, March 14th; and for general registration, March 21st. The camp brochure is available at Town Hall, on the town website, or by request if you email antrimsummer@tds.net for more information or to register.

Looking ahead to Summer 2023 in the Parks

Work has begun on the Gregg Lake Beach Park improvement project, Phase 1! We are so excited that this park will be receiving well-deserved infrastructure improvements.

We are currently posting help-wanted ads for lifeguards and beach attendants for Gregg Lake Beach Park. We are also putting together our schedule for Antrim in the Evening. For more information, to ask questions or give us feedback, ideas, or help...please contact Celeste at antrim-reccdir@tds.net. ☐

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Antrim Faces Rural Town Government Challenges

Joan Gorga

I've read a number of articles recently about challenges faced by rural towns across the United States. Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised about how close to home some of them have hit? One interesting bit of information I just learned is that New Hampshire is not a "home rule" state—this means that local governments in New Hampshire operate under strong legislative oversight with limited independence outside of a few defined areas. Towns can determine their own form of government, they can exercise local self-government, they can determine revenue sources and set tax rates within limits, and they can set employment rules and rates, but beyond that, they have few discretionary powers. Most of the town's operations are governed by RSAs (Revised Statutes Annotated), the codified laws of the state.

Antrim has what is described by the New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives as the "Board of Selectmen/Open Town Meeting form of government, the traditional 'pure democracy' form of town government," where the voters who attend town meeting adopt the annual town budget and other warrant articles. The selectboard and the town administrator are charged with carrying out the directives of town meeting. Selectmen and other town officials can only exercise powers as defined by state law.

The selectmen prepare the annual budget to be presented at town meeting. There is a formal process they must follow to set the budget, which includes gathering input from town committees and departments. The department heads present their expected spending needs for the coming year, in consultation with town boards where appropriate, and the Town Administrator and Selectboard compile the budget. In addition, long-term plans are laid out so large expenditures can be anticipated. This process begins with the appointment of the Capital Improvement Committee in early spring by the Planning Board. This five-member subcommittee of the Planning Board works with department heads and town committees, both elected and appointed, to gather information on capital expenses anticipated over the next five to ten years. The CIP committee submits the proposal to the Planning Board for approval, and the Planning Board then submits it to the Selectboard for consideration. The New

Hampshire rules of governance are explicit about the budget process, and the town risks lawsuits and increased state scrutiny of future approvals if proper procedures aren't followed. The town also has to foot the bill any time it is required to use the town attorney to defend its actions.

The town budget and warrant articles prepared by the Town Administrator and the Selectboard must be approved by the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) before they come before town meeting. The DRA suggests what the tax rate should be, although the town has a little flexibility in setting the exact rate. If, for instance, the town has a surplus from the year before, the Selectboard can choose to set the tax rate a little lower.

Many issues other than the budget come before the Selectboard. Its members are not expected to have expertise in all fields; they are advised by paid professionals and elected or appointed town committees made up of volunteers who generously devote their time to understanding the details of the town's inner workings. Many of these volunteers have professional expertise in the areas where they are volunteering for the town, and many attend state-run training specific to their volunteer work. Outside professionals engaged by the town include auditors, assessors and engineering firms who are licensed and recommended by the State of New Hampshire. The state inspects bridges, dams and roads and determines when repairs are required.

It is important that the volunteers who so generously donate their time to our "pure democracy" town government also understand the limits of their powers and appreciate how much they can hamper projects in progress by circumventing state law. Antrim has three selectmen; their three-year terms are staggered so that generally only one new selectman is elected each year. The intention is to allow for continuity in projects and in-depth understanding of both state regulations and town business, while providing opportunity for turnover. Many large projects require years of planning and projection, not to mention grant-writing, and the long-term dedication of those involved is what keeps our small rural town ticking. ☐

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George Caughey

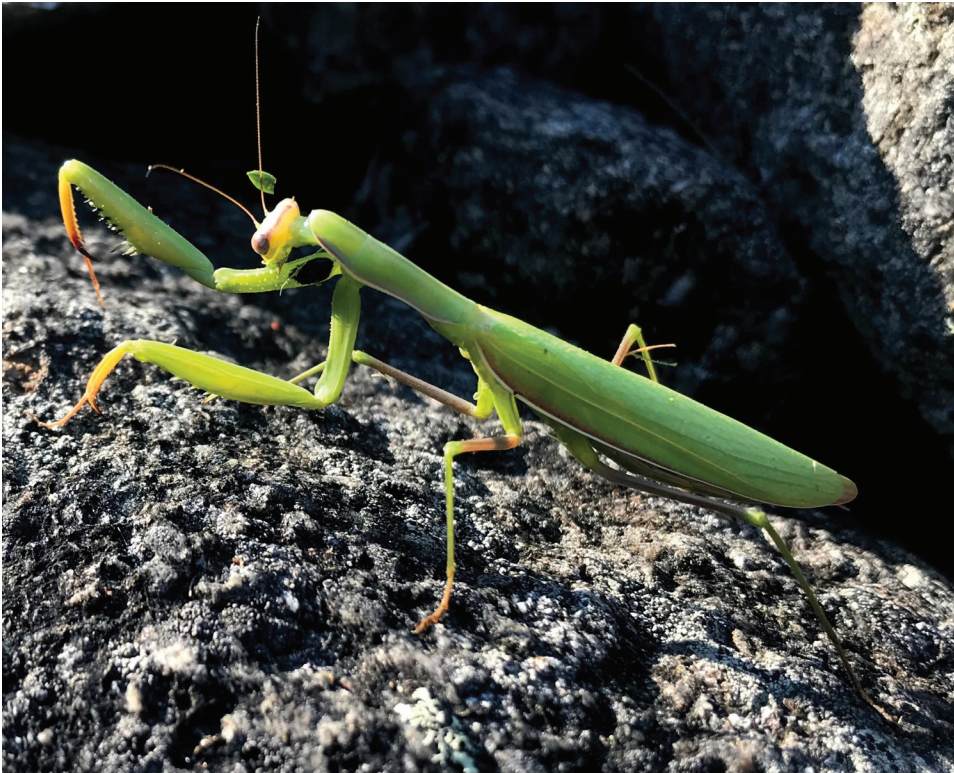
Several times over the past two summers I've encountered praying mantises in my garden. To me this was unexpected. The one pictured posing piously on my stone wall is a *Mantis religiosa*—which, by the way, is the perfect latinized binomial for a praying mantis. Based on its size, coloration, and black spot on the basal joint of the foreleg, it is a European mantis—a female—likely introduced here recently or some insect generations past accidentally in nursery stock, or purposefully by gardeners hoping to gain biological control of insect pests, or by insect hobbyists. In this regard, it may come as a surprise (as it was to me) to learn that various mantid species can be ordered in quantity, over the internet, as eggs or adults. As pets, mantises have decided advantages over mammals, in that they need little space and do not bark at night, chew furniture, make

smelly messes, or run up three-figure vet bills. However, they must be fed live insects, which can be home-foraged or mail-ordered—with wingless fruit flies being a favorite among devotees of mantid feeding spectacles. Mantids inhabit most parts of our planet, and there are more than 2000 species. As its common name implies, the European mantis in my yard, like our state insect the seven-spotted ladybeetle and for that matter like our state flower the purple lilac, is not native to New Hampshire.

Mantids are much more numerous and diverse in the tropics than in temperate parts of the world. New Hampshire lacks native mantids. Any praying mantis you encounter is likely to be an introduced Chinese *Tenodera sinensis* or a European mantis such as I found. Overall, about twenty species of mantis are native to the US, but almost all of

these are in states with milder winters. As Antrim warms over time, as seems to be occurring, perhaps we can expect to see more native species, such as the Carolina mantis, moving north. Perhaps we will also see introduced European and Chinese mantids in greater numbers, as winter conditions become more hospitable to survival of overwintering eggs.

Praying mantises have noteworthy attributes, some unique. Far from being sedate, contemplative, and devout, they are accomplished ambush predators and eat their prey alive. Skilled at camouflage, they lie motionless awaiting arrival of potential prey, then pounce and jump with a speed too fast for the human eye to follow, biting and stabbing their prey. Fittingly, they themselves have stereoscopic (i.e., 3-D) vision, which appears to be novel among insects. Mantids also are said



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to be the only insects that turn their heads from side to side without moving their bodies, which is an advantage to a predator that relies on stealth for hunting. The European mantis can bite or jab humans deemed a threat, although the results are nicks barely worthy of a band-aid, and the mantids do not sting. Although they attack and consume garden pests like grasshoppers and tomato hornworms, they also eat beneficial insects like native bee pollinators and butterflies, including monarch caterpillars, so their net benefit is open to question. Basically, they are carnivores that eat anything that moves and that they can catch. Some large species of mantids attack frogs, lizards, and hummingbirds. Famously, they also can be coital cannibals. This typically involves the smaller male, after mating or attempting to mate, being eaten by the larger female. Despite having the skills and tools for hunting and killing, mantids, if discovered by a potential predator such as a lizard, bird, or bat, are not well defended. Principally, they avoid becoming prey themselves by not being seen, which is why I suspect there are far more mantids in our yards than any of us is aware of. Happy hunting! ☐



Artwork by Virginia Dickinson.

