

## Eric Tenney

(OCTOBER 27, 1943 – SEPTEMBER 19, 2025)

Steve Ullman

For seventy-one years, it was my honor to call Eric Tenney a treasured friend. In 1954, I was a ten-year-old second baseman on the Antrim baseball team then led by the incomparable Bill Edwards and Al Thornton. I welcomed Eric, a newcomer from Francestown, to our Antrim squad.

What I noticed right away about Eric was how bright he was. While many of us at the time were obsessed with cars or popular songs, he actually enjoyed reading books! Yesterday I had a conversation with two medical researchers who told me about the half-hour conversation they had with Eric about the subject of calculus. How many of us could do this? I certainly couldn't. Did I mention that Eric was also

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## Festival of Trees

James Panico

The Festival of Trees returns to the James A. Tuttle Library, running throughout the month of December and into the New Year. This free, month-long holiday event, put on by a group of community-minded volunteers, provides a magical time for residents of Antrim and surrounding towns. The festival features a wide assortment of trees and wreaths beautifully and creatively decorated by community members, businesses and groups.

Mark your calendars for these must-attend family events: Santa visits the library on Saturday,

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## Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry

Pamela Maki-Kallberg



Every November, our hearts swell with deep appreciation, recognizing our blessings. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, the distribution of Thanksgiving baskets enabled 83 families to receive a meal to celebrate the holiday. The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts have gathered a bounty of autumn donations—a total of 630 nonperishable food items were delivered. And Monadnock Paper Mills conducted its yearly food drive, donating a remarkable volume of food to stock our shelves.

The number of individuals we assist continues to increase week by week. By 8:30 a.m. every Saturday, people start lining up. Our initiative is run completely by volunteers, and I wonder whether our clients truly understand the extensive amount of work that happens behind the scenes for this mission. Therefore, when faced with the inquiry, “Why can’t we open earlier?”, I respond by pointing out that we are already operating at our maximum capacity, depending on our committed volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time to help the community every single Saturday.

Each week, the food pantry retrieves a minimum of two thousand pounds of staples from the Manchester Food Bank. Regular trips to Aldi’s

Terry and Noah, pantry besties. Photo by Pamela Maki-Kallberg.

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## Limrik Staff

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### — SUBMISSIONS —

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

### — LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

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### — WEBSITE —

[www.antrimlimrik.org](http://www.antrimlimrik.org)

## Festival of Trees continued from page 1

Dec 6, from 4–5:30 p.m., where children will be able to meet with the man in the big red suit; and a special Holiday Concert will be performed by Silentwoods Collective's Andrew Koutroubas and his team on Sat. Dec 20. Seating will be limited for this event, so register early!



Get ready to pose! The glistening birch tree photo station is back, offering the perfect spot for patrons to take fun photos and selfies with friends. Look for new lighting treatments this year that will add a truly ethereal element to the library halls. We will also have our annual scavenger hunt, free hot chocolate and 12 Days of Antrim display on the lower level for all to enjoy during regular library hours.

The main fundraiser for the event is the annual raffle of a community-original quilt. Tickets are available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5, with the lucky winner announced mid-December. The proceeds from the raffle are used to help offset the modest operational expenses of the event.

For the latest Festival of Trees news, visit [www.antrim-festivaloftrees.org](http://www.antrim-festivaloftrees.org) or the event's Facebook page. Queries can be directed to [AntrimFOT@gmail.com](mailto:AntrimFOT@gmail.com) or by calling 971–330–8835. A wonderful holiday experience awaits! ❄️



## Troop 2 Remembers Eric Tenney

Edmond J. Hebert

Eric Tenney was a member of Scout Troop 2 from 1954–1958. In 2013 Troop 2 went to the Gettysburg and Antietam Civil War Battlefields and other sites in Pennsylvania. When Eric heard about Troop 2's plans, he volunteered himself and a friend to act as tour guides for our visit to the sacred battleground. Eric spent four days giving us a detailed tour of the entire battlefield and sharing his bounty of knowledge of the history, military tactics, statistics and trivia of the Battle of Gettysburg. We learned a lot! ❄️

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## Antrim Police Department

Chief John Blake

As we close out 2025, the Antrim Police Department continues to move forward in its mission to serve our community with professionalism and accountability. This year marked several important milestones, including the establishment of our K9 Unit, led by Officer Ned Girard and K9 Dexter, and continued progress toward state accreditation through the New Hampshire Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. These efforts modernize our policies, strengthen training and improve transparency for the public. The Department now provides 24/7 police coverage, ensuring that an officer is always on duty to respond when needed. We thank the community for its continued confidence and support in our efforts to serve Antrim.

### Winter Safety Reminders

Winter in New Hampshire brings unpredictable weather and challenging road conditions. Please remember to:

- **Slow down** and allow extra space when driving on snow or ice.
- **Clear all snow and ice** from your vehicle—windows, lights, hood and roof.
- **Keep an emergency kit** with essentials like a blanket, flashlight and shovel.
- **Watch for pedestrians and plow crews**, especially during low visibility.

### Jessica's Law

New Hampshire's Jessica's Law (RSA 265:79-b) requires drivers to remove all snow and ice from their vehicles before driving. Failure to comply can result in fines ranging from \$250–\$500 for a first offense and up to \$1,000 for subsequent violations. Beyond the fines, it's a matter of safety—flying snow or ice can cause serious crashes and injuries.

The Antrim Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy winter season. ❁

## Antrim Select Board

Michael Ott

Greetings from the Select Board! Winter is upon us again, but it was a lovely New Hampshire fall. Antrim's Home & Harvest festival—there really is “Nothing Like It” and this year was no exception! While turnout was a little lighter, likely due to the threat of inclement weather, a great time was had by all.

With 2025 coming to a close, the Select Board would like to offer a few updates around town:

### Infrastructure

- The High Street bridge project, our own “Big Dig,” is nearing completion and should meet its anticipated completion date in December; many thanks to all the neighbors and residents as we worked through that important project.
- Our Gregg Lake Dam project should be well underway by the time of this printing. The lake will be lowered four feet below normal to facilitate the repair and replacement of critical dam components.
- Your next visit to Town Hall should feel much warmer than you may be used to for winter visits as the new heating system is operational. Many hours and dollars went into the complete overhaul of the heating system for the entire building, which should keep all our dedicated staff warm for years to come.

### Budget

- We recently finalized the 2025 tax rate at \$23.11. All components of the rate increased this year, with the Town portion going up by \$1.09.
- The Select Board is working hard to keep the Town's operating budget as flat as possible and manage all of our operational costs as low as possible while maintaining an excellent level of service to all residents.
- Budget workshops will continue through the winter on our way toward Town Meeting on March 12. We highly encourage all residents to participate in the review process and the budget hearing scheduled for February 9.

With all the recent issues at the federal government level, it's important to point out that politics really start at the local level. We highly encourage any and everyone who has an interest in making a change to our town, our state or our country to get involved any way they can. Get informed on the issues (from all sides, not just one) and make a difference at the ballot box or even more directly on one of our town boards or commissions. There will be three elections in 2026, starting with the local one here in March. There is some time before then to really get to the heart of the issues and decide what's best for you, your family, our time and ultimately our country!

Stay safe and healthy and have a wonderful holiday season! ❁

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a noted expert on the Civil War and the history of Antrim’s roads? He often hid his stunning intellect under the “regular guy” persona he so often adopted.

After finishing his education at Mount Hermon and Cornell, Eric served in the Navy for three years. It was at Cornell that Eric had the good fortune to meet his extraordinary wife, Linda, who became a beloved educator and whose hospitality was so renowned that I labelled her the “Perle Mesta of Antrim.” Together Linda and Eric gave birth to two precious children, Andrew and Crista. Antrim is very much in debt to Crista who spent more than ten years on the ConVal School Board advancing the education of young people in this region. Together with her accomplished husband, Chris, Crista has not only taken over the leadership of the Tenney Farm but has herself produced two exceptional sons, Hunter and Jaxon. What an extraordinary family man Eric was!

Several times, Eric reminded me that if you live in a small town, you have an obligation to get involved in a town organization or in local government. Eric lived his life by this principle of public service.

Returning home to this blessed community after the Navy, Eric contributed as an Antrim Selectboard member on three separate occasions. And once, Eric won 450 votes as a write-in candidate for Selectboard. He also devoted fifteen years to the Water and Sewer Commission, headed the town Budget Committee, served as town Treasurer, and was a member of the Selectmen’s Advisory Committee to the ConVal School District.

Eric Tenney was a pillar of this Town, an individual loved and respected by all of us who had the privilege of knowing him. We will dearly miss him. ✨

**Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry** continued from page 1

and Shaw’s, along with generous community donations, keep the pantry in operation. To the individual who dropped off “meals in a bag” including recipes, we express our gratitude! In these challenging times, we are especially appreciative of such gestures of kindness and support.

We are gearing up to provide families with another meal for Christmas Day—such an opportunity to spread the joy! Many hands make for lighter work. Donations may be sent directly to Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry, PO Box 206, Antrim, NH 03440. Visit our Facebook page to stay up to date with the latest developments.

On behalf of myself and the dedicated volunteers, we extend our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to this incredible mission as we serve our community. Blessings! ✨

*Thank you ...*

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

**Follow the Work of the School Board**

Contributed by Sarah Edmunds

The ConVal School Board invites you to stay connected and informed about the work we do on behalf of our students, staff and the community. Our meetings are open to the public and livestreamed so you can follow discussions as they happen or catch up at your convenience. Our livestreaming system has recently been enhanced with timestamped recordings, allowing you to easily navigate to any specific agenda item, discussion or vote. This improvement is part of our ongoing effort to make the Board’s work more transparent and accessible to everyone in the ConVal community.

All meetings are available through the ConVal Events YouTube channel, *YouTube.com@ConVal events*. We encourage you to subscribe so that you can be aware when new meetings are scheduled or streams go live.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support. Together, we can ensure that our district’s governance remains open, collaborative and responsive to our community. ✨

**Conservation Corner**

Peter Beblowski and Bob Holmes

The Antrim Conservation Commission has been reviewing our new forest property on the southeastern spur of Riley Mountain. In the coming year, we’ll be planning trails on the property, which we hope to connect to old trails on the existing Campbell Pond Forest Property.

