

When Snow Buried the Fences

Bill Nichols, Antrim Historical Society

By the time you read this, spring will only be 20 days away. The winter of 2025–26 has been a cold one with below zero temperatures in December, January and February, and snowfall in some areas approaching 40-plus inches. But we have it easy. If we get cold, we can just burn a little more oil or gas, or toss another log on the fire. But have you ever given a thought to what the people of Antrim had to go through over 200 years ago just to stay warm? Luckily, we had a few historians who recorded the weather back then, including two who lived in town.

In February of 1802, Cochrane writes about “The Great Snow,” when four to five feet of snow came down in Antrim and isolated the town from the rest of the re-

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On a Saturday morning at the Revival Shop, Maurice Connell works behind the scenes. Photo by Joan Gorga.

TOWN ELECTIONS
TUESDAY MARCH 10 • 8 A.M. – 7 P.M.

Town Hall

TOWN MEETING
THURSDAY MARCH 13 • 6 P.M.

Town Hall

Candidates for Town Offices

Town elections will be held on Tuesday, March 10, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall. Candidates for town offices were contacted via the email address they gave when filing and given the opportunity to submit short statements (300 words for selectboard candidates; 150 for all other offices) introducing themselves and summarizing their motivation for running. Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. Town Meeting will be held Thursday, March 12, at 6 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall.

SELECTMAN

1 open seat, 3-year term

Robert Edwards

At 81 yrs old, I have served as a member of the Antrim Select Board for 8 years and I’m asking for your support to allow me to continue my service for another 3 years. I am a 55 year resident of Antrim, and have served as a Trustee of Trust Funds, Planning Board member, and as part of my Select Board responsibilities, I have served with the Water & Sewer Dept, Recreation Dept and Select Board Advisory Committee at the Conval School District. I am currently the School District Moderator and serve as a board member on the NH Municipal Association and as Chairman of the Assessing Standards Board in Concord.

The reason for seeking another term is to continue to work with others on a state and local level to help address the challenges facing small NH communities. Prudent fiscal management of our town’s financial resources becomes more challenging each year, affordable housing is an on-going challenge, reductions in financial support from both the state and federal government continue to have Select Board’s investigating other funding sources, determining the appropriate level of service

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Limrik Staff

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Managing Editor | Joan Gorga | 603-588-2569 |
| Business Manager | Frank Gorga | 603-588-2569 |
| Subscriptions Manager | Ann Gilbert | |
| Contributing Artist | Virginia Dickinson | |
| Page Layout & Design | Connie Kirwin | |
| Photo Editor | Frank Gorga | |

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

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

— SUBSCRIPTIONS —

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

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

— SUBMISSIONS —

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

— LETTERS TO THE EDITOR —

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

— WEBSITE —

www.antrimlimrik.org

Deadline for Antrim Scholarship Applications is May 1st

Sarah Edwards, Chair, Antrim Scholarship Committee

The Antrim Scholarship Committee welcomes 2026 applications from Antrim students planning to continue their education beyond high school, and also from town residents already studying at the college level or furthering their professional credits.

Applications for financial assistance for the 2026–2027 academic year are available at the Antrim Town Hall, or online at the town's website (www.antrimnh.org), or at the ConVal High School guidance office. Note: The committee will also be accepting the CVHS Common Application (deadline April 8th).

Completed applications (including a transcript of current grades and a short essay) must be postmarked no later than May 1st or stamped received at Antrim Town Hall by May 1st. Successful applicants will be notified of their award in early June.

Awards are available from: the Thompson Fund, which supports students after their freshman year; the Tibbetts Fund for studies in the medical field; the Joan L. Dunlap Scholarship Fund for students attending Keene State College; the Beverly N. Tenney Scholarship Fund for studies in the education field; the Benjamin W. Tenney Scholarship Fund for those seeking an education in the trades or apprenticeships; The Jameson Fund for studies in the medical field; and the Antrim Wind Energy Scholarship Fund for students seeking post-secondary education.

Last year, twelve Antrim residents received a total of \$22,500 in scholarships from these funds.

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Select Board Report

Bob Edwards, Selectman

As Antrim's municipal government enters 2026, budgets and taxes are always in the forefront. The Budget Hearing has now passed and we're on to the voting on both the operating budget and warrant articles on March 12th. The Select Board carefully analyzes all requests for funding from all its departments and others with a focus on the resident's expected level of service and its impact on Antrim taxpayers shouldered by real estate taxes. Ordinary income and other income sources never cover the cost of operating our town, so the shortfall is shouldered by real estate taxes.

In addition to operating our town, taxpayers are required to support our portion of county expense, and of course, our cooperative school district. The state and local school tax portion equates to 61% of Antrim's tax rate of \$23.11/\$1,000 of assessed value with the Town's portion being 34% and the remaining 5% for our county tax.

The Town's proposed operating budget, without Water & Sewer costs paid by the users, is proposed for 2026 at \$4,657,000. After considering proposed special and individual warrant articles and after deducting total anticipated revenue and other credits, the proposed amount to be raised by property taxes in the 2026 budget is \$3,720,325.

The proposed 2026–2027 ConVal School District budget is \$63,100,834. Antrim's share of the school budget is based upon 50% of our equalized property assessment in comparison with the other eight District towns and 50% based upon Antrim's ADM (Average Daily Membership) or enrollment. The most recent calculation indicates Antrim is responsible for approximately 14.97% of the entire ConVal School District's budget and our remittance to ConVal currently is \$474,131.50 monthly.

As the Select Board looks ahead in 2026, we are planning for our last major bridge replacement on Liberty Farm Road, as well as how best to address and fund the future needs of our Highway and Transfer Station property and the maintenance and repairs needs of our multiple other town-owned properties. All these initiatives and other budgeting matters are being developed with careful consideration of their impact on our taxpayers.

The Select Board urges every taxpayer to familiarize themselves with the costs associated with operating our Town and School District and how those costs will impact our town's tax rate and financial health.

Thank you and please be involved, ask informed questions and participate in Town Meeting on March 12th. ☐

Candidates for Town Offices continued from page 1

to our residents that taxpayers can afford requires careful prioritization, legislative unfunded mandates continue to impact local government and of course, the real estate tax impact on residents for supporting public education continues to increase.

The complexity of 21st century municipal management demands Select Boards of today to continue educating themselves on new and better management practices, making a greater time commitment to the position, becoming knowledgeable about legislation that will impact our town in many different ways, improving real estate assessing practices, working smarter and researching regionalization of services with neighboring communities and much more.

Thank you for considering supporting me and should you have specific questions, please reach out to me at rledwardsbos@gmail.com.

Richard Smolag, Jr

My name is Richard Smolag Jr. I am running for selectman for the town of Antrim. We have a really nice town. The problem is if things keep going the way they are all of us are going to find it hard to live here because of the property taxes if you look at your taxes it is costing more to run the conval school that it cost to run the town. Some of the articles that are being brought up example your taxes will go up 12¢ that is on \$100,000.00 if your house is \$300,000.00 that's \$36.00 add up everything asking to be passed and your taxes go up hundreds. I want to work for all of us to find ways to keep the spending down and maybe we can all live here in Antrim without breaking the bank and maybe do things in town to make Antrim even better if I get voted in I will have an open door and work for the people of this town. Your concerns matter and I feel that your concerns should be part of the decision that are made on how your money is spent. I am looking forward to working for the people of this town at the fullest of my ability. Hope to see you all at the poles.

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

2 open seats, 3-year term

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Jennifer A. Adams

I have been an Antrim resident since 2020, a Library Trustee since 2023, Secretary of the Board since 2025, and leader of the We Digress Book Club. I am proud to be a part of the dynamic interaction between the Library staff and the Board of Trustees; even prouder of our amazing Director and her staff. The Library has been a vital part of the community since 1908, the envy of other libraries, not just for its architecture, but because of its variety of programs for every age, its Friends of the Library, and even its Library of Things. Whether you like your books in hardcopy, digital, or audio format, or you need to borrow a pasta maker, the Library is here for you. My goal is to continue my work on the Board of Trustees and help keep Antrim’s heartbeat alive, independent, forward thinking, and timeless.

Timothy Morehouse

Since moving to Antrim I have been a supporter of the Tuttle Library. I believe that it is one of the pillars to a strong community. I have given my time performing small repairs at the library and working, as a friend of the library, filling the needs requested by the staff. As a trustee I believe that I can offer even more to this wonderful facility. I would appreciate your vote at the polls.

PLANNING BOARD

2 open seats, 3-year term

Ken Rubin

I am running for re-election to the Antrim Planning Board, where I have served for more than three years—first as an alternate, and now in a full term. During that time, I’ve enjoyed working alongside fellow board members, town staff, and residents to help guide thoughtful, practical planning for our community.

I’m proud of the work we’ve done to balance Antrim’s rural character with the realities of change—whether that’s housing needs, land use, or long-term infrastructure. I believe good planning comes from listening carefully, following the law, asking hard questions, and treating everyone who comes before the Board with respect.

Antrim is a special place, and I value its strong sense of community and civic involvement. Serving on the Planning Board has been a meaningful way to give back, and I would be honored to continue that work in another term.

Dennis Young

My name is Dennis Young, I live on Clinton Road in Antrim Centre, just past the Antrim Grange. I am an active member of the community as a member of the Grange, Antrim Bennington Lions Club, and a lifetime member of the Antrim Historical Society. I have also volunteered with the Grapevine, an important part of Antrim’s community. I am seeking re-election to the Planning Board for a 3-year term.

I am honored to have been elected to the Planning board

in 2025 for a 1-year term after serving as an alternate in 2024.

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

PLANNING BOARD

1 open seat, 1-year term

No candidates

MODERATOR

1 open seat, 2-year term

Arthur Merrill

I’ve been in the Grange for more than fifty years, and became Master when I was only 19, so I learned how to run meetings. Being Moderator is something I enjoy doing, and I see it as my small way to give something back to the town.

SUPERVISOR OF THE CHECKLIST

1 open seat, 6-year term

Bruce McGuffin

The Supervisors of the Checklist are responsible for recording voter registration, maintaining the list of registered voters in our town, and checking the voter list during elections. That includes verifying new voter’s eligibility to vote in Antrim by verifying citizenship, age, and residence, updating addresses as needed, and removing voters who have moved out of town. Well-run elections are a key component of our democratic system. As a Supervisor of the Checklist I will faithfully execute the duties of that office in accordance with the laws of the State of New Hampshire.

