



Avenue A Club middle schoolers enjoy being goofy and relaxing after school. Photo, Kim Bylancik.

The Old Parsonage

Stephen Burkhardt

“Where the heck is Antrim, New Hampshire?” Perhaps one of us said it out loud, or perhaps we both just thought it. However, I am certain I exclaimed to my husband, Dennis, “That has potential,” as we both stared at our computer screen. You see, the “where” was not as important, at that time, as the “what” in our quest.

A little more than four years ago, we had started our countdown to retired life. We were becoming increasingly disenchanted with our work-a-day life in southcentral Pennsylvania. Since early in our relationship, we had both shared the dream of owning a colonial house in New England, and specifically, Mid-Coast Maine. Dennis is a native Yankee, being from West Springfield, Massachusetts, and I am captivated by New England’s early history and architecture, which I became familiar with during a brief stint in a school here. We both share a love of antiques, and this seemed to be the natural place to fill a home with them. Sensing that the only way for our dream to be realized was for us to actively chase it, we started the hard press to capture it.

For several weeks during the languid evenings so typical of a Mid-Atlantic summer, we would pour over scores of internet listings of antique homes for sale in Mid-Coast Maine. Time after time, nothing we saw captured our heart or even our deep interest. We had our hearts set on an 18th century center-chimney Cape-style house, one that retained original features, such as early windows, a beehive oven and fireplace, and

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TOWN ELECTIONS

TUESDAY MARCH 11 • 8 A.M.–7 P.M.

Town Hall

TOWN MEETING

THURSDAY MARCH 13 • 6 P.M.

Town Hall

Candidates for Town Offices

Town elections will be held on Tuesday, March 11, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall. Candidates for town offices were contacted via the email address they gave when filing and given the opportunity to submit short statements introducing themselves and summarizing their motivation for running. Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. Town Meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, at 6 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall.

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Andrew Koutroubas Brings Historical Music to Rural New Hampshire

Joan Gorga

A surprising number of us were brave enough to venture out to the Tuttle Library on a miserably cold evening in late December to be treated to a stunning cello and harp concert put on by Andrew Koutroubas and Sharon Dowling. I thought Andrew had moved away, but it turns out he is at least partially returning to his Antrim roots with a new venture to bring historical music to rural areas.

Andrew is a cellist and multi-instrumentalist. He studied historical performance at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and at the Juilliard School in New York City, and has performed with notable ensembles such as the Handel and Haydn Society and the Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Opera Se-

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— SUBSCRIPTIONS —

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

— SUBMISSIONS —

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

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

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

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org



Antrim In The Evening Celebrates 30 Years

Jonas Taub



This Summer will be the 30th Anniversary of Antrim's summer concert series, **Antrim In The Evening**. The seed for a summer concert series followed the 1994 Centennial Celebration of Antrim's Downtown. When the concert series began it was the only summer concert series in the area for twenty miles or more (Jaffrey, Milford, Keene and Walpole had concerts). There were special events including Strawberry Shortcake Social, Independence Day Celebration (which continues still), Ice Cream Social, Pizza Night, and the closing night Blues and BBQ, and community groups selling refreshments. The crowds were large and there was a general buzz as children played, friends and neighbors visited, and everyone enjoyed the music.

We look forward to rekindling that excitement and fun for the 30th Anniversary of **Antrim In The Evening**. Would you like to help with planning and presenting these summer concerts? Do you have ideas you would like to share? Are you a community group or local business that would like to sell refreshments or sponsor an evening's concert? Can you make a donation to help cover the cost of the musical performances? We would love to hear from you. Please email Jonas Taub at jonasjt@comcast.net or Celeste Lunetta, Recreation Director, at recdirector@antrimnh.gov.

Let's make Antrim In The Evening's 30th year the best yet! ☐

A Caribou in Malibu

Bruce McGuffin

There's a caribou in Malibu
It came out of the ocean.
They say it swam from Canada.
It told me "I've a notion
That snow and ice aren't very nice.
The tundra's not for me.
I'll sit upon this sandy beach
And contemplate the sea."



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Selectboard Update

Michael Ott

Winter is in full force for sure! It was -6° at my house when I woke up this morning. I think that makes too many days so far this winter with below-zero temps—and Punxsutawney Phil just prognosticated six more weeks of winter! Special thanks go out to our Director of Public Works, Tyler Tomilla, and his entire team for their dedication and perseverance to keeping Antrim's streets and sidewalks clear and safe for everyone as we battle Mother Nature's winter wallops.

You may have noticed, several weeks back, the new roof that went on Town Hall. It was long overdue and the cause for much of the water damage that is still unfortunately visible upstairs in the building. Now that the leaking itself is stopped, we need to remove the damaged, missing and moldy insulation in the attic and reinsulate to maintain the thermal envelope of the building. The Selectboard is proud to report that an insulation contract has been awarded and will begin the week after Town Meeting. This should greatly improve the comfort and efficiency of the building for everyone.

As of January 1, Scott Lester was promoted to full-time Town Administrator after his incredibly successful stint as Deputy to our now re-retired Town Administrator, Donna Hanson. Donna has graciously agreed to stay on part-time in the role of administrative support specialist on an as-needed basis to assist Scott with his transition to the TA position and the new duties that accompany it.

Budget season is here, and it is a TOUGH ONE! The Selectboard has been working overtime with multiple rounds of workshops to wring out every possible cent from an already tight budget. Our goal has been very clear: continue striving for top tier level of service for our residents by supporting our staff and the town's programs to the best of our ability. It's a delicate balance between utilizing residents' hard-earned tax dollars for the greater good and providing the correct levels and types of town support. The budget includes mandated increases in the cost of benefits to our employees, similar to what we see across the country. We have also included modest increases in several departments

to address needed shortfalls in equipment, staff salaries and support services. This year also includes the first payment (which includes construction interest) for the new well serving both Antrim and Bennington; thankfully, this payment will go down next year. We look forward to discussing the 2025 budget with all residents during Town Meeting on March 13th.

Elections are March 11th this year. Please come down and vote for your choice for town government. Political and town changes and improvements start small, and local government is the bedrock from which we can make those improvements for everyone; your vote matters! Make your voice heard—get out and vote! ☐

Antrim Police Department

Chief John Blake

The Antrim Police Department has been actively engaged in numerous initiatives and improvements to enhance public safety and ensure the highest level of law enforcement services for our community. As we move into 2025, we want to provide an update on several key developments.

The Antrim Police Department is working toward state accreditation through the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (NHLEAC). This effort involves implementing best practices in law enforcement, updating policies and ensuring compliance with state standards. To facilitate this process, the department has adopted PowerDMS products, including PowerStandards, PowerPolicy and PowerTraining, to streamline policy management and training.

Officer Filipe Maia and Officer Madison Jones are currently attending the 199th session of the police academy, which has a graduation date of April 25, 2025. Training remains a priority, with Sergeant Leland Hunter and Sergeant Ethan Christensen scheduled to attend the FBI-LEEDA Supervisory Leadership Institute (SLI) class in April 2025. Additionally, all three supervisors, including Chief John Blake, are committed to completing the FBI-LEEDA Trilogy within three years of their promotions to supervisory positions. Chief Blake is set to attend the Executive Leadership Institute to complete his trilogy in October 2025.

Recognizing the importance of preparedness, the Antrim Police Department has identified active shooter training as a priority for 2025. The last such training took place in the summer of 2022, and the department aims to ensure that officers are well-equipped to handle potential threats to public safety.

The Antrim Police Department remains committed to its mission of providing professional and proactive law enforcement services. As always, we encourage community members to stay engaged and reach out with any concerns or questions. We appreciate the continued support of our residents as we work toward making Antrim a safer place for all. ☐

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SELECTMAN

3-year term, 1 open position

William Bryk

My wife Mimi and I live on Clinton Road. I graduated from Manhattan College and Fordham University School of Law. I'm a member of the New Hampshire Bar.

I serve Antrim as a Supervisor of the Checklist. I have also served as one of Antrim's representatives on the Contoocook Valley School Board. I diligently attend meetings and contribute time and effort to the people's work.

Before we moved to New Hampshire, I worked for thirty years as a lawyer for the New York City government and as a bonded and judicially appointed Examiner of Accounts and Guardian of Incapacitated Persons.

There is little waste in the Town's budget because there is little margin for waste. In working with the Capital Improvement Planning Committee in 2020 and 2021, I learned how the Town's workers strive to make do with little while striving to budget for the future replacement of worn-out equipment, from trucks and compactors to buildings. I respect their work and want to support them.

The State, though free to dictate the management of public schools, does not pay for an adequate education. It gouges taxpayers to finance handouts to private and sectarian schools. Both policies defy the plain language of our State's Constitution, to which I've sworn an oath to uphold.

Although the local daily rejoices in soaring property values, those values increase our real property tax burden. That affects all of us. This places senior citizens and others on fixed incomes at risk of being taxed out of their homes: robbed for the benefit of the wealthy and privileged few.

As a lawyer, I serve as a fiduciary, responsible for other people's money, bonded by insurance companies who have confidence in my character. As a Selectman, I will be as careful with the people's money.

Mike Ott

I've had the honor and privilege to be an Antrim Selectman for four and a half years and the chairman for the past two. In that time, I have learned so many things about this town and town government and done my very best for every resident and neighbor. It's not an easy job and sometimes tough decisions that impact our residents must be made. I never take those decisions lightly and will always consider the issue from all sides to best represent the varied views of our town.

I am fortunate to have a variety of training and experience that helps me in this role. Starting off my 21+ years in the Coast Guard as enlisted before receiving a commission after college, I learned the value and benefit of working your way up the chain. My years working as an operating engineer for both large and small companies allow me to

carefully review our facilities and infrastructure contracts. Several years as the volunteer treasurer for a small non-profit organization provided me with a sense of financial duty that carries over to this role.

As a select board member who works a full-time job in addition to the SB role, I feel I have a realistic view of what the working men and women of Antrim go through in terms of constraints on time and what matters to make life better for themselves and their families.

It's a delicate balance between providing the correct level of service for our residents and keeping their hard-earned dollars in their wallets. I believe I've done a solid job of that over the last few years and with your vote, I'd like to continue this important and necessary work. I am ready to continue to serve our town.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

3-year term, 2 open positions

Jenine Winesuff Rubin

I have been a proud Antrim resident since 2022. My husband and I, along with our dogs, love calling this community home.

I serve on the Boards of Directors for The Grapevine and on the Steering Committees for 100+ Women Who Care – Monadnock and Northern New England's Women's Investment Network. In early 2023, I was appointed as an



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alternate for the Library Trustees. With a background in marketing and strategic planning, I bring experience in creative problem-solving, helping the Trustees navigate both opportunities and challenges.

Our library is a true gem, thanks to its dedicated staff and leadership. As a Trustee, I will support efforts to keep it well-funded, accessible, and responsive to community needs. I look forward to continuing this important work and welcome your ideas on how we can make our library even stronger.

Rick Wood

I've been a Library Trustee for the last 6 years, 2 as Trustee Chair, the last 3 as the Trustee Treasurer. During that time, we've seen the Library expand numbers programs, foster a Friend of Library group that has contributed greatly to Library Services, worked with the Grapevine as they developed the new Teen Center, the inclusion of Teen participation by developing a Teen Room, and the addition of the Donald Dunlap memorial Gazebo and Brick Commemorative Walkway, all while continuing to improve and maintain the building structures. T

I'm proud of the work we Trustees have done over the past 6 years. Particularly working with the Library Director and Staff, members of the Friends of Library as well as the Town Administration to ensure the Library continues to be one of the best and brightest asset of the Town of Antrim

Michelle Caughey

Thank you for considering my candidacy for library trustee.