The Commission is also looking for walkers and hikers to volunteer to be trail monitors. The Commission doesn’t always have time to get out and walk every trail once a month or after a particularly windy storm. So, trail monitors can be our eyes as an early warning system, on the lookout for fallen tree limbs that need to be removed or other action needed to keep the trails passable. If you walk the trails and want to help to keep them in good condition, email Bob at *Bobh4antrim@gmail.com*. If we can get three or four people to sign up for every trail, folks won’t even have to walk it too often. If interested, please contact any commission member or show up for the next Conservation Commission meeting (generally the last Thursday of the month) or post a response on the Trails of Antrim Facebook page. ✨

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## The Wind Farm Six Years In

Joan Gorga

On two beautiful Saturdays in October, guided tours of the Antrim Wind site were offered by the landowners, the Town of Antrim and wind farm operator Siemens Gamesa, with permission from TransAlta, owner of the towers. We were met by Michael Ott, one of the project landowners (also a Siemens Energy employee, but in a different division), and Wesley Fulgham, the lead site technician from Siemens. We donned hard hats (even those of us known for being somewhat hard-headed) and boarded the town bus (White Pearl to those who've met her before) for the drive up the project's private road, Tuttle Hill Trail, to the top of the ridge to visit the nine turbines up close and personal, going 2.7 miles to Tower 9 at the end. We peppered Mike and Wesley with questions, and they did their best to provide full responses.

Wesley has been onsite full time since 2020, shortly after Antrim Wind went online on Christmas Eve 2019. He trained in wind turbine technology after finishing a stint in the military and says he's really a "glorified mechanic." He likes the physical work and being at such a beautiful location—he enjoys tormenting friends with scenic photos from his "office." Wesley says his slight build makes many of the climbing tasks easier, but he does have to be careful—there is a lift assist system designed to help pull workers carrying 75-pound packs 300 feet up the stairs to the top of the towers, but Wesley is so light that he wouldn't be able to stop at the top if he didn't use the lightest setting very cautiously. For safety, technicians never work alone on the towers. Both Wesley and Mike, who is taller, can stand to their full height inside a blade, which can be entered from a platform at the top of the ladder.

The towers themselves are 303 feet tall, nearly 500 feet to the tip of the top blade, except for the slightly shorter Tower 9. A rotor covers almost 2.5 acres in one sweep. We were warned to brace ourselves on something before looking straight up from the base of the towers to keep from getting dizzy. The construction crane was so large it was shipped to the site in pieces and assembled at the Tower 1 site partway up the hill. It was then driven up the rest of the

way to build the remaining turbines. The bases sit in holes drilled about 25 feet deep and are stabilized with concrete and packed gravel.

The turbines are designed to always face into the wind and turn in the same direction, and thus require an "unwind scenario", which is why one may face a completely different direction from the rest. If you see a tower off and facing the wrong direction, it is likely undergoing maintenance or "unwinding." If you see towers on but facing in slightly different directions, it is due to different wind currents circulating over the ridge. Wesley is able to monitor conditions online from the office at the base of the hill, as well as from his home, and can initiate maintenance work as soon as a problem is detected. Antrim Wind is also in constant contact with ISO New England, an independent regional transmission organization that predicts electricity usage and oversees the operation of New England's power grid. If ISO New England anticipates a need for electricity, they will ask that the towers not be taken down for routine maintenance or request that any tower that's down be brought back up as soon as possible.

The collector power line leading away from the towers was installed above ground, from the substation to the meteorological (met) tower so they didn't have to blast into the bedrock to bury the lines. The power is then fed out to the grid. One of the attractions of this site was that the power could be fed into an uncongested power line—i.e., a line that is not carrying more power than it was designed for. Local production of electricity reduces electric congestion. Mike explained that the actual electrons produced on site are used at the closest possible place, and at any particular time, Antrim Wind is likely powering homes and businesses in Stoddard, Windsor, Hillsboro, Antrim, Bennington, Hancock and possibly beyond.

The power generated also has a value and is sold at a wholesale rate. 25% of Antrim Wind's output power is sold to the NH Electric Co-op, a member-owned utility cooperative based in Plymouth, NH, and the rest is bought by Mass General Brigham's hospital system in Boston. Antrim Wind makes PILOT payments (payments in lieu of taxes) to the Town of Antrim. The first payments were in the range of

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\$300,000; as of September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year, Antrim Wind has paid the town ~\$2.4 million dollars in PILOT payments.

The met tower, located between Towers 1, 3 and 4, measures wind speed and direction from five elevations and supports the primary radar for the aircraft-detecting lighting system, or ADL. This system keeps the FAA-mandated lights off unless there is an aircraft within a given range and direction that make the towers a hazard to navigation; the system then turns the lights on until such time as the aircraft is out of the area. The Antrim site was the first in the country to be licensed for such a system. Adjacent to the met tower there is a LiDAR unit, which is a laser to detect cloud cover—if there is no cloud cover, specific turbines are turned off for the duration of time that they might produce shadow flicker on nearby residences.

The maximum windspeed the turbines can handle is 25 m/s (56 mph). If the wind goes above that, they turn off and the blades are feathered into the wind. They are direct-drive towers—that is, they have no gearbox and are permanent magnetic generators—and only require 4–5 m/s (9–10 mph) of wind to start producing electricity. If the windspeed is too low at night, the turbines go into “wildlife protection mode.” In the first year of operation, they found that few birds made impact with the blades, but 36 bats were killed. Subsequent studies have shown that bats are more likely to have impacts with the blades in low wind and at certain times of the year; now the turbines are shut down to idle when the wind speed is below 5 m/s (11 mph) or bats are likely to be out. One bat has been killed this year; no bats or birds were killed in the previous two years.

The Antrim Wind site covers 1800 acres, with 1000 acres under conservation easements. Of those acres, only 55 acres were disturbed during construction and less than 12 are used for the site today. Wildlife, including bears, moose, coyotes, foxes, porcupines, songbirds, hawks and more, are seen frequently and roam freely through the area. However, as a possibly vulnerable power-generation site with numerous potential hazards, human visitors are considered trespassers and should not be onsite without a formal invitation. The tour sponsors hope to be able to offer site tours regularly for those who are curious. ✨

## We Digress Book Club

Jennifer A. Adams

The We Digress Book Club picks books from every era and realm, from 1935 politics to women in the Vietnam war, from Gaza and Israel to deep sea divers in Asia; Antarctic exploration to missionaries in Africa to a Native American reservation; from Civil War to the Korean War to the Vietnam War; fiction, nonfiction, alternate realities, journals; books published from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Books that any club member has read and liked enough to want to share with the group.

In December, we will be discussing *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer (author) and John Burgoyne (illustrator), an ecological metaphor for how nature shares abundance vs. sharing in our scarcity-based economy—Indigenous wisdom to reimagine what we value, emphasizing gratitude and interconnectedness. (*There's a reason we chose a serviceberry as one of the native trees we planted at the Gregg Lake Beach! ~Ed.*) Join us on Dec 18 at 2 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church. Copies of this short book will be available upon request at the Tuttle Library—a mere 128 pages to fit into a busy holiday month.

Coming in the future: *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak, *Water Moon* by Samantha Sotto Yambao, *Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith* by Jon Krakauer, and *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. And anything else that a book club member might suggest!

Any questions? Contact Jennifer at [wedigress.book-club@yahoo.com](mailto:wedigress.book-club@yahoo.com). ✨

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## This Town is Your Town: Multigenerational Businesses in Antrim

Wendy Gibbons

The family To Do List at Blue Feather Farm graces a large white board in the kitchen and morphs as seasons change and new priorities emerge. When I think about running our farm, the imagery that comes to mind invokes balance – perhaps surfing a wave without tumbling into the water or juggling fragile wine glasses. For example, the need to pick a new song to go with my Facebook Christmas tree ads (fun!) might compete in my mind with the importance of ripping up more ropy bittersweet vines from under our blueberry bushes (less fun, but very satisfying). Choices, choices.

This Jill-of-all-trades aspect of running a business keeps life interesting, but I am so overwhelmed by the process of learning it myself that I can't imagine teaching another person how to do it. Yet a number of Antrim business owners have successfully navigated the challenge. By gradually introducing entrepreneurship skills to their children and grandchildren while also encouraging them to keep their options open, they have bequeathed them life skills, meaningful work and successful enterprises.

For us customers and residents in town, these multigenerational businesses make Antrim not just a dynamic place to live, but also a stable one. They channel the tiny flames of community spirit into toasty fires of town character that draw in new residents and encourage young people to return to their hometowns despite a difficult housing market and steep economic headwinds that can make rural life seem unappealing. Scott Slattery is a Community Economic Development Field Specialist with the University of New Hampshire Extension. Slattery says research studies he has helped with show that people in rural New Hampshire love multigenerational 'mom and pop' type businesses because "you get to know that business, you know the owner, you know the kids, you know the dog."

### Nurturing Relationships

So how do small business owners foster a love for entrepreneurship in their children? For the local families who have made it work, the key, it seems, is giving young ones a chance to practice their skills in a low-pressure way from

an early age while also encouraging them to explore their career options as they get older. "I was eight, and I picked strawberries," says Crista Salamy of growing up in the third of four generations managing Tenney Farm. She still remembers her first pay raise from 10 to 25 cents per quart of berries and getting promoted to working in the store at the age of fourteen. "I wanted my own money," Salamy explains. "I had horses, cows and sheep to feed. To have animals, I had to help take care of them. Then, when I wanted a car, I had to help pay for it."

Rick Edmunds of Edmunds Ace Hardware represents the third of four generations running the family business. His parents also started him out a young age. "When I was about six or seven, I would sweep the floor or help bring the stuff outside before I went to school, and get paid a couple of dollars," Edmunds says. Glenn Cook of Mush Cook's says he basically grew up in his family's garage. "I was working when I was eight years old, and I was here because my father needed help. When I was twelve, he was leaving me a list of stuff to do in the summer."

Although the tasks may have been simple, starting young allowed Edmunds to learn "by example, by seeing how my parents interacted with customers," he says. The key to this parenting style is to keep a balance between instilling a strong work ethic and also providing time for recreation.



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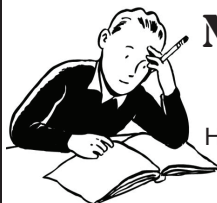
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“I still got to do sports and go to friends’ houses to play,” Edmunds says. “I always enjoyed it, because I never felt the loss of other things,” such as Boy Scouts or summer camp. “I kind of run the same balance with my kids, too,” he adds.

### A Head Start on Life

The appeal of living in the town one grew up in might not be obvious, but Jaxon Salamy of Tenney Farm, Crista’s younger son, perceived the advantages while still in his teens. “It’s just easier for me,” Jaxon says, describing how his childhood experience in farming gave him a head start on life and allowed him to avoid college debt. “It’s not exactly the greatest job in the world—it takes a lot of work and all that—but you don’t want to waste your life doing something you don’t love doing,” he says. Jaxon particularly enjoys telling people what he does for a living. “When you tell them that you grow things like watermelons and melons, nobody does it anymore, and so I feel like it’s cool.” Jaxon thrives on transforming seeds, water, and dirt into delicious food for his customers. Hearing comments such as: “Tenney Farm vegetables are the best they’ve ever had, or they’re going to come back next year, or they’re going to go tell their family,” helps him stay motivated, he says.