Antrim Scholarship Committee

Crista Salamy

The Antrim Scholarship Committee welcomes 2023 applications from Antrim students planning to continue their education beyond high school and also from town residents already studying at the college level or furthering their professional credits.

Applications for financial assistance for the 2023–2024 academic year are available at the Antrim Town Hall, online at the town’s website (www.antrimnh.org) or from the Con-Val High School guidance office.

Completed applications (including a transcript of grades and a short essay) must be received at Antrim Town Hall by May 1, 2023. Successful applicants will be notified of their award in early June.

Awards are available from: the Jameson Scholarship Fund, which is available to students entering their first year of study after high school; the Thompson Fund, which supports students after their freshman year; the Tibbetts Fund for studies in the medical field; the Beverly N. Tenney Fund, given to students working towards an education degree; the Antrim Wind Energy, LLC, Fund, available to any students

from Antrim; and the Benjamin W. Tenney Fund, which is available to students who are looking to further their education in alternative/apprenticeship programs.

Last year, sixteen Antrim residents received a total of \$22,825 in scholarships from these funds. ☐



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First Presbyterian Church

Jan Howe, Pastor

During the most recent (hopefully the last) cold spell, which broke records with the temperature and wind chill factor, the church had some frozen pipes in the basement. When it was discovered on Saturday the church made a quick decision to hold worship the next day only on Zoom. In the last three years we have become comfortable with logging onto Zoom and holding worship on Zoom. Of course, we prefer to meet in person, but at least with Zoom we were still able to hold worship while the professionals continued to work on our furnace and pipes.

Likewise, one of the activities we took up during COVID was holding a weekly trivia on Monday nights. Over time we have moved to having teams and breakout rooms. People have learned how to go into a room as well as to return to the main room. I have also learned how this all works so that I create the rooms, and open and close them at the right time. That has worked very well for weeks until recently. One Monday evening I went to close the rooms so that we could score that round of questions, I pushed the wrong button. Instead of closing the rooms, I pushed the button to close the meeting for everyone. By the time I realized my mistake everyone's Zoom closed out. I quickly started another meeting, and it did not take long for everyone to sign back into the Zoom. This is something that we would have not known how to do three years ago.

It is amazing how Zoom has become integral not only for the church but also for so many other activities including the way many people work today. Our worship will always continue to have worship service on Zoom as well as in person. However, when we need to cancel in-person worship, we can still worship using Zoom.

We are currently in the season of Lent, which began on Ash Wednesday and continues through Easter. The forty-five days of Lent represent the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted. It is common for people to give up something such as chocolate or sweets, but in recent years we have also encouraged people to start a new spiritual discipline such as volunteering somewhere, offering a daily act of kindness, or reading a devotional. The whole

point of doing either, or both, is to prepare ourselves spiritually for Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day.

During the entire month of March, we will continue our Lenten journey. Each week we will talk about the preparation of our hearts, minds, and souls to renew our faith.

We will hold special Holy Week services that include:

April 2 Palm Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

April 6 Maundy Thursday Service (including communion) at 7 p.m.

April 7 Good Friday Meditative Service at 7 p.m.

April 9 Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m., Worship at 10:30 a.m.

We are excited to once again be the host location of the monthly Community Suppers on the third Thursday of each month. In addition to the monthly groups that sponsor the dinner, Avenue A's TACO Club has been helping out each month. They help the sponsor in a variety of ways, including setting up the tables, helping with the prep or serving the meal or cleaning up. Their young legs, their experience and enthusiasm have been much appreciated by the sponsors.

The church Elders have been busy repairing or planning to repair much of the delayed maintenance on our large building. The roof was a major repair, as well as still an ongoing issue with the roof over the entryway. It has baffled the roofers and our Property Committee as to exactly how water still makes its way inside. This spring, hopefully this issue will be resolved. Other projects include painting the back side of the church, making a new handicap ramp, and a new sidewalk to the ramp as well as the one to the Revival Shop. There are other projects that are being explored.

We, as a church, are thankful for the support of the wider community in many of our projects, as well as attending our services and events. We look forward to returning to our outside activities of hiking or walking, and kayaking. All our activities and services are open to anyone who would like to join us. Check out our Facebook, Instagram and website. ☐

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Antrim Bennington Lions Club

Nancy Blair, President

What a wonderful fall and winter season the Lions have had!

We sold 125 Christmas trees this season and did it in just two weekends! We have wonderful regular customers who come back every year and we gain new ones because our prices are reasonable. If you didn't know, it's the Antrim Bennington Lions Club at Tenney Farm, and we will be there again next year. Unfortunately, prices will probably go up! (But not a lot!)

Because of our very successful fundraisers and generous donations, we were able to fully fund Operation Santa, providing a happy Christmas for 56 local youths. In addition, donations were made to the Food Pantry, The Grapevine and End 68 Hours of Hunger. The Lions had a wonderful surprise in that a local resident of Antrim presented the club with a donation of \$15,548.41 to be used solely for Operation Santa. This heartfelt gift will allow the Lions to take care of needy children in the community for a very long time! To celebrate, the club had a holiday get-together at Alberto's in Bennington and by "dam", we had a very good time!

The club also applied for its second Youth Services Grant this year, thanks to a nudge from our District Governor, John Wynne who was visiting our meeting, and was awarded \$500, which will be used to help 8th grade students from Great Brook School who are in need of funding to attend the Washington, DC, trip.

We continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month for business and the third Tuesday for an always delicious potluck. We have a couple of new members and are looking for more. If you would like to spend time with an awesome group of people and do wonderful things for the community, be in touch with Nancy Blair at blairhouse@mcttelecom.com or call 603-588-8015. Stay warm!!! ☐

Secrets

Joan Gorga

One gorgeous February afternoon when it was sunny and fifty-five degrees, I headed out for what I intended to be a long walk. I'd only gone a mile when the public beach beckoned me. It was peaceful and quiet, and soon I lay down in the sun on the bathhouse deck to gaze out over the frozen lake and contemplate the world.

I was nearly asleep when a car turned into the parking lot. A man climbed out, waved a friendly "hello," and went for a quick walk. When he came back, he called over to me, "If my wife asks, I just walked a full mile." I responded, "As long as you agree to tell my husband I walked another mile to the dam and back to here."

And we both headed home, laughing. ☐

Antrim Baptist Church

Hope Phillips, Deacon & Assistant Food Pantry Coordinator

You may be wondering what's been happening at the Antrim Baptist Church. Well, for starters, 2022 was a busy year and we are looking forward to all the new possibilities in 2023. Just to recap, we had to say farewell to our long-time Pastor as well as Associate Pastor (Charlie and Cheryl Boucher) of almost twenty-seven years. However, we were truly blessed to find a new pastor, Reverend Charles Mitchell, and his lovely wife Maria Easter-Mitchell. God is so good...

2022 was an eventful year in many other ways. We were able to offer not one, but two free dinners to the community, served by the people of our congregation. In November, we held our Fall Auction, which helped raise funds for our Christian Ed Board. These funds will enable us to run programs not only for the children in our congregation but also in the wider community as well. Once again, we were able to collect donated gifts for our Christmas Celebration, which were distributed to families in the community. We made roughly fifty blessing bags for the homeless, and then donated them to the Concord Soup Kitchen.

The Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry, facilitated by our Board of Deacons, continues to serve the community. Our doors are open every Saturday from 10 to noon (weather permitting). Although the number of clients we serve has increased quite substantially, we are so blessed that we are able to provide for everyone who is in need. To fulfill this need, we utilize the NH Food Bank, as well as making purchases at our local stores (a special thank you to Antrim Market and Shaw's in Hillsboro). In addition, we are grateful for the many donations made by community members. If you would like to donate unexpired, non-perishable food, please leave it inside the little church, located by the side door of the church (facing Main Street) or call us at 603-588-6614 to set up a time to drop off.

Finally, we're very excited to be implementing a new music program. We have been using it since the first of the year and it has been a great success thus far. We want to thank Pastor Nick Davis from At the Cross for his advice and guidance on this program—we are truly grateful. God has truly blessed us, and we can't wait to see what he has in store for Antrim Baptist Church in the year ahead. ☐

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, advertising revenue and volunteers.

The creakier I get the crankier I get.

Antrim Grange

Renée Mercier-Gerritsen, Grange Master

Antrim Grange has kept busy this winter by decorating cookies for Santa and hosting the community supper in December, hosting a public event featuring Marshall Gale, Donna Whitney and Matt Mair from the Antrim ambulance crew teaching us hands-only CPR and how to stay safe at home, and, finally, hosting our annual Meet the Candidates Night at the Antrim Town Hall on February 22nd.

