

The Dublin Advocate

To Encourage and Strengthen Our Community

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Dublin, NH 03444

A Dublin Firefighter Splits His Year with Firefighting Out West

BY RUSTY BASTEDO

Dubliners might think that any firefighter, should he or she need a break, would take his/her boots off and relax for a while between fires. Dublin firefighter Andy Freeman, however, takes his breaks working summers for the State of New Hampshire's Division of Forests & Lands, a part of the NH Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.

During the summers between 2011 and 2018 (more about 2019 later), Andy packed his firefighter's equipment for service on a 20-man "Type Two Initial Attack" hand crew, as part of a nationwide network of firefighters who are dispatched when and where needed to fight fires outside of their respective states.

Over the years Andy and his fellow New Hampshire compatriots have helped battle blazes in California (north and south), Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Washington, and Wyoming. With these varied experiences, plus his familiarity with New England forest situations, Andy has experienced climate change up close across much of our country, and his observations are recorded here for *Advocate* readers.

New Hampshire hardwood forests, coupled with "ground fuels" of leaves and stick-and-branch litter, have higher humidity levels and fewer wildfires than elsewhere in the continental United States. In much of the rest of the nation, however, "intermediate" (10- to 30-year old) conifers and flammable, "immediate carry" bushes often grow in low humidity areas. These conditions bring an increased susceptibility to fires caused by dry lightning strikes, high winds (e.g., the Santa Anna or Diablo



windstorms of California), and human carelessness.

Firefighters in America's western states have observed that their climates are trending warmer, and it is widely accepted as fact that for every temperature increase of 1 degree Celsius that dry lightning strikes in the American West increase by 12%.

It is also accepted as fact that the western states' firefighting seasons are getting longer as well. Even when rains retard possibilities of wild fires, the ground often remains dry, and fires pop out once the rains of a day or two ago have moved on and the ground is dry once again. Firefighting crews are being tested as never before, as these indications of climate change are repeated ever more frequently throughout our nation.

During Summer 2019 Andy opted for a private contract, rather than a state one. In that capacity, he drove a 4x4 fire engine carrying a 700-gallon water tank and a three-man team dispatched from Spokane, Washington. This change from state to private employment, and from a 20-man firefighting team to a three-man team, brought Andy into contact with still more varied firefighting than he had previously experienced.

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The *Advocate* expresses gratitude for firefighters like Andy and those who are working tirelessly on the frontlines in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will get through this by paying attention to basics. When you wear a mask, socially distance, and wash hands scrupulously, you show how much you care for others around you. Thank you from all of us.

One local minister expressed today's concerns eloquently:

"For all those who are overworked because of the pandemic, I pray for strength and perseverance. For all those still struggling with symptoms, I pray for signs of progress and healing. For all those ill, I pray for excellent care and comfort. For all those who are grieving, I pray for their hearts and minds to be filled with goodness and love and concern from others. For all who are doing all they can to stay healthy, I pray for vigilance, for wisdom in making choices, and for hope." (TMK, 12/20)

Dublin Public Library

BY RACHAEL LOVETT

Due to our COVID policy, we have adjusted our services to curbside pickup only, until further notice. This means all in-person appointments within the library building are suspended. We remain staffed during open hours and the front/upper entrance on Main Street is open for curbside pickup, returns, and Take & Make craft bags that are associated with the week's story themes.

Beginning in January all programs will be offered remotely or virtually. It is a live story time via Facebook for school-aged children. A link will be shared via www.dublinnhpubliclibrary.org. Or you can simply visit the Facebook page, Dublin NH Public Library, and join in when you'd like to!

Our second new program is an adult book group, meeting once a month for discussion. We will again be meeting virtually, Thursday nights at 5 pm. Our first book title will be *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin. Copies will be available January 4 for our first book group meeting January 28. If you'd like to sign up for the book group, a Zoom link will be emailed to you. Also, let us know if you would like to virtually attend discussions via Zoom. Email us, librarypublicdublin@myfairpoint.net, or call 563-8658.

Finally, a friendly reminder that temporary/online library accounts expire within two months of signing up. While we have extended this due to the pandemic, if you receive an email reminder, please schedule a curbside appointment to verify your account and pick up your permanent library card. Thank you!

RACHAEL LOVETT is the Director of the Dublin Public Library.