TOWN CLERK

1 open seat, 3-year term

Ann Gilbert

It has been my privilege to serve as the Antrim Interim Town Clerk following the retirement of the long-serving Town Clerk. I retired from the Internal Revenue Service where I

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Community Update: ConVal District Meeting Part 1

Dr. Sarah Edmunds and Dr. Katherine Foecking

Approximately 150 community members gathered on February 3, 2026, at ConVal High School to deliberate on the 11 Warrant Articles that will appear on your ballot on March 10. As your Antrim representatives, we want to ensure you are informed on the outcomes of these discussions before you head to the polls.

Key Warrant Article Highlights

- **Article 1 (German Program Open Enrollment):** This article moved forward as presented. If passed, it designates our high school German program as an open-enrollment program for up to 35 students. Crucially, this plan is balanced by a 0% limit on ConVal students attending open-enrollment schools outside the district, protecting our local resources while maintaining program excellence.
- **Article 2 (Operating Budget):** After some deliberation, the budget moved forward as presented. We are proud that this budget represents a mere 1.43% increase over the current year—a testament to our commitment to balancing fiscal prudence with high-quality education.
- **Article 8 (Francestown Withdrawal):** While there was no deliberation on this article, it is important for voters to note that this is the only article not recommended by the ConVal School Board with a vote of 10–3.
- **Article 10 (School Board Salaries):** Former School Board Chair Dick Dunning proposed an amendment to nominally increase board member salaries. This was overwhelmingly accepted by the legislative body and will appear in its amended form on the ballot.

Looking Ahead to March 10

All other articles passed without deliberation, but every single one requires your voice at the polls. Our public schools are a pillar of our democracy, and your participation ensures they remain strong, accountable and transparent.

For a full breakdown of all warrant articles, visit our website at schoolboard.conval.edu. Thank you for your continued engagement and for the privilege of serving Antrim. ☐

Conservation Corner

Peter Beblowski

Welcome to the New Year 2026. The Antrim Conservation Commission (ACC) has placed a warrant article in this year's town meeting to make the Campbell Pond town properties a formal "Town Forest" under RSA 31:110. The benefits of making the Campbell Pond town-owned lands a Town Forest are numerous. First, it sets town policy on the intended use of the property. Second, it establishes that any income generated by forest activities be placed in a special property (forest) maintenance fund that will be allowed to accumulate from year to year. It is the intent of the ACC to manage the town forest as a self-supporting entity—to make the forest more diverse, healthy and productive, and therefore more resilient to climate change. Third, it will protect the water quality and the ecosystem at Campbell Pond. A properly managed town forest can provide a good example for private landowners of a well-managed woodlot that protects wildlife and natural resources. This will be accomplished by conducting a forest inventory and stewardship management plan. More on this will be provided in future *Limrik* articles if the designation of "Town Forest" moves forward. Finally, it is the intent of the ACC, at this time, not to require general fund money; therefore this warrant will not increase taxes.

We would also like to take this opportunity to let you know NH Fish & Game issued a revision of the NH Wildlife Action Plan (NHwap 2025) at the end of last year. It can be found within the GRANITView web mapping application. This application provides access to key data layers, along with a suite of tools to navigate and interact with those data layers and can be found at https://granit-view.unh.edu/html5viewer/?viewer=granit_view&extent=905202.31,539689.12,951660,588958.12,3437.


Finally, the ACC will be conducting both an Earth Day hike at Meadow Marsh and a spring ephemeral walk at a location and time to be determined in April and May. When the dates and times are finalized, they will be posted on the commission's "Trails of Antrim" Facebook page. Additionally, the Hiking and Walking Groups will be resuming their regular activities in mid to late May. Please visit frequently to check on updates. ☐



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had a lot of practice listening and responding to taxpayer issues and feedback. During my time at the IRS, I dealt with very large issues but also some very small issues and came to appreciate that any amount that was material to the taxpayer was material to me. I will bring that perspective to the Town Clerk's Office where I would be focused on strengthening public confidence and ensuring legal compliance.

My commitment to public service is further evidenced in other ways. I am an EMT on the Antrim Ambulance and am a long time Ski Patroller at CM. I serve as the Treasurer for the Antrim Bennington Lions Club.

I am CPA and hold a master's degree in taxation.

TREASURER

1 open seat, 3-year term

Diane Chauncey

Over the years, I have worn many hats – Supervisor of the Checklist, Planning Department secretary, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and, most recently, Town Clerk/Tax Collector. I have really enjoyed doing the various jobs and, through them, have developed a “big” picture of how a municipality operates.

On December 31, 2025, I retired from my position as Town Clerk/Tax Collector; however, I would like to continue working for the Town as Town Treasurer. The Treasurer's responsibilities include the general management of all incoming and outgoing funds, including banking, bookkeeping, and record-keeping. The Treasurer must adhere to financial laws, tax regulations, and internal financial policies. All revenue submitted to the Town is entered into the Town's bookkeeping software by the Town Clerk/Tax Collector Department. Accounts Payable, Payroll, etc. are administered by the Finance Director, and the Treasurer oversees the registers. I have truly loved working for the Town and retiring was a difficult decision, I hope to continue as Town Treasurer.

Helene Newbold

My name is Helene Newbold. I have lived in Antrim for 46 years. I am running for the position of Treasurer. I have in the past been the treasurer for the Antrim First Presby-

terian Church for 22 years. I am currently treasurer for the Historical Society (for 3 years) and Home and Harvest for the last 2 years. I have taken courses in bookkeeping, accounting and taught math for 25 years. My candidacy is about giving back to the town using the skills I have.

TRUSTEE OF TRUST FUNDS

1 open seat, 3-year term

Michael Connolly

I am seeking your vote as a Trustees of the Trust Funds having served in his position the past 7 years.

With my fellow trustees we are charged with the custody and management of the town's charitable and capital reserve trusts. The charitable trust fund is composed of 30 individual trusts which are managed as an investment pool with the advice of RBC Wealth Management as required by state law. Trust principle is restricted and income is distributed annually to the beneficiaries, which include the Tuttle Library, the AES and GBS schools, the Scholarship Committee, the Town Poor, Town Recreation and the Cemetery Trusts. The Capital Reserve Trusts are created and managed as a result of the decisions of the Town Meeting and are a device for accruing and appropriating tax funds for special projects. These nine funds are invested and managed as separate accounts in The New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool, (AKA The PDIP).

CEMETERY TRUSTEE

1 open seat, 3-year term

No candidates

COMMUNITY BOARD

2 open seats, 3-year term

James Panico

As someone who truly cares about the well-being of Antrim and its residents, I am excited to announce my candidacy for a three-year term on the Antrim Community Board. Having lived in town for several years with my wife and family, I have always looked for ways to give back to this wonderful community.

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Antrim Police Department

Chief John Blake

The Antrim Police Department is entering the coming months fully staffed! New hire Morrigan Bernier will attend the New Hampshire Police Academy in May, bringing the department to full staffing with six full-time officers. Part-time Officer Nick Cole is nearing completion of field training and is expected to begin solo patrol soon, providing additional weekend coverage for the community.

This spring, K-9 Dexter and Officer Girard will attend a nine-week narcotics detection training program, further enhancing the department's capabilities. In March, the Antrim Police Department will also host a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for local law enforcement agencies, reinforcing a regional commitment to effective and compassionate responses to mental health-related incidents. ☐

Antrim Grange

Arthur Merrill

Antrim Grange served the Community supper in December. We tried something new this year—a baked potato bar with all the fixings. Over 40 people enjoyed this time of food and fellowship.

Work on the Grange Hall rehabilitation has paused for the winter and will start again in the spring as time and funds permit.

Towards fund raising, the Grange will again sponsor a 120 club raffle starting in March. Tickets are \$20 each. Weekly \$20 winners will be drawn, and at the end of 20 weeks, a \$100, \$200, and \$300 winner will be drawn. Get your tickets from any Grange member, or at our table on town election day.

On Wednesday, May 20th, the Grange will hold our annual Community Awards Night, where we honor those who make Antrim a better place to live. If you have any suggestions as to who we should honor, let the Secretary of the Grange, Beth Merrill, know.

If you enjoy doing community service and learning more about our grass roots activism, you're welcome to join us on the first and third Wednesdays each month. For more information contact Secretary Beth Merrill at 603-547-7211. ☐

Antrim Recreation

Celeste Lunetta, Director

Antrim Recreation continues to plan and program for residents of all ages and interests. We offer many ongoing programs such as indoor walking, pickleball, exercise classes and youth programs. We are currently accepting registrations for youth players for spring baseball and softball leagues, with registrations due by March 9.

We are bringing back some programs that were popular in the '90s. **Family Fun Night** is a chance to play a variety of games, do some crafts, bust some dance moves... We set up the gym for free family fun designed for elementary aged kids (5-10) and their families. Our next scheduled FFN is Fri, Mar 20, 6-8 p.m.

Our expanded **Bike, Hike, Scooter and Skate Safety Day** will be Sun, May 17, 1-3 p.m., at multiple locations including Antrim Town Gym and Memorial Park.

Spring Egg Hunt for children in 4th grade and younger will be held at Memorial Park Sat, Mar 28, at 10:30 a.m.

Puzzle Palloozas. Join with a team of 2-4 people! Mon, Apr 27 and May 18, 4:30-6 p.m. Preregistration required.

Gregg Lake Beach Clean-Up Day. Earn yourself a Gregg Lake T-shirt! Wed, Apr 22, 3-6 p.m. To volunteer, call, email or register on the Rec Department website.

Bus Trip to Hildene Estate in Manchester, VT, Thurs, Apr 30, with a stop at the Vermont Country Store. Leave Antrim at 9 a.m., return by 5 p.m. Preregistration required by Mon, Apr 20.

Youth Fishing Derby for kids ages 16 and under, Sat, May 2, 8 a.m., Memorial Park.

Sporties for Shorties. A multi-sport development program for kids ages 4-6. Sat, 9-9:45 a.m., May 9, 16, & 30, June 6 & 13. Preregistration required.

Upcoming community **bus trip to Lowell Museum.** Thurs, May 28. Save the date; details coming soon.

