



The Limrik

A Quarterly Journal

For, by and about the people of Antrim.

Vol. 33 #1
December 2023

The Christmas Stocking

Joan Gorga

I knit purely for the pleasure it gives me. My mother taught me to knit when I was five. Actually, she was trying to teach my older brother and I looked over his shoulder with much more enthusiasm than he showed. My grandmother showed me more techniques and taught me to fix mistakes, but I'm pretty much self-taught beyond that. I like making my own intricate designs and playing with colors, and rarely follow a pattern. Most of the sweaters I make are a little quirky. Thank goodness my daughter is willing to wear some of them, or at least she says she is... The purists among us may say knitting is just a craft, but there is a certain satisfaction to be had in wearing something beautiful that you or someone you know has created.

So, when a friend (you know who you are, Marcia!) asked if I would knit a Christmas stocking to replace one lost from her family's lineup of ten hand-knitted stockings, some more than forty years old, I feared it wasn't the kind of creative, free-wheeling project I enjoy. I wasn't exactly enthusiastic and wasn't sure if or when I could get it done.

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Festival of Trees

James Panico

Running through the month of December, Antrim's Festival of Trees transforms the James A. Tuttle Library into a winter wonderland, showcasing a wide assortment of trees, wreaths, displays and quilts. Decorated by community members, groups and organizations, each piece of holiday decor presents a unique story and creative aesthetic, revolving around the theme, "What makes winter special to you?" Enjoy the seasonal lights and displays as you explore the different rooms with a cup of hot chocolate in hand, place a vote for your favorite creation and don't forget to take a moment to sign the guest book!

The Quilt Raffle is back for the 2023 holiday season. This year's prize is a 60" x 68" red and

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Antrim Players *A Christmas Carol*



Photo by Frank Gorga

Brian Ageieff plays Scrooge and Bekah Witham plays Tiny Tim in the Antrim Players' production of *A Christmas Carol*. The Antrim Community Board has teamed up with the Players to bring *A Christmas Carol*, based on Charles Dicken's novel, to the Antrim Town Hall stage. Over seventy-five people from Antrim and area towns from Weare to Rindge are working hard to light up the stage once again, after a seven-year hiatus. With veteran Player Bill Nichols at the helm leading a cast of twenty-five, the theme is the magic of transformation and renewal, and is perfect for the season. The Antrim Players was founded 105 years ago in order to raise funds for the Red Cross in WWI, and has always made philanthropy a key goal, which also long made it central to the energy and spirit of Antrim. Now, as it is making a comeback, we encourage the whole town to turn out in support. Performances will be December 1 and 2, starting at 7:00 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall. Adults, \$12; Seniors, \$10; Under 12, \$6. ✨

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— SUBMISSIONS —

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



Festival of Trees

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silver flannel holiday-themed quilt, made by former Festival committee members for the 2020 Festival, which was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic. It is prominently displayed on the wall by the front desk of the library. Be sure to stop by to take a peek and to purchase a chance at winning this community original! Tickets are available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The main fundraiser for the Festival of Trees, the proceeds are used to help offset the modest expenses. The lucky winner will be announced mid-December.

Antrim's Festival of Trees is a free month-long holiday event. The annual event is put on by the Festival of Trees Committee, an independent group of community-minded volunteers who are committed to providing a free event to celebrate our community and to "Put a little sparkle in the Holidays." Special thanks go out to our many volunteers, Friends of the Library, Trustees, and Staff of the Tuttle Library for their support and for allowing us space to hold the event.

The Festival of Trees runs during regular library hours through the New Year: Mon./Wed. 2-6, Tues./Thurs. 2-8, Fri. and Sat. 10-4.

Information can be found at www.AntrimFestivalofTrees.org or on our Facebook page. Queries can be directed to AntrimFOT@gmail.com or by calling 971-330-8835. A wonderful holiday experience awaits! ❄️

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Select Board

Donna Hanson

Fall is here and that means it is time to draft the budget for our budget hearing, which will then be followed by Town Meeting in March. We have been meeting with department heads to fine-tune their budget requests. Our goal is to keep a tight budget without compromising services.

The Capital Improvement Plan Committee (CIP) has been meeting with department heads to determine their long-range plans. The CIP will gather requests with a value of \$6,000 or more for a 6-year period. The CIP will then present these requests to the Select Board. The Select Board will decide what requests are needed this year, which usually end up as articles on the warrant at town meeting.

In October we said goodbye to Jim Plourde, who was our Road Agent and worked for the town for twelve years. We were sorry to see him go but we wish him well in his new venture.

We welcomed our new Road Agent, Tyler Tommilla. Tyler lives in Antrim and has already hit the ground running. Tyler worked for NH Department of Transportation before coming to work in Antrim.

As of this writing the tax rate has not yet been set. By law (RSA 75:8-a), a municipality must perform a valuation every 5 years for all properties in the municipality. Until this process is complete, we are unable to set the tax rate, therefore unable to send out tax bills.

The Highway Department garage addition has been completed. Money was saved when the bank in Hillsboro donated their office furniture when they were remodeling. The Highway Department and the Fire Department both took advantage of this cost savings.

The Liberty Farm bridge repairs and paving are now complete just in time for winter.

In November, our Joint Loss Management Committee (JLMC) held an employee-wide Safety Day. The state mandates that each community maintain a JLMC to protect the safety and health of its workers. This year was a huge success with a great turnout. Elaine deMello of the National Alliance on Mental Illness presented the program.

We wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. ❁

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Tyler Tommilla, Antrim's New Road Agent

Joan Gorga

Give a hearty welcome to Antrim's new Road Agent, Tyler Tommilla, who comes to us with nineteen years of highway experience. Most recently, Tyler worked as a supervisor for the Highway Division in Concord Public Works. Before that he spent fifteen years working for the NH Department of Transportation, some as a supervisor in this area, doing road construction and major drainage projects.

Tyler is also a town resident. He grew up in Swanzeey and still has family there. His wife's family is in Peterborough; she works at Concord Hospital. He and his wife are outdoorsy-type people. They enjoy camping all over New England. Tyler says they chose to move to Antrim when they wanted to start a family and moved to town in 2014. They now have a seven-year-old daughter and a two-year-old son and have found the community welcoming, with a lot of good programs to offer. His daughter has been participating in Antrim Rec programs, while his son is currently fascinated with construction equipment. Tyler has just started collecting antique construction equipment and going to shows around New England.

Tyler had been looking to work closer to home for a while. He didn't know the road crew here when he applied for the Road Agent position, but he says they have been good to work with as he learns the ropes. He stresses that

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Antrim's new Road Agent, Tyler Tommilla

But in mid-October one of my cousins needed someone to take her up to the hospital in Lebanon and stay with her for a few days after she was released. I was happy to do this (remembering, among other things, a certain spotted dog she took in for an entire year while we built a house), and it occurred to me that a Christmas stocking would be the perfect project to work on during what was likely to be a few boring (at least for me) days with a lot of sitting and waiting.

Marcia buttered me up with scrumptious blueberry scones topped with mascarpone—there was no refusing after that—and showed me the nine remaining Christmas stockings and the spot where the “Jeffrey” stocking should go. She couldn’t remember what decoration was on the original “Jeffrey” stocking, but there were already three Santa Claus faces and several other repeated patterns, and we finally settled on a tree to grace the now-quite-grown-up Jeffrey’s new stocking. I went home with the “Dan” stocking to copy for size and shape and began to think that this might be fun after all, since I had to design it first. Maybe I’d make my tree tall and thin to fit the sock shape. Maybe it needed to blow in the wind. Maybe it needed a big star on top. How about lights or decorations? Wouldn’t want it to be too gaudy, but it had to hold its own in that showy stocking lineup!

I laid out my tree design in Excel, using a small colored box for every stitch, and then added “Jeffrey” across the top. The letters would just fit, and I could knit them in rather than embroidering them on afterwards. Then it was time to search my meager cache of yarn in the attic for possible yarns to use. (Any real knitter has a vast stash of leftover yarn and unfinished—or unstarted—projects to select from, so I use “meager” here just in case my husband reads this.) Or perhaps I’d have an excuse to make a trip to the yarn store...

I found the perfect red left over from a sweater I made last year. The white came from a vest I made years ago and brought back fond memories of Anne Hennessy and The Wool Room. The green was more of a problem, and I eventually settled on using two strands of fine yarn of different shades of green to give the tree some texture and a little

more interest. Likewise, two shades of fine yellow yarn would give the star a little pizzaz. I tested needles of different sizes until I got the right gauge—the stocking needed to end up at least close to the sizes of the other ones—and I was ready to go!

I started at the top and quickly realized that, for technical reasons, it would be better to knit back and forth instead of around in circles as I had planned. This was fine, except that reading the pattern upside down and backwards made the letters come out in mirror writing. After a lot of eye-crossing and standing on my head, I got that straightened out, and once again, I was ready to go, with everything I needed for a portable project that could be done with interruptions and distractions. It was very tempting to start right in.

But then my husband got a message that the wife of someone he’d been in a meeting with that morning had just tested positive for Covid. We knew there was a contagious new strain rearing its head, and the infection numbers were rising again. It was only three days before my cousin’s surgery, and I couldn’t risk exposing her to Covid. Frank and I had barely crossed paths at that point, and we figured he couldn’t be infectious yet. He went upstairs to hide out, hoping I would toss food his way now and then, but after further (loud) conversation up and down the stairs, we realized a negative test anytime in the next three days wouldn’t mean anything, and I couldn’t really be sure I was safe. It seemed better for me to isolate away from him, but where?

There was our little remote camp on Gregg Lake... Although I’d been working on it over the summer, it still wasn’t quite set up for living in, but I figured I could make it work. With the sun already set, a big rainstorm blowing in and forecasts of lows in the mid-30s in the days to come, I quickly packed up a small cooler, a headlamp, some warm clothes, my knitting and a couple of books—only as much as I could carry in one kayak-load, loaded up my kayak and headed across the lake. By then it was quite dark and the clouds looked ominous. I got everything into the camp just as the storm hit. Not relishing the thought of a visit from a bear, I propped a chair against the door to stop it from blowing open and set to work putting the food out of the reach of mice and getting out the old down sleeping bag and pillow I’d left there a few weeks before, just in case. A little later, I was reminded of the joys of walking up the hill to the out-house in the pouring rain.

In the morning I fired up the woodstove and made a pot of oatmeal from some oats I’d stocked in the camp last fall. The oats looked funny, smelled a little off, and tasted even worse. I’d never known oats to go bad before, but I guess the summer’s heat, humidity and endless rain must have gotten to them. I heated up some lake water to wash the dishes and continued the cleanup effort by washing all the windows. What a difference that made! The old camp was transformed.

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Antrim Community Board

Gordon Allen

Here is the Antrim Community Board's logo designed to summarize how we are going about fulfilling our responsibility to you as a Town Board. Many thanks to our own Dianne Kischitz for the great design.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- The **Antrim Players** production of *A Christmas Carol* will be held at Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. on **Friday, December 1st**, and **Saturday, December 2nd**. Not to be missed, and so good to have our Players back.
- The ACB sponsored the **Community Suppers** on September 21st and November 16th.
- The **Welcome Team** had a busy fall distributing over a dozen Welcome Bags to people moving into town.
- The **Swap Shop** has been busy. We hope to stay open until December, weather allowing.
- The **2nd Annual Antrim Community Fair and Get to**

Know Your Town Bingo will be held in the Spring.

- We will be resuming our **Kitchen Table Meetings** in 2024 that were shut down by the pandemic. These are small groups of people who get together at a neighbor's home to share their interests, talents and ideas for making Antrim an even better and connected hometown.

The Community Board meets every fourth Wednesday from 5:30–7:00 p.m. in Little Town Hall. We set aside time at the beginning of each meeting to listen and learn from everyone who comes. Go to <https://www.antrimnh.org/antrim-community-board> to see what's on our agenda for each meeting. ❁

Tyler Tommilla Antrim's New Road Agent continued from page 3

it's important for Antrim's department heads to work together, and he's already collaborated with Fire Chief Marshall Gale and made plans with Recreation Director Celeste Lunetta.