Craig Cook, son of Glenn, says following his father into the garage business was always the plan. “When everybody talked about how they didn’t know what they wanted to do in life, I mean, we always knew,” Craig says of himself and his father. This focused approach to a career allowed Craig to avoid wasting time on jobs he didn’t like and gave him an early financial start, which he leveraged to buy a house at the age of twenty-one. Both Cooks describe themselves as “driven” and “goal-oriented,” clearly important to running a small business. Craig’s choice has paid off by giving him time to pursue hobbies such as forging steel knives and coaching wrestling.

Angie Robinson of Rick and Diane’s Pizza in downtown Antrim started helping her parents with their business at the tender age of eleven, taking on vacuuming, cleaning,



and helping with the computer entry. It took her several decades, however, to find her path back to the family business. She and her husband, Tim Robinson, are making up for lost time by soaking up all the wisdom they can after taking over from Angie’s father, Rick Davis. She sees her father as “the personality of the business” who has not just years of experience but also the discipline to make things happen. Believing in the Lord inspires her to be willing to be taught. “I’m always trying to learn,” Angie says. The Robinsons’ daughter, Ashlyn, will also work at the restaurant as soon as she can drive. Ashlyn helps with baking and brings strengths in organizing and tidiness, her mother says proudly.

### Life in the Public Eye

Combining the roles of small business owner and parent in a small town could create some awkward moments, so “you always have to behave yourself,” laughs Rick Edmunds. “Everybody knows you, and sometimes you can’t get away from that,” agrees Crista Salamy, describing how she sometimes craves more time to be alone with her thoughts. The expectation to know every customer individually also can prove daunting for young people who haven’t had as many years as their parents to match faces to names. His boys find that “more people know them than they know,” Rick says.

Managing family conflicts from within a business requires a sense of humor and a willingness to compromise. Glenn and Craig Cook note that while they have had their



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share of arguments, they have never had a fight. "I have my own way of doing things," Glenn says, of his personality style. Yet the temptation to permanently give someone the boot doesn't work with a family member. "I've been trying to get fired," laughs Glenn. "Some days I come in here and I go, 'I'm late again! If I was you, I would fire me.'" Craig responds with an eye roll: "The boss is compassionate. He hasn't fired him yet."

Sharing the business with a sibling is easier if each person has an area they specialize in, says Crista Salamy. She explains that her two boys have different personalities and interests, allowing them to meet the needs of specific niches within the farm. Hunter has always been into tractors, equipment, and working in the fields, whereas Jaxon enjoys animals and tending to the greenhouses. While the boys do sometimes compete or disagree, "it works out because everyone's got their thing. You've gotta' agree to disagree sometimes."

All four business owners stressed the importance of encouraging the next generation to explore other careers, even if this means risking the future of the enterprise. Davis says that despite Angie's delay in taking over, he never pushed her despite sometimes wishing he could take a break. Having the opportunity to work with his daughter now makes him glad he waited until she was ready. "Over the years, I've tried to sell this business several times," he says. Now that the younger generation has moved back to Antrim, "a rock has been taken off my shoulders. It's a tough business

to begin with, and restaurants go out of business left and right," Davis adds. "I'm good at it, but I was tired of it."

### Back to the Future?

The rigors of entrepreneurship can wear owners down, agrees Crista Salamy, describing her work life not just in the store but also managing the payroll, taxes, audits, work regulations, pesticide laws and bookkeeping. "It's not all just go out and plant a garden and watch it grow," she sighs. Her generation has managed the Tenney Farm enterprise for twenty-five years, and she sees herself as ready to scale back. "I'm almost ready for the boys to totally take it over, to try all their ideas."

For the Cooks, passing the torch to a new generation doesn't seem likely. Younger members of the family "didn't inherit the love of smashing your hands and getting greasy," Glenn says, noting that young people don't always appreciate the value of learning by doing. "It's a different world now than it was when I was younger."

Slattery of the UNH agrees that different generations need to learn to communicate better. "Young people need to get involved," he says, by attending community meetings and other events. Older folks need to reflect on how to teach young people to become stakeholders in small-town enterprises. All of this in the context of the fact that, of course, "It's not cheap to live in Antrim," Slattery says. Yet thinking outside the box by supporting careers in the trades such as Career and Technical Education or historic preservation can provide "a damn good living" and nurture that "fierce community spirit" that makes Antrim so special. "We're trying to get this next generation excited about what we are doing," Slattery says.

Despite the challenges of high housing costs, long hours and managing customer expectations, for Rick Edmunds, guiding a multigenerational business helps him appreciate the value of living in a strong, tight-knit community such as Antrim. "It's really a connected web," Edmunds says, describing our town as "a good New England town with hardworking people and loyal customers. These connections keep us going and growing," he quips. Angie Robinson also values our uniquely supportive community. She and Tim have now relocated to Antrim and are grateful to be building a home right around the corner from the restaurant. They feel proud to call Antrim their hometown, Angie says.

"I know my grandfather was happy that I stayed in farming, because that's what he told my mom," Jaxon says of his choice to stay in Antrim. "My grandma too, she tells us all the time. She likes how it's all turned out, seeing the parking lot full of cars and the fields all full of crops," Jaxon says, smiling. I can't agree more. ✨

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# James A. Tuttle Library

## Where Antrim Comes Together—All Year Long

Christopher Brinkley  
Teen Librarian and Emerging Technologies

### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday & Wednesday • 2:00–6:00 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday • 2:00–8:00 p.m.  
Friday & Saturday • 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

### WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Wednesdays • Story Time • 3:30–4:30 p.m.  
Thursdays • YA Movie Night • 4:30–7:45 p.m.

If you're looking for warmth, welcome, and a little wonder as the seasons turn, the best door to open in Antrim is the one at the James A. Tuttle Library. This fall reminded us—loudly and joyfully—that our library isn't just a building with books; it's a place where every age finds something to do, someone to meet and a reason to smile.

### WRAPPING UP A WILD OCTOBER

**Bigfoot, big fun.** A standing ovation to author and researcher Ronny LeBlanc, who packed the house with spine-tingling stories, field research and that "what if?" curiosity we all love. Days later, patrons were still swapping favorite moments from his Bigfoot seminar in the stacks—exactly the kind of conversation that keeps a community curious.

**Trunk or Treat triumph.** You turned our parking lot into a carnival of cobwebs, capes and creativity. From Pokémon trainers to classic monsters, the costumes were spectacular—and the turnout even more so. To every volunteer who transformed a trunk into a tiny, haunted world: you made magic happen.

**Heroes in the stacks.** A very warm thank-you to the Great Brook Junior Honors Society, who rolled up their sleeves for that unsung library superpower: shelf reading. Restoring alphabetical order across our mighty collection is no small feat. Your hard work made it easier for families, teens and lifelong readers to find their next favorite read. We can't wait to host you again.

**Costume party capstone.** We ended the month on a delightfully spooky high note with our ghoulishly good Costume Party—congrats to the top three scarers! And to our Friends of the Library: your treats were as sweet as your support. October wouldn't be October without you.

**Candy kindness.** To everyone who donated candy this month: thank you. Your generosity fueled smiles and kept the festive spirit going from the first leaf-fall to the last "boo!"

### COZY UP WITH SOMETHING NEW

As the days get shorter and the temperatures drop, perhaps a dish that warms the soul? Explore our online database **AtoZ World Food**—a world tour of recipes right from your kitchen. Need help logging in? Give us a ring at 603-588-6786 and we'll get you cooking.

### CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR

**December—Festival of Trees.** The Festival returns, bigger and brighter: trees from wall to wall, wreaths, quilts and sparkling touches tucked into every corner. Come stroll, mingle and soak in the cheer—perfect for family outings, photo ops and that much-needed dose of seasonal wonder.

**A New England Christmas Concert,** Sat, Dec 20, 7–9 p.m. Gather with friends and neighbors for an evening of New England holiday spirit as cellist Andrew Koutroubas fills the library with traditional carols, winter ballads, cozy, candlelit favorites and a few sing-along moments. This family-friendly concert is a perfect pause in the bustle of the season—warm, welcoming and right in the heart of town.

**February—Chili Cook-Off.** Dust off the crockpot, perfect your spice profile and bring your bravado—the Chili Cook-Off is back! Whether you're a secret-recipe stalwart or a first-timer ready to turn up the heat, this friendly competition is Antrim at its tastiest.

### And There's More on the Way...

The new year brings a full slate of community-minded programs, including NH Humanities events, visiting writers, author talks and hands-on workshops. From story hours and STEM curiosity to teen creativity, book clubs and tech help, we've got activities that fit every age and interest. Stop by to discover what's next—or keep an eye on our announcements. Either way, we'd love to see you soon. ✨



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## Great Brook's Fall Full of Learning and Celebration

Maryanne Cullinan

We welcomed our new class of fifth graders at the end of August, and they are filled with energy, enthusiasm and Bobcat pride. Our school values are respect, responsibility and safety and our new Bobcats have proven to have all of these qualities in spades.

We inducted our inaugural National Junior Honor Society members on October 30. These twenty-one students in seventh and eighth grade went through a rigorous selection process and were chosen by a faculty council due to their high grade point average of A- or above, commitment to community service and participation in school and community activities. Thank you to the large audience who came to see our members sworn in, including six GBS alumni who are current NHS members. Our GBS NJHS members are Cole Austin, Collins Harris, Adam Healey, Cora McNulty, Belle Stahlin, Bradley Allen, Annabelle Bastarache, Simon Beaumont, Laurel Brown, Carter Craig, Addyson Cutter, Sophie Leclerc, Aliyah (Sky) Garcia, Hunter Girard, Emmet Kimball, Chelsea LaPlante, Marie Moenter, Brooklyn Ouellette, Tommy Ravalico, Brooke Semiele and Maddie Walsh.

In other news, we occasionally survey our students to help us evaluate our school climate. As anyone who has ever lived with a middle schooler, or been one themselves, can tell you, middle school is often a time of tumultuous emotions and changing friendships. We want all of our students to feel welcome and accepted as people and challenged as learners. We were very excited to get the results of our school climate survey this year. We're proud to share with you some highlights:

**80%** of our students strongly agree or mostly agree that they like school.

**92%** of students strongly or mostly agree that their school wants them to do well.

**93%** of students strongly or mostly agree that they have an adult they can talk to who will help them if they need it.

Of course, we want all students to like school, feel like we want them to do well and feel connected to adults in the building. However, we are excited we are starting from a

strong place of connection with our Bobcats.

Did you know that we have two dozen co-curricular activities for students to join? These range from a variety of sports to pick-up afterschool sports, Art Club, Dungeons and Dragons, clubs in partnership with The Harris Center and Avenue A, Movie Club, Drone Club and a giant 60-plus kid spring play! We're working for every student to have connections to things they love and peers they connect with.