Antrim Recreation **Days of Summer Camp** offers a variety of themed weekly programs for children entering grades 1-7, running Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; drop-off 8:30-9:00 a.m., pick-up 3:30-4:00 p.m. Each week costs \$200 for residents and \$230 for non-residents, with additional field

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Currently serving as an Alternate on the Community Board, I have contributed to several initiatives like the Antrim Beautification Project, Business Fair, Farmstand List, and Community Board mailings. I also volunteer with The Grapevine and Antrim-Bennington Lions, and have led the organizing of Antrim's Festival of Trees for three years. With over 15 years of creative experience in marketing and design, I enjoy using my professional background and passion for community engagement to help our residents connect and improve quality of life. I would be honored to earn your vote on election day.

Linda Tenney

After living in Antrim for over 55 years, I almost feel like a native who wishes to encourage Antrim to grow in some many positive ways. It is encouraging to see many residents offering their time and talent to help Antrim which I hope to do by being on the Community Board. This organization has provided several venues of town resources from the Swap Shop to Community Fairs to future innovations.

The joy of community members working and sharing thoughts and actual activities promises to me that you truly can wish upon a star! My hope is that cooperation along with innovation will provide a bright future for everyone in our Antrim via my work on this board. The dream that many things are possible is wonderful and so positive. I truly wish to be a part of this dream.

SCHOOL BOARD

1 open seat, 3-year term

Katherine Foecking

My name is Dr. Katherine Foecking, and I am seeking reelection to the ConVal School Board for a three-year term. With 25 years in education—including 13 in our district—I bring a seasoned, professional perspective to our leadership.

Through my work on the Policy and Education committees, I have focused on ensuring our curriculum drives student growth while maintaining compliance with federal and state mandates. I remain dedicated to a budget that balances fiscal prudence with the excellence our students deserve. Furthermore, I am a vocal advocate at the state level, fighting for adequate funding and inclusive educational policies.

Public schools are a pillar of our democracy; I prioritize transparency and collaboration to ensure every student thrives. I ask for your vote to allow me to continue this important work for our town. ☐

Friends of the JA Tuttle Library

Linda Morehouse

Have you attended events in the library and tasted delicious treats? Then you have experienced the hospitality of Friends of the Library. Have you participated in cookie or cupcake decorating in the children's room or teen room? Chances are that the treats were provided by a "Friend." Have you appreciated the lovely landscaping in front of the library? Then you have seen the work of our landscaping team. Have you been able to find a book on the shelf because it is filed in the appropriate place? Our inventory team assists the library staff with book inventory. If a new baby joined your family this year, we hope you enjoyed the newborn book bag that is provided free of charge. The Friends of the Library work closely with the exceptional library staff and enthusiastic trustees to support library programming.

The Friends of the Library provide two museum passes and one NH state park pass every year. These passes provide discounted ticket prices and can be checked out for free with your library card! Additionally, we contributed \$500 toward the cost of electronic resources Hoopla and Libby, which have experienced growth in usage over the past year. The Friends have set up a PayPal account to direct monetary donations toward these e-resources, so watch for the QR code in the monthly library newsletter. Thank you for supporting our election day bake sale and purchasing tote bags or a suncatcher at the library.

The non-profit Friends of the Library 501(c)3 extends an invitation to join our group. The next meeting is Saturday, June 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the library. Join the group by registering at the circulation desk and attending one of our quarterly meetings. We request a \$10 donation toward our projects; the membership chair will contact you with more information. New members are welcome! ☐



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MTButlerCarpenter@icloud.com



603-588-2637

Antrim Fire – Ambulance – Emergency Management

Chief Marshall W. Gale

2025 marked a historic year for Antrim Fire and Ambulance, with a total of 689 service calls, significantly surpassing the typical annual figures of 560. This year, the department responded to 191 fire-related incidents and 498 EMS ambulance calls. Notably, there was an uptick in motor vehicle accidents, false alarms triggered by smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and incidents involving trees and power lines. Thankfully, despite several serious injuries from vehicle crashes, there were no fatalities. On a positive note, the department experienced its most successful recruitment year in recent times, adding six new members, which will bolster operational capacity, particularly after years of low staffing levels. Additionally, several team members achieved EMT certification, becoming licensed EMS providers.

On the fire front, a significant incident involved a major fire at a commercial auto repair facility, where heavy flames were visible upon the first officer's arrival. The situation escalated to a second alarm, and due to the substantial fuel load within the building, it was ultimately declared a total loss, with the cause remaining undetermined due to the intensity of the fire. Throughout the year, the department also responded to multiple wind and rain events, with the rain events leading to some road washouts despite improve-

ments to Antrim's drainage systems. While New Hampshire experienced a below-average spring wildfire season, the summer brought unprecedented drought conditions, marking the driest summer in 130 years. Consequently, on September 22, the Governor and the Director of Forests and Lands declared a state of emergency due to the extreme drought. The Governor and the Director of Forests and Lands implemented a ban on all open fires, with State Forest Fire Wardens actively raising public awareness through posters and town patrols. This statewide burn ban was lifted on October 29, following significant rainfall across the state.



Throughout the year, our team has engaged in monthly training drills to stay updated on the latest technologies and techniques, ensuring effective emergency service. One of these new skills is large-animal rescue, mainly involving horses. The department purchased rescue slings designed for large-animal rescue. Sharon Westen of Monarch Hills Farm sponsored a training class taught by veterinarians, and since that training, we have responded to 3 incidents involving horses.

In response to rising fire equipment costs, we initiated a proactive maintenance program, resulting in comprehensive servicing and inspections of all fire vehicles to enhance their reliability and longevity. It is important to remember that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors have a lifespan of ten years and should be replaced accordingly. We welcome anyone interested in joining our efforts to attend our meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., where no prior experience is required as full training will be provided. For inquiries, please contact the station at 603-588-2114.

On the EMS front, we responded to 498 EMS calls, with falls and motor vehicle accidents accounting for 25% of our call volume. Our current team consists of 2 paramedics, 3 Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, 6 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 1 Emergency Medical Responder. In January, Antrim ambulance was dispatched for an adult male experiencing respiratory distress and being positioned for CPR. With that information 2C1 (*the Chief's radio call sign, ~ed.*) requested Fire be dispatched for additional support. Upon arrival, Antrim PD was already performing CPR and had applied an AED. The ambulance crew then deployed the Lucas device for mechanical chest compressions and transitioned to high-performance CPR techniques. The patient's airway was secured with a nasopharyngeal airway, and intravenous and intraosseous access were established. Cardiac medications



Lucas CPR device

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 — continued on page 12



James A. Tuttle Library

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Christopher Brinkley
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LIBRARY WINTER HOURS

Sunday & Monday • CLOSED
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday • 12–7:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday • 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

Wednesdays • Story Time • 3:30–4:30 p.m.

Winter Hours Update—Let’s Talk About It. All right... addressing the snowy elephant: we’ve officially implemented new winter hours at the library. We know hours can be a big deal—they affect work schedules, family routines, after-school stops and those quick “I just need to grab one book” trips that somehow turn into seven books and a movie. So, we made changes with the goal of making our open hours *more consistent, easier to remember and more useful* for the times people actually tend to come in. Here are the current winter hours

Sunday and Monday: Closed
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: 12–7
Friday & Saturday: 10–3

Now here’s the part we really care about: your feedback. So far, the community—YOU—seem to really love this change, and we want to keep that momentum going. If these hours are helping you get in more easily (to browse, print, use passes, grab materials, or yes... *okay... check out books*), we want to hear that. If there are gaps that make visits harder, we want to hear that too.

The big question: Do we keep these hours going forward into the summer?! Tell us what you think! Survey information can be found at the main desk and in our newsletter. Thank you for helping us shape the library’s schedule around the real needs of our community.

A Big Thank You—Festival of Trees & Our Community. A special thank you goes out to the Festival of Trees for another season of festive cheer—and to the community for participating and bringing that warm “small-town winter magic” energy into the library. Because of you, the library becomes more than a building with books—it becomes a

place that feels welcoming, bright and genuinely special. The decorations, the spirit and the support make a difference, and we’re grateful for it.

Museum Passes—Thanks to Our Friends of the Library. Another huge thank you to our wonderful Friends of the Library for supporting the library with a wide variety of museum passes. If you haven’t checked out the pass selection lately, it’s absolutely worth a look—there’s bound to be something for everyone, across ages and interests. It’s one of the best ways to turn an ordinary week into a mini-adventure without breaking the bank. Stop by the library to see what’s currently available and how to reserve a pass.

Donation Collection Bin—Vermont Center for Photography. We currently have a donation collection bin out on behalf of the Vermont Center for Photography.

They’re collecting:
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Tom Villeneuve RIA

Camera equipment

Photography gear

Items in any condition (seriously—don't assume it's "too old" or "too broken")

This nonprofit's goal is to help put cameras into the hands of students and photography enthusiasts, opening doors for creativity and learning through the arts. If you've got equipment sitting in a drawer, a closet, or a dusty box that hasn't seen daylight in years, this is a great way to give it a second life.

Hot Recipes for Cold Nights—AtoZ World Food.

Cold nights call for warm meals, and if you're looking for something new (or just something delicious to break up the usual routine), AtoZ World Food is a fantastic resource. It's packed with recipes from around the world, and it's the kind of tool that turns "What do we even make tonight?" into "Okay wait—this actually sounds amazing." For sign-in information, please call us at 603-588-6786.