He says road work involves a lot of working with the environment. There are lots of stream crossing rules and other regulations to comply with. It can be quite a process to get the permitting required for stream crossing and drainage work—you can't just carry in a pipe and create a culvert—that's the administrative part of this job.

When we met, Tyler was working on the budget for the next fiscal year. He says he has an open-door policy at the Town Barn—feel free to stop in and say hello, if they're there. They are here to serve the town and want to hear what people have to say. He and the crew are out on the road a lot, though. If you don't find anyone there, you can also call and leave a message. He stressed that it does take some time to get around to all the roads for plowing and maintenance, and roads are prioritized according to use.

This year was especially challenging for keeping up with road improvements. The damage caused by this summer's heavy rains delayed some of the normal maintenance that was scheduled. Money allocated for paving and drainage work, for instance, ended up being used for flood damage repairs, and the road crew ended up being a year behind in the capital improvement plan.



Antrim's road crew says goodbye to former Road Agent Jim Plourde. L to R: Stephen Auen, Bill Bezio, Jim Plourde, George Johnson and Rick Fife

While I was there, a man showed up from a drug testing lab to perform a random test on one of our road crew. Tyler explained that it's a federal requirement if you have a CDL that you will be subject to random drug testing.

The town is looking for another person to join the road crew. Tyler says the job market is tough right now, and one of his biggest challenges going forward will be employee retention.

The good news is that we are heading into winter with a full complement of trucks—the town fleet is all up and running. They'd just finished getting the last truck ready to go for winter weather. However, Tyler is still hoping for a mild winter... ❁

I gathered kindling and dry wood from the woodshed in anticipation of a cold night. I noticed that the snakeskin that had been shed behind the woodstove earlier in the summer had disappeared. Was the overnight storm strong enough to knock it down or had the snake decided to reclaim it?

By late afternoon the wind had died down and the sun had come out. Time for a swim! The lake was brisk, shall we say, but I managed to swim out a little way. From the water, I watched a bear nose around in the woods on the side of the cove and vowed to set the chair firmly into place again that night. I couldn't stay in too long, but I felt better for the bath.

The sun set over Bald Mountain, and the temperature dropped into the thirties. I built up the fire, heated up the turkey tetrazzini I'd grabbed from the freezer at home on my way out, and settled in with a headlamp, my knitting and a book. As I readied myself for bed, I decided I was too lazy to walk all the way up to the outhouse and would instead just find a tree in the woods closer by. I stumbled on a small rock on the way back and twisted my ankle. If I had gone up to the outhouse, I never would have stumbled; I've walked that trail all my life day and night and know every root and stone.

Later that evening, as I was reading by headlamp, I happened to glance out to see the reflection of a line of more than a dozen Starlink satellites passing low overhead. The satellite train reached across the entire sky and was perfectly reflected in the calm lake. I limped carefully down the rock steps and out onto the deck to watch them, pondering the irony of sitting in a remote camp with no cell phone signal and no way of communicating with the rest of the world while all those high-tech satellites passed directly over. They were part of SpaceX's plan to provide global internet communication through a network of what are eventually intended to be 30,000 satellites in low Earth orbit. It would take some serious solar power and battery backup to use the Starlink system at the camp, however, not to mention a hefty monthly fee. Maybe it is better to celebrate a rare spot that remains offline. Astronomers are also worried about light pollution from all those low-orbit satellites.

The next morning my ankle was stiff and swollen, but I could hobble around using a broom for a cane. (I suspect my husband would think this was most appropriate.) I feasted on apple pancakes cooked on the woodstove and made from



apples I had picked as I left the house. Although the maple syrup I'd left at the camp last fall had a scum of mold on it, I'd heard that the sugar content is so high that the mold only grows on the surface and the syrup can be salvaged by skimming off the mold and re-boiling the syrup. All was well.

As refreshing as mid-October swims were—I figured the water served well to ice my bum ankle—I wanted to wash my hair before taking my cousin up to Lebanon, and I didn't want to do that in the lake. When was the last time

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Conservation Corner

Peter Beblowski

The Antrim Conservation Commission is happy to announce that we now have a presence on Facebook. We have our own page. Find us by searching Antrim Conservation Commission, like and follow us.

For the coming year, we have a number of exciting programs planned. Among these are presentations from the Speaking for Wildlife program, nature walks, hikes, paddles and the need for trail maintenance crews. There will be programs dedicated to invasive species identification and elimination training sessions. There may even be a wildflower scavenger-type hunt. There are many other activities in the planning stage, so be sure to stay tuned and follow the Facebook page to be the first to know.

The commission also uses iNaturalist for many of our programs. iNaturalist is an online social network of people sharing information about biodiversity. It is free and may be accessed at <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. Please check out the website. It is very interesting and fun to use. Download the app to your phone and start documenting the natural world around you. For things that are unknown they also have an app for kids called Seek (https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app). They both work great. Check them out! ❄

Antrim Grange News

Gloria Davis

In July, three Antrim Grange members traveled to Upper Peninsula, Michigan, to attend the Grange Revival (a camping event for Grange members from across the country) and along the way made a brief stop in Antrim Township, Michigan. Other than some rain that lasted about twenty-four hours, the weather was cooperative and allowed for some good fellowship, lots of area tours, and the great Cornhole Tournament.

Antrim Grange held election of officers in September and congratulates our new Master, Gloria Davis, who is serving as the Grange leader for the first time in her many years of membership.

This Fall the Antrim Grange held the annual Penny Sale and had a good day with perfect weather. We saw many of our supporters at this event. A few weeks later the Grange members were hard at work at Home & Harvest serving up the Historical Society's famous apple crisp. Thank you to all who supported our fundraising efforts to match grants awarded us for the purpose of rehabilitating the Antrim Grange Hall. We recently learned that our 2023 grant application to LCHIP (Land and Community Heritage Investment Program) will not be funded for next year's work. A setback for sure, but we will continue to do our best to raise the funds needed to keep the work going at the Grange Hall.

In October, Beth and Arthur Merrill, Robert Paquin Varnum, Sharon Stickney, and Gloria Davis attended the N.H. State Grange Session. Antrim Grange was recognized as the 2023 top-scoring Grange in New Hampshire. In November Beth and Arthur were off to the National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and assisted the host region with various volunteer jobs throughout the week.

The Grange is making plans to serve the free Community Supper on December 21st and hopes that citizens will take time out of their busy holiday schedules to drop in for some holiday turkey. Keep an eye and ear out for details for our next fundraiser in late January as the Grange is making plans to hold a traditional Burns Night, a cultural event honoring the Scottish poet, Robert Burns.

If you enjoy doing community service and learning more about our grass-roots activism, you are welcome to join us on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Contact the Membership Chairman, Renee Mercier-Gerritsen, at 603-547-5144 for more information. All ages starting at fourteen are welcome! ❄



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I'd washed my hair in a bowl? I heated another pot of water. There was some pepperminty biodegradable soap I could use...

I spent much of the rest of the day reading and knitting on the Christmas stocking with my foot up, either in front of the stove while my sparkly clean, minty hair dried or out on the sunny deck overlooking the quiet and spectacularly beautiful lake, fully adorned in fall colors. (I WAS beginning to worry that I would finish the stocking before ever getting to the hospital.) An adult loon and the nearly full-grown chick spent some time chatting and fishing in front of me. An eagle circled overhead, and an osprey cruised by.

By mid-afternoon, after not seeing a soul for several days, I had to face the fact that I needed to touch base with my cousin to find out when we were supposed to report to the hospital the next day. We were both hoping it wouldn't be too early. I also needed to charge my cell phone—not that I had any reception there at the camp; it dies fast when it's constantly searching for service, and I needed it to tell the time.

I kayaked back across the lake, limped up the hill to my Starlink-enabled new car, plugged in my cell phone and headed for my cousin's house, where she had just been informed that we had to be at the hospital at 6:00 the next morning, and that they would not be keeping her overnight, even though for the past month they'd been telling us that was the plan. I would have to head across the lake just after 4 a.m. to pick her up at 4:30 and drive north. Alas, sometimes one has to accept one's fate.

It was 37 degrees and crystal clear, and the Milky Way in all its splendor was perfectly reflected in the water when I packed up the kayak (barefooted, with my fleece sweatpants rolled up above my knees) and paddled across the lake. It was hard not to linger gazing at the stars, but I had warm socks waiting and promises to keep.

The new Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital is an amazing complex—the last time I'd been there it had been Mary Hitchcock in Hanover—and disconcertingly different from my quiet cabin in the woods, but we found our way to the right desk, guided by several kind and helpful people. In the

surgery waiting room, I pulled out the half-finished Christmas stocking to work on. Knitting tends to be a therapeutic activity and there were several other women there knitting, too. We struck up a conversation and admired each other's projects. A spinner came over to chat with us, too, and we enjoyed a mutually supportive group until, one by one, we were called away to the recovery area. The man sitting next to me pulled out a book I'd read not too long ago, and we had a fun chat about that. I finished the windblown tree and turned the heel. But when I got to the point of changing to white for the toe, I couldn't find the white yarn ball. After searching everything around me and taking a trip out to the car, I had a pretty good idea that I'd left it back at the camp. Instead, I worked on sewing up seams and working in loose ends.

In the early afternoon, one of the doctors came in and told us my cousin was ready to be released. He tried to convince us this was a great feature of modern medicine—you could have surgery in the morning and go home only a few hours later. I thought of mentioning that they were releasing her still groggy from anesthesia to someone with no medical or nursing training, who had promised to stay with her for several days and try to make her follow all the instructions (was it five full pages?) they had given us. But I wasn't sure my comments would help the situation much, and everyone there had been very kind. So, I pulled the car up where I was told and we headed home, with a lengthy stop at the pharmacy while they tried to figure out if they could fill the prescription that had been sent in hours earlier. That got sorted out pleasantly enough, and when we finally arrived back at her house only about twelve hours after we'd left, my cousin claimed she wasn't feeling too bad. My job was to keep it that way!

My cousin was feeling hungry by that time and ate a decent meal. I re-read the post-surgery instructions, made up a strict schedule for taking all the medications and forced her to stay up to take the last doses just before going to bed, although we were both ready to crash well before that. The next day another cousin stopped in at lunch, and we all had a great time chatting. While she stayed, I made a quick run to town for some supplies so my cousin could avoid driving for a few more days and then paddled across the lake to get my missing yarn, which, of course, was right where I'd left it in my early morning mental fog.

I finished up the toe of the Christmas stocking that evening while we talked and I enforced medication times. I put a big "star" on top of the tree and added a few scattered lights. I hope Jeffrey likes it. ✨

Thanks to ...

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

— Editor



**Great Brook
Veterinary Clinic**

Dr. Tom Dowling, Veterinarian
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A Stroll Through Over East Cemetery

Tim Morehouse, Cemetery Trustee

In almost every town in New Hampshire there are people who dedicate themselves to enriching their community, and Antrim is no exception. These folks are your neighbors, friends, and relatives whom you see on Main Street every week. They often belong to several groups and organizations in town.

Recently, three of these outstanding individuals, Helene Newbold, Kathi Wasserloos and Priscilla Shook, took it upon themselves to resurrect the Over East Cemetery on Elm Avenue. In the process they spent countless hours cleaning headstones with a specialized solution, researching family histories and, in some cases, determining who was buried where.

Helene started in July with this research. She accessed cemetery records, historical society records and town histories. Through these efforts she discovered many interesting facts about the people buried in Over East Cemetery. A plan was formed to share this information through a public event at the cemetery.