Don't forget to check out some of our new books in the catalog: *The Queen's Gambit* by Walter Tevis, *A Promised Land* by Barack Obama, *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, and *The Coast to Coast Murders* by James Patterson and J.D. Barker – just to name a few!

Update from the FDPL

The Friends of the Dublin Public Library continues to meet via Zoom due to the COVID pandemic. Recently we have made available to Dublin residents a free NH Parks Pass. We are now in the process of purchasing a telescope for use by Library patrons. This program will be accompanied by instructions on how to use the telescope and night sky programs. The Friends and the Library Director are working together with the NH Astronomical Society (NHAS) to make this possible. We also hope to be offering pre-packaged art supplies for children's art projects. And we are looking forward to when we can resume our seed-sharing/seed-saving display and annual book sale, cancelled in 2020 because of the pandemic and library closure. We are always looking for new ideas for virtual programming. Please send ideas to the FDPL at dublin.library.nh@gmail.com.

Pam Cox Assumes Her Post

A new assistant to Dublin's Town Administrator.

BY RAMONA BRANCH

Pam Cox started her new job in October. Her responsibilities focus on assisting Town Administrator Kate Fuller. One of Pam's first priorities, she says, will be to gather information for the annual report.

Because of COVID-19, she works part time for now as needed. She is in the office on Fridays.

In Pam's short time of working for the town of Dublin, she says, "I have found it amazing what all the residents do here to keep Dublin running smoothly."

Pam has worked in the dental healthcare industry as chair-side assistant and office manager. She also worked in the business



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Broadband Project Update

All premises in Dublin will be able to get the fiber broadband service.

BY CAROLE MONROE

For those of you who have signed up on the www.consolidated.com/Dublin website, you will be receiving a call within the next month from Consolidated Communications to schedule work activity that will run the fiber from the pole to the outside of your house. You do not need to select a service at this time; you will have an opportunity to do that when they call to install the equipment in your home. If you have not yet registered at www.consolidated.com/Dublin and will want a fiber optic broadband service, please register soon.

The mainline fiber is 100% complete. In some areas where there are few houses the fiber may appear to have ended before your house. Don't be alarmed, the connection to



your home will be run from where the mainline fiber ended. All premises in Dublin will be able to get the fiber broadband service.

The construction crews are now doing the fiber splicing and some areas are actually in the testing phase. The company doing the splicing will be adding additional crews in January to move this phase quickly forward.

We expect the first customers will be installed in mid-February and all who have requested service will be connected before the end of May. I can't wait! As always, feel free to email me at cdmonroe@myfairpoint.net if you have any concerns or questions.

CAROLE MONROE is one of three persons on the Select Board.

New Town Website

BY KATE FULLER

The new Town website will be going live on January 15! It will provide easier access to information and news. Additionally, you will be able to pay your taxes, register your car and dog, and order vital records. Check it out online at www.townofdublin.org after January 15.



KATE FULLER is Town Administrator (townadministrator@townofdublin.org) for the Town of Dublin, PO Box 277, Dublin, NH 03444; 563-8544.



Pam Cox Assumes Her Post

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office of the Bond Wellness Center of Monadnock Community Hospital.

An experienced seamstress, Pam loves to make children's clothing. Her future heirlooms include laces and detailed embroidery. (See photo of her creations.)

Her hobby has led her to writing articles with examples of her work for several craft magazines and blogs.

"I enjoy living in Dublin," Pam says. "Spending time outside is great with all the beautiful walking and hiking trails."

Pam has two daughters who live locally and six grandchildren.

RAMONA BRANCH is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

A Dublin Firefighter's Year ...

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In eastern Washington State, for example, high winds often help accelerate open range grass fires, fires that can develop an enormous velocity as they move across open land. These fires must be brought under control quickly, for there are few if any rivers or other natural fire breaks to help slow them.

By contrast, north of Spokane there are many heavy forests, often owned by paper companies and "mono-culture," rather than a mixture of woods. And easily flammable sagebrush lies south of Spokane, while the fruit-growing orchards of Yakima (Washington State apples, pears, etc.) offer yet still

more varied terrain. This opens up more opportunities for fighting dry lightning fires, as well as "wet" fires – those that pop out after rains have slowed their progress.

Andy Freeman is back in Dublin again as this *Advocate* article is written, decompressing, and waiting – as Dublin's volunteer firefighters, including himself, do – to respond to the fire station's varying calls for duty at Dublin kitchen fires, electrical wiring or circuit breaker problems, and other such emergencies. In this downtime, Andy is once again helping Michelle to run Dublin General Store – so stop in and say hello!