Summer Reading Is Closer Than It Looks... We know it's winter, but we're saying it anyway: Summer Reading is just around the corner. Who's ready to dig into a new book!? Keep an eye out—we'll be sharing more soon, and we're already looking forward to a season full of reading, activities and the kind of library fun that makes summer feel like summer. ☐

Bargain Bin Basement Attic at Edmunds

Joan Gorga

Many stores dedicate empty space in their basement for special bargains, but we all know what goes on in the Edmunds basement—paint mixing, screen repairing, potting soil storage and much, much more. So, what does Edmunds do to display items on clearance sale? They set up a special bargain bin basement attic, of course. If you wind your way through the tools and other hardware towards the back, you find a set of stairs that heads mysteriously up, turns and comes out in the new Bargain Attic, decked out with shelves of last season's decorations, miscellaneous tools and hardware, and other essentials of modern life. I even found two crossword puzzle books for 47 cents each, which have kept me entertained for hours since I bought them to put in my own Christmas stocking. Alas, I couldn't actually find my Christmas stocking, even though I found everybody else's, but I am enjoying the crossword puzzles. And come summer, I'll revel in having a bellows pump to force that last bit of air into the inflatable mattress at our camp, and I won't worry about leaving it there since I paid so little for it. Most of the merchandise in the Bargain Attic isn't quite as old as the "Antrim General Store" sign implies. You might just find exactly what you need. ☐



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were administered, leading to a successful return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC). The patient was moved by scoop stretcher from the second floor and transported emergent to Concord Hospital. Antrim PD later received a heartfelt email from the patient’s friends expressing gratitude for the rapid and professional response of first responders during the crisis. After several days of critical care, the patient began his recovery journey, expressing deep appreciation for those who played a role in saving his life. Although he still faces challenges ahead, his progress has been remarkable. This incident marked the first deployment of the Lucas device by Antrim Ambulance in the field, which we believe significantly aided in the successful resuscitation efforts. The Lucas device was entirely funded through donations and fundraising efforts. The collaborative response from Antrim Ambulance, Antrim Fire, Antrim Police, and Hillsboro Police exemplified effective teamwork. Donations that are received are utilized to acquire additional equipment, ensuring continuous improvement in the quality of emergency medical services provided.

In 2025, the Emergency Management Team was actively engaged in addressing various weather-related challenges, applying insights gained from after-action reviews to enhance the town’s preparedness and response capabilities. The frequent rain and wind events kept the team occupied, but fortunately, most wind incidents occurred under milder conditions, reducing the impact of power outages. The recurring rain events caused several roads to wash out, even as Antrim Highway has worked to improve drainage systems. Despite these efforts, heavy, short bursts of rain still lead to infrastructure damage. One storm notably caused severe damage to Willard Pond Road, rendering it impassable for a time. The trend of adverse weather conditions, characterized by rain and wind events, is expected to persist in 2026. During heat waves, we collaborated with the Tuttle Library to establish cooling stations, offering residents temporary relief, and we extend our gratitude to Cindy Jewett and the library staff for their support in this essential service. Cold weather power outages present significant challenges, particularly if they are prolonged; therefore, we maintain emergency shelters and closely monitor conditions to determine

when to activate them, encouraging residents to remain prepared for such situations. For individuals with home medical needs or specific requirements, we advise reaching out to Eversource to get on their priority list for restoration during power outages. Our department is equipped with two emergency generators for use in such situations, as well as three sump pump kits to address flooding issues. Antrim Emergency Management works in close partnership with state and federal agencies to guarantee access to essential resources and training. In times of significant crises, we can directly communicate with the state emergency operations center to request necessary assistance. For instance, during a major flooding incident, we successfully obtained sandbags and electronic sign boards to help manage the situation. Throughout any emergency, we remain proactive, collaborating with all town departments to minimize impacts and safeguard our community.

We thank all our Fire and Ambulance members for their dedication and commitment to serve the community.

We also extend our gratitude to the Antrim Town Administrator, Selectboard, Police, Highway and Water departments for their invaluable support, as well as to the community at large. ☐

Antrim Baptist Church

Minister Mark Kallberg

Antrim Baptist Church is a Bible-teaching congregation that meets every Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. at 85 Main Street, Antrim. We are a welcoming community that provides Bible-based sermons focused on encouragement and care. Whether you are new to the area, seeking a church home, or simply curious, we invite you to join us.

As a small congregation, we value close relationships and fellowship. Following our Sunday service, we gather in our adjoining Fellowship Hall for coffee, conversation, and Bible trivia to connect with one another.

If you are unable to join us in person, you may view our sermons on our YouTube channel, AntrimBaptistChurch NH. We would be pleased to have you worship with us, either in person or online. ☐



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American Legion

Tamasine Wood-Creighton

As we enter our 250th year as a nation The American Legion Myers-Prescott-Olson Post 50 is calling all VETERANS to join our efforts in supporting veterans in our area. We want ALL veterans to join us—we have lots planned through Memorial Day Weekend:

Book Club

OPEN TO ANYONE, NOT JUST VETERANS. Meets the 3rd Thurs of the month—follow our Facebook page at American Legion Myers-Prescott-Olson Post 50 Antrim NH for the book.

Memorial Day

We are marching in many Memorial Day events and welcome all veterans to join us. Follow our Facebook page to keep abreast of dates and times.

Walk/Run and Craft Fair

On May 23rd we will have a FUN WALK/RUN as well as an ALL-AMERICAN CRAFT FAIR from 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Legion, 7 West Street. We are looking for crafters. Please email alpost50events@gmail.com.

Mark your calendar to take part in the FUN WALK/RUN. ☐

We Digress Book Club

Jennifer A. Adams

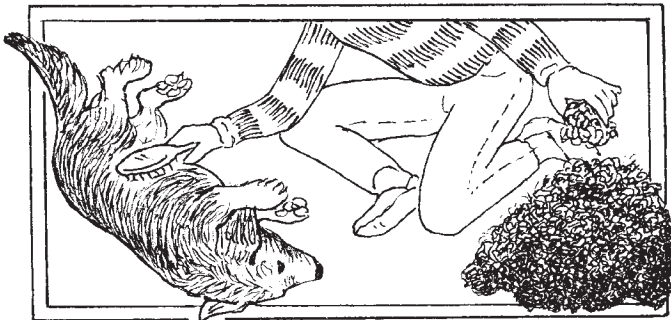
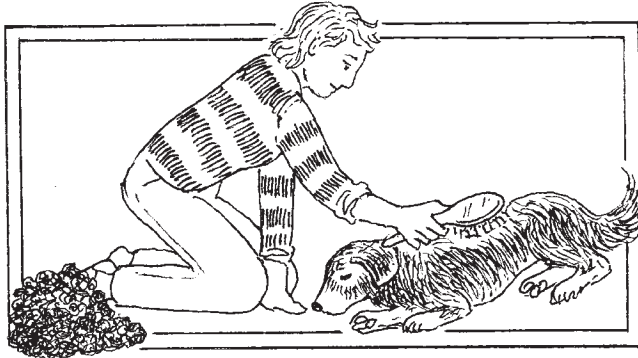
The We Digress Book Club meets at the Antrim Presbyterian Church on the third Thursday of every month from 2:15 p.m. until 3:15 p.m. or longer (if we digress).

The upcoming books will cover the globe. In March, it's *Will's Red Coat: The Story of One Old Dog Who Chose to Live Again* (2017) by Tom Ryan; in April, *The Road to Character* (2015) by David Brooks; in May, *My Brilliant Friend* (2012) by Elena Ferrante, translated by Ann Goldstein; and in June, it's *Atonement* (2002) by Ian McEwan.

As always, there's something new and old for everyone; fiction and non-fiction. For more information, to be added to our email list, or to suggest a book you'd like to read, contact Jennifer Adams at wedigress.bookclub@yahoo.com. ☐



Sally has to lose ten pounds. She needs to lay off the snacks.



I don't know how you did it but she has lost the weight!

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Virginia S. Dickinson

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gion for weeks. It was reported that the snow was so deep, you could walk right over the tops of fences without knowing they were there.

In October of 1804, nearly two feet of snow fell in Concord, New Hampshire, and the winter continued until March 1805. This was known as “The Persistent Freeze.” This winter was noted by Thomas Jefferson and Noah Webster as the worst in decades. It was defined not just by cold, but by an unrelenting succession of snowstorms with no mid-winter thaws. All the harbors from Maine down to Washington, D.C., were frozen over until spring, and wood became extremely scarce for everyone.

January 19, 1810, was known as “Cold Friday.” On the day before, the weather was unseasonably mild, but overnight a nasty storm moved in, and the temperature dropped between 50 and 60 degrees in less than 24 hours. People who were traveling by foot, horse or stagecoach were unprepared and many were found frozen to death. Many animals and livestock perished because the drop in temperature was so rapid that farmers were unable to provide shelter fast enough. Cochrane tells a story about the Samuel Marshall family, who lived in North Branch at the time, barely escaping with their lives when the wind blew the roof off their house.

1816 was quite a year in itself. Every month of the year had a frost and there was snowfall in June, making growing fruits and planting vegetables more difficult than normal. Some called it the “Poverty Year,” others “The Year Without a Summer,” and due to the lack of feed for fattening the animals, Whiton reports “many families resorted for a substitute to pickled mackerel, and these seasons were sometimes jocosely called ‘the mackerel years.’” It’s believed that this abnormal weather pattern for the year was caused by the volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora, located on Sumbawa Island in Indonesia the year before.

Yes, Antrim has seen its share of recent bad weather too. Many of us remember the Blizzard of ’78 or the Ice Storm of 2008 or most recently the Storm of March 2023 when 40 inches of heavy wet snow covered the region. But Whiton believed that despite the “severity of the winters,” the high winds and mountain air of Antrim made the residents “remarkably robust.”

So, as we count down these final days of winter, perhaps we can take comfort, and inspiration, from those hardy settlers who endured far worse with far less. They faced “The Great Snow,” survived “Cold Friday,” and persevered through “The Year Without a Summer” with nothing more than hand-cut firewood and sheer determination. The next time you adjust your thermostat or complain about shoveling the driveway, remember the people who walked over buried fences in 1802 or ate pickled mackerel for months in 1816. Whiton was right—those brutal winters did forge a remarkably robust people, and perhaps that strength still runs through Antrim today. ☐



Antrim Recreation's 3rd and 4th grade boys' basketball team won the league championship for the second year in a row. Photo by Celeste Lunetta.

trip fees not included. 15% Early-bird discount if register with deposit by Apr 5, or 10% Camp Countdown discount if register by May 3.

Days of Summer Week (July 6–10) features a Friday field trip to Fun City (\$40). **Sports Week** (July 13–17) includes a Friday field trip to Chuckster's (\$40). During **Mad Scientists & Master Chefs Week** (July 20–24), campers will participate in hands-on STEM and cooking activities, ending with a Friday field trip to the SEE Science Center (price TBD). **Imagination Station Week** (July 27–31) focuses on creativity and performance, with a Friday trip to the Palace Theater (price TBD). The final traditional camp week, **Days of Summer Week** (August 3–7), includes outdoor and farm-themed activities, highlighted by a Friday field trip to the Friendly Farm (\$15).