The culmination of all of this work was a walk-through of the Over East Cemetery on October 22, hosted by the Antrim Historical Society. A crowd of twenty-five people gathered on a lovely afternoon and the sunlight glistened off the newly cleaned headstones. The presentation started with Priscilla explaining a brief history and overview of this area of town. We learned that there used to be a church on the property where the Brailsford company is now, next to the cemetery. The church was built by residents of Antrim, North Bennington and West Deering. Then Helene and Kathi walked us through the cemetery. As we strolled from plot to plot, we were entertained with narratives about some of the people buried there. Robert Tennant, in plot #24, came to Antrim in 1795. He changed his name from Hogg as he did not want his wife, Elizabeth, to have that last name. John Bell is buried in plot #38. He was a blacksmith who came to Antrim in 1799 and was licensed to keep a tavern. Amos and Rhonda Holt lie in plot #41. They lived southeast of the cemetery on the river and kept a tavern there. After Rhonda's death, Amos married Rhonda's sister, Lucretia Messier. The walking tour concluded with questions and refreshments.

Thank you to these citizens for rejuvenating the Over East headstones and spurring interest in this piece of Antrim history. ✨



Helene Newbold, Antrim Historical Society; Tim Morehouse, Cemetery Trustee; Martha Pinello, Cemetery Trustee; Priscilla Shook, Antrim Historical Society; and Kathi Wasserloos, Antrim Historical Society, at the Over East Cemetery gate. Photo by Linda Morehouse.



The Antrim Area Songsters

Ray Sweeney, Director



There's a new group of singers and musicians in town. We are some thirty strong, we meet weekly in the Presbyterian Church in Antrim, and we are calling ourselves The Antrim Area Songsters. The group performs all genres of music, not only as a choral group but also in smaller ensembles and solos.

We will be presenting a holiday concert at the Antrim Presbyterian Church on Friday night, December 15th at 7:00 p.m., and in the event we get snowed out, Sunday afternoon, December 17th at 3:00 p.m. The program will consist of secular and religious pieces, both familiar and not-so-familiar. Also joining us will be a group of Great Brook students singing a couple of rousing holiday tunes that will definitely bring a smile to audience faces. In addition, we have a great group of instrumentalists who will be supporting all the singing.

There are a number of folks on board to help us make this a most enjoyable evening for all attending, and after the performance there will be lots of FREE cookies and other seasonal goodies.

We are most grateful to the Antrim Presbyterian Church for providing the space for our weekly rehearsals. As a means of showing our appreciation, we are doing this concert to "repay" their kindness by having admission be by donation. The church is used by many other organizations in the community for a multitude of functions, and, as is the case with many other churches in the area, it is a financial strain to maintain the physical structure and to just "keep the doors open." So, although there will be no set admission fee, contributions to the cause will be very gratefully received.

We hope to see you there! ✨

Maplewood Cemetery Wall Update

At the end of his article on the Maplewood Cemetery Wall in the September *Limrik*, Mark Reynolds said, “And if you know what those remnants of what appears to be fence post moorings in the ground in front of that oldest section were for, let me know.” Christie Ellinwood said he’s pretty sure that what appear to be fence post moorings were used as flag stands out in front, not for fencing. He said the Boy Scouts and other groups would march from town to the cemetery carrying flags on holidays, such as Memorial Day, and for school programs, and insert the flags at the entrance. Christie suspects there’s a photo showing them somewhere, but we were unable to find one in the Antrim Historical Society archives. ✨

Antrim Recreation

Eren Pils-Martin

Antrim Recreation has some great new programming coming up that we are very excited about!

Hobby Basics

On the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, we are introducing a fun new program called Hobby Basics! This program will run from 7:30–8:30 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall and is open to Teens* and Adults. *13–17-year-olds need an additional parent/guardian permission form on file to attend on their own

Are you looking to explore some new forms of recreation? In each session we will teach the basics of a new hobby! Explore a new craft, try out a new game, take up a new pastime!

December 6 — Hand Sewing: Simple throw pillow & drawstring bag

December 20 — Chess/Checkers/Backgammon: How to play

January 3 — Cribbage: How to play

January 17 — Knitting and crocheting: Basic scarf

February 7 — Card Games: Kings in the Corner & Crazy Eights Countdown

February 21 — Wool Felting: Felted Soap

Preregistration is required. A minimum of four pre-registered participants are needed to run a session. Program cost each session will include necessary supplies for getting started in that session’s hobby. Each session will have a specific registration form. Program cost will vary, depending on supplies needed for that session’s hobby. Registration forms can be found online at <https://www.antrimnh.org/parks-recreation> or in person at the Town Hall or Rec Department, or can be emailed upon request.

Open Craft & Game Night

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, we are introducing a fantastic program called Open Craft & Game Night, from 7:30–9:00 p.m. at Town Hall, open to Teens* and Adults. No registration is required to attend this program; just come on down! *13–17-year-olds need a parent/guardian permission form on file to attend on their own

This will be a chance for people to bring their current projects or favorite games to work on or play in company. These nights will be held in the upstairs at Town Hall with lots of room to spread out. We will provide the space; you bring the supplies and games!

There are a couple of tables available to use, but feel free to bring a portable work surface with you. There are electrical outlets available to plug in things such as sewing machines. If you plan to paint, please bring a drop cloth with you to put under your work area to protect our surfaces.



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We also have some great returning and ongoing programming for this winter!

Toddler Time

Toddler Time runs Friday mornings from 10–10:45 a.m. through the winter at Antrim Town Hall. This is an indoor free-play program for people ages 1–4 and their adult companion. We will have small slides, tunnels, stepping stones and other fun, age-appropriate, indoor activities. Please come dressed to move around with your child. Please stay home if someone in your household is feeling unwell. Program will run as long as participation continues and weather cooperates. This is a drop-in program, with no pre-registration needed. The program is free for Antrim residents, \$5 per family per week for non-residents.

Pickleball

Pickleball runs at the Antrim Town Gym, ongoing from October–April, on Monday evenings from 6:45 to 8:30 p.m. and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:15 p.m. All are welcome! Nets/balls are provided, with some paddles also available to borrow. This is an Adult Program. Please call Antrim Rec at 603–588–3121 to sign up or for more information. Maximum of 16 players per session. Free for Antrim residents (donations accepted). One-time season registration of \$25 for non-residents.

S.A.I.L.

Stay Active and Independent for Life. This program is a collaboration of Antrim Recreation and The Grapevine. S.A.I.L. is an evidence-based fall prevention program, centered around a strength, balance and fitness program for adults 65 and older. The exercises can be done standing or sitting. Classes are offered on Monday/Wednesday/Friday from 1:30–2:30, upstairs at Town Hall. Preregistration is required. To register for this program, contact The Grapevine at 603–588–2620.

Free Movies at Town Hall

Upcoming Movie Programs at Town Hall:

2nd/4th Fridays at 3:00 p.m. — Dramas/Historical/Documentary-style films or themed classics

3rd Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. before Community Supper — Impact Cinema—Recent (last 10 yrs.) Box Office Hits for a Cause

2nd/4th Fridays at 4:30 p.m. — After-school G/PG series of films for older kids** and adults

Beginning December 8 — 2nd/4th Friday Morning Movies at 11 a.m. — Movement, music, & nature movies for babies & their families

We sell popcorn and other light concessions. There are plenty of chairs; feel free to bring a comfy camp chair. All movies are shown on a big screen on the second floor of Town Hall. An elevator services this facility. Subtitles in

English to assist the hearing-impaired. **Kids in 6th grade and younger need to have a parent or guardian with them at the movies

Southwest NH Tour of Lights

The SNHToL is a collaboration of local Recreation Departments working to highlight local seasonally decorated homes. This is a free, self-guided, multi-community tour. Participants can decorate with any seasonal decorations! Viewing will be December 9–25, 2023. Address lists for participating homes will be available through the Recreation Department.

Adults' (18+) Pickup Basketball

Adults' (18+) Pickup Basketball happens on Tuesday evenings from 7–8:30 p.m. at the Antrim Town Gym. If interested, please reach out to Celeste at 603–588–3121 or via email at RecDirector@AntrimNH.gov to be put in contact with program coordinators Jeremy Delisle and Kyle Murray.

Outside Programs — Zumba and Tae Kwon Do

We host ZUMBA with Lisa Kay Dawes at the Antrim Town Gym from 5:30–6:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$5 per session. Email Lisa at lisakaydawes@gmail.com for space availability and most recent schedule.

We host Tae Kwon Do for youth with Elizabeth Kenny at the Antrim Town Gym from 3:30–4:40 on Thursdays. Cost is \$40 per month. Email Elizabeth at TaeKwonDoBeth@yahoo.com for more information and to enroll.

Programs to keep an eye out for!

Keep up with our latest programming on the Town website at AntrimNH.org/parks-recreation or follow us on Facebook at Antrim Recreation. We are always working on adding new and exciting programming and you can be the first to hear about it by staying up to date with our content. Additionally, it won't be too long before the weather starts warming up again, so you will want to keep an eye out for some of our spring and summer program registrations happening in February and March, such as Baseball/Softball/T-Ball and Summer Camp! ✨

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Antrim Baptist Church

Greetings,

Despite the busyness at Antrim Baptist Church, we are grateful for several things. As a result of the new “One Board” structure, we have been able to move forward exceptionally well.

The summer and fall of 2023 saw several church attendees commit their lives to Christ, and twelve of them were baptized on November 5 by Pastor Charles Mitchell and Matthew Mitchell.

Mission’s Committee increased the number of “Blessing Bags” from fifty to eighty, which will be distributed throughout the Keene and Manchester areas. We have been able to add something more each year, and this year we added Bibles.

As part of the Food Pantry’s Thanksgiving basket distribution in the coming weeks, turkeys and fixings will be included.

In preparation for the yearly “Christmas Celebration,” we are gathering gifts to make the joy of Christmas brighter for families. We will have the presents ready for pickup on December 17th.

During the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus. We welcome everyone.

We are so grateful for all we have been blessed with. Let us come together in remembrance of the true meaning of Christmas.

In His Love,
Pamela Maki-Kallberg
Deaconate Co-Chair



Why We Are Thankful

Bruce McGuffin

Last year a vegan voiced a perky
“I’ll give thanks I’m not the turkey.”
The rest of us, with angry shouts,
All pelted her with Brussels sprouts.



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Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice

Linda Bundy

During our August and September meetings, we continued our discussion of the film series we will be hosting at the James A. Tuttle Library. We generated a list of the ones we will most likely show. The series title is *Moving Towards Healing: Exploring Social Concerns Through Film*. Our hope is that these films will raise awareness, prompt questions and stimulate conversation. We’re still finalizing the sequence of films, but dates are scheduled for the following Saturdays in 2024: January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13 and May 11. The monthly library newsletter will have specifics for each showing, and flyers will be posted in town. We hope you can attend one or more films to join the community conversations.

And speaking of dates, the Hancock Conversations on Race Group will be hosting the 6th Annual Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day on Monday, January 15, 2024, at Reynolds Hall in Peterborough from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The theme will be: *Celebrating Dr. King’s Beloved Community: An Inescapable Network of Mutuality*. All are welcome!

In October we met to discuss the novel, *Small Great Things*, by Jodi Picoult, which focuses on the experiences of an African American labor and delivery nurse, a white supremacist couple and a white lawyer. It raises powerful themes about race, privilege, justice and ethics. Even as the author felt driven to write this book, she was concerned about her ability as a white person having privilege in society to write from the perspective of an African American woman. Ms. Picoult did extensive research, attended social justice workshops and interviewed numerous people of color. The response to the book by people of color has been largely positive, with comments saying the nurse’s character and experiences were spot-on. We agreed that this was an uncomfortable book to read because of the themes and events, but it helped us see work that we need to do. As the characters change and grow, they begin to understand their own biases. We noticed that as different as the main figures were from each other, their common passion was their love for their children and their dedication to being what they believed to be the best parents they could. Finding common values with those whose opinions and beliefs contrast from ours can lead to mutual respect.

Our next meeting is Thursday, December 21st, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Even though we’ll be continuing to plan the film series, we welcome anyone who wishes to drop in. Contact Linda Bundy at 603-588-2254 or n_bundy@mct-telecom.com. *

Friends of the J. A. Tuttle Library

Linda Morehouse

J. A. Tuttle Library is a special place to try a new author, pick up a book by a favorite author, use the computers and browse the video selections. Helpful staff assist patrons download an audiobook through Libby, rent a movie on Hoopla, or select a new recipe on AtoZ World Food. All of these materials are free! The J. A. Tuttle Library is full of resources thanks to the hard work of the library staff and library trustees.

