

Antrim Fire & Ambulance

Chief Marshall W. Gale

As of November 10, 2024, Antrim Fire & Ambulance had responded to 469 calls for service this year; 384 calls were for EMS and 84 calls for fire. We have been approaching averaging 600 calls per year as a department. Antrim Fire & Ambulance still operates as a call department with a crew of very dedicated men and women who are willing to respond on a moment's notice. We have seen in the last ten years that call departments not only locally but also nationally are not seeing the recruitment needed to fully staff their departments. Antrim Fire & Ambulance is now operating at the lowest staffing levels that we have ever seen. In the '70s through the early 2000s, Antrim Fire & Ambulance had a roster of close to forty members to staff both fire stations. At present, we are staffed with sixteen members, and this goes to show the changing times and trends in today's world.

Becoming a call firefighter is arguably one of the most rewarding and fulfilling positions you can fill in your community. What's even more encouraging about it is that it requires little to no experience to get started. The primary objective of fire departments is to help prevent the fire from taking lives and destroying property. A call firefighter is an individual who voluntarily provides his/her services to protect the community. Research has indicated that nearly seventy percent of the United States fire service staff is made up of volun-

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Antrim Hosts Rarely Seen Bat: Chiropterologists Impressed

George Caughey

On September 10th, Michelle and I were bush-whacking through a re-wilding section of the farm seeking harvest-ready wild grapes, when I spotted something odd. Brick-red and hairy, it was attached to an alder branch, just above eye level. Somewhat resembling a squirrel, it sported luxurious red fur with white shoulder patches and hung upside down on one foot. In other words, it behaved like a bat, although one unfamiliar to me. A quick internet search led me to suspect that this was a type of hairy bat, specifically the eastern red bat, *Lasiurus borealis*. The nature identification app iNaturalist supported this impression after analyzing my uploaded photos. Quickly, bat experts (chiropterologists) around the world weighed in to confirm the identification. It was the first time that a living example of this species had been photographed and uploaded to iNaturalist in New Hampshire.

Having achieved this small measure of fame in an obscure niche of the internet, I tried to learn

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Antrim's Festival of Trees

James Panico

We're back! All through the month of December, visit the James A. Tuttle Library in Antrim and view a selection of over fifty festive trees, wreaths, displays and quilts in a warm, inviting environment. Decorated by community members, groups and organizations, each piece of holiday decor presents a unique story and creative aesthetic, revolving around the theme, "Home for the Holidays." 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!

New for this year, we've created a "winter forest" seated photo station where patrons can snap their own selfie or pose with a group among glis-

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Town Hall roof repair. Photo by Frank Gorga

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

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— SUBSCRIPTIONS —

Subscriptions are available at \$20 for one year and \$35 for two years. Please make checks payable to the Antrim Limrik and mail order to:

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Antrim, NH 03440

— ADVERTISING RATES —

Half page (back page)	SIZE: 5" H x 7 1/2" W
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\$125 for 4 issues	

Required file format: PDF or JPEG

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

— SUBMISSIONS —

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

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

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

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

Festival of Trees continued from page 1

tening birch trees. A librarian is always around the corner if you need an extra hand in taking that memorable shot. You can find this in the library's reference room.

The Quilt Raffle is back for the 2024 holiday season. This year's prize is a double-sided 5' x 7' holiday-themed quilt featuring alternating trees, ornaments and Christmas fabrics. Made with love by Festival committee members, it is prominently displayed on the wall by the circulation 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. This is the main fundraiser for the Festival, with all proceeds used to help offset the modest expenses. A lucky winner will be announced mid-December. Festival of Trees postcards can also be purchased (while supplies last) and are a great way to send joy to family and friends this season.

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.

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



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Selectboard Report

Bob Edwards

Personnel

At a recent Selectboard meeting, Town Administrator Donna Hanson announced her plan to retire at the end of 2024. As most know, Donna graciously stepped in to support our community on a part-time basis upon the departure of our previous Town Administrator. She has been both an ambassador and key contributor to the Selectboard and management of Antrim's administrative operation. The Selectboard and staff wish her the very best in her retirement and thank her for her dedicated service to Antrim. The Selectboard is considering several options as we review how best to address the Town Administrator position for the future.

Continuing Education

Many town employees participated in Employee Safety Day to learn best practices and gain a greater awareness about cyber security threats, lifesaving defibrillator operation, active shooter preparedness and more. Members of town management attended a two-day NH Municipal Association annual conference to learn more about cyber security threats and best practices for municipal management, including personnel management, recently passed legislation affecting NH towns, grant opportunities, land use, tax appeals, municipal infrastructure management and more. Two Selectboard members have now graduated from the NHMA Academy for Good Governance.

2025 Capital Improvement Plan and Annual Budgeting Process

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) initiative has been completed for the years 2025–2030 and presented to the Planning Board and Selectboard for acceptance. Although unanticipated events can occur quickly, the CIP is a financial longer-term planning tool for larger future capital expenditures town-wide. Some capital improvements, like the Town Hall roof replacement identified in the Stewardship Plan, are being implemented currently. The Selectboard is presently into the 2025 budget process with department heads, in preparation for the 2025 Town Meeting in March. Cost containment while providing the desired level of service to our community is always a priority.

Tax Rate Setting

The Selectboard set Antrim's 2024 tax rate at \$20.79 per \$1,000 of property assessment, up from \$18.74 in 2023. It represents a 10.5% increase but includes the county, state and local education tax as well. The Town's portion of the tax rate is \$6.74, up 3.3% from 2023. The Town's Unassigned Fund Balance at year-end will be reviewed to determine if any of the Fund Balance above 12% (retained for unanticipated cash flow needs) could be used to increase the Town's Capital Reserve Funds and/or support proposed 2025 warrant articles.

Sale of Town-owned Properties

The Selectboard has identified multiple properties that don't serve any town benefit by holding them. A sale would allow the properties to be returned to the tax rolls and produce a cash benefit to the Town. The Selectboard, Conservation Commission and the Planning Board review the listing in advance of any sale to ensure compliance with the requirements of NH RSA 41:14 (a).

Now that we have all turned our clocks back and transitioned from lawn mowers to snowblowers, the Selectboard extends its best wishes to all our residents for a wonderful holiday season. We always appreciate and encourage constructive comments and questions from our residents, and we extend a special thanks to our town employees for their hard work and commitment to providing great service to our community. ❁

The Antrim Area Songsters

Ray Sweeney, Director

Because our Holiday Concert last year was so very successful, we will be doing it again this year! Like last year we will be presenting this concert at the Antrim Presbyterian Church. It will be held on Friday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m., or in the event we get snowed out, Sunday afternoon, December 8th at 3:00 p.m. The program will consist of secular and religious pieces, both familiar and not-so-familiar.

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 by donation. Everyone was so very generous last year, and that generosity helped greatly with the various and sundry expenses the church deals with on a regular basis. 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! ❁

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teers. For several reasons, the number of volunteers keeps decreasing while call volumes are on the rise. This implies that there is an urgent need for a new group of call firefighters and the opportunity awaits for those who are willing to serve. Of course, the best place to begin is where you live. No experience is needed, and Antrim Fire will provide all training and necessary equipment. As a call department, we pay an hourly rate for calls, training and work details. There is a certain level of commitment, but we understand that home, family and work must be a priority and any time that can be given works for us.

Antrim Ambulance now has a great opportunity for anyone who wants to explore becoming an EMT. Antrim Ambulance is now an employer for the Apprenticeship NH program and scholarships are available to pay for EMT classes at Great Brook Academy in Hillsboro. The next class will be starting in March 2025 and hours are scheduled to accommodate the working person. We already have one person signing up for March 2025 and this would be a great opportunity to reach out to us and become an EMT. Antrim Ambulance operates two ALS (Advanced Life Support) ambulances equipped with the latest up-to-date equipment and serves the towns of Antrim and Bennington.

We have members who are both fire and EMS, as well as some who serve in a singular role. If you would like to become a firefighter or EMT or both, reach out to us and learn what we're all about. The requirements are to be eighteen years of age or older, possess a valid driver's license and pass a background check. There is a role for everyone willing to serve your community at Antrim Fire & Ambulance. This is an incredibly rewarding way to make a positive contribution to your community!

This fall, due to low levels of rainfall, we have seen extended periods of high fire danger. Typically, with the fall rains we only see a short period of high fire danger conditions in the fall. We have been fortunate in our immediate area that we have only had several small fires caused by downed power lines. These fires were quickly contained and extinguished before spreading. Unfortunately, our neighbors to the south have had numerous wildfires due to these conditions. Always check with your local Fire Warden for conditions and obtain a fire permit before doing any open burning.

As we approach the winter months, be sure to have your heating appliances checked. Before turning on your furnace for the first time in months, check for signs of moisture, rust, or dirt on the vent pipe and around the heating equipment. Then, power on the heating cycle and listen for any strange banging, rattling, squealing, or other noises. Next, place your hand against various supply registers around the house to make sure the air feels nice and warm. If you discover anything unusual during these checks, shut off the furnace and call a technician right away.

Working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives.

- **Testing:** Test all detectors at least once a month by pressing the test button to ensure the alarm sounds. If the detector fails to respond, replace the batteries or the unit itself if it's non-functional.

- **Battery Replacement:** Replace the batteries in your detectors at least once a year, or whenever the low-battery warning chirps. Consider using long-life lithium batteries or opt for models with sealed, 10-year batteries to minimize maintenance.

- **Cleaning:** Dust and debris can interfere with the sensors in smoke and CO detectors. Clean the detectors regularly with a vacuum cleaner or a soft brush attachment to keep them free of contaminants.

- **Replacement:** Smoke detectors should be replaced every ten years, while CO detectors typically last between five and seven years. Check the manufacturer's recommendations for your specific model.

As always, we are on call 24/7 to handle all your emergency needs, and we thank the community for their ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call the Central station at 603-588-2114 and we will return your call ASAP. Our meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month and feel free to stop in and check us out. ❄️



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Antrim Community Board

Gordon Allen

Antrim Business Fair—The Antrim Community Board is sponsoring the first annual Antrim Business Fair. It will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 10–2 at the Great Brook School Gym. We have compiled a list of 260 Antrim businesses and invited them all to come. We were surprised we had so many and are looking forward to seeing those we know and getting to know those we don't. There is no cost to businesses for having a table or displaying their materials. And there is no cost for admission. It will be a fun day for the whole family with activities, food and music. So, please mark your calendars for January 11th.

If you are a business and you haven't received an email or postcard from us, please email us at *AntrimBusinessFair@gmail.com* so we can add you to our invitation list and to our Antrim Business Directory. Also, we welcome all home businesses that are not incorporated to be part of the fair and directory. You are an important part of our Antrim community, and we don't want to leave you out. The fair is a great opportunity for all our Antrim businesses to connect with more people in town and with each other.

The Wonderful Gift of a Classic Piano to Town Hall—Our pianos upstairs at Town Hall have not been in playable shape for many years. And they are beyond repair. This has prevented the Town Hall from hosting the many musical plays, concerts and events it did in the past. So, when we heard that Dean and Kim Proctor might be willing to donate their classic Chickering Baby Grand Piano to the town, we contacted them. The great news is they graciously agreed. It is now up in Town Hall and ready to go. The town has agreed to provide the routine maintenance and to control who plays it to keep it up to snuff. We will be responsible for any repairs. But because it was completely rebuilt—and was built rock solid in the first place—we anticipate no serious repairs for many years.

To give you an idea of just how valuable this donation is, the Town of Peterborough is rebuilding its Chickering piano in its Town Hall. Their cost is \$45,000, and it's not done yet.

Swap Shop—The Swap Shop has been unusually busy this fall. On some Saturdays, hundreds of items come and

go. Thanks to all our volunteers, and special kudos to those who have covered many shifts: Helene Newbold, Jennifer Adams, Ann and David Desmet, Amy DeLisle, Nancy Blair, Rich Hanlon, Sue Conklin, Mary Devine, Mark Tenney, Catherine Remillard and Shelly Connolly. Because there is no heat, we have no choice but to close the Swap Shop for the season when the temperature dips below 40 degrees. This is usually in early December. Reopening in early April. We look forward to when we have heat and can stay open all year.