My mother was a librarian, first working to catalog old manuscripts and later sharing her love of books with middle schoolers. I feel I will honor her legacy by serving Antrim in this role. I love Tuttle Library and its myriad of offerings, serving all parts of our community from toddlers to ancients. And I love how the library has expanded its offerings to fill specific needs like assisting with tax preparation, finding ways to make teens comfortable and setting up 3D printing.

I retired to Antrim 7 years ago, but first came to stay at Gregg Lake over 50 years ago. I am a doctor, a profession that requires a lifetime of learning. I have served on a corporate and several non-profit boards over the years. The Tuttle Library is a gem worthy of support.

Michael Devine

My name is Michael Devine and I have submitted my name for the position of Library Trustee. I believe that my past experience can be of benefit to the library.

I have enjoyed two careers prior to my retirement.

The first was in financial services where I held several senior management positions. My management roles required that I had staff, customer and budget responsibilities.

My second career was in education where I was in an administrative position in a independent school for children with learning differences. During my 11 years at the school I witnessed first-hand the benefits of a solid library. The students from k through 12 thoroughly enjoyed the programs offered and the general use of the library. I oversaw the implementation of a new inventory and lending system while there as well as approving the library budget.

Victor Rosansky

I have run the Uplands Inn since 1988. Over the years I have seen the vibrant side of Antrim and I see the library as being a unique place for everyone. Besides serving kids, (have 7 grandkids) our library's mission is to provide value to those of us getting on in years who need social connections, support with new technologies, and fresh ideas to enhance our well-being. I served on the town's Capital Improvement Committee and have a solid understanding of the importance of long-range financial planning. But also important is having a dynamic long-range strategy. I don't accept the status quo but always seek new ways of stretching resources and exploring exciting new programs and capabilities. I serve on the board of the Antrim Historical Society and teach a weekly photography program at the Antrim Elementary School. I installed the library's train that brings in kids after school.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

2-year term, 1 open position

Bruce McGuffin

I've been fan of public libraries since I was a kid, and discovered they let me take books home for free as long as I eventually brought them back. I'd better say a big thank you here to Mrs. Parks and the rest of my local library staff for overlooking all the fines I owed. I'm still a regular library user. Though now days I usually borrow ebooks or audio books.

I'm running for library trustee to give back to the library. We need our library to keep meeting our community needs:

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loaning books and other materials; and serving as a community center where people can gather to work on crafts, get help with their computers, enjoy displays of local art, hear stories for children, and the list goes on.

If elected I will do my best to keep our library working and growing.

Tamasine Wood-Creighton

Antrim has the BEST Library in NH! When I heard they needed some new Trustees I just had to step up. I am Tamasine Wood-Creighton and many of you know me from Lions Club where I served as Treasurer; or maybe from Antrim's American Legion where currently I am the Commander; possibly you see me with my husband Jim Creighton enjoying a pizza, or summer concerts in the park, 4th of July Celebration or the Home and Harvest festival. Antrim is our home by choice - after retiring from the US Army after a combined 50 years, my husband and I decided that out of EVERYWHERE in the World - Antrim is the best place to call home. So in my efforts to give back, I see my next position as a Library Trustee. If you want a person dedicated to what they volunteer for - then I humbly ask for your vote.

PLANNING BOARD

3-year term, 2 open positions

John Anderson

My name is John Anderson, and I'm running for my third term on the Planning Board. I'm a lifelong Antrim resident and a U.S. Navy veteran—for you jarheads and squids, that's "Doc Anderson."

After my service, I returned to raise my family in the town I love. Serving on the Planning Board has been challenging, but over the past six years, I've learned a lot and I'm proud of our progress. New Hampshire's zoning laws were designed to be highly restrictive, but with the housing crisis affecting so many, we need to think differently.

My goal is to ease these restrictions so families can rent or build their forever homes affordably. Right now, my children—and many of yours—can't afford to live in Antrim and raise their families as we did. That needs to change, and I hope you'll support me in making it happen.

Mark Murdough

I'm seeking re-election to the Antrim Planning Board, where I've served as Chair for the past five years. As a 20-year resident, I'm deeply committed to our community's future. Together with the Board, we've achieved significant progress, including a modernized Master Plan, a new Complete Streets policy focused on safety, and a TIF District for Main Street revitalization. We're also actively exploring housing alternatives to address the current crisis and pursuing grant funding to meet resident needs while providing taxpayer relief. With your vote on March 11, 2025, we can

continue our collaborative efforts and make further strides toward the Antrim of tomorrow. Thank you for your support.

Brandon Stachulski

Hello, I'm Brandon Stachulski, a 36-year-old lifelong New Hampshire resident who has lived in our town for the past 6 years. I grew up working with my grandfather in his construction company and have spent 16 years in the HVAC industry, specializing in both commercial and residential properties. I'm running for the Antrim Planning Board to ensure thoughtful growth while preserving our town's charm. I bring a wealth of local experience and community understanding to the role. I am eager to hear your opinions and thoughts on our town's future. I will not be able to attend the in-person meeting due to surgery on February 12th, so please message me on the Antrim NH Neighbors page if you'd like to talk.

PLANNING BOARD

1-year term, 1 open position

Dennis Young

My name is Dennis Young, I live on Route 31 in Antrim Centre, just past the Antrim Grange. I am an active member of the community as a member of the Grange, Antrim Bennington Lions Club, and a lifetime member of the Antrim Historical Society. I am seeking re-election to the Planning Board for a 1-year term.

I was elected an alternate to the Planning board and ultimately appointed as permanent member upon a member's resignation. As a member of the CIP committee, we evaluated requests from the departments and presented a final report to select board members.

I would like the opportunity to continue as Planning Board member to continue the work on the Antrim Master plan, Complete Streets, along with working towards additional affordable housing options within Antrim. I am asking for your support in the form of a vote for my re-election to the Antrim Planning Board.

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TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

3-year term, 1 open position

Rose Novotny

Greetings Antrim Community!

My name is Rose Novotny and I am running for the Trustee of Trust Funds position. I have enjoyed being in this role and would like to continue to serve in this capacity. As a long time Antrim resident having a career in finance, this is a good fit for me. I thank you for your consideration and continued trust.

COMMUNITY BOARD

3-year term, 2 open positions

William Gordon Allen

I am running for the Antrim Community Board to continue the Board's progress in strengthening our community.

Mary and I have lived in Antrim for 50 years. I have served on the School Board, Trustee Board, State Representative, and others — and believe have helped our town.

In 1987, I had the ConVal District buy 5 acres abutting the current GBS. Without it, GBS could never have been built, and we would have one middle school in Peterborough. Also, in the 80's, my warrant article to change how ConVal allocates costs to each town resulted in a change to 50% on the share a town's students to 50% on their property

value. For the last 29 years this has saved us millions, and for the last 6 years, \$1,673,410.

If elected to the Antrim Community Board, I will continue to work to make our town more connected, healthier, caring, and prosperous.

Kevyn Torunski

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Kevyn Torunski, and I am writing to respectfully introduce myself as a candidate for the Antrim Community Board.

I have called Antrim home for the past six years and have lived in New Hampshire all my life. I've been actively involved in our community, joining the Fire Department five years ago and helping children learn about fire safety. Helping others has always been a passion of mine, and I am eager to bring that passion to the Community Board.

In addition to my work with the Fire Department, I am employed at Bank NH in both the Hillsboro and Antrim offices. I believe that with your support, I can help our community continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to earn your vote on March 11.

COMMUNITY BOARD

1-year term, 1 open position

Kara Penny

No response

SCHOOL BOARD

3-year term, 1 open position

Sarah Edmunds

As a proud product of public schools, I am committed to ensuring every student receives a high-quality education that prepares them for success. I hold a BA in Theatre Arts and an MEd in English Education from Plymouth State University, as well as an EdD in Educational Leadership from New England College. I have dedicated my career to education, teaching English and theatre to students in grades 6-12 before transitioning to school administration in 2019. I currently serve as the principal of Fall Mountain Regional High School.

My philosophy is deeply student-centered—I believe that every child, regardless of circumstance, deserves an enriching and supportive learning environment. As a member of the ConVal School Board, I will advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize student growth, teacher support, and community engagement. I look forward to serving Antrim and working to strengthen our schools for all learners.

Erin Pils-Martin

I am Eren Pils-Martin, and I am running for the 3-year School Board position. I have lived in Antrim for over a

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- Replacing rotted trim
- Installing deck drains
- Installing shower/sliding barn/screen/storm doors
- Fixing/replacing mailboxes
- Gutter cleaning
- Adjusting doors/cabinetry doors to close properly
- Replacing door knobs, hinges & door stops
- Hanging window blinds & curtains
- Assembling furniture
- Installing rain barrels
- Assembling storage tents
- Installing towel racks & toilet paper holders
- Installing cabinet racks & organizers
- Installing doggy doors

decade, and am strongly invested in our town. I am currently a School Board Representative and Supervisor of the Checklist, the President of the AES PTO and a classroom volunteer, and an employee of our local bank.

I have two children in our school district, and know it's important to be involved in the educational process as a parent, and to have parents involved in the guidance of the district. I know I can bring a vital perspective to the school board on issues that impact our children, and I feel my perspective is additionally relevant, as I have used my degree in Education working with children in varied and diverse settings over the last 30+ years. I hope I can count on your vote on March 11!

SCHOOL BOARD

1-year term, 1 open position

Katherine Foecking

I am Katherine Foecking, running for Antrim's 1-year school board representative seat. I bring 25 years of experience in education to this position. I spent the last 16 years as an educator and administrator in public schools, 13 of which were spent serving the ConVal School District. I understand first-hand the challenges and opportunities within a public education system with declining enrollment. With that knowledge, I will work for a budget that balances fiscal prudence with the need for high-quality education. Public schools are a pillar of our democracy. I am committed to supporting educators' mission to prepare students to become engaged and productive citizens. I will prioritize transparency, accountability, and collaboration to maintain the excellence of ConVal's schools. I aim to be a voice for students, teachers, and families, advocating for policies that foster educational success for all.

CEMETERY TRUSTEE

3-year term, 1 open position

Stephen Burkhardt

A year has passed since I first introduced myself as a candidate for Cemetery Trustee. Although the election results did not favor me, I was encouraged by the number of ballots I received. Once again, I present myself as the choice for the three-year term of Cemetery Trustee.

My vigor for the work of this office has not ebbed. My willingness to serve, for the good of our citizens both living and dead, remains steadfast. And my view is that cemeteries are not only a ground we place our unalive folks. Rather, it is a ground set aside to honor their lives and their humanity and to cherish their memory. Last year, I called cemeteries the "repositories of the history makers." This year I would add they are also a home for our loved ones to not be forgotten.

I humbly ask for your trust in this work by me.

WATER & SEWER COMMISSIONER

3-year term, 1 open position

Note added in proof **Tim Allen** is running as a write-in candidate. ☐

Antrim Historical Society News

Bill Nichols

Well, we've made it to 2025 and, as always, there's a lot to come from the Historical Society this year.

If you didn't get a 2025 calendar, we still have a few left. This year's calendar was designed by Di Kischitz and the photos were shot by Frank Gorga. Each month contains a photo of an Antrim artifact along with a little history about each item. You can purchase them at a reduced price in the museum on the second floor of the library or you can email us for more info.

The Program Committee is already making plans for this year's programs. Some possible programs include *Murder in Plain Sight? An Abenaki/Settler Mystery on the New England Frontier* and possibly a program from the *New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association*.

Did you know there used to be a Cordwainer Shop in Antrim? Recently we were contacted by the daughter-in-law of the gentleman that ran it. She herself is a cordwainer and does workshops and we're hoping to have her present a program later this year.

