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FREE

February 2026

MONTHLY

A new kind of community space is taking shape in Kingston

KINGSTON — The Kingston Community Library is embarking on an exciting and ambitious project; It is one that reimagines what a library can be and how public space can bring people together. The Library has launched a capital campaign to create an Outdoor Community Center to serve as a thoughtfully designed destination that will transform library grounds into a vibrant place to gather, move, learn, and connect across generations.

Situated on approximately three and a half acres, the library property already includes beloved gardens maintained by the Friends of the Library, and a short-wooded walking trail. The Outdoor Community Center builds on these assets, reorganizing and expanding them to create a welcoming,

accessible environment for all ages and abilities. New walking paths and extended trails will offer a safe place for exercise and reflection, while children will discover playful "surprise" areas tucked along the way. Additional trees and redesigned gardens will encourage people to linger, explore, and return throughout the seasons.

What makes this project truly unique is its intentional focus on inter-generational use and community well-being. The Outdoor Community Center will include a pavilion for programs and events, a play-and-learning area for children, seating and gathering spaces, a meditation garden, and an exercise area featuring specialized equipment designed specifically for older adults.

Expanded parking will improve access, ensuring that the space can be enjoyed by as many residents as possible.

Every element of the design reflects extensive community input. In 2023, the Library partnered with the Rockingham Planning Commission to conduct an AARP Age-Friendly Community Survey, followed by public forums and a second survey during the conceptual design phase. The Board of Library Trustees also carefully considered current library programs and future needs, ensuring the space supports everything from story times and fitness classes to quiet contemplation and informal social connections.

The result is a rare kind of public space that encourages healthy aging, sparks



A 3D rendered drawing of how the new space will look.

curiosity in children, supports lifelong learning, and strengthens Kingston's sense of community. Landscape architecture firm Ironwood, LLC completed the final plans in 2025, and the Library is now seeking private donations and grant

funding to bring the vision to life.

The Outdoor Community Center is more than an enhancement to library grounds; It is an investment in Kingston's future. Community support will be essential to making this

shared vision a reality.

To learn more or to contribute, contact the Kingston Community Library Foundation at foundation@kingston-library.org or the Kingston Community Library Director, Melissa Mannon, at 603-642-3521.

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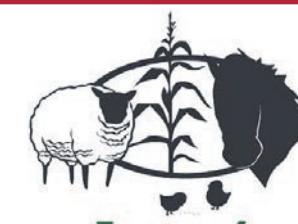
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Spring Fling to benefit Make-A-Wish

HAMPSTEAD — Hampstead Lions Club will host their annual 2026 fundraiser for the NH Make-A-Wish organization. This year's Spring Fling event will take place from 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday, March 29, at Castleton Banquet and Conference Center, 58 Enterprise Drive, Windham. Along with a scrumptious 4-course dinner buffet, the Spring Fling event will feature entertainment by World Gone Crazy Comedy, a DJ from Get Down Tonight, live auction, and so many raffles for tempting gift baskets and other prizes.

Tickets are available now for just \$65 each, and 100% of the funds raised will go towards fulfilling the wish of a very special NH child with cancer. Last year the club raised nearly \$50,000 for NH Make-A-Wish, and with your help, they can beat that number in 2026.

For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit <https://shorturl.at/EPEVA>. To order tickets or to donate, contact Lions Club member Berny Longbook at 603-329-5603.

Rabies Clinic

SANDOWN — The Town of Sandown will offer low cost Rabies Clinic for cats

and dogs from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 21, at the Fire Department, 314 Main St.

The cost is \$15 per pet.

The Town Clerks office will be open during the same hours as the clinic to register dogs.

For more information, call 603-887-4870.

Sanborn Community Organization March 5 meeting

KINGSTON — The Sanborn Community Organization (SCO) invites all residents, families, and community members who share a vision of improving the future of the Sanborn Regional School District to its next public meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 5, in the Sanborn Regional High School Library, 17 Danville Road.

SCO brings the community together to strengthen engagement, improve communication, and take coordinated action that supports Sanborn students, schools, and families—helping residents feel informed, involved, and connected.

The meeting will cover Town Election school items, including the proposed

school budget, School Board elections, and a superintendent search update. All who are committed to Sanborn's future are welcome to attend, learn, ask questions, and be part of the conversation.

For additional information, email sanborncommunityorganization@gmail.com.

Ice Fishing Derby at Country Pond

NEWTON — The annual Country Pond Ice Fishing Derby will be held from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at Country Pond Fish and Game Club, 82 Pond St. Registration starts at 5:30 a.m. at the Clubhouse. The event is open to the public.

The registration fee is \$10. Cash prizes will be awarded: largest pickerel or pike, \$250, largest white perch, \$125, largest yellow perch, \$75, largest miscellaneous fish, \$50. There will also be a \$500 gift certificate, sponsored by Stateline Guns, Ammo & Archery (an entry for every weighed-in fish).

Bait is available at the Clubhouse.

Rules: no bass, no power augers before 7 a.m., no lead

sinkers under one ounce. The Judges' decisions are final.

Food will be available on the ice.

This event is ice and weather permitting. For ice out information, call 603-382-5681. For additional information, contact Jim Nishina at jnlandscapes@gmail.com or call 603-793-0038.

Please note: Illegally parked vehicles will be towed.

Plaistow voter registration

PLAISTOW — The Supervisors of the Checklist in Plaistow will meet on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 145 Main St. The Supervisors will be available to register new voters or make any changes for existing voters. No additions or corrections to the checklist may be made after the Feb. 28 session until election day.

If registering to vote in Plaistow for the first time, please be advised of the importance of bringing the required documents to prove age, identity, domicile (resident of Plaistow) and US citizenship. In

addition, a new law requires anyone making a name change to supply supporting documents. For information about what documents are needed to register to vote, visit the Secretary of State's website at <https://shorturl.at/pyO2W>.

You may register to vote, update your name, address, and/or party affiliation in-person during business hours at the Town Hall up until 10 days prior to Election Day or at the polls on Election Day. The next election day is the Town Election on March 10, 2026.

To check on your current voter registration status, you may review the checklist posted at the library or Town Hall or go online to check at: <https://app.sos.nh.gov/viphome>.

Bowling & Arcade Day with Newton Recreation

NEWTON — Newton Recreation will sponsor Bowling & Arcade Day, during school vacation week, from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at Game Time in Amesbury, MA.

Tickets are \$10 per person and include one hour of bowling, thirty minutes of arcade, and two pizza slices and a bottle of water.

Parental supervision is required.

Preregistration is required; email recdirec@newtonnh.net.

Major General to speak at Veterans Club meeting

ATKINSON — Major General (Ret.) John J Deymond, a distinguished veteran of the United States Army, will address the Atkinson Veterans Club at 9:30 a.m. March 3, at Atkinson Community Center, 4 Main St.

A native of Andover,

Did You Know?

To go directly to our news In A Minute online, go to the top of our website eagletribune.com and choose "In A Minute" in the navigation bar.

Massachusetts, General Deymond served 34 years, rising from Private to Major General. He commanded at every level, including deployments in Europe and the Middle East, and held key posts such as Commanding General, 3rd Corps Support Command (V Corps) in Germany and Deputy Commanding General of NATO Forces in Kosovo. His numerous decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal and Legion of Merit. After military retirement, General Deymond has continued his commitment to national security through leadership roles supporting major Department of Defense projects worldwide. He resides in Pelham, New Hampshire.

Weekly card nights in Hampstead

HAMPSTEAD — Do you love to play cards? Come play Forty-fives on Tuesday nights through May 26, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hampstead Congregational Church, Hadley Hall, 61 Main St. It's lots of fun with a great group of people.

There is no fee for playing but donations would be appreciated to help with the cost of heat and electricity.

Bottled water and snacks will be provided.

Strut for a Cure Fashion Show

PLAISITOW — Timberlane Project Hope's Annual Strut for a Cure Fashion Show & Raffle Night will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at

THE Dame Barber

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Timberlane High School Gymnasium, 36 Greenough Road. The event will feature raffle baskets, silent auction, food and drink, fashion show, musical performances, dance team, and more.

All proceeds of the event are donated to the Angel Fund, which helps financially assist families in the Timberlane Regional School District battling cancer.

Please consider showing up to support the students' hard work in organizing this event, as well as the very worthy cause of supporting our community members in their time of need.

Meet & Greet with Sandown Civic Groups

SANDOWN —The Sandown Lion's Club will host the 2nd annual Sandown Civic Meet & Greet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at Sandown Town Hall, 320 Main St. All are welcome.

Members of the following groups and organizations will be available: Sandown Lions Club, Heritage Commission, Garden Club, 60 Plus Club, Baseball and Softball Association, Historical Society, Oktoberfest Committee, Sandown Recreation, PTA, Senior Transportation, and Conservation Commission. This annual event is a way to bring town committees and groups together to get

to know one another and give the residents the opportunity to learn more about what each group does. As always, this is a great way to foster a sense of community among all the great organizations that Sandown has to offer and give people a central event to meet representatives of all the committees and clubs. It's also a wonderful way for people to get in touch should they want to get more involved in the local community.

For additional information, email wbundzinski@gmail.com.

Republican Women's meeting to feature guest speaker

WINDHAM — The Southern New Hampshire Republican Women (SNHRW) will host a special guest speaker at its March meeting from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday, March 2, at Windham Restaurant, 59 Range Road. Guests are welcome to attend and may enjoy refreshments, appetizers, and entrees at their own expense during the meeting.

The evening's program will feature a representative from the Women's Defense League, an organization dedicated to empowering women through education, training, and advocacy. The speaker will discuss the League's mission to teach

women how to safely and accurately shoot, with a focus on building confidence, responsibility, and practical skills.

Attendees will learn about the variety of classes offered to the public, as well as member-only training opportunities, covering fundamentals, defensive skills, and continued education. The presentation will also address the League's legislative efforts at the State House to protect Second Amendment rights, along with an overview of firearms-related legislation that is introduced each year.

The program will conclude with personal safety tips drawn from the League's Refuse to Be a Victim seminar and Defensive Spray Training, offering practical guidance that participants can apply in everyday situations.

This informative session is open to members and guests alike and promises to be an engaging discussion on safety, education, and civic involvement. For more information about SNHRW membership and upcoming meetings

See **MINUTE**, Page 4



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» Minute

Continued from Page 3

and programs, visit www.SNHRW.org.

Winter animal tracking hike

EPPING — The winter season is an ideal time for being outdoors and exploring the local woods. Many mammals and birds are active during this time, including bobcat, coyote, deer, fox, rabbit, squirrel, chickadee, jay, turkey, and woodpecker.

Join Southeast Land Trust for an in-the-field winter animal tracking walk-and-talk hike from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Burley Farms, 247 North River Road. The hike will be led by Nottingham resident Tom Eid. During the hike, you will learn common tracking terms as well as animal movement patterns. For example, mammals have four primary ways of moving: walking, waddling, hopping, and bounding.

A hand-out will be provided that explains mammal movement patterns, a listing of mammals active in winter, and foot print pictures of nine mammals active during the winter months at Burley Farms.

No animal tracking experience is needed for the hike. Steady rain/snow, icy trail conditions, or lack of snow will cancel the event. To register, go to www.seltnh.org.