RUSTY BASTEDO is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

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Hindsight is 2020: Anthology Submissions Accepted

Attention writers: Submissions are now being accepted for an anthology entitled "Hindsight is 2020: The People of Dublin Look Back on a Challenging Year." This anthology is co-sponsored by the Dublin Public Library and the Dublin Community Center.

Submissions may include essays (including personal experiences), poetry (including song lyrics), short stories, and short plays or dramas by anyone who lives, works, or owns property in Dublin. The deadline is January 31, 2021.

Each submission must relate in some way to the year 2020. Submissions should be 1,000 words or less, except for poetry/lyrics, which should not exceed 60 lines. Authors may submit more than one piece.

Submit your work (and questions) to



dublincommunity-anthology@gmail.com. Include a cover page or introductory email with your name, email address,

mailing address, phone number, and title of your work. Authors under 18 years, please include your age. Do not include your name on the work itself, but do include the title for identification purposes.

Works may be submitted as a Word, Pages, or rtf document. Editors will review all submissions in February with a projected publication date in March. Each author that is included will receive one free copy of the anthology. All other copies will be for sale locally. There will also be a public reading from the anthology at a future date, either via Zoom or socially distanced outdoors.



New Town Hall Dropbox

BY JEANNINE R. DUNNE

The Town Hall now has a drop box attached to the outside of the building. You can drop off your checks to renew vehicle registrations, dog licenses and/or vital records, or any other communication or documents for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector or for the Town Administration.

Park in the big parking lot behind the Town Hall and look for the cream-colored box right next to the back door on the lower level. Please do not put cash in the box.

We hope that this will be a quicker, convenient way to do business with the Town while helping to keep everyone safer during the pandemic.

Thank you for all of your patience during this difficult time, and Happy New Year to all! Thank you.

JEANNINE R. DUNNE is Dublin's Certified Tax Collector and Certified Town Clerk. She can be reached at 563-8859; or email townclerk@townofdublin.org.

Town of Dublin Public Notice

Filing Period for Town Offices

Residents interested in declaring their candidacy for the following town offices may do so at the Town Clerk's office beginning Wednesday, January 20, 2021, and ending on Friday, January 29, 2021. For those residents wishing to file for office on Friday, January 29, the Clerk's office will be open from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Selectman	1 position	3 years
Library Trustee	1 position	3 years
Library Trustee	1 position	2 years
Budget Committee	2 positions	3 years
Cemetery Trustee	1 position	3 years
Planning Board	2 positions	3 years
Trustee of Trust Funds	1 position	3 years

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DCS News

BY NICOLE PEASE

Happy New Year! 2020 has been a unique year and, as we welcome 2021, we hope it brings many good things to our students, their families, and our community!

One of the special things about DCS is the strong sense of community between students, staff, and their families. We have worked hard to find new and creative ways to develop our school-wide community.

School-wide monthly assemblies have been part of our school routines and we were able to hold two outside that allowed us to be physically distanced. These meetings include special moments to celebrate birthdays and other events, and simply be together. The sense of community was deepened when the Dublin Community Foundation provided a hat for each of our students embroidered with the DCS emblem; the raven. We are so thankful for our very generous and caring community that continue to offer support in so many ways.

The ConVal administration proactively



planned for remote learning during portions of the school year. In preparation for this, DCS Staff spent much of November planning for the remote segment of the school calendar. This careful work made the transition to remote very smooth. While quite an undertaking, without the staff work or the involvement of our parents, our students would not be experiencing the success they are. It definitely takes a community to educate a child! We very much look forward to our students returning to school later this month.

As we think about the New Year, we are also starting to plan for the next school year. If you know anyone that will have a child five years old by August 25, please have them get in touch! Kindergarten screenings traditionally begin in February; more information to follow.

DCS is a very special place, made more so by the amazing community in which we live. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

NICOLE PEASE is Teaching Principal at DCS. She can be reached at 563-8332.

Keeping Kids Safe at DCS

BY JULIE RIZZO

The staff at Dublin Consolidated School has faced and met enormous challenges keeping students and families informed, safe, and healthy as the pandemic upended so much that was “normal” about the return to school this year.