Our upcoming events include a fundraiser to raise our matching funds on our LCHIP grant. Details will be posted at a later date. On March 15, at 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, we will be hosting a public event (featuring Beth and Arthur Merrill) on Travel with the Grange. It will touch on many ways you can see different parts of our country by participating in various Grange events. They will show slide pictures of their last Grange Revival trip to South Dakota this past year. We hope to also have another public event in April, but details are still being worked out.

In May, we will be having our annual Community Awards Night. We give awards to those in our community who deserve recognition for their hard work that betters our towns. If you are or know somebody who fits this description, please email us your suggestions at renee_mercier@yahoo.com. Include their name, title if they have one and a brief description of why they are deserving of an award.

For any updates on our future events, please watch the Antrim Grange #98 Facebook page or the Antrim and Bennington NH People Facebook page. If you do not have access to internet, feel free to call or text me for any info about the Grange: Renée Mercier-Gerritsen (Master of Antrim Grange) at 603-547-5144 or email me at renee_mercier@yahoo.com. 📧

Bob Beset By Beastly Bugs

Bruce McGuffin

Poor Bob, beset by beastly bugs
that swarmed about his head and neck,
soon flew into an awful rage
and screamed, "Gosh darn these bugs to heck!"

For Bob, a mild-mannered man,
had sworn off all vulgarity.
Bob's outbursts of the ruder sort
were really quite a rarity.

From years of wholesome utterance
Bob lost the knack, he couldn't curse.
Denied expressions anodyne,
Bob felt those bug bites all the worse.

The moral of this modest tale?
Bob's wholesomeness was vanity.
Embrace and use the useful curse
Do not neglect profanity.

Antrim Grange Hall Rehabilitation

Beth Merrill

We anticipate that work on the Grange Hall Rehabilitation project will resume in the spring. We hope to be awarded a \$10,000 matching grant from The 1772 Foundation, administered by the NH Preservation Alliance, which would be directed toward completion of the floor joist and carrier beam repair. A special note of thanks goes to Bob Edwards, Dennis Young, Tod Bryer, Andras Lazar, and Martha Pinello, all of Antrim, and Andrew Cushing, from the NH Preservation Alliance, for providing professional and technical assistance in completing the application process.

We will also be addressing the failing roof situation this year by taking advantage of the matching grant that was awarded in 2021 by LCHIP, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. And there is still much work ahead to complete the retaining wall project, started last fall and partially constructed by volunteers from near and far, under the instruction of local mason and dry waller, Andras Lazar and his associate Pete Ryder, from Mont Vernon. On October 28th, David Harper, a volunteer from New Boston, commented, "Had a great time, got a lot done! Would like to do it again!"

There may be an opportunity for other volunteers desiring a chance to experience the craft of dry walling. Anyone interested should contact Andras at j.andras911@gmail.com to inquire into available openings.

The Grange is appreciative and humbled by the moral, physical, and financial support of our community thus far in this project, while also reinstating the critical need for continued generosity as we work toward our goal of restoring this historic treasure to the rank of a useful facility in Antrim. Please support us in our various upcoming fundraising efforts, and if you are able to manage something extra, donations to Antrim Grange can be sent to Beth Merrill, Secretary, Antrim Grange, 107 West Street, Antrim. For tax-deductible contributions, please send your check, made out to NH Grange Foundation with a notation that it's for the Antrim Grange Hall Fund, and mail to Andrew Savage, Treasurer, NH Grange Foundation, 837 Bennett Way, Newmarket, NH 03857. 📧



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Community Calendar

MARCH 2023

- 9 Antrim Recreation Adult Bus Trip, New England Botanical Garden
- 14 Town Elections, Town Hall, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
- 15 Beth and Arthur Merrill present Travel with the Grange; Presbyterian Church, 7 p.m.
- 16 Community Supper, Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m., sponsored by the Antrim Police Department
- 16 Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice 6:30 on Zoom
- 16 Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day at the Library
- 18 Crafts Fair at GBS, 9–3 p.m.
- 18 Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History, Tuttle Library, 1:00 p.m.
- 18–19 Maple Weekend; visit a local sugar house.
- 23 Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms, Tuttle Library, 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 2023

- 1 Deadline for gazebo brick orders, Tuttle Library
- 2 Spring Treasure and Egg Hunt at Memorial Park, 1 p.m.
- 6 Antrim Recreation Adult Bus Trip, VT Institute of Natural Science, Quechee Gorge
- 14–15 Community Visioning Session Fri. night, April 14, and Sat. morning, April 15, Town Hall
- 15 Author Paul Doiron, joint program with area libraries, Peterborough Town Library, reservations
- 20 Eclectic Book Club, *The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver, Tuttle Library, 2:15 p.m.
- 20 Community Supper, Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m., sponsored by the Monadnock Roller Derby
- 20 Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice 6:30 on Zoom

MAY 2023

- 1 Applications due to Antrim Scholarship Committee
- 4 Antrim Recreation Adult Bus Trip, Bridge of Flowers, Trolley Museum, Glacial Potholes
- 13 Annual Grapevine Spring Walk for Families: 10:00 a.m.
- 18 Eclectic Book Club, *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck, Tuttle Library, 2:15 p.m.
- 18 Community Supper, Presbyterian Church, 5:30 p.m., sponsored by Crotched Mountain

JUNE 2023

- 1 Antrim Recreation Adult Bus Trip, Destination TBA
- 3 Black Fly Community Art Event at The Grapevine, 10 a.m. to 12 noon

ONGOING EVENTS

MONDAYS

- Indoor walking (18 & older) at Town Gym, 7–8 a.m.
- Zumba at Antrim Town Gym, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS

- Adult pick-up basketball, Antrim Town Gym, 7–9 p.m.
- Strong Living-type Senior Exercise, Town Hall, 1:30–2:30, begins April 11; Tuesdays and Fridays

WEDNESDAYS

- Pickleball (18 & older), 3:35–5:30, Town Gym; 3:35–4:00, instructional
- Gentle Slow Flow Yoga, every other Wednesday, Town Hall 5:30–6:30
- Al-Anon, Presbyterian Church, 6 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Indoor walking at Town Gym, 4:35–5:25

FRIDAYS

- Strong Living-type Senior Exercise, Town Hall, 1:30–2:30, begins April 11; Tuesdays and Fridays
- Cribbage Fridays, Town Hall, 6–8 p.m.

SATURDAYS

- Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry, Antrim Baptist Church, 10 a.m.–noon, all are welcome
- Free Movie Nights at Town Hall; first Saturday kid-friendly; third Saturday, for adults

Going Solar in Antrim?

Joan Gorga

Energy supplies are volatile worldwide at least in part because of the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine. In Antrim, our major electricity supplier is Eversource, which does not own any power plants, but buys the electricity it supplies through a competitive bidding process on the wholesale energy market. As the world cut back on using Russian oil and natural gas Eversource's rates more than doubled last summer and dropped only slightly at the beginning of February this year. That has encouraged many of us to consider greener alternatives, if we weren't already thinking of them.

According to the US Energy Information Administration, New Hampshire ranks second after Hawaii among the fifty states in the costs of both electricity and natural gas. That doesn't give us Granite Staters a lot of incentive to switch to electric vehicles for transportation and super-efficient electric mini-split heat pumps for the bulk of our heating. Over half of our electricity is generated by the Seabrook nuclear power plant, with about 25% coming from burning natural gas, 7% from hydropower, 6% from biomass, 3% from wind, 1.6% from coal and 1% from solar.

As might be expected, given the high costs of electricity and natural gas, New Hampshire ranks below the national average for use of either electricity or natural gas for home heating, while ranking second in the nation in oil heating per capita, according to the NH Department of Energy, with around 42% of residents using oil as their primary heat source. About 6% of residents rely on wood, while only about 2% use heat pumps. Being frugal Yankees, we do rank a respectable 39th in total energy consumption per capita, however.

Can solar energy play a bigger role in this scenario? It's easy to envision using solar alone in a place like Arizona, but can a photovoltaic system provide enough energy to cover home electrical, as well as heating, needs in Antrim? Here's our personal experience so far.

Frank and I had a set of solar panels installed on our roof four years ago, with the capacity calculated to just about cover our home electrical use. Most months, the excess electricity our solar panels have produced has been sent out into the grid, and we've received credit for it, albeit at a much lower rate than we pay for the electricity we draw from the grid. Short days, low sun angle and increased electricity use team up to put us in negative territory in the dead of winter, when we've had to pay small Eversource bills in January and February because we haven't produced enough electricity to cover the cost of what we've drawn from the grid (see Figure 1, a plot of our average monthly solar output for the years 2019–2022). We've also burned eight or nine cords of wood each winter to heat the house, but we haven't fired up the oil furnace.