Mah Jongg Tournament

DERRY — Calling all Mah Jongg mavens! You're invited to a Mah Jongg Tournament from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 26 at Etz Hayim Synagogue, 1-12 Hood Road. Join for a fun-filled day of tiles, prizes and friendship. Entry fee is \$30. There will be 4 rounds of game play, 4 games per 1-hour round. There will be prizes for placement, a 50/50 raffle and additional raffles, and sandwiches,

desserts and refreshments. Sign up by Sunday, April 12. Doors open and check-in 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Pre-register and pay at www.etzhayim.org/mah-jongg-tournament. Rules and scoring provided after payment receipt. Questions? Contact Jean Lisien at jbortz@comcast.net or Deb Eisner at rlc800@aol.com.

Hampstead-Kingston Republican Committee

HAMPSTEAD/KINGSTON — Change doesn't happen by accident—it happens when voters show up. Tuesday, March 10 is your chance to stand up for your community and have your say in local government. Local elections shape schools, budgets, and community priorities—right here at home. Your vote truly matters. Don't sit this one out. Make your voice heard on March 10 and help decide the future of your town.

Want to learn more? Contact Hampstead-Kingston Republican Committee at hknhgop@gmail.com.

Tenebrae: A service that begins Holy Week

KINGSTON — Trinity Church, 80 Route 125, Kingston, invites you to a non-denominational service of Tenebrae the evening of Palm Sunday, March 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The name Tenebrae means "shadows" or "darkness" in Latin. Throughout the service darkness increases as, outside, the sun is sinking in the West, and inside, candles are progressively extinguished.

The service originated in the early Middle Ages and was often held on Good Friday, or the previous Wednesday. Because over the years many of the participants in this service have come from other churches around New Hampshire

and Massachusetts but, of course, want to be in their home Church for services the end of Holy Week, Trinity Church holds ours earlier, this year on Palm Sunday.

The Gospel passage many Churches read on Palm Sunday starts with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Is this when Messiah will bring in the reign of God and oust the occupying Roman army?

Because the kingly reign of Jesus as Jesus acted it out was not what many either wanted or expected, many turned on Him, shouting for Barabbas to be released from prison and Jesus crucified.

At Tenebrae, as the Scripture lessons are read, beautiful music sung, and candles extinguished, we walk with Jesus towards the Cross, where God's purpose was accomplished.

You are invited to be a part of his journey by attending Tenebrae, no matter what Church you come from, or if you don't attend any Church at all. Come and experience the true heart of the Christian faith.

An offering will be received. Trinity works with New Creation Healing Center, a faith-based center of family practice medicine, counseling, massage, and prayer ministry. The tax-deductible offering will go towards erecting an additional building on the Trinity Church / New Creation property so people may come from a distance and stay for the whole-person care New Creation is known for.

For further information, call 603-571-0205.

Senior Citizen Prom scheduled for April

DERRY — Saddle up for a Senior Citizens Country Hoedown Prom.

The Hampstead Recreation Commission is hosting an afternoon of music, line dancing, food and fun for seniors from noon to

3 p.m. on Sunday, April 19 at Pinkerton Academy, 5 Pinkerton St.

Wear your best western wardrobe (jeans, flannels, sun-dresses and cowboy boots).

This event is free. Food and drinks will be provided.

To RSVP, email clas-sof2027@pinker-tonacademy.org or call 603-437-5200 ext. 4408.

New and special events at Kingston Library

KINGSTON — Kingston Community Library, 2 Library Lane, will hold the following new and special events in February.

The Low Stakes Band, an acoustic duo playing folk and Americana music will perform at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.

"Love Your Bones", part of the Older Adult Seminars, will be presented at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. The lecture will feature bone health information brought to you by Herbal Path Natural Pharmacy.

Check out the full calendar of programs and events online at www.kingston-library.org.

Civil War presentation

The Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire will meet at 7:15 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at the Harvey-Mitchell Library, 151 Main St. This month the featured presentation will be "Harry Gilmor's 1864 Maryland Raid," by Bill Hallett.

In early July 1864, General Jubal Early entered western Maryland in an effort to head south into Washington, DC, to draw Grant's Union troops away from the Petersburg area.

A side project was to send Confederate cavalry deeper into Maryland, with some hoping to reach Point Lookout to free POWs, while another group under Colonel Harry Gilmor, would head eastward and cut across the counties north of Baltimore.

Gilmor destroyed railroad bridges and track, raided supplies and even captured a Union general, and cut telegraph lines, severing Baltimore City and Washington from northern aid.

Bill Hallett, a former radio announcer, is a thirty year member of the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire and author of "Newburyport and the Civil War" (History Press 2021). A living historian/re-enactor, he has spoken to many history groups from Maine to Maryland.

For more on this meeting or the Civil War Roundtable of New Hampshire, visit www.cwrt-nh.org or call 978-994-4717.

Atkinson Academy PTA Scholarship open for applications

ATKINSON — Attention seniors in the Class of 2026 at Atkinson Academy, scholarship opportunities are now available through March 1 for the Atkinson Academy PTA Scholarship and the Kathie Dayotis Legacy Scholarship.

The Legacy scholarship only applies to students seeking a career that involves children.

To apply, visit tinyurl.com/yxn7p35x Contact ptatkinson@gmail.com.

Health & Wellness Fair at Timberlane

PLAISTOW — Timberlane Regional High School will host a Health & Wellness Fair as part of their Mental Health Awareness Week. The fair will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, at Timberlane Regional High School cafeteria, 36 Greenough Road.

Resources will be available from a wide variety of vendors to assist both mental and physical health. Free and open to the community.

For additional information, email Mr. Taylor Donovan at taylor.donovan@timberlane.net.

Garden design presentation

EPPING — Join Southeast Land Trust (SELT) for "Gardens in Relationship: Designing with Native Plants" from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11 at The Mathey Center at Burley Farms, 247 North River Road.

Landscape Designer Ashley Robinson and Van Berkum Nursery's Director of Outreach & Education Roanne Robbins will explore the art and science of designing native plant gardens that support biodiversity while reflecting both your personal goals and the realities of your space.

Participants will learn how plants interact over time and how those relationships shape dynamic, living landscapes. The session focuses on creating resilient, sustainable, and visually engaging gardens that provide ecological value year-round. Attendees are encouraged to bring photos, sketches, and site-specific information to collaborate and brainstorm their designs with Ashley and Roanne.

The suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. To register, go to www.seltnh.org or call 603-778-6088.

The Milkmen Improv

PLAISTOW — Timberlane students perform each month at the Performing Art Center, 40 Greenough Road. The Milkmen Improv will be bringing you new shows in the New Year.

Save the date for lots of laughs. Performances will be held Thursday, Feb. 19, Thursday, March 19, Thursday, April 23, Thursday, May 21 and Thursday, June 18.

The students donate the proceeds to several TRHS club/groups.

For updates, call 603-382-6541 ext. 3980 or visit www.timberlane.net/pac/calendars.

» Real Estate Transfers — Jan. 12 To Feb. 2, 2026

ATKINSON

4 Forest Rd: Forest RET and Gwendolyn O. Doughty to Rebekah Carroll and Ernest Johnson, \$600,000
7 Longview Dr Unit 105: Kiernan Ft and William J. Kiernan to Fakhrerazi Nikkhah, \$565,000

2 N Broadway: K & R T and Kristin B. Morse to Gary and Carissa C. Christopher, \$655,000
25 Crown Hill Rd: Grant Ft and Paul M. Grant to Calvin and Rachel Carroll, \$299,933
1 Long View Dr Unit 3107: Lewis Builders Dev Inc to Patricia A. McManus, \$677,000
41 Westside Dr: Puglia Lee J Est and Loretta Cardavelli to Frederick and Ashley M. Clark, \$605,000
2 Devonshire Rd: Jasch Investments LLC to Kevin A. Rosario, \$600,000
7 Stevens Ct Unit 7: Gutry Ft and Judy Gutry to Craig Perkins and Karen Jameson, \$631,400
17 Crown Rd: Grant Ft and Paul M. Grant to Elizabeth C. Doiron, \$60,000
19 Crown Rd: Grant Ft and Paul M. Grant to Elizabeth C. Doiron, \$857,000

DANVILLE

73 Pine St: Steven and Stephanie Dionne to Stephen Soterakopoulos and Mandy Carper, \$540,000
35 Emily Ln: Stephen and Holly Akikie to Allison and Michael Gemmer, \$830,000
78 Back Rd: Kelley M. Blancato to Joseph M. and Pamela F. Rautenberg, \$800,000
19 Diamond Dr: Laurie Psarris Ft and Laurie A. Psarris to Jennifer E. and Robert J. Hamilton, \$605,000
70 Sandown Rd: George H Nelson Jr RET and George H. Nelson to 70 Sandown Rd LLC, \$1,650,000

EAST KINGSTON

129 Haverhill Rd: Stephanie P. and Malcolm J. Bryant to Maxwell and Kimberly De Boalt,

\$525,000

163 North Rd: Catherine Novak to Holt RET and Leonard M. Holt, \$649,933
1 Bowley Rd: Andrew E. and Ashley R. Herum to Joseph J. and Katie L. Rashid, \$760,000

HAMPSTEAD

42 Country Rd: Colin Hanlon to Mary P. and Stanley J. Usovitz, \$625,000
41 Tewksbury Rd: Laurel R. and Damian Neubauer to Kimberly J. and Rollin C. Khaund, \$550,000
N/A: Deborah A. Sheehan to Solid Gold Inv Group LLC, \$365,000
15 Cambridge Rd: John W. and Melinda J. Dennehy to Scott Living RET and Robert E. Scott, \$562,500

KINGSTON

79 North Rd: Leo S. Vecchiarello to Sabre M. and James R. Leek, \$780,000
7 Phoenix Dr: Christopher J. and Kaitlyn Patenaude to Jake J. Burns and Anna B. Hau-man, \$585,000
32 Pillsbury Pasture Rd: Dustin W. Ciampa to William J. and Pamela B. Schoppmeyer, \$920,000
129 Route 125: White Cedar Rt and Michael Seekamp to Daniel J. Grzyboski, \$559,933
132 Main St: NH Home Buyers LLC to Karen Straub, \$176,000
1 North Rd: Lisa A. Dole to Mary T. Hemeon, \$285,000
49 Wadleigh Point Rd: Linda J. Phelps to Matthew Scally, \$659,933
11 North Rd: Lisa A. Dole to Mary T. Hemeon, \$285,000
Route 125: Seventy- Nine Rt and Richard P. Early to A2 Village Square LLC, \$350,000

NEWTON

7 Grebenstein Dr Unit 7: Stephen L. and Ryan Bethune to M Deoliveira Martins,

\$405,000

56 Whittier St: Holt RET and Leonard Holt to Suzanne Hughes and Christopher George, \$645,000
25 Crane Crossing Rd: Trademark Homes LLC to Doms Ventures LLC, \$185,000
7 Heath St: Michael P. and Beverly A. Belanger to James R. Belanger, \$158,000
43 Maple Ave: Antonio F. and Linda M. Medeiros to Cherylann Schiavone, \$510,000

PLAISTOW

15 Culver St Unit 18: Paul Delpizzo to Molly E. Dever, \$370,000
55 Sweet Hill Rd: Karen J. Peaslee-Ray to Declan Drew, \$595,000
182 Plaistow Rd Unit 6: Sean Batchelder to Jason G. and Kathleen V. Bretton, \$235,000
28 Westville Rd: Antony and Colette Ineson to Fritz B. Stadtlander, \$490,000
5 Sequoia Ln: Gerald M. Foster to Corey L. Berube, \$510,000
4 Autumn Cir: Miller Ernest H Est and Linda Miller to Infinity Optima LLC, \$345,000
267 Main St: Peter D Miller RET and Darrin Belcher to Silvia Cametti, \$525,000
333 Main St: Nelson A. and Katherine Mendoza to Christopher P. De Stefano, \$790,000
10 Springview Ter: Dickinson Elizabeth A Est and William D. Cox to Cathleen M. Collis and Paul C. Dimmock, \$500,000
15 Culver St Unit 42: Melanie Bixby to Jennifer L. and Brenda J. Mc Donough, \$399,000
70 Old County Rd Unit A: Jasmin Margaret Est and Kurt A. Huhn to Evan P. Raffi, \$375,000

SANDOWN

Showell Pond Rd: Montana Rt and Robert P. Villella to Ntv Builders LLC, \$1,410,000
N/A: Joanne Carbone to Lehman 2021 T and Charles R. Lehman, \$461,000
21 Brightstone Way Unit 21: Ferguson Lane Dev LLC to Todd D. and Donna J. Richardson, \$616,200

Derry News building soon to be on market

By Derry News staff

DERRY — The Derry News building at 46 West Broadway is about to go up for sale, according to Jim Falzone, publisher of North of Boston Media Group, the building owner.