“We are very thankful to have welcomed Judi Bernardi as a full-time School Nurse this year,” said DCS Teaching Principal Nicole Pease. “Her professionalism and ability to put children and families at ease while monitoring student health has enabled families to feel comfortable sending their children to school. She has been wonderful in keeping on top of the ever-changing protocols with regard to COVID 19, and ensuring staff is aware of these changes.”

Bernardi, a registered nurse, has worked as a school nurse for 13 years at ConVal High School before making the transition



to DCS in the fall. She has worked with parents to screen children for symptoms of the virus before they leave home each morning, and then again once they arrive at school.

“Parents have really stepped up to the plate, keeping their children home with even mild symptoms,” Bernardi said. “Together I’d say we’ve done a phenomenal job keeping our families safe this fall.”

JULIE RIZZO is on the staff of the *Advocate*.

The Joy of Saving Energy

Are you looking to save money by being more energy efficient?

NHSaves has all kinds of tips, rebates, and incentives to help homeowners reduce their energy bill and be more environmentally friendly.

Check out all the ways you can save money and conserve energy with rebates, or request an energy audit.

Visit nhsaves.com or its blog at nhsaves.com/blog/celebrate-the-joys-of-energy-saving.

In January, the *Advocate* speaks for many as we show our gratitude for some of the town’s healthcare and frontline workers, not to mention teachers. Here, the school nurse. In following months, we will include more profiles. Please send names or profiles of very local heroes to DublinAdvocate@gmail.com.

From Our School Board Representative

BY ALAN EDELKIND

Happy New Year! I sincerely hope all are safe, healthy, and looking forward to the year ahead.

COVID-19 update: 2020 has been a year different than any other, but hopefully 2021 will start us on the road to recovery. We will get through these times with the support of our families, friends and community.

As most know, the ConVal school district has gone from our Green Phase (minimal to moderate community transmission) to our Orange Phase (substantial transmission) of the COVID-19 virus. The School Board adopted the recommendation of the district's COVID-19 monitoring team, which is made up of local medical doctors, school staff, hospital personnel, county administration, and local public-health officers who track public health data in real time to allow the district to quickly adapt to the constantly evolving circumstances of the pandemic.

The results of this change in level has minimal impact on the academic programming, as we are already in the planned

remote-learning environment. There are some students who require in-person learning and this will continue to be available. Winter athletics will be paused and will be reconsidered at the School Board meeting scheduled for January 5, 2021.

These changes have been made with a great deal of thought and deliberation. There is no solution that will make everyone satisfied. Our prime objective is to ensure the health and safety of our students and to provide for the best education possible. We will continue to monitor the COVID-imposed environment and make changes as appropriate.

Budget: The report on the School Board Budget Work Session (12/5/2020) is contributed by Kevin Pobst, School Board Representative from Frankestown:

"The Superintendent and Administrative team presented the School Board with a draft budget for 2021-2022 built based on a set of "assumptions" the Board gave to the Administration last summer when the budget development process began. The draft budget featured an overall increase in expenses that concerned both Board members and the administration. The set

of assumptions was re-visited and substantial changes were made. Based on these changes, the Administration will create a revised budget proposal.

"On December 22, the Board met to consider the revised budget proposal. One major change in the assumptions is a directive to plan for a "return to normal, or 'near normal'" for in-person instruction in the Fall of 2021. That assumption is predicated on favorable advice from medical experts who are advising the District as part of its Re-Opening Plan. Another assumption is that a fully remote option, K-12, will be offered during the 2021-2022 school year.

"The Board is supportive of the Administration's plan to create a competency-based, multi-age, "remote school" for K-8 students for 2021-2022, and a plan to address "learning loss," which has occurred for some students since the beginning of the COVID emergency. However, the Board and Administration understand that to afford new programs, some significant "offsets" will need to be found to control the overall growth of expenses."

Visit ConVal.net to learn more.

ALAN EDELKIND is Dublin's representative to the ConVal School Board, aka SAU1. He can be reached at AEdelkind@conval.edu.