Antrim Community Board Brochure and Survey—We produced our first ACB brochure in September. Many thanks to James Panico for getting it done. They are available at Town Hall and the Tuttle Library. It explains how we are all about providing you with opportunities to make new connections with others in town who share your interests, skills, hobbies, experiences and favorite activities and causes. This web of connections builds our social fabric, social wellbeing, care networks and community pride.

The brochure includes our survey of your interests, activities, skills and experiences. Your survey information allows us to put you in touch with others in town who share these, if you give the OK. So often this results in new connections, friendships, events, informal neighbor-helping-neighbor networks, and those improvements to our town that everyone wants, but somehow never quite get off the ground. We urge you to take the survey—and it's surprisingly interesting to fill out. We are also available to fill it out with you and, in fact, prefer this way. ✱

Antrim Recreation

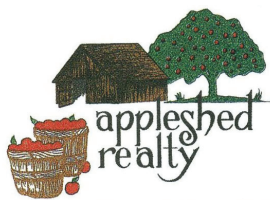
Celeste Lunetta, Recreation Director

Antrim Recreation Department is very happy to welcome Linda Duryea to our team. Linda has accepted the position of Assistant Director. This is a year-round, part-time position. Linda will be assisting in all aspects of the Recreation Department operations, including routine facility maintenance and program facilitation. She is working on program development, starting with a focus on creating additional youth and athletic opportunities. Linda comes to the department with a long personal history as an athlete, coach and athletics administrator. She is very enthusiastic about supporting the function and betterment of our recreation program offerings. Please join us in welcoming her to the department.

We had a successful season of fall youth soccer. Our program provides recreational opportunities for kids ages 4 through 10. Thank you to our amazing volunteer coaches: Ashley Destromps, Kate Trechinsky, Patrick Chamberlin, Ry James, Andrew Hellenian, Nicholas Duffy and Oliver Wheeler.

It was a treat to have four enthusiastic artists contribute to our community spirit by participating in our Halloween Windows Painting at Town Hall. Thank you to Alice, Leslie, Amelia, Kimberly, Jamison, Kathy, Rowan and Brodie.

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what I could. If you, like me, haven't heard of this bat, why is that? Is the eastern red bat that uncommon? Well, probably not—although it is uncommonly encountered. This is because it is solitary, not because it is rare or endangered. Eastern red bats are “tree bats.” They roost alone in conifers or deciduous trees during the day, readily passing for a pinecone or dead leaf. This differs from the communal habits of, for example, little brown bats so often found in Antrim's barns (we counted 130 emerging from our own barn this July.) It is an often-overlooked fact that almost all summer-roosting bats in barns are females forming nursery colonies. Males are not involved in pup-rearing and are mostly solitary, at least during the summer.

Like many bats, eastern red bats are insectivores who hunt mainly at dusk or at night. They use echolocation to find prey (another gratuitous factoid: many of the world's ~1400 species of bats, including most fruit bats, do not echolocate). Unlike most echolocating bats, however, eastern red bats are loners, not raising young, roosting, or hibernating communally...apparently. Indeed, they may not hibernate at all in a classic sense, although much more needs to be learned about their habits and destinations after migrating south from places like Antrim with cold winters. Males and females are independent, except for encounters during the late-summer-to-fall breeding season. Births occur in late spring or early summer. Although this may suggest an almost human gestation period, it is hypothesized that true gestation is much shorter in these and related bats, occurring after delayed fertilization from stored sperm, or after months of embryonic diapause (delayed implantation), as occurs in a few much larger mammals, like bears and elephant seals. Unlike many more familiar bats, eastern red bats often have several pups at once—as many as five (females having four functional nipples, unlike one or two in many bats.) Pups can fly by a month or so after birth but may hang around for a few weeks longer before fully weaned from milk. Their mother leaves them hanging on a branch as she feeds.

What about the un-batlike tail, so prominent and hairy in the creature Michelle and I encountered? Relative to the body, the tail of eastern red bats is longer than that of most bats and is connected to the legs by skin densely covered with brick-red fur. This extra-long, extra-furry tail can wrap around the rest of the body, including most of the wings (whose span, when unfolded, typically exceeds a foot) to provide warmth, giving extra protection against the cold and perhaps allowing them to linger longer in our region than other bats do before migrating. Interestingly, eastern red bats are not yet known to be affected by “white nose syndrome,” an infection with a cold-tolerant fungus that has dramatically reduced populations of several species of cave-hibernating northeastern bats. Eastern red bats, however, often show up in surveys of flying creatures felled by wind turbines, of which, of course, we have nine in Antrim.



Eastern red bats are devoured by a variety of predators, including hawks, snakes and tree-climbing mammals.

Although there is much to learn about these creatures, they do not appear to be endangered. In North America, they are the most abundant species of their genus, which includes so-called hoary bats, which have a similar body plan and lifestyle, but have frosted fur, wider continental distribution and migration destinations as far south as Central America. Another close relative is the endangered Hawaiian hoary bat, ‘Ōpe‘ape‘a, which has the distinction of being Hawaii's only remaining native land mammal. How one or more of its ancestors travelled over 2,000 miles to the islands ~10,000 years ago is anybody's guess. Like Antrim's eastern red bat, it is solitary, enigmatic, and seldom seen. ❁

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Antrim Police

John Blake, Chief

As we approach the end of 2024, the Antrim Police Department has some exciting updates to share with the community. We are thrilled to announce the addition of two new full-time officers, Madison Jones and Filipe Maia, to our team. Both Officers Jones and Maia are new to the field of law enforcement and will embark on their training journey at the New Hampshire Police Academy in January 2025. Their addition strengthens our team and our commitment to serving and protecting Antrim.

In addition to our new officers, we are also proud to announce that Antrim will soon have its own K9 unit. This initiative has been a long-standing goal for our department, and thanks to the support of the Antrim Selectboard and a generous grant from the Stanton Foundation, it has become a reality. The K9 unit will enhance our department's capabilities, particularly in areas of search and rescue, tracking and community policing.

Officer Ned Girard has been selected as Antrim's first K9 handler. With a keen dedication to the role, Officer Girard will begin specialized training with his future K9 partner early next year. The Stanton Foundation grant covers the entire cost of establishing the K9 program, including the purchase and training of the K9 and specialized equipment and handler training, ensuring no additional financial burden for the town.

These developments reflect our commitment to advancing public safety and the quality of service we provide. As we look forward to 2025, we are excited to see how these initiatives will strengthen our ability to serve the residents of Antrim. We deeply appreciate the ongoing support from the community, and we are dedicated to upholding the trust you place in us.

Stay tuned for more updates as Officer Jones, Officer Maia, and our K9 team progress through training. Thank you for your continued support! ❁

Antrim's Home & Harvest

TRULY NOTHING LIKE IT

Rick Davis

We did it again! We would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsors for making the 21st annual Home & Harvest Festival a tremendous success. What a blessing for me personally, and having the town's support is critical to its success. The police, fire department and EMTs were there always ready to help. Thanks to Marshall Gale and to our new Police Chief, John Blake, who were always supporting our festival. Friday night's event featuring the Nerf & Turf competition under the lights at Shea Field saw more than 400 kids having the time of their lives. Oh, by the way, even the adults had a blast playing cornhole and eating ice cream.

Saturday, we brought back the giant climbing wall, a challenge for all ages. Of course, the parade was so much fun. Awards went out to:

Avenue A — Craziest Float

Shaw's — Most Creative Float

The Raleigh Family — Best Float

Main Street was packed with so many great tables full of crafts, food and fun. Everything moved to Tenney Farm as the Antrim-Bennington Lions put on a great BBQ, Endless Skies rocked, and then Atlas Fireworks finished a great festival with a bang. Thank you, Antrim, for all the fun a town could have.

Next year's Home & Harvest Festival will be September 26 and 27, 2025. ❁

Free Energy Efficiency Courses Available

Alicia DeBruin, Community Energy Fellow
Southwest Region Planning Commission

Are you interested in starting or strengthening a career in energy efficiency? Starting in January 2025, MAXT Makerspace in Peterborough will host a series of workforce programs aimed at providing individuals with a pathway to gain skills and certifications in this field. Thanks to the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), tuition for these programs is FREE to those who can demonstrate they intend to use the skills gained as part of a career in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire. To learn more, please visit maxtmakerspace.org/workforce. ❁



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Conservation Commission

Bob Holmes

This fall the Conservation Commission held a contest to find the largest trees of Antrim. We received 30 entries with over 12 species of trees. The largest tree submitted was an oak tree, which measured 224 inches in circumference and is approximately 150 years old, give or take 10 years. All entries were entered into a drawing, and three winners were chosen from the entries to receive a \$25 gift certificate to Flag Leaf Bakery in Antrim. Thank you to Flag Leaf Bakery for their generosity. The winners were Stephen Burkhardt, Ruth Benedict and Diane Gutgesell.

Now that the leaves have fallen, this is a good time to find Burning Bush plants, which are invasive. You can pick them out of the landscape as they will have pinkish-red leaves that hang on well into fall. If they are small, just pull them out of the ground and let the winter kill the roots. For a larger plant, you'll have to use a spade to dig them out of the ground. The Burning Bush leaves have a beautiful red color in fall, and many people value the bright color, but birds favor the red berries and drop the seeds wherever birds like to drop seeds, and they will sprout almost anywhere. If you are unsure of what you are seeing, contact any member of the Conservation Commission, and they will be happy to verify that what you are seeing is a Burning Bush.

The commission is currently researching the origins of the Meadow Marsh Trail. The story has it that it was created as an Eagle Scout project. If anyone has more details or can confirm this origin, please contact the Conservation Commission.

Follow the Antrim Conservation Commission on Facebook for information on upcoming events. We are currently in the planning stages for events, walks, talks, etc., for next year. If there are any topics that you would like covered, please contact us and let us know. Email us at bobh4Antrim@gmail.com. ❀

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Dress Your Best Dance

ANTRIM GRANGE

Renée Mercier-Gerritsen

Antrim Grange #98 is excited to be hosting a "Dress Your Best" Community Family Dance on Saturday, December 28th, from 5–9 p.m. at Great Brook School Gym during school vacation week. It is for all ages, 0–100+. This is the first townwide dance in almost forty years! Let's make it memorable!

We have CJ the DJ from Fitzwilliam as our entertainment emcee for the evening. There will be music of all ages, all genres, all decades, line dances and group dances.

The title says it all. Dress Your Best. For those wanting to participate, we will be having a contest with different age groups and community judges. There will be three winners in each group.

A picture area will be available to capture the memory of the night.

Light refreshments will be available for a donation.

We will be selling Cozy Winter Raffle tickets. Prizes include a handmade afghan and various gift baskets. All of the winners will be drawn that night.

Advanced tickets: \$5/person or \$15/family (due by December 21). Tickets at the door: \$8/person or \$25/family

The dance is smoke- and alcohol-free. This is not a school-sponsored event.

Also, reserved seats for our Robert Burns tea on Jan 25 will be on sale for \$20 each at the dance. We are limited to only 80 seats for that event, and we sold out quickly last year.

All proceeds from these events go to further our rehabilitation of the Antrim Grange Hall.

Questions or reservations for either the dance or the Burns Tea can be answered by Renée Mercier-Gerritsen at 603-547-5144 or email at renee_mercier@yahoo.com. ❀

Thanks to ...

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

~ Editor

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Ghosts at Antrim Town Hall

Members of the Parks and Recreation and Conservation Commissions spent a late September weekend removing invasive bittersweet and other troublesome non-native plants from Goodell Park. This was a long day of cutting and piling, and the park looks much healthier after their work.

Work is continuing at Gregg Lake Beach Park. In August, trees were planted to increase shade and enhance the environment for all. A large rain garden was installed, and several plantings have been started along the western edge of the picnic point. These gardens will help sustain the shoreland park, especially in the face of increasingly moody weather. These improvements are significant. The volunteer leadership and hours of labor from several folks have really made a difference. A special thank you to Melissa Chapman, Joan Gorga, Kathi Wasserloos, Kelly Rigg, Helen Perivier, Ulf Birgander, Suzy Ward, Ben Renda, Michael Renda, Jennifer Chambers, and the many others who dropped in on the spur of the moment, for helping us make these gardens a reality and helping the plants get installed and watered through this dry autumn!

Back at the office, we are working to improve our department's functionality by initiating an online registration process using recreation software. In-person registration will still be available, but we are modernizing our systems by providing online registration as well, which will increase access for many people looking to learn about and sign up for our programs. We have heard requests for this over the past five years, and we think it will be a huge benefit for many. We hope to have the system in place in early 2025.