Falzone emphasized that the print edition of the newspaper will still be delivered weekly for free to 22,500 homes in Derry and Londonderry, and a digital replica of the newspaper at DerryNews.com will continue to reach thousands of readers in Southern New Hampshire.

The staff will now work from their homes in New Hampshire, or from the office of their sister paper the Eagle-Tribune in North Andover, Mass.

"At a time when most of the work is already being done remotely, unnecessary operating costs of the Derry News building prompted its sale," said Falzone. "The Derry News is still very committed to providing the most compelling local news and advertising content, while helping strengthen the communities we cover."

There are no plans to change the content, delivery, or mission of the Derry News in print or online.

The newspaper's archives dating back to the 1800s are being transported and saved at the North Andover offices of parent company North of Boston Media Group.

"We look forward to celebrating the newspaper's 150th anniversary in 2030," Falzone said.

Parties interested in purchasing the Derry News building can contact Dan Fox, Merry Fox Realty, 978-808-8064, dan@merryfox-realty.com.



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R. Reynolds



Upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities at Austin17House

Lindsey Messina, executive director

BRENTWOOD — Austin17House, 263 Route 125, a youth and family community center, is open 4 days a week and offers a safe place to drop in, make friends, and get a free meal.

St. Patrick's Day celebration

Join for Irish foods, live entertainment, games and activities for all ages at the St. Patrick's Day Fling from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 18. The family-friendly event will feature the Fiddling Thomsons, Southern New Hampshire Ukulele Group and McDonough & Grimes Irish Step Dancers. This is the perfect opportunity to enjoy some St. Patrick's Day fun, while connecting with friends and fellow community members. Whether you're a fan of traditional

Irish cuisine or simply looking for a fun day out with the family, there's something for everyone. The cost is \$15 per person or \$50 for a family of four. Purchase your tickets today at <https://shorturl.at/yXvM>.

2026 Training Academy

New! The 2026 Austin17House Training Academy has officially launched. Drop in and check out the hands-on, real-world experiences for teens. Adulting 101 Workshops include: positive personal habits, decision making, problem solving, receiving feedback, giving feedback, employee rights, financial literacy, and building budgets. The next program will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 4 to April 22. To learn more, go to <https://shorturl.at/ei1L6>.

Volunteer opportunities

Join the Austin17House

family. Mentors and committee members are needed. Become a mentor, or share your skills in: music, sewing, tutoring, weight lifting, or cooking. Join a committee to help with events and fundraising.

Community Spotlight

Thank you to the Atkinson Lions Club, Kowalski Carpentry, Exeter Lumber and our community for helping us raise funds to upgrade our Shop classroom. Donations will allow us to purchase our very first SawStop table and items for youth to learn woodworking skills.

Austin17House is open Tuesday, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and Friday, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, visit or website www.austin17house.org or call us at 603-770-6374.

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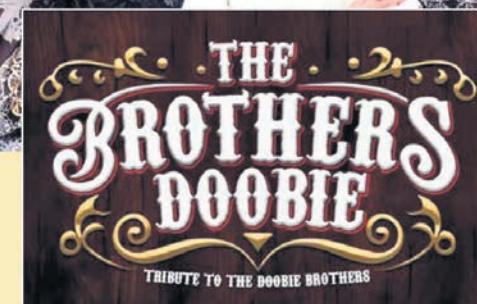
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**Timberlane Performing Arts Center – Show Starts at 7:00pm
General Admission – All tickets \$50! Tickets on sale now!**

The Brothers Doobie: Celebrating the Sound of the Doobie Brothers

When it comes to capturing the essence of classic rock, The Brothers Doobie stand out as the #1 tribute band to the legendary Doobie Brothers. With their infectious energy, masterful musicianship, and undeniable passion for the music, they transport audiences back to the golden era of the 1970s and '80s, when the Doobie Brothers dominated the charts with timeless hits.

At the heart of The Brothers Doobie is Sean Byrne, a charismatic frontman whose vocal prowess and stage presence take the audience by storm. With an extraordinary range and a knack for emulating the distinct sound that made the Doobie Brothers iconic, Sean brings an authentic experience to every performance. Fans rave about his ability to channel the spirit of classic hits like "Listen to the Music," "Black Water," and "Long Train Runnin'" — all while adding his unique flair that keeps them coming back for more.

But it's not just Sean's vocals that make The Brothers Doobie shine; the band is comprised of seasoned musicians whose collective experience spans decades. Each member brings their own distinct style, creating a dynamic sound that pays homage to the original band while adding a fresh twist. The harmony vocals are tight, the guitar solos electrifying, and the rhythm section lays down grooves that get everyone dancing.

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Free tax prep program for NH residents



STATEWIDE — Appointments for free tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program are now available for eligible New Hampshire residents with household incomes up to \$69,000. The program is administered by Granite United Way and provides no-cost, confidential tax preparation services completed by IRS-certified volunteers. VITA is made possible through funding support from Citizens Bank, along with community partners and volunteers.

The VITA program helps individuals and families file accurate tax returns and access tax credits for which they may be eligible. During the 2025 filing year, the VITA program supported the preparation of 4,830 federal tax returns, resulting in more than \$5.5 million in federal tax refunds returned to individuals and families.

"Free tax preparation is key to helping individuals and families receive the tax benefits they are eligible for," said Nichole Martin Reimer, President and CEO of Granite United

Way. "Through the VITA program, our IRS-certified volunteers help ensure residents can file accurate returns and access resources that support financial stability."

Once an appointment is scheduled, individuals gather their tax documents and valid identification and meet with an IRS-certified volunteer tax preparer. After the tax return is prepared, it is reviewed by a second IRS-certified preparer for accuracy before being submitted. All services are provided at no charge.

Important refund information: The IRS is phasing out paper checks. If you do not have a bank account, you may visit a local bank or credit union to discuss banking options. Paper check requests may be available by request but will delay your refund.

How to Access Free Tax Preparation

Residents can connect with the VITA program in several ways:

- Call 2-1-1 for information and assistance with scheduling an

appointment

- Visit NHTaxHelp.org to learn more about available tax preparation options

- Use MyFreeTaxes.org to prepare a return online for free, with guided support available

VITA services are offered at locations across New Hampshire and are also available in Windsor County, Vermont. The program strives to serve residents who may be underserved or face barriers to accessing tax preparation services, including older adults, people with disabilities, individuals with limited English proficiency, grandparents raising their grandchildren, and people who are working but experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are still needed to support the VITA program, particularly in Berlin and Laconia. Those interested in volunteering can visit www.graniteuw.org/volunteer or contact Jennifer.Hunter@graniteuw.org for more information.

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8 Celestial Bloom Charity Gala March 7

HAMPSTEAD — The Rising Rose Foundation, a women-led nonprofit serving Rockingham County and surrounding areas, will host its first annual Celestial Bloom Charity Gala from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, March 7, at Seaglass Restaurant & Blue Ocean Music Hall, 4 Ocean Front N, Salisbury, MA.

The gala is the foundation's flagship fundraising event, supporting its four core initiatives: Health, Home, Harvest, and Holiday, which provide direct assistance to local families facing hardship.

In 2025, the Rising Rose Foundation raised over \$35,000 through community events and sponsorships, directly supporting 13 local families. Impact included critical home repairs allowing a grandmother to foster her newborn twin grandchildren, assistance with medical



expenses for a single mother undergoing cancer treatment, \$2,500 in grocery gift cards for a family facing food insecurity due to job loss, and full holiday experiences for seven families recovering from financial hardship and crisis.

"Our work is deeply personal and intentionally local," said Brittany DeVitto, Founder and CEO of the Rising Rose Foundation. "Every dollar raised goes directly back into our community, helping families feel supported, seen, and

hopeful during some of their hardest moments."

The Celestial Bloom Gala will bring together community members, supporters, and local businesses for an elegant evening featuring a plated dinner, music, and a curated silent auction, all in support of the foundation's mission.

For 2026, the Rising Rose Foundation has set a fundraising goal of over \$50,000, with proceeds funding year-round assistance initiatives across the region.

Tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and donation information are available online at www.risingrose.org.

About the Rising Rose Foundation

The Rising Rose Foundation is a women-run nonprofit dedicated to creating meaningful, measurable change for local families through compassionate, community-driven support.

Home energy savings workshop

EAST KINGSTON — NHSaves Button Up, the popular home energy savings workshop series, is coming to East Kingston. The East Kingston Public Library, Carriage Towne Monthly and Friends of the East Kingston Public Library are presenting this free workshop for residents. It will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at East Kingston Public Library, 47 Maplevale Road. This workshop is also available on Zoom by going to plymouthenergy.org/button-up or the NHSaves event page.

The workshop is sponsored by NHSaves and coordinated statewide by the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI).

NHSaves is a collaboration of New Hampshire's electric and natural gas utilities (Eversource, Liberty Utilities, NH Electric Cooperative and Unitil).

The utilities are working together to provide NH customers with information, incentives, and support designed to save energy, reduce costs, and protect the NH environment. PAREI of Plymouth, NH is working with local groups around the state to bring these workshops to the public on behalf of New Hampshire's utilities.

The NHSaves Button Up Workshop is a 1.5-hour presentation plus Q&A about how to improve the energy efficiency of your home. It is conducted by a certified energy auditor and covers basic building science principles as well as examples of whole house weatherization measures that will button up your home for the heating and cooling seasons. It also covers details about the energy efficiency programs offered by NH utilities (for existing homes

and new construction) that provide energy audits, weatherization measures such as air sealing and insulating, and rebates on new technologies and products such as electric and gas appliances and high efficiency electric heating/cooling equipment.

The workshop is free and no registration is necessary. For more information on the East Kingston NHSaves Button Up or other NHSaves Button Up Workshops, visit plymouthenergy.org/button-up.

For questions about the East Kingston NHSaves Button Up, email Sherry Castle ekpublib@comcast.net.

Workshop organizers also recommend the public sign up with NHSaves Facebook and Instagram pages for up-to-date information on energy saving tips and programs.



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March programs at Gale Library

Michelle Baker, director

NEWTON — The Gale Library, 16 South Main St., welcomes you to the following upcoming events.

Our **Winter Reading** programs for youth and adults have begun and will continue through Saturday, March 21. This year's theme is a cozy one: Books & Blankets. For adults, every book you finish earns you an entry in the Adult Weekly Drawing. For youth, log every 10 minutes of reading on your quilt-themed reading log. Every three quilt squares earn an entry in the Youth Weekly Drawing.