Have you ever wondered where you came from? Who you might be related to? Well maybe we can help. The Historical Society is looking for people or families who are interested in learning about their family history. If there are enough people interested, we'll set up a free beginner's workshop in family genealogy and show you how to begin your research into your family tree...no experience needed. If this sounds like something you're interested in, send us an email or stop in at the museum and leave your information. If we have enough interest, we'll pick a date and set up a class for the very near future.

As always, if you have any questions about Antrim history or need help with research, please send us an email at antrimhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or drop into the museum and we'll find someone to help you with your request. ☐

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The Antrim Business Fair and The Power of Connection

Gordon Allen, Antrim Community Board

We held the First Annual Business Fair on Saturday, January 11th, at the GBS Gym. It was well received, and here are some of the comments we heard:

“We need to do this more!”

“I met new people today that make me excited to live here”

“I am happy to know these businesspeople are my neighbors!”

“I enjoyed sharing what my business is all about and made some great connections today!”

Twenty-four businesses exhibited. Many were new to us, and they highlighted the rich diversity, talent, and entrepreneurship of our Antrim businesses. We have over 225 businesses on our list, and our next project is to put these all together in a directory for all to see. Over 150 townspeople braved the snow to attend. They made many new connections with these Antrim businesses and the businesses with each other. Indeed, we sponsored the Fair for just this sort of engagement. Connections are the powerful builders of our Antrim community—and building community through building connections is a core part of what the Antrim Community Board is all about.

As an example of the power of new connections from the Fair, Matthew Sousa of Premier Solutions—who provides mobile onsite mechanic services for vehicles—learned that a long-time resident in town was in and out of the hospital and couldn’t get his truck started. Even though Matthew did not know this person, he went right over to his house and fixed it at no charge.

Connections, Well-being and Health: Studies Confirming What We All Know

According to the National Institutes of Health, clinical studies show that meaningful connections, built through strong relationships and social engagement, effectively eliminate loneliness and improve a person’s happiness and health (especially in preventing heart disease, depression and dementia). The medical community has now come to

recognize that good connections and good health go hand in hand—which is something most all of us have known all along. And that’s why connections are so important for us as individuals, for our Antrim community, and for the Antrim Community Board.

Also, out-going Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, who served in the Trump and Biden Administrations, gave this “parting prescription” for the American people. He advises us to “cultivate a strong sense of community to help ourselves and others.” He further states that “community is a powerful source of life satisfaction and extends life expectancy. It is where we know each other, help each other, and find purpose in contributing to each other’s lives.”

We thank all those who made the Fair a success. We look forward to sponsoring the Second Annual Business Fair in 2026 and welcoming more businesses and residents. Antrim is a great community! ☐

Conservation Commission News

Bob Holmes

For the past several months the Antrim Conservation Commission has been attending Zooms and trainings on invasive plants, silviculture, wildflower, shrub and tree ID, clean energy and Earth Day 2025. This spring we will be looking to share some of the information we have learned. We will once again be having wildflower walks, and the hiking group will be starting up again. Programs in the planning stages are invasive plants and pests. We will also have a program for Earth Day 2025 on April 22nd. We will once again be looking for the largest trees in Antrim, but focusing on one or two species. We’re also thinking of having a photo contest based on nature in Antrim. Follow us on our Facebook page to stay current with these programs and activities. Hiking activities will be posted on the “Trails of Antrim” Facebook page.

For those of you who like to go outside and do a little bit of work we’ll be organizing work parties to go out to the Campbell Pond Forest and the newly purchased land to pull invasive plants. This will be a good chance to meet others and help get rid of invasive plants. ☐

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ries. In his newest venture, he is a founding director of the Antrim-based non-profit Silentwoods Collective, an organization committed to building community through the arts, based on the belief that live music experiences inspire creativity, hope and human connection. The Silentwoods Collective is a band of ten musicians, including two singers and a host of historical instruments including gut-strung violin, viola, cello, bass, harpsichord, lute and flute.

Late this spring, the Silentwoods Collective, several of whom are students and alumni of the Juilliard School, will present a series of live musical events at the History Alive Festival in Hillsborough, as well as at the Antrim Town Hall, the Village Art Café in Hillsborough, the Washington Elementary School and the Deering Community Church. Their programming will feature brilliant composers of the enlightenment period, Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Barbara Strozzi, and Isabella Leonarda, as well as touching and insightful compositions of a once-enslaved man, Ignatius Sancho, performed alongside the likes of Antonio Vivaldi, Jean-Marie Leclair, G.F. Handel, J.S. Bach and Silentwoods' own Nicola Canzano and Nathan Mondry. All the events are free and open to the public. Here are more details of what they have planned:

FRIDAY, MAY 30

“Journeys” at Washington Elementary School—A stirring musical narrative featuring virtuosic solos, explosive concerti and dramatic arias performed by ten extraordinary musicians of Silentwoods Collective. Discover enlightenment-era composers Elisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre, Ignatius Sancho, Isabella Leonarda, Henry Purcell, Vivaldi, and Handel. Stick around after the show to share your impressions, have refreshments, and meet the musicians. **6:00–7:30 p.m. at Washington Elementary School, 62 Wolf Way (aka 337 Millen Pond Rd), Washington**

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Bring your friends and family to Old Hillsborough Center to explore the secrets, stories and activities of the History Alive Festival and enjoy a host of musical offerings presented by Silentwoods Collective. More info at history-alivenh.org.

Learn to Country Dance!—In colonial New England, the single most popular book was the Bible. Second most popular was John Playford's *English Dancing Master*, first published in 1651. The rich and unbroken tradition of country dancing has indeed been alive and well in New Hampshire since the 1600s, so join the fun by dropping in to our outdoor workshop led by an expert country dance “caller” with live energetic dance music provided by Silentwoods Collective! **1:30–3:00 p.m. at 590 North Road, Hillsborough**

“Reflections: Early American Music”—Three internationally renowned musicians, baritone Emery Kerekes, vio-

linist Alyssa Campbell and organist Nicola Canzano, perform selections from *The Songster's Companion*, published in 1805 in Exeter, NH, and *New England Psalm Singer*, published in 1770 in Boston, Mass. **1:30–3:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church, 614 Center Road, Hillsborough**

“Songs and Ballads of the Revolution: Love, Loss and Dreams of a Better Future”—As you venture through Old Hillsborough Center, find your way to the old cemetery by the stables for haunting musical tales of generations past with soprano Raha Mirzadegan, violinist Ela Kodzas, and SWC founder and cellist, Andrew Koutroubas. This 25-minute program will be repeated three times. **1:30–3:00 p.m. at the Hillsborough Centre Cemetery opposite the Congregational Church, 614 Center Road, Hillsborough**


“Echoes across the Pond”—Wrap up the day at History Alive Festival by joining all the musicians of Silentwoods for a 25-minute program of music by Ignatius Sancho, Henry Purcell and our very own Nicola Canzano. **4:00–4:30 p.m. at the Hillsborough Center Club, 27 East Washington Road, Hillsborough**

“Journeys” at Antrim Town Hall—Join Silentwoods Collective for a revelatory period instrument performance! This tour of musicians of the age of enlightenment features Elisabeth Jaquet de la Guerre, Ignatius Sancho, Isabella Leonarda, Henry Purcell, explosive concerti of Vivaldi and dramatic arias by Handel. **7:30–9:00 p.m. at Antrim Town Hall, 66 Main Street, Antrim**

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

“Selfie Cantata” at Village Art Café—An eclectic variety of music spanning the Renaissance period to today. Hear works by Castaldi, Cazzati, J.S. Bach and a newly composed work, Nathan Mondry's *Selfie Cantata*. This parody on J.S. Bach's *Coffee Cantata*, composed in 1735, tells the tale of a young woman's addiction to taking selfies with her phone. Explore and handle facsimile manuscripts and first editions at this event and meet the composer, Mr. Mondry, following the performance! **12:30–1:30 p.m. at 17 West Main Street, Hillsborough**

“Heavenly, Heavenly Harmony!” Our spring event series ends with a bang at Deering Community Church (DCC) in a performance showcasing the glory of the baroque period! Silentwoods Collective joins forces with choir members of DCC, Henniker Congregational Church, Smith Memorial Church, Antrim Songsters and community volunteer singers under the directorship of DCC Music Director, Lucinda Elbert. Join us for a special sing-along and enjoy refreshments and fellowship following the performance! **4:00–5:30 p.m. at Deering Community Church, 763 Deering Center Road, Deering**

For more information about these events, how to support these events or how to get involved, please visit silentwoodscollective.com. 

News from Avenue A CLOTHING, COOKING, CRAFTING AND CELEBRATING!

Kim Bylancik, Avenue A Coordinator

The start of winter can often be a time of slowing down, staying home and settling into quiet routines. At Avenue A, the opposite occurs! The transition into colder months is greeted with a flurry of activities and anticipation, creating a fantastic atmosphere of celebration and engagement with our teens.

December kicked off with our Winter Clothing Day, with an unprecedented number of high-quality items donated by our community. After volunteers worked for four hours organizing and setting up, teens and families walked away with everything from hoodies and stylish sweaters to suit jackets and sparkly dresses. Winter coats were worn off the rack, and teens were seen helping each other find the perfect outfits for season ahead.

The end of the year continued with a slew of festive activities, starting with high schoolers gathering to decorate Avenue A for the holiday season. Snowflakes, streamers and ribbons set the tone for upcoming events. Per teen request, a Caroling Group, led by Jody Simpson, formed to choose music, rehearse and head out into the community to spread holiday cheer. While the winter weather derailed our caroling evening, the groundwork was laid for next year's outing! The month continued with multiple creative opportunities and celebrations, including our annual Cookie Decorating Contest, the Gift Making Workshop, Gingerbread House Making Extravaganza, and the highly anticipated Holiday Party.

Teens also anticipated the holiday season being a time of potential stress and suggested a weekly Yoga class. On late Friday afternoons, a quiet overtakes the Avenue A space, with volunteer Nancy R starting the group with a guided meditation, followed by volunteers Aino M, Hannah K and Susan M stepping up to lead participants in gentle yoga stretches and poses.

The holiday break provided the perfect time for visitors back in town to reunite, and our Alumni Night brought old friends together to catch up, swap stories and enjoy a cut-throat gift swap game. It was also the perfect time to look

forward to the future, as we welcomed current teens and families to tour the construction of our new space! On a freezing cold afternoon, teens entered and immediately found their go-to spots, from the cozy nooks to the beautiful window views. A middle schooler exclaimed, *"I thought of two more friends to bring here! I am inviting more friends since we are going to have so much room!"* And a grandparent shared, *"This is going to be so good for our kids."*

Teens were eager to return to Avenue A after the holiday break, and a dedicated group appreciated an evening of Line Dancing with Deb from the Monadnock Mavericks to chase away the winter blues. And with the new year, ongoing programs at Avenue A continue to thrive. The Woodworking crew finished up their individual fall projects, moved to the new MAXT Makerspace in Peterborough and are getting ready to start building items for our new teen center. Meanwhile, 45 middle schoolers have participated this year in our

 — continued on page 12

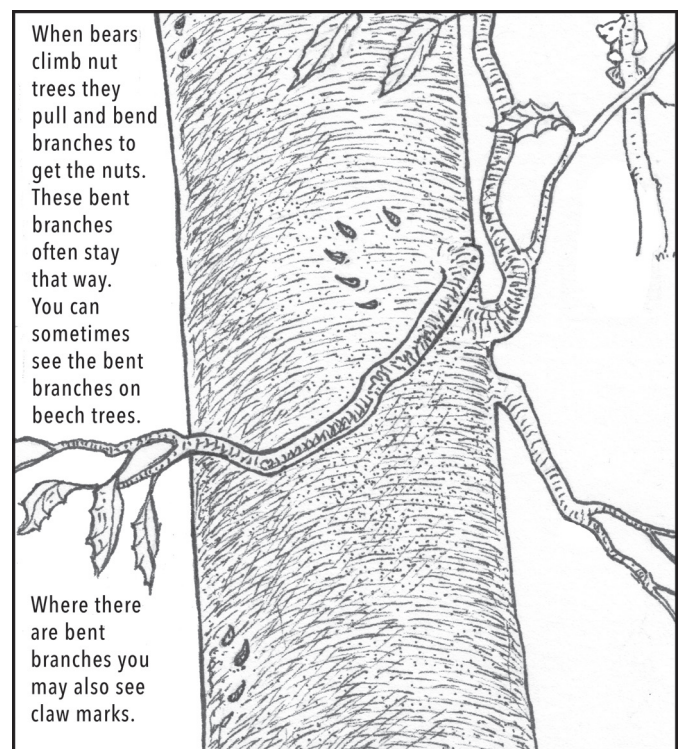


Illustration by Virginia Dickinson

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Avenue A's T.A.C.O cooking group enjoying time with their special guest, Rick Davis. Photo, Kim Bylancik.

weekly Avenue A Club, and a growing number have joined our Writers' Society to journal, play silly games, practice creative writing skills and share their work with each other.