This winter we took the next step towards greener living and added another set of solar panels, a backup battery and a heat pump to our system. Just before the new additions arrived, a mid-December storm left us without power for thirty hours. For safety's sake, when the power goes out, solar production is turned off unless it is charging a backup battery—you don't want a home photovoltaic system sending electricity out into downed power lines. Even though the temperature dropped to -4°F overnight, we managed to keep the house warm enough with wood stoves running in the living room and the basement. Our living room wood stove, a fireplace insert, relies on a fan and is much less efficient when the power is out, but the basement stove provides old-fashioned radiant heat—it heats the first floor from below. But, like many who have their own wells, we still had no water while the power was out.

A few weeks later the new solar panels and battery were installed, just in time for heavy snow over several days accompanied by extended gray skies. Never before have we gone for so long with no solar production! But finally, the avalanches of icy snow were released from the roof—luckily, I had the foresight to move my car from its usual parking spot—and the battery started charging. We started using the heat pump to keep the house from getting too cold when we were inattentive to the wood stove. I truly admire those who are willing to drink lots of water so they have to get up every few hours, but I really prefer to sleep at night.

The real magic of our photovoltaic system is in the software that controls it. The newer batteries aren't just for backup anymore—most of the time you can charge the battery during the day and run the house off it at night instead of drawing from the grid when the solar panels aren't producing. We have it set use the battery until it falls to 20% of its capacity, which it rarely does overnight, before switching to using electricity from the grid. The 20% setting leaves us a little battery capacity if the power should unexpectedly go out. The system is also connected to the National Weather Service. If a major storm warning is issued, the battery is charged up and kept at full charge until the storm has passed, so it will be fully available in the case of a prolonged power outage. Our battery is normally set to charge only from solar output, not by drawing from the grid.

Figure 2 shows our electricity use for three consecutive winter weeks. The week starting January 24 was generally cloudy, with heavy snow cover on the solar panels resulting in no solar production for the first two days of the week. Although we did get some solar production and battery storage later in the week, we ended up drawing more from the grid than we sent to it. The week starting January 31 was sunnier, with one extremely cold night—it got down to approximately -20°F at our house. We had the two wood

stoves going through that cold spell, along with the heat pump, which we had been warned would not be fully effective at temperatures below about -17°F . That week we more than broke even by powering the house mainly from the battery overnight and sending more electricity out to the grid than we drew from it. The week starting February 7 we were away for several days and so consumed less electricity at the same time as we generated more under mostly sunny skies. That week we sent far more electricity to the grid than we consumed. It remains to be seen what turns out to be “normal.” For the week of February 8–14, we were entirely self-powered, with 39% of our electricity coming straight from the solar panels and 61% from the power stored in the battery.

The photovoltaic system software shows us real-time electricity consumption and production. Sometimes it feels like more than we ever wanted to know. Now I feel guilty about heating up my mug of tea in the microwave for the fourth time, and I may never throw our laundry in the dryer again.

Our power has gone out briefly several times since the new photovoltaic system went online. The switch to the battery backup is so fast that the digital clocks on the stove and microwave don’t start flashing, and we have to check to see whether the power from the grid is actually out. If the battery is fully charged when the grid goes down, our PV system is turned off, as it should be to avoid sending electricity into a downed grid. If we were to have a prolonged outage, we would strategically turn off or not use appliances that draw a lot of electricity—the clothes dryer, the microwave, etc.—and, if we play it right, the combination of solar panels and battery should keep us running indefinitely, as long as we aren’t buried too deep in snow. As we found out during that first week after our battery was installed, six days of heavy snow and gray skies left us dependent on the grid.

We’re still figuring out just how much to use the heat pump, as opposed to the wood stoves. Our intention is to primarily power the heat pump using the solar energy we produce and cut back as much as we can on burning wood, which does put particulates into the air, even if it is a good renewable energy source here in northern New England. The heat pump will also function as an air conditioner and dehumidifier, which may be welcome as our summers warm and we get older and less tolerant of the heat.

Going solar, or at least mostly solar, isn’t cheap for the individual homeowner. New Hampshire lags behind most of the rest of New England in incentives to move away from fossil fuels, but there are federal and state rebates and tax credits available, depending upon the system you choose. Other states (Vermont is one) also have a system set up in which homeowners can allow power companies to draw from home battery storage in times of need. I’ve heard that several Monadnock region towns have formed energy committees to assess energy policies at the town level. A

number of Antrim homeowners have headed down the solar route. I can’t speak for all, but I know we’re not the only ones who’d be glad to show you our PV system setup and how it works.

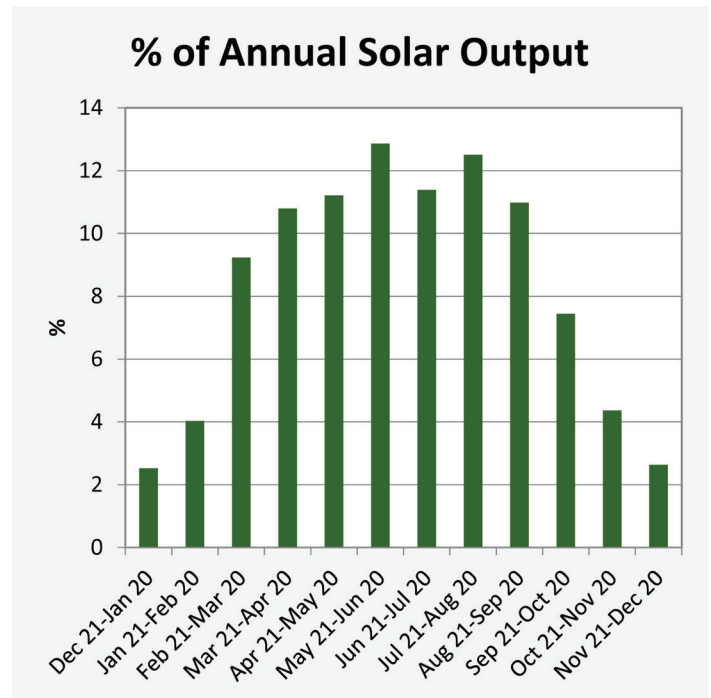


Figure 1. Mean monthly solar output at the Gorga house given as a percent of the total annual solar output for the years 2019–2022. The monthly intervals approximately coincide with Eversource billing cycles. Production in the fall and winter months might not be quite as low at other sites in Antrim. We do have some tree interference when the sun is at its lowest angles.

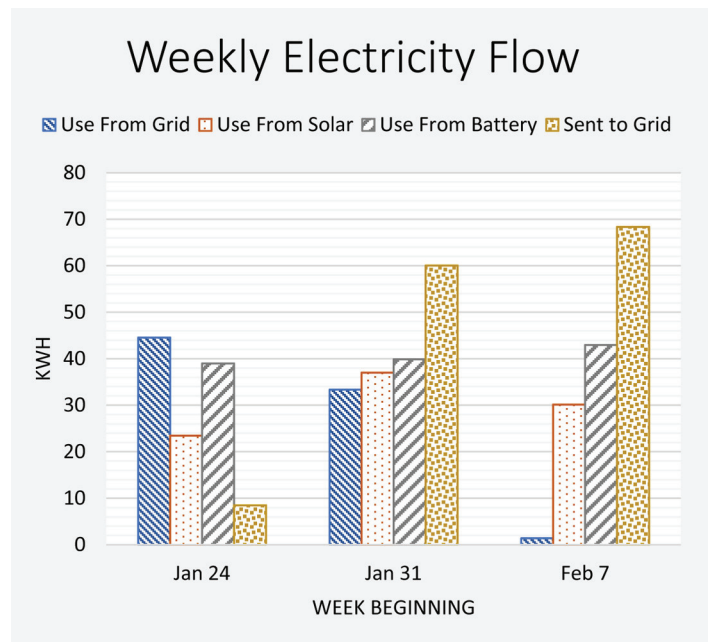


Figure 2. Electricity flow in and out of the Gorga house for three weeks shortly after the storage battery was installed. ☐

James A. Tuttle Library

Cindy Jewett, Director



LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	2:00 – 6:00
Tuesday	2:00 – 8:00
Wednesday	2:00 – 6:00
Thursday	2:00 – 8:00
Friday	10:00 – 4:00
Saturday	10:00 – 4:00

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Mondays	Legos	3:30
	D&D	4:00 – 5:45
Wednesdays	Tech Help	3:00 – 5:30
Wednesdays	Story Time	3:30
Friday	Story Time	10:00

Congratulations to Victoire (Vie) Winchester. Vie is our logo contest winner. Vie is an artist and Antrim native who is currently a senior graphic design major at Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, GA. Post-graduation, she will be working to marry her passion for both designing and reading by entering the publishing industry as a book cover and interior designer.

STORY TIME & CRAFTS

Wednesday 3:30 and Friday 10:00

Did you know that the library offers two Story Time sessions every week? Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. is when we welcome all area children to listen to two stories and then join the librarian for a fun craft. This is a great time to relax and have fun with your kids. All programs are free and open to the public!

Check out our paranormal research kit.