During the week of Aug 10–14, families have two separate program options. The **Challenger Soccer Camp & TinyTykes Program** (not run through Days of Summer Camp) offers a Full Day option (9 a.m.–3 p.m., \$245), a Half Day option (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., \$170), and TinyTykes (3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m., \$90). **Adventure Week** runs through the Days of Summer Camp, includes a Thurs field trip to FunCity (\$40) and concludes with a Fri Beach Party.

Registration for all of these programs is open now at www.antrimnh.org; call 603–588–3121 if you have questions, or email recprograms@antrimnh.gov. ☐

Thank you ...

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

Community Calendar

March 2026

- 3 **Dads' Campfire** · The Grapevine · 7 p.m.
- 5 **Moms' Campfire** · The Grapevine · 6 p.m.
- 10 **Town Elections** · Town Hall · 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
- 12 **Town Meeting** · Town Hall · 6 p.m.
- 18 **Senior Lunch Meals on Wheels** · Presbyterian Church · 12 noon
- 19 **We Digress Book Club** · *Will's Red Coat: The Story of One Old Dog Who Chose to Live Again* by Tom Ryan · Presbyterian Church · 2:15 p.m.
- 19 **GBS Maple Syrup Celebration** · 16 School St. · 5:30 p.m.
- 19 **Free Community Supper** sponsored by At the Cross Church · at At the Cross Church · 5:30 p.m.
- 19 **Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice** · Zoom · 6:30 p.m.
- 19 **American Legion Book Club** · Legion Hall · 7:00 p.m.
- 20 **Family Fun Night** · Antrim Town Gym · 6:00 p.m.
- 27 **GBS play** · Lucy Hurlin Theater, ConVal. · 6:30 p.m.
- 28 **Spring Egg Hunt** · Memorial Park · 10:30 a.m.
- 28 **GBS play** · Lucy Hurlin Theater, ConVal. · 6:30 p.m.

April 2026

- 2 **Moms' Campfire** · The Grapevine · 6 p.m.
- 7 **Dads' Campfire** · The Grapevine · 7 p.m.
- 15 **Senior Lunch Meals on Wheels** · Presbyterian Church · 12 noon
- 16 **We Digress Book Club** · *The Road to Character* by David Brooks · Presbyterian Church · 2:15 p.m.
- 16 **Free Community Supper** sponsored by Bank of NH · Presbyterian Church · 5:30 p.m.
- 16 **Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice** · Zoom · 6:30 p.m.
- 16 **American Legion Book Club** · Legion Hall · 7:00 p.m.
- 21 **Owl Prowl Birding with Phil** · McCabe Forest · 7 p.m.
- 22 **Gregg Lake Beach Clean-up Day** · Town Beach · 3:00 p.m.
- 27 **Puzzle Palooza** · Town Hall · 4:30 p.m. (pre-register)
- 30 **Rec. Dept. Adult Bus trip to Hildene Estate, VT** · 9:00 a.m.–5 p.m. (pre-register)

May 2026

- 1 **Antrim Scholarship Deadline**
- 2 **Youth Fishing Derby** · Memorial Park · 8 a.m.
- 5 **Dads' Campfire** · The Grapevine · 7 p.m.
- 7 **Moms' Campfire** · The Grapevine · 6 p.m.
- 7 **GBS Chorus Concert** · GBS · 6:30 p.m.
- 9 **Grapevine Spring Walk** · registration 9:30 a.m. · at The Grapevine
- 17 **Bike, Hike, Scooter and Skate Safety Day** · Antrim Town Gym and Memorial Park · 1–3 p.m.
- 18 **Puzzle Palooza** · Town Hall · 4:30 p.m. (pre-register)
- 20 **Senior Lunch Meals on Wheels** · Presbyterian Church · 12 noon
- 20 **Grange Community Awards Night** · details TBA
- 21 **We Digress Book Club** · *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante · Presbyterian Church · 2:15 p.m.
- 21 **Free Community Supper** sponsored by the Contoocook Housing Trust · Presbyterian Church · 5:30 p.m.
- 21 **Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice** · Zoom · 6:30 p.m.
- 21 **American Legion Book Club** · Legion Hall · 7:00 p.m.
- 23 **American Legion Fun Walk/Run and Crafts Fair** · Legion Hall · 9:00 a.m.
- 28 **Rec. Dept. Adult Bus trip to Lowell Museum** · details TBA

Ongoing Events

- SAIL exercise** · Town Hall · Mon, Wed, Fri · 11 a.m.–12 noon
- Zumba** · Town Gym · Mon 5:30–6:30; Sat 9:00 a.m.
- Adult Pickleball** · Town Gym · Mon 6:30–8 p.m.; Wed 3:30–5 p.m.
- Adult Pickup Basketball** · Town Gym · Wed 6:30 p.m.
- Children's Story Time with a Craft** · Tuttle Library · Wed 3:30–4:30 p.m.
- Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry** · Baptist Church · Sat 10 a.m.–noon (closed 5th Saturday)
- Revival Shop** · Presbyterian Church · Sat 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Updates from the Antrim Water and Sewer Commission

Melissa Lombard

This year has seen a lot of staff turnover at the Water and Sewer Department. A fully staffed department consists of three people in order to meet regulatory requirements and avoid staff burnout. We are required to have at least two licensed wastewater treatment operators. Our operators also need to be licensed in drinking water treatment and distribution. There is a shortage of licensed operators in the industry, and it has been difficult to find and keep licensed operators in Antrim. Our water and sewer systems require a licensed operator to conduct daily routine checks and tests and to quickly respond to any emergencies, such as a water main break, that may occur. For a brief time this year we were fully staffed, however other opportunities came along for two of our employees and we have been down to one operator since the beginning of January. We have interviewed candidates for the two open positions and should be fully staffed by the beginning of March. If you are looking for a career change, consider becoming a water or wastewater operator. It's a job that does not require a college degree but does require the ability to pass licensing tests with some algebra and chemistry. You won't be sitting behind a desk all day and you will be providing important services to the public—clean drinking water and sanitation. If you are curious about the possibilities, then check out the Granite State Rural Water Association website at granitestatewater.org.

In addition to the Water and Sewer Department being understaffed, the Water and Sewer Commission has also been down to two members, instead of a full commission of three, for most of this year. The Water and Sewer Commissioners proposed to the town that the responsibilities of overseeing the Water and Sewer Department be transferred to the town and the commission be dissolved. It has been difficult to maintain a full commission and our responsibilities have grown over the past several years. The commissioners feel that an essentially volunteer board that meets once or twice a month cannot provide the necessary level of oversight that is required to run a fully functioning department. There is a warrant article at town meeting this year to dissolve the commission and have the town assume the responsibilities. Under this arrangement the water and sewer operators would work under the direction of the Director of Public Works. The Water and Sewer Commissioners are fully supportive of moving in this direction and we ask for your support in voting in favor of dissolving the commission.

Our water customers may have noticed that the brown tinge to the water from manganese has returned. We had hoped to avoid this problem with our new well, and initially the manganese levels were lower than in our previous well. Manganese is naturally occurring and is dissolved from the aquifer sediments that the water passes through on its way to our well and your faucets. Currently, manganese is not

a regulated drinking water contaminant, so we are not required to remove it from the water. The NH Department of Environmental Services recommends that public water systems notify their customers when manganese exceeds a certain concentration, which our system exceeds. Notices have been sent out with water bills. For more information go to <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/ard-ehp-15.pdf>.

Thank you to our former and current staff who have put in extra time to operate and maintain our water and sewer systems. ☐

The Pool

Joan Gorga

With Gregg Lake drawn down for dam repairs, I noticed an open pool of water that was cut off from the rest of the lake. As the surface froze over, I counted at least 100 fish—bass, perch, punkinseeds and even three pickerels—gathering in a small open area. The ice closed in over a few more cold days, and then I noticed three otters going in and out of a small open hole, diving under and climbing up into the snow to eat. They worked that pool for several more days, and then all was quiet. I'm guessing they polished off every last fish trapped in that pool. ☐



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Great News from Great Brook

Maryanne Cullinan

Members of the GBS 6th Grade Writers' Club offered the articles below. The Writer's Club meets twice a week and provides a space for aspiring writers to work on their craft.

You Can't Dodge the Fun!

Nerea Jaramillo

Great Brook School's dodgeball tournament has begun! The eighth grade is hosting it for the whole school to enjoy. All grades, 5th through 8th, are invited to participate with their advisories. We're having playoffs. Then, 8th graders and 5th graders will work together against 6th and 7th in the finals.

The purpose of this is to have a fun activity for the whole middle school to do together while the cold is bringing us inside together. Who will win?

Robin Hood? More like Robin Good!

Cecily Schaub and Malakai Cheever

The play at GBS is called *The Historically Accurate*, Epic Adventures of Rob[b]in Hood (*Not Verified as of Publication)*. It is Robin Hood themed, and partially about the dangers of AI. It conveys a familiar story in an unconventional way. Behind the scenes we have friends practicing together in a special experience.

Throughout the months of January, February and March, we have students practicing on various days of the week to excel in their roles as best as they can. For light and sound,

we have more students specializing in this area. Props and stage crew are also run by kids.

A crucial aspect in plays are the costumes. Lucky for us, we have student designers to assist us with that. These are... The Costume Designers! pretty straightforward name, but these hard-working teens spend 100 minutes a week to make sure we have a successful play. We'll show you the GBS best time on March 27th and 28th at the Lucy Hurlin Theater, ConVal. It's at 6:30 p.m. and **free!**

GBS Chorus Strikes a Chord!

Rori Baker and Sage Bullard

This is chorus, where your voice is your instrument. Join us while we talk about the amazing middle school chorus!

Many grades take part in chorus, singing and having so much fun together. The teacher for chorus is Logan Phillips. He helps us learn how to sing in tip-top shape for our three concerts throughout the year. We invite the community to come and listen to our songs! And guess what? Our next concert is a district-wide concert on 3/18/26! You *May* come to our other concert on 5/7/26. If you need more information, go to the Great Brook website! We are not just singers; we are also always looking *sharp!*

Life's a Little Sweeter with a Touch of Maple

Cheyenne Kiblin

At Great Brook School (16 School Street) we will be having a maple syrup celebration on March 19th at 5:30 p.m. Each advisory has their own maple tree that they get to tap, and every class has been working on projects that are related to it! It's open for anyone who wants to come and see what is going on and enjoy what we make. ☐

Ocelots of all Sizes

Bruce McGuffin

The jungle's full of ocelots.
They're mid-sized cats with lots of spots.
Some other jungle cats are taller.
And when they're younger then they're smaller.
A half-grown ocelot I guess
Could be known as an ocelless.
And if it's just a kitten it'll
have to be an ocelittle.