Friends of the Library set up a display at the Home and Harvest Festival in September. Raffle tickets were sold for book baskets and a garden bench. Proceeds from the raffles are used to support library resources such as SEE Science Center museum passes, NH State Parks passes and the books for newborns project.

Book bags for newborns is a new project. New parents should stop by the front desk of the library to request a book bag. Inside the book bag there are children's books and library goodies to encourage reading from an early age.

Friends of the Library volunteers work hard to enhance library resources. The organization purchased a pass for the SEE Science Center in Manchester and a pass to the NH State Parks. The SEE Science Center pass allows two people of any age to enter for free. The NH park pass allows two guests plus four dependents to enter for free! It is pos-



Linda Morehouse and Linda Tenney

sible to reserve the passes in advance for extra convenience. Check them out with your library card.

The landscaping committee works to rejuvenate and enhance the flower beds and plantings around the library. The grounds complement the new brick walk, flagpole and gazebo. If you have a green thumb and would like to join this committee, please speak to the library staff.

The Friends of the Library art committee facilitated art exhibits in the reference room this year. We hope you had a chance to view the art exhibits presented by so many talented artists in our town! The committee is looking for suggestions for Antrim artists for the 2024 year. Please speak with library staff to offer suggestions. The Festival of Trees committee worked diligently to provide gorgeous holiday displays during December. Enjoy the holiday-themed displays!

The landscaping, hospitality, art display and inventory committees work hard to provide support to the library. There is certainly room for more volunteers. Do you have a green thumb? Do you love to bake? Are you someone who hates to see books out of order in the library? Please join our organization and share your talents with visitors to the Tuttle Library. Registration forms are at the front desk of the library. The group meets quarterly to plan activities and update volunteer opportunities. Please join us!

Friends of the J. A. Tuttle Library is a 501(c)(3) organization. ✨



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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	D&D	4:00 – 5:45
Wednesdays	Story Time	3:30
Fridays	Story Time	10:00
Saturdays	Tech Help	11:00 – 2:00
STEAM Saturdays		10:00 – 12:00

DECEMBER

Santa Claus is Coming to Town • Saturday, December 2, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come visit Santa and tell him what you would like for Christmas! We will have hot chocolate, carolers, and cookies. Santa arrives on a fire truck!

Wrap Party • December 1–December 23

Meet your friends in the library to wrap your presents! We will have bows, paper, cards, tags, and so much more! Save some money this holiday season!

JANUARY

New Year’s Noon • Saturday, December 30 at 12:00 p.m.

You’re invited to a New Year’s celebration, at noon! Come to the library on Saturday, December 30, at noon and start the New Year off in style. We’ll have party hats, noisemakers and confetti, and you can raise a glass of sparkling cider and have a sweet treat. We will all wish Antrim a Happy 2024 at 12:00 p.m. See you there!

FEBRUARY

Children’s Room — Embrace the winter! Try knitting on a loom or practicing your crocheting skills using the yarn and looms. If anyone has yarn or crochet hooks that need a home, the librarian would be happy to receive them!

Take Your Child to the Library Day • Saturday, February 3. Join us in the Children’s Room for light refreshments, crafts and balloons!

Early February — Valentine cards and crafts in the Children’s Room. We’ll have cards, stickers and more for your Valentine creations

6th Annual Chili Cook-Off—TBD

Banjos, Bones, and Ballads • Saturday, February 17, at 1:30 p.m. Presenter: Jeff Warner

Traditional songs, rich with local history and a sense of place, present the latest news from the distant past. They help us to interpret present-day life with an understanding of the working people who built our country. Tavern songs, banjo tunes, 18th-century New England hymns, sailor songs, and humorous stories about traditional singer and their songs. *This is a NH Humanities event; it is free and open to the public.*

Winter Break • February 26–March 1

Children’s Room — Come warm up at the library and enjoy coloring, crafts and more.

Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice

Please join us for a monthly film series beginning in 2024. Scheduled dates are Saturdays, January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, and May 11 at 10:30. Group meets the third Thursday of each month by Zoom. Please call Linda Bundy at 603-588-2254 for more information.

We will be closed on the following days:

- January 1 for New Year’s Day
- January 15 for Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.
- February 19 for Washington’s Birthday

Please check our website for the latest programs and events! <https://www.antrimnh.org/james-tuttle-library> ❁



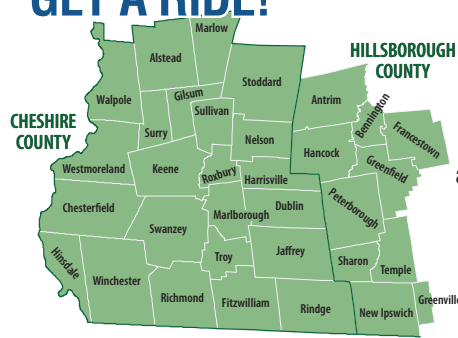
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New Faces (& Adventures!)

NEWS FROM AVENUE A

Jacqueline Roland

Director of Teen Programs at The Grapevine

We've welcomed new teens and staff to Avenue A this Fall! In September, Kim Bylancik joined our team as Avenue A Coordinator. Kim comes to us with fabulous experience as a youth worker. Kim worked with youth and young adults as an Impact Manager for City Year in Manchester, coordinates the UNH Cooperative Extension Cheshire County 4-H Program and leads a youth jump roping team in Keene. Kim is a graduate of Antioch University.

We also welcomed Paula Coombs as Avenue A Club Co-Leader, working with our middle schoolers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Paula is a Learning Vine Teacher and Hillsborough Program Coordinator at The Grapevine—we're thrilled that she's working with our teens now, too!

In September, our Lawn Chair Drill Team wrapped up a packed season with seven public performances, including their popular nursing home performance tour and two award-winning parade performances at Hancock Old Home Day and Antrim Home & Harvest. The team sported fabulous t-shirts screen-printed by Jen Murdough and matching sunglasses donated by Bev Montgomery!

The Bantam Grill in Peterborough raised money to support our programs for local youth via their Beast Master fundraiser dinner again this October! Thank you to owner and chef, Harris Weldon, the entire Bantam staff and all the amazing community members who attended the dinner in support of us. Our teens loved helping out at the event, too!

Fall brought exciting new adventures for our teens. Led by John Conklin, Mike Connolly and John Whalen, our Woodworking & Carpentry Crew is an approved Extended Learning Opportunity for ConVal High School students, so students earn school credit for participating. This fall the crew tackled a fun, competitive project that practically applied physics, math, and engineering principles. Working in teams, they designed and built three tension-system catapults created to throw pumpkins. In November, the Foecking family graciously allowed us to use their field to test the catapults. The Antrim Fire Department gave us hardhats for the festivities. Pumpkins were flung and a great time was had by all! We are grateful to Tenney Farm and Shaw's for providing pumpkins and Antrim Lumber for donating the supplies for this project.

By popular demand, we added a second day of our middle school afterschool program in November. Last year, our Wednesday afterschool program was full, with twenty participants and a waitlist the entire year. Now, Paula and Kim are leading a Tuesday session of the group, so that more middle schoolers can participate.

Our Outdoor Adventures group for middle schoolers had a fabulous fall session led by Kim; favorite activities in-

Updates from Antrim Water and Sewer Commission

Melissa Lombard

The commissioners wanted to provide an update to the community on some of our recent and future activities. Construction work has finally begun on the new well house and river crossing project. The construction phase of the project went out to bid in April and we received one bid from Northeast Earth Mechanics, who were awarded the project in June. It was discovered that we needed an amendment from the State of NH for the easement that runs through the property for the rail trail. This is currently at the Attorney General's office awaiting their review and placement on the docket for final approval from the Governor and Council. Work on the site, outside of the easement area, was started in October with logging of the land. Earth work will continue before the start of winter and the directional drilling for the water line under the Contoocook River is tentatively scheduled for January 2024. It has taken a long time to get here, but construction has started and is anticipated to be completed by the summer.

The commission had a warrant article approved by the town in March 2023 to complete a planning and design study for our sewage treatment system. The permit that allows us to discharge wastewater effluent to the Contoocook River was renewed in 2021 and included stricter requirements for the amount of lead that we are allowed to discharge. We have been working with Underwood Engineers and running a pilot treatment system to determine the ideal operational conditions to meet this new standard. Underwood has developed plans and initial designs for permanent changes to the treatment building that will allow us to be in compliance with our discharge permit. We were successful in applying to the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for grants and loans for a project that includes completing the construction necessary to be in compliance with our discharge permit and the installation of solar panels. The commissioners have been pursuing options for solar panels for many years because our electricity bill is one of our largest operating expenses. It can be in excess of \$8,000 per month. The electricity to run the aeration system for the treatment of the sewage lagoons is our largest consumer of electricity. We will be able to obtain many state and federal incentives to reduce the cost of installing solar panels and that will provide a quick return on investment and reduce our operating expenses. We will have a warrant article before the town this March for the authority to borrow funds for these projects. At this time, we anticipate that these projects will not require funds from the town. ✨

 — continued on page 18

First Presbyterian Church

Jan Howe, Pastor

All around us there seems to be a debate on when we can start celebrating Christmas. When do we decorate for Christmas? When do we start watching all the Christmas Hallmark movies or start playing Christmas carols? This year, I heard some people say they began in October and took a break for Halloween and then started again. I assume that also means they will take a break for Thanksgiving.

This year, we have an extra Sunday between Thanksgiving and the first Sunday in Advent. This does allow us to have a little breather to fully celebrate Thanksgiving with friends and family before we begin the journey of Advent preparing ourselves for the arrival of the baby Jesus on Christmas Day. The only issue with the calendar is that it means that the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day! That means we are fast-forwarding our Advent journey to arrive at the manger on Christmas Eve. Session has decided to hold one service on Dec. 24th at 6:00 p.m. (note the change in time) which will be our annual Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service.

Our Advent journey will also include a special concert at the church being organized by Ray Sweeney. It promises to be a wonderful concert with an adult community choir and a youth choir! Following the concert, the church will serve cookies in the fellowship hall. There are more details elsewhere in this publication. If you would like to make some cookies, please let Jan Howe know either by leaving a message at the church (603-588-2209) or by email at PastorAntrimfpc@gmail.com.

The Church is also participating in the Festival of Trees with a musical tree. The tree is a tribute to the special concert and our Christmas Eve Christmas carols. We love our Christmas carols and want to share them with others with our musical tree!

The church has prioritized two meal programs. The first is the family Community Supper on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30. Thanks to the Grapevine organizing the dinners we officially have a sponsor for each month with some brand-new sponsors! There seems to be some misunderstanding about the meals. Yes, they are free meals, but they are not just for the food-insecure. The focus is on community building and sharing a meal together. There is a donation basket for those who are able to contribute to local missions, but it is not required. The sponsor provides and cooks the meal. Social media from the Grapevine and usually the Antrim Bennington People Facebook page and the Church's Facebook page will have the menu within a few days of the dinner. The church puts the sign out the Sunday before to remind people the dinner is on Thursday. It is a wonderful community dinner and an opportunity to meet new friends. A bonus is that after the dinner the Revival Shop (the clothing store in the basement of the church) is usually open for a brief time.

The second priority is a newly formed Senior Congregate Meal on the third Wednesday of each month at 12 noon. This is sponsored by Hillsborough Meals on Wheels. This meal is meant to be eaten at the church at noon with one another. This is a separate focus from the Meals on Wheels that are delivered to people's homes. The suggested donation is \$3 and it is open to anyone over age sixty. Seniors must sign up with Jan (see above contact) by the second Wednesday of the month so she can order the proper number of meals. Meals on Wheels brings a different meal from a café or restaurant. So far, we have all enjoyed the delicious meals. The meals have become popular, so we have decided to open the church at 11:00 in order for people to arrive early. There is a jigsaw puzzle to work on; bring a game to play or a craft project to work on while visiting with neighbors! A bonus is that they usually bring a couple of raffles for which we all receive a ticket just for attending!