Later this year we will have a Celebration of Learning at maple sugaring time. We are looking forward to sharing our students' accomplishments with you, our community! Stay tuned! ✨

## Fall at Antrim Elementary School

Beth Gibney, Principal

It's been a wonderful fall at Antrim Elementary School! While we could use a little rain, the beautiful weather has given students countless opportunities to explore and learn outdoors.

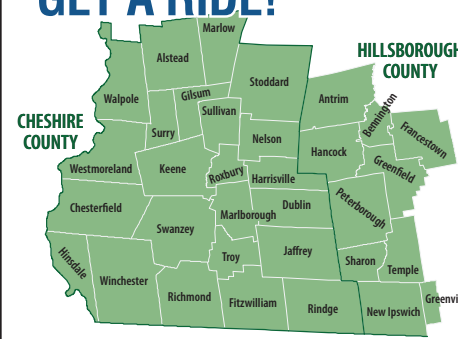
**Building Community Connections.** One of our ongoing goals at AES is to strengthen family and community engagement. When families, schools and communities work together, children thrive. This fall, we've welcomed families and local partners for several events, including our annual Open House. The Grapevine, Antrim Recreation and the Crotched Mountain Ski Program joined us to share opportunities and resources, while Mr. Caceres's obstacle course and PTO popcorn were big hits with families!

**Partnerships That Enrich Learning.** Our community partnerships continue to grow stronger each year. The Antrim-Bennington Lions Club remains a valued partner through programs like "Lunch with Lions" and annual vision screenings. The Masons will again sponsor "Bikes for Books" this spring to encourage reading. The Harris Center and Cornucopia Project continue to enhance learning through hands-on science and gardening experiences, and thanks to grant funding, Cornucopia's cooking program has now expanded to third grade.

**The Secret Garden Project.** This summer, teacher Vanessa Lofstedt began a passion project to revitalize our school's Secret Garden courtyard. Community members

✍️ — continued on page 13

### GET A RIDE!



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## Will December be the Beginning of a SAD Season for You?

Dana K. Plank MS, RN

Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), or what it is now called Major Depressive Disorder with a Seasonal Pattern, is recognized in December as a condition that affects many Americans in the late fall and throughout the winter months. Individuals can experience mood disruptions as a result of less sunlight exposure and colder temperatures.

Researchers have found that a component called serotonin or 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT) doesn't always work well in individuals who may have SAD. Serotonin is a neurotransmitter but behaves like a hormone. Neurotransmitters carry messages between your brain and the rest of your body. Serotonin helps to regulate mood. It is suggested that sunlight levels affect a person's ability to maintain normal serotonin levels during the winter months. The addition of a vitamin D deficiency can make the situation worse. Since sunlight is needed in order to properly create and metabolize vitamin D, as a person's exposure to sunlight decreases, so do their levels of vitamin D. Other researchers have found that SAD can occur with altered levels of melatonin as well. Melatonin is an important hormone that helps regulate the normal sleep/wake cycles. Individuals with SAD may produce too much melatonin, which can increase sleepiness and lead to oversleeping.

SAD can have similar symptoms to depression. These include, but are not limited to:

- Sad, anxious or "empty" feelings
- Feelings of hopelessness, guilt, worthlessness or helplessness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in formerly enjoyable activities
- Fatigue and decreased energy
- Overeating (or conversely, lack of appetite)
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details or making decisions
- Social withdrawal
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Additional symptoms that may be indicative of SAD are oversleeping, overeating (especially carbohydrates) and withdrawing from social activities with family, friends and coworkers.

Individuals can seek an evaluation by a health professional to determine whether the symptoms they are experiencing come under the diagnostic criteria for SAD. It's important to do this so that any other underlying conditions are not the cause of what someone is experiencing. Your healthcare provider may incorporate light therapy, a vitamin D supplement, cognitive behavior therapy and medication as part of a treatment plan. There are some things you can do that will help get ahead of it before you seek treatment.

- Daily walks in fresh air
- Adding vitamin D to your diet and incorporating vitamin D-rich foods
- Plan fun social activities
- Get plenty of exercise
- Reach out to family and friends

The winter months can be long, and if you think you've experienced SAD in the past or think you might tend to, it may be helpful to begin preventative actions early on to help ease you through until spring.

If you want to read more articles on public health topics, visit my website, <https://www.ruralnursewriter.com/>. ❁

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quickly joined in to help bring her vision to life. Nick Everhart of Everhart Landscaping and Design in Peterborough generously donated his time and materials to get the work started. This fall, every AES student—from PreK to grade 4—planted a bulb that will bloom in the spring. Nick plans to continue partnering with AES to keep the space vibrant and to support outdoor learning for years to come.

**Honoring Service and Giving Back.** In November, AES hosted a Veterans Day Breakfast and Community Meeting to honor local veterans. The event, sponsored by Clear Path for Veterans of New England and coordinated by Peter Chase, featured guest speaker Sgt. Bob Edwards, who reminded students to thank those who serve our country.

**Discovery Block: Learning by Choice.** This year, AES introduced Discovery Block, a new enrichment rotation designed by our Muzart, Wellness and Library specialists. Students choose hands-on, cross-curricular topics that interest them, such as creative writing, Spanish, weaving, coding, chess or select choir. Each unit runs for about six weeks, mixing grade levels and inspiring curiosity and collaboration across the school.

**Learning Through Service.** This fall, AES welcomed fifteen ConVal High School students for their annual Day of Service. The high schoolers joined our classes throughout the day, leading small-group activities, helping with art and nature projects and joining recess and games. They modeled leadership and kindness, and our younger students loved having these role models on campus. We're already looking forward to their next visit!

**Looking Ahead.** As we move into the holiday season, AES will celebrate with both beloved traditions and new experiences. Students will decorate trees for the Antrim Festival of Trees, enjoy a Friendsgiving Feast, and participate in upcoming art and STEM residencies.

It's an exciting time of learning, growing and connecting at Antrim Elementary—**where students learn to soar!** ❄️

## In Memoriam, Eric Tenney

Bill Nichols, President  
Antrim Historical Society

We are mourning the passing of Antrim resident and Director of the Antrim Historical Society, Eric Tenney. There is so much to say about Eric—far too much to capture here.



Throughout his 81-plus years, Eric served his town with dedication. He was an entrepreneur who established what we know today as Tenney Farm LLC, and over the years he served several terms as town selectman and as water and sewer commissioner.

When I joined the Historical Society many years ago, Eric took me under his wing and helped me understand the deep significance of Antrim's history. He introduced me to the immense house project completed in the late 1980s and would often share stories about how the roads we travel today came to be. He was Antrim's "Road Scholar."

During our monthly meetings, Eric was typically a man of few words, but when he spoke, what he said was invariably important to whatever decision we were making. Many times, after our meetings I would give him a ride home, and we'd spend ten or fifteen minutes just sitting in the car, talking about how things are now compared to how they used to be. There was always something to laugh about.

In recent years, Eric wanted to step down from the board, but it seemed to us that losing him without a suitable replacement wouldn't serve the organization well. We assured him that attending meetings wasn't essential—we were simply grateful to know he was just a phone call away whenever we needed his advice or had historical questions.

Fortunately, we had the wisdom to record Eric as part of our Oral History Project, capturing his insights both as a respected public servant and as the patriarch of Tenney Farm. These videos are available on our YouTube channel, and if you haven't watched them, now would be a meaningful time to do so.

I will miss Eric—his historical knowledge, his wisdom, his thoughtfulness and his smile. We were a better organization with him, whether he was in the room or not. Rest easy. ❄️



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## First Presbyterian Church

Jan Howe, Pastor

Property and Grounds have been extremely busy this summer and autumn. After several workdays, they've cleaned up excess items, removed the carpet in the Clark Room and repainted the floor. It took several trips to the transfer station to dispose of all those things people never wanted to throw away just in case someone needs it someday.

In addition, you may have noticed the work on the outside of the church, including the repair of the foundation to the left of the driveway as you enter the back parking lot. They were able to save the bush but had to remove several plants from that garden. The purpose of this is to prevent leaks into the basement. Every time it rained there would be puddles of water on the steps entering the Revival Shop as well as in both bathrooms. Too many times our volunteers had to mop up excess water to open the shop and again during shop open hours. With some of the excess materials from that project we were able to regrade the back parking lot. The contractor was also able to get rid of the scrub brush impeding on the parking lot. This will allow more parking area without puddles of water—or worse, ice.

They are currently working on repairing a beam in the front of the church from the outside, in the back of the sanctuary by the handicap ramp. We discovered that it was starting to rot and needed immediate attention. By removing a pew in the back of the church we will be able to maintain our handicap ramp and make it easier to enter through that door even while the beam is being repaired.

The above projects took precedence over repairing the stained glass windows, which are in dire shape and starting to bow. Hopefully, we will be able to address these soon.

The Elders thank all the community groups and individuals who help us to accomplish these much-needed repairs to our historic building either by monetary donations or sharing their gifts of time.

Speaking of sharing time, we must give a shout out to our awesome volunteers in the Revival Shop. It takes many people to make this ministry possible. You see some volunteers during Saturday open hours but there are more who spend hours sorting clothes and keeping the racks current and neat. This is a much-needed resource for our community, and we thank all who make it possible.

In December, in addition to our Advent and Christmas Eve Services we will be hosting two concerts this year. Both promise to be amazing:

First, Ray Sweeney has organized the **Antrim Songsters** once again, and will be holding a Holiday Concert on Fri, Dec 19, at 7 p.m., with a snow date of Sun, Dec 21, at 2 p.m. As in previous years, this will include a variety of instrumental and vocal pieces. I hear there will be several “guests” this year. They have been busy practicing so let's support them and show up for an enjoyable evening. We will also have cookies and finger desserts in the Fellow-

ship Hall afterwards. Anyone who would like to contribute please leave a message at the church (603-588-2209) so we have an idea of how much we will have to share.

The second will be on the following Mon (Dec 22) at 7 p.m. with **Silentwoods Collective** led by Andrew Koutroubas presenting a holiday performance in the sanctuary. This is the same group that presented a concert in May, which was a wonderful evening of music.

**Advent** begins on Sun, Nov 30, when we will light the first candle on the Advent Wreath during worship at 10:30. We will continue to light additional candles each week until we light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve at our 6 p.m. Candlelight Service. Please join us as we all prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus. On Sun, Dec 29, we will sing lots of Christmas hymns as we continue through the Christmas season, ending on Epiphany Sunday (the arrival of the Wise Men), which will be celebrated on Sun, Jan 4, at 10:30 a.m.

Please join with us at any or all our services and concerts as we journey together to the manger on Christmas morning. Our worship services are in person and also on Zoom each week. We may be small in number, but we are full of the Holy Spirit and we love having all the community groups using our building. God Bless. ✨

## News from the Pews – Antrim Baptist Church

Minister Mark Kallberg

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Antrim Baptist Church! Be part of our celebration of the season's true essence!