T.A.C.O. (Teens Are Cooking Organization) now meets year-round, doubling the number of participants from the previous program year. Meeting every Thursday, this experienced crew decided to invite community members they appreciate to join in for a meal. Their first guest, Rick Davis, was a unanimous choice for how much they admire what he has given to the community, and how he is welcoming and interacts with teens. The group enjoyed cooking for another and sitting down family-style to ask Rick questions about his life and countless work experiences!

In the first six months of the fiscal year, 120 teens *completely new* to Avenue A walked through our doors, while over 40 volunteers helped co-lead and interact with teens in programs. But the numbers only tell one story. Parents of fifth graders eagerly signed up their new middle schoolers, pushing us to capacity and sharing that their children needed a supportive place to learn how to socialize and interact. Alumni who started coming to Avenue A during their own middle school days are returning to volunteer in our programs, asking how they can give back. And in the early winter, teens and volunteers gathered for a huge going-away party for a graduate heading off to service, celebrating and reminiscing about his growth over seven years at Avenue A. None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of the community, and as the winter thaws into spring, we are grateful and excited for what we can offer next for our teens.

To learn more about our programs and upcoming events, visit avenueatc.org or email avenuea@grapevinenh.org. ☐

Thanks to ...

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

~ Editor

Antrim Elementary School

Beth Gibney, Principal

We're excited to share all the wonderful things happening this winter at Antrim Elementary School!

Community Supper Success. On January 16th, Antrim Elementary hosted the monthly community supper at the First Presbyterian Church. Despite the chilly evening, we served three types of hot soup, salad, breadsticks, and dessert to approximately 75 people. We were fortunate to have the TACO Club of Avenue A assist with preparation and serving. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event a success.

Kindness Week. From February 10–14, we celebrated Kindness Week at AES. While kindness is something we practice every day, this week focused on its importance through acts of kindness in school and the community. Students also read stories about what it means to be a “Cool Bean.” Students who were caught being kind earned a bean to add to the school-wide Cool Bean jar.

Family Connection: Please take a moment to talk with your child about kindness and encourage them to think about how they can show kindness at home.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Literacy Night in March—Stay tuned for more details.

Monadnock Roller Derby Skate Night—April 12, 6:00–9:00 p.m. Proceeds from concessions will be donated to AES. Mark your calendars for this fun event.

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CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

It is hard to believe we are 100 days into the school year. Here is a peek into learning at each grade level:

Fourth Grade Muzart. Fourth graders recently completed their self-portrait project and began planning their canvas project. They have also started learning the ukulele and can now play the C and Am chords.

Second Grade Research Collaboration. Ms. Revaz and Ms. Del Rossi's second-grade classes partnered for a penguin research session in the library with our librarian, Ms. Brett. Students worked in pairs to research different species of penguins, learning about their habitats, diets and behaviors. We look forward to seeing how these young researchers present their findings.

First Friends Adventures. In Ms. Starr's and Mrs. D's classes, students learned about white-tailed deer with Harris Center naturalist Ms. Kara. They explored deer hooves, antlers and pelts and even practiced moving like deer in a fun simulation activity.

In another activity, students ran a First Friends Coffee Shop, practicing math, speaking and listening skills as they took orders, handled money and served food to their classmates.

Kindergarten Peace Tree. Ms. Lawler's and Mrs. Phaneuf's classes learned about Martin Luther King, Jr., by watching a Sesame Street episode about kindness and fairness. Each student drew a picture of how they show kindness, and together they created a Peace Tree.

Ms. Lawler's class also enjoyed a Forest Friday adventure, hanging Cheerio strings for forest animals and exploring the snowy woods.

Fourth Grade Math Project. Fourth graders wrapped up their unit on area and perimeter by designing their own cities using Google Slides. Ask your fourth grader to share their city project.



Third Grade Owl Study. Third graders have been working on a unit about owls. They observed mounts of four owl species—Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Northern Saw-Whet Owl and Snowy Owl—and explored how these incredible birds adapt to their environment. One of the highlights was dissecting owl pellets, where students uncovered tiny bones, skulls, and fur, gaining firsthand insight into an owl's diet.

GET INVOLVED

We are looking for family and community members to join our Community Engagement Committee. If you are interested, please contact Beth Gibney at bgibney@conval.edu or call the main office.

March is Read Across America Month. We are excited to celebrate a month of reading adventures with fun and engaging activities. Throughout March, we will welcome mystery readers into our classrooms to share their love of books. If you are interested in being a mystery reader, whether as an AES parent, caregiver or community member, please email Beth Gibney at bgibney@conval.edu or call the main office. While we may not be able to schedule everyone immediately, there will be many opportunities to participate in reading events and special projects throughout the year.

Join Our PTO. Our PTO plays an essential role in providing activities and events for our students and families. We would love to have your support. Contact: Eren Pils-Martin at thepilsmartins@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support in making Antrim Elementary School a place "where students learn to soar." Together, we are building a year filled with learning, growth and community. ☐

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James A. Tuttle Library

Christopher Brinkley
Teen Librarian and Emerging Technologies

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	Drop-in Teen Program	4:00 – 5:45
Wednesdays	Story Time	3:30 – 4:40
Saturdays	Tech Help	11:00 – 2:00

A Festive Thank You!

The holiday season at the James A. Tuttle Library was made extra magical thanks to the efforts of the Festival of Trees Committee, the Friends of the Library and our amazing volunteers. From dazzling trees and wreaths to a delightful spread of cookies and twinkling lights, the atmosphere was pure holiday cheer. Special thanks to Santa for making a grand appearance to kick off the festivities. We appreciate everyone who helped create this joyful event!

Children's Room Highlights

Ms. Tia's weekly **Story Time** has become a must-attend event for young readers and crafters alike. Every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., children are treated to engaging stories and creative crafts. Additionally, don't miss out on the monthly painting crafts—a hit among our young patrons. No sign-up is required, so feel free to drop by and join the fun!

Summer Reading Program—*Color Our World*

Though winter is in full swing, we're already gearing up for this year's Summer Reading Program. The 2024 theme, *Color Our World*, promises vibrant activities for readers of all ages. Ms. Tia has exciting plans in store, and **prizes will be available for participants across all age groups**. Stay tuned for more details or stop by the library to learn how you can get involved.

Teen Room Buzz

The Teen Room is bustling with energy, offering a welcoming space for studying, homework and fun. Teens can enjoy video games, free snacks and meals in a relaxed environment. If you know a teen who hasn't yet discovered this hub of activity, invite them to stop by and see what they're missing!

Tech Help is Back!

We're excited to announce the return of **Tech Help**, a program designed to assist anyone needing a helping hand with technology. Whether you're figuring out a new device, troubleshooting a tricky issue or tackling a unique tech task, our team is here to help. Drop by to schedule a session or call to learn more—we're here to make technology a little easier for everyone! **Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Annual Seed Program

Gardening season is just around the corner, and we're thrilled to announce the return of our **Annual Seed Program**! Thanks to a very generous donation from **High Mowing Seeds**, we're offering an even greater variety of seeds this year, including options for flowers and vegetables. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, we invite you to stop by, pick up some seeds and give them a happy home in your garden. Let's grow something wonderful together!

Eclectic Book Club Returns

We're excited to announce the return of Antrim's Eclectic Book Club this April. Stay tuned for details about the first meeting and book selection.

NH Humanities Events

Mark your calendars for two fascinating programs:

1. In the Evil Day: A Small Town in New Hampshire and the Crime That Stunned the Nation

Date: **Thursday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m.**

Presenter: Richard Adams Carey

Explore the tragic events of August 19, 1997, in Colebrook, NH, and their lasting impact on the community and beyond.

1. What the Declaration of Independence Offers U.S. Social Movements

Date: **Thursday, April 24, at 6:30 p.m.**

Presenter: Meg Mott

Delve into how the Declaration of Independence has shaped social movements throughout history and its relevance in the digital age.

We've got so much in store, and we'd love for you to be part of it all! Whether you're here for a program, a good book or just a friendly chat, the James A. Tuttle Library is always here for you. Stop by and see what's happening—you're always welcome! Thank you for being part of our vibrant library community! ☺

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Friends of the JA Tuttle Library

Linda Morehouse

The Friends of the Tuttle Library are a dedicated group of volunteers who provide invaluable support to the library in many ways. Their contributions range from providing treats for events and purchasing museum passes to reading the shelves, performing light maintenance, and creating newborn baby gift bags. The organization warmly welcomes new members and encourages interested individuals to get involved. Prospective members can complete a membership form at the front desk or attend one of the quarterly meetings to get started. A \$10 donation upon enrollment is suggested to support library initiatives. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, all donations to the Friends of the Tuttle Library are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated.

To raise funds, the Friends organize two major events: bake sales during elections and raffles at the Home & Harvest Festival. These fundraisers play an important role in supporting library programs and services. Thank you for your support.

Recently, Friends have been active in various events and projects. During the Festival of Trees, they provided sweet treats and assisted with the setup and takedown for the cello and harp concert. They also served refreshments at the Welcome Santa event in December. The Great Brook School Songsters led by Patrick Cogan, a volunteer Santa Claus whose name shall not be revealed, a holiday elf, and the Antrim Police and Fire Departments enhanced the festive celebration.

In a significant show of support, the Friends allocated \$750 to the library recently, allowing staff to select items that enhance the patrons' experiences. Watch for some exciting new equipment in the library.

Art exhibitions are another area where the Friends make a significant impact. They coordinate displays in the library's reference room, showcasing works from local artists and community members. Recent exhibitions have included Paula Kerouac's vibrant, colorful paintings. Upcoming exhibitions by Great Brook School students and photographs from the Antrim Historical Society will be featured this spring.

The Friends also maintain a dedicated landscaping team that keeps the library grounds attractive and welcoming. This group of volunteers is always eager to welcome new helpers to assist in their efforts to beautify the library's exterior.

The Friends of the Tuttle Library express their deep appreciation for the exceptional staff and caring trustees who make the library such a valuable community resource. They encourage all community members to visit the library and take advantage of its extensive resources. Through their diverse efforts and unwavering commitment, the Friends continue to play a vital role in enhancing the library's services and fostering a welcoming community space. ☐

Where in Antrim?