It is nice to have the church being used by organizations and groups from the community as well as being able to open our doors for special events! It has taken some time since COVID closure, but we are back! We even have new groups meeting at the church!

Hopefully, you have noticed that the painting of the back of the church was completed this autumn! It took us several years to paint all the sides of the church, but that project is now complete. It is back to being a proud prominent historical building in Antrim!

By the next *Limrik* publication we will have already begun our Lenten Journey with our Ash Wednesday meditative service on Wednesday, February 14th.

Please join us at the special events mentioned above and at our weekly Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship service! ✨

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.



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Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2023

Festival of Trees • Tuttle Library during open hours

Lions Christmas Trees sales at Tenney Farm

1–23 **Wrap Party** at the Tuttle Library during open hours

1 ACB & Antrim Players *A Christmas Carol* • Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

2 **Santa Claus is Coming to Town** • Tuttle Library from 4–5:00 p.m.

2 ACB & Antrim Players *A Christmas Carol* • Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.

9–24 **Southwest NH Tour of Lights** • Recreation Dept free self-guided multi-community tour of homes decorated for the holidays

13 **Free Senior Citizen Portraits** • second floor of Town Hall from 9:30 a.m.–12 noon

14 **Free Senior Citizen Portraits** • second floor of Town Hall from 1:30–3:30 p.m.

15 **Antrim Area Songsters** • directed by Ray Sweeney • Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.

17 *Snowdate Antrim Area Songsters* • directed by Ray Sweeney • Presbyterian Church at 3:00 p.m.

21 **Eclectic Book Club** discussion *The Nightingale: A Novel* • Tuttle Library at 2:15 p.m.

21 **Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice** • Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

21 **Free Community Supper** • hosted by Antrim Grange • Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

30 **New Years Noon Celebration** • Tuttle Library at 12:00 p.m.



JANUARY 2024

2 **Dads Campfire** group • The Grapevine at 7:00 p.m.

15 **Annual Celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr** • Hancock Conversations on Race Group at Reynolds Hall in Peterborough • 10:00 a.m.–12 noon

17 **Moms Campfire** group • The Grapevine at 6:00 p.m.

18 **Free Community Supper** • Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2024

2 **Take Your Child to the Library Day** • Tuttle Library during open hours

6 **Dads Campfire** group • The Grapevine at 7:00 p.m.

11 **Snowfamilies Playday** • The Grapevine at 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

15 **Free Community Supper** • Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

21 **Banjoes, Bones, and Ballads** presented by Jeff Warner • Tuttle Library at 1:30 p.m.

21 **Moms Campfire** group • The Grapevine at 6:00 p.m.

MARCH 2024

12 **Town Elections** • Town Hall • 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

14 **Town Meeting** • Town Hall • 7:00 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

MONDAYS

SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life) exercise class • Town Hall 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Zumba at Antrim Town Gym, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Adult Pickleball, Antrim Town Gym, 6:45–8:30 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Adult pick-up basketball, Antrim Town Gym, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

SAIL exercise class • Town Hall 1:30–2:30 p.m.

Adult Pickleball, Antrim Town Gym, 3:30–5:15 p.m.

Zumba at Antrim Town Gym, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Al-Anon, Presbyterian Church, 6 p.m.

FRIDAYS

SAIL exercise class • Town Hall 1:30–2:30 p.m.

SATURDAYS

Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry, Antrim Baptist Church, 10 a.m.–noon, all are welcome

cluded rock-hopping at Willard Pond and fort-building at McCabe Forest! A team of devoted volunteers make this program possible—John Kerrick, Scott McGovern, Heidi Graff, Harriet DiCicco and Steve Salisbury.

Bernd Foecking, Tom Faber and Christine Sullivan volunteered to lead November Mountain Biking Group rides for our middle and high schoolers at the Dublin Nordic trails and Greenfield State Park this fall, getting teens active and outdoors together!

T.A.C.O (Teens Are Cooking Organization) returned for another fabulous season this October! Led by Kim and our incredible team of volunteers—Nancy Blair, Nancy Langrall, Sue Conklin, Arlene Soule and Brenda Hennessy, the group meets on Thursdays to plan, make, and eat delicious meals. One of our teens explains that their favorite part of T.A.C.O is “the chance to see friends, have fun, smile, and most of all, feed people delicious food.” Thank you to the Antrim Presbyterian Church for letting us use their kitchen for this program, and the Kiwanis Club of Peterborough for sponsoring T.A.C.O.

Other returning programs include our school-year session of Pizza Talk, offered in partnership with Connected Families, NH. Teens gather in our space weekly to share a meal and discuss life. In its eighth year, our Write Out!

program continues to be a popular outlet for high schoolers to gather and share their creative writing. Adam Arnone remains our fearless Write Out! facilitator, and Diana Fiege is our fabulous volunteer! The group is busily preparing for an exhibit of their poetry at the Peterborough Library this December.

This winter, we’re excited for sledding parties, new programs, and more leadership daytrips to the Friends Forever International Campus in Durham, NH. For more information about our programs visit avenueatc.org or email avenuea@grapevინeh.org. ❁



Woodworking & Carpentry Crew members test one of their pumpkin catapults at the Foeckings' field in Antrim.

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Ladies Night at Edmunds

Wednesday, December 13, 6–8 p.m.
at Edmunds in Henniker & Antrim

A \$5 donation will get you a holiday bag to fill. Most items at 20% off. Come in for some one-stop holiday shopping! Your \$5 donation will go directly to our local chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), which offers free support, education and advocacy for Granite Staters affected by mental illness and suicide.

Senior Citizen Portraits

Frank Gorga

Some folks may remember that back in 2018, I worked with the Senior Center to offer Valentine's Day portraits of senior citizens. Since that was over five years ago—egad where has the time gone!—I have decided it is time to do it again. This year, in collaboration with the Recreation Department, I am offering portraits for the holiday season.

Come to the second floor of Town Hall on either Wednesday, December 13, from 9:30 a.m. to noon or Thursday, December 14, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Dress up in your finest (or not!) and I will take your portrait.

In return you will get a 5x7 inch print and a digital copy (jpeg file) of your portrait. The jpeg file can be taken to your favorite store for additional prints. All senior citizens (singles and couples alike) are welcome. No pets, please. There is no charge for these portraits.

Questions? Contact Frank Gorga (603-588-2569 or frank@frg-photo.com). ✨

Flag Dedication Ceremony

Tim Morehouse

Don Dunlap was a local cabinet maker with extraordinary skills. Many of his creations are on display around the state. At his passing Mr. Dunlap donated money to the Antrim Historical Society and the J.A. Tuttle Library. Last year, to recognize his generosity, Rick Wood, along with other members of the AHS and Library Trustees, purchased a gazebo in Mr. Dunlap's honor. It was delivered and erected in late summer of 2022.

At the same time a program was initiated to allow people to purchase customized, engraved bricks that were laid by Gordon Webber between the gazebo and main walkway of the library. This project was recently completed. Landscaping improvements were led by Linda Bryer and Linda Morehouse from the Friends of the Library and lighting was completed on the side granite steps by Patrick Cogan. These improvements, along with transplanting trees, planting native flowers and installing the new flagpole, completed Rick's vision.

The culmination of all these efforts by so many were celebrated in a dedication on November 11th. In the presence of many local people, including state representatives Jim Fedolfi, Riché Colcombe and Jim Creighton, US and state flags that were flown over the NH State Capitol were raised. Rick Wood addressed the group with a brief overview of the work and recognized several key individuals. Then Jim Creighton read a citation from Governor Sununu. The flag was raised by Rick Wood along with Tamasine Wood-Creighton and Tim Morehouse, a member of the Friends of the Library. ✨

Where in Antrim?



Mary Payne, Peter Moore, Thomas Beaumont, Kathy Stacy, Rick Edmunds, Karyn Coulter, J. Alfred and Will Mair all correctly identified the elegantly painted wagon that lives near the corner of Old Hancock Road and Clinton Road. Although it begs to be allowed to share its story, no one educated us on that. Thomas Beaumont won the gift certificate to Alberto's.

The names of all who correctly identify the location of this photo by December 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for Antrim Lumber. Email your response to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 603-588-2569. Photo by Peter Moore. Happy hunting! ✨

Sharing the Caring...



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Further entries in a series of poems offered up by Joseph McCarthy to give a sense of awareness and direction to some of those who are lost mentally and spiritually. His first poem in the series, "Where Do I Go From Here?," was published in the September issue of *The Limrik*. ~Ed.

My Story

Joseph J. McCarthy

There was a time when I lived in Ego State, and I went to Ego University.

I became a traveling salesman and traveled through many states.

Some of the names of the states were the State of Depression, the State of Anxiety, the State of Confusion,

The State of Worry, the State of Doubt, the State of Fear and the State of Loneliness.

There were even states that I got locked up in.

The one state that was hard for me to go through was the Painful State.

Then one day I met Jesus.

Jesus asked me if I would like to go and visit a Kingdom with him. I said, "Yes."

Then Jesus said, "There are things I do not want you to do.

1. Do not doubt. 2. Do not worry. And 3. Do not be afraid." Then he said, "Follow me."

I followed him and all of a sudden I was in the kingdom.

I looked all around and saw so much beauty, peace, joy and love.

I felt so good that I noticed all of my pain was gone—really gone.

I asked Jesus, "What is this Kingdom?" Then Jesus answered, "This is the Kingdom of Heaven."

I did not want to go back to those other states so I asked Jesus, "How can I stay in the Kingdom?"

Jesus answered, "You have a choice. You can leave if you want, or you can stay with me.

As long as you stay with me, I will stay with you. Come, follow me."

AlcoholISM

Joseph J. McCarthy

AlcoholISM—AlcoholISM—

The alcohol is out
But the ISM still about.
No matter where I go and
No matter where I've been—
The ISM stays inside of me;
It makes me think it's my friend—
AlcoholISM—AlcoholISM.

As things are looking good,
And I start to get somewhere—
The ISM jumps out and says,
"Have another beer."
I say, "No, I don't want to.
Please get out of here."
But the ISM comes back with
"I don't care."
AlcoholISM—AlcoholISM.

I'm still miserable,
Can't get along with myself—
So I look for excuses
Instead of asking for help—
The ISM keeps me cornered
And locked up inside—
It doesn't want me to live;
It only wants me to die—

AlcoholISM—not WASM, but ISM,

As things are looking good
And starting to get hot,
The ISM jumps right out
And says "Have another shot.
There's no one around
And I won't tell—
Come on, take that drink—
I want to take you to hell."
AlcoholISM.

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Antrim Elementary School

Beth Gibney, Principal

Greetings Antrim Community,

What a wonderful fall it has been at Antrim Elementary School (AES)! I can't believe we are nearing the fiftieth day of school already. I have enjoyed meeting with and getting to know so many families and community members since the doors opened in August. We are off to a strong start, and I am excited to share what has been happening at 10 School Street.

One of our goals at Antrim Elementary School is to increase family and community engagement. Having strong partnerships between families, schools and communities can help create positive outcomes for all children and improve the quality of education we can offer. We have already had a number of events at the school inviting families and community members to work together. In September, Open House was held to welcome children and families to the school to see what children are learning and to meet their teachers. This year we included a wide variety of community resources in the event. The ConVal School District provided fingerprinting to ensure all safety measures are met for volunteers and chaperones at the school, representatives from The Grapevine joined us to offer opportunities to join support groups for a wide range of needs, Antrim Recreation offered information and sign-ups for upcoming winter sports and family events, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were available for families to join a local troop, and Laurie Cass-Griggs from Youth Services at the James Tuttle Library came to offer library cards, just to mention a few. Children loved running through Miss Paige's obstacle course in the gym with their family members, and the PTO popcorn is always a hit! We look forward to expanding the event next year.