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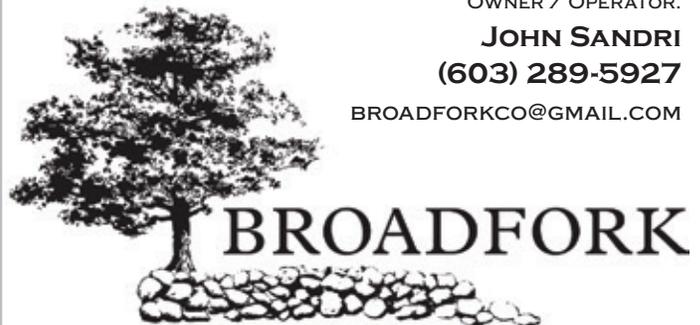
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DCP Is Thriving

BY SHEENA BALDWIN

From all the families and educators at Dublin Community Preschool & Childcare Center, we wish you a happy and healthy New Year. Jumping on the “New Year, New You” bandwagon, DCP has expanded our Infant and Toddler Program. Since opening the combined Infant/Toddler program a handful of years ago, it has been at capacity with an ever-growing waitlist. In response to the demand for infant and toddler care in the community, we have rearranged our facility to accommodate three separate programs to house up to 10 infants, 12 toddlers and 14 preschoolers. Each classroom is equipped with age-appropriate toys and a curriculum appropriate to their developmental needs, delivered by qualified, enthusiastic educators.

In response to COVID-19, DCP has developed and enforced detailed practices and procedures that have allowed us to provide uninterrupted childcare services for essential healthcare employees in our community. We continue to organize and participate in community events and fundraisers while being COVID-19 conscious. Many events and fundraisers have moved online and are advertised regularly through our Dublin Community Preschool & Childcare Center Facebook page or at www.dublinpreschoolandchildcare.org.

DCP is a non-profit organization that has been serving the Monadnock Region since 1964. We accept tax-deductible donations year-round by mail: Dublin Community Preschool & Childcare Center, 1281 Main Street, Unit C, Dublin, NH 03444.

SHEENA BALDWIN is the Program Director & Preschool Teacher at the Dublin Community Preschool & Child Care Center; call 563-8508 or email info@dublin-preschoolandchildcare.org with inquiries.

DCA Celebrated the Holiday

December was full of celebrations at Dublin Christian Academy. As Christmas approached, faculty, staff, and students celebrated the “thrill of hope” that the Savior’s birth brings. The school also celebrated the completion of the first four months of school in person with no students testing positive for COVID-19.

In the weeks between Thanksgiving break and Christmas, the classroom pods competed in a Christmas door-decorating contest and a gingerbread house contest. They recorded the school’s first-ever video Christmas program, directed by Sarah Katka.



Photo courtesy OpenDemocracyNH.org

Granny D Birthday Celebration

via Zoom: Sunday, January 24, 2 pm; RSVP

Journalist, author, and commentator Bill Moyers joins Open Democracy to celebrate what would have been Doris Haddock’s 111th birthday on January 24, from 2 to 3 pm via Zoom.

Also attending will be Doris’ co-author Dennis Burke, plus a lineup of other guests. Expect some great anecdotes and a reading from the new book, “The Politics of Joy (and Sacrifice): The Fearless Walks and Historic Talks of Doris “Granny D” Haddock.”

Please RSVP at: www.opendemocracynh.org/2021grannydbirthdaycelebration?utm_campaign=dec_2020_upcoming_ev&utm_medium=email&utm_source=nhref

In keeping with DCA’s tradition of caroling, about 30 students and faculty members serenaded residents at Scott Farrar retirement community in Peterborough. In lieu of the school’s annual Christmas banquet, the faculty and staff hosted parties for each classroom pod, including a faculty performance of a pandemic version of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.”

DCA will welcome five new students for the second semester that begins this month. The academy’s basketball teams will compete during January and February, and students in the ski and ride club will hit the slopes at Crotched Mountain on Mondays.

BETHANY PAQUIN is Director of Development at DCA. She can be reached at 563-8505 ext.140 or email bpaquin@dublinchristian.org.



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Conservation Easements: Preserving Dublin's Natural Beauty

BY DENISE FRANKOFF

Dublin residents have a long history of being actively involved in protecting and preserving our town's natural resources. Every year the Dublin Conservation Commission is tasked with viewing local properties that have conservation easements. Members talk with landowners and visit properties to ensure that the easements are properly maintained.

As I walked some of these beautiful properties, I wondered how this process works. Jay Schechter, chair of the Conservation Commission, referred me to two resources: our town's Open Space plan, available on Dublin's website; and a document titled *Conserving Your Land, Options*

for New Hampshire Land Owners, available from the New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition website (link below). Here's a brief summary of what I discovered:

Conservation easements are one of several methods for conserving private land. A conservation easement is a permanent, legally binding agreement between a landowner and a land trust or a town. It restricts how the land may be used, in order to protect its natural features. It is authorized in New Hampshire by state law RSA 477:45-47.