Matthew Hall, Bonnie Wade, Thomas Beaumont, Shelly Hall, Lois Johnson, Jimmy Harris, Meg Dellasanta, Thomas Hall, Mary Payne, George Davison, Ruth Benedict, Doreen McGuire, Irene Savage, Jan Paige and Rick Edmunds all correctly identified the location of Victor Rosansky's photo in the December issue as the north side of the Tenney Farmstand. It must be a popular place! Meg Dellasanta was the winner of the \$25 gift certificate to Rick and Diane's.

The names of all who correctly identify the location of this photo by March 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for Alberto's Italian Restaurant. Email your response to editor@antrimlimrik.org or call 603-588-2569. Photo by Frank Gorga. Happy hunting! ☐



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GIVE A RIDE

Antrim First Presbyterian Church

Jan Howe

First Presbyterian Church is as busy as ever in the coming months as we enter the Lenten Season, which begins with a meditative Ash Wednesday service on March 5th at 7 p.m. Participants will receive ashes on their foreheads during the service. This is the beginning of Lent, which recognizes Jesus' forty days in the wilderness.

During this time some people give up something for Lent, something that might be a challenge for us, so that we can experience what Jesus did in the wilderness. I also like the idea of, instead of giving up something, we start a new reflective practice, such as a Bible Study, reading a new devotional, praying at a set time each day or looking for signs of God being active in our lives.

I will be leading a study entitled "*Rest for the Lenten Soul: A Journey of Trust and Renewal*." We will meet each Sunday of Lent from March 9–April 13 following Sunday Worship. Throughout the week there is a workbook to help participants reflect on their lives and learn to rest and take care of themselves. An opportunity to celebrate sabbath.

Lent will continue with Palm Sunday Service, when we return to worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 13th. We will have palms, representing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. (Hopefully, it will be warm by then.) On Holy Thursday (April 17th), we will have a service with scripture readings of the Last Supper and Communion at 7 p.m., and then on Good Friday our meditative service will also be at 7 p.m.

Lent concludes with two Easter Services on Sunday, April 20th, an outdoor Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. on our front lawn, and our Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Both services will be celebrating Jesus' Resurrection!

We would love to have you join us for any or all of the services, as well as any Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m. in person or on Zoom.

We continue our commitment to reaching out to the community with many local organizations using our building. The Community Suppers have been averaging sixty to seventy people each month. We hope that community groups reach out to The Grapevine to host an important community gathering, as we are short of sponsors for the next few months. It would be a shame not to have this tradition continue. The meals occur on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Also, the monthly Meals on Wheels Senior Congregate lunch on the third Wednesday of each month has grown to forty-five in attendance. We have been enjoying delicious meals cooked by Dollar Shy Farm. The lunches are open to anyone aged sixty and over, with a suggested donation of \$3.

As always, the Revival Shop is a treasure for this community. It provides clothing, jewelry and other items at a very reduced cost or free. Make sure you stop by on Saturdays from 10–2 to check it out. The entry door is at the back of our church. We are thankful for all our volunteers who put countless hours into sorting, as well as the many

community members who donate items, making it a pleasant place to shop.

We as a church pray for all the programs that are offered through The Grapevine and Meals on Wheels, which depend on grants to carry out their mission. We also pray for peace for our country and the world, hoping that we can all work together and show love to our neighbors. ☐

ConCom Receives LCHIP Grant

Bob Holmes



From left, Ben Aldrich, ACC; Bob Holmes, ACC; Riché Colcombe, State Representative; Richard Lewis, LCHIP Chair; Ruth Ward, State Senator; Chris Sununu, NH Governor; Karen Bennett, ACC; Peter Beblowski, ACC; Paula Bellemore, LCHIP Executive Director.

The Antrim Conservation Commission is pleased to announce that on December 9, 2024, it was awarded a \$115,000 Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) Grant from the State of New Hampshire for the acquisition and conservation of a 112-acre parcel of privately-owned working forest land, which abuts the permanently conserved ±265-acre Campbell Pond Forest.

The property contains a mix of diverse forest species and class sizes, which are found in transition hardwood (hemlock, beech, oak and pine) and northern hardwood forests (sugar maple, birches, red spruce, etc.). It is anticipated that the acquisition will provide substantial benefit to the area wildlife by enlarging and permanently protecting such a large unfragmented habitat block. This expansion will also provide considerable benefit to the people of the Town of Antrim and surrounding communities as the property will be made open to the public for passive recreation through a system of trails and connection to the trail system, existing and planned, for the Campbell Pond Forest.

LCHIP is an independent state authority providing grants to New Hampshire municipalities and nonprofits, funded by a \$25 fee assessed when deeds, mortgages and plans are recorded at the state's registry of deeds. LCHIP grant application is a highly competitive process; only those deemed most deserving are funded. Because of this grant, the Antrim Conservation Commission can complete the acquisition of this land with no local tax dollars. ☐

Community Calendar

MARCH 2025

- 11 **Town Elections** • Antrim Town Hall • 8:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
- 12 **Rec. Dept. Senior Bus Trip to Lyman Estate Greenhouse**, Waltham, MA • 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
- 13 **Town Meeting** • Antrim Town Hall • 6:00 p.m.
- 19 **Rec. Dept. Senior Bus Trip to Life Sciences Greenhouse & Hood Museum**, Hanover, NH • 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- 19 **Senior Luncheon Meals on Wheels** • Presbyterian Church • 12:00 p.m.
- 24 **Rec. Dept. Senior Bus Trip to Van Gogh Exhibit**, Mercantile Center, Worcester, MA • 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
- 27 **In the Evil Day** • Presentation of the tragic 1997 event in Colebrook • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 2025

- 11 **Flashlight Egg Hunt** for Grades 4–8 • Rec. Dept. at Shea Field • 7:45–8:45 p.m.
- 12 **Spring Egg Hunt** for Grade 4 and younger • Rec. Dept. at Memorial Park • 10:30–11:30 a.m.
- 12 **Monadnock Roller Derby Skate Night** • Great Brook School Gym • 6:00–9:00 p.m.
- 16 **Senior Luncheon Meals on Wheels** • Presbyterian Church • 12:00 p.m.
- 22 **Earth Day 2025** • Conservation Commission celebration • TBA
- 24 **Declaration of Independence and Social Movements** • Tuttle Library • 6:30 p.m.

MAY 2025

- 3 **Youth Fishing Derby** for ages 15 and under • Rec. Dept. at Memorial Park/Mill Pond • 8:00 a.m.
- 3 **Birding with Phil** • The Grapevine • 9:00–10:30 a.m.
- 10 **Annual Grapevine Spring Walk** • registration 9:30 a.m. • starting location TBA.
- 21 **Senior Luncheon Meals on Wheels** • Presbyterian Church • 12:00 p.m.
- 30 **Silentwoods Collective “Journeys” Concert** • Washington Elementary School • 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- 31 **Silentwoods Collective Concerts** • History Alive Festival • Hillsborough Center and various locations
- 31 **Silentwoods Collective “Journeys” Concert** • Antrim Town Hall • 7:30–9:00 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

post and beam construction. Many listings showed houses that held some or all these features, but they were priced beyond our total budget. More often, however, the listings showed homes that had lost their colonial characteristics by too many updates and modernizations.

Then, after so many disappointments and realizing that Maine would be too far away, even for our nearest relatives in Vermont, we widened our search to include New Hampshire. We were familiar with the Granite State only by having passed through it many times on our way from vacationing on the coast. There were brief stops off Route 9, for a quick diversion or a hunt for antiques at places like Dick Withington's antique shop on the Second NH turnpike or German John's Bakery in Hillsborough. We don't recall ever seeing the Town of Antrim, or we just did not pay it much notice. Still, I recall stopping at the double-arched bridge for a photo of it, and I recall seeing the fall of the North Branch River at Loverens Mill from the road. This helped us to narrow our search and focus on the southern part of the state. And that very evening, Bingo!

There it was. In truth, the first photo showed a rather dreary, forlorn two-storey colonial house, icebound, as if deposited there by some late retreating glacier. The dark red paint on the exterior was nearly as gray as the sky that February day the photographer took the photo. Still, it looked like a proper 18th century house, so typical of New England. It had potential. The listed price was suspiciously low, and I concluded that the interior had to be very close to a salvage operation. Convinced the attached photos would confirm my assumption, we browsed the other thirty-nine photos. To our complete surprise, we saw a house with a very intact interior. The plaster walls were in their places, and there were several fireplaces, a couple with beehive ovens. The post and beam construction looked sturdy and even proud. The aesthetic choices of paint were, let's just say, not of our taste, but those things are easy to change. Moreover, the house was in livable condition and affordable to the point that we could buy it now and work on it over the years, while we kept our home and jobs in the Mid-Atlantic.

We were intrigued by the house and reached out to the realtor immediately. Our research seeking all we could learn about this old house and the Town of Antrim began that night and continued to consume us. To our amazement, we found mentions of the house and of Antrim Centre. There were 19th-century photos of an old brick church with this house in the background. This is the kind of house we had dreamed of owning. We could hardly wait to hear back from the realtor, and we confirmed an appointment to walk through it with him just one week later.

We flew into Manchester and rented a car to meet at the appointed time. The icebound house of the winter had been replaced by a treebound one on that August day. We arrived

before the realtor, but the door was unlocked, and I have always been told that meant an invitation, so we stepped inside. Dennis seemed to go in one direction, while I was heading in a different one, taking in details, large and small. You'd have thought we owned the place. Moving room to room, we would occasionally meet to talk over an important detail or concern. After some time, I wanted to take the opportunity to ask him before we were in the awkward presence of a realtor, "So, what do you think?" His answer was unequivocal, "I love it even more." I stressed to him that we could not let this one get away. We made an offer that day, and it was accepted. It became ours on November 2, 2018. And we have learned this about it since.

According to the histories of the Town of Antrim, one written in 1844 by the Rev. John Whiton, and the other in 1880 by the Rev. W. R. Cochrane, this house was built in 1826, about the time of the construction of the brick church that served Antrim for seventy years. It is interesting to note here that those histories were both written by those men when they resided in this house, hence the name the "Old Parsonage." Their church sat directly east of this house. Antrim's original center started at the top of Meetinghouse Hill. However, after nearly fifty years at that location, the town folk had become inconvenienced by the arduous climb up that steep hill for town, church and commerce. By then, many residents had already begun to move their homesteads, and even their houses, off the summit of the hill. Around the same time, a road was opened around the western and southern side of the hill, and that allowed for settlement of the new Centre with a division of properties of small farms. The old Meetinghouse Hill Cemetery was nearly full, so a new cemetery was also begun across the road from the new brick church. A new location for impounding errant livestock was established on what we call Old Pound Road today. The final piece of the puzzle, which would establish this new location of the center, was the dismantling of the old meetinghouse in 1832 to rebuild it as the new town house. We know that building today as the Antrim Grange Hall.

To be continued ...

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Facilitating Community Conversations on Racial Justice

Linda Bundy

In December Michelle Stahl, Director of the Monadnock Center for History and Culture, joined us again to continue our discussion about Recovering Black History in the Monadnock Region, a collaborative project with the Historical Society of Cheshire County. The project is open-ended, with no specific deadline, in order to bring out stories of real people, purposefully written out, because their lives were part of our complete history. We weren't taught about the existence of slavery in New Hampshire, but census records and town inventories show that almost every New Hampshire town had at least one enslaved person. New England tended to downplay its own culpability and blame the South for slavery, and yet its prosperity was built on raw goods from the South grown and harvested by enslaved people. We have data in early records; we need to analyze it. Peterborough had the most enslaved people in the region, but we don't know why. Between 1880 and 1910, the numbers of people of color in the region increased, especially during the summer, coming from the South to work as drivers, domestics, waiters and cooks. They didn't stay permanently.