Thank you to the Lions Club for coming to AES to conduct their yearly eye screening. Around the world, Lions partner with medical professionals and community leaders to screen young children, primary school students and adults to identify those at risk for vision loss (Lions Club International). We are so fortunate to have Lions partner with our school to support our children. Thank you for your service!

Early in October, Antrim Fire and Rescue came to AES for Fire Safety and Prevention Day. The children had the opportunity to see the fire truck, saw all the equipment and gear the fire and rescue workers use to keep us safe, and learned the importance of escape routes and what numbers they should memorize in case there is an emergency. Later in the month, members of the Antrim Police, Fire and Rescue departments came to a staff meeting to review emergency procedures to ensure all members of the school community are safe in all situations. We are very fortunate to have emergency responders who are so invested in our school.

Last week the school was buzzing throughout the day and into the night with families coming to meet with teachers about their child's progress. We want to thank the PTO

for providing wonderful breakfast and snack treats for the staff throughout the day. If you could not meet with your child's teacher for any reason on conference day and would like to connect with them or with me, please contact me at the school.

Thank you to the AES PTO for spearheading the first Mums Fundraiser for the school. They raised over \$1,000 from the sale, and from sales like these we will provide enrichment opportunities for the children at AES throughout the year. Please watch for future fundraising events from our AES PTO.

Our annual Halloween Parade was full of ghosts and goblins, treats and even a few tricks. Students from Great Brook School lined Shea Field to high-five AES students and staff as they marched in costume down Main Street, where they were greeted by the community, who took pictures and waved. We returned to the school for an afternoon of Halloween-filled activities, crafts, and parties.

As we enter the holiday season, I look forward to experiencing all other AES and Antrim traditions, while starting some new ones as well. The children will create ornaments to decorate trees for the Antrim Festival of Trees and we will bring back the winter festival at the school. We will have a Friendsgiving Feast to celebrate kindness and friendship, a literacy night "Books & Cooks," and a STEM residency program this winter.

Our community engagement committee is currently planning our first Title 1 event of the year around literacy and cooking. We will post more information on our school website next month about the event and how community partners can sign up to be guest readers or to share a favorite book-inspired recipe with a class. Stay tuned to the AES website and watch for the next issue of the Antrim *Limrik* to see what's cooking at AES!

Warmest regards. ❁

Thank you ...

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



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The Local Bear

William Bryk

Life in rural New Hampshire can be more exciting than one might expect. In mid-July, I was driving up Clinton Road to a school board meeting in Peterborough when a black bear ambled across the pavement about a hundred yards from my car. He glanced at the vehicle and continued into the woods on Meetinghouse Hill, about half a mile from my house.

The bear proved to have a knack for personal publicity that a professional politician might envy. Within the day, he'd been the subject of numerous posts on local webpages and then an article in a local paper, suggesting that his activities centered around Old Pound Road and Reed Carr Road, a little under a mile from our house as the crow flies.

Two days later, our male tabby, Hotspur, slipped past one of us and out the back door. This happens every now and then—in summer, he is utterly focused on escaping the house into the wonderful outside—the world of noises, smells, flying birds, the movement of leaves in the breeze and the odd occasional field mouse. An hour or so later, Mimi went out to call him. She then clapped her hands.

Abruptly, the apple tree near our pond, about 150 yards from the house, began shaking. Its leaves began drifting to earth. We were staring at this when two thick, black, hairy legs emerged from the leafage. The tree trembled, the leaves fell, and the hairy legs moved. Then the rest of the bear fell from the tree, landing on all fours. He shook his head and lumbered south toward the woods.

Mimi called Hotspur again. She saw a slight movement among the daylilies near the stone wall by the road. A small black and white head popped into view for a moment and disappeared. She walked toward it, averting her eyes, and pretended to be gardening. Though sweet and affectionate, Hotspur loves evading capture if he thinks he's going to be picked up and returned to the house.

He was just inside the daylilies, crouched on the ground, making himself as small as possible, trembling, and deeply fearful, something we'd never seen in him.

He'd never seen a bear. He'd never dealt with something as big, non-human and carnivorous, with a strange, scary

scent. Black bears are harmless to humans unless the humans get in their way. They consider small domestic animals, such as cats, a delicacy. Mimi picked up Hotspur. For once the cat didn't try to wriggle from her arms. She carried him to the house. He stayed home for several days, content to gaze out the sunroom windows toward the woods. He is still more timid than usual.

In early August, I was in the driveway when Mimi called me from the house. I turned to her and then followed the imperative of her pointing finger. Bruin was ambling across the lawn, perhaps one hundred feet away. I stood absolutely still, arms lowered to my sides. He glanced at me and continued on, passing behind our barn toward the stream and the woods in the north of our property. Curiosity did not overcome discretion, the better part of valor, and I did not follow him.

A few days later, Mimi was gardening near the house when a small skunk ran up to her and then up her leg. Quite reasonably, she yelled and knocked the creature to the ground. I went outside in response to the yell. I looked. The skunk had come about and was approaching Mimi again.

This was strange behavior. It suggested the skunk was rabid.

Then Hotspur followed me outside. He saw the skunk. To him, it was just another toy, and he trotted toward it to play.

I'd been undergoing physical therapy for a wonky left foot. To my irritation, I'd been prescribed a cane to help

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me keep my balance. I dislike advertising any incapacity. Now the device had another use. Walking stick in one hand, banister in the other, I ran down the stairs, overtook Hotspur (one can run with a cane), and placed the tip of the stick between cat and skunk.

Mimi was behind me. She grabbed the cat and re-entered the house. The skunk attacked the cane. I pushed him gently away. He didn't get the message. Perhaps he couldn't. He returned and began biting the cane's rubber tip. As he was focused on the tip, I placed it underneath him, he curled up to continue his attack, and I firmly rolled him up to the barn. I stomped my feet and yelled. Now he got the message. He scuttled away, around the corner and into the flower beds. I banged the side of the barn with the cane. He squeaked from beneath it. We neither heard nor saw him again. Given his condition, I believe he died within several days as the disease incapacitated him.

June and July 2023 were extraordinarily hot, muggy, and rainy in southwestern New Hampshire. One day and night of torrential rain flooded the streams and roads. The North Branch River rose so high so fast that the town of Stoddard, five miles west of Antrim on Route 9, released water from its dams to prevent their collapse. The river rose over the Antrim town bridge on Liberty Farm Road, about a mile from my house on Clinton Road, buckling the macadam and rendering it unsafe.

Some time ago, while I worked for the town's land use boards, the bridge's condition had been the subject of discussion. The town fathers had felt it would last a few more years until its scheduled replacement, for which they were carefully setting funds aside. Out of curiosity, I traveled to the bridge myself, carefully climbed down to the riverbank, and examined the structure and its abutments. I'm not an engineer, merely an intelligent layperson. I thought the concrete looked decrepit but not in danger of imminent collapse. That's no longer the case.

The town's safety director, the tireless Marshall Gale, ordered the bridge closed. Some twenty households no longer had safe access to the outside world. The heroes of this and similar episodes throughout Antrim, the men and women of its Highway Department, patched up Stacy Hill Road,



Photo by Connie Kirwin

a long-abandoned thoroughfare, within two or three days so the area's residents could travel to and from their homes and, as importantly, the police, fire and ambulance services might reach them when needed.

In New Hampshire, Stacy Hill Road and other such abandoned roads are classified as Class VI under the Revised Statutes Annotated, familiarly called the RSAs. The classification means the town need not maintain it with taxpayer funds. I've walked most local Class VI roads. They're nearly impassible, even on foot. I suspect Merlin, my former assigned horse, 1,800 pounds of strength, speed, grace, courage, appetite, and attitude, would take one look at a Class VI road and, despite my commands, first turn his head to look at me with an expression of concern for my sanity, then turn and head for the stable.

The town fathers persuaded the state not to reclassify Stacy Hill Road as Class V upon their assurances that once the bridge was repaired or replaced, the town would no longer maintain Stacy Hill Road. Antrim's taxpayers may rejoice. ✱

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A Peek Inside Gregg Lake

Joan Gorga

Like many of the lakes and ponds in our area, Gregg Lake was born as the glaciers retreated some 11,000 to 14,000 years ago. The flowing glaciers scoured the land surface as they moved south and deposited glacial till and boulders as they melted in their retreat north. Can we tell anything about how the lake has changed since the glaciers retreated?

LiDAR gives us stunning views of the topology of the land stripped of trees. We can see where water must have cascaded into Gregg Lake from what are now a series of beaver wetlands to the west, breaking through the ridge traversed by Brimstone Corner Road and carrying debris (glacial till) that formed a delta toward the southern end of the lake. When that breach occurred is a question for another time. It's clear that the beaver wetlands have drained to the north for quite some time, and much sediment has been deposited in the wetlands to the northwest of Gregg Lake. We can also see that Gregg Lake itself may have emptied north and/or south before Great Brook dug its channel through the ridge that must once have stretched between Holt Hill and Patten Hill. But LiDAR doesn't penetrate water, so we can't see what's happened on the lake floor. How far have the sediments carried down from the Robb Mountain-Tuttle Hill ridge moved into the lake? Did the lake once extend farther to the north and west? Is the lake filling in in other ways?

A few years ago, out on the ice on Norway Pond, I met Steve Arcone, a geophysicist retired from working at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, and now affiliated with Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering. Steve offered to come over to Gregg Lake to look under the surface of the water using ground-penetrating radar (GPR) to see what we could see. Over the course of several visits, a group of us—Ben Pratt, Peter Beblowski, Celeste Lunetta, Frank Gorga and I (have I forgotten anyone?), along with Steve—crisscrossed the lake surface on the ice at an even pace and in straight lines towing a sled with a 100 MHz antenna transmitting radio waves through the ice and water and into the lake bottom and receiving their reflections. Geological features reflect the waves back differently, and the makeup of the lake bottom can be determined.

One of the most interesting features we found in a transect walking from near the Gregg Lake Road bridge to the opening to the channel leading to the dam was a set of foresets, or diagonal layers of sediment, mostly sand and gravel, that have been deposited about 30 feet deep over the years since the glaciers retreated. This sediment has been carried down from the steep slopes of the ridge to the northwest and gradually dropped when the water flow slows as it enters the body of Gregg Lake. The foresets begin just after the channel where Hattie Brown Brook enters the lake under the bridge and continue well past The Point at the public

beach. We know this area as The Meadows, because the water is shallow and vegetation thick. GPR shows that glacial till or bedrock lie under this 30-foot deep sediment layer.

A confusing discontinuity in the foresets—an unstratified gap about 80 feet wide and 20 feet deep between the bridge and the Point—was explained when Ben Pratt remembered that in the early days of the Boy Scouts' Camp Sachem, a channel was dredged through The Meadows so they could transport Scouts and supplies by boat from Gregg Lake Road to the Camp Sachem beach. That channel has gradually filled in, but not in the orderly fashion of the forward-marching foresets.

Beyond the slowly but steadily advancing foresets the lake rapidly becomes deeper. Here, the bottom generally has a thick layer—20 feet deep in places—of gyttja, a fine-grained thick black muck containing abundant organic matter, over sand and gravel deposits and bedrock exposed by the glaciers. After crossing a gyttja-filled basin about 300 feet wide, we came to a steep pile of rocks or bedrock reaching up to within about 10 feet of the water surface from a depth of about 23 feet at the lake bottom. Steve was quite intrigued by this mound. We returned several times to thoroughly cover the area with transects and found traces of other similar mounds. Steve postulated that these were the remains of moraine dumps or kames, which form when sediment, rocks and boulders collect in a depression in a glacier or tumble off the edge of a glacier in a pile and are left in a mound when the glacier melts.