Fall is coming to a close, and winter is here! That means more indoor programs, and more opportunities for winter outdoor adventure as well. Indoor walking and pickleball have resumed at the Antrim Town Gym. The youth basketball season is underway, with three full teams participating in the Merrimack Valley Basketball League. Additional basketball opportunities for younger players are starting in January.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING PROGRAMS

For more information on any of these, or to register, please check out the town website, antrimnh.org, or email

recprograms@antrimnh.gov. You can also call the office at 603-588-3121. We are in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from noon-7 p.m., Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. and Fridays from noon-6 p.m.

ONGOING NOW

Pickleball (18+): Mondays, 6:45-8:15, and Wednesdays, 3:45-5:15

Indoor Walking (18+): Mondays and Thursdays, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

SAIL (Stay Active for Independent Living): 65+ Exercise class Mon/Wed/Fri, 11 a.m.-noon

Yoga: Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.

Zumba: Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Pick-Up Basketball: Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Taekwondo (after-school karate for youth in kindergarten and older): Thursdays, 3:30 p.m., ongoing through April.

Toddler Playground: Indoor playground with mats, music, balls and more. Open play structure. Ages 6 months through 3 years old with their adult companion, Fridays, 8:45-10:15 a.m., December 6-March 28.

Indoor Open Gym: Open training space for young adults 18-30. Preregister to coordinate a spot. Saturdays 2-6; Sundays 6-8; Thursdays 7-9.

UPCOMING

Window Decorating at Antrim Town Hall for the winter holidays: We are looking for interested groups to help us create some holiday murals to display in the windows of Town Hall. The murals will be created in the first two weeks of December and will remain on display through the first week of January. Register to join this effort by Friday, December 4, at the latest. We will provide all supplies.

Ice skating at the Everett Arena in Concord: Families and kids ages 9 and older can join us for a bus trip to the public skating rink in Concord. Monday, December 30. Leave Antrim at 10:15 a.m., return at 2 p.m.

Learn to Ski and Ride at Crotched Mountain: After school for kids in 2nd-4th grade; Wednesdays, January 8-February 12.

Little Dribblers: Basketball for kids in kindergarten-2nd grade. Saturdays, 8:15 a.m., January 11-February 15.

Puzzle Palooza: Get together a team of 2-4 people for a fun group speed puzzle event! Friday, December 27, Monday, January 20, and Monday, February 24 at noon. Prizes awarded. More information online at www.antrimnh.org.

Indoor Climbing at Vertical Dreams: A trip to the indoor climbing at Vertical Dreams in Manchester, Friday, January 3. Open to kids ages 9-12. Leave Antrim at 11:30 a.m. return at 4 p.m.

Antrim Recreation Department is thankful for this community, and we send wishes for a wonderful winter season for all. We hope to see you out and about in the community. As always, please contact us at 603-588-3121 or email Celeste at recdirector@antrimnh.gov with questions, concerns and ideas. Happy Holidays! ❄️

First Presbyterian Church

Jan Howe, Pastor

Advent

We are in the church season of Advent. Advent means “arrival,” and signifies the start of an event or the arrival of a person. In Christian communities around the world, Advent refers to a four-week season of remembering and preparing for the arrival of Jesus on Earth as a baby in a stable. This is a time that we spend in prayer preparing our hearts for Jesus’ birth on Christmas Day.

Christmas—Once again, we will have two very special celebrations at the church:

The Songsters—We will kick off the Holidays with the second annual Holiday concert by the Antrim Area Songsters. This was very popular last year and promises to be even more popular this year, as the word is out on how wonderful it was. The church is happy to host their rehearsals, and we are indebted to them for dedicating the donations that evening to help us keep our doors open for so many in the community to use. *More information about the concert can be found on page 3 in this issue.*

Christmas Eve—On Christmas Eve we will have our traditional *Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service* at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It is an opportunity to sing all our favorite Christmas carols and hear the scripture telling about Jesus’ birth in a stable, which is the reason for the season.

Festival of Trees—An opportunity to help with the mission of the church. Our theme this year is “Keeping Our Community Warm!” The tree will highlight items that we collect for 100 Nights, a homeless shelter in Keene, as well as the Revival Shop and the local school. We will have a collection box under the tree to allow the wider community to help us collect hoodies, new underwear, socks, winter hats, scarfs and coats for all ages and genders.

Epiphany—The celebration continues

On January 6th the church moves into the season of Epiphany. An epiphany is an “ah ha” moment when we suddenly understand something. In the church, Epiphany is when we celebrate the arrival of the Magi or the Wisemen at the stable to pay homage to the baby Jesus. They followed a bright star to locate him, and they knew he was special. The

season of Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is in March this year.

Revival Shop

The Revival Shop is hopping on Saturdays when they are open for people to shop or donate items. It is also busy throughout the week with volunteers sorting clothes, pricing the items, and all the other things that need to happen to make it a pleasant shopping experience for the community. The volunteers take pride in their displays, and we are thankful for all their hard work on our behalf. This is a vital ministry to our community.

Worship Services—Please join us

We are a church committed to welcoming the community to use our building as well as joining us for worship. Our weekly worship services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in person and on Zoom. We would love to have you join us. We would love to see you this Advent Christmas season! ❁

Light of Love

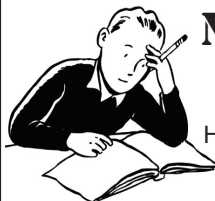
Joseph J. McCarthy

In the darkness of the night,
When the sky turns down its light,
And all seems so cold and bare,
Please remember God is always there,
Remember God will always care,
Remember God will always share with you,
His light of love to see you through,
His light of love to help you do.
His light of love will brighten up for you.
Please turn to Him and let Him know,
That where His light of love will go,
You will always be there, too.
In the shadow of the day,
When you know not what to say,
And the sun seems to drift away,
Please keep in mind, and you will find
That God’s light of love will always shine,
His light of love will always shine...
On you.

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The Coyotes and The Outhouse

Joan Gorga

Late one fine September evening, after watching the sun set over Bald Mountain and Gregg Lake, I was sitting in the waning light on the front deck of our camp enjoying the bannock I had cooked for dinner on the woodstove—deliciously enhanced with Tenney corn and chopped cheddar cheese—when I heard a rousing chorus of coyote howls. I guessed they were no more than half a mile to the north, maybe just up on top of Patten Hill. Shortly after that came another frenzied chorus from maybe half a mile to the south. Could they be members of a family group calling each other to meet up halfway in between, meaning at my place? Or were they rivals about to battle over territory—my place again? Or could they not resist the allure of freshly cooked bannock—or me?

I was trying to decide whether it would be safe for me to make a quick trip to the outhouse a hundred feet back in the woods before it got fully dark, when the northern group howled again. This time they were CLOSE, and I quickly moved myself and my food inside. A few minutes later I peeked out the door and looked uphill toward the outhouse, where I saw shadows and heard the pitter-patter of many paws running through the fallen leaves in a line just past the outhouse door. It was getting quite dark by then, so I couldn't get a count of the number of animals involved, but I was just as glad I hadn't ventured up the hill. All was quiet after that, and half an hour later, armed with a flashlight, I made an uneventful visit to the outhouse. ❁



Antrim Baptist Church

Pamela Maki-Kallberg

There are so many reasons throughout the year to count our blessings, from weekly Bible studies, Intercessory prayer, choir rehearsals, services, worship! The church always has something happening.

The restoration of the front doors—we are thankful to Lee Savage, Matt Evans and Dave Valley for all their dedication and work that kept the historic structure of our church.

The sanctuary—stained and painted by Mary Sawich, Mary Devine and Irene Savage, looks beautiful and is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

Together we created blessing bags, gathered clothing and necessities for hurricane victims in North Carolina, and were blessed with transport provided by Renew Church in Hancock.

We kicked off the first week of November with the annual Boy Scout Food Drive. This helps us supply food throughout our community through the Antrim/Bennington Food Pantry located within the church. We are grateful for their support. Thank you to everyone who donated!

We held a baptism on November 17th, which everyone was invited to join, and we had a church potluck immediately following the Ordination Service for Minister Mark Kallberg and Elder Lee Savage on November 24th. Church leadership has been the focus for the last two years. The church has implemented leadership initiatives aimed at spiritual growth. These initiatives include regular prayer and leadership courses.

Visit our church's official website and navigate to the "Events" section to stay connected with us online and ensure you don't miss any upcoming announcements or opportunities to get involved.

We welcome ALL to the Sunday service beginning at 10:30, with coffee hour following. It is such a blessing to fellowship with others during this time.

God Bless and we hope to see you soon. ❁

Heartfelt thanks to Jan Howe, Karen Pellicano and Carol Lunan for your support while I was going through a very difficult time. May every gentle wind send happiness to you.

— Julie Schmidt

Colorful Life of Manlius (Manly) Ransom, Antrim's Only Slave

Neil H. Brown
Antrim Historical Society Archivist

While digging in the depths of Antrim Historical Society's archives, I found Manly Ransom, known historically as Antrim's only slave. Interestingly, New Hampshire never had any legal establishment of slavery in the state. Prior to February 1789, slavery was never recognized in any way by legislation in the state. However, taxable property lists from 1775 to 1800 did indicate slaves existed. By 1810 there were zero slaves reported in those lists. So, was Manly, born about 1802, really a slave? Theoretically, probably not. But we do know he was considered a servant at an early age and was passed around like property.

Anyway, it turned out that Manly had an interesting life story. According to history, he was probably born as a slave around 1802 in Marlboro, New Hampshire. At a young age, Manly was a servant of John Moore of Antrim, who at that time lived on Old Hancock Road two houses south of the Pleasant Street intersection on the east side of the road.

John Moore was struck by a falling tree limb and died six days later, on January 3, 1809. Upon his death, his widow "gave" Manly to Dr. Charles Adams, who at that time lived at the Center. Dr. Adams lived there about one more year and then moved to North Main Street (the Kelsea house) in South Village, where he lived until 1816. Dr. Adams then moved to Oakham, Massachusetts. When he moved, Manly was sent to live with Dr. Adams' father in nearby Brookfield, Mass.

An interesting story about Manly while he was with Dr. Adams was found in W. R. Cochrane's *History of Antrim*. Manly was a student at the Center schoolhouse in 1811. The school caught on fire when the students were present. "A colored boy named Manly Ransom was so frightened that he hid under a seat. He was somewhat burned and would have been consumed had he not been missed and found and dragged out."

In Massachusetts, Manly married Nancy Henries, a free Black woman, around 1824. Moving frequently, they lived in Sturbridge, Charlton, and finally, Spencer, Mass. Manly and Nancy had eight children.

Unfortunately, as reported in the *Worcester Spy*, "Nancy Ransom, of Spencer, was murdered on July 11, 1851, by her husband "Manly," stabbing her in her right side." Ransom allegedly was in the habit of "beating" and "kicking" his wife. Coming home "intoxicated" on July 11, Manly demanded his supper, then stabbed Nancy Ransom, an act witnessed by their eleven-year-old son Charles. Charles Ransom, according to the account, "swore his father killed his mother." Immediately after the deadly act, Manly fled to Stoddard, NH, where under the alias of George Brown, he stayed hidden for two years. Returning to Massachusetts, he learned of his wife's death and fled to Northampton, Mass.,

where he was found, arrested and sent to the State Prison in Middlesex County. The Massachusetts State Census of 1855 states he was in that prison at that time. After serving his sentence, he returned to Spencer. Later, while visiting Worcester, Mass., Manly was struck and killed by a locomotive. He died on June 29, 1861, aged 59.

For a bit of trivia, Cochrane's "History of Antrim NH" states that Nathaniel Parker was "the only colored man in town." This may have been true for when the text was published in 1880. We now know that Manlius (Manly) Ransom was most likely the first "colored man" and perhaps the only slave in Antrim. ✱

Bass or Bass?

Bruce McGuffin

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Antrim-Bennington Lions Club

Linda Morehouse

The cornerstones of Lions Clubs everywhere focus on creating a better world for those we serve. In the words of our international president, "Everywhere we serve, we bring kindness and compassion." Antrim-Bennington Lions Club members provide energy, enthusiasm and positivity to our communities, both locally and nationally.