Slavery in New England was complicated and different from the plantation system. Enslaved people lived in the same house with their masters and ate meals together. There was a relatively high literacy rate among them. They

had skills to help in maintaining a household that enabled the landowners to have other ways to increase their wealth. Although the enslaved people had varying degrees of autonomy, they were not free. Men could be separated from their wives and children. While different from the South, the situation in the North was not better. Each state took its own approach to emancipation. New Hampshire never abolished slavery explicitly until after the Civil War. There are stories of individuals who, after being freed, remained with their former masters' families. Why might this be? Perhaps staying where you know the area and are known by the community provided safety. Relocating could result in being sold back into enslavement.

There are many people in New England working to uncover this history. The Seacoast and Hopkinton areas have the most complete research in our state. Because of our long-held assumptions that there were no people of color in this region, we were not looking for them. Records were written with the biases of the time, leading to an invisibility of these lives. In addition to continuing to research individuals and families, the project is looking into the presence of the Underground Railroad in our region. On Union Street in Peterborough, the Moses Cheney House was a stop along the way. Enslaved people would be led out of town along Windy Row. There was activity in Rindge, and people in Hancock are searching their records.

Recovering Black History in the Monadnock Region, also known as BIPOC Monadnock, has a website, <https://www.bipocmonadnock.org/>, where you can read stories of the lives of people in our region and search records from our area towns.

On January 20th some of our members participated in the Celebration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event was welcoming and upbeat with food, fellowship and speakers. Michelle Stahl spoke of the lives of people of color from our local history, bringing them to life with her depth of knowledge and passion for her research. Bridget Bauman from the Badger Company (balm and more) shared the vision and mission of the company to respect people and the planet and give back to the community. Representative

 — continued on page 20



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Jonah Wheeler shared his life story, the challenges he faced and his work on legislation that can bring positive change to our state.

In lieu of our January meeting we attended a webinar with Loretta J. Ross, based on her book, *Calling In: How to Start Making Change With Those You'd Rather Cancel*. The evening was thought-provoking and informative. She wove together themes and ideas we have considered and made connections among authors and concepts we had discussed that deepened our understanding. The Toadstool Bookstore is hosting her on February 15th, and some of our members will attend. We will likely read and discuss her book in the near future.

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. ☐

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Union Hall

Bill Nichols, Antrim Historical Society

I think it was Shakespeare who said, "*A store by any other name is still a store.*" Well, maybe not.

In the September 2023 issue of *The Limrik*, I wrote about Ezra Hyde and the Woolen Mills of Antrim. At the end of the article, I mentioned that Mark B. Woodbury had bought one of the mills and moved it somewhere and that I would let you know in the December issue where he had moved it, which I failed to do. So, even though it is March 2025, I feel it's better late than never.

It was 1846 and Hyde was building mills that would actually never mill anything. At that time, Mark B. Woodbury, son of Mark Woodbury, Esq., and his wife, Emily, lived on Main Street where Andras Lazar now lives, and ran his store just up the street, where Rick & Diane's is now.

Now in 1847, Woodbury, being an enterprising young man, purchased from Hyde what was known as "Another Woolen Mill," as it was the fourth woolen mill on the Great Brook. This fourth mill was located at the bottom of the hill, on the west side of the canal, but east of Great Brook, behind where Trends of Fashion is now. The canal is gone, but it ran parallel to Main Street, beginning at Summer Street, behind Edmunds Store, to Trends of Fashion and then down the hill to the Goodell Company.

Woodbury felt that this two-story building would be better suited for another location. So, he moved it up the hill and across the canal, and placed it where the current town parking lot is on Main Street, across from the library. This new building would extend over the canal in the rear and its new name would be Union Hall.

Union Hall would house several businesses on the first floor, and apartments on the second floor. Before the Baptist Church was built in 1871, the Baptists met in Union Hall, among other places. Many others had businesses in Union Hall including the *Antrim Home News*, *Balch Shoes*, *Robinson's Paper Boxes* and *Lindley Wyman's Bakery*. It would remain the Union Hall for many more years, but in October of 1874, Woodbury passed away, and the building was bought by David H. Goodell.

Goodell changed the name to the Goodell Block and in 1876 added a third floor with a French (mansard) roof to the building. Shortly thereafter, the newly organized Odd Fellows moved into the building and would occupy the second and third floors for the next seventeen years, before purchasing the building that now houses Edmunds Hardware.

In 1882, a new business moved into the south end of the building and occupied that space for the next 69 years. *The Antrim Reporter* covered the news of Antrim and other nearby towns. It was the anchor of the block until 1951. In 1892, Goodell offered two rooms in the Goodell Block to house the books for a new free library. In 1905, an extension was added to the building to give *Goodwin's Store* some more space.

In 1907, Wellington E. Wright decided to open a hotel in the Goodell Block because his lease at the *Antrim Tavern* (Maplehurst Inn) was going to run out at the end of May. Unfortunately, on June 8, Wright passed away of apoplexy after opening his hotel, which lasted only 3 short weeks.

In January of 1915, Goodell passed away, but the building remained known as the Goodell Block. In 1916, Christie Heath opened a *Grocery Store* in the building and at some point between 1922 and 1930, George Barrett bought the building, and it became known as the Barrett Block.

Around 1927, Charles F. Butterfield opened *Butterfield's Store*. His son Ben ran the store after his father's death in 1933, until about 1951. In 1933, Edmund Dearborn and Ralph Rupert opened the *D & R Restaurant* and Howard "Peanut" Humphrey, Jr., opened *Humphrey's Variety Store* in 1950, which lasted until 1952.

But in 1955 a new business would take over the building, one that would last for almost two decades. This business had a soda fountain, grocery and... well, I'll let Ray Sweeney tell the story. Cue the piano...

There's a place on Main Street here in town where the Hepcats go to meet.

It's down beside Phil's Barbershop and the sign outside says "Eat."

There's a soda fountain, grocery, a jukebox and much more.

You can be a Hepcat too, bop down to Proctor's Store.

This song was written by Ray Sweeney for one of his *Pop Cycles* shows that he produced in the 1980s. The song talks about *Proctor's Store* that was owned by Harold "Bub" Proctor until 1972. The song says it all; it was a grocery store and had a soda fountain in the back with stools and booths behind them and a jukebox to play all your favorite tunes. I can remember sitting on a stool eating a burger and drinking a coke when I was just a kid. If my mother needed another pack of cigarettes, Larks, she would just write me a note and they'd sell me a pack without batting an eye. Boy, how times have changed!

Charlie Jackson bought the building in 1972 and opened *Jackson's Store* in the same space where *Proctor's Store*

had been. In 1982, Roger Croteau bought the building and opened *Roger's Country Store* and during that time, Marlene Bennett and her daughter Tammy operated a hair salon on the north end of the building. In 1990, *Roger's Country Store* closed, and the *Antrim Village Store* opened in its place. At some point, a new section was added to the south end of the building, which currently houses *Trends of Fashion*.

There were many more businesses that came and went during its 164 years, but in August of 2009 the building was sold again, and the six apartments upstairs were going to be renovated. They were to be completed by the end of February 2010. But just before 6:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2010, the building that had originally been built as a mill burst into flames on the third floor. The fire department was dispatched, and surrounding towns were called to help, but it was all in vain. The third floor burned into the second floor which in turn fell into the first and the building could not be saved. *Trends of Fashion* was destroyed in the fire but was able to reopen in the new south addition. There was talk of the building being rebuilt, but it seems to have been cheaper to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot," at least according to Joni Mitchell.

Though Shakespeare may not have actually philosophized about stores, this building, from its beginning as Hyde's mill to its final day as a local landmark, was indeed much more than just a store. For 164 years, it served as the heart of Antrim's Main Street, housing everything from a Baptist congregation to a newspaper office, from Proctor's beloved soda fountain to countless local businesses that kept the community thriving. While today's parking lot may serve a practical purpose, the memories of Union Hall, the Goodell Block, and later the Barrett Block live on in the stories of those who remember sitting on those soda fountain stools or flipping through 45s on the jukebox. Some buildings, it seems, become more than just buildings, they become chapters in a town's ongoing story. ☐

Antrim Bennington Food Pantry

ANTRIM BAPTIST CHURCH

Pamela Maki-Kallberg, In His Service

Moving forward, we express our profound gratitude to everyone for their constant support and commitment to our pantry and those we serve. We are sincerely thankful for the opportunity to journey together on this mission.

This year has seen growth surpassing previous years, which has introduced financial challenges. As many are aware, our operations rely heavily on donations. Should you feel moved to contribute to our mission, we kindly ask that you direct any donations to Antrim Bennington Food Pantry, PO Box 206, Antrim, NH 03440. Additionally, if you wish to donate non-perishable food items, they can be left in the small church on the North Main Street side of the building. ☐



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The Knowledge You Can Find in a Library, Part 5

Susan Ellsworth

As Sterling and Scott followed the Teacher through the glassed-in enclosure on the far-off planet, Sterling was aware of the beauty outside. There were so many new colors and plants she had never seen before. The Teacher told her here on this planet there were many things brought from other planets. The new colors were always there but her vision was not capable of seeing them until now. He had just given her that ability. She would need to be able to see them now with her new and future position back on Earth. He told her animals and bugs, birds and other creatures, were all able to see them on Earth. She was so excited to have these new abilities.

Now they would be able to go outside into the air of this planet. The Teacher told her that her lungs were now updated to be able to breathe on any of the planets in the universe. It took a few minutes for this to happen while they were there inside. Her body was updated in all her senses and new ones were added, as she would see in the future when they were needed. The Teacher told her that Scott would help her, as would others chosen, but she would have responsibilities and capabilities that others would not. It would all become clearer as time went on.

Suddenly Sterling saw something she had never seen before. It looked like bright white clouds that moved. They seemed like a person in a way, but there were no faces or bodies. They felt remarkably familiar, and she recognized their scent as her grandparents. She knew that was impossible, though, because her grandparents had passed away a few years ago on Earth in a car accident. They were truly kind and loving people, and she missed them terribly. She asked the Teacher who they were. He told her she was correct in her thinking, and then explained, "When good people die on your planet their spirits move on to another planet to experience new things." Sterling did not know what to say. She asked if they remembered her and if she could talk to them. He told her they would not remember her. That they have viewed their past life for all their good deeds and mistakes and now moved on to new experiences and knowledge when they go to other planets. Sterling was sad to know

they would not remember her but happy they would move on to new lives. That is why they do not come back to Earth. Life is just a journey of knowledge and beings can move up the ladder or in some cases they must repeat a new life on Earth until they achieve enough goodness to move on. The Teacher told Sterling the planet they were on was a planet of review and the next step would be for spirits to move on to a new planet to reside there and experience many different things than on Earth. There were many, many other planets to go to live on and travel to that were much more advanced than Earth. All planets' inhabitants are curious and travel to learn about other planets. They periodically visit Earth to check on its advancements, population, wars and illnesses. Some may try to help with studying humans to upgrade them for future generations. They have ways to add things to their DNA or change it without them even knowing. It is a slow upgrade and can take years to affect a large population. Not all will live long enough to receive the upgrade.

Sterling asked about the upgrades. She wanted to know how they happened. The teacher asked her if she remembered ever seeing the geomagnetic storms also known as the Northern Lights or Aurora Borealis. She told him yes, a few times over several years. He told her that is when a lot of updates were done. The information was sent in the lights, and many Teachers were watching the earth to see what needed to be improved or changed for Earth's survival. Too many people were destroying the planet and adjustments needed to be made. Some people were getting intellect as they slept to invent things that would be needed. Environments and geography were changed when needed with fires, floods and droughts. Food advancements were destroying nutrients people needed to be healthy to live. Drugs were killing people, and some were not being tested long enough to find out they were not safe. AI technology was going to be given too much control and needed to be managed by people that were not trying to take advantage of others for the sole purpose of making money.