Gregg Lake's mounds, however, appear to be made up of medium to large-sized boulders. GPR showed that the smaller sediments and gravel have been deposited evenly around the bases of the mounds and are now buried in gyttja. How could the smaller material have been removed from the mounds? Earthquakes and large storms are known to be the main triggers of landslides and debris flows. Using the evidence we gathered, along with other studies on Norway Pond, Lake Sunapee and Mirror Lake, Steve proposed that Gregg Lake's underwater and partially-buried mounds are evidence of earthquake or ice-quake activity between 11,000 and 14,000 years ago. The debris flows likely occurred before Gregg Lake filled with water, but the water covering since then protected the debris fields from terrestrial erosion, for instance from storms, and the debris remains evenly distributed around the central mounds.

Steve was anxious to confirm that our mounds were made of medium to large rocks, rather than a solid piece of exposed bedrock. This was easier said than done! I initially struck out trying to find a scuba diver who was willing to dive down and take photos. Instead, I rigged up a Go-Pro camera and waterproof lights on the end of an extendable roof rake handle, after removing the rake and making marks every foot so we could estimate the depth, and my long-suffering cousin Suzy towed me around the mound area with

 — continued on page 28

Alpine Whine

Bruce McGuffin

Oh, there's not much going
in the way of snowing,
but it sure is cold
and the wind is blowing.
It may frost my glasses
but all that I ask is
I don't end like Otzi
In his Alpine passes.
'Cause if he had chosen
I don't think that frozen
was the look he wanted
in his lederhosen.
I'll oppose erasure
by most any measure,
No, I won't be frozen
in an Alpine glacier.

A Christmas Carol

December 1 & 2 • 7:00 pm

Antrim-Bennington Lions Club

Linda Morehouse

October was a busy month for the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club. First, 19 volunteers participated in Operation Kidsight and completed eye scans with 532 students in the ConVal School District, which is an increase of 12% over last year. Additionally, our club collected 139 eyeglasses, 18 sunglasses and 4 sets of hearing aids over the past six months. Please remember to donate your used glasses and hearing aids in the boxes provided at the Antrim post office.

Second, the club refurbished the dugouts at Shea Field in Antrim. This was a cooperative effort with funding provided by the Antrim Recreation Department and a Lions Club Youth Services grant. Ten volunteers from the club replaced rotted boards and repainted the structures to look as good as new. Over 500 children were served through this project.

Third, a group of Lions Club volunteers gathered to make eight children's blankets for delivery to the Project Linus organization that serves southern NH. These blankets are given to children in need.

Finally, a group of Lions members supported the Trunk or Treat event at the J. A. Tuttle Library in Antrim. They distributed candy to 115 trick-or-treaters!

The club is gearing up to serve a Thanksgiving holiday meal to seniors in an Antrim senior housing complex and to sell Christmas trees at Tenney's Farm on Saturdays and Sundays in December until sold out. Our meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Reach out to a Lions member for more information. ❁

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At the Antrim Historical Society's annual meeting on November 12, retiring long-time AHS treasurer and renowned source of all things historical about Antrim's roads, Eric Tenney, was presented with a thank-you hat. The meeting was followed by a captivating presentation by George Caughey on using LiDAR to map Antrim's stone walls and deduce both historical and pre-historical Antrim events. Photo by Rick Wood. ❁

The Signs AN ODIE STORY

Susan Ellsworth

As it was time for the family to pack up their belongings and head back home. Mother Vickie and Grandma packed bags of fruit and veggies from Grandpa's garden. The children packed their clothing, a few toys they had brought with them and their gifts from Grandma and Grandpa. Lincoln ran quickly out to the flower garden to tell Puff, his magical dragonfly, that they would be leaving soon. Puff had made so many new friends in the garden, and the flower fairies loved having him there to help them.

Puff loved his boy Lincoln, but felt he now knew his purpose for the future. He asked Lincoln if he could stay with Grandma and Grandpa to help with Odie's unraveling gift. Lincoln was sad, but knew Odie was a young puppy that needed a friend, too. He also knew that Odie was a special dog and would do great things for others. He didn't want to be selfish and agreed. He told Puff he loved him and told him he would come back to visit soon. Then he ran back to the house quickly before he changed his mind. As tears fell, he waved goodbye to Puff. The children and Mother kissed and hugged Grandma, Grandpa and Odie goodbye and then buckled up for the long ride home. They all waved as they disappeared down the street.



Grandpa went into the house as Grandma took Odie for a quick walk-and-play before going in for the afternoon. While over by the flower garden, Odie saw Puff and then Grandma did. Odie sat down and seemed to be listening to the little dragonfly. Grandma thought it was weird, so she stood there and watched them. Then it happened. Grandma couldn't believe it. She could understand Odie and the dragonfly as they were {thinking? talking?}, but how could that be? Grandma shook her head in disbelief. Was she imagining it? It seemed so real. Then Puff told Grandma his name and that he came on the same ship as Odie did. That the note was true! Odie was a special dog. That he would be able to do good things for humans and other creatures, and that in time Grandma would see. Puff told Grandma that she was the only adult human who would be able to communicate with him. It was to be their secret. Puff told her that he had stayed with Lincoln for a while before coming back to Grandma's. Grandma was excited and surprised to learn all of this. Puff asked her to promise not to tell anyone about this for Odie's safety. Grandma agreed.

When back in the house, Puff went into Grandma's orchid room and found some bugs and many other things for him to eat and look at. He made himself at home up high in the wooden rafters where it was warm and safe. There was a great opening by a cracked window for him to go in and out to get to the outside garden. He loved his new home and couldn't wait to see how he would be able to help Odie.

Grandma went into the kitchen behind Odie's lead. He went over to his water bowl and sat down. He then turned to see where Grandma was and caught her gaze. He told her with his mind that he would like some new water and a cookie please. Grandma laughed and said, "Of course, Mr. Odie." Odie wagged his tail and licked Grandma's hand when she gave him the cookie. Then he went over to his bed and curled up for a nap.

About two hours later, when Grandma had begun to make dinner, Odie woke up and asked to be taken out. He was already house-trained; he was a very smart and quick learner. Grandma took him out to the front of the house for a walk. Just then a pretty teen girl came walking towards

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Grandma and Odie with her dog. She said “Hi” to Grandma like they knew each other, and they did. She had a very pretty girl dog named Willow. Odie was so excited, but a little unsure to meet her. She was bigger than he was, but the same three colors—black, brown and white. She was very shy but friendly and Odie knew they would be friends. He sat down and told her his name. She looked at him and told him her name. Grandma could not believe she could understand it all as if they were saying real words. She told him it was nice to meet him and that she needed to go now because they were going to meet the little family members at the school to walk home. They said their goodbyes, and Willow and the pretty teen walked up the hill towards the school.

Odie and Grandma then finished their walk and went back into the house so Grandma could finish making dinner. Odie told Grandma he was happy to make a new doggie friend and loved her and Grandpa very much. Grandma bent down and gave Odie a big hug and kiss on his head and told him she loved him, too. She told him that he would be meeting many new doggies in the next few weeks, and he would make lots of friends. She told him that soon the children would be walking to and from school every day and he would see many new faces to lick and hands to smell, too. Odie knew he would like that and looked forward to the new adventures.

Tune in for more Odie stories... ❁

Connie Kirwin Recognized by the NH Library Trustees Association

Rick Wood

On October 28, members of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association came to the James A. Tuttle Library to present the Dorothy M. Little Award to Antrim’s own Connie Kirwin. The reward is presented to an individual who has demonstrated sustained, extraordinary public library advocacy and activism on a local, regional and state level. Connie is a past Tuttle Library Trustee, played a major role in the 2007 library addition, and has performed many roles for the NHLTA over the past fifteen years serving on the Board of Directors. ❁



Photo by Rick Wood

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her kayak while I sat in my kayak and held the camera down to see what the mound was made of. It's not so easy to hold a pole down 23 feet. Nor is it easy to tow a kayak with someone holding a pole down 23 feet. I frequently had to pull the pole up as the camera smashed into large rocks. Unfortunately, I get so seasick watching the videos that I haven't been able to do much with them, but I can confirm that the mounds are mostly made of large rocks. Some appear to have tumbled down and become partially buried in the muck on the bottom. I also saw a few fish, plentiful freshwater sponges and a bed of freshwater mussels. The shape and height of the pile are very irregular. We mapped depth soundings by GPS and followed up with multiple GPR transects to characterize the mound, while Steve developed his theory of earthquake action.

GPR transects taken in other areas, especially toward the south end of Gregg Lake, showed intriguing debris fields apparently from large storm events and stream deltas reaching under the current water surface. Gregg Lake is slowly filling in, as lakes do as they age, but, in addition, the GPR data revealed exciting evidence of long-ago seismic activity in our area.

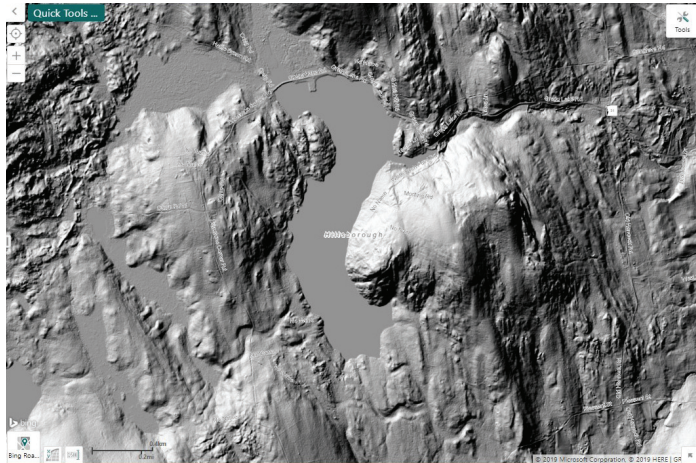


Figure 1. LiDAR view of Gregg Lake made using NH GRANIT.

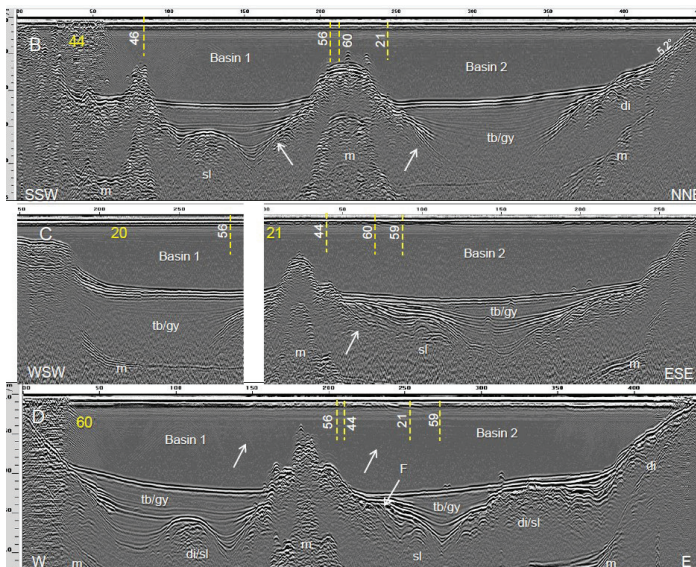


Figure 2. Sample Ground-Penetrating Radar scans of the north-central basin of Gregg Lake. The upper scan represents transect #44, which went from Gregg Lake Road in a southwesterly direction toward the Harbor Camp shore. The middle scan represents transects #20 & 21, which went

from the Rachel Lane shore near the opening of the channel to the dam in a northwesterly direction toward The Point. The edge of the foreset deposits can be seen on the left of transect #20. The lower scan represents transect #60, which went from the cove near the Ullmans and Woodwards west-erly toward the Harbor Camp shore. Positions of intersecting transects are shown at the top. The uppermost reflections represent the current lake bottom, with the rocky mound(s) protruding. The mounds can be seen to extend well below the current lake bottom, with their bases and debris fields buried in layers of sediment and gyttja (labeled tb/gt). Figure made by Steve Arcone.