Community Development: The Lions Club fostered community relationships through many outreach activities. We enjoyed building community with residents of Antrim Village through monthly events: pizza lunch, card-making workshop, and free Thanksgiving dinner. Residents enjoyed conversing with a small group of students from Great Brook Middle School who assisted at the dinner by delivering meals and talking with residents. Another community-builder was the Home and Harvest Festival in September, where our members sponsored a cornhole competition, rode in a parade float and served a chicken barbecue. Additionally, the club jumped into the political scene and hosted three "Meet the Candidates" events to assist voters in choosing local elected officials. The format provided an opportunity for candidates to respond to questions from the audience. Our community came together to hear from the candidates on both sides of the aisle.



Tim Morehouse and Jim Creighton barbecue chicken. Photo by Linda Morehouse.


Hunger Initiatives: Members donated snack items such as packaged crackers, fruit squeeze pouches, and granola bars to the snack pantry at Antrim Elementary School. The Lions Club also made donations to the Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry, Avenue A Teen Center and End 68 Hours of Hunger over the past year.

Youth Programs: Four Lions volunteers meet with small groups of students in the library every week during the lunch period at Antrim Elementary School and engage in conversations about pets, sports, books, school tasks, etc. Students enter the library, eagerly anticipating engaging conversations during their lunch block. One small child walked into the library and asked, "Where are the lions?" We chuckled and assured her that there were no lions, just Lions Club members!

Eyesight Services: Members screened over five hundred children across multiple towns in the ConVal School District in October. Approximately 9% of children were referred for further eye examinations to an eye professional. One mother remarked that her daughter's need for glasses was identified through the Lions' efforts, and she expressed her appreciation. That simple "Thank you!" warmed our hearts! Donations of eyeglasses and hearing aids were distributed around the globe through Lions Club International. NH Lions Clubs donated 32,743 glasses last year. Thank you for your donations in our collection boxes at the Antrim Post Office, Antrim Town Hall and the Antrim Presbyterian Church.

Join us in making a difference in our community! Our meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Antrim Presbyterian Church. ❁

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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

At the James A. Tuttle Library, we've got something for everyone, and we can't wait to welcome you! Whether you're a book lover, a family looking for fun activities, or someone just wanting to relax with a cup of coffee, our library is the place to be. With exciting events throughout the year and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere, you'll always find something to enjoy. Here's a look at some of the amazing things we've got lined up for you!

1. A Relaxed Environment (With Free Coffee!)

Need a place to unwind? Our library offers a **fun, relaxed environment** perfect for curling up with a good book. And did we mention we offer **free coffee**? Whether you're here to browse our shelves, attend an event, or just enjoy some quiet time, you're always welcome to grab a cup. While the coffee's free, donations are always appreciated to help us keep the good times brewing!

2. Chili Cook-Off: Spice It Up!

Love chili? We do too! Every year, we host a **Chili Cook-Off** where community members come together to show off their best chili recipes. It's a fun-filled day packed with delicious flavors, laughter and friendly competition. The best part? There are **prizes** for the top three winners! So, dust off your apron, bring your secret recipe, and join us for a day of great food and even better company. Whether you're competing or just tasting, it's an event you won't want to miss!

3. Missing Man Table: Honoring Our Heroes

Each May, in observance of Memorial Day, we honor the men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country and freedom with a **Missing Man Table** display. This special tribute is a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our military, and we invite everyone to stop by and reflect on their service and bravery.

4. All-Day Birthday Party: Celebrate James A. Tuttle's Legacy

Mark your calendars for the month of **September** because we celebrate **James A. Tuttle's birthday**—he lived from September 1, 1841 to February 19, 1905—with all-day festivities! There will be activities, games and fun for everyone, all in honor of the man whose legacy has helped build this wonderful library. It's a day to celebrate history, community and, of course, reading!

5. Festival of Trees: Holiday Magic

The **Festival of Trees** is one of our most anticipated

events during the holiday season. Families, businesses and local organizations from Antrim and surrounding areas come together to decorate trees, wreaths and even quilts! Each piece is decorated with unique themes, such as superheroes, historical landmarks, or patriotic tributes to our local veterans. The library becomes a magical place filled with creativity and holiday spirit. Don't miss out on this beautiful annual event!

6. New Hampshire Humanities: Enriching Experiences

Our **New Hampshire Humanities** events are among the most popular at the library, consistently drawing large crowds eager to learn and engage. These events bring history and culture to life through captivating presentations and discussions. These events are not just educational but also incredibly engaging, making history come alive for all who attend. Keep an eye out for our next Humanities event—you won't want to miss it!

7. Online Services: Access the World from Your Home

Can't make it to the library in person? No problem! The James A. Tuttle Library offers a wide range of **online services** to keep you connected. We provide access to **subscription databases** that include genealogy resources, digital magazines, thousands of news sources, and even special **food and culture, states and language databases**. Whether you're tracing your family history, staying up to date with current events, or diving into the rich world of global cuisines, you can access it all from the comfort of your home. Simply use your library card to unlock a wealth of information at your fingertips!

8. Welcome Our New Children's Librarian, Miss Tia!

We are thrilled to introduce you to our new **Children's**

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www.cvtc-nh.org

Librarian, Miss Tia! She's our first new hire in over six years, and we couldn't be more excited. Miss Tia brings fresh energy and fun ideas to our children's programs, so be sure to swing by and say hello. She's eager to meet the young readers in our community and help them discover the joy of reading. Bring your kids to **Story Time** for a wonderful time of reading and creativity! **Miss Tia** will be reading some of her favorite children's books, followed by a fun **creative craft** session where kids can express their artistic side. It's the perfect opportunity for young children to explore their imagination, socialize with other kids and enjoy a relaxing time at the library. **Snacks may be provided**, making it even more enjoyable! This weekly event is designed to be engaging for the little ones and **fun!**

9. Summer Reading Program: Read, Win and Have Fun!

Reading has never been so rewarding! Our **Summer Reading Program** is for all ages, and it's a fantastic way to dive into great books while earning prizes. Kids can win **bikes donated by the Masons in Hillsborough**, while adults and teens have a chance to win **Amazon Dots, Dunkin' travel mugs, gift cards** and more. The more you read, the more chances you have to win! Plus, it's a fun way to keep everyone reading during the summer months.

10. Trunk or Treat: Spooky Fun for All Ages

Calling all ghosts, goblins and superheroes! Our **Trunk or Treat** event is a blast for kids of all ages. Decorate the trunks of your cars, dress up in your favorite costumes and come join us for a night of trick-or-treating at the library. Participants park their decorated cars in our parking lot, and everyone goes around collecting treats from each trunk. It's a fun, safe, and spooky way to celebrate Halloween! Whether you're a kid or just young at heart, you're guaranteed to have a great time.

11. Teen Hangout: A Cool Spot Just for Teens

Teens, we've got you covered! Our **Teen Hangout** is the perfect place to unwind, meet friends and have a blast in a **safe, welcoming environment**. We offer a wide array of activities, including **crafts, video games** and access to our **PlayStation 4, PlayStation 4 VR, Nintendo Switch, and XBOX One S**, with games for all of them. Along with a collection of games for older systems like the **Wii and PlayStation 2** for a fun dose of nostalgia. And it doesn't stop

there—**food is always available** for our teens! Whether you want a snack while you hang out or need to grab some extra food for school tomorrow, we've got you covered, no questions asked. Come chill, play some games and have a great time with us!

12. Youth Services Department: A Fun and Creative Space!

At the heart of the James A. Tuttle Library's Youth Services Department, you'll find **Miss Tia and Christopher**, two passionate, enthusiastic staff members who have transformed this space into so much more than just a room full of books. They've created a lively, welcoming hangout where young readers and visitors of all ages can come to have fun, make friends and feel right at home.

Miss Tia, our new Children's Librarian, brings her love for creativity and adventure to everything she does. From **interactive story times** to hands-on crafts, she's always thinking up new ways to engage the young minds of our community. Whether she's leading an art project, helping kids pick out their next favorite book, or simply chatting with families about their day, Miss Tia is always excited to welcome both new and returning faces. Her energy is contagious, and she loves building strong connections with the kids and parents who visit the library.

Christopher, a staple in our Youth Services team, is just as enthusiastic about making the library a vibrant, fun-filled environment. His approach is anything but traditional—he's all about **breaking the mold** and turning the library into a dynamic space where kids can feel free to express themselves. Whether it's setting up a spontaneous video game tournament, organizing a movie night, or just offering a listening ear, Christopher's mission is to create a **fun, relaxed atmosphere** where everyone feels comfortable.

Together, Miss Tia and Christopher have cultivated a place where **everyone is welcome**. They've stocked the Youth Services Department with **video games, arts and crafts supplies** and a variety of **interactive activities**. It's not just about books (though we have plenty of those, too!)—it's about giving kids and teens a place to **explore, create and just hang out**. Whether you want to dive into a good novel, play a game on the **Nintendo Switch**, or unleash your creativity in a craft project, this space is all yours.

Miss Tia and Christopher can't wait to see you! So, whether you're visiting for the first time or coming back for more fun, stop by and experience what makes our **Youth Services Department** so special. They've made it a space where **learning and fun** go hand in hand, and they're always ready to welcome you with a smile (and maybe even a snack!).

With so much going on at James A. Tuttle Library, there's always something for everyone to enjoy. So, grab your friends, family, or just come by yourself and be part of our vibrant community. We can't wait to see you at our next event! ✨



Dr. Tom Dowling, Veterinarian
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603 / 588-3460

Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice

Linda Bundy

During our August meeting we debriefed the film series we had presented in cooperation with the James A. Tuttle Library from January through May. Although the attendance by the general public was minimal, viewing the films together led to rich discussions afterward. We heard from a few people who could not come in person that they would watch the films on their own. Looking ahead, we may watch selected films individually and then discuss them when we meet. The library has a collection of forty films on DVDs that feature Black actors and some Black directors, suggested by our librarian and donated by our group. They run the gamut from Sidney Poitier's work in the '50s and '60s to Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* to the more recent *Just Mercy*. There are comedies, dramas and documentaries, all available for you to check out.

In September we took a field trip to the Mount Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner for their annual Harvest Moon Festival. The museum has a diverse collection of artifacts from local Native People as well as from other parts of the country. Our experience was much enhanced by museum volunteer Bob Whitehead, who accompanied us through the exhibits, adding stories and further explanations to the information already there. We heard Native storytelling and learned about the importance of the eastern coyote in our ecosystem's balance of wildlife. No festival is complete without food, and we enjoyed a lunch that included three sisters soup and a variety of cornbreads. If you're looking for an enjoyable, educational, family-friendly outing, this festival fits the bill.

On October 17, Michelle Stahl, director of the Monadnock Center for History and Culture, joined us to talk about Recovering Black History in the Monadnock Region, a collaborative project with the Historical Society of Cheshire County. This project began five years ago and is ongoing, with volunteers searching primary source records, mainly online. They are examining records from thirty-eight towns in the region, covering the years from 1790 to 1930. Michelle shared interesting findings about people of color who lived in Antrim. Nathaniel Parker (1802–1896) was bound out to a farmer and builder in Antrim when he was just seven years old. He lived much of his life in Antrim and is referred to in Cochrane's 1880 *History of Antrim* as a "kind, industrious, and smart man." His grave is in North Branch Cemetery, although Michelle said the dates on his gravestone don't match the official records, so there is more research to do. Abigail (c. 1725–1800) and John Stuart (1727–1818), husband and wife, came to Antrim in 1877. Whiton's *History of Antrim* describes her as a "kind, neighborly woman." She was a self-taught doctress who cared for the sick and was called Granny Stuart, as was the customary title for healing women. Her maiden name was Phipps, and there appears to

be some connection between her and Sir William Phipps, a known New England slave trader. Here again, more investigation is needed. Manly Ransom (1802/03–1861) is named in Cochrane's *History of Antrim* as "no doubt born a slave, and the only one ever held in Antrim." However, it is unlikely that he was the only one. In searching the records, people named as servants were often slaves. Some surprises brought to light through this research are the large number of Black patriots who served in the Revolutionary War; seeing over and over that children were enslaved as household laborers; and how much intermarriage there was in New Hampshire, as it was never prohibited. While the human element of suffering found through research is difficult to fathom, the discovery is exciting and leads to the uncovering of this important piece of our past. Our group will individually read some entries on the BIPOC Monadnock website. On November 21, Michelle met with us again so we can think about our next steps and the possibility of collaborating with the Antrim Historical Society to shine a light on more of our past.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month via Zoom. All are welcome, whether or not you've done the reading. For more information contact Linda Bundy at n_bundy@mcttelecom.com or 603–588–2254. ❁

Join Us for a Joyous Christmas Eve Service at At the Cross Church!