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First Presbyterian Church

Jan Howe, Pastor

First Presbyterian Church is as busy as ever in the coming months as we enter the Lenten Season, which began with a meditative Ash Wednesday service. Participants received ashes on their foreheads during the service. This marked the beginning of Lent, which recognizes Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness.

During this time some people give up something for Lent, something that might be a challenge for us so that we can experience what Jesus did in the wilderness. I also like the idea of instead of giving up something we start a new reflective practice, such as a Bible Study, reading a new devotional, praying at a set time each day, or looking for signs of God being active in our lives. Another option is people donate an item a day to the food pantry or Revival Shop or a donation to One Great Hour of Sharing.

During the colder months we worship in our Fellowship Hall until our Palm Sunday Service, when we return to worship in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 29th. We will have palms representing Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. (Hopefully, it will be warm by then.) On Holy Thursday (April 2nd) we will have a service with scripture readings of the Last Supper and Communion at 7 p.m., and then on Good Friday (April 3rd) our meditative service will also be at 7 p.m.

Lent concludes with our Easter Services on Sunday, April 5th, with an outdoor Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. on our front lawn, and new this year, thanks to Ray Sweeney, we will have a music-filled worship service at 10:30 a.m. This will include instruments and a larger choir! Both services will be celebrating Jesus' Resurrection!

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

We continue our commitment to reaching out to the community with many local organizations using our building. The Community Supper has been averaging 60–70 people each month. We hope that community groups reach out to The Grapevine to host an important community gathering, as we need a sponsor for each month. The meals occur on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Also, the monthly Meals on Wheels Senior Congregate lunch on the third Wednesday of each month has grown to 50–60 in attendance. We have been enjoying delicious meals cooked by Dollar Shy Farm. These lunches are open to anyone age 60 and over, with a suggested donation of \$4.

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

Our Elders have been busy completing some much-needed repairs, including:

- Removing carpet in Clark room and two coats of floor paint
- Waterproofing foundation on driveway side with drain system
- Repairing driveway subsidence and repaving
- Regrading parking area
- Repairing rotted post in the sanctuary north wall
- Adding stone below nursery window to stop leak
- Repairing and painting all Nativity figures
- Adding anti-slip material to ramp
- Removing rear pew to allow proper access from ramp entrance
- Removing items from Clark room and dirt cellar not needed anymore
- Numerous electrical repairs

So far this year they have already repaired the kitchen ovens, and they have a long list of other repairs that they will hopefully complete this year, including but not limited to:

- Repairing other post on north wall
- Replacing north wall stained glass windows
- Repairing heating system by adding new zone in basement
- Repairing roof on driveway side

We as a church pray for all the programs that are offered through The Grapevine and Meals on Wheels, which depend on grants to carry out their mission. We also pray for peace for our country and the world, hoping that we can all work together and show love to our neighbors. I saw a sign the other day that said "Humankind be both!" What a better world this would be if everyone was kind to one another. Remember Jesus' words in the greatest commandment that we should "Love your neighbor as yourself." ☐

Thank you ...

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

— Editor



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Has Measles Returned?

Dana K. Plank, MS, RN

As measles cases continue to appear in different parts of the country, talking about the outbreaks can feel challenging. People hold strong—and often deeply personal—beliefs about vaccination and health decisions. The aim of reporting on these outbreaks isn't to criticize anyone's choices but to share helpful, reliable information that keeps communities informed and safe. By focusing on what we all value—healthy families, thriving kids, and protecting one another—we can discuss disease prevention in a way that encourages understanding and cooperation rather than conflict.

Before the introduction of the measles vaccine in the 1960's, measles was the leading cause of illness and death among children worldwide. Small droplets and aerosol particles of the virus can remain in the air for approximately two hours and can be breathed in by a person or persons, exposing them to the virus. It may take 10–14 days for the virus to develop. First affecting the lower respiratory tract, the virus then spreads to the upper airway, skin, eyes and other organs. Symptoms may begin like the common cold with cough, as well as conjunctivitis (reddening and irritation of the eyes). Koplik spots or bluish-white spots may appear on the inside of the mouth prior to an overall rash appearing on the skin. In addition, the infected person develops a high fever (104°F). Due to the intense cough and other respiratory symptoms, the transmission of the virus to others is high at this time. A susceptible population, such as an unvaccinated person or one who has not acquired immunity from a prior infection with measles, is at risk of developing the disease. It's been estimated that one person has the potential to infect 12–18 people during the most infectious part of the disease process. A seasonal pattern is sometimes observed in measles transmission where **outbreaks occur in the late winter and early spring**.

Serious complications can occur with a measles infection, such as encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. In addition, pneumonia can develop due to the effects upon the respiratory tract. These respiratory and neurological complications may be compounded by dehydration that occurs if the individual has a fever and develops any vomiting or

diarrhea while ill. In rare instances, there is a risk of blindness and deafness after a measles infection.

It has been suggested that with the help of the measles vaccine, an estimated 59 million deaths have been avoided in the 21st century. Before the 21st century, the number of diseases observed, and deaths documented, was exceedingly high, as depicted below in this table from the Journal of the American Medical Association (<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2839629>):

Table. Reported Vaccine-Preventable Disease Cases and Deaths in New York City, 1923 and 2023

| Disease | Cases | | Decline in cases, % | Deaths | | Decline in deaths, % |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | 1923 ^a | 2023 ^b | | 1923 ^a | 2023 ^b | |
| Diphtheria | 8,050 | 1 | 99.9 | 553 | 0 | 100 |
| Measles | 13,999 | 1 | 99.9 | 245 | 0 | 100 |
| Mumps | 3,817 | 37 | 99 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Pertussis | 4,484 | 420 | 91 | 202 | 0 | 100 |
| Polio | 577 | 0 | 100 | 54 | 0 | 100 |
| Rubella | 844 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| Smallpox | 17 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | NA |

Abbreviation: NA, not applicable

^a1923 Data: Reportable Diseases Monthly Incidence From 1900, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

^b2023 Data: surveillance data, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (personal communication, Jennifer B. Rosen, MD, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, July 2025); and data regarding communicable disease in New York State reported in 2023.

Looking back on the past reminds us of how common these infections were. Outbreaks were difficult to control. Quarantines were hard to enforce in areas where people sometimes lived in very crowded conditions, often exposing one another to the virus very quickly. After the development of the vaccine and widespread usage, measles outbreaks subsided until now.

Although perspectives on vaccination may vary, the shared commitment to protecting community health remains constant. Preventing measles involves practical measures such as staying home when unwell, practicing proper hand hygiene, covering coughs and sneezes, and consulting a healthcare professional about appropriate preventive options. Through mutual respect, accurate information, and collective responsibility, we can work together to limit the spread of illness and safeguard the well-being of our communities. ☐

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Antrim Bennington Food Pantry

Pamela Maki-Kallberg

The Antrim Bennington Food Pantry continues to grow each week. We are sincerely grateful for the weekly food pickups in Manchester, the donations received at our drop-off locations, and the monetary contributions that enable us to purchase essential items for the community.

Despite this growth, we have recently faced challenges due to extreme cold weather and the failure of our industrial freezer. We were, however, fortunate this past month to have students and staff from GBS assist with our weekly operations. These 8th graders worked diligently to identify and organize our inventory, which was particularly helpful as the volume of expired food items surpassed previous years.

Regarding food donations, we remain deeply thankful for the community's generosity. We would like to emphasize the importance of donating current, non-expired items. Providing our clients with high-quality, safe food is essential to honoring their dignity and meeting their needs effectively.

It is a blessing to work with those who make Saturday mornings successful. I appreciate everyone who has come forward to help lighten the load. If you would like to make a donation, our mailing address is PO Box 206, Antrim, NH 03440.

Thank you to everyone who organized and participated in food drives over the past few months. We greatly appreciate your support. ☐

Engaging With Your Community

Antrim Community Board

Our Mission is to connect individuals, services and organizations and to support one another to organize projects that unite our community and strengthen our social fabric. Social engagement is crucial to the life of our town and knowing our neighbors. To that end, below is a list of some of the organizations in Antrim that you can engage with for a better quality of life. Most of these organizations can be found on Facebook or on their website. Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

Antrim Baptist Church • At the Cross • First Presbyterian Church • We Digress Book Club • Senior Exercise • Antrim Players • Friends of the Library • Antrim Historical Society • Antrim Elementary School • Antrim Bennington Lions Club • Great Brook Middle School • The Grapevine Family and Community Resource Center • Avenue A Teen Center • Antrim Garden Club • Antrim Conservation Commission • Revival Shop Used Clothing • Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry • Home & Harvest Committee • Parks and Recreation • Antrim Grange #98 • American Legion Meyers-Prescott-Olson Post #50 • Antrim Planning Board • Antrim Community Board • Swap Shop at the Transfer Station • Boy Scouts Troop 2 • Cub Scouts Pack 2 • Brownies/Girl Scouts. ☐



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Fostering Community Conversations on Racial Justice

Linda Bundy

During our November and December meetings, we continued our discussion of the lives detailed throughout *In Defiance: 20 Abolitionists You Were Never Taught in School*. Although these people lived in the 16th through the early 20th centuries, some of their struggles and words resonate today.

The grandparents and parents of Elizabeth Buffum Chace were Quakers who believed in immediate emancipation, rather than the gradual emancipation favored by many of their faith. When her father was disowned by his fellow Quakers for his beliefs, she resigned from the Society of Friends in solidarity. The Rhode Island home of Elizabeth and her husband Samuel was a main stop on the Underground Railroad. She took part in protests in the streets in support of enslaved mothers and children and encouraged mothers to train their children to be activists as well. After emancipation, she worked for equality and integration in schools. She sought to help indigent children by working to establish a state school and home where they would be “nurtured and educated by kind, loving adults” because “Homelessness is not a crime.”