The kit includes: 1 black carry case, 2 two-way radios, 4 flashlights, 1 digital voice recorder, 1 USB to Micro USB cable, 1 infrared thermometer, 1 electromagnetic field detector, 4 touch-activated lights, 1 laser grid with tripod adaptor, 1 tripod for laser grid, 1 carry bag for laser grid. This kit requires parental approval for all patrons younger than 18 years old. Good luck ghost hunting!

MARCH

Friday, March 17th St. Patrick's Day

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us. We will have a treasure hunt and prizes.

Saturday, March 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Ireland's Great Famine in Irish-American History: Memory and Meaning

This is a NH Humanities event. It is free and open to the public. Presenter: Mary C. Kelly

Ireland's Great Famine arguably represents the cornerstone event in Irish-American immigrant history. The episode that began with the failure of successive potato crops in the mid-19th century mobilized an epic transatlantic voyage undertaken by almost two million Irish. This famine floodtide duly transformed Irish immigrant settlement and the ethnic identity in America over the next century and beyond. Combining contemporary accounts with compelling illustrations and images, this presentation tracks the enduring impact of the Great Hunger and its ongoing significance within America's Irish community.

Thursday, March 23rd at 6:30 p.m.

Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms

You do not want to miss this program! We welcome Russ Cohen, the area's leading expert on wild edibles! Russ will give a fascinating lecture on edible wild plants and mushrooms. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot today.

APRIL

Saturday, April 15th at 2:00 p.m.

Paul Doiron, author

We are excited to announce that the Peterborough Town Library, Hancock Town Library, GEP Dodge Library, and the James A. Tuttle Library have joined forces to bring you author Paul Doiron to speak and sign books. Reservations will be required, and we will have more details by March 1st. This event will be held at the 1833 Room in the Peterborough Town Library.

Planting

It's time to think about planting! Come to the library to plant some seeds to take home or plant one here and let it grow on the windowsill. Start thinking about what you want to plant in the garden when it gets warm, and we can start your plants in a small take-home greenhouse.

Egg Hunt

Find a hidden egg in the Children's Room and keep the prize that is hidden inside.

Summer Reading Program

June starts our 2023 Summer Reading Program "All Together Now." Summer reading is for all ages, so please sign up. It's more fun when adults join in with the children. We have great prizes that will make it worth your while!

Also please check our website for updates and our current program schedule. We offer weekly Story Time, teen activities, experimenting with 3D printing and more! ☐

Don Dunlap Gazebo and Commemorative Brick Update

Rick Wood

Both the Antrim Library Staff and Trustees, as well as the Antrim Historical Society Board members, sincerely wish you enjoyed driving into town this past December to see the lit tree at night. We are very proud of the gazebo and hope everyone can come and visit it when the weather is nicer. A picture book was created showing the different stages of the project. Just ask Cindy or one of the staff where you can view it.

Since I last updated you on the project, the first 160+ personalized bricks were laid thanks to Gordon Webber. The contrast between the custom red bricks and the grey is fantastic, if I do say so myself.

Many have asked if there will be a second brick order, and I'm happy to say yes. In fact, we have over thirty orders ready to go. We will be extending the second and last order of bricks through April 1, 2023, so we can get those installed in late spring. So, it is not too late to get your order in. Personally, I can't wait to see how Helen Whittemore's brick comes out with the image of the boulder on it. Who knew that Tod Bryer's name only had one d? Please don't delay in ordering your commemorative brick and be part of Antrim History.

To order a commemorative brick, either grab a pamphlet inside the library or go online at <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/bricksfortuttle>. Bricks come in two sizes, 4" x 4"



with 3 lines of text totaling 54 characters for \$30, or an 8" x 8" with 6 lines and 108 characters for \$70. You can also order a second brick (same cost as the originals) to take home and put on a shelf or in your garden. We also offer a printed copy of the brick to frame. If you have any questions about the gazebo or commemorative brick project, please contact Rick Wood at rd_wood@comcast.net. ☐

Friends of the J. A. Tuttle Library

Linda Morehouse

What a beautiful sight: the Dunlap gazebo decked out in green lighted garland and a tree for the month of December! Holiday spirit shone throughout the interior of the library as well, and delicious treats awaited the patrons all month long. The diligence of the Friends of the Library volunteers and the Library Trustees brought these seasonal delights to staff and patrons.

Volunteers from the Friends of the Library support many library activities: preparing craft projects that enhance the children's story hour every week, leading the hospitality committee that provides goodies for events, working on the flower beds and landscaping, and providing light maintenance work such as painting and hanging a bulletin board. These are the many ways that the Friends play a behind-the-scenes role in library operations. Please consider joining our group!

One new children's event, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is the stuffed animal sleepover, which is planned for the school vacation week of February 27 to March 2. Children will bring their stuffed animals to the library for a read-aloud and leave the stuffed animals overnight. The stuffed animals will get into mischief while the library is closed, and photographs will be shared with the participants. Watch for details and photographs on Facebook and Instagram.

Another new initiative benefiting young families is the Books to Newborns project. Several volunteers are working to deliver a book to every Antrim family who has a new

 — continued on page 22



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Tom Villeneuve RIA

baby. This exciting initiative supports the early development of a lifelong love of reading.

The Friends of the Library art committee facilitates art exhibits in the reference room. We hope you had a chance to view the exhibit by the Teens from Avenue A, the Teen Center at The Grapevine. What a captivating variety of styles and mediums! The Friends of the Library art committee is talking to potential artists for upcoming displays. If you are interested in displaying your work, speak with library staff at the front desk, and they will put you in touch with our organization. Upcoming artists are Diane Gutgesell, Great Brook School artists, Patrick Cogan, and Jennifer Adams.



Jacqueline Roland, Avenue A Director; Laurie Cass-Griggs, Ellen Neilley, and Cindy Jewett, Library Director

Friends of the J. A. Tuttle Library is now a 501(3)(c) organization. We are able to accept tax-deductible donations and apply for grants. Cindy Jewett, Library Director and expert grant writer, has completed applications for several grants to enhance library services. We are excited to announce that a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation *Bernice Clay Fund for Lifelong Learning* was awarded to purchase electronics to enhance the delivery of the tech help provided by Christopher Brinkley on Wednesdays. Make an appointment to meet with him and receive technology assistance. This is just one of many great services provided by our library staff!

Maple Syrup for Sale

We have plenty of maple syrup from this year's crop!
Call or email for an appointment.

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Book totes are available for sale at the front desk. These carryall bags are sturdy with zippered pockets. Our next tote order will feature the new Tuttle Library logo. Congratulations to Vie Winchester, an Antrim native, who was the logo contest winner. The money from tote sales and dues provides materials to the library that are not covered by the regular budget. The Friends of the Library have committed to purchasing a museum pass or NH park pass with these funds.

Do you have a few hours per month or per year to be an active member of our organization? Consider joining the Friends of the J. A. Tuttle Library. Yearly dues are \$5.00, and membership meetings are held quarterly. The level of commitment is up to you! Whether you can donate a few hours a week or assist with one event per year, your contributions are appreciated! We are an energetic group that works well with the library staff. Our efforts allow them to focus on their tasks in providing excellent library services to patrons. The staff is an amazing team! You are welcome to attend one of our quarterly meetings and find out more. On your next visit to the library register at the front desk and indicate your areas of interest. We would love to meet you!

Officers are President, Linda Morehouse; Vice President, Jen Chamberlin; Secretary, Linda Tenney; and Treasurer, Shelly Connolly ☐

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Autumn Leaves

William Bryk

Some people will tell you I am not a particularly good rider. I am first among them. Someone recently tried to encourage me by drawing my attention to a legendary South Australian jockey whose career was described by Pete Monaco on September 2, 2019, in *The Spectrum*.

Les Boots never won, placed or showed in a race. He and his mount always parted ways within a half-mile of the starting gates. This made him a legend in his own lifetime.

He began his career by working as an apprentice jockey for trainer Harry Butler. This meant he mucked stalls and worked horses.

But Butler had plans for Boots. Destiny called when Harry asked him into his office. Umbalir was the horse. Cheltenham, near Adelaide, was the racetrack. The contest was a jump race. Boots would be the jockey.

Despite Boots's high hopes, he parted ways with Umbalir at the first hurdle. Les went to the hospital. The undaunted Butler twice more put Boots on Umbalir. Each time, the result, as Pete Monaco wrote, was the same: Les got a close-up view of the turf and a ride to the hospital.

Mrs. Boots, apparently a realist, began packing her husband's pajamas with his lunch when he would be racing as he would need them once he arrived at the emergency room. According to Monaco, Boots told him, "My wife used to

wrap my pajamas in a brown paper bag and put them with my riding gear, which was embarrassing when other jockeys spotted them."