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the holiday season approaches, we warmly invite you to join us for a special Christmas Eve service at At the Cross Church in Antrim. This cherished tradition is a time for our community to come together and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

December 24, 3:00 p.m., at the Old Stone Church, 223 Clinton Rd, Antrim, NH

Our Christmas Eve service will be a beautiful evening filled with worship, candlelight and a message of hope and joy. The service will feature:

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Inspirational Message—Hear a special Christmas sermon that reflects on the true meaning of the season.

Fellowship and Refreshments—Before the service, join us for a hot cocoa, cookies and a time of fellowship with friends old and new. Whether you are a long-time member or visiting for the first time, we welcome you with open arms. Bring your family, invite your friends, and let's celebrate this joyous occasion together as the Word became flesh and dwelt among us!

For more information, please visit our website at www.atthecrossantrim.com or call us at 603–464–9682.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Blessings in Christ.

Pastor Nick Davis



Community Calendar

DECEMBER 2024



- Festival of Trees** • month-long exhibit at the Tuttle Library during open hours
- 3 **Dads Campfire** • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 4 **Holiday Window Decorating Antrim Town Hall** deadline • Antrim Recreation
- 6 **Antrim Area Songsters** • Antrim Presbyterian Church • 7:00 p.m.
- 18 **Senior Luncheon Meals on Wheels** • Presbyterian Church • 12:00 p.m.
- 18 **Moms Campfire** • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 19 **Free Community Supper** • sponsored by the Antrim Grange • Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.
- 24 **Christmas Eve Service** • At the Cross Church • 3:00 p.m. • Old Stone Church, 223 Clinton Rd, Antrim
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** • Presbyterian Church • 6:00 p.m.
- 28 **“Dress Your Best” Community Family Dance** • Antrim Grange at Great Brook School Gym • 5 – 9:00 p.m.
- 30 **Ice Skating** at Everett Arena, Concord • Antrim Recreation bus • leave Antrim 10:15 a.m. – return 2:00 p.m.

JANUARY 2025

- 3 **Indoor Climbing** at Vertical Dreams, Manchester • Antrim Recreation bus • leave Antrim 11:30 a.m. – return 4 p.m.
- 7 **Dads Campfire** • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 11 **First Annual Antrim Business Fair** • Antrim Community Board • 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. • Great Brook School Gym
- 15 **Senior Luncheon Meals on Wheels** • Presbyterian Church • 12:00 p.m.
- 16 **Free Community Supper** • sponsored by Antrim Elementary School • Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.
- 22 **Moms Campfire** • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 25 **Robert Burns Tea** • presented by the Antrim Grange • Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2025

- 3 **Dads Campfire** • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 19 **Moms Campfire** • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 19 **Senior Luncheon Meals on Wheels** • Presbyterian Church • 12:00 p.m.
- 20 **Free Community Supper** • sponsored by Bank of NH • Presbyterian Church at 5:30 p.m.

ONGOING COMMUNITY EVENTS

MONDAYS

SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life) exercise class Town Hall 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Indoor Walking • Town Gym 4–7:00 p.m.
Zumba at Town Gym, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Pickleball at Town Gym, 6:45–8:15 p.m.

TUESDAYS

Yoga, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.
Adult pick-up basketball, Town Gym, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

SAIL exercise class • Town Hall 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Pickleball at Town Gym, 3:45–5:15 p.m.
Zumba at Antrim Town Gym, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Al-Anon, Presbyterian Church, 6 p.m.

THURSDAYS

Indoor Walking • Town Gym 4–7:00 p.m.

FRIDAYS

SAIL exercise class • Town Hall 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

SATURDAYS

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

Antrim Elementary School

"WHERE STUDENTS LEARN TO SOAR"

Beth Gibney, Principal

Greetings, Antrim Community!

It's hard to believe nearly three months of the school year have flown by! Antrim Elementary School has been buzzing with activity, and I'm excited to share some of the highlights with you.

Our bi-weekly Community Meetings have been a fantastic opportunity to celebrate learning. These gatherings not only encourage reading through various incentive programs but also allow students to showcase their learning. This fall, we introduced the **Bikes for Books** program, sponsored by the Masons, which motivates students to read. For every ten books a student reads or has read to them, they earn a raffle ticket, and at the end of the year, four lucky students will win a new bike and helmet!

We've also welcomed **Charlotte Brett**, our new library media specialist. She kicked off our reading challenges with a fun twist by challenging students to read as many books as she is tall. The students eagerly met the challenge, and one lucky student even got to "pie" her in the face as a reward!

This year we launched the **Author's Quilt Project**. Students are studying various authors and inviting them to read to our students, either in person or virtually. Each participating author will sign a fabric square that will be added to our quilt, which will hang in the library above a display of signed books. If you know an author who might be interested, please let us know!

In October, we focused on fire safety with hands-on lessons, fire truck explorations and a special visit from **Antrim Fire and Rescue**. Congratulations to Charlotte Rocca, who won a raffle and enjoyed a memorable ride to school in a fire truck!

I'd like to share one of my favorite moments this fall: I caught several students so engrossed in their books they nearly walked into walls! It's wonderful to see our students' passion for reading grow. A group of fourth graders even organized their own lunch book club.

A big thank you to **Tenney Farm** for their generous donation of pumpkins and ice cream on Halloween. Our fes-

tive parade took us to Antrim Village, where residents welcomed us with treats and photos as we celebrated together.

As we honored Veterans Day, we were grateful to have Peter Chase visit and speak with our students about his service. Thank you, Veterans, for your service and sacrifices.

Our fourth-grade students are hard at work on a school newspaper. Look for their student-written articles in the upcoming issue of *The Limrik*!

Upcoming Events

Thanksgiving Feast: On November 26th, students and staff will gather for a school-wide, home-cooked Thanksgiving meal to celebrate together.

Field Trip to the State House: Fourth-grade students will head to the state house to learn about New Hampshire's history.

Poinsettia Fundraiser: From November 12-30, the AES PTO will be selling poinsettias to support our school. Look out for order information coming soon.

Family STEM Night: On December 11th, Xploration will host an evening of hands-on STEM discovery for our AES families. Wishing you all a joyful holiday season! ❄️

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Big Money

William Bryk

Back in the late 1980s, a law firm with which I was then associated in New York City had a client whose activities frequently brought him into the criminal courts. He had a taste for ominous gestures: he once paid the firm's monthly bill with a brown paper shopping bag stuffed with U.S. currency. Another time he informed a group of the firm's partners that a million dollars' worth of \$100 bills weighs 107.8 pounds. "I don't need to know how you know that," one of them snapped.

The guy was playing with them, of course. He understood that we thought in grandiose terms, believing him tied to some Colombian drug lord, when he was no more than a punk. A single Federal Reserve note—of any denomination—weighs one gram. Ten thousand \$100 bills—one million dollars—weigh ten kilograms: roughly twenty-two pounds, bulky but manageable.

Still, carrying around a million in cash would have been easier half a century ago, when paper money still went beyond the Benjamin. Imagine peeling off a \$500, \$1000, \$5000, or \$10,000 bill. These big bills were last printed in 1945, according to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They were withdrawn from circulation in 1969. The official explanation for this was declining demand for the notes. Some with less faith in the veracity of the Federal government speculate that these high denominations might have proven convenient for large-scale dealers in illegal narcotics.

The United States once issued a note in an even higher denomination: a Series 1934 gold certificate, bearing a portrait of Woodrow Wilson, for \$100,000. About twenty years ago, one was on display at the Museum of American Financial History at 26 Broadway, which I visited after an unusually irritating morning at a downtown courthouse. It was part of "High Notes," an exhibit of rare, high-denomination U.S. currency and comparatively worthless inflationary paper money from around the world. Like most realities, the bill was unimpressive: it looked like most American paper money did until the Treasury began modifying the designs a few years ago. The obverse bears Wilson's portrait, with the Treasury seal and the serial numbers printed in the

 — continued on page 20

Some Thoughts on Bob Houses

Ken Gobbo

Last May I attended a wedding at Basin Harbor on the southern shore of Lake Champlain in Vermont. The festivities included a luncheon cruise on board the *Escape*, a 45-foot tour boat that took us on a relaxing cruise on the lake. During our voyage, while watching eagles fly over the palisades on the New York side of the lake, I got into a conversation with the captain as he was piloting the boat. I asked him if the lake still froze all the way across in the winter. He said that he believed that it had not in the past few years. He started to talk about the hundreds of fishing shacks that he would see a few years back. Warmer winters have reduced the numbers considerably.



For as long as I can remember, by late December or early January I would be out on Gregg Lake cross-country skiing. During the weekends the lake would be busy. As I skied from bob house to bob house, I would chat with the folks who were fishing and check in on who was catching what. This past winter there were a few hardy souls still fishing on the lake, some in tents with heaters, others just sitting patiently on boxes or folding chairs watching over their circle of tip-ups. On the occasional fair-weather weekends, I would see families and groups of friends fishing while kids ice skated or ran around checking the flags as they "tipped up." But I have not seen a bob house on the lake for the past two years. Have the winters become so warm that the ice is not thick enough for people to tow their shacks out onto the ice with their trucks and tractors? I still see a handful of ATVs out there but not those same bob houses that I used to see year after year with their owners' names and addresses engraved on the sides.

In New Hampshire, anglers are required to remove their ice fishing shanties by the end of the day on April 1st to avoid potential fines. While it did refreeze briefly, last March 12th there were long stretches of open water on Gregg Lake. Will there be bob houses back on the lake this winter? Personally, I hope so. It would be a shame if bob houses became just a memory—something people talk about as a tradition of the past in New Hampshire. ❁

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orange-yellow ink used on gold certificates. The reverse, entirely printed in the same orange yellow, bears the number 100,000 and an ornamentally engraved “One Hundred Thousand Dollars.”

Only the year before this bill was printed, the Gold Reserve Act of 1933 had required the surrender of all gold coins and gold certificates and largely forbade their private ownership except by collectors. The Series 1934 gold certificates were meant only for transferring money between banks and not for ordinary circulation. Such bills became obsolete when interbank transfers came to require only journal entries.

The bill bore the printed signatures of W.A. Julian, the Treasurer, and of Henry Morgenthau, Jr., the Secretary of the Treasury. Julian, a retired Ohio shoe manufacturer, was Treasurer of the United States from June 1, 1933, through May 29, 1949. He was the last man appointed to the office: his successors have been women. As for Morgenthau, he had been FDR’s neighbor at Hyde Park: friendship, perhaps, combined with a genial personality, had led Governor and then President Roosevelt to appoint him to a glittering succession of state and federal offices, and Morgenthau’s signature appeared on all U.S. currency issued from January 1, 1934, to July 22, 1945.

The exhibit included items that underscore the abstract, even ephemeral, quality of much modern money, such as photographs from Germany’s 1923 hyperinflation showing people pushing wheelbarrows filled with Reichsmarks to purchase a loaf of bread. There was an Argentine banknote for one million pesos, which had not been worth much. After enjoying some decent coffee, a friend of mine once tossed one on the table at a Buenos Aires cafe, saying, “Keep the change.” And there were several dozen other exotic high-denomination, low-value banknotes. They were beautifully printed and engraved wallpaper: one million Peruvian inti (a currency worth less than the paper it was printed on, which led the Peruvian government to pulp the notes), five million Zairian zaires, ten million Turkish liras, five hundred billion Yugoslavian dinara. Five hundred billion of anything is indeed an abstraction.

I was not tempted by the \$100,000 bill. Imagine trying to get change. Still, one recalls Mark Twain’s story, “The £1,000,000 Bank-Note,” whose destitute hero, unable to spend the eponymous bill that someone has given him, attains wealth and happiness because everyone gives him credit on the strength of what the piece of paper implies.

During the summer of 2009, I practiced law from an office in the Whitehall Building at 17 Battery Place in lower Manhattan. It’s a large, dignified example of Renaissance Revival, designed by Henry Hardenbergh (architect of the Dakota Apartments, the Plaza Hotel, the Art Students’

League and the Consolidated Edison headquarters, among others), erected between 1902 and 1904. After an addition was finished in 1910, the complex was then the largest office building in New York City.