Jane Swisshelm was an outspoken, independent writer who was the first woman reporter to sit in the US Senate

press gallery. While Jane grew up believing in abolition, when she and her husband moved to Kentucky and she saw enslavement firsthand, she became an ardent campaigner for the cause. Likewise, when she was denied rights to her mother’s estate because the law gave a husband possession of everything his wife owned, she became an advocate for women’s property rights. She supported Lincoln’s run for the presidency and was a nurse on the front lines during the Civil War. And yet, as rigorous and effective as her work was for the rights of enslaved people and women, after the Dakota War of 1862, she wrote a series of editorials calling for the genocide of all Native Americans. Efforts were made to remove the plaque honoring her achievements at St. Cloud University. However, Don Day, director of the American Indian Center at the university believes that rather than eliminate her story, it should be told in full. “The more history people know, the more accurate it is... we just need to have a more complete history of everything that goes on around us.”

“She was great...but we also can’t deny that she was a racist.”

As with several of the lives detailed in the book, Graceanna Lewis’ family were Quakers whose home was a safe-house on the Underground Railroad. In 1848 she wrote “An Appeal to Those Members of the Society of Friends Who Knowing the Principles of the Abolitionists Stand Aloof from the Anti-Slavery Enterprise.” She rebuked her fellow Quakers for sitting back quietly and not taking action while they knew the cruelty and injustice of enslavement. The authors find a similar message in Martin Luther King’s “Letter from the Birmingham Jail,” written on April 16, 1963. He said that his fellow religious leaders were saying that people of color should wait, that this was not the time for action, even nonviolent action. However, King states, “This *wait* has almost always meant *never*.”

“Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will.”

During January we were privileged to have the opportunity to attend two events with the authors, Tom Weiner and Dr. Amilcar Shabazz. On January 15, they participated in Open Democracy’s Book Club, and on January 19, they spoke at the Martin Luther King Celebration in Peterborough. Their hope is that the book will provide a meaningful engagement with history leading to action, service and civic engagement in our own lives. They strove to show history and personalize it by revealing ordinary people doing extraordinary things. These twenty abolitionists were involved with issues and events in their times and spoke out. Perhaps their stories will lead us to actions that can make our world a better place for all.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month via Zoom. All are welcome. For more information contact Linda Bundy at n_bundy@mcttelecom.com or 603-588-2254. ☐



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Where in Antrim?

Dereck Oliveira, Shelly Hall, Matt Hall, Mia Hall, George Davison, Jonah Swett and Michael Ott all correctly identified the cogs on the monument to the Great Brook mills, in Goodell Park on Main Street. Dereck Oliveira won the gift certificate for Blue Feather Farm.

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



Spring Gratitude

Chris Johnson

Such a beautiful evening walk up by the lake with my four-legged girls.

First to catch my ear are the peepers singing their lusty spring songs.

Red winged blackbirds trill from their high perches as in the distance, a barred owl asks, “Who cooks for you?”

Above it all come the raucous threats of Canadian Geese guarding their marshy nests.

An auditory feast.

The wind turbines loom above, casting a perfect mirror image of themselves in the stillness of the water now absent of any breeze in the pre-dusk air.

As we turn up the road, away from the lake, I take in the essence of winter's frozen grip giving way and releasing the scent of damp, dark earth and rotting leaves

as from this foresty air comes the evening melody of trilling thrush singing their day-is-done songs, lifting, floating, descending and then casually beginning again.

We turn to head back to the lake where I'm stopped in my tracks by the beauty of a sky layered in texture and color.

Long, streaky birds-wings clouds in shades of blue, gray and pink. Standing alone in the foreground, like a sentinel, sits one solid puff of dark, almost purple cloud. Interspersed are golden strands and streaks peering out as the sun casts its fading light on this day's end.

With me stand these two dogs, my silent companions, gracefully allowing me to savor these moments of beauty and gratitude.

Antrim Celebrates America's 250th Birthday!

Renée Mercier-Gerritsen

A group of volunteers has been coming together to plan a celebration on 4th of July weekend to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. With members from various organizations and groups from around town with numerous exciting ideas, it is looking to be an absolutely fun and educational family event.

To prepare for the big weekend, we want people in town to “Show Your Patriotism.” We are hosting a townwide contest for people to decorate the outside of their houses/yards. If you want to join in the contest, please let us know. We are hoping to put together a map of participants so everyone can enjoy your Show of Patriotism through the 4th of July weekend. Winners in different categories will be announced on the 4th of July. Prizes to be determined.

Please like and follow the Facebook page “Antrim Celebrates America” for updates, contest rules and a schedule of events when it is finalized. Any questions or offers of ideas/help, please direct them to the group's leader, Renée Mercier-Gerritsen, by messaging the Facebook page. If you are not on social media, please feel free to call/text me at 603-547-5144. 📷

— LIMRIK WEBSITE —

www.ANTRIMLIMRIK.org

A-B Lions Club

Linda Morehouse

Service and charitable giving are the guiding principles of the Antrim-Bennington Lions Club. Through activities such as serving the community supper or raising funds through the Home & Harvest chicken barbecue, our club members strive to strengthen our community. If you have time to give and an interest in helping others, join us on the first and third Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Presbyterian Church in Antrim. New members are welcome.

Leading through service: vision screening for over 400 children in our region, lunches with Lions, playground painting, playground games, field day barbecue at Antrim Elementary School, repairing dugouts at Antrim Recreation's Shea Field, social events at Antrim Village, community suppers in Antrim

Investing through donations: End 68 Hours of Hunger, NH Veteran's Home, The Grapevine, Avenue A, Antrim-Bennington Food Pantry, Great Brook School's 8th grade D.C. trip, Antrim Elementary School shoe project, Antrim Grange Hall renovations, Breakthrough T1D diabetes research, Childhood Cancer Lifeline

Offering assistance: eyeglasses, hearing aids, guide dog training

Nurturing connections: Lions Club International Foundation, DogSight Guide Dogs, Granite State In-

dependent Living (GSIL), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Lions Twin State Soccer, Speak Out Contest for teens

Serving the community: Home & Harvest Festival Barbecue, Home & Harvest Nerf and Turf, Christmas tree sales, eyeglasses and hearing aids recycling.

Where there's a need, there's a Lion! Thank you for your support! ☐

The Cane

Anonymous

When my not-a-spring-chicken husband hurt his knee and started hobbling around, accompanied by much moaning and groaning, I wanted to say, "Join the crowd!" But instead, I decided I should show a little sympathy and come up with something to help him walk safely while he gave the injury time to heal on its own, if it was going to. I knew just the thing—an old field hockey stick turned upside down makes a perfect cane! I shouldn't admit how much I used this feature when I was playing intercollegiate field hockey back in the dark ages. Let's just say that as long as there were no coaches or trainers around, the hockey stick came in handy for hobbling around on an ailing knee. Come practice time, just flip it over and voilá... time to play hockey.

It's been almost fifty years since I used the stick for its intended purpose, and the floor end for its new purpose was a little dry and crumbly. I went to Edmunds in search of a rubber cap to fit. The young man who helped me (we'll call him Ace to protect the innocent) immediately recognized it as an old-fashioned field hockey stick—he won a couple of points right there—and then, when I explained what I wanted to do with it, he admitted that he'd done the same thing with a lacrosse stick, and we discussed the technique of hiding the fact that you were leaning heavily on the stick while anyone who might have disapproved of you playing injured was around. It was heartening to find a soulmate! With the addition of a little tape, the new rubber cap worked great, and the moaning and groaning subsided after a week or two, but I'm still warmed by the pleasure of establishing rapport with someone so young. ☐

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What Should I Be When I Grow Up, Arianna?

DAY #2

Susan Ellsworth

As the sun came up Mazulio's bedroom started to get light. He could see his room had changed again from the way it was the day before. This time there were shelves of books all over the walls around his bed. As on the day before, Mazulio rubbed his eyes to make sure he was seeing correctly. His puppy, Arianna, got up from the foot of his bed also looking confused. She walked over to the bookcases and smelled the books to see if they were real. Mazulio quickly got dressed and went out into the kitchen to eat breakfast and ask his parents if they had changed his room while he was sleeping. His mom told him to sit down and eat, so he wouldn't be late for his first day. His dad told him he would drive him. Mazulio did as he was told and ate quickly.

Then he picked up the bagged lunch his mom had made, kissed her goodbye and ran out the door to join his dad in the car. Mazulio imagined he was going to his first day of work, not school. He wanted to be like his dad.

Mazulio asked where they were going. Dad laughed, "Don't tell me you're so excited you forgot you're working at the library as their new children's librarian? Mazulio was excited now. His imagination was working. He loved Story Time at the library. His grandmother took him on Wednesdays for Story Time in the children's room.

As they pulled into the parking lot at the library Mazulio thanked his dad and jumped out of the car. His dad rolled down the window and called to him, "Mazulio, you forgot your lunch!"

Mazulio ran back to the car, took the bag and thanked his dad again. Then he ran up the front steps to the library door and entered.

Mr. Joshua saw him walk in and gave him a warm welcome. He asked if he was ready for his first day. Mazulio said, "YES!" Then he went into the children's room, picked out a book to read to the children and prepared some art and craft supplies for them to use on their project after the story. He filled the snack tray so the children could have a wide variety to choose from.

Mazulio picked out a book he loved that Mr. Joshua used to read. It was a book about jobs you could choose to do when you grew up. He remembered he always wanted to do them all. He laughed at himself remembering that. Mr. Joshua came into the room and asked him if he needed any help. He told him he was all set and excited to read to the kids.

As the families started to enter the children's room, Mazulio greeted them with a big smile and some even gave him a big hug. He loved to give and get hugs, too. He remem-

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bered hugging people a lot when he met them. His mom and grandma were huggers and gave him lots and lots. They taught him to share some when he saw someone that needed a hug.

Now that everyone was seated on floor pillows, bench seats or little chairs and had a snack to eat, it was time for the story. As Mazulio read the story he got flashbacks to hearing it read for the first time. Some of the children gave input about the story or made comments on which job they wanted to do when they got older. Mazulio liked that. When the story was over one little boy asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. Mazulio told him he wasn't sure, and that he wanted to try all the jobs! The boy told him, "Me, too!", and they both laughed.

Then it was time to make an art piece for the story. There were pictures of the different jobs from the book that the children could color and then put inside an ice cream stick frame they made and decorated with glitter paint or glued gems. All the artwork was labeled with a child's name for them to pick up next week when they were dry and ready to hang on a bedroom wall or put onto the refrigerator with a magnet.