On Monday, March 23 at 4 p.m. we will host **"Fabergé Imperial Easter Eggs"** with Marina Forbes. Come enjoy a spectacular photo-tour of Fabergé collections from world famous museums and private collectors around the

world. Attendees will also learn about the important role of egg painting in Slavic culture and the unique development of this major art form from a traditional craft to the level of exquisite fine art. Please contact the library to sign up.

Our **Parent-Friendly Book Club** will meet on Wednesday, March 25 to discuss "The Henna Artist" by Alka Joshi. This adult book club meets upstairs in the Youth Room, allowing accompanying children to enjoy a quiet craft or activity while adults discuss the book of the month. Any adult is welcome to participate, but expect to have children nearby and a cacophony of joyous noise could interrupt the discussion. Copies of each month's book are available to borrow from the library.

On Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. youth of all ages

are invited to build **Leprechaun Traps** in the Youth Room. We'll supply craft materials and recyclables. Bring your creativity and leave the library with your own leprechaun trap. Maybe you will catch one this year!

On Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, we will have a **Spring Celebration** for youth of all ages. Drop-in any time during those two hours to make several crafts to celebrate the coming of spring. This is also the last day to log your **Winter Reading** entries!

Come visit the library on Monday, noon to 6 p.m., Tuesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday noon to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @GaleLibrary for the latest updates, new arrivals, and programs.



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Fun and games at Hampstead Public Library

Janet Arden, head of circulation

HAMPSTEAD — The Hampstead Public Library has several opportunities for adults to join in free fun games and be social. There are **Mah Jongg** sessions on Mondays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. **Bridge** players meet the first and third Mondays at 1 p.m. **Cribbage** players meet on the first and third Mondays at 6 p.m. Adjustments to the schedule are made when there are holiday Mondays. **Dominoes** fans gather on the first, second, and fourth Thursdays of the month from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. to play **Mexican Train**. The first Thursday of every other month, the Library presents **Bagels & Bingo** at 9:30 a.m. The next sessions are March 5 and May 7. All games are played in a relaxed no-pressure atmosphere.

The Hampstead Public Library continues to partner with the St. Anne Parish Heaven's Kitchen, acting as a **Healthy Box Meal** drop-off location. Meal and snack boxes are delivered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and are available after 10 a.m. on a first come, first serve basis.

These boxes are for children, seniors, or anyone who needs a little extra help and a healthy meal. Meals are often available on other days of the week. Feel free to call the Library to ask what is available, 603-329-6411.

Hampstead Public Library card-holders can borrow many fun things from the **Tools & Toys collection** including snowshoes, baking pans, giant games, binoculars, vehicle code reader, digital converter, Wi-Fi hotspots, and a sewing machine. You can reserve items in advance. For a complete listing ask a librarian or visit hampsteadlibrary.org/tools-toys.

The Hampstead Public Library is hosting a **book launch with local author Jack Cheevers** on Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m. Cheevers' book, Kennedy's Coup: A White House Plot, a Saigon Murder, and America's Descent into Vietnam is published by Simon & Schuster. Cheevers shares the extensive research behind his book. This event is free and open to the public.

Other free adult program highlights include: Friday, March 6 at



COURTESY PHOTO

Enjoying a relaxed game of Mah Jongg at Hampstead Public Library, from left, Table on the left: Donna Flister, Peter Flister and Carol Cipriano; Table in front: Dee Tuccelli and Lynn Collins; Table in back: Lynn D'Adamo, Ellen McCune, Annmarie (Hickey) Georgopolis, Linda Tilden and Terri Malcolm (standing).

1 p.m. the **movie matinee** Springsteen, Deliver Me From Nowhere. The March 20 matinee is Hamilton. On Friday, March 13 at 1 p.m., the Library hosts an **Irish Harp Tea**. The featured presenter is performing artist Regina Delaney. Space is limited and advance registration is required via the Events Calendar

on www.HampsteadLibrary.org or call 603-329-6411. On Saturday, March 14 at 12 p.m., the Library celebrates **Pi Day with Pie & Poetry**. Please register in advance.

For children, the **Brick Buddies LEGO Club** is on Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. The Library has a special DIY Swords and Shields

workshop on Wednesday, March 11 at 6 p.m. The **Stars & Stories Kids Book Club** meets on Saturday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. Advance registration is required for these three events. **FAMILY Movie Nights** are February 25 and March 25 at 5:30 p.m.

Save the date: the annual **Hampstead Meet & Greet** is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year it takes place in the cafeteria at Hampstead Middle School. It's a great opportunity to meet representatives from over 25 Hampstead boards, commissions, committees, and clubs. They are happy to answer questions and tell you how you can be civically engaged. Adding to the festivities, this year there will be firetrucks and the Heaven's Kitchen truck outside, plus there will be student art displayed inside. The Library provides an activity for children.

For a complete list of Hampstead Public Library events, go to www.hampsteadlibrary.org, or visit the Library at 9 Mary E. Clark Drive. Call 603-329-6411 with questions.



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Candidates Night, junk journaling, and more at East Kingston Library

Sherry Castle, assistant director

EAST KINGSTON — East Kingston Public Library, 47 Maplevale Road, announces the following upcoming programs and events.

East Kingston has a few contested positions on the March 10 ballot. So, come to the library for **Meet the Candidates Night** on at 7 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 5 and find out who's running for what and why. Attend in-person or virtually via Zoom.

Try a new creative outlet with **Junk Journaling**. It's an artistic approach to scrapbooking with found objects and your favorite mementos. The library has a 4-part workshop where you design and build your own junk

journal. Join us at 5 p.m. Wednesdays, March 18, April 1, April 15, and April 29. Registration is required. Visit us to see an example.

Want to increase your in-home comfort while decreasing energy costs? Then the **NHSaves ButtonUP Workshop** is for you. It will take place at 6:30 p.m. Thursday March 19. Open to the public; no registration required. Attend in-person or virtually via Zoom. The workshop is sponsored by NHSaves and coordinated statewide by the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative (PAREI).

Visit the library website www.eastkingstonlibrary.org for more details on these events and more.

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More than books at Kimball Library

Kathleen J. Watson, assistant director/youth services director

ATKINSON — Kimball Library in Atkinson is pleased to offer the following upcoming programs, groups, activities, and classes.

People Helping People Genealogy Meetup:

► Gather with other people who are interested in Genealogy at 10 a.m. on Fridays to share tips, exchange information, talk shop, etc. There is no set commitment, so plan to join us weekly, once a month, or whenever you have that "I am stuck in my research" question. For those who are interested in genealogy and don't know how to get started, perhaps the group can help too.

Tie-It Yourself: Yeti Pillow (Kids):

► Children ages 6 and up and invited to this cozy, hand-on craft program at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Monday,

Feb. 23. Participants will create their very own soft yeti pillow using simple tying techniques—no sewing required.

Pancakes Storytime (Ages 3-6):

► Don't you just love pancakes? It's time for stories and pancakes at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Book It! (Ages 3+): We have piles and piles of activity books at the library! Drop-in and fill out a page or two at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. Try a dot-to-dot, color by number, and so much more. Come when you can, leave when you must.

Felted Panda Hoop (Ages 8+):

► Craft a charming two-dimensional needle-felting design of a pleasantly plump panda with bamboo at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24. Using an embroidery hoop with craft felt as a base, you'll secure layers of wool with a special needle. Perfect for beginners

and experienced crafters alike, this workshop offers a creative and relaxing way to explore fiber art.

Hunger Games: Interactive Movie Night (T/weens 9+):

► We have the props, the scripts, the movie, the big screen and lots of food and candy! Just bring your tweens and a friend at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. You'll have tons of fun acting out and interacting with the movie as you watch.

Orange Peel Bird Feeder (Grades K-5):

► The little birds are looking for seeds and food to get through the winter months. Join to make an orange peel feeder at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. Please note: This project uses peanut butter.

Cable Cutters Workshop:

► How much are you paying for your cable bill? If it is more than \$200 per month, it is more than you need to. At 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26

join to learn how to reduce what you pay for the Internet and watching TV, at the same time enhance your TV viewing.

We will be looking at ways to decrease your Internet bill; while still watching the channels you love. You can watch your shows when you want, not only when they are scheduled.

Boating Safety Course 2026:

► This instructor-led class incorporates a range of learning methods consisting of lecture, videos, and student discussion. Individuals must attend both evening classes (Tuesday, March 3 and Thursday, March 5 at 6 p.m.).

Upon successful completion of the course, students will leave with a boating certificate which is valid for 45 days. The permanent certificate card will be automatically mailed to the student's address entered at the time of registration.



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Brittney Bergholm, director

SANDOWN — Sandown Public Library, 305 Main St., offers something for everyone.

Special Programs

Local Author Chat: Meet Michael Cameron Ward, from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 21.

Trivia and Tacos: Monday, Feb. 23, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Jungle Jim Minecraft Madness: Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Exploring Greenland: Saturday, Feb. 28, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Unplug & Play Luncheon: Tuesday, March 10, from noon to 2 p.m.

Weekly Programs

Cribbage: Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mahjong: Thursdays, from

10 a.m. to noon.

Story Time (3+): Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Toddler Tales: Thursdays (when no music), from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Monthly Programs

Kids Kraft: Wednesday, February 18, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Books & Bites Book Discussion: Wednesday, February 18, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Tunes for Tots: Thursday, February 19, from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Kidz Rock: Thursday, February 19, from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Ready 2 Rock: Thursday, February 19, from noon to 12:45 p.m.

Graphic Novel Book Club: Monday, February 23, from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Where Dragons Dream

Book Club: Monday, February 23, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

STEAM Explorers: Wednesday, February 25, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Fiber Fest: Monday, March 2 and March 16, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Lego League: Monday, March 2, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Monday Movies: Monday, March 2, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Messy Monday: Monday, March 9, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Monday Morning Mystery Book Group: Monday, March 9, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Food for Thought: Monday, March 9, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Book-2-Movie: Monday, March 16, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

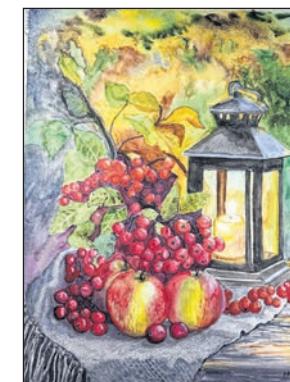
Please look at our calendar on www.sandownlibrary.us to confirm locations, times, and to register for programs.

Art Reception, winter concert and more at Epping Library

EPPING — Harvey Mitchell Memorial Library, 151 Main St., announces the following upcoming events.

An Art Reception for Merilee Van Duzer will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12. Merilee is a watercolor artist based in Epping. She began painting in 2022 as a way to deal with the grief of the loss of her husband. Her paintings explore a wide range of subjects, each chosen to push the limits of watercolor and her ability to capture fine detail. She is drawn to the challenge and spontaneity of the medium, embracing both control and surprise in her work.

The next Winter Concert is at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 21. Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki will present a NH Humanities to Go Program titled "Songs of Emigration: Storytelling Through Traditional Irish Music".



MERILEE VAN DUZER

An Art Reception for Merilee Van Duzer will be held from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Epping Library, 151 Main St.

days at 10:30 a.m.

Movie Night on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Game Afternoon on the fourth Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For additional information, call 603-679-5944 or visit www.eppinglibrary.com.

The presenter discusses the historical context of these songs, interspersing their stories with tunes from Ireland that made their way into New England's musical repertoire, played on his fiddle or guitar.

Ongoing activities include:

Chair and Gentle Yoga on Monday mornings at 10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Family Yoga on Tuesday mornings at 11:45 a.m.

Classic, Mystery and Contemporary Book Groups on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Story Times on Tuesdays at 11:15 a.m. and Wednes-

days at 10:30 a.m.