Those were the first three of Boots's 39 races. The ground came up to meet him 40 times. Monaco observed some held he'd fallen 41 times, counting an unusual incident. At the start of one race, Boots's horse fell while going out of the gate. Boots had grabbed his mount's bridle. His steed leapt to its feet and took off at full gallop. Les somehow hung on at 30 miles per hour and heaved himself into the saddle. They made it over the first and second jumps. Then Les fell, breaking his leg. After being placed in the ambulance, Boots fell off the stretcher and out the back door to the pavement.

Boots told Monaco, "The nurses at the Adelaide Hospital used to check the fields for races and if they saw I had an engagement they'd get my usual bed ready in advance."

An unkind soul nicknamed him "Autumn Leaves" as he was always falling to earth. No matter how good his horses were, the bookies gave him 100-1 odds against victory. Boots even claimed he'd been forbidden to ride a merry-go-round as too dangerous. But he was enormously popular with the crowds and so he was never banned from the track.

Back at Butler's stable, Les rode half-a-dozen horses at work, two or three times a week, with no difficulty. But at the racetrack, he said, "I couldn't stay on." He fell, the horse fell, or they both fell. He told Monaco, "It got a bit much when, just before releasing the field, the starter called out, 'We'll come around to the hospital through the week, Les, and bring you some fruit.'"

During his career, Boots broke nearly every bone in his body, including his neck after a bad fall from a horse named Paila. That put him in the hospital for two years and ended his career.

He never realized his "life's ambition to ride in the English Grand National at Aintree. My wife canceled my passport; she reckoned I'd be the first jockey to drown at the water jump."

 — continued on page 24



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Les Boots lived to be 80 years old. He lost every race, but never his sense of humor.

The first sentences of L.P. Hartley's *The Go-Between* are "The past is a different country. They do things differently there."

Horses, too, are a different country: sensitive, emotional, intelligent beings who form their own agendas. Humans are apparently incidental to them.

Each lesson at Southmowing Stables in Guilford, Vermont, begins with a routine. I go to Merlin's paddock, pick up his halter and lead rope, unlock, open, and relock the paddock gate, halter him, lead him to the gate, repeat the ritual at the gate, lead him to the barn, and tack him up.

Merlin disagreed with me in early December. He had other ideas. He was at the far end of the paddock, up a rise. Unusually, he did not come to me when I called. I walked up to him. He gazed at me. I opened the halter to pull it over his muzzle and onto his head. For the first time in the two years that we've been working together, he pulled his head away and went walkabout.

I followed him. We paused every now and then to repeat our physical comedy. Finally, he stopped walking and let me halter him.

As I relocked the gate, he saw a lovely patch of grass some ten feet away. Pulling the lead rope from my hand, Merlin walked to the grass and began eating passionately. I grabbed and gently tugged the lead rope. He ignored me. I bent to grab the lead rope below his jowl, where it links to the halter. I intended to raise his head and start running toward the barn.

He wanted no part of that. He dealt with an annoying human as he might deal with an annoying stable mate. He swung his muzzle back and then, quite firmly, into my torso. Merlin's head and neck weigh more than I do. An 1,800-pound horse puts some force behind his swing though he means no harm.

Thus, I was reintroduced to equine-inspired wingless flight. I flew some twelve feet, neatly passing between the

fence's wires into the paddock. An all-point landing followed. Merlin munched on, indifferent to my fate. I understood how the ball may have felt during the third game of the 1932 World Series when Babe Ruth pointed to the center field stands and then slammed it there, some 490 feet away.

I let myself back out of the paddock. Then I seized the lead rope and sprinted toward the barn. He went along with that. I secured and began grooming him. He began nipping at me. I kept gently swatting his muzzle with my glove and firmly saying "No." I avoided the teeth, cleaned and tacked him up, seized the reins, and led him to the indoor arena. On our way, I talked to him in a normal voice, telling him about what I hoped we'd do during the lesson. I also reassured him that he was yet again the hero of a published essay. He might well be the best-known horse at Southmowing Stables. I doubt he understood me, but he behaved himself.

Dorothy, my instructor, wasn't in the indoor arena. She was dealing with another student. So I led Merlin around the arena at a walk, still making conversation. I can talk to anything, even a horse. I felt he'd loosened up and turned to the mounting block. He stopped where I wanted him to. Then I climbed up, put my left foot in its stirrup, swung my right leg over Merlin's back, and plopped into the saddle. I walked him for a minute or two.

Then Dorothy arrived and we began working on my balance, which she believes has perceptibly deteriorated over the last six months. When we were done, and I think it was a good lesson, I led Merlin back to the barn and groomed him thoroughly. It makes him visibly cleaner, lets me find and remove ticks and other unpleasant insects, and removes any sweat. That last must have made him uncomfortable by early December. Grooming also builds some kind of relationship between rider and horse, or so they tell me.

Then I led Merlin back to the paddock. Along the way, he suddenly saw another enticing clump of grass and lunged for it. He incidentally stepped on my left boot, which tripped me. He kept munching. I lay on the path. He shifted his weight and I pulled my foot from under his hoof. Then I rolled on my side, got to my feet, and grabbed the lead rope. He followed me into the paddock without further incident.

The broken toenails will heal.

My back began aching on my way home. I remembered that on the following day I had my regular appointment with my massage therapist, Wendy LaBelle, LMT. She maintains my back between falls, working to correct some preexisting back problems, too. This time, she noticed bruising. She asked how it had happened this time. I explained, repeating my mantra that there are no bad horses, only bad riders. Having heard and read a few Merlin stories, Wendy murmured that the Very Big Horse, as my sister calls him, may be testing my belief.

At these moments, I remember that I was the one who chose to ride. ☐



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A Bad Penny Always Turns Up

Jim Elder, Principal, GBS

This January, the opportunity for me to return to Great Brook School arose, and I have been very happy that I took it. As some of your readers might remember, I started working at Great Brook and Antrim Elementary as an assistant principal in the 2008–2009 school year. Following this, I had the honor of becoming the principal at the middle school starting in 2011, where I served for nine eventful years.

During this time, we fended off an effort to close the school, and we received several awards, including the NH Excellence in Education Award (known as “the Eddies”) and the New England League of Middle Schools “Spotlight Award.” In 2020, I retired from the school system. As it happens, that was the first year of COVID, and our final months of school were conducted virtually.

Since I retired, I have worked as a carpenter and more recently as a security officer for the Exeter Hospital. In those two and a half years, I sorely came to miss the excitement and activity of the middle school life. Thus, when an opportunity to return presented itself, I jumped at the chance.

Great Brook School is—and has always been—a special place. Our greatest strength as a school is in providing a warm and caring environment for each of our students. This is a universally held value for all our teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, cafeteria personnel and main-

tenance workers. The motto that I always keep posted is: Great Brook is a great school not because of what any one of us does, but [Great Brook is a great school] because of what every one of us does.

In the short time I have been back, I am reminded of the difficulties and challenges of the principal role. We have already encountered some difficult situations. Through all of this, however, I do not feel regret; rather, I feel very fortunate that I am able to contribute. ☐

Antrim Eclectic Book club

Steve Ullman, Coordinator

April marks the start of our nine-month literary adventure. Here are the books we will be reading in April and May:

***The Poisonwood Bible: A Novel* by Barbara Kingsolver; Thursday, April 20**

Talk about a bad trip! In this 1959 best-selling novel, an unbalanced Baptist minister transports his entire family from Georgia to the Belgian Congo in order to convert a village of nonbelievers. He is so dogmatic that he turns away his potential converts and imperils his wife and four daughters.

Two lessons:

1. Don't go to Africa driven by your personal guilt and your regrettable attitudes about race and culture.
2. Whether you acknowledge it or not, all human beings inherently seek freedom in all its forms.

***The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck; Thursday, May 18**

Buck's novel instantly became a best seller in 1931. *The Good Earth* has been translated into more than thirty languages and it has inspired both a Broadway play and a motion picture. “The overarching theme of *The Good Earth* is the nourishing power of the land. Throughout the novel, a connection to the land is associated with moral piety, good sense, respect for nature, and a strong work ethic, while alienation from the land is associated with decadence and corruption.”

The Antrim Eclectic Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month between 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. at the James A. Tuttle Library. Free copies of the books described above will be available for loan at the library.

For further information please email Steve Ullman at stephenhullman@gmail.com. We warmly welcome newcomers to our book lovers' group. ☐



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WANTED

Local groups, businesses and organizations to sponsor summer Community Suppers. Please contact The Grapevine at 603–588–2620 if you'd like to volunteer.