Like most office buildings with glorious exteriors, the working spaces were Spartan shoeboxes of sheetrock and plasterboard, subdivided into cubicles for efficiency rather than privacy and humanity. My space, however, backed onto a bank of windows with noble views of Upper New York Bay, Battery Park, and Governor’s, Liberty, and Staten Islands. From time to time, I revolved my chair. There was always something to arrest my eye, whether a bustling ferryboat, a square-rigger, an elegant liner bound for the Narrows, or simply the play of shadow and light upon the face of the waters.

One morning, two foreign warships slowly passed down the Bay, bound for the Narrows and the open sea. Their gray paint had a greenish tint, unlike American battleship gray. White-clad sailors lined the rails. Bright signal flags fluttered from their main masts. At the stern of each ship flew the White Ensign with Australia’s national colors in the canton, thus continuing as a former British colony one of the most honored naval traditions in the world.

They were the Australian frigates HMAS *Ballarat* and HMAS *Sydney*, continuing their round-the-world cruise, which Her Majesty’s Australian Navy had named Operation Northern Trident.

Their voyage had not been all ceremonies and good times ashore: while passing the Horn of Africa on May 17, they had encountered two merchantmen under attack by Somali pirates firing rocket-propelled grenades. As the Australian chief of defense staff said, *Sydney* had “responded immediately in accordance with (her) obligations to render assistance under the laws of the sea.” Frigates have been doing this to seagoing criminals long before U.S.S. *Constitution* took on the Barbary pirates over two centuries ago. *Sydney* launched her assault helicopter. The bad guys went about and sped away. Though less colorful than a broadside of eighteen pounders, *Sydney*’s potential firepower would have been far more effective.

I had read of the warships’ arrival in New York and had seen their sailors in their whites and light infantry in their camouflage strolling about lower Manhattan (the Australians have no marine corps: the Royal Australian Regiment, which is light infantry, provides a rifle company aboard larger Australian warships). *Sydney*, decommissioned in 2015, went to the scrappers in May 2017. *Ballarat*, which has been upgraded several times, remains in the service of King Charles III. ❁

Thank you ...

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

Friends of the J.A. Tuttle Library

Linda Morehouse

The Friends of the Library, a vibrant volunteer organization, enriches library services for all. Volunteers broaden library services in many ways: event hospitality, gardening expertise, financial donations, facility maintenance, art display curation, newborn baby book program, materials organization. Joining the Friends of the Library organization is easy. We welcome volunteers and offer varied opportunities and flexible schedules. Simply complete a membership form at the front desk or attend one of our quarterly meetings to get started. A donation of \$10 upon enrollment will assist in our efforts to provide support to the library. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, donations are greatly appreciated. Membership meetings are open to all, so stop at the front desk and request a membership form soon. Someone will contact you and help you get started. We would love to meet you!

Our Election Day and Home and Harvest Festival bake sales and raffles were a tremendous success, leading to more funding for library programs. Special thanks to our talented bakers and raffle basket creators! Thank you to the public for supporting our efforts.

Thanks to the Friends, there are museum passes for the SEE Science Museum and the Currier Museum in Manchester, NH. These passes provide admission at no cost or a reduced cost. Just check out the pass on your library card!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events. The Welcome Santa event in early December is planned in conjunction with the Festival of Trees committee. Additionally, look for our annual "Stuffed Sleepover" in early March.

We recognize the hard work of our library staff and trustees in providing exceptional library services. ❀

Thank you to the hard workers at Antrim's Water and Sewer Department. You guys are the greatest! Thank you for fixing the gully between the road and our driveway after flushing the fire hydrant on our street. The people delivering medical equipment were quite grateful. The medical staff coming and going also appreciated the great job you did. Thank you for your prompt response to my request. The work praises the man,

— Julie Schmidt



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Entrepreneurship and Innovation: What Makes Antrim Special?

Wendy Gibbons

When my husband Dan and I moved to New Hampshire in November of 2023, one of the aspects of our past life in California that we immediately missed in the Live Free or Die state were the frequent adrenaline surges and neck pains we had developed from nudging out pushy drivers just to merge onto those jam-packed highways and get to work, the park, or grocery shopping. I noticed right away that driving in New Hampshire brought out a whole different range of emotions, from exhilaration to calm. Could getting behind the wheel of a car possibly become fun again? "The open highway!" we exclaimed as we meandered past endless trees—I mean forests. We putzed along scanning every swamp—or rather, "bog"—for ducks, and rumbled gently over scenic mountain tops just to see what was on the other side.

This slower driving style allowed us to take in our surroundings in a more thoughtful way, and soon I noticed another novel aspect of our new home. Every so often, I found my car whizzing past a placard for some small enterprise or another. "Eggs!" proclaimed not just one, but several signs along the brief country mile between our new house and downtown Antrim. "Flowers! Maple syrup! Microbrews! Antiques! Firewood! Car repair! Hat boxes! Farm stand!", read more signs, some hand painted, some carefully carved or printed. Each one caught my eye and enticed me to stop and look, or at least to write down a phone number in case I needed an extra hat box someday.

Then I began to meet people, and I soon realized that this entrepreneurial ground swelling amounted to more than just passing signs on the highway. My new acquaintances were electricians, tie-dye artists, plumbers, handymen, cat breeders, painters and dealers in antique tools. They dangled from huge trees to prune branches and picked thorny berry bushes while ignoring black-fly bites for a living. Was there anyone here who didn't have a passion they had followed to create their own unique take on lawn ornaments or raspberry pecan ginger muffins? It was a good thing there were going to be so many experts around, because, willy nilly, I had somehow managed to land on a slippery slope that required raising and marketing blueberries and Christmas trees. Running a small business seemed intimidating at first. Make a yard sign? Come up with a price? I hadn't done anything so bold since the days when Diana Bendix and I made \$12 selling lemonade and cookies from my backyard.

Was there some special spice in the water here that got people motivated to get up every day, make their own schedule, be their own boss, and run their own show? Did new businesses sprout like mushrooms from the rich forest soils of these Northern woods? I wanted to know more. And

— continued on page 23

News from Avenue A

TEENS BRAINSTORM ACTIVITIES: CATAPULTS, LINE DANCING AND CAROLING!

Jacqueline Roland, Director of Teen Programs

Requests from teens always generate the best ideas—and take us to the most unexpected places! This fall we had our first Avenue A Tea Party. Teens pitched the idea and came together for a tea party planning meeting! With the help of our amazing volunteers, Lisa and Bev, they created a fabulous event filled with delicious treats, bad British accents, poetry readings and live piano music performed by one of our teens!

We are grateful for MAXT Makerspace's continued support of our Woodworking & Carpentry program, which meets weekly at their woodshop in Peterborough. Teens are working on individual projects—from desks, to bookshelves, to turkey calls. Teens are also building new and improved pumpkin catapults! (Last year we had our first-ever pumpkin catapult competition; teens learned from their first models and are creating even better designs this year.)

Delicious menus chosen by our teens have taken TACO on a culinary journey this fall, including chicken and waffles, poutine and, of course, tacos. This program would not be possible without the generous support of the Kiwanis Club of Peterborough and the Antrim Presbyterian Church—the church kitchen has become a second home for TACO teens!

Back by popular demand, Shelley Hulbert visited us this fall to lead a “felted creatures” needle felting workshop. Eighteen teens participated, leaving with fabulous creations! Our art escapades continued in November, with a paper lantern-making workshop at the Peterborough Town Library.

Avenue A Club is a hive of activity on Mondays and Wednesdays! Our 5th and 6th grade group can often be found having “music jams” together. Meanwhile, our 7th and 8th graders practiced some afterschool cooking this fall, with a pancake party and no-bake cookie making!

We are so grateful to everyone who donated supplies for our Halloween Party—and our team of five fabulous volunteers who made the night possible. The event drew 92 teens, which is a record for us!

Kim Bylancik, our Avenue A Coordinator, led a wonderful sunset/moonrise hike for high schoolers up Pitcher Mountain in September. Middle schoolers explored local natural areas in September and October during our Outdoor Adventures program, making memories (and adventure) at places like the Loveren's Mill Cedar Swamp and McCabe Forest. In November, our parent-led Mountain Biking Group met for a group ride at the Dublin Nordic Center.

Our first local “Leadership Day,” sponsored by The Grand Monadnock Rotary Club happened on November 16th. Our high schoolers gathered at Reynolds Hall at All Saints' Church for a day of workshops and team activities focused on identifying and building their strengths. We're already looking forward to our next leadership day in March!

November also marked a big moment for our creative writing program—we launched a second day of our middle school “Writers' Society”! Now we offer Writers' Society at the Peterborough Town Library on Mondays and in Antrim on Tuesdays! This program feeds into our high school Write Out! group, giving youth access to seven years of continuous writing mentorship through middle and high school.

This winter we're looking forward to our next Free Clothing Day, held in early December, and lots of festive events including our gift-making workshop, cookie decorating and our popular holiday party. We're also starting a caroling group, led by our incredible volunteer Jody Simpson!

Teen requests have inspired activities to beat winter doldrums! Our yoga program is returning on Fridays in December, and we have a line dancing night planned at the Antrim Town Hall on January 17th! Our Winter Adventures group for middle schoolers starts at the end of January—with plans for sledding at the hill by Norway Pond in Hancock as soon as conditions allow!

To learn more about our programs, visit avenueatc.org or email avenuea@grapevinenh.org. ❁

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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Where in Antrim?

Mike Ott recused himself from the prize pool but couldn't resist identifying the location of the December photo as the top of the spillway/crest of the downstream face of the Handle Shop Dam, which he now owns, at the corner of Main Street and High Street. George Davison said his first hunch was right, and suggested Mike Ott ought to get it easily. Jan Paige said she looks down on it from her house next door, and Barbara Cohen and Kelly Neff also correctly identified it. Barbara Cohen was the winner of the gift certificate to Tenney Farm.

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 Rick and Diane's Pizzeria. Email your response to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 603-588-2569. Photo by Victor Rosansky. Happy hunting! ❁



Entrepreneurship and Innovation continued from page 21

I thought others might too—after all, I am willing to bet that Dan and I will not be the last ones looking to escape the land of venture capital and silicon startups. What was it about Antrim and the surrounding area that nurtured and allowed such an individualistic approach to innovation?

As a writer and journalist, I knew a good story when I saw one. As I began to explore and talk with folks, however, I realized the topic needed more than a cursory look. From the Hannah Grimes Center in Keene to the University of New Hampshire Extension Office in Concord, from brand new businesses such as the Flag Leaf Bakery to multigenerational enterprises such as Edmunds Ace Hardware and Tenney Farm, so much can be learned about how the culture of New England nurtures individuals' and families' dreams of independent business creation!

What can new enterprises learn from those that have been around for decades? Can the energy of newbies help reawaken the enthusiasm of those who have been at it for years? What are the benefits, both financial and personal, that make running a small business in rural counties, as opposed to urban locales such as Concord or Manchester, so valuable? Finally, what other aspects of rural life might benefit from strengthening so that local businesses can continue to thrive? Charlie French, who leads the University of New Hampshire's Community and Economic Development program, has co-authored a book on rural entrepreneurship. A myth exists that rural places don't innovate, French said, but in reality, non-urban economies simply remain "undercounted and underrecognized" in national data.

I have some thoughts about why this topic is both important and interesting, and I'm sure you all do too! Rather than rush into such a cool story, I wanted to give myself time to fully research and write about the joys and challenges to make them more transparent.

And so, an idea for not just one, but a series of three to four articles germinated in my brain. What you are reading here is my hopeful attempt to pique the curiosity of *Limrik* readers, and to let you know what to expect when my Entrepreneurship Series debuts in the March issue. My first story will focus on new businesses, the second will have "mature" businesses as its theme, and the third will delve into multigenerational enterprises. A possible fourth article could highlight the non-profit sector, or it could discuss other ways to move any ideas uncovered in the earlier articles forward.

I am open to ideas and suggestions. If you know about Antrim-adjacent businesses I should interview, please email me at wendy.gbbns@gmail.com. And if you suddenly get an email or a phone call asking for an interview, hopefully this will help you understand why I am calling. Thank you so much for reading this, and I hope we can have some fun together exploring part of what makes Antrim special! ❁

I may be a sick cookie—but I'm not a crumb.

~Joseph J. McCarthy

As We Move Inward...