Movie Night on the second Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Game Afternoon on the fourth Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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Snow much to do at Colby Library

Ann Massoth, director

DANVILLE — It's time for our sixth annual snowman contest and Mother Nature is certainly cooperating. The Colby Memorial Library's February Snowman Challenge is a month-long contest open to all Danville residents including children, teens, families, and neighborhood groups. Get creative and build an animal, sculpture, or favorite storybook character. Feel free to accessorize your creation.

Prizes — gift certificates to area businesses — will be awarded for Best Traditional, Most Creative, and Best Overall Creation.

Snow creatures must be made during the month of February only.

Photos must be sent by Sunday, March 1 to childrensroom@colbymemoriallibrary.org. Photos will be posted on our Facebook page during the month of February so be sure to list the names of everyone as you wish them to appear. (Submission also grants us permission to use the photos on Facebook and in other library promotional materials.)

Let it snow!

February is the love month. Are you looking for the perfect match? Go on a "blind date with a book" and maybe

you'll meet a new favorite character or author or even discover a new kind of book. Come by during the month of February and take a chance on a wrapped book and then, after you've read it, rate your date.

School Vacation Week Feb. 23 to 27

Looking for something fun to do during school vacation week? Colby Library has you covered with the following programs:

Kid's Paint and Sip Hot Cocoa Party:

Rescheduled to 2:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23. Join us for a winter celebration as we paint small canvases and enjoy hot cocoa.

STEM Craft: Come build sugar cube igloos at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.

Lego Club with Tom: 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Come for a winter session of the ever popular Lego Club. What will the challenge be and will the kids be up for it?

Chess Club: 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25. Come match wits with other chess players of all ages from kids to seniors.

Dr. Seuss Themed Story Times: 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 26.

Dr. Seuss Drop-in Crafts: 10 a.m. to

1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

Other upcoming programs

Danville Amateur Astronomer's Club:

The first meeting has been rescheduled to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 7. There has been a lot of interest in a new astronomy club created by Danville resident Al Daneau. We are happy to host the group's first meeting and collaborate with the group on future night sky events. Pete Smith of the NH Astronomical Society's Library Telescope Program will be on hand to discuss our telescope and others. We share Mr. Daneau's hope that children will be inspired by the group to become sky watchers.

The UFO phenomena: 1 p.m. Saturday, March 21, at the Community Center, 169 Main St. Join us as we host Bob McDermott to lead a discussion on the reality of life from other planets beginning with the Exeter abduction story. Mr. McDermott has been an amateur historian and paranormal researcher for 25 years.

There is so much more. Check out the calendar on our website at www.colbymemoriallibrary.org. Follow us on Facebook for additional news and events.

Kindergarten registration for Kingston and Newton residents

KINGSTON/NEWTON —

If your child will be five years old by Sept. 30, 2026, and you are a resident of Kingston or Newton, you should consider registering your child for tuition-free full-day kindergarten for the 2026-2027 school year. Please visit the school website at <http://bakie.sau17.net> and click the registration link. Please make sure you select next year, 2026-2027, when completing the registration. All registrations are done online.

Documentation required to complete the registration process includes current physical and immunization records,

along with proof of residency. The Sanborn Regional School District has defined the following acceptable residency documents: a copy of a current utility bill (electric, cable, gas, or oil) showing your name and address (no PO Boxes), accompanied by a signed lease, a notarized letter from a builder or realtor, a property tax bill, a settlement

document for a new home, or a property deed. Registering early helps the staff plan effectively. They request that registrations be completed no later than May 1st to aid in classroom planning and registration processing.

New Hampshire State Law requires all children to have had immunizations for DPT, Polio, Mumps, Measles, German Measles, Chicken Pox, and Hepatitis B before school entry. They also require each child to have a complete medical examination within one year before entry into kindergarten.

All incoming kindergarten students are required to participate in a screening process. You must register your child to participate in the screening. Screening dates are tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 30 and Friday, June 6, 2026.

For more information, contact Kim Rousseau, Enrollment Coordinator, at 603-642-5272, ext. 101, or email krousseau@sau17.net.

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Students on the Rise

Andrew Morin of Atkinson has achieved dean's list honors for the Fall 2025 semester at Nichols College.

Clarkson University has named **Ethan Nickerson of Plaistow** to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester.

Ryan D. Lucca of Hampstead has been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester at Fitchburg State University.

James Madison University is pleased to announce the following students who made the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester. Local students honored include: **Grace Matthews of Plaistow**, majoring in Inclusive Early Childhood Education – BS and **Jillian Sears of Hampstead**, majoring in Psychology – BS.

Alexia Steeves of Hampstead and **Mia Murray of Atkinson** have been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester at Assumption University.

Brooke Morin of Atkinson has achieved president's list honors for the Fall 2025 semester at Nichols College.

Karli Scherp of Kensington has been named presidential scholar at Clarkson University for the Fall 2025 semester. Presidential Scholars must achieve a minimum 3.80 grade-point average and carry at least 14 credit hours.

Select students have been named to the Fall 2025 dean's list at Roger Williams University. Local students honored include: **Johnathan Fabrizio of Atkinson**, **Anna Pellegrini of Hampstead**, **Ella Watts of Plaistow**.

Western New England University (WNE) is proud to announce that Kyle Walker of **Sandown** has been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester.

Emily Ahearn of Atkinson has been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester at The

University of Alabama.

Stonehill College is pleased to recognize the students named to the Fall 2025 dean's list. Among the honorees is **Joseph Gannon of Sandown**.

Connor Schuler of Hampstead and **Alex Sweet of Danville** have been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester at Champlain College.

Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) has announced its dean's list for academic excellence for the Fall 2025 semester. Local students honored include: **Plaistow**: Warren Carstensen, Julia Fronc; **Atkinson**: Connor Goudreau; **Hampstead**: Caroline McGaffigan.

The following local students have been named to the Plymouth State University president's list for the Fall 2025 semester: **Atkinson**: Carmella Defina, Chloe Saulnier; **Danville**: Emily Fintonis, Julia Grieco, Kaylee Miller,

Ethan Moussa, Jaidyn Paustian; East Hampstead: Owen Doherty, Daniel Nelson; **East Kingston**: Foley Eaton, Casey O'Neil;

Hampstead: Hannah Frost, Matthew Lazzaro, Riley Lyons; **Kingston**: Violet Coon, Alexa Flanagan, Keily Gallant; **Plaistow**: Taysha Melendez; **Sandown**: Eric Jarvis, Alyssa Kontos, Grace Pascucci, Michael Toronto.

American International College (AIC) student **Liam Francis** has earned dean's list honors for the Fall 2025 semester. Francis, of **Plaistow**, is majoring in Sports and Recreation Management.

Salve Regina University has announced the following local students have been named to the dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester: **Hampstead**: Reagan Bailey, Lauren Martin; **Kensington**: Alexis Scala; **Danville**: Emma Sharpe.

Carson M. Andler of Hampstead and **Nick E. Darby of East Kingston**

earned first honors for the Fall 2025 semester at Clark University. Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

Students have been named to the Plymouth State University dean's list for the Fall 2025 semester. Local students honored include: **Danville**: Joe Hemenway, Ryan Roeger; **Hampstead**: Ayla Denton, Brady Lyons; **Plaistow**: Evan Mono; **Sandown**: Simone Faucher, Koen Ouellette; **East Hampstead**: Daniel Nelson.

The University of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that several area students have been named to its Fall 2025 dean's list. Local students honored include: **Atkinson**: Jillian Singer; **Hampstead**: Nathan Lindquist; **Kingston**: Rachel Kelly, Haley O'Toole, Sydney O'Toole.

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SUCCESSFUL DANCE CLINIC AT TIMBERLANE



COURTESY PHOTO

The Timberlane Dance Team hosted a clinic for area dancers last month. Over fifty young dancers from the district participated. They learned a routine and performed it at the Basketball game during half-time. This has become a popular event over the years. You can catch the Dance Team at Project Hope at 6 pm. Saturday, March 7, at Timberlane High School Gymnasium, 36 Greenough Road, Plaistow.

Northern Essex honor roll

HAVERHILL — Northern Essex Community College congratulates 1,783 students who were named to the Fall 2026 Dean's List. Local students honored include:

Atkinson: Thora Bennett, Stone Cashin, Megan Fetty, Julie Jordan, Jen Levy, Ellie McDonough, Ella Raposo, Bailey Orio, Ashlyn Murphy, Ryan Palmer.

Danville: Elani Santiago.

East Hampstead: Bella Dubois, Faith Levesque, Isabel Pinti.

Hampstead: Ana Brandolini, Arieana Coady, Theresa Ferreira, Joshua Jones.

Kensington: Kaila Currier.

Kingston: Tam Atkins, Charbel Daher, Maya Dutton, Liam Maguire, Gregory Scheer, Sam Tanner.

Newton: Shayla

Gillis, Jocelyn Guy, Kevin Kolodziej, Elsie Taylor, Alexandra Tripari, Hailey Woodsum, Christina Ott.

Plaistow: Callum Bel-fiore, Noah Castine, Kate-lyn Cochrane, Micah Costine, Makayla Dion, Briar Duchaine, Kinsey Gautreau, KJ Khalsa, Honour Kimball, Tabitha Kimball, Hannah Tuccolo, Nicole Pagnottaro, Benjamin Swanney, Domi-nic Rudy.

Sandown: Mikayla Cole, Alex Crispo, Angela DiGiulio, Vivian Gurczak, Tiana Heafey, Kyle Hickey, Danielle Stratoti, Karlie Toronto, Bee Vazquez.

To be included, students must attain a grade point average of 3.3 or higher within the term, carry six or more credits within the term, and be matriculated in a degree program.



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EXETER — During the cold winter months of February and early March, come to the Seacoast Artist Association and pick up a free 5x7 inch birch wood panel and create your art on it using any medium.

You can choose to make your art vertical or horizontal.

When it's done, sign it and bring your finished panel art back to the Seacoast Artist Association by Saturday, March 21 as a donation.

Your donated art will then lead a glamorous life of being photographed, videoed, hung in the gallery.

It will also be featured on Facebook and Instagram. Then the panels will be

available for viewing and

available for viewing and admired from April 1 to April 10, and available for purchase on Saturday, April 11 at \$50 a piece — as a full

donation to the Seacoast Artist Association Scholarship Fund.

Funds raised from this event will help provide scholarships to High School students from the 13 area High Schools. Eligible students need to be pursuing art in a 2 or 4 year Visual Arts program in a college or university. Help support artists of the future!

See your art hanging at the Seacoast Artist Association in this show and come to buy starting on Saturday, April 11. Art will remain up all month until sold.

The Seacoast Artist Association is located on 130 Water St. Parking is free. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the demonstration starting at 2 p.m.



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Comedy Night w/Steve Bjork.....	03/21/26
Sip & Spirits w/ Jocelyn.....	03/27/26
Back to the 80s.....	04/03/26
Easter Brunch.....	04/05/26
Comedy Night w/Lenny Clarke.....	04/11/26

Easter Brunch Buffet w/ special guest The Easter Bunny!!