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**, 7 p.m., Dec 24. Join us for a gathering filled with worship, songs and the genuine spirit of Christmas as we joyfully commemorate the birth of our Redeemer.

**Christmas Karaoke Evening**, 6-9 p.m., Dec 13, in the fellowship hall. An entertaining night suitable for every age group! Entry is complimentary, and everyone is invited. Feel free to wear your beloved “Ugly Christmas Sweater” and come for an evening of fellowship and laughter. Light refreshments served.

Antrim Baptist Church is a welcoming, Christ-focused fellowship where all are invited. Our Sunday worship occurs every week at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome to join us. We look forward to seeing you soon.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...”

– Isaiah 9:6 ✨

*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.

# Community Calendar

## DECEMBER 2025

- Lions Club Christmas tree sale at Tenney Farm
- Festival of Trees at the Tuttle Library • during library open hours
- 2 Dads' Campfire Group • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 4 Moms' Campfire Group • The Grapevine • 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Santa visits the Tuttle Library • 4–5:30 p.m.
- 13 Christmas Karaoke Evening • Antrim Baptist Church • 6–9 p.m.
- 17 Senior Lunch Meals on Wheels • Presbyterian Church • 12 noon
- 18 The We Digress Book Club • Presbyterian Church • 2 p.m.
- 18 Free Community Supper sponsored by the Antrim Grange • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 18 Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice • ZOOM • 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Ray Sweeney's Antrim Songsters Holiday Concert • Presbyterian Church • 7 p.m.  
(Snow date: Sunday Dec 21 at 2 p.m.)
- 20 Silentwoods Collective New England Christmas Concert led by Andrew Koutroubas • Tuttle Library  
(Registration is required as seating is limited)
- 22 Silentwoods Collective concert led by Andrew Koutroubas • Presbyterian Church • 7 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service • Presbyterian Church at 6 p.m. • Antrim Baptist Church at 7 p.m.
- 29 Puzzle Palooza • Antrim Town Hall • 4:30 p.m. (pre-register)



## JANUARY 2026

- 6 Dads' Campfire Group • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Moms' Campfire Group • The Grapevine • 6:00 p.m.
- 15 Free Community Supper sponsored by Antrim Elementary School • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 15 Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice Open Democracy Book Club • ZOOM • 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Puzzle Palooza • Antrim Town Hall • 4:30 p.m. (pre-register)
- 22 Senior Lunch Meals on Wheels • Presbyterian Church • 12 noon
- 24 Antrim Community Board 3rd Annual Business Fair • GBS Gym • 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

## FEBRUARY 2026

- 1 Beat the Winter Blues with Bluegrass featuring Mr Bill • Antrim Town Hall • time TBD
- 3 Dads' Campfire Group • The Grapevine • 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Moms' Campfire Group • The Grapevine • 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Senior Lunch Meals on Wheels • Presbyterian Church • 12 noon
- 19 Free Community Supper sponsor by Great Brook School • Presbyterian Church • 5:30 p.m.
- 23 Puzzle Palooza • Antrim Town Hall • 4:30 p.m. (pre-register)

### ONGOING COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### MONDAYS

SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life) exercise class Town Hall 11:00–12 p.m.  
Zumba at Town Gym, 5:30–6:30 p.m.  
Adult Pickleball 6:30–8:00 p.m.

#### TUESDAYS

Yoga with Jeanine, Town Hall 6:00 p.m.  
Adult Pickup Basketball 6:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAYS

SAIL exercise class Town Hall 11:00–12 p.m.  
Children's Story Time with a craft, Tuttle Library 3:30–4:30 p.m.  
Adult Pickleball 3:30–5 p.m.

#### THURSDAYS

YA Movie Night, Tuttle Library 4:30–7:45 p.m.

#### FRIDAYS

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

#### SATURDAYS

Zumba at Town Gym, 9:00 a.m.  
Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry, Antrim Baptist Church, 10 a.m.–noon (closed 5th Saturday of the month)  
Revival Shop, Presbyterian Church, open 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.



## The Old Parsonage, Part 3

Stephen Burkhardt

We were well into this hot, dry summer in New Hampshire as I sat down to write this, the third and final, installment of the history of the Old Parsonage. Our beloved editor of *The Limrik* had given me ample time to complete this assignment. However, I had reverted to my long-established habit of waiting till the due date was upon me to begin my work. Unfortunately, it is precisely then that I had contracted a case of writer's block. The words flowed onto the paper profusely, however incoherently. My rewrites were soon covered by more rewrites. I could hear the clock ticking (one hangs on the wall just to my right) quite literally. I conceded then that it was time to throw myself to the mercies of our benevolent editor and was granted a stay of execution. Back to the story.

The owners of our house who immediately preceded us were Franz and Linda Andlinger. Many of our readers have known them, as they lived here for more than thirty years. Franz was a baker by trade, so much so to the point that he had a brick oven constructed in the single-story house across the street. Although that house was built in the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the property was part of a second tract on the original deed of our house. Both properties had been on the market for three years by 2017. With no promising prospects for a purchase, the Andlingers were forced to give up claim, and a bank sale was held. Investors purchased the properties and made a wise, if dispassionate, business decision to split the tracts into two separate deeds. The newer house across the road sold in April 2018. But even after six months on the market, the Old Parsonage remained unsold, until we saw the potential for the fulfillment of a retirement dream in it. Dennis and I had talked about owning a good old New England home since our earliest years together. Our discussions always had centered around mid-coast Maine, the place of many of our vacations. Months of searching the internet produced only frustration. Until one evening, we moved our search to include New Hampshire. And that very evening, we had our eureka moment.

Seven short years have passed since we first crossed its thresholds. In the beginning, our intention was to maintain our residency in Pennsylvania until retirement but still visit Antrim to work on the house here. During the first year, we would make short visits to clean, paint and do yard work. My first extended stay was in January 2019 with a heavy snowfall predicted and a heavy snowpack already on the ground. I found that bread and milk are hot commodities here, too, when snow is predicted. It was a revelation indeed, as I had heard that New Englanders had an ages-old reputation for being hardy. Ah, another mythical beast gone extinct. I hunkered in for the night, only to awaken to the sound of sleet pinging on the old, wavy glass windows. By daybreak it was rain, and it fell heavily as the temperatures rose well into the fifties. Water cascaded from the back roof

and flowed down the steep slope in the back. All seemed to have the same idea to meet at the foundation of the house. There is a dug basement under a portion of the house, where the new furnace can be found. You might call this basement "ground zero." When the furnace stopped heating, I knew something was wrong. A quick glance into the cellar confirmed a deepening flood. The sump pump float was stuck submerged, not allowing the trip mechanism to function. I moved the float by hand, and it began its work to clear the flood. Unfortunately, the furnace would not give heat. A technician was summoned, and he determined that the flood had damaged the circuit board. The part must be ordered, and he would return when it was available. The springlike rain of the day was followed by an arctic front. By the time the repair was made to the furnace, the temperature inside the house was 43 degrees. The reader will understand my doubts that day about the wisdom of a new life in New Hampshire. The return of the furnace heat rekindled my trust. However, the incident pointed to the most pressing need for us to address. We decided at that moment that we would do all that was required to save this house, so that it might live beyond our years. Water was the biggest threat to the life of these old timbers.

For most of that year, the short visits would continue. Slowly, each room on the first floor gained a few fresh coats of paint, each time bringing more satisfaction. Soon, I found I dreaded the end of the visits only to have to return to Pennsylvania. Sometimes, Dennis and I would be here together;



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other times, I came solo. Each time, Pennsylvania became less like home and Antrim more like it. So, by Labor Day of that year, Dennis agreed that I could take up full residency here. That weekend, with Cinnamon, our pet rooster, riding shotgun on the front seat in his dog bed, with food and water in the console cupholders, we drove to Antrim for good. As with most humans, by the third hour of travel, Cinnamon was quite antsy. The rest stops along the way provided us a place to take a break and left many a puzzled traveler wondering just how a rooster found its way to a highway rest area. Many took photos or asked to pet him, as if they had never seen such a thing. Cinnie was highly socialized and took the fuss like a pro. Then back on the road again, until we arrived in Antrim for good.

I took an early retirement from the workforce to focus on making the house our forever home. Certainly, my energy would advance the progress on the house, and those weeks and months were full of many projects, inside and outside.

Excavation to install the much-needed French drain started in late September of that year. The earth was pushed back, and a bulwark of large rocks created a girdle to hold the hill in place. The foundation for a bank garage was also installed at that time. Before the heavy snows of winter arrived, the timber framing for the barn that would crown the garage was delivered in fourteen large bundles. Construction started in January 2020, and a little over a month later, the barn garage was in place. It seemed to be about this time

that I began to see and hear an occasional slowing of vehicles. The curious travelers took notice of the newly built barn. Some even gushed. I reminded them that there is also a house, as if it were hidden behind a tree. As I mentioned that fact to someone once, I was told that “barns are very important in New Hampshire.” Well, I guess that is so.

Season followed season, and each season guided the project du jour. Spring, such a late spring as I was used to having, meant much yard work with layers of leaves having accumulated for years. We thinned the canopy of trees that left the house treebound in summer, and the house itself seemed to step forward to be noticed. Some trees were weak and threatened to lay a karate chop on the roofline.

Summer is an excellent time for exterior painting. More impromptu visits by passersby ensued, and we began to sense that the community approved. Not a week went by without some stranger stopping to comment or take a photograph. The compliment was always welcomed and cherished.

We contracted a muralist to decorate the walls of the parlor with a depiction of Antrim Centre crowning green hills as it would have appeared in 1826, the year of the construction of this house and the brick church that replaced the original meeting house at the Centre’s original location atop Meeting House Hill. The bright green palette of the hills in the mural is a cheery welcome on those gray winter days.

Dennis and I learned as much as we could about the history of the Old Parsonage and Antrim Centre, spending our free time googling any clues. There is a wealth of information there, and our searches were fruitful and even brought wonderful surprises. One such surprise confirmed for us that the walls once held original stencil work by Moses Eaton, Junior. In fact, we learned there is a collection at the New Hampshire Historical Society that is part of an inventory of recorded structures throughout New England retaining their original stencil work. And there is a file containing Polaroid photographs with written descriptions of the original stencil work that was still here in 1978. As our stenciling had been painted over and could not be restored, I used these photographs to acquire copies of the patterns used and replicated the original work with great success, although I must confess that it took a couple of weeks to warm up to the idea of a pink bedroom. For the sake of historical context, I moved forward with that room being as near original as possible. Now, a few years removed, I have no regrets about that bold choice.