Hillsborough Counties

Joan Gorga

After spending our very early years exploring the banks of the North Branch River and later the relatively benign environs of Gregg Lake in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, my siblings and I found ourselves transplanted to the other Hillsborough County—in Florida. My brother George and I were entering the ninth and seventh grades, respectively, when we moved there. We lived northeast of Tampa in the last house up the Hillsborough River, where it emerged from an extensive cypress swamp, on a little lagoon inhabited by a large alligator and numerous water moccasins, otherwise known as cottonmouths, that were often seen sunning themselves on the rocks by the river's edge. Sometimes you could see them swimming in circles in the water. Every once in a while a water skier would fall into such a "nest" of water moccasins and be killed, but mostly they stayed away from us when we went swimming, as did the alligator. There was a high-water line four feet up on the family room wall from a recent hurricane. Rattlesnakes also made themselves at home in our yard, but weren't as abundant. And one time, when I actually remembered to look before putting my hand into the crotch of a tree to pull myself up, I found a nest of scorpions. An old boat moored at a small dock on the lagoon came with the house; our father bought a new six-horsepower motor for it.

Not long after we moved there, my friend Sally came to visit from Baltimore. Her family was going through some tough times and my parents thought it might do her good to spend a little time with us. I found it amazing that Sally often chose to hang out amidst the chaos of the four kids in our house and take the torment my brothers liberally dished out. Her own mother, on the other hand, kept a close eye on things, and sometimes commented that she thought I suffered from "benign neglect," although I didn't agree with her. I never did understand, for instance, why she was so concerned that I arrived at their house barefooted one day when we had eight inches of fresh snow on the ground. I ran the few hundred yards as fast as I could, so my feet barely got cold!

And so it happened that one summer day in Florida, George, Sally and I decided to pack a lunch, take the old boat and explore up the Hillsborough River into the cypress swamp. It was a warm, pleasant day, and water moccasins and rattlesnakes were sunning themselves, lying along the banks and draped on fallen logs as we moved through the deep brown river water. After about half a mile, we passed under the last bridge we knew we'd see for a long time and the river widened into an area densely packed with water lettuce. We followed a few false leads, but eventually found our way out of "Lettuce Lake" and headed up the narrow river channel leading generally northeast through the extensive cypress swamp. The river current picked up. We dodged cypress knees and fallen logs. Everywhere, snakes and turtles were soaking up the sun. We enjoyed it, too, and relaxed to eat our lunch before heading on upstream in the narrowing channel. About five miles upriver, we passed under another bridge on a quiet country road, and continued on, with the river getting narrower and fallen trees threatening to block the way. Finally, the river was completely blocked and we reluctantly turned around.

With me on lookout and Sally driving, we rounded a bend and hit the sharp point of a tree someone had cut off to open the channel, barely visible a foot down in the deep brown water. Water gushed into the bow of the boat. I tried to put my foot over the hole, but it went all the way through. I grabbed a flotation cushion to try to plug the hole and it went right through, too. We began to think we might be in trouble. Before long, the boat listed and clearly was about to flip. George jumped out onto what looked like a small island and sank into quicksand, warning us not to follow. I jumped into the river. Sally stood shaking in the boat, thinking about all those snakes we'd seen. She was, to put it mildly, not known for her love of snakes. Even a small garter snake instilled an absolute, irrational terror in her. I finally convinced her to jump into the river beside me, just before the boat turned over and slipped under the water's

 — continued on page 28

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Where in Antrim?

Marshall Gale, George Davison, Linda Bryer, Rod Zwirner, Dawne Hugron and Rick Edmunds all correctly identified the site of the December photo as Rye Pond, off Route 123 near the Nelson and Stoddard town lines. Rod Zwirner, who won the gift certificate for Flag Leaf Bakery, commented on the rare plants and abundant wildlife to be found there. Dawne Hugron remembered it for quiet fishing and seeing a bear. I once had the pleasure of sitting silently in a kayak to watch a moose grazing at the water's edge.

The names of all who correctly identify the location of this photo by March 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for The Moka Pot. Email your response to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 603-588-2569. Photo by Frank Gorga. 📷

Free Community Supper

March 16 • April 20 • May 18

5:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

73 Main St, Antrim

ANTRIM RECREATION ADULT BUS TRIPS

NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL GARDEN at Tower Hill, MA

Thursday, March 9, 2023

Bus will pick up at Antrim Village at 8:45 a.m. and at Town Hall at 9 a.m.

Cost for the bus is \$5 per person

The garden admission is \$15 for Seniors and \$18 for adults

Register with Antrim Recreation by noon on Monday March 6.

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE, QUECHEE GORGE

and lunch at the SKINNY PANCAKE

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Bus will leave Antrim at 9 a.m. and return by 4 p.m.

Cost for the bus is \$5 per person

Admission to VINS and lunch at The Skinny Pancake not included.

For more information on the destinations: <https://vinsweb.org/visit/>

<https://vermonttourismnetwork.com/quechee-gorge-vermonts-little-grand-canyon/>

<https://skinnypancake.com/locations/quechee-vt/>

BRIDGE of FLOWERS, GLACIAL POTHOLEs, and the TROLLEY MUSEUM

Shelburne Falls, MA

Thursday, May 4, 2023

Details TBA.

For more information about the bus trips, call Celeste at 603-588-3121 or email antrimreccdir@tds.net.

surface. We swam to the riverbank, which was so steep we had to stick our toes into (snake?) holes to climb out. I still cringe at the thought of those holes.

We knew we had only one choice, which was to walk back to the bridge we'd passed under not too far back, stepping carefully with our bare feet over fallen logs and through mixed vegetation. Although we lost sight of the boat, George and I jumped back into the river periodically to collect our possessions as they floated by. Sally's straw hat came bobbing along, still holding her sunglasses. I went to get it. It was all Sally could do to walk along the muddy shore; she wasn't going back into the river.

We made it back to the bridge, where there was a small boat launch. A car went by, paused to look at us dripping by the roadside, and hurried on its way. Eventually, another car came along and stopped on the far side of the river to ask if we needed help. That person didn't want three muddy, wet teenagers in his car—after all, no one was hurt—but he agreed to call our parents for us when he got back to town. Unfortunately, our parents weren't home, so he called the police, who eventually managed to get through to our mother, who reluctantly acknowledged a relationship to the three of us.

So, it was several hours later that our mother showed up, none too pleased. By the time she got us home, our father had returned from work and was even less pleased with us. He ordered us to put the canoe on top of the car and went with us straight back to the bridge to search for the boat, or, more specifically, his brand-new motor. We paddled the canoe back upriver to the spot where we'd lost sight of the overturned boat and worked our way downstream, probing with paddles and toes until we felt the keel on the boat bottom. (Or was it a snake?) Our father jumped in then to tie ropes to the boat, for some reason not trusting us to do the job right, and we towed the boat underwater back to the boat launch, with the motor still in place.

It turned out the boat bottom was completely rotten. I could have put my foot through it without the help of the sawed-off tree trunk. Luckily for us, the motor still purred smoothly, and the mechanic who checked it out thought

only a few gaskets should be replaced. Fifty-some years later, like us, the motor, has gotten a little cantankerous, even though it has lived most of its life in Hillsborough County, New Hampshire, with far fewer snakes and tree trunks to dodge, although it has examined the bottom of Gregg Lake more than once. Sally and George and I are still arguing over whose fault it was that we sank the boat. I say Sally was driving too fast; Sally says George was driving; George says I should have seen the cut-off tree in time... And Sally has made her peace with snakes, even if she doesn't exactly love them. ☐

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Ninety, Lost and Found

Joan Gorga

Frank's ninety-year-old mother, Marje, was rushed to the Emergency Room struggling to breathe. She has clear advanced directives—Do Not Resuscitate, Do Not Put On Dialysis—but the ER doctor thought pneumonia was a possibility that could be relatively benignly treated with antibiotics while they ruled out other possible causes.

Four days later, having ruled out the other causes and with Marje beginning to eat a little and become more responsive, the doctors, nurses, therapists and social workers prepared to release her from the Intermediate Care unit. After much discussion, we requested that, rather than sending her to a rehab facility, she be released to the assisted living unit where she'd been for the past three years. It was a familiar place; they knew her likes and dislikes and would ensure that she both moved around and had social interaction. The hospital staff agreed to our request, and a wheelchair transport van was called.

After the transport van crew wheeled Marje out of the room, we gathered up her belongings and ours. We looked around as we went out the front of the hospital; it looked like the van had already left, so we hurried on out to our car and took a little dirt road shortcut to Marje's assisted living unit, five minutes away from the hospital. (Yes, there IS a dirt road in suburban DC, and it's the only place around there where we feel comfortable.) When we got to assisted living, we found we had beaten the transport van, and the assisted living staff were waiting for her, too. After half an hour, I asked one of the staff if they thought something had gone wrong, but they said not to worry, she'd get there. We repeated the act after another half hour. Another half hour later a phone rang in the lobby area, and after some discussion the aide handed the phone to me. It seemed that Marje had been delivered to the rehab facility in the same (large) retirement complex. They had finally tracked down where she really belonged. Would we possibly be able to come get her? They promised they would let us use a wheelchair and help us with transfers; I said we would try.

We walked out of the assisted living unit, looked over at

our car and then the other direction toward the rehab facility. It really wasn't that far, even though we would have to walk a long way around to get to the front entrance. By that time, it was late and quite dark out, but not terribly cold. There wasn't much traffic and most of the walks were built to be accessible. It didn't take us long to decide that the safer approach just might be to push Marje in the wheelchair from the rehab center to assisted living rather than trying to get her in and out of the car.