Seating: 11:00 | 11:30 | 12:00 | 1:00

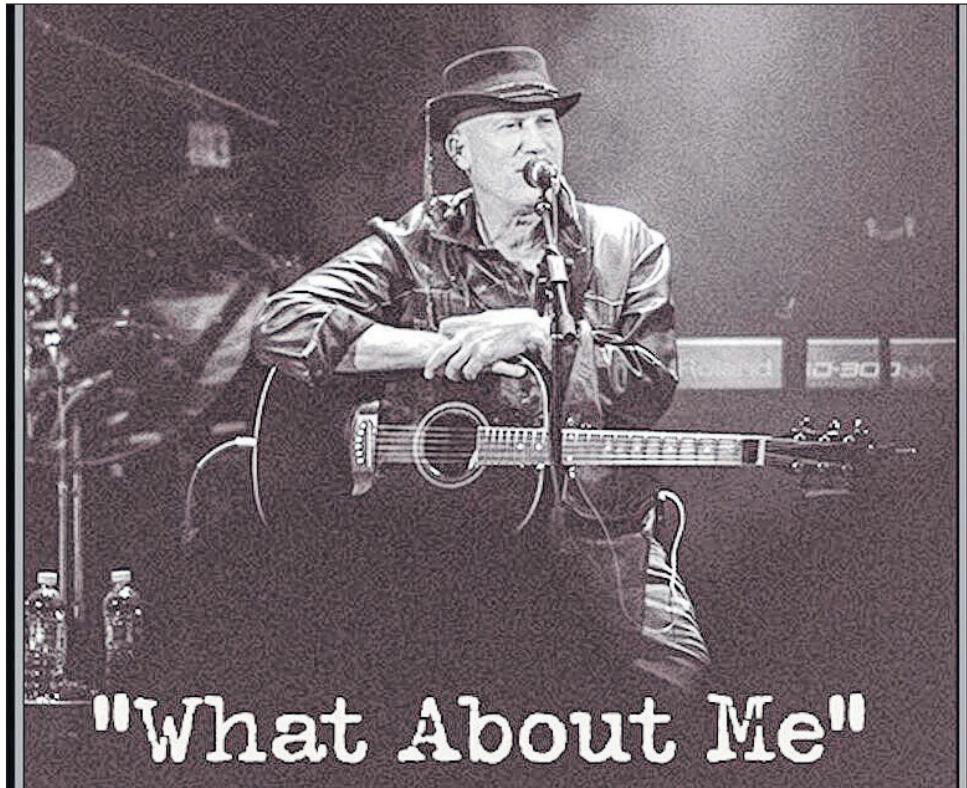
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Lemon Pesto Rigatoni with Burrata
Chicken Tenders & Fries
Roasted Garlic Parmesan Veggies
Citrus Herbed Jasmine Rice
Caesar Salad | Spinach Salad
Broccoli Salad | Antipasto Tortellini Salad
Potato Salad

Word Barn to host Tano Jones Revelry



COURTESY PHOTO

EXETER — The Tano Jones Revelry will bring their high-energy live show to The Word Barn on Saturday, Feb. 28, delivering an intimate night of live music, community spirit, and charitable impact in the heart of Exeter.

Riding a wave of national and international momentum, Tano Jones Revelry's debut album, Spinning North, has now surpassed 40 million streams worldwide. The album's singles, including "Daisy," "Light It," and the breakout hit "What About Me," have earned widespread radio airplay across North America and abroad, reaching listeners from Los Angeles to New York and from London to Spain.

"What About Me" is an anthem for anyone who has pushed through tough times

and is searching for hope, strength, and inspiration to keep moving forward. Rooted in Tano Jones' perseverance, unity, and human connection, "What About Me" has aligned seamlessly with the band's ongoing Soup & Seeds charitable efforts, reflecting their deep commitment to paying it forward and giving back in every community they visit.

"What About Me" peaked the charts reaching #22 on the Mediabase Hot AC Chart, and #24 on the Billboard Adult Pop Airplay Chart where the song has now stayed for the past 15 weeks. The song has also received airplay on more than 125 stations nationwide. The track recently debuted on American Top 40 Hot AC Chart with Ryan Seacrest and was added to The Daily Download with

Carson Daly. Adding to the impact, "What About Me" has debuted on the American Forces Network (AFN), bringing the band's message to U.S. service members and their families stationed around the world. Through AFN, the song is now reaching military bases across Europe, Asia, and North America. The global exposure underscores the song's universal themes of perseverance, unity, and human connection resonating deeply with listeners far beyond traditional commercial radio.

The show will be held at The Word Barn located at 66 Newfields Road. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are available online for \$25. To learn more about Tano Jones Revelry and to purchase tickets, visit www.TanoJonesRevelry.com.

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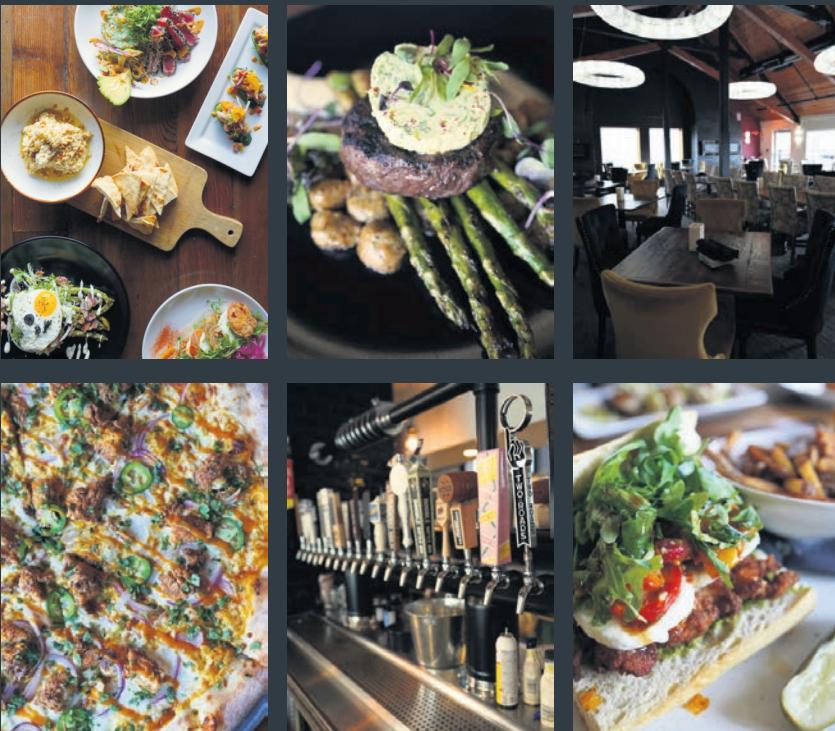
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Exercise caution around all forms of ice—Thick ice may not be safe ice

NH FISH AND GAME

CONCORD — With ice fishing derbies underway across the state, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department officials urge outdoor enthusiasts to exercise caution when enjoying winter activities near any ice, including vertical ice and on trails. Parents are also strongly urged to educate themselves about ice safety and share this knowledge with their children to help prevent accidents.

"Caution is in order for those going out onto any ice, especially following the recent fluctuations in temperature, precipitation, and winds," said Colonel Kevin Jordan, Chief of Fish and Game's Law Enforcement Division. "With erratic weather conditions, some areas of ice may look safe, but may not be. The strong and biting

winds experienced across some of the state's larger waterbodies have actually weakened the ice in some spots. We are advising people to check the ice thickness before going out onto any frozen waterbody."

Because of unpredictable ice conditions, it is never advisable to drive cars and trucks onto the ice. Those on foot should carefully assess ice safety before venturing out by using an ice chisel or auger to determine the thickness and composition of the ice. Continue to do this as you go further out because the thickness of the ice will not be uniform over the entire waterbody. Snow-covered ice can be deceiving and should always be inspected carefully.

Though all ice is potentially dangerous, the U.S. Army Cold Regions

Research & Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, NH, offers this advice on ice thickness: there should be a minimum of 6 inches of hard ice before individual foot travel and 8-10 inches of hard ice for snow machine or off-highway recreational vehicle travel.

Keep in mind that thick ice does not always mean safe ice. It is possible for ice to be thick, but not strong, because of varying weather conditions. Weak ice forms when warming trends break down the ice, and then the surface refreezes. Be especially careful of areas with current, such as inlets, outlets, and spring holes, where the moving water can make ice dangerously thin.

Tips for staying safe on the ice include:

- Don't venture onto any

ice during thaws.

- Stay off the ice along the shoreline if it is cracked or squishy. Docks, rocks, and downed trees absorb the sun's heat and can cause the ice around them to be thin.

- Watch out for thin, clear, or honeycombed ice. Dark snow and ice may also indicate weak spots.

- Small bodies of water tend to freeze thicker. Rivers and lakes are more prone to wind, currents, and wave action that weaken ice.

- Never gather in groups on less than 8-10 inches of hard ice.

- Always bring along a rescue rope, ice picks, and a personal flotation device such as a float coat or life preserver.

- If you do break through the ice, stay calm. Move or swim back to where you fell



COURTESY PHOTO

in, where you know the ice was solid. Lay both arms on the unbroken ice and kick hard. This will help lift your body onto the ice. A set of ice picks can help you pull yourself out; wear them around your neck or put them in an easily accessible pocket. Once out of the water, roll away from the hole until you reach solid ice.

- If someone you are with breaks through the ice, don't rush over to the hole—keep yourself safe. Look for something to throw or to use to reach out to the person

such as a rope, tree branch, or ice spud. Lie down flat and reach out with your tool. After securing the person, do not stand—wiggle backwards on the solid ice pulling the person with you.

Ice safety is also very important for snowmobilers. Never assume a trail is safe just because it exists; check out trail conditions before you go at <https://shorturl.at/E8Z10>.

To watch a short video on how to correctly check ice thickness, visit <https://shorturl.at/VuHJX>.

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» Chamber Chatter

Emily Bilodeau, Southern New Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

SALEM — Spring is in the air, and so is opportunity! The March edition of Chamber Chatter is here, packed with can't-miss events, networking opportunities, and fresh ways to plug into our thriving business community. Whether you're launching a startup, running a home-based business, or leading a long-established company, this month's edition is designed to spark connection, collaboration, and growth.

Save the Dates:

Events – Open to the Public (Registration Required)

Hotworx Ribbon Cutting: 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11, at 203 South Broadway, Unit 1, Salem.

Economic Development Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 25, Birch Wood Vineyards, 199 Rockingham Road, Derry.

Business After Hours – Members Only (Registration Required)

Blizzard Bash: 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4, 603 Brewery and Beer Hall, 42 Main St., Londonderry.

Economic Development Breakfast – Open to the Public

Kick off your morning with a delicious breakfast buffet while enjoying an engaging session full of local insights, updates, and perspectives on important issues and future initiatives. Hear from distinguished speakers, including John Apple, Atkinson, NH Town Administrator; Michael Branley, Windham, NH Town Administrator; Joe Devine, Salem, NH Town Manager; and Scott St. Germain, a member of the Pelham, NH Economic Development Committee. Be sure to check our website for updates as additional speakers are confirmed. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased online at www.southernhnhchamber.com.

What Can the Chamber Do for You?

Being a Chamber member isn't just a business decision, it's a chance to elevate your brand, grow your network, and join a com-



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Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for event recaps, behind-the-scenes moments, and member spotlights.

To view upcoming events, register for tickets, or learn more about membership and sponsorships, visit www.southernhnhchamber.com and click on the "Upcoming Events" tab. For direct inquiries, contact Executive Director Cindi Woodbury at cindi@southernhnhchamber.com.

» Eat Local Burger Bowl winners Announced

EXETER — The Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the winners of the 2026 Eat Local Burger Bowl, a 10-day community-wide challenge that brought thousands of residents and visitors into local restaurants to celebrate creative burgers, support small businesses, and keep dining dollars local.

Presented by Kennebunk Savings, this year's Burger Bowl featured eighteen participating restaurants, each offering a signature burger available exclusively during the challenge. Diners voted throughout the event, helping determine the top burgers while also fueling a surge in foot traffic for local eateries.