Dana Plank, MSN, RN

Winter is coming whether we want it to or not. Screens are being replaced with storm windows and doors; insulation against the cold is being put into place. As we become more shuttered from the winter elements, we will lose the fresh air exchange we've become accustomed to during the warmer months. Depending on how airtight your house is, the air quality might wind up being unhealthy for you until you're able to open those windows and doors again.

Toxins you may be exposed to include wood smoke, carbon monoxide, radon, mold, dust, particulate matter (like tiny pieces of dust, dirt, soot, smoke, droplets of liquid and other pollutants) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) like tobacco smoke, paints, glues, air fresheners and kerosene. In addition, if you happen to live in a home built before 1978, the potential for chipped or deteriorating lead paint can create dust, chips and suspended particles that are harmful if breathed in. These are just some of the major offenders that can be detrimental to your health.

Another factor that becomes more of a risk with moving indoors is the exposure to respiratory illnesses or disease that can be contracted by airborne transmission. Such activities as family gatherings or public events increase the likelihood of contracting respiratory diseases such as the flu, Covid and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). With the holiday season around the corner, gatherings will increase in frequency, making exposure to one of these viruses more likely.

Individuals who already suffer from respiratory ailments such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are at an increased risk for harm if the air quality is poor within the home. In general, poor air quality can cause a stuffy nose, sore throat, coughing or wheezing, headache, burning eyes or even a skin rash.

There are ways that you can mitigate some or most of your exposure to these toxins and viruses.

- Open a window on days where some loss of heat within the home would not be detrimental.
- Use exhaust fans if available to allow some of the toxins to escape.
- Use non-ozone-producing air cleaners to cleanse the air.
- Clean home surfaces often by using a vacuum cleaner with HEPA filter and damp mop whenever possible, to keep particles from becoming airborne.
- Control any mold development by increasing ventilation to areas prone to moisture and kill the mold using household bleach or distilled vinegar where possible.
- Do not smoke indoors.
- Check smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure they are free of dust and batteries are replaced at least twice a year.

- Get vaccinated for those diseases for which vaccines are available.
- If sick, do not go to family or public events; this will just spread the illness to others.
- Practice good hand hygiene with frequent washing and/or use of hand sanitizers.
- Cover your face with a mask if you must be around others either at home or in public.
- Clean surfaces that are touched often with sanitizing cleaner.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Viruses can enter your body in this way if you've touched a contaminated surface.
- Try to get outside as often as possible for fresh air and exercise.

Most people can spend around 90% of their time indoors, especially during the winter months. Long-term exposure to indoor pollutants can eventually cause diseases that affect the lungs, eyes, nose and brain. These health issues account for approximately four million deaths worldwide in the form of COPD, asthma, pneumonia and lung cancer. Prevention of short- and long-term exposure to indoor pollutants is critical in maintaining a person's health now and later. ❁

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The Knowledge You Can Find in a Library, Part 4

Susan Ellsworth

As time went on Sterling read and memorized all the information in the chapters that she originally saw in the table of contents of the special library book. When she got to the last chapter, she felt the book vibrate and then light up in a bright yellow light. When she looked again there were new chapters to read. They gave her much more information, and even had the names and phone numbers of other people who were chosen like her to connect with when the time came. She looked to see if Melissa and Conor's names were there. They were listed as Guides for the beginning operations. It told her Guides were only to bring the chosen ones to the information needed to start their journey and then their memories of their encounters would be erased. Sterling was sad to know that her friends would no longer be able to help her in the future.

As Sterling read more of the information in the book she understood why this had to be. There would only be so many people who would be able to survive the future events and Melissa and Conor had not wanted to leave behind other family members to do what was needed. They were still going to be able to help Sterling for now.

Melissa was a great guide. She would meet with Sterling as needed, usually down at Gregg Lake. It's funny that that was their meeting place because in the future Gregg Lake was one of only a few lakes inside the domed pods for New Hampshire.

As years came and went, Sterling saw the weather get more and more severe. Farmland was drying up or flooding all over the world, creating less food for all. Illnesses that once were thought to be eradicated returned due to unvaccinated people moving from country to country. Evil people trying to control the world populations and thinking their people were more deserving caused other pandemics. Tornadoes and earthquakes reduced many communities to ruins, more than the population could keep up with to rebuild. The planet was being remodeled to what would be the end if things didn't change. The population needed help with food and safe housing in all countries.

Sterling was in college taking classes in physiology and kinesiology. She was studying the effects of spaceflight on neuroplasticity in humans in the long and short term, as suggested in the book from the library.

At the end of one class day, she looked at her phone and saw a missed call from a number she had preprogrammed into her phone years ago. It was from one of the chosen ones. Sterling felt her stomach turn. She knew this could only mean one thing—the time had come for her to put into action what she had been learning the past few years. It was time for the chosen ones to meet the Teachers and begin their project for ensuring the survival of humanity on Earth.

Sterling called the number and a man named Scott answered. He knew who it was and the purpose of her call. He told her that she needed to tell her parents now what was happening and that they needed to prepare for a journey to an underground pod for the chosen ones and family to survive what was going to change the planet next. They were allowed to bring pets and a few personal items from a list he would text her. He sent her the address of the meeting place and said she would be told more when they arrived.

Sterling's parents were concerned and amazed at first, but then, with all that was happening in the world, believed Sterling. They also now knew why Sterling wanted to study the college classes she did. They were proud of their daughter and were honored to help her in any way they could. They packed their belongings and started to travel to the designated location for further instructions.

After several hours of traveling north on Interstate 93, they were told to take the ramp at exit 22. Sterling said she didn't know there was an exit 22. Suddenly there it was. As she approached the exit, she thought it strange that there were no longer any other cars on the road. She put on her directional and exited the interstate. The road turned to dirt. The instructions said to drive one mile and turn right at a big rock and oak tree. The rock was huge and couldn't be missed. As she turned, she could see a medium-sized cabin and a few other cars, so she pulled in and turned off the en-

 — continued on page 26

WILLIAM BRYK

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gine. She and her parents waited a minute to see if anyone would come out to greet them.

The front door opened, and a man came out. It was Scott, and he helped them with their belongings and pet. Several other people came over to welcome them and thank them in advance for the jobs they were about to take on. Sterling and her parents were not sure what the jobs were yet but knew it would soon be explained.

Scott told them they had already noticed the weather on earth had been changing, but the truth was not what they had been told to believe. He told them it was the whole universe that had moved that caused all this disaster. There were temporary things now that had to be done to ensure the survival of humanity. Things that humans could not do alone.

Sterling asked, "What does that mean? Who could help humanity?"

Scott replied, "We have a Teacher, as he's called, to come and help us prepare for the survival of our populations and stabilize our environments. We will shortly journey to see him and learn more."

They were instructed to follow Scott into the next room, which looked like a boathouse dock. It had a hole in the floor with a hatch that led to an underwater vehicle. They were all helped down steps that opened to an area with seats they were instructed to strap into. When everyone was ready, they were told their journey would begin.

Within seconds they were plunged into the lake water and then traveled to the ocean through an underground waterway that was not known about before. There the vehicle docked onto a huge underwater living station with hundreds of other people and animals.

Sterling asked if it was like a biblical Noah's ark? Scott said, "Yes!" Then he asked Sterling's parents to please join the others in a class to give them more information while he and Sterling continued their journey through her much-needed further education.

"Sterling, you were chosen to be a leader and contact for the new world with the Teacher. It's time we go to meet him on his planet."

"Did you say planet?" Sterling asked.

"Yes," Scott answered.

Sterling was not expecting that answer at all. She was not sure she believed her ears. Reluctantly, she followed Scott to another type of ship and sat down in a chair with what looked like a glass enclosure around it on three sides. After she was strapped in Scott asked her if she was ready to go out of this world. She was scared but nodded her head. Then the glass-like enclosure surrounded her on all sides, and they were off. She could see out the windshield as they traveled somewhere deep in the ocean. Then the craft lifted out of the water, high into the air. There were no boats around as she looked down. Then the craft was flying at speeds she couldn't believe, and they left our atmosphere. The bright skies faded, and she knew she and Toto were not in Kansas anymore, as the movie said.

What seemed like an hour later they were hundreds of light years away from planet Earth. Ahead was a huge planet with what looked like a docking station for their ship. Scott landed the craft, like he did this all the time. It was the smoothest landing she had ever had while traveling anywhere.

Scott turned off the engines on their ship. The glass-like enclosure opened again, and she unclipped and stood up and asked, "What next?" As they walked to the door it opened and they were then inside a clear bubble-like hallway that extended for a few hundred feet and opened to a bigger garden-like enclosure. Walking towards them was a tall man with bright blue eyes that were a color Sterling had never seen before. His hair, too, was a light color different than any color she had ever seen. Scott said hello to him, and they reached out a hand to each other that exchanged thoughts. He then reached his hand to Sterling and the same thing happened. She was amazed at the experience. He told her that she was a descendant of one of his original children from many years ago when planet Earth was populated. That's why she was chosen. She still had the DNA, as humans called it, plus some of his. He would show her things she needed to see and know that others could not. She was aware of how the Earth was populated by so many people when it only started with very few.

To be continued ...

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Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend

Joan Gorga

There are those who take vacations by going on luxury cruises where they are wined and dined and have to dress for elegant balls, but when I started humming “Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend,” Frank knew I wasn't hinting for jewels or a luxury cruise. Ten years ago, I was sent by the New England Wildflower Society (now the Native Plant Trust) to Second College Grant, New Hampshire, to search for some rare plants that had been reported near the Dead Diamond River. Second College Grant isn't exactly the metropolis that Antrim is—it had a population of one in the 2020 census, and, according to Wikipedia, the population had doubled by 2023—but it is a gorgeous spot where the Swift Diamond River and the Dead Diamond River converge and then flow into the Magalloway River just north of where it joins the Androscoggin at Lake Umbagog. The Dead Diamond River is reputed to be the last non-stocked, native trout river in New Hampshire.

Second College Grant gets its name from being the second parcel of land granted to Dartmouth College, this one by an act of the New Hampshire legislature in 1807. It is still owned by Dartmouth and is used for timber, forestry research and recreation, and there are a few rustic cabins available for use by former Dartmouth students for a modest fee. Since Frank and I met as graduate students at Dartmouth, we'd always thought we ought to go back to Second College Grant and spend some time exploring the wilds of the Great North Woods.

Naturally, after a warm and very dry summer, the last week of September was forecast to be cool and rainy, so we packed an ample supply of warm clothes, books and knitting (not Frank), in addition to hiking poles and cameras (Frank). We had a beautiful drive north, with the fall foliage growing ever more impressive the farther we went. We stopped at LL Cote in Errol to grab a few last-minute essentials, like the loaf of bread I forgot to grab from the freezer.

Driving north along the Androscoggin River and then the Magalloway, we entered Wentworth's Location (population 30 in 2023) and turned north on Dead Diamond Road just before the Maine border. Before long we came to a gate

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and, following the explicit instructions we'd been given for finding the key, let ourselves into the Second College Grant. We crossed the Dead Diamond River on a wooden bridge that didn't look too rickety even though it didn't have rails, and the road began to climb steeply. We stopped briefly where a sign said “Diamond Gorge Lookout” and peered down on the river tumbling between the steep canyon walls. It was easy to see why the Dartmouth guide to the Grant specifically said that no one should try to canoe or kayak that stretch of river. We emerged from the gorge into an open area at the confluence of the Dead Diamond and Swift Diamond Rivers and shortly thereafter came to what I thought should be Sam's Cabin. We couldn't see the name anywhere, but the combination we were given worked at the door, so we figured we'd found our home for the week

— continued on page 28

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and quickly unloaded our gear, leaving time for a short hike before evening set in.

We crossed the Dead Diamond River on foot on a small wooden bridge and headed south on a trail to the confluence and then west along the Swift Diamond River through varied terrain, including a beautiful patch of orchids blooming in a field and dense black spruce forest. We picked up another trail marked "Hand on the Rock" that descended along the steep northern bank of the Swift Diamond to a hand meticulously carved in a boulder over the river. Someone has even marked "The Hand" on Google Maps. Who carved it, when or why, are all subjects of much debate and range from Vikings to loggers to Dartmouth students, but we weren't sure it was worth the hype and headed back out of the rapidly darkening woods without spending too much time there.