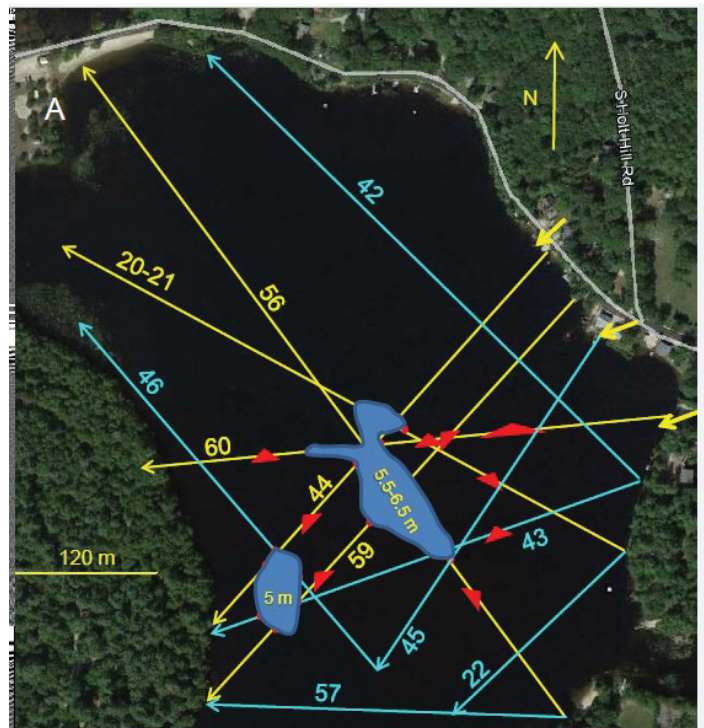


Figure 3. Map of rock mounds found in Gregg Lake, showing positions of GPR transects. Figure made by Steve Arcone.



Gregg Lake Beach Park Project

Celeste Lunetta, Joan Gorga, Kathi Wasserloos
and Melissa Chapman

You'll soon begin to see some action at Gregg Lake Beach Park. We've obtained a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to cover 50% of the Phase I project costs and have secured the required shoreland permitting from the NH Department of Environmental Services. We're thrilled to announce that Antrim's own John Kendall will be leading the construction of the new bathhouse.

With the contractor lined up, demolition of the old bathhouse structure—the original building dating from the late 1960s, with extensions and band-aids applied over the years—can begin. The new bathhouse will be shifted a few feet to the west to allow the new vault toilets to be placed directly over the existing septic holding tanks. The tanks have been inspected and deemed to be in good shape; with a few minor repairs they will be adapted to their new roles. To avoid damaging the tanks, most of the existing concrete slab will be left in place, but the entire building will be removed.

The Antrim Highway Department will be helping with the demolition. At the suggestion of Road Agent Tyler Tommila, we screened the structure for lead paint. One inside wooden door with peeling paint tested positive, but no lead was detected in sixteen other spots, inside or out. The door can be removed intact and handled appropriately, and the rest of the building should be safe for demolition activities.

Those who've visited or worked at the beach in years past may fondly remember the inside wooden panels with fish scenes. We're hoping to protect and save them to reuse in some capacity, although we haven't yet decided just what that will be.

As demolition and construction get under way, the beach parking lot will be closed for safety. Parking will still be available at the boat launch through the winter and spring. We anticipate that the construction will be completed by the end of May and the beach will open for the summer season. Once the construction is complete, we will begin landscaping and accessibility projects, which will continue through the summer and fall. Landscaping includes planting shade trees in the paddlecraft and dog swim areas and in a new

picnic spot near the bathhouse, as well as establishing rain gardens and native plantings. We'll be laying down walkways to improve accessibility to the point and pavilions. We'll be looking for help with these!

Antrim Historical Society Calendars

Helene Newbold

Only a few are left! If you know any of these people, you will want to own one!

Featured in the calendar are quilts by: Sue Conklin, Eric and Linda Tenney, Sue Cheetham, Carol and Neil Brown, Don and Priscilla Shook (Antrim Quilters), Isabel Nichols, Sharon Stickney, Kathleen Anderson, Nancy Burnham, Pauline Robertson, Beth McGurty, Jim Burnham, Antrim Grange, Antrim Baptist Church, Antrim Presbyterian Church and the Antrim Historical Society Collection.

The beautiful quilts featured each month will decorate your wall or desk all year! They make a wonderful gift for others as well.

You can purchase your very own calendar or gift calendar at the Historical Society Room on the 2nd floor of the library during library hours OR email helenenewbold@gmail.com to reserve one! ✨

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Q U I L T

Antrim Historical Society's
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A ready-to-hang Calendar featuring 12 different artisan quilt textiles made by local names you may recognize!

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Grapevine

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are wishing all of you a peaceful and happy holiday season in 2023. Since January, we have distributed over \$18,000 in direct financial assistance to local families during a time where basic necessities have been harder to afford. Are you or someone you know struggling to cover bills, pay for groceries or experiencing a financial hardship? Please call The Grapevine; we may be able to help.

We are able to provide our many programs and resources because of local, individual support. Please consider donating to our organization this holiday season. We are a local, trusted non-profit serving our community for over twenty-five years. You can easily give at our website, grapevინeh.org, by clicking on the GIVE button. You can also give of your time and talent by volunteering—please contact us to learn more. As always, we truly value your feedback. You can reach Executive Director Melissa Gallagher at melisag@grapevინeh.org.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To **Bantam Grill** of Peterborough. For the ninth consecutive year, Bantam has hosted the Beast Master's Classic dinner, with 100 percent of the proceeds donated to The Grapevine—we designate these funds to our Avenue A Teen Center. Owner Harris Welden and his entire staff, especially Russell Novotny, Morgan Jadis and our own Board Chair Rose Novotny, put so much into this event, which raised **\$8,600!** We are incredibly grateful and honored to receive this gift!

To the **Keene Community Kitchen** for partnering with The Grapevine for the second year to bring the Mobile Food Pantry event to Antrim this past September. This special event provided fresh produce, meats and other healthy foods to over seventy individuals in our community. We hope this will become an annual tradition!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

For all special programs and events, contact The Grapevine at: 603-588-2620 or email info@grapevინeh.org.

Snowfamilies Playday: Sunday, February 11, from 10-12! Join us at The Grapevine for this fun family event! A morning of indoor crafts and activities and outdoor play! We'll have warm drinks and treats, too. No sign-up required; open to all!

ONGOING PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES

Kinship Navigator Program

If you are a grandparent parenting your grandchildren or a relative caregiver, you are not alone. Our Kinship Navigator, Rosemary Nugent, a parenting grandmother, can offer emotional support, help accessing resources, connection to other relative caregivers, and a friendly voice to check in

as you need it. Give us a call or email Rosemary at rosemaryn@grapevინeh.org.

WEEKLY CHILD & PARENT PROGRAMS

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

- **Parent-Child Playgroups in Hillsborough:** Mondays from 1-2:30 & Thursdays from 10-12 noon. (*Monday is still open, Thursday is currently full.*)
- **Better Beginnings Parent/Child Groups:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 9:30-11:30. (*Note: Better Beginnings Parent enrollment is currently full, but please contact us to learn about options!*)
- **Better Beginnings for Babies** (ages newborn to 1 year): Offered weekly on Thursdays, 9:30-11.
- **Out and About:** Take family-friendly walks and hikes with us in our local area! Meets weekly at outdoor locations on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00.

Dads Campfire

We have heard that dads don't usually get the time to talk together about being a parent and all of the other things that come up along the way. The group meets with Rick Edmunds the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Pizza provided. Please contact Carol for more information.

Moms Campfire

Join other moms/caregivers around the campfire to hang out and talk about life. Meets at The Grapevine on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., starting Nov. 15. Pizza provided.

Community Wood Bank is open!

The purpose of our community wood bank is to act as a temporary resource in emergency situations for those who use wood as their primary heat source. Please contact us if you are able to help us deliver to a neighbor who finds themselves suddenly in need.

Community Tool Lending Shed is open!

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

Welcome and Farewell:

A warm welcome to Grapevine Staff Members Mikayla Essex, Home Visitor; Maureen Troy, Out & About Co-Leader; Leigh Frosch, Out & About Co-Leader; and Karen Pellicano, who has recently transitioned to our Community Health Case Coordinator position. The Grapevine is incredibly fortunate to have such kind, committed staff leading our programs!

A fond farewell and thanks to Grapevine Board Member Tom Badgley of Bennington. Tom has been serving on our board for 6+ years with a smile, hug and immense kindness. Tom has been especially helpful to us with facility and outdoor needs at The Grapevine. He helped construct our Community Tool Shed, planted a garlic garden bed, tended to many building fix-its and has always been willing to lend a hand with any ask we've had. We will miss Tom as a Board Member but he will always be a friend to The Grapevine!

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

The **Antrim-Bennington Lions Club**, especially **Rick Wood** for loaning and setup of their A/V equipment for our Suicide Prevention trainings; the **local donors and shoppers** who visited our Fall Yard Sale as well as **Dottie Bauer, Dana Brien and Kelly Kirkpatrick** for their help setting up, helping us raise over \$1,000!; donors and bidders in our 2023 Online Auction; our Fall Wood Party volunteers who helped us split, sort and stack wood at the Ben Pratt Community Wood Bank, including our **Dads Campfire volunteers, Sarah, Thomas & Simon Beaumont, Erica, Rich, Leo & Fin Snyder, Lisa Hennessy & Waylon Hugron, Melissa, Mark, Oren & Noa Gallagher, Meredith & Robbie O'Donnell, Leigh, Barry & Brendan Frosch, Brenda Hennessy, James & Joyana Panico and Cheryl**

Matthes; Rick Edmunds for constructing our new outdoor storage shed and Ace Hardware for donating the materials; **Bob Edwards** for picking up our trash every week; **End 68 Hours of Hunger, Home, Healthcare and Hospice Care & Services (HCS) and the Monadnock Humane Society** for joining us for our resource fair at the Mobile Food Pantry event. See the Avenue A article for more thank-yous and recognitions!

SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE GRAPEVINE...

- Information and supported referral for resources for food, housing, heating and other needs
- Kinship Navigation Program—For grandparents and other relative caregivers
- Community Wood Bank—For urgent home heating needs
- Community Tool Lending Shed—email toolshed@grapevინeh.org for requests

The Grapevine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit family and community resource center located at 4 Aiken Street in Antrim, behind the Tuttle Library. For more information call 603-588-2620, or email info@grapevინeh.org. We gratefully accept donations, which are tax deductible. Please make your donation online at www.grapevინeh.org or mail a check payable to The Grapevine to PO Box 637, Antrim, NH 03440. Visit us on social media at facebook.com/grapevინeh.org and Instagram: [@thegrapevinefrc](https://instagram.com/thegrapevinefrc). ❁



Local volunteers came together on October 28th to sort and stack over three cords of wood into our Ben Pratt Community Wood Shed. This wood is available throughout the cold season as an emergency resource to people who use wood to heat their home. Photo by Noa Gallagher.

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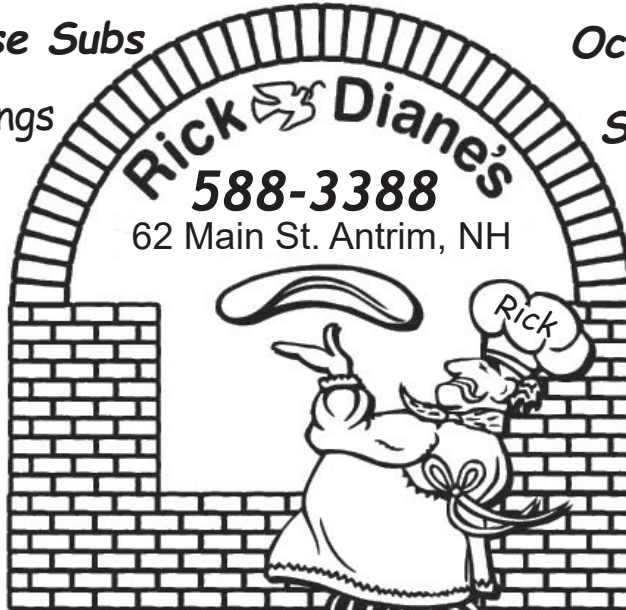
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