A landowner may decide to donate the land to a town or land trust. Alternately, a town or land trust may decide to purchase the land from a landowner. A land trust

is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving land. These trusts help guide a landowner through the process of protecting their land. You can find a list of more than 40 New Hampshire land trusts on the NH Land Trust Coalition website.

A landowner will often consider several factors when deciding whether to conserve their land. These may include determining what is unique about the land, how long they expect to own it, how they envision the land being used in the future, and their financial needs. The process for conserving land typically involves working closely with a town or land trust to review options.

Whether there are tax benefits to conservation easements is a complex topic, and beyond the scope of this summary. Moreover, tax benefits change over time. When you donate land, such as a conservation easement, to a land trust or town, you may be able to claim a deduction on your federal income tax return as a charitable contribution. There also may be municipal tax benefits. Your attorney, town, and land-trust advisors can assist you in determining your tax benefits.

Dublin residents can play an active role in preserving its natural beauty. Conservation easements are one of several options for conserving land. To learn more, visit the New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition and review Dublin's Open Space plan, on TownofDublin.org. *Conserving Your Land – Options for New Hampshire Land Owners* (2019) is available at nhltc.org/conserving-your-land-book-2019.

The Dublin Conservation Commission welcomes your feedback. Please email Jay Schechter at JSchechter@FocusSales.us, or Denise Frankoff at dfrankoff@gmail.com.

Invasive Plant Treatment: Recap 2020

BY JAY SCHECHTER

Your Conservation Committee organized and supervised the treatment of 18 sites on October 7 for invasive plant species. These plants included Japanese Knotweed, Oriental Bittersweet, Common & Glossy Buckthorn, Barberry and Autumn Olive. We used a company licensed by the State of New Hampshire to apply the treatments. The Commission is also experimenting with a non-chemical suppression program.

We run this program because non-native invasive plants are highly competitive and suppress native species. Invasives can reduce natural diversity, impact endangered or threatened species, reduce wildlife habitat, create water-quality impacts, and have other negative impacts on our natural environment.



Use the following links for further information about invasive plants in NH.

- townofdublin.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Invasives2020.pdf
- www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/upland-invasive-species.pdf
- www.agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/invasive-species-poster.pdf

JAY SCHECHTER is the Conservation Committee Chairman. Members include Katie Featherston, Denise Frankoff, Jerry Branch, Russell Bastedo, and Wendy White. Carole Monroe is the selectmen's representative.

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Remembering Elisabeth Langby

BY SUSAN PETERS

In November, Dublin lost a dear friend and valued member of our community, Elisabeth Langby of Snow Hill Road. Elisabeth and her husband, Thomas Atmer, moved to Dublin in 1994 with their two young children, Tommy and Hannah.

Elisabeth and Thomas were both born and raised in Sweden, and she graduated from the Stockholm School of Economics. They were married after Elisabeth had completed Masters and PhD graduate work at Harvard University. Over the years in Dublin, Elisabeth homeschooled her children and shared her passion for conservation, gardening, and civic affairs through her work as a community volunteer. At the time of her passing, Elisabeth was writing a book, *Finance: Risk and Responsibility*.

In the late 1990s, Elisabeth and I conducted water testing on Dublin Lake in conjunction with UNH's Lakes Lay Monitoring Program and the Garden Club of Dublin. Thinking of ways to try to broaden environmental protection of Dublin Lake, we started a weed watch program that led to discovery of invasive variable milfoil in Cemetery Cove in 2001. With the help of the NH Department of Environmental Services, the lake has been milfoil-free since 2006. The current Dublin Lake weed watch program, which now includes Lake Host inspections at the Boat Landing, traces its roots to earlier weed watch volunteers.

On every project, Elisabeth brought her passion for research and commitment to exploring ways to improve upon the status quo. In 1999, the Southwest Regional Planning Commission completed a Rte. 101 corridor study. A key conclusion was that traffic speeds on Rte. 101, as then configured, were having a detrimental effect on the quality of life in Dublin, especially foot traffic in the Village area.