Of course, I could go on about what we have done since the Old Parsonage became ours. *The Limrik* has its limits, and I know our readers do, as well. I will not tax further. That is, except to say, that when Dennis and I were intrigued by that cold, gray photo of a house in someplace called Antrim back in 2018, we had no idea that we would become part of an amazing community of exceptional people. If you want to know more about “that red house,” you merely stop your car in front of it, and someone will be there shortly to tell you all about it. Oh, and bring lunch; we’ll be here for a while. ❁



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● Installing lattice  
● Replacing rotted trim  
**O** ● Installing deck drains  
**F** ● Installing shower/sliding barn/screen/storm doors  
**E** ● Fixing/replacing mailboxes  
**R** ● Gutter cleaning  
**E** ● Adjusting doors/cabinetry doors to close properly  
**D** ● 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

## Antrim Grange News

Beth Merrill

This fall Antrim Grange held the annual Penny Sale and had a good day with perfect weather. We saw many of our supporters there. We were pleased to be able to sponsor some 4-H poultry shows at a couple of local markets. Grange members were hard at work at Home & Harvest baking and serving up the Historical Society's famous apple crisp. We couldn't have done this without the aid of many local bakers!

Under the supervision of Renée Mercier-Gerritsen, many items donated by the Robertson family were sold at the Brimfield North Market in Deerfield over Columbus Day Weekend. We held an Open House at the Grange Hall to show off the work that has been done so far and have plans to do this again next year. It's not likely anyone would want to take a tour during the winter months, as the hall is unheated, but we will try to accommodate personal requests if circumstances allow.

In October Beth and Arthur Merrill, Pat Brindley and Gloria Davis attended the NH State Grange Session in West Lebanon. After serving as a State Officer for 32 years, Beth Merrill declined re-election to the Executive Committee on which she has served since 2022. Arthur Merrill serves as Overseer and Gloria Davis is Ceres of the State Grange for the ensuing year. The Merrills were surprised with recognition as Grangers of the Year.

Antrim Grange is making plans to serve the Free Community Supper on December 18 and hopes that citizens will take time out of their busy holiday schedules to drop in to enjoy some fellowship and a baked potato bar. We plan to pause our traditional Burns Night cultural event this winter and instead offer a Mother's Day tea on May 9. Stay tuned for details in the spring.

If you enjoy doing community service and learning more about our grass roots activism, you are welcome to join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month. Contact the Membership Chairman, Renée Mercier-Gerritsen, at 603-547-5144 or Secretary, Beth Merrill, at 603-588-6615 for more information. All ages starting at 14 are welcome to join as full members! ✨

## Antrim Community Board News

Helene Newbold

As 2025 comes to a close we want to share some of the positive things accomplished by the Antrim Community Board in service to the residents here.

The second annual Business Fair last January showcased 32 businesses and was attended by over 125 residents on a snowy day. We will be hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Business Fair on January 24, 2026, from 9:30 a.m.–2 p.m. at the GBS gym. If you are or you know of an Antrim Business owner who wants to be included in the upcoming fair, please email us at [acboard@gmail.com](mailto:acboard@gmail.com). We will be contacting last year's participants soon!

The Swap Shop reopened in April as temperatures warmed up. It is closing on the fourth Saturday in November (11/22/25). The volunteers who man the shop have saved the town thousands of dollars in tipping fees by recycling and upcycling items that still have a useful life.

The Antrim Garden Club was reestablished through our Beautifying Main Street Project. Planters were planted by GBS and AES students and the Garden Club maintained the planters through the growing season. The Club is working with AES to reestablish their Secret Garden at the school so students will have a quiet, beautiful space outdoors.

The Community Board is supporting locally grown and made items in Antrim by publishing a Farmstand List available at several places in town. This list also has a map so local residents can find fresh, locally-grown food products and handmade items. Win-win!

We are currently working to connect residents with information through our direct mailings. The first mailing contained information on how to connect with departments in town, complete with names, emails and phone numbers. Our second mailing is focused on social wellness and will contain names of agencies and information about who and how to contact them.

As always, we need volunteers for these projects. If you would like to volunteer for the Swap Shop, the Business Fair or work on our mailings please email us at [acboard@gmail.com](mailto:acboard@gmail.com). We look forward to another rewarding year connecting residents with each other to enhance the quality of life in Antrim! ✨

### FREE COMMUNITY SUPPERS

**December 18**

**January 15**

**February 19**

**5:30 p.m.**

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## Antrim's Past: The Month of December 1925

Bill Nichols

It's hard to believe that 2026 is just around the corner. However, we at the Historical Society are more interested in what has already happened. Let's take a look back 100 years to December 1925 and see what was going on in our little town.

On a Saturday evening, Dec 5, 1925, the former Governor Goodell farm (at the intersection of Smith and Goodell Roads)—then under the ownership of Fred L. Proctor—became the site of a disaster that would have been familiar to any farmer across the previous two centuries. The destruction of a barn by fire represented not merely the loss of a structure, but the potential ruin of an entire agricultural enterprise.

At approximately four o'clock that afternoon, workmen engaged in the routine task of drying horse blankets inadvertently caused a small fire near the stored hay. Their swift action in extinguishing those initial flames appeared to have averted danger. Whether the fire rekindled from hidden embers or arose from an entirely separate cause remains a matter of historical uncertainty. What is documented, however, is that smoke was soon observed billowing from another section of the barn.

The combination of dense smoke and intense heat rendered any rescue operations impossible. The toll was severe—ten cattle, six horses and three swine perished in the flames. For a working farm, such losses represented not only immediate tragedy but also long-term economic hardship. These were not merely animals; they were the heart of the farm, each representing significant capital investment and years of attentive care.

The fire department responded quickly, though the barn itself proved beyond hope. Their efforts saved the adjacent farmhouse and ell, as well as two carriage houses situated across the roadway. This was no small achievement, given the proximity of these structures and the intensity of the fire.

Written accounts describe it as effectively two barns joined together—locally distinguished as “the old barn” and “the new barn”—covering approximately one acre of ground. It ranked among the finest farm structures in the region. The

timing of its destruction couldn't have been worse—Mr. Proctor had spent some four thousand dollars on repairs and improvements that year, a substantial sum representing the equivalent of \$74,000 in 2025. Beyond the loss of livestock, the fire consumed the farm's tools, harnesses and approximately one hundred tons of stored hay. It was noted that the cost of reconstruction would likely prove prohibitive, given the elevated building costs of the mid-1920s.

Only a day later, on Sun, Dec 6, Mrs. Eliza A. Duncan passed from this world at the Boston residence of her daughter, Mrs. Fannie E. Campbell. Born Eliza Parmenter in Antrim on Jun 12, 1831, she entered a world that would have been scarcely recognizable to those living in 1925. Her birth occurred during the presidency of Herbert Hoover, when there were only forty-eight states, and just a few years before what is sometimes called the First Great Depression gripped rural New England. She married John Moore Duncan on Dec 16, 1851, and the couple established themselves on what became known as the Duncan farm (where Peter and Schatze Moore live now), where they resided for fifty-three years.

Mrs. Duncan possessed a beautiful alto voice and served as a faithful member of the church choir at the old Center church. When the congregation acquired a seraphine, she became its regular player. Upon the later installation of a pipe organ, she mastered that more complex instrument and served as church organist for seventeen years, providing musical accompaniment for countless services, weddings and funerals.

Funeral services were conducted at the Presbyterian church in Antrim on Tue, Dec 8, with Reverend William Thompson officiating. Mrs. Duncan was interred beside her husband in Maplewood Cemetery.

The winter of 1925 found the area particularly active with road construction projects. New highways were being established from Cork Plain to Hillsboro Bridge and from North Branch to Hillsboro Lower Village—evidence of the “Good Roads Movement” that was transforming rural America in the automobile age. Residents and former residents returned to Antrim, hearing of a chance for employment. But it wasn't just the laborers that were benefiting from these large projects. Madison McIlvain saw a need and established a boarding operation for the men engaged in trucking sand for these roads.

At Paige's Shop, the reel manufacturing business continued to thrive. Morton Paige had recently secured yet another order for a carload of reels, maintaining a commercial tradition that had endured for over seventy-five years. The recent World War had severely damaged the related cradle manufacturing business by severing trade relationships with South America and Scotland, but reel production remained economically viable. The shop had recently expanded its workforce, adding R. Robinson and G. Chamberlin to com-

— continued on page 22

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## Antrim-Bennington Lions Club

Linda Morehouse

At Antrim-Bennington LIONS Club, we PRIDE ourselves on our commitment to serving and making a positive impact on our community. Our club is part of the global LIONS International network, which is dedicated to addressing local needs and fostering a spirit of service among our members.

The MANE pillars of LIONS Club International are Youth Services, Diabetes, Sight and Hearing, Environment, Childhood Cancer, Disaster Relief and Mental Health. Our service projects focus on these pillars both locally and nationally. We were happy to participate in the National Alliance for Mental Health fundraiser in Concord in October; LIONS Clubs of NH raised over \$5,000 for this organization.

Our club ROARS with energy when called upon to fill a need. Recently, we donated funds to diabetes research, LIONS Club International Foundation for disaster relief, and The Dogsight Project. This fall members donated healthy snacks to Great Brook, Antrim Elementary and Pierce Schools. Members donated over 100 activities, crayons, card games, Legos and \$160 for gas cards to Childhood Cancer Lifeline, a NH-based charity. And members donated boxes of cereal and instant oatmeal as requested by the Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry. Where there's a need, there's a LION!

Antrim Elementary School received our donation of supplies for outside activities last month. One can imagine the ROAR of excitement as children bounced basketballs, blew bubbles and wrote with sidewalk chalk during recess! An ongoing LIONS club project is "Lunches with LIONS." Our members eat lunch with small groups of CUBS at Antrim Elementary twice a month. Children PROUDLY walk out of the library with their "I ate lunch with LIONS" stickers. This activity gives students a chance to socialize with others, including caring adults from the community!

We host guest speakers at our second meeting each month. According to at least one member, the speakers are interesting and raise awareness of non-profits and businesses that serve our community. A recent speaker was local resident Jennifer Crowell, who spoke about living with physical disabilities. Guests are welcome to attend a meeting to learn more about the educational component of our club.

Please support our upcoming Christmas tree sale at Tenney Farm—one of our largest fundraisers! The profits are returned to our area through donations to local and national organizations.

We are always looking for passionate individuals to join our cause. If you have an interest in working with others to better the lives of others, Antrim-Bennington LIONS Club may be the DEN for you! Become a member and join our PRIDE; there are many ways to get involved. Together we can continue our mission and uplift our community. ❄️



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## Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice

Linda Bundy

In August we completed our discussion of *Becoming Kin* by Patty Krawec. Our history is taught from the point of view of the settlers who arrived and claimed land that was already owned, but not in the way the newcomers saw ownership. Indigenous people had a relationship with the Earth. Paying attention to the absence of indigenous history and showing up to learn when occasions like Pow Wows, lectures, book talks or documentaries are available can help us understand a different perspective on our country's past. *Becoming kin* takes time and energy but can lead to a clearer understanding of where we came from and how we can grow our interrelationships with each other and this land where we all live.