We walked into the rehab center past a man lying on a gurney with family members seated nearby and were directed to the room where Marje had kindly been given a bed. It turned out the man in the lobby was supposed to have that bed, so they were very happy to help us get Marje out to her intended destination. The rehab staff called a burly nurse who got Marje into a wheelchair. We wrapped her in blankets, and he guided us to a back door that would give us a shorter route to her assisted living unit. He and Frank went to scout out a route that wouldn't involve jumping curbs or bouncing over rocks while Marje and I joked about the adventure of getting home from the hospital. She was the most lively I'd seen her since we got there and was clearly enjoying it. I promised her a few wheelies and one-wheeled sharp turns and she was game as long as I didn't let go of the wheelchair going downhill.

Needless to say, we got Marje safely to her assisted living room, although some of the downhill stretches were a challenge. A nurse came to check her out and found her oxygen level was the highest it had been for some time. The adventure and the outdoor excursion must have been good for her! After they got her settled for the night and Frank and I were preparing to push the wheelchair and blankets back to rehab, the nurse suddenly stared at the wheelchair, which had a tall metal bar, and asked how we had fit it into our car. Her jaw dropped when we told her how we'd gotten Marje there, but she agreed it had worked pretty well. A frail ninety-year-old lost and found! ☐

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Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued financial and volunteer support this past winter season! Local support is what makes our programs possible. If you are interested in joining an in-person group for you and/or your children or teen, please give us a call at 603-588-2620 or email info@grapevინeh.org. If a program is full, we can put you on a waitlist or will consider starting additional programs if demand is high.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Free Tax Preparation: Appointments available through April. IRS-certified tax preparer Larry Schwartz is providing free tax preparation at The Grapevine on Mondays from 2-6 p.m. through April 17, 2023. All returns will be filed electronically. Call The Grapevine to make an appointment. Inquire about appointments in Hillsborough too!

Positive Solutions for Families: Starts March 8th

Parenting young children from birth to 5 years old can be a challenge. Learn ways to encourage positive behavior: use praise and encouragement, set up daily routines, understand the reason behind the behavior, make the most of play time and deal with challenging behaviors. Program starts Wednesday, March 8, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and runs for 6 weeks. This group will be offered virtually over Zoom. Call The Grapevine or email caroll@grapevინeh.org to register.

Strong Living Version 2.0! Starts Tuesday, April 11th

Are you a senior adult looking to stay strong, active and socialize with others? Do you miss the Strong Living program at The Grapevine? The Grapevine and Antrim Recreation are teaming up to offer a FREE exercise program for all levels. This will be an evidence-based strength, balance and fitness program for adults 65 and older. Participants will perform exercises that improve strength, balance and fitness. Classes will be offered twice per week on Tuesdays & Fridays, held at Antrim Town Hall and led by Antrim Recreation staff. Program begins Tuesday, April 11, from 1:30 to 2:30. Register by calling The Grapevine at 603-588-2620 or email info@grapevინeh.org. Please let us know if you have a need for transportation, we may be able to help. *This*

program is offered at no cost thanks to a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation and donor-advised John Vance AC-CESS fund.

Annual Spring Walk for Families: Saturday, May 13, at 10 a.m. Join us for a one-mile family-friendly walk around downtown Antrim in support of The Grapevine and in celebration of our amazing community! Strollers, skates, bikes and dogs on a leash are welcome!

Annual Black Fly Community Art Event: Saturday, June 3, from 10-12. Come have some family fun, create and view art!

Summer Adventures: it's not too early to think about summer activities for your child. If you are looking for summer program options for your children, give us a call. We are still planning the dates and details!

ONGOING GRAPEVINE PROGRAMS

For all programs please call 603-588-2620 or email info@grapevინeh.org for more information. These programs require registration in advance and space is limited.

Weekly Better Beginnings Parent-Child Groups: The Grapevine welcomes all children birth to 5 years of age and their parents to our weekly programs where parents come together for facilitated discussion and children gather separately for play and social enrichment with our warm and experienced staff.

Better Beginnings for Babies: Thursdays from 10:00-11:30. Welcoming parents/caregivers and their children ages newborn to 1 year. Expectant parents also welcome.

Stay and Play: Fun play for kids; meet other parents! Meets at The Grapevine on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Weekly Hillsborough Play Groups: Fun play for kids; meet other parents and Grapevine staff. In partnership with Valley Bible Church.


Grandparents Parenting and Other Relative Caregivers: Nationwide some 2.5 million grandparents are parenting their grandchildren and not without a host of challenges and issues that come with the job, including mixed emotions, financial burdens, health concerns and keeping pace with the children. We offer one-to-one support for relative caregivers through our Kinship Navigator, Rosemary Nugent. Rosemary meets the individual needs of families with regular check-ins, a listening ear and resources like food, access to financial resources and more. Call The Grapevine for more information and ask for Carol Lunan or email Rosemary at rosemaryn@grapevინeh.org.




The Learning Vine Outdoor-Based Preschool Program: A program for children 3 to 5 years old. We are now welcoming inquiries for the 2023-2024 preschool year. This hands-on program takes place almost entirely outdoors with

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a focus on creativity, social interaction, problem solving, learning through games and activities, physical movement and having fun!

Monthly Dads' Campfire: Meets at The Grapevine on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Pizza provided. Meet with Rick Edmunds, sit around the campfire and enjoy good company with other dads! Call to let us know you are interested.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the many local individuals and businesses who supported The Grapevine in so many ways over the winter months, including:

- Eversource and John Brown & Sons for their donations of Christmas trees, tree stands and lights and grocery gift cards
- The businesses and individuals who gave to our Annual Appeal—our largest annual fundraiser
- Rick Edmunds and Edmunds Hardware for selecting The Grapevine as beneficiary of their Ladies' Night event and the monthly customer round-up program. Also special thanks to Rick for his donation of a firepit for our monthly Dads' Campfire!
- Monadnock Paper Mills and The Gilbert Verney Foundation for their ongoing support of The Grapevine and Avenue A Teen Center
- Robyn Manley and Project Linus volunteers for their donation of beautiful handmade blankets for our families
- End 68 Hours of Hunger for delivering food bags to The Grapevine each week
- Larry Schwartz for his ongoing tax preparation program offered here at The Grapevine as well as in Peterborough and Hillsborough
- Peter Davison for his donation of local honey for the staff and families of The Grapevine
- The David Day Foundation for their grant to support our work to promote mental health and suicide prevention



Teens from Avenue A went to Friends Forever International's Durham, NH, campus in January for a day of leadership training sponsored by the Grand Monadnock Rotary. Photo by Jacqueline Roland

- The John Vance ACCESS Fund, a donor-advised fund of the NH Charitable Foundation, for their recent grant to The Grapevine and Avenue A to help us become a more responsive and inclusive organization
- Sue Conklin, Melissa Chapman and Jenine Rubin for their volunteer time in support of our SnowFamilies Playday event and to Susie Spikol who came as our special guest reader and trekker!
- Ted "Trashy" Brown for collecting our trash and recyclables each week!

SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE

Information & Referral: Information and access to area resources for financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, shelter, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs. In person, on-site assistance with applications such as NH EASY.

Home Visiting: Offering one-to-one support for families in the home and other settings.

Community Wood Bank: An emergency resource for those who use wood as a primary heat source during the cold season.

Community Tool Lending Shed: Have a project around the house but don't have the tools to do it? Contact us by email at toolshed@grapevინeh.org or call The Grapevine. We might have what you need. ☐

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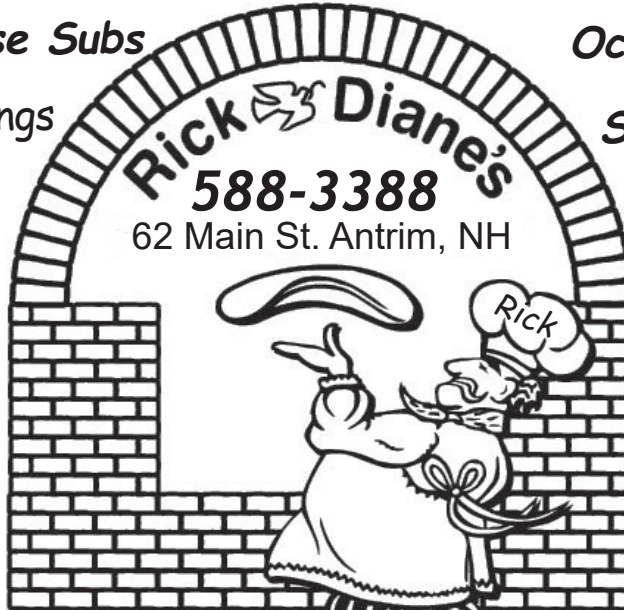
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