Back at Sam's Cabin, Frank gathered up the courage to try lighting some of the gas lamps plumbed in around the cabin, while I made soup for dinner on the propane stove. Since Sam's Cabin was billed as "rustic," we weren't expecting propane lamps, stove and refrigerator. The outhouse was a newly-built, elegant vault toilet. There was even a trickle of cold water piped in from a nearby spring. Five-star accommodations to rival the Queen Mary II any day!

The wood stove was clearly designed for indoor comfort in the dead of winter. We regretted building a fire in anticipation of a night in the 40s when the cabin got up to 80 degrees inside. Even the bedrooms were hot. There were two of them, with five creaky bunk beds in each. With the noise the two of us made tossing and turning on the first night, I couldn't imagine how ten people could sleep there. On the second night we figured out that with all the extra beds, we could each pile two mattresses on one bed and be much more comfortable.

We figured the next day would be the best one weather-wise, based on the last weather report we'd seen. (We were warned that there was no cell signal or WiFi in the Grant.) We explored on up the Dead Diamond River valley, taking short hikes to visit various sites along the way. We scouted three swimming holes in the Dead Diamond—Monahan's Bathtub, Halfmoon Beach and Slewgundy—since I was determined to go for a swim. Slewgundy was a beautiful, deep pool, but the rocks around it were heavily marked with scat—river otter, maybe?—and I couldn't see a way to get in and out while avoiding it. Halfmoon Beach was accessed by a steep trail down the riverbank, so I decided my dip would be in Monahan's Bathtub when we returned to it late in the afternoon. By that time, the temperature had dropped

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into the fifties and clouds had moved in. I slid down into the (cold!) water and swam a little way out, and then found out just how slippery the rocks were as I tried to climb back out. The swim lasted longer than I wanted while I tried to find a secure foothold, and eventually Frank inched his way down the dry rocks to give me enough of a hand that I could climb out. Mission accomplished, though!

Farther up the river, we followed a trail that took a suspension bridge over the river, which the literature said was the only way to access two cabins, one of which is named Hellgate Hilton. The bridge swayed and groaned, and I was reminded how little I like suspension bridges, even suspension bridges designed by Thayer School of Engineering students, but we made it across and continued up the river on the west side. We rounded a turn and spotted a front-end loader zip-ping around and a truck we had seen going up the road on the other side of the river. How could they have gotten there? The maintenance crew waved a friendly hello from the front porch of the Hellgate Hilton—they weren't looking overly stressed, or perhaps they were just enjoying a lunch break in a gorgeous spot. Continuing along toward the bottom of Hellgate Gorge, we saw that the riverbed there widened into a large gravel bar, where the water level was so low that the truck was easily able to drive across the river.

When we hiked in to the top of Hellgate Gorge the reason for its name immediately became clear. The river enters the gorge through huge rock ledges, with different layers of rock showing different patterns of erosion. One smooth grey layer looked like it should be soft mud and was carved into gentle curves, while others were sharp and jagged. (A geologist could surely tell you more.) Even Frank took off his shoes and waded into the river (not quietly) to take photos of the water entering Hellgate, but we both stayed safely upstream, where even if we slipped and fell, we'd just get wet.

The next morning was looking pretty grey, but the serious rain wasn't supposed to start until late in the day, as far as we knew. We delayed heading out on a 3-4 mile hike up to the Dead Diamond Peaks as morning showers passed. When the skies lightened and the rain let up, we started up the trail, which was steep, rocky and covered with fallen leaves in places. Before too long we found the spur trail to

Alice Ledge, where we looked down into the Dead Diamond River valley. We continued up the main trail along Linda Ledge and regularly got vistas of the Swift Diamond and Dead Diamond River valleys and mountains in full fall color.

We planned to take the Diamondback Trail north from Linda Ledge in a longer but more gentle traverse down the back side of the Diamond Peaks. When we got to a trail junction sign, we took the only visible trail, getting increasingly nervous as it climbed higher and higher. Finally, the trail came to an abrupt end just above a small ledge. As I peered down at the ledge to make sure the trail didn't in fact lead off of it somehow, I noticed a benchmark. Reluctantly, I carefully worked my way down—it looked like the cliff dropped straight down 600 feet—and saw that the benchmark said the elevation was 2040 feet. I knew that was the elevation of the top of Dead Diamond Peak, so there we were—and we were definitely not on the Diamondback Trail. The view of the far-off Richardson Lakes and the Magalloway River winding its way from Maine into New Hampshire was stunning. However, the rapidly approaching black clouds were also sobering, so we quickly headed back down the way we'd come. When we again got to the trail junction, we could find only one faint blaze marking what was likely the Diamondback Trail, and the bright red fallen maple leaves were so thick that we couldn't begin to follow a trail on the ground. The clouds began spitting, and we decided there was only one "responsible adult" choice—we had to head slowly and carefully back down the steep, wet, rocky trail that we knew we could follow. (When did we get to be responsible adults, anyway?) Less than an hour later, we popped out of the woods right by our cabin not too much the worse for wear just as the rain began to fall in earnest.

It rained two inches that night, but we were cozy in Sam's Cabin, and we enjoyed exploring along the swollen rivers the next day in light rain. The day after that, we reluctantly opened the gate and returned to the world. Maybe next time we'll upgrade to the Hellgate Hilton. Does a place get six stars if you have to cross a suspension bridge to get there? ❄



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Thank you so very much to Rick Fadden, Elsa Green, and Jeremy and Peter Koutroubas for providing me with transportation when Peter was very ill. I cannot express in words my gratitude to Jeremy & Peter K. for giving up part of a beautiful Saturday morning to make room for a hospital bed so that Peter Lanman could spend his last days comfortably at home. I am so blessed to have wonderful people like you in my life. May the sun always shine upon you.

— Julie Schmidt

Grapevine

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We are wishing all of you a peaceful and happy holiday season in 2024. This year, we have distributed over \$20,000 in 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 nearly thirty years. You can easily give at our website, grapevinenh.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 melissag@grapevinenh.org.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To **Bantam Grill** of Peterborough. For the 10th consecutive year, Bantam has hosted the BeastMaster'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 **\$14,000!** We are incredibly grateful and honored to receive this gift!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents: A Lynn Lyons Book Group

Join us online for five Tuesdays from Jan. 21–Feb. 18, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. for a discussion group and book reading of Lynn Lyons book, *Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents*. We will explore “seven ways to stop the worry cycle and raise courageous and independent children.” A free book is provided to all participants. Call or email to register.

Positive Solutions for Families: Parenting young children from 2 to 5 years old can be a challenge. Learn ways to encourage positive behavior: use praise and encouragement, set up daily routines, understand the reason behind the behavior, make the most of play time and deal with challenging behaviors. Program starts Thursday, March 6, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and runs for 7 weeks. This group will be offered virtually over Zoom. Call The Grapevine or email caroll@grapevinenh.org to register.

Snowfamilies Playday: We are still planning details for our annual winter fun day. Please stay tuned for the date via our website and social media pages!

ONGOING PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY 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@grapevinenh.org.

Antrim (FREE) Community Suppers: Join your friends and neighbors for a warm meal on the third Thursday of each month at the Antrim Presbyterian Church! Upcoming supper dates and sponsorships: Dec. 19 (Antrim Grange), Jan. 16 (Antrim Elementary School), and Feb. 20 (Bank of NH). A special thank you to our Sept.–Nov. supper sponsors: Antrim Festival of Trees Committee, Antrim Democrats and Rick & Diane's Pizzeria/Avenue A TACO Dinner Club!

Weekly Child & Parent Programs: The Grapevine welcomes all children birth to 5 years of age and their parents to our weekly children's programs.

- Parent-Child Playgroups in Hillsborough: Thursdays from 10 to noon & from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. (*Morning is currently full; afternoon has a few openings.*)
- Better Beginnings Parent/Child Groups: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9:30–11:30 a.m. (*We have openings on some days.*)
- Better Beginnings for Babies (ages newborn up to 16 months): Offered weekly on Thursdays, 9:30–11 a.m.
- 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 a.m.

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



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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. Pizza provided. Call The Grapevine for more information.

Community Wood Bank is still available! We have re-housed our emergency wood supply for the season, but this resource is still available! 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 temporarily closed! If you are looking for a specific tool or piece of equipment, please email the Toolshed Volunteers at toolshed@grapevinenh.org with your request. We may be able to help.

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

- The many people who helped us ready for our Avenue A construction project including **Antrim–Bennington Lions Club, Robblee Tree Service, LLC, Pineview Excavation, Blu Box Portable Storage, the Town of Antrim Highway Department, Eckman Construction, Novo Studio Architects, Rick Edmunds and our Dads Campfire volunteers!** And of course, the **NH Community Development Finance Authority** for funding this project, along with private matching dollars, including from the **John Vance ACCESS Fund**. We couldn't have done it without you! Keep following us for progress updates through next spring.
- The **local donors and shoppers** who visited our Fall Yard Sale, as well as **Dottie Bauer, Dana Brien, Doug Sutherland, Lily Schulz, Nick Hill, Bernd Foecking, James Panico and Marlo Britton** for set up and clean up, helping us raise over \$1,000!

We experienced the sudden loss of several young people in our community this past September, and we appreciate the partnership of the **ConVal School District, Jellison Funeral Home, Monadnock Community Hospital, NAMI NH, David Cope, MSW, LICSW and Patrick Cogan and his dog Rosie** as we supported teens and families impacted by this loss.

Thank you to our donors and bidders in our 2024 Online Auction; **Bob Edwards** for picking up our trash every week and **End 68 Hours of Hunger** for delivering food bags and items to us each week. See the Avenue A article for more thank yous and recognitions!

Other Services Available at The Grapevine...

- Information and supported referral for resources for food, housing, heating and other needs
- Home Visitor one-to-one support where you are

- Kinship Navigation Program—For grandparents and other relative caregivers
- Community Wood Bank—For urgent home heating needs
- Community Tool Lending Shed—email toolshed@grapevinenh.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@grapevinenh.org. We gratefully accept donations, which are tax deductible. Please make your donation online at www.grapevinenh.org or mail a check payable to The Grapevine to PO Box 637, Antrim, NH 03440. Visit us on social media at facebook.com/grapevinenh.org and Instagram [@thevinefrfc](https://thevinefrfc). ❁

LITTLE ONE

Joseph J. McCarthy

(Waaa-waaa).

Little one, you're just a babe,
But when you grow a little more,
We will do a lot of things together,
And have good times galore.

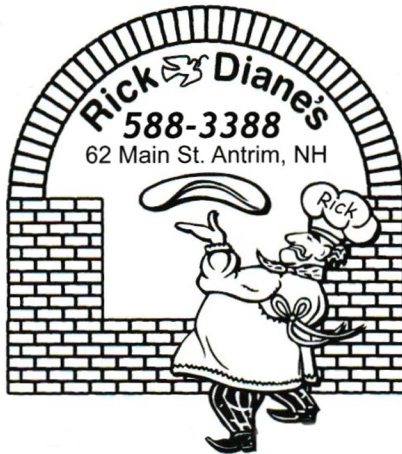
Little one, we're going to have some fun,
I promise you this is true,
Tomorrow, I'll take you to the zoo,
And many, many things we'll do.

Little one, I'm sorry to have to run,
I won't be able to take you,
Tomorrow we will go somewhere
And have a lot of fun, my dear.
Little one, I love you.

Good morning, babe, today's the day
We're going to have a real good time.
So, get ready now, we'll be leaving soon;
Everything is going to be fine.

Little one, I'm sorry something came up,
Next week we'll get together again.
I'm sorry, hon, soon we'll have some fun.
I love you, little one.
I love you, little one.

Hello Mom. Hello Dad.
Doesn't life seem to go by fast?
Gee Mom. Gee Dad,
It's too bad that it just couldn't last.



Hours

Sunday

11 AM to 8 PM

Tuesday to Saturday

11 AM to 9 PM

Closed Monday

Come in, Eat and Enjoy

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Homemade Spaghetti and Meatballs

for 4 - \$23.99 for 6 - \$34.99

Brick Oven Cheese Pizza

for 4 (1 large pizza & one 2 L soda) - \$16.99

for 8 (2 large pizzas & two 2 L sodas) - \$33.99

Chicken Tenders and Fries

for 4 - \$29.99 for 6 - \$41.99

Buffalo Tenders and Fries

for 4 - \$33.99 for 6 - \$47.99

Prices do not include 9% state meals tax

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