Data showed there had been numerous accidents over the years in Cemetery Cove and other spots along Rte. 101. And there was no clearly designated crosswalk for pedestrians crossing at Town Hall, Yankee, and the Dublin Community Church. Enhancing safety for pedestrians and vehicles – and minimizing the risk of future environmental harm to the Dublin Lake watershed – were identified as compelling goals.

By 2000, Elisabeth joined with other area residents to form the Monadnock Traffic Calming Foundation (MTCF) to explore fundraising. A group of community residents – including Elisabeth, husband Thomas, Margaret Gurney, and me – put together an exhibit highlighting current design and safety concerns on Rte. 101 and exploring potential traffic calming solutions. Carol Murray, then Commissioner of the NH Department of Transportation, attended the exhibit and offered NHDOT support for a pilot

project to improve the road design through Dublin Village in order to enhance safety. A working group was formed, and a series of public meetings were held to gather community input. The Board of Selectmen appointed residents to serve on the new Dublin Transportation Committee.

Elisabeth's leadership in the traffic calming project was a key to its success. Fundraising began on two fronts: several successful applications for Federal and State highway improvement funding, and private donations to the MTCF. These funds enabled the Town to move ahead with hiring an engineering firm to design a safer traffic flow for the area from Old Common Road to the east side of the Oval. A primary goal was a road design that would encourage people to drive closer to the speed limit, instead of treating the Village as a through-highway.

In multiple phases over a number of years, new sidewalks were built, the Oval was reconfigured to allow for safer pedestrian crossing, and traffic calming alterations were made to encourage safer driving speeds. The bulk of the project was paid for through Federal and State grants and the MTCF, with the Town contributing a relatively modest percentage to the overall cost.

I'm very grateful for Elisabeth's leadership and the work of so many other volunteers on the various projects to which she lent her bright spirit, vision, and dedication. The Dublin Conservation Commission, with Elisabeth as Chairman, brought attention to environmental risks from the septic lagoon that once serviced an institution on top of Beech Hill. This paved the way for restoration of the hilltop land to a permanent conservation and recreation area, preventing pollution to Dublin Lake and its watershed.

Remembering Elisabeth, her friends and family are very proud of her leadership and collegiality on the lake and road projects. She will be greatly missed in our community.

SUSAN PETERS has lived with her husband, Steven Levene, and family on Old Common Road since 1994. She serves on the Dublin Zoning Board of Adjustment and previously served on the Planning Board and Transportation Committee.



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Happy to Be Here

BY GWIR HUDDLESTON LLEWELLYN

Abhai Raj Luellen and I moved to Dublin in July 2019 from New Mexico. Abhai Raj is originally from upstate New York and I grew up in Texas. So, New England is definitely a culture shift for me; feels like home for him, of course. He soon found an IT job with NTT Data and works from home, so we're very excited about the community's commitment to high speed internet.

I have had a few different careers over the years: editor, massage therapist, and Yoga Teacher Trainer; for now I'm focused on my music and poetry. You can find my music on Spotify under the name Sat Purkh: open.spotify.com/artist/5f7Tmoeb66A5nIAwh7N2D?si=BZdcpNJHTSSKxf0iZbjig, or other streaming formats.

We have two small dogs, Fredo and Cosita, which our neighbors are very tolerant about (the dogs think they own the turn in the road!). We have enjoyed swimming in the local ponds and creeks, and continue to explore all the many trails nearby.

We moved to the Monadnock area because we had friends who lived here (the Thomas family in Peterborough and the Lasky and Landis families here in Dublin and Jaffrey) and had enjoyed visiting them over the years.

Once we decided to relocate from the Southwest, it was pretty obvious where we would land. We've enjoyed meeting the local musicians, farmers, small business



owners, and activists since coming here, and look forward to deepening our connections over time.

We are practicing Sikhs*, and find the community values here resonate with our own core values, so we are grateful to have found a home here. (And for those who know what I'm talking about, yes, we are finally done with the remodel!)

How Abhai Raj and I met is a much longer, and somewhat mystical, story so perhaps we'll save that for another day. Abhai Raj loves to tell it though, so if you see him, don't hesitate to ask. Blessed Be, your neighbors, Gwir Huddleston Llewellyn & Abhai Raj Luellen.