2026 Burger Bowl Winners:

1st Place — Carriage Town Bar & Grille, Kingston

2nd Place — (Tie) Fat Hen Brewery and Exeter Brewing Company, both in Exeter

3rd Place — Muddy River Smokehouse in Newfields

"This event is about so much more than burgers," said Jennifer Wheeler, President of the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Burger Bowl is an economic driver for our community. Year after year, participating restaurants report a noticeable increase in visitors during the challenge, including many first-time customers who later return. At the same time, it's one of the Chamber's most powerful ways to bring the community together around our local businesses."

Throughout the 10-day competition, residents, families, coworkers, and visitors turned Burger Bowl into a shared experience — visiting multiple restaurants, comparing favorites, and sharing photos and reviews on social media. The result is not only increased revenue for participating restaurants, but also heightened visibility and lasting customer connections.

Since its launch, the Eat Local Burger Bowl has become one of the Exeter Area Chamber's signature programs, designed to combine economic development with community engagement. By giving residents a fun, interactive way to support local restaurants, the event reinforces the importance of keeping dollars in the local economy.

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OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, February 19th from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, February 28th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. and Tuesday, March 3rd from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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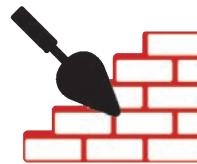


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Things you may find in your old house

Steve Sousa, Kingston Historical Museum

KINGSTON — “Jersey winder stairs” or “tight winder stairs” or “winder stairs” or just plain “death stairs!” was a feature that could be found in old homes from about 250 years ago.

Winder stairs were often built in the corners of rooms to save space and so, they tend to be very narrow.

What makes winder stairways different from regular stairs is the tread or top portion of the first several stairs (see photo 1). They are more triangular in shape and not the regular rectangle you see in most stairways.

As you ascend the stairs, you turn 90 degree without any landing to give you space to make the turn.

Walking up the stairs, at the top, there is another 90 degree turn so that you’ve done a complete 180 degree shift in your orientation.

Such tight space in the stairway makes going up and down them a challenge. The stairway width is about 24 inches, so carrying items up

and down causes you to focus your attention to what you are doing.

You can see the narrowness of the stairway (in photo 2).

The triangular stair treads at the bottom of the stairway are easily seen, and there is a landing at the top of the stairs, though the landing is small.

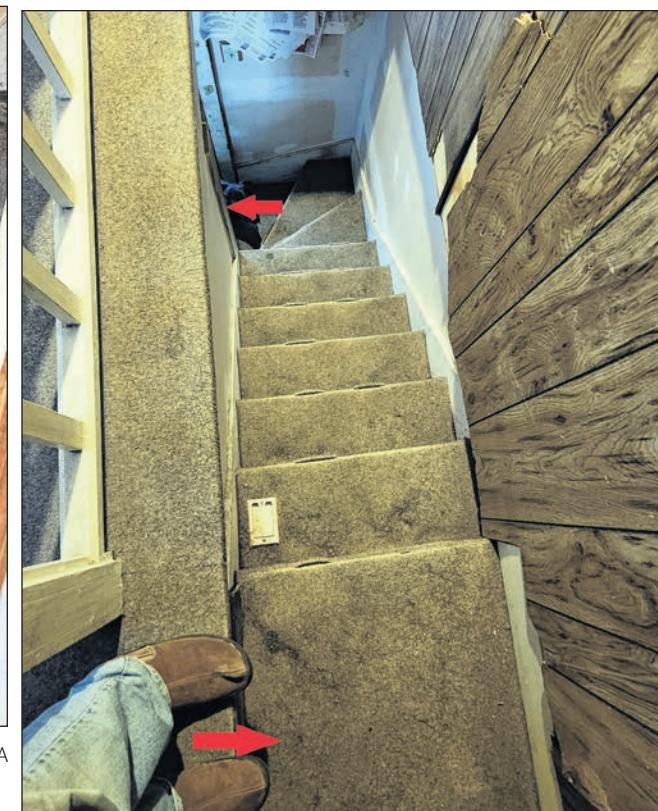
Winder stairs are not code compliant, so installing such stairs today can’t be done. When traveling up or down the stairs, it is safest to stay on the wider portion of the stairway, away from the narrow tread.

Living with winder stairs has been an adventure in bringing thing up or down the stairs. Usually, it involves turning sideways to go up or down them. Carrying large objects requires turning and cursing as you navigate the tight quarters.

If you have interesting architectural details in your home and you would like to share your stories, consider sending them to The Kingston Heritage Commission’s newsletter, The Dispatch, at heritagecommission@kingstonnh.org.



STEVE SOUSA
ABOVE: Beginning of a winder stairway.
RIGHT: View looking down the stairs.



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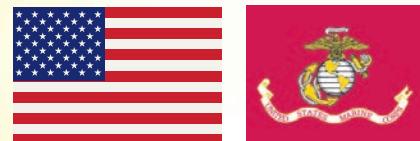
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Something for everyone at Sandown Recreation

SANDOWN — Sandown Recreation is keeping busy with a variety of programs designed to bring people together, get everyone moving, and have some fun along the way. From creative workshops and family activities to opportunities for adults and seniors to connect, there's truly something for everyone this month.

Tacos and Trivia: Monday, Feb. 23, 5 p.m. — 6 p.m. Test your knowledge and enjoy a fun evening of trivia and tacos in partnership with the Sandown Public Library. This family-friendly event is open to all ages and is a great way to spend time together with friends, food, and friendly competition. Registration is through the Sandown Public Library.

Snow Day with Sandown Recreation: Thursday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. to noon. Celebrate winter at this free outdoor event. Kids and



families will enjoy playing in the snow, building snow creatures, making snow ice cream, and warming up with hot chocolate. They will also have frozen bricks for creative building fun. Dress warm and come ready for a classic New

England snow day. Weather dependent.

Monthly Murder Mystery: Thursday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Love a good mystery? Join for this month's murder mystery, Death at the Garden Club Gala. Work together, follow the clues,

and see if you can solve the case before time runs out. Stop by the recreation office to grab the story, or email recreation@sandown.us.

Free Unplugged Lunch: Tuesday, March 10, noon to 2 p.m. Take a break from screens and enjoy a relaxed

lunch filled with games, conversation, and connection. This family-friendly program is hosted in partnership with the Sandown Public Library. Sign-ups are through the library.

Free FAFSA/Financial Aid Review: Tuesday, March 10, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hosted by Sandown Parks & Recreation and run by Granite State Advance, a New Hampshire-based education nonprofit, this workshop will guide families through everything they need to complete the FAFSA, understand financial aid options, and help figure out which college fits best. This is a completely free program, but registration is required. Don't miss this chance to get expert advice and make college planning easier.

Lucky Little Moments: Mini & Me Yoga: Sunday, March 15, 10 a.m. to

10:45 a.m. Move, stretch, and bond in this special Mini & Me yoga class. Adults and little ones are invited to join Kelly for a fun, inclusive yoga experience designed for movement, connection, and smiles. The cost is \$20 (one adult and one child).

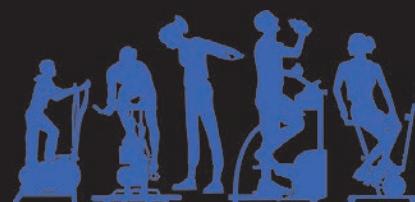
Senior Fitness and Yoga off the Mat: Tuesday, March 17 through Tuesday, May 12. Join for a fun and engaging Fitness and Chair Yoga program. This program is tailored for individuals 60 and over or anyone looking to incorporate movement into their lives. This class is designed to help you improve your overall health, flexibility, strength & balance in a supportive and welcoming environment. The cost is \$64 per person.

To sign up, visit <https://shorturl.at/kfcrC> or call 603-887-1872.



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Seacoast Classical Academy Celebrates Academic Excellence with Annual Spelling Bee

Seacoast Classical Academy (SCA) is a tuition-free public charter school in Newton, NH, offering a nationally recognized classical curriculum for scholars in grades K-9. Each day, nearly 200 students bring energy and curiosity to the renovated schoolhouse on the former Sanborn Middle School grounds, where a rigorous, content-rich education emphasizes knowledge, virtue, and a love of learning.

That commitment to academic excellence was on full display during SCA's 2nd Annual School Spelling Bee, held on Monday, January 26. After eleven rounds of competition, sixth grader Vivaan Heximer claimed first place by confidently spelling the championship word,



"traumatic." Vivaan earned the gold medal and will represent Seacoast Classical Academy at the New Hampshire State Spelling Bee. The state

winner will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC this May.

Sixth grader Henry Dupré earned the silver medal, while Nadya Nikshych, a seventh

grader, placed third and received the bronze. Fourteen scholars from grades five through eight participated, each having first distinguished themselves in classroom spelling bees the previous week.

The event was coordinated by middle school literature teacher Arlene Quaratiello, with Latin teacher Andrew Bray serving as pronouncer and third-grade teacher Elizabeth Barros as recorder. The competition was judged by Dr. Kate Riddell, a member of SCA's Board of Trustees, and Robert Chase, Chairman of the Board.

As families seek an alternative to constantly changing educational trends and increased digital distractions, classical education offers a time-tested approach that prepares scholars for academic success and meaningful participation in their communities.

If you are interested in learning more about Seacoast Classical Academy Chartered Public School please visit seacoastclassical.org or attend one of the Academy's upcoming informational events.



20 Years of Craft and Community: BeanTowne Coffee House Marks a Major Milestone

HAMPSTEAD, NH — In 2006, BeanTowne Coffee House opened its doors at 201 Route 111 with a simple vision: to serve a superior cup of coffee in a space that felt like home. Twenty years later, that vision hasn't just survived—it has become a cornerstone of the Hampstead community.

Reaching a two-decade anniversary is a rare feat for any business, and BeanTowne attributed theirs to always prioritizing quality over shortcuts. From sourcing direct-trade beans to preparing food from scratch daily, the shop's commitment to excellence eventually caught the national spotlight, earning them the title of **Best Coffee House in America** on the **Steve Harvey Show**.

However, for the regulars who walk through the doors every morning, BeanTowne's true value lies in its role as the "Hampstead's community living room." Over the last 20 years, the shop has served as a hub for local fundraisers, a workspace for entrepreneurs, and a gathering spot for neighbors. "BeanTowne has always been a love letter to this community," said owner Ed Goyette. "We show up every day with one mission: to make lives better through this place. That commitment has made all the difference, and the support we've received over the years has been nothing short of an honor. And we have so much more to do!"

BeanTowne is located at 201 Route 111, Hampstead and online ordering at beantownecoffee.com and [doordash.com](https://www.doordash.com).

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'Run the Rail Trail 4-Miler' set for May 2

Charity run/walk event route includes Londonderry Rail Trail

LONDONDERRY — Cold enough for you? Warm up by imagining you're ready to get outside and welcome spring with the 5th annual 'Run the Rail Trail 4-Miler' on Saturday, May 2.

Starting and finishing at the Aviation Museum of N.H., the run/walk event will take participants on a winding route through bucolic North Londonderry, highlighted by the newest stretch of the Londonderry Rail Trail.

The race starts at 9 a.m. and is open to all runners and walkers. The event is a fund-raiser to support the non-profit Aviation Museum's youth education

programs, which include an upcoming summer camp and student plane-building projects at three N.H. high schools.

Registration for the 'Run the Rail Trail 4-Miler' is \$25 through Tuesday, March 31; for those 12 and under and 62 and above, the fee is discounted to \$20. Starting Wednesday, April 1, the fee is \$30; \$25 for those 12 and under and 62 or above. Registration on Race Day is \$50 per person.