After Mazulio was done cleaning up the children's room, it was time to go talk to Mr. Joshua, who was waiting to tell him how proud he was of him and how wonderfully he did on his first day as the children's librarian. Mazulio told him he really loved his job and all the people he met in today's group. Then Mr. Joshua told him to have a great night, and

he would see him tomorrow. When Mazulio went outside his dad was waiting to drive him home for dinner. He asked him if he had had a good day, and Mazulio happily told him about his first day on the job. At dinner he told his mom about his day, and she was happy for him, too. Mom and Dad winked at each other.

After dinner it was time for a tubby, brushing teeth and sleepies. That night, Mazulio grabbed a book off the shelf in his room for Dad to read. He told Mom and Dad it was the same one he had read that day at the library. Again, they winked at each other. Then it was time for good night kisses and hugs. Arianna got some, too, then spun around several times in a circle before lying at the end of Mazulio's bed. Then he turned off the light and grabbed Rupert the bear for a goodnight kiss, too. "Tomorrow will be a new day," he told Rupert and Arianna.

As Mom and Dad left Mazulio's room, Mom told Dad, "Mazulio has such a great imagination!"

Dad laughed, "Mazulio only heard what he wanted to hear today... He thinks he went to work at the library instead of school. With that imagination, maybe someday he'll be a famous writer and sell lots of books! As long as he's happy, we're happy for him." They hugged each other and wondered what tomorrow would bring for their Mr. Imagination. ☐

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Grapevine

Melissa Gallagher, Executive Director

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for your continued financial and volunteer support this past winter. Local support is what makes our programs possible. We are wrapping up one of our most successful Annual Appeal campaigns in history. As of this writing, our community has contributed over \$50,000 toward this effort.

A reminder that Antrim town voting (March 10) and town meeting (March 12) are being held this month. We rely on local support to offer our no-cost programs and services and appreciate your support of the proposed budget, which includes funding for The Grapevine and our Avenue A Teen Center.

We have an updated supply wish list. Please consider donating toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, hand soap, hand wipes, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, kitchen trash bags, sandwich bags, bubbles, snacks for groups—canned pineapples, bananas, apples, clementines, applesauce, veggie straws, graham crackers, Ritz crackers. Thank you!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS—for more info and to register, contact us at info@grapevინeh.org or call 603-588-2620.

Positive Solutions for Families. Learn ways to encourage positive behavior and deal with challenging behaviors in children from 2–5 years old. Dinner and childcare provided; registration required. Starts Wed, Mar 11, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; runs every Wed for 5 weeks, in person at AES.

Parent Cafe for elementary age parents & caregivers. Three-session workshop designed as a welcoming space for families to come together, share experiences and brainstorm around focused topics, from navigating social media and discipline to understanding childhood behaviors. Dinner and childcare provided; in person at AES from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Feb 9, Mar 9 & Apr 12.

SAIL! Looking to stay strong, active and socialize with others? The Grapevine and Antrim Recreation teamed up to offer this FREE exercise program for all levels, geared toward older adults but open to all adults, to improve strength, balance and fitness. Mon, Wed, Fri, 11 a.m. to noon at Town Hall; led by Antrim Rec staff. If you have a need for transportation, we may be able to help. *Offered at no cost thanks to a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation and John Vance ACCESS fund.*

Owl Prowl/Birding with Phil. Join the Harris Center's Bird Conservation Director Phil Brown for an evening "Owl Prowl" at McCabe Forest. Hike near sunset on the forest trails in search of barred owls, great horned owls and other mysterious night birds active in spring. All ages welcome; Wed, Apr 21, 7 p.m. at McCabe Forest.

Annual Spring Walk. Join us for a one-mile family-friendly walk around downtown Antrim in support of The

Grapevine and in celebration of our amazing community! Raise pledges in support of our programs and services. Strollers, skates, bikes and dogs on a leash are welcome! You can pick up a pledge form at The Grapevine or download from our website at grapevინeh.org. Sat, May 9; registration begins 9:30 a.m., walk begins at 10.

Annual Black Fly Community Art Event. Fun event directly after the Spring Walk, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. at The Grapevine. Come view beautiful art and create some of your own!

Summer Adventures. Give us a call for summer program options for your children; dates and details still TBD.

ONGOING PROGRAMS—space limited and registration required.

Better Beginnings Parent-Child Groups. Weekly programs where parents come together for facilitated discussion and children up to age 5 gather separately for play and social enrichment. Current openings in Fri morning group.

Better Beginnings for Babies. Welcoming parents/caregivers and their children, newborn to 16 months. Expectant parents also welcome. Thurs, 9:30–11 a.m.

Out and About. Outdoor-based program for caregivers and their children. Local hikes; visits to fun places; Thurs 10–11:30 a.m. Upcoming hikes (*stroller/sled-friendly):

- 3/5 Rail Trail, *North Bennington**
- 3/12 Sledding at Sawyer Field, *Bennington*
- 3/19 Meadow Marsh Trail, *Antrim*
- 3/26 Francestown Town Forest, *Francestown*
- 4/2 Harris Center with Susie, *Hancock*
- 4/9 Cilley Family Forest, *Greenfield**
- 4/16 McCabe Forest, *Antrim*
- 4/23 Adams Playground, *Peterborough**
- 4/30 No group—school vacation
- 5/7 Lovern's Mills, *Antrim*
- 5/14 Crotched Mountain Accessible Trails, *Greenfield**
- 5/21 High Five, *Deering**
- 5/28 Memorial Park seed planting, *Antrim**

Hillsborough Play Groups. Fun play for kids; meet other parents and Grapevine staff; Thurs a.m. or p.m., in partnership with Valley Bible Church.

Grandparents Parenting and Other Relative Caregivers. One-to-one support through Kinship Navigators Rosemary Nugent and Mikayla Essex with regular check ins, a listening ear and resources like food, access to financial resources and more. Call or email Rosemary at rosemaryn@grapevინeh.org or Mikayla at mikaylae@grapevინeh.org.

The Learning Vine. Outdoor-based preschool for ages 3 to 5; almost entirely outdoors with a focus on creativity, social interaction, problem solving, learning through games and activities, physical movement and having fun! Inquire for the 2026–2027 preschool year.

Dads' Campfire. Meet with Rick Edmunds, sit around the campfire and enjoy good company with other dads at The Grapevine, first Tue of the month, 7 p.m.; pizza provided.

Moms' Campfire. Eat pizza, relax and meet other moms at The Grapevine, first Thurs of the month, 6 p.m.

SERVICES AT THE GRAPEVINE

Information & Supported Referral. Financial assistance, food, childcare, legal assistance, shelter, clothing, health and dental care, and other needs; in person, on-site assistance with applications such as NH EASY.

Home Visiting. One-to-one support for families.

Community Wood Bank. An emergency resource for those who use wood as a primary heat source. We are looking to build our volunteer base; tasks might include wood stacking, splitting, and occasional delivery.

A special thank you to the many volunteers and in-kind donations of time and services to The Grapevine over the winter, including:

John Brown & Sons for Christmas trees; Divine Mercy Church for holiday gifts; Hancock Market & Fiddleheads Cafe for fresh food bags; Rick Edmunds for leading Dads' Campfire; End 68 Hours of Hunger for delivering food snacks and bags; Antrim Police Association and Dexter's Donation Den for pet food and supplies; DeeAnn Dubois for Terracycle collection; Bob Edwards for collecting trash and recyclables; Thomas Beaumont for donating time to test our staff in CPR re-certification; Peter Moore, Mike Connolly and other Lions Club members for helping with the wood bank and tool shed; Pamela Berry for card making; and Dottie Bauer, Sue Conklin, Jenine Rubin and Rose Novotny for donating baked goods! We wouldn't be here without the love and support of volunteers!

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

Exciting Survey Results from Avenue A!

Jacqueline Roland, Director of Teen Programs

At a time when many communities are asking how to support youth mental health and well-being, we have powerful evidence that Avenue A's program model works—and investing in positive experiences for teens makes a difference!

Avenue A follows the HOPE framework—Health Outcomes from Positive Experiences—an evidence-based model for youth development developed by Dr. Robert Sege and published in *The Journal of Academic Pediatrics*. The HOPE framework emphasizes that positive experiences during adolescence build resilience, healthy development and long-term well-being. Rather than focusing solely on

risk factors, the framework highlights the power of connection and supportive relationships in helping young people thrive.

At Avenue A, this framework is woven into everyday programming. Teens build supportive relationships with caring adult mentors, participate in programs in a physically and emotionally safe environment, engage in meaningful connections with peers, and develop social and emotional skills that extend far beyond our Teen Center!

To better understand how this approach impacts teens, we surveyed 72 teens who attended Avenue A between September and December 2025. The results are amazing!

Safety and belonging emerged as clear strengths. Every teen surveyed reported feeling physically safe during Avenue A programs, and every teen also said they can relax and be themselves at Avenue A. For adolescents navigating academic pressure, social stress and constant exposure to social media, having a safe, welcoming space is essential.

Teen survey responses also highlight how Avenue A fosters connection and social growth. All participating teens said they connect with other teens at Avenue A, and 92 % of teens shared that they have gotten to know peers at Avenue A that they would not have met otherwise. Many teens also reported growth in their social confidence. Since joining Avenue A, a large majority (87 %) said they have improved at meeting and engaging with new people and 88 % of teens reported feeling more comfortable participating in group settings. These are skills that support future success in school, work and community life.

Equally powerful were results related to adult support. Nearly all teens surveyed said they feel valued at Avenue A, and almost every teen (97 %) reported that there is at least one adult they could turn to at Avenue A for support or to talk. Research consistently shows that having even one trusted adult can significantly improve long-term outcomes for youth.

Our teen survey tells a compelling story, and it is great news for Antrim! During the last fiscal year (July 2024–June 2025), 109 Antrim teens attended Avenue A, and 23 Antrim residents volunteered at our programs. Over the last six months alone, 99 Antrim teens have participated in our programs! We offer more than 24 hours of teen programming each week—a 33 % increase over last fiscal year, reflecting growing demand and sustained community investment.

At Avenue A, teens from Antrim and surrounding towns are building relationships, gaining confidence and developing the skills they need to navigate an increasingly complex world. The data is encouraging... but the true impact is seen every day in teens who feel safe, supported and hopeful about their future! For more information about our programs visit avenueatc.org or email avenuea@grapevინeh.org. 📍

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