*** Sikhism** — "The word Sikh (pronounced "sickh") [but most people say "seek"] means 'disciple' or 'learner.' The Sikh religion was founded in Northern India in the fifteenth century by Guru Nanak Dev Ji and is distinct from Islam and Hinduism. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses the equality of all men and women. Sikhs believe in three basic principles; meditating on the name of God (praying), earning a living by honest means, and sharing the fruits of one's labor with others. Sikhism rejects caste and class systems and emphasizes service to humanity." For more information, see www.sikhnet.com/pages/who-are-sikhs-what-is-sikhism

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January Events at the DubHub

Coffee & Conversation Continues via Zoom

DubHub Coffee & Conversation sessions via Zoom will continue on Monday and Wednesday mornings in January, from 10 to 11 am. Mondays are hosted by June Brening, and Wednesdays are hosted by Mary Loftis.

Lately we've invited attendees to share a short reading, such as a poem, article, short story, or essay. Check the weekly HubHub from the DubHub newsletter for login information or email Volkert at info@dublincommunitycenter.org.

Song Circle & Open Stage Merge in January

Musicians, poets, storytellers, actors and audience members are invited to join the merged session of Song Circle

& Open Stage on Friday, January 22 via Zoom. A link will be provided in the HubHub newsletter, or can be obtained by emailing info@dublincommunitycenter.org. Musicians may opt to perform better-known songs for others to play or sing along (muted at home), or else they may choose other "performance material." We'll go around the circle, one song or performance piece at a time (5 minutes or less). All are welcome. BYOB! Co-hosts are Bruce Simpson and Volkert Volkersz.

Community Lunch To-Go on January 19

DubHub resumes our free Community Lunch To-Go on Tuesday, January 19, from noon to 1 pm. On the menu will be mac and cheese, winter fruit salad, and cookies. You may pick up your meal by the main entrance of the DubHub.



Work on the new DubHub addition was projected to be done by Christmas. Shown in this photo walls and trim painted, new light fixtures and track lighting. The new flooring is a rubber product – durable with "give." The pattern blends with the warm white paint selected for the walls.



Online purchases that were made during this year's online Small Treasures Art Show & Sale are shown (at left) bagged and ready for pickup on December 14. Rosemary Wolpe was one of the many people who made an appointment (below) for a live preview of the Small Treasures Art Show with host Mary Loftis.



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January Events at the DubHub

continued from page 11

Community Conversations on Racism and Related Subjects

Following a December 29 listening session on the DubHub statement on racism, more online discussions and events are being planned. Check the Hubbub for forthcoming announcements and links to the events.

Pop-Up Snow Creation Contest

In anticipation of big snow, the Dub Hub is organizing a pop-up snow creation contest. Here are the basics:

At the first big snowfall (good for building snow creations!), we will alert everyone who has registered.

After 24 hours of the alert, judges will drive by to take a photo of your creation. (We will notify you of who they are so you won't be surprised by them!)

The Saturday immediately following the alert/snow-building, we will host an outdoor celebration with hot chocolate and prizes from local businesses in the back of the Community Center.

If you want to enter, send your contact information (email and phone number) and

address (for the judges) either to Balmeet Lasky at lasky.balmeet@gmail.com or Volkert at info@dublincommunitycenter.org. The contest is open to anyone in Dublin, so spread the word!

Face Mask Rack Update

Due to the approaching winter weather, December was the last month for the Free Mask Rack. Approximately 1,000 masks have gone off the rack to our greater community to help keep everyone safe and add a little fun style to this new dress code.

There were an additional 650 masks that went to the DubHub fundraiser in the early months. Donations were made to the Food Pantry, Monadnock Area Transitional Shelter (MATS), Hundred Nights, Kitty Rescue, and the DubHub.

Thank you to everyone who supported this effort over the past nine months by helping to sew, donations of materials, monetary contributions, a place to offer the masks to the public, plus support, care, concern, and words of encouragement. It has all been greatly appreciated and uplifting.

If anyone is in need of masks this winter, please reach out to Ruth Thompson, at catinthehat3@myfairpoint.net and she will be happy to make them for you.

Follow the Hubbub and/or Visit on FB

Links to virtual events are provided in the weekly Hubbub newsletter, and can usually be found on the DubHub Facebook pages. To sign up for the Hubbub newsletter, go to <http://eepurl.com/bLCNTz>. When public events resume, the calendar will be updated at dublincommunitycenter.org.

DubHub Wi-Fi Access

The DubHub Wi-Fi is accessible from the