We began reading *In Defiance: 20 Abolitionists You Were Never Taught in School* by Tom Weiner and Dr. Amilcar Shabazz in September and plan to finish it by our December meeting. In the book's preface Dr. Shabazz states, "A collective biography can reveal the patterns that enable ordinary people to do extraordinarily courageous acts for peace, human rights and justice." Even though these twenty individuals are not widely known, their stories deserve telling.

Paul Jennings was enslaved as manservant and butler for President James Madison. Ultimately, he was sold to Daniel

Webster, who freed Jennings and hired him, first as a servant and later as a clerk in the Pension Office in the Department of the Interior. Jennings helped plan and organize a slave escape in Washington, DC, in April 1848, which was unsuccessful. However, the incident contributed to a US Senate debate that added a provision to the Compromise of 1850 that ended slave trade in Washington, DC. Jennings wrote a memoir about his time in the White House, *A Colored Man's Reminiscences of James Madison*—the first memoir written about life at the White House.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary was a woman of action, not words, who was born free and educated by Quakers in Pennsylvania. With the Passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, she moved to Ontario and wrote a pamphlet encouraging Black people to move to Canada, which helped motivate a migration of fifteen thousand northward. She started a racially integrated school for Black refugees from the US, firmly believing that "only exposure would guarantee each race's appreciation and respect for the other." At the onset of the Civil War, Mary Ann, a widow with two children, moved back to the United States where she encouraged Black men to enlist in the Union Army. She founded a school for the children of slaves and at the same time attended Howard University Law School, becoming the second Black female lawyer in the country, and continued to work for the abolitionist and suffrage movements.

Some of the common patterns we are noticing in the lives of these abolitionists are determination, involvement

 — continued on page 22



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## An Atheist Decorates a Christmas Tree

Bruce McGuffin

I don't believe in God at all,  
I don't believe in Jesus.  
But late each year as crimson Fall  
Grows dark the landscape freezes.  
These winter nights are cold and long,  
Once-sunlit skies turn gray.  
We need a happy Winter song  
To liven-up our day.  
We need to hang some twinkling lights  
That chase off winter woes,  
To brighten dark December nights  
And warm my frozen toes.  
The world's transformed to monochrome,  
A cold and somber scene.  
But decorated, in our home,  
The tree is ever green.  
So just ignore those doubters who  
will not support my cause.  
It's not consistent but I do  
Believe in Santa Claus.

pensate for the temporary absence of George Loveren, who had been confined by illness.

In the western sections of Antrim, hunters reported great conditions for rabbit hunting—small game that provided welcome food during the winter months. Charles Brown went out hunting for skunks and came home with a 200-pound deer.

The Reporter newspaper marked its forty-third year of publication—beginning in 1882—four decades of providing the essential local information that bound these communities together. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Lodge celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, a half-century for the largest fraternal organization in town.

The Goodell Company had temporarily suspended operations for the purpose of conducting inventory—a routine but necessary interruption of production. More troubling was the shutdown of the Abbott Company due to insufficient water supply in Great Brook, a reminder that even in water-rich New England, industrial operations remained vulnerable to natural limitations. And although there was a lack of water in Great Brook, residents were preparing to fill their ice houses from the harvest of ice from Gregg Lake.

In December of 1925, Americans paid \$20,000,000 a day in wages to have their homes built. This worked out to about \$7 a day for each builder. It's a good thing that a new Ford Runabout only cost \$260 and a load of firewood just \$4!

As we look back to December 1925 in Antrim, we see a tiny town navigating the balance between loss and resilience. The flames that consumed the Proctor barn and the passing of Mrs. Duncan remind us that change is often accompanied by sorrow. Yet the town pressed forward: roads were being built, businesses thrived and neighbors supported one another. The people of 1925 Antrim could not have imagined our world of 2025, just as we can hardly picture life in 2125. But the constant is the human capacity to endure hardship, to build and rebuild and to find hope even in difficult seasons. ❄️

**Fostering Community Conversations** continued from page 21

and being undaunted. They are often born free, with mixed parentage, and are educated.

We plan to discuss chapters 16–20 of *In Defiance* on Dec 18 at 6:30 p.m. Rather than our usual Zoom meeting in January, we hope to attend one or two events with the authors. On Jan 15, the Open Democracy Book Club will discuss the book and be joined by the authors via Zoom. RSVP at [https://www.opendemocracynh.org/odbc\\_indefiance](https://www.opendemocracynh.org/odbc_indefiance). On January 19, the authors will speak at the MLK Jr. event in Peterborough.

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](mailto:n_bundy@mcttelecom.com) or 603-588-2254. ❄️

**Antrim Recreation**

Celeste Lunetta, Recreation Director

Antrim Recreation is enjoying the transition to winter programs after a successful fall season. Our youth soccer teams competed across the region, and our younger players hosted Peterborough Recreation for some scrimmages at Shea Field. Adult Pickleball and Pick Up Basketball programs at the Town Gym are thriving, as are the adult exercise programs including SAIL (Stay Active for Independent Living), Yoga, Zumba and Zumba Tone.

We are grateful to the participants in the 2025 Halloween Window Painting Contest. For the second year, Alice Moenter took the Grand Prize for “Best Window” for her spooky moonlit landscape. Grace Taylor won the prize for “Best Window for the Curious and Playful Mind”. Jamison and Kathy Coughlin won “Best Use of Multiple Seasonal Characters.” And our favorite Assistant Town Clerk, Crystal O'Brien, painted a wonderful depiction of Krobus on a second-floor window during her precious lunch time.

Registration for Antrim Rec programs is now available through an online platform. Payment can be made electronically with debit card, credit card or e-check, or in person after online registration. We are confident this new system will be more efficient for both participants and staff. Go to the town website, [www.antrimnh.org](http://www.antrimnh.org), under “Departments” select Parks & Recreation, and select “Click Here to Register Online...” For help, email [clunetta@antrimnh.gov](mailto:clunetta@antrimnh.gov) or call 603-588-3121.



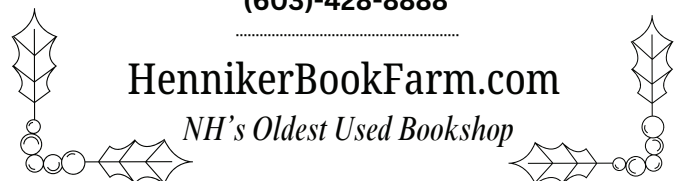
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Alice Moenter with her prize-winning window painting.

### WINTER PROGRAMS

**Voyager Ski and Ride Lessons** at Crotched Mountain, Grades K–8, Wed.; Rec Dept bus leaves immediately after school; lessons start at 4:00. Register for Voyager program at Crotched Mountain, for the bus at Antrim Rec; deadline Fri, Dec 12.

**Basketball for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders.** Six sessions, Tue & Thu in Dec, 3:20–4:30 at Town Gym. Sat in Jan and Feb; schedule TBD.

**Indoor Walking.** Adults 18+, Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri, 4–5 p.m. Free, but must register. *Possible morning walking, 7–8 a.m., Tue, Wed, Thu starting in January.*

**Yoga** with Jeanine Edmunds, Tue 6–7:15 p.m. at Town Hall.

**Zumba Toning and Zumba** with Serena, Mon 5:30 and Sat 9 a.m.

**SAIL Exercise program for active seniors,** Mon, Wed, Fri 11 a.m.–noon at Town Hall. \*FREE

**Adult Pick-Up Basketball (18+)** Tue 6:30–8 \*FREE

**Adult Pickleball** Mon 6:30–8 p.m.; Wed 3:30–5 p.m. \*FREE for Antrim residents

**Tae Kwon Do** Grades K–8, Mon 3:30–4:30

**Toddler Playground.** Ages 9 months – 3 yrs, Fri 8:30–10 a.m., Dec–Mar; open playtime with mats, tunnels, toys and activities. \*Free for Antrim residents

**Crafty Wednesday.** Grades 2–4; 3:30–5 p.m. Dec 3, 10, 17. After-school crafts with Rec Dept staff. \$15 per session; or \$35 for all three.

**4 The Girls Friday.** Girls in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade learn winter and spring sports in a low-pressure environment, training for basic athletic fitness in a fun setting, plus learning fundamentals of basketball, volleyball, tennis and lacrosse. Instructors are lifelong athletes. Fri; Dec 5, 12, 19; Jan 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb 6. \$80 for the series, or \$12 per session.

**Before School Club.** Pre-K– 8<sup>th</sup> grade, based at Antrim Rec Dept and Town Gym, adjacent to AES and across from GBS; operating every day school is in session. Four activity blocks each day, with choices ranging from quiet to action. Open 6:30 a.m.; close 8:20 a.m.; if school delay, 8:30–10:30 a.m.; tiered rates for part-time and full-time attendance.

**Puzzle Palooza.** Who can be the first to assemble a 300-piece puzzle and bask in the glorious title of Puzzle Master? Sign up in teams of 2–5; house team also, if enough individual registrations. Free and open to participants ages 10–300. Upstairs at Town Hall, 4:30 p.m., Mon, Dec 29, Jan 19 and Feb 23. Registration open until Thu before.

**Family Fun Nights.** Fri, Feb 20 & Mar 6, 6–8 p.m. Open gym, options for basketball, floor hockey, ping pong, pickleball, crafts and more. For kids ages 4–10 and their families. \*Free

**Beat the Winter Blues with Bluegrass** concert, rescheduled from the summer, featuring Mr. Bill, Sun, Feb 1, at Town Hall, time TBD. Stay tuned!

Antrim Recreation is honored to be of service to the community. We welcome your questions, concerns, recommendations and feedback. Give us a call at 603–588–3121 or contact us through [antrimnh.org](http://antrimnh.org). ✨

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## Where in Antrim?

George Davison, Ann Edwards and Beth Merrill were the observant Antrim residents who identified the location of the engraved stone marker at the site of the first schoolhouse in Antrim, on Goodell Road near the entrance to the Transfer Station. Ann Edwards won the gift certificate for Edmunds Ace Hardware.