The first 100 registrants will receive an official "Run the Rail Trail 4-Miler" shirt. Prizes will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers.

Participants may register online at www.runsignup.com; under "Find a Race," search for "Aviation Museum." More information is also available at www.aviationmuseumofnh.org.



COURTESY PHOTO

Get outside and welcome spring with the 5th annual 'Run the Rail Trail 4-Miler' on Saturday, May 2. The race starts and finishes at the Aviation Museum of N.H., 27 Navigator Road, Londonderry.

will first wind through lightly-trafficked streets of North Londonderry.

The route, which includes two water stops, will then take participants along the recently opened 1.2-mile section of the Londonderry Rail Trail, which passes through the remote Little Cohas Brook Reservoir area.

The route will then take runners and walkers back to the Aviation Museum and the finish line.

New this year: a 'Pilot in Training' 100-yard fun run at 8:30 a.m. for boys and girls up to age 8. All kids receive a prize at the finish; there is no cost to enter the fun run.

"Our 'Run the Rail Trail 4-Miler' is a great way to celebrate spring, get outside and have fun, all while supporting a great cause," said Jeff Rapsis, executive

director of the Aviation Museum of N.H.

Because the route includes several stretches of roadway with a narrow shoulder, the event is not recommended for participants with strollers. Also, no pets are allowed.

Traffic control and security will be provided by the Londonderry Police and Fire departments.

The Aviation Museum is also seeking volunteers for Race Day. If you're interested in helping out, contact Leah Dearborn at 603-669-4877 or at ldearborn@nhahs.org.

In addition, the museum is seeking business and community sponsors to help defray costs of organizing the event.

For information about sponsorships, contact Jeff Rapsis at 603-236-9237 or at jrapsis@nhahs.org.



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28 Take action now to rebuild the blood supply with Red Cross

AMERICAN RED CROSS

MANCHESTER — The American Red Cross urges people to take action now to help offset the severe impact of recent winter storms on efforts to rebuild the blood supply during an ongoing blood shortage. Donors of all blood types are asked to make a blood or platelet donation appointment as soon as possible.

Over 500 blood drives have been canceled since the beginning of the year,

causing more than 20,000 blood and platelet donations to go uncollected. In the Northern New England Region, sixteen blood drives have been affected, with 414 blood product donations going uncollected. In addition to the disruption of blood drives, dangerous weather conditions have also made it tougher to transport vital blood products, which could potentially affect deliveries to hospitals in some locations.

Patient care is at risk — donors in unaffected areas are asked to book an appointment to give blood or platelets now by using the Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Those in areas facing extreme winter weather are asked to give when it's safe to do so.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Rockingham County: **Derry:** Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Derry

Public Library, 64 East Broadway, Friday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas, 26 Crystal Ave.;

Epping: Monday, Feb. 23, noon to 5 p.m., American Legion Post 51-Epping, 232 Calef Highway; **Londonderry:** Friday, Feb. 20, 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Greater Londonderry YMCA, 206 Rockingham Road;

Newfields: Tuesday, Feb. 24, noon to 4:30 p.m., Newfields Elementary School, 9 Piscassic Road; **Newington:** Friday,

Feb. 27, 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., Newington Town Hall, 205 Nimble Hill Road; **North**

Hampton: Saturday, Feb. 28, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Seacoast Harley-Davidson, 17 Lafayette Road; **Portsmouth:** Thursday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Portsmouth NH Best Western Plus Wynwood Hotel & Suites, 580 US Hwy 1 Bypass, Monday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Piscataqua Savings Bank, 200 Griffin Road Unit 10, Thursday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Saint Nicholas

Greek Orthodox Church, 40 Andrew Jarvis Drive; **Salem:** Thursday, Feb. 19, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Bishop Peterson Hall, 37 Main St.; **Stratham:** Friday, Feb. 27, noon to 5 p.m., Stratham Volunteer Fire Department, 4 Winnicutt Road.

All who come to give Jan. 26 to Feb. 28, 2026, will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of choice. See RedCrossBlood.org/Heart for details.

BOB Awards Recognize Palmer Gas & Oil for 10th consecutive year

ATKINSON — Palmer Gas & Oil (PGO) has earned its tenth consecutive Best Of Business Award – Best Fuel Provider, as recognized by NH Business Review's 2026 BOB Awards.

"We are thrilled to be awarded this honor by the voting public for the tenth year in a row," says Peter

Iacobucci, PGO general manager. "Our legacy as one of the most trusted oil, gas, and service providers in New Hampshire speaks to the Palmer promise of friendliness, simplicity, and safety. That this award is chosen by our customers underlines our employees' commitment to provide the very best comfort

and service to the families and communities we serve."

For four generations, PGO has been providing fuel to residents and businesses in New Hampshire, southern Maine, and northern Massachusetts. With three fuel storage facilities in Atkinson, Somersworth, and Raymond, NH; a new renewable

propane storage facility, a state-of-the-art fleet of vehicles, and a team of dedicated employees, Palmer looks to the future with optimism and innovation.

"It's always an honor to be recognized by our customers as the best in our field," says Charlie Ermer, PGO VP of business operations. "We would

like to extend our thanks to all who voted and to NH Business Review for the inclusion. Thank you all for placing your trust once again in Palmer."

The BOB Awards result from an annual readership-driven survey conducted by NH Business Review from November through December. According to NH Business Review,

the award-winning businesses "offer the best customer service, pay attention to all the details, have the most helpful employees and, most importantly, are the businesses that you trust with your business's needs."

Visit www.nhbr.com to read the full list of the 2026 winners.

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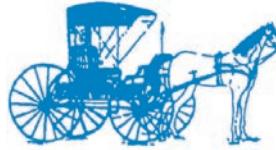
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Moments in Another Time!



Kingston Stories: Dog Sledding Through Kingston by Steve Sousa

You didn't have to fly out to Alaska's Iditarod competitions to see dog sledding. There was an active group of "Mushers" here in town in the 1960s and '70s!

In 1964, the Kingston Firemen's Association organized a Winter Carnival that included Kingston's first New England Dog Sled Race! Gordon J. Bakie, Alfred H. Killiam, Dwight L. Killam Jr., Andrew Christie Jr., and Gerard R. Dolliver were the first dog sled race committee members. There were several "classes" of events depending upon the age, skill, and stamina of the mushers and their dogs. The Junior class raced a one dog sled over a one-mile course, two or three dog teams over a three mile course, and a five dog team over a five-mile course. The Senior classes raced seven to sixteen dog teams over a twelve mile course. The highlight of the carnival was the "Musher's Ball" held at the Swasey Gym. During the ball a Musher Queen was crowned.

Training for the dogs and the sledders for the races began in September and the racing season stretched from January through March. All this was dependent upon there being a sufficient amount of snow during that winter.

But what was it like to be a sled racer? In 2018, Martha and Bob Heckman participated in the Museum's Oral History Program and told of their experiences racing sled dogs. When asked about how many dogs they had, Martha said, "Well, with puppies and elders at one time, we maxed out at around thirty because we had a litter of six, but we managed twentyish".

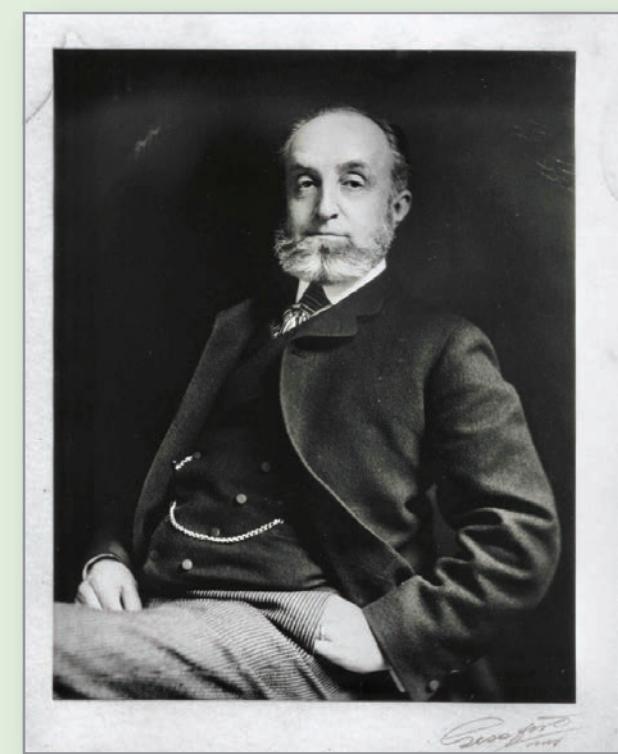
What was surprising is that there were particular dog types that were

sought. They raised registered Siberian Huskies for dog shows. Their kids, who were more competitive, noticed that Alaskan Huskies were better suited for competition. These dogs raced faster and would be put out front as lead dogs. Early racers would have one lead dog with pairs behind. Today, for example, if you watch the Iditarod races in Alaska, you see that there are two lead dogs; one is the "speed guy keeps you going, and [the other is] the brains keep you going in the right direction."

Besides the thrill of dog sledding for the participants, the events brought spectators out into the cold. As Kathy Clark Chase remembered being on the Plains during one of the competitions, "I was fascinated by the dogs; they arrived by trailer in wooden compartments each with a window, and they would bark and bark, eager to get out of their compartments and once in line and hitched, take off pulling the sleds. I was a bit intimidated by them and observed from a safe distance."

In the 1970s, dog sled races ended in Kingston and other areas in Southern New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts. Bob reflected upon the end of racing, "We raced in Massachusetts, Gardner, Mass, and slowly but surely, Gardner disappeared because there was a lack of snow. In the mid-70s, the same thing happened in Kingston." With an unpredictable winter snow season, sponsor money dried up and so did dog sled racing here.

Bob Heckman urging his huskies onward during a sledding competition on the plains in January of 1973.



This article features a photo of Arthur Gayton Pollard, a recent gift to the society, and an excerpt from recent society correspondence with Mr. Sheppard Bartlett, A. G. Pollard's great grandson.

... He was quite an exciting man – brought up in Plaistow, he went to work in a small store in Lowell, Mass. called Hosfords – started as a clerk, ended up by buying Mr Hosford out and made a success of the store expanding it considerably – it soon became a department store.

A. G. Pollard

As he got wealthier he opened a business that dealt with remnants from all the mills in New England, fabrics and carpeting. He called it The Pollard Exchange, and his market was every major department store in the country – they all came to Lowell to buy. In 1928, the store burned down – (it) was the biggest fire ever in Lowell. He reopened immediately in a downtown mill and built what was considered then as one of the most modern stores in New England. He continued selling fabrics and remnants nationally and locally.

He used to take customers down in the "basement" for special low prices, and soon the idea of having a complete basement operation was conceived – the first basement operation in the country. And who did he train? Mr WT Grant. Mr Grant left and opened his first store in Lynn, Mass, and Mr Pollard gave him \$800 worth of Fabrics for his store..as you know Mr. Grant built a fabulous chain of stores, but after he died management failed and the company was liquidated.

Mr Pollard never forgot where he came from and he did many things for Plaistow. The ones I know of: in land for the Pollard School, the famous Pollard pumper in the fire house, the tower at town hall, and the veterans memorial in the square. Mr Pollard was also very strong in Masonry and also the First Baptist Church in Lowell. He was the first President of the Union National Bank.

Mr. Pollard died (June 4, 1930) just after the new store opened in 1929 and the family ran it until about 1970 when it was sold...

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