The Teacher told her she would need to learn from these mistakes and remember that the robot Booker would be able to help to teach the new Earth people about these errors at the library classes so they would not happen again. She would always have his help when needed. He told her it was

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time to head to other planets to see how other civilizations had advanced. And then they were back on the ship with Scott just by thought.

Sterling had so many questions she wanted to ask the Teacher. He was glad to answer any of them as best he could so that she would be able to understand. She wanted to know about others watching the people on Earth from other planets. She wanted to know if they were dangerous and why they didn't come down to communicate with Earthlings. He said that in the past people were less violent to others and Teachers were willing to help, but today people were much more advanced and violent, and Teachers were waiting for the right time to come down to help. That time was coming very soon; the Earth would be changing and without the Teachers' help humanity would cease to exist on Earth. Teachers had come to help past civilizations that we know as tribes or ancient people to build communities with housing, temples for worship and transport areas for landing their ships. They showed them how to use irrigation for agriculture to support growing populations. There were Teachers from different planets that came to Earth at different time periods. They would each teach the populations they found advanced knowledge and leave evidence of their coming in the way they built communities. Some of the Teachers left drawings in the ground for the populations to remember them and teach future generations. These drawings could be seen from their ships so other Teachers could look down to check on the progress of these peoples. Other Teachers

would build communities that mapped out buildings in the layouts of the planets or star systems they came from. One example was a village laid out like the Pleiades, also known as the Seven Sisters constellation. The advancements were achieved over years of the Teachers living among the Earth people. Some even fathered children to pass on their abilities to the future generations. The Teacher said Sterling was one of those children, and that's how she could do what she'd been asked to do for the new generation of Earth's people. She was part Earth person and part Teacher.

He also told her that when the Teachers knew in advance that catastrophic weather was coming to destroy the Teachers' communities sometimes whole populations were transported to other planets until the Earth regulated itself back to livable conditions for Earthlings again. He believed that is like what would be happening here on Earth very soon. This time populations would go live in underwater habitats in the ocean until conditions stabilized. Then pods would be built with different Teachers from different planets to give humanity a huge advancement to their survival.

The Teachers from other planets are more evolved and not violent and that is why only some humans will be part of the new generation. Violence will not be tolerated, and a brain adjustment has already happened to the chosen few to not carry that unaccepted trait. The new generation of Earth people will be kind and loving and live like God originally intended. That is how it is on all other planets and that is why others have not landed their ships to communicate with Earthlings in this current era.

"Sterling, there are so many things you will need to learn and see for yourself to understand how the new generation will work on your planet Earth," the Teacher told her. "Let's start our educational journey at a more advanced planet so you can see for yourself."

Tune in for the last part of our story in the next *Limrik*. ☐

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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Entrepreneurship 1: New Businesses

Wendy Gibbons

New Businesses Help Antrim Thrive

Katy Miele was sixteen years old when she first became her own boss. Her photography hobby, which developed as a passion for taking pictures of animals and nature, had expanded into weddings and graduation portraits. Soon, she discovered she could charge people for her skilled work. “I loved what I was doing, and then I realized I could make a living at it!” she said.

Katy’s husband, Joe Miele, also found self-employment came naturally after he helped his father renovate a home on Cape Cod. When the couple married, their early experiences helped them feel at ease going into business together. Now well into their twenties, entrepreneurship has become a way of life. “We have always run businesses together,” Katy said, “We just love doing it.”

The Monadnock Handyman, as Katy and Joe call their year-old enterprise, is a perfect example of the entrepreneurial spirit that sustains rural communities such as Antrim. Some 260 active businesses exist in our community, ranging from electricians and financial advisers to cat breeders and honey producers, said Gordon Allen, chair of the Antrim Community Board. The Board recently made a list of Antrim businesses for a town business fair held in January. “We were surprised at how many there are!”

Not only do local enterprises mean people don’t have to

drive long distances for vital services, but they also support the local economy and help build a community of life-long learners and people who are passionate about their work, making Antrim a dynamic and exciting place to live, Allen said. “Many people do incredible stuff.”

Despite almost one in ten Antrimites having some kind of entrepreneurial endeavor underway, little overlap exists, as most businesses grow out of a new need, a novel product, or an improved method of connecting the two. In economics, this driving force, or “innovation,” represents a highly studied aspect of community health, says Charlie French, program leader of the University of New Hampshire’s Community and Economic Development program.

Hidden Rural Innovation

Innovation is traditionally measured by counting new patents, R&D spending, or the number of science and engineering workers. More careful measurements, however, also include what is called “hidden,” or latent, innovation, French explained. Economists often can’t quite capture the data to show hidden innovation is happening, yet research shows that at least half of economic growth comes through these tiny, step-by-step improvements that are difficult to measure.

In rural communities, most innovation is hidden, and therefore under-valued as a sector of the United States economy. “There is a myth that rural places don’t innovate,” French said. Yet the social threads that connect people in ru-



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ral areas naturally foster latent innovation through resources such as community-based school systems, local government leaders, regional banks and existing small businesses. When people switch jobs in a rural area, for example, they may bring insights and skills from their previous work and apply them in new ways. Also, when individuals from different industries, such as farmers, nurses, teachers or bankers, meet with each other socially rather than talking only with their co-workers, they may gain intuitions into shared challenges. The technical term for this type of knowledge transfer is a “spillover,” as if something had escaped. Instead, the image we should hold onto is one of growth, French has noted in his research.

Growing and nurturing local connections was one goal of the Community Board’s Business Fair, Allen said, noting that he himself made an important liaison there with a business owner who repairs outboard motors. “I got to chatting with him and solved a couple of my problems!” he said.

Antrim Innovators

For folks who have recently started new businesses in Antrim, several aspects of the community made the leap easier. Brett Flagg of Bottom of the Hill Auto Repair and Restoration started his garage with his father Mike in 2019, happy to find an existing shop on heavily travelled Route 202. Although Brett represents at least the third generation of his family in automotive repair, starting in a new location meant buying new tools and equipment as well as paying for training to obtain an inspection license. Taking things slowly and building his customer base the “old school” way by word of mouth helped Flagg avoid taking any loans, he said. Highly qualified co-workers have at times proven difficult to find in a rural area, but Flagg notes that a local couple, Paul and Michelle Dugre, helped immensely when they volunteered to mentor him, giving him advice on the ins and outs of running a business. “Michelle and Paul were wicked good people,” Flagg said.

Melanie McCune and John Ellingwood also took advantage of a prime location on Route 202 to start the Flag Leaf Bakery in 2022. They were pleasantly surprised that local customers were willing to travel from other towns and be patient with long wait times for their specialty baked goods. “Word of mouth has been really helpful for us,” McCune

said. They also received help from businesses such as Anttrim Lumber to overcome challenges with installing specialized ovens. Having so much community support is “essential for sustainability as a small business,” McCune said.

McCune and Ellingwood found that by shortening their store hours to just two days a week and specializing in bread and pastries, they were able to adjust to the smaller customer base in a rural location. “We are trying to start slow and keep our labor costs low, and then trying to grow from there,” McCune said. A more significant challenge, McCune said, has been the high cost of housing, making it difficult for them to buy a home and to hire and pay experienced bakers who can afford to live here.

Businesses such as the Monadnock Handyman, which is based on services rather than products, may have an easier time launching because they don’t need to rent a storefront. The Miele already owned much of the capital infrastructure they needed, and running costs such as insurance, transportation and tools can be paid for as they go, Joe Miele said, estimating it took about \$3000 to officially start the business.

For all three, excellent communication with customers played a vital role in building a reputation that supports growth. Indeed, communities that put off investing in affordable home internet, digital literacy and connections to telehealth, telemedicine, online banking and educational resources, may limit whether individuals can create new economic opportunities, French said. If a town or a rural community has poor cell service, “that’s a real barrier for entrepreneurial development. You cannot start a business that requires connectivity in a place that does not have it.”

Independent Mindset

New England’s culture of entrepreneurship likely grew out of the self-reliance and resilience needed to survive during settlement times, French said. A century or two ago, the remote location and hard life in rural New Hampshire encouraged people to rely on each other rather than expect outside help. Even now, some entrepreneurs take advantage of local resources simply to survive. “Foraging for mushrooms is common side business in Maine,” for example, French said. Along the way, this attitude fosters a lifestyle in which people prefer to work independently rather than for an institution. “You are your own boss. You probably work twice as much, but at least it’s your own thing,” French said.

New Englanders’ independent mindset naturally fosters an entrepreneurial approach to life, agreed Sara Powell, program director at the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship in Keene. The Grimes Center runs classes, coaching and incubators to help soften the steep learning curve faced by new business owners, who must develop their customer base, marketing plan and financial stability on top of producing their specialty product or service. In the beginning, finding the right balance can prove tricky. McCune

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 — continued on page 26

and Ellingwood, for example, typically spend at least three days preparing any given baked good, leaving little time for business planning. The Mieses now schedule Joe for only four days a week so that he can fit in last-minute requests from customers and still have time to spend with family.

Running his own garage shop requires long hours, agreed Brett Flagg: "You never clock out!" Flagg and his partner, Hannah Kulbacki, find it immensely rewarding being part of a close-knit community, and they try to ease the workload by balancing their skills. Flagg takes on technical challenges such as giving older cars a "makeover" to restore rusted out panels and rockers to a shiny new perfection. Kulbacki, who is more of a "people person," takes care of services such as setting appointments, bookkeeping and marketing. "We balance each other out," Kulbacki said.

"The Grimes Center can help by teaching people to work not just 'in' the business, but 'on' the business," Powell said. New entrepreneurs need someone who will stop and ask them, "How are you doing, are you okay?" Entrepreneurship can be like doing a "big experiment in which you are always learning, being creative and finding meaningful ways to be human," Powell said.

A few local businesses have moved out of Antrim after finding that while the town provided the perfect locale to nurture a new business, they needed bigger facilities as they grew. McCune and Ellingwood recently made the difficult decision to move their bakery to Greenfield to obtain more space. These kinds of changes are a natural part of the growth process, Powell said. Businesses must discover how their unique needs mesh with the resources of an individual town. "No rural community is the same."

What You Do Matters

Each one of the new Antrim businesses' owners interviewed for this article emphasized how lucky they feel to be able to pursue their dreams, knowing that being successful in a small town would not be possible for everyone. Katy Miele of the Monadnock Handyman, for example, loves caring for her young son while working from home. "Being able to be flexible is huge," she said. For the Flag Leaf, McCune and Ellingwood have found their small staff means

they sometimes must close the shop to recover from an illness or take a vacation to visit family, but local customers have been understanding of these challenges.

While some customers may not appreciate why a local business might charge more or have shorter hours than a big box store or an online retailer, most people value the convenience and the face-to-face interactions inherent in shopping local. In addition to bringing innovation and valuable services to local economies, revenues from rural small businesses add up to the equivalent of one to two large companies, Powell said. "What you do matters! We have a great region in New England partly because of the entrepreneurship here." @

Don't Quit

Joseph J. McCarthy

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and *The Little Red Caboose*?

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Antrim-Bennington Lions Club

Linda Morehouse

In 2024, members of the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club donated over 2,000 hours of community service! The club's fundraising efforts, such as Christmas Tree sales, Chicken Barbecue, and Lions on Monadnock, supported multiple charities: End 68 Hours of Hunger, Grapevine Family Resource Center, Lions International Fund for Disaster Relief, Avenue A Teen Center, Antrim Bennington Food Pantry, Antrim Recreation Department, and many more. Your support is appreciated!

Lions International is the largest membership-based service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members of 49,000 clubs. The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club welcomes new members to our local club who are passionate about community service. The Lions motto is "We Serve!" and our members demonstrate that motto in many ways. Meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Antrim Presbyterian Church. Join us and meet a dedicated group of volunteers!