The names of all who correctly identify the location of this photo by December 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for Blue Feather Farm. Email your response to [editor@antrimlimrik.org](mailto:editor@antrimlimrik.org) or call 603-588-2569. Photo by Frank Gorga. Happy hunting! ❁



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## Antrim Hosted Regional Planners Roundtable

Darby Wilson

On September 25, the James A. Tuttle Library served as the meeting spot for a well-attended Citizen Planner Peer-to-Peer Roundtable, hosted by the Antrim Planning Board and co-organized by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission and the Monadnock Housing Collaborative. The roundtable was part of a quarterly series designed to keep rural communities connected to new developments in topics on planning and housing. Each roundtable is held in a different Monadnock Region town—in the past year, sessions have been held in Gilsum, Temple, Harrisville and Chesterfield, with Antrim taking its turn this fall. The idea is to keep the events accessible and shine the spotlight across the region’s small towns, bringing their knowledge and experience to the table. This event brought together Planners and Planning Board members from across the Monadnock Region, ranging from New Ipswich to Chesterfield, to review recent legislative changes, especially those that may affect New Hampshire’s smaller, more rural areas.

Key speaker Nick Taylor, Executive Director for Housing Action NH, walked the roundtable through eight pieces of state legislation and what they mean for local planning boards and zoning regulations, including:

**HB 296**, concerning building permits on private roads and appeals to Zoning Boards of Adjustment

**HB 413**, addressing subdivision regulations, infrastructure completion and building permits

**HB 457**, which modifies occupancy restrictions on dwelling units

**HB 577**, redefining accessory dwelling units (ADUs)

**HB 631**, allowing residential construction in commercial zones

**SB 188**, relating to third-party inspections and the state building code

**SB 281**, limiting a municipality’s ability to deny building or occupancy permits on land abutting Class VI roads

**SB 284**, regarding municipal authority to regulate on-site parking requirements

Of these, **HB 577**, which updates the rules concerning ADUs, sparked the most conversation. For example, representatives from Stoddard shared that their local 30-day minimum rental rule will have to be removed, since the new law says towns can’t regulate ADUs more strictly than primary homes.

The group considered how different towns handle owner or resident occupancy requirements. For example, Harrisville, given its many seasonal homes, has chosen to adopt a six-month occupancy rule to help ensure at least one dwelling on a property is inhabited by the owner. This example prompted a lively discussion about how such policies can be adapted to fit each community’s unique housing landscape.

### Concerns About Legislative Impact/Implementation

Not all the talk was in favor of the new legislation. Some topics of concern were legislation being vague, having tight timelines for implementation on the town’s side, and limited opportunity for local input while the laws were being drafted. Bills **HB 296** and **SB 281**, both dealing with development on Class VI and private roads, also drew particular attention. Participants pointed out the differences between the two, raising questions about municipal liability, enforcement and ownership—issues especially relevant for rural towns where those roads are common.

### Looking Ahead

The group also discussed how state and local governments could work together more effectively. Ideas included clearer communication from lawmakers about the intent of each bill and even creating “test communities” representing different types of towns like rural, lakeside, college and so on, to see how legislation might impact each differently. As housing and development challenges continue to evolve, gatherings like this roundtable help local leaders share what’s working, raise questions and find solutions together.

The next regional roundtable will be held in the new year. The strong turnout in Antrim showed just how important these conversations are for keeping our communities informed and connected. ✨

### Thanks to ...

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



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## Grapevine

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We wish all of you a peaceful and happy holiday season in 2025. As the local social service for this region, we serve our community through the joys and challenges of life! Did you know... This past year we distributed over \$20,000 in direct financial assistance to local families during a time where basic necessities are harder to afford. Are you or someone you know struggling to cover bills or pay for groceries or experiencing financial hardship? Please call The Grapevine—we may be able to help.

We are able to provide our many programs and resources because of local, individual support. Please consider donating to our organization this holiday season. We are a local, trusted non-profit serving our community for nearly 30 years. You can easily give at our website, [grapevinenh.org](http://grapevinenh.org). You can also give of your time and talent by volunteering. Please contact us to learn more. As always, we truly value your feedback. You can reach Executive Director Melissa Gallagher at [melissag@grapevinenh.org](mailto:melissag@grapevinenh.org).

**Snowfamilies Playday** is back! Join us on Sat, Feb 7 from 10–noon at The Grapevine for a morning of fun indoor and outdoor activities. More information will follow.

### ONGOING PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Kinship Navigator Program.** Our Kinship Navigator, Rosemary Nugent, a parenting grandmother, can offer emotional support, help accessing resources, connection to other relative caregivers, and a friendly voice to check in. Give us a call or email Rosemary at [rosemaryn@grapevinenh.org](mailto:rosemaryn@grapevinenh.org).

**(FREE) Community Suppers.** Join your friends and neighbors for a warm meal on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of each month at the Presbyterian Church. Upcoming dates and sponsorships: Dec 18 (Antrim Grange), Jan 15 (Antrim Elementary School), and Feb 20 (Great Brook School).

**Weekly Child & Parent Programs.** We welcome all children, birth to 5 yrs and their parents.

Better Beginnings for Babies (newborn to 16 mths): Thurs, 9:30–11. (Accepting new participants)

Out and About: Family-friendly walks and hikes! Outdoor locations, Thurs, 10–11:30.

Better Beginnings Parent/Child Groups: Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 9:30–11:30.

Parent-Child Playgroups in Hillsborough: Thurs, 10–noon & 12:30–2:30.

**Monthly Gathering for Aging Adults.** Whatever you consider yourself to be... Senior, aging or older adult, retired person? Join us the last Tues each month at Avenue A for refreshments, socializing, learning about resources and having fun! Contact Karen to learn more at [karenp@grapevinenh.org](mailto:karenp@grapevinenh.org).

**SAIL Exercise Group.** A free program focused on improving strength and balance in a fun setting, Mon, Wed, Fri,

11–12 at Town Hall, second floor (wheelchair accessible). Register by calling or emailing [info@grapevinenh.org](mailto:info@grapevinenh.org).

**Dads Campfire.** Meets with Rick Edmunds monthly on Tues at The Grapevine. Pizza provided. Contact Teresa at [teresab@grapevinenh.org](mailto:teresab@grapevinenh.org) for more information.

**Moms Campfire.** Join other moms/caregivers around the campfire to hang out and talk about life; at The Grapevine, first Thurs of the month, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Pizza provided. Call for more information.

**Community Wood Bank.** We have wood available for distribution to people with an emergency need this season. The community wood bank acts as a temporary resource in emergency situations for those who use wood as their primary heat source. Contact us if you or someone you know needs wood OR if you are able to help us deliver to a neighbor who finds themselves suddenly in need.

**Partner with The Grapevine and Help Your Neighbors in the Winter Season!** We're looking to develop a list of reliable, local plow companies to fulfill snow removal needs for families in the area. We are also looking for helpers with occasional rides for people with limited transportation. If you or someone you know would like to be listed as resource, please contact us at [info@grapevinenh.org](mailto:info@grapevinenh.org).

**Thank you** to the extraordinary people who supported The Grapevine in so many ways over the fall, including **Antrim-Bennington Lions Club; Pineview Excavation** for sand delivery; **Blu Box Portable Storage;** the **Town of Antrim Highway Department, Rick Edmunds and our Dads Campfire volunteers; Peter Moore** for cutting our knotweed; teen volunteers from **ConVal High School**, who raked, washed windows, gleaned gutters and lifted heavy items for their Fall Day of Service; the **local donors and shoppers** who visited our Fall Yard Sale as well as **Dottie Bauer, Nick Hill, Brynn Hill, James Panico, Amy and George Davis** for set up and clean up, helping us raise over \$1,000; the people who have donated to our wishlist regularly, especially **Sue & John Conklin;** donors and bidders in our 2025 Online Auction; the **Knights of Columbus St Mary Council**, especially Mike Connolly, for their partnership in getting winter coats to families; **Pete Davison** for the donations of honey for our staff and families; **Susan Bartlett** for cordwood donation; **Gene Willett** for donating his cordwood raffle winning to The Grapevine; **Bob Edwards** for

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picking up our trash every week and **End 68 Hours of Hunger** for delivering food bags and items to us each week.

We experienced the sudden and tragic loss of three teens in our community this past October. We appreciate the partnership of the **ConVal School District**, the **American Legion** in Hillsborough, **Cynthia Ingraham & Shiva Catering**, **David Cope**, MSW, LICSW, and **Patrick Cogan & his dog Rosie** as we supported teens and families impacted by this loss.

### OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE AT THE GRAPEVINE...

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

### Fall Highlights from Avenue A

Jacqueline Roland, Director of Teen Programs

This fall has been full of growth, creativity and community at Avenue A. We welcomed Hannah Matteson as our new Avenue A Coordinator in September. Hannah brings over ten years of experience working with teens in educational and community settings, along with a BS in Psychology and a MS in Education. A former English teacher with extensive experience supporting neurodivergent youth, Hannah is deeply committed to creating safe, empowering spaces where teens feel seen, supported and inspired to thrive. She's already been an incredible addition to our team at Avenue A.

Our Woodworking Group kicked off the season by building a deck on our Community Tool Shed. It was an awesome team effort, and the finished result looks great! Now the group is back at the MAXT Makerspace woodshop for the winter, ready to tackle new projects.

With sixty middle schoolers participating between our Monday and Wednesday sessions, our Afterschool Program has reached a record high this fall. Our new space has made it easy for youth to flow between indoor and outdoor activities, keeping everyone active and engaged. Thanks to the Bagel Mill in Peterborough for generously donating our favorite afterschool snack—bagels with cream cheese!

Featuring our middle school Writers' Society and our high school creative writing club (Write Out!), our Creative Writing Program is celebrating its ninth year. During writing club meetings, our center is filled with joy, imagination and laughter—proof that creative expression continues to be a central part of Avenue A.

Our T.A.C.O cooking program had a bustling summer and fall, with outdoor grilling at our new outdoor space. This enthusiastic group of fifteen teen chefs, supported by an amazing team of six volunteers, continues to cook, learn and share meals together each week. The group is putting their grill away and moving indoors to the Antrim Presbyterian Church kitchen for winter.

Our Pickup Basketball Program also thrived this fall. Thanks to Antrim Recreation for providing gym space. It's been inspiring to see older teens mentoring younger players, creating a respectful and uplifting environment for everyone on the court.

From September through late October, our Outdoor Adventures group explored local streams and natural areas—from the North Branch River in Antrim to Cranberry Meadow Pond in Peterborough. These weekly outings gave twelve middle schoolers a chance to connect with nature, build friendships and develop curiosity for the outdoors.

Our new space continues to spark new growth. Last fiscal year, Avenue A served more than 350 teens—a record for us. In just the first four months of this fiscal year, we're already halfway to that number. Avenue A is thriving because of the dedication of our volunteers, the generosity of our supporters and the energy of the incredible young people who fill our programs each week. We are so grateful to everyone who is part of our work.

This fall we're launching two new cozy programs...Knitting & Crocheting Club on Tuesdays and a Caroling Group that will meet on Monday nights. For more info about our programs email Jacqueline at [avenuea@grapevindh.org](mailto:avenuea@grapevindh.org) or visit [avenueatc.org](http://avenueatc.org). ✨

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