Members demonstrate a commitment to one of the pillars of Lions Club service: COMMUNITY. Throughout the winter season Lions led social activities at Antrim Village. Residents enjoyed a holiday choral sing-along with Great Brook School songsters led by their director, Patrick Cogan, and Bingo social events in February and March. The club provided financial assistance to a resident in need of new eyeglasses. In March our members donated items and scooped ice cream at a social event at the NH Veterans Home in Tilton. Outreach activities are an important part of our community commitment.

Another pillar of Lions Club activities is YOUTH programs. With the support of the Antrim Elementary School staff, our weekly Lunch with Lions service project continues. Students excitedly enter the library to eat lunch with a Lions Club member. Conversations revolve around school projects, pets, vacations and outside activities. Another successful youth-focused project was the donation of 250 hot cocoa packets to Avenue A for their winter programs. The Great Brook School Washington, D.C., trip scholarship fund



Antrim-Bennington Lions donate to the Grapevine. From left: Melissa Gallagher, Carol Lunan, Shelly Connolly, Nancy Blair, Ann Gilbert, and Dennis Young.

has received Lions Club support over the past few years. Investing in our young community is one of our core values!

A third pillar of Lions Club activities is supporting people with SIGHT and HEARING disabilities. Look for our recycled eyeglasses and hearing aids boxes at the Antrim Post Office, Antrim Town Hall and First Presbyterian Church. Devices are repurposed for people with disabilities around the world, and your donations truly make a difference. Our club donates money every year to Dogsight to support seeing eye dog training, and in the fall, we will again hold eye screenings for students in our local school district.

Guest speakers are featured at our last meeting of each month. In November, Ret. Col. James Creighton discussed his role in the multi-national force in Afghanistan. In February and March, our speakers will be Linda Piekarski from Dogsight and Amanda Perry, diabetes educator. These guests inspire us to continue learning and serving our communities. ☐

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What Consumers Need to Know About the Food We Eat

Dana K. Plank, MS, RN

2024 saw a number of foodborne outbreaks where food products became contaminated with *Listeria*, *Salmonella* and *E. coli*. Meats, cheeses, vegetables, eggs, walnuts and even chocolate were on the list of certain recalls after people began to get sick and health officials were able to identify the sources. In total, there were thirteen recalls last year due to contaminated food items. Although reported illnesses have decreased over the past twenty-five years, the threat will always be there when purchasing food from restaurants or grocery stores or preparing food you've grown yourself.

What is foodborne illness?

Foodborne illness is preventable, yet it causes an estimated 48 million illnesses, 128,000 hospitalizations and 3000 deaths each year in the US. This is an illness that comes from eating contaminated food. The onset of symptoms may occur within minutes to weeks and often presents itself in the form of nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and fever. Since the symptoms are often flu-like, many people may not recognize that what is occurring is harmful microorganisms in food causing their illness. Everyone is at risk of getting a foodborne illness. Those at greater risk for harmful effects are infants, young children, pregnant women and their

unborn babies, older adults and people with weakened immune systems. Some may become ill after ingesting only a few harmful germs, while others may remain symptom free after ingesting a lot more.

How do microorganisms get into food?

Microorganisms are naturally present in our environment and are there to support our ecosystem. Decomposition and biodegradation—the breakdown of matter in the environment—allow for nutrients to be released and become available to other living organisms. Some are important to the production of certain foods like cheese and yogurt. Other microorganisms are not intended to be consumed with food and are considered to be harmful. These are what we call pathogens. Foods, including safely cooked and ready-to-eat foods, can become cross-contaminated. Germs can be transmitted to your food from raw egg products, raw meat, poultry, seafood or food handlers who fail to follow proper handwashing practices. In most cases, foodborne illness can be prevented with proper cooking or processing of food to destroy the germs.

The “Danger Zone”

Microorganisms increase in numbers between temperatures of 40 °F and 140 °F. To keep food out of this “Danger Zone,” **keep cold food cold, and hot food hot.**

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- Store food in the refrigerator (40 °F or below) or freezer (0 °F or below).
- Cook meat, poultry and leftovers to a safe minimum internal temperature of 165 °F by using a food thermometer.
- Cook beef, veal and lamb roasts to 145 °F, fully-cooked ham to 140 °F and fresh ham, pork and egg dishes to 160 °F.
- Maintain hot cooked food at 140 °F or above.
- Egg products can be substituted in recipes typically made with raw eggs, such as eggnog, custard or Key Lime pie. Be sure that eggs and products containing eggs are thoroughly cooked when serving those at higher risk for illness.

In case of suspected foodborne illness follow these general guidelines:

- **Save a sample of the food.** If a portion of the suspected food is available, wrap it securely, mark “DANGER” and freeze it. Save all the packaging, such as cans or cartons. Write down the food type, the date, the time it was eaten and when the symptoms began. Save any of the same unopened foods.
- **Seek treatment as necessary.** If the victim is in an “at risk” group, seek medical care right away. Likewise, if symptoms continue or are severe (such as bloody diarrhea, excessive nausea and vomiting or high temperature), call your doctor.
- **Call the local health department** if the suspect food was served at a large gathering, from a restaurant or other food service facility, or if it is a commercial product.
- Call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854 if the suspect food is a USDA-inspected product and you have all the packaging.

Foodborne illness can be very serious, even deadly. Prompt action is imperative to improved outcomes and to prevent spreading. ☐

Broken Promises

Joseph J. McCarthy

I promise, I promise, we will go tomorrow.
Don't worry, believe me,
The answer won't be “No.”
We will leave early,
And spend the whole day.
Listen to me, honey,
Believe me when I say,
“I promise, I promise,
I won't go against my word.”
If I didn't mean it,
Why, that would be absurd.
So don't you think we won't go,
I promised you, didn't I?
You know, my little sweetheart,
That I wouldn't lie.
So, get ready when you get up,
Don't forget tomorrow is near.
We're going to have a good time,
My little teddy bear.

I promise, I promise,
Next time this won't be.
I'll make sure I take you,
Just you wait and see.
You know that we'll be going,
Now whatever you do, don't fret.
I promise this time, baby,
We'll go, my little pet.
I promise, I promise,
Tomorrow's almost here,
So, make sure you're ready,
My little honey, dear.

I'm sorry, I'm sorry,
I know you're hurt and sore.
I promise you, my darling,
This won't happen anymore—
I promise?

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Grapevine

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

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

This year, The Grapevine has submitted a petition warrant article (#3) to reinstate proposed budget cuts to our funding from the Town of Antrim. Please attend Town Meeting on Thursday, 3/13, and vote YES! We rely on local support to offer our no-cost programs and services.

We have an updated supply wish list for The Grapevine! Please consider donating the following items in support of our programs and services: toilet paper, paper towels, hand soap, hand wipes, tissues, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, kitchen trash bags, bubbles, and snacks for groups: canned pineapples, bananas, apples, clementines, applesauce, veggie straws, graham crackers, Ritz crackers. Thank you!

Finally, we are excited to share that our new Avenue A Teen Center addition at 4 Aiken Street is fully built and looks incredible! Site work will continue through spring to our outdoor space, parking, etc. Stay tuned for more information on our Community Opening this summer!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS

For more info and to register, please contact us at info@grapevinenh.org or call 603-588-2620. For information on teen programs, please see Avenue A's article!

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. Starts Thursday, March 6, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and runs for 7 weeks. This group will be offered virtually over Zoom.

SAIL! Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Antrim Town Hall—Are you an adult looking to stay strong and active and socialize with others? The Grapevine and Antrim Recreation teamed up to offer this FREE exercise program for all levels. SAIL is an evidence-based strength, balance and fitness program geared toward older adults but open to all. Participants perform exercises that improve strength, balance and fitness. Held at Antrim Town Hall and led by Antrim Recreation staff on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 to noon. Please let us know if you have a need for transportation—we may be able to help. *This program is offered at no cost thanks to a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation and John Vance ACCESS fund.*

Birding with Phil—Join the Harris Center's Bird Conservation Director Phil Brown for a leisurely walk in search of spring bird migration. Each spring, millions of migratory birds add color and joyful sounds to our landscapes. Come discover some of their secrets and learn more about these sometimes mysterious travelers as we wander from The Grapevine. We'll travel on paved paths or roads and cover up to a mile. All ages welcome. Meets at The Grapevine, Saturday, May 3, 9-10:30 a.m.

Annual Spring Walk Event, Saturday, May 10—Stay tuned for more info on our alternate event location in Antrim this year! Join us for a one-mile family-friendly walk around downtown Antrim in support of The Grapevine and in celebration of our amazing community! Raise pledges in support of our programs and services. Strollers, skates, bikes and dogs on a leash are welcome! You can pick up a pledge form at The Grapevine or download from our website: grapevinenh.org. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.; walk begins at 10.

Annual Black Fly Community Art Event—Stay tuned for more information on date and details!

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

ONGOING GRAPEVINE PROGRAMS

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

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

Better Beginnings for Babies: Welcoming parents/caregivers and their children, ages newborn to 16 months. Expectant parents are also welcome! Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m..

Out and About: Outdoor-based program for caregivers and their children. Take local hikes; visit fun places. Meets at various locations on Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m..

Weekly Hillsborough Play Groups: Fun play for kids, meet other parents and Grapevine staff on Thursday morning or afternoon. In partnership with Valley Bible Church.

Grandparents Parenting and Other Relative Caregivers: Nationwide some 5 million or more grandparents are parenting their grandchildren and not without a host of challenges and issues that come with the job, including mixed emotions, financial burdens, health concerns and keeping pace with the children. We offer one-to-one support for rela-

tive caregivers through our Kinship Navigators, Rosemary Nugent and Mikayla Essex. They meet the individual needs of families with regular check-ins, a listening ear and resources like food, access to financial resources and more. Call The Grapevine for more information; email Rosemary at rosemaryn@grapevinenh.org or Mikayla at mikaylae@grapevinenh.org.

The Learning Vine Outdoor-Based Preschool Program: A program for children 3 to 5 years old. We are now welcoming inquiries for the 2025–2026 preschool year. This hands-on program takes place almost entirely outdoors with a focus on creativity, social interaction, problem solving, learning through games and activities, physical movement and having fun!

Monthly Dads' Campfire: Meets at The Grapevine on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. Pizza provided. Meet with Rick Edmunds, sit around the campfire and enjoy good company with other dads! Call or email for more information.

Monthly Moms' Campfire: Meets at The Grapevine on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Come eat pizza, relax and meet other moms. Call or email for more information.

SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE

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

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

Community Wood Bank: An emergency resource for those who use wood as a primary heat source during the cold season. We are looking to build our volunteer base to assist with this program. Tasks might include wood stacking, splitting, and occasional delivery of wood to a home.

A special thank you to the many volunteers and in-kind donations of time and services to The Grapevine over the winter months including: **John Brown & Sons** for donating and delivering a supply of Christmas trees for families; **Rick Edmunds** for leading our monthly Dads' Campfire; **End 68 Hours of Hunger** for delivering food bags for families to The Grapevine each week; **Peter Davison** for his donation of local honey for the staff and families of The Grapevine; **Erik Anderson** for his handyman talents in and around our building; **Mary-Anne Murdough** for her weekly cleaning at our facility; **Bob Edwards** for collecting our trash and recyclables each week; **Mark Gallagher/MoonRivers Technology Group** for donating a new Chromebook for our early childhood program staff!

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: [@thegrapevinefrc](https://www.instagram.com/thegrapevinefrc). 📍



Important reminder: Grapevine parking is in the lot facing the front of our building. Please avoid parking in the library lot next to our building. We appreciate your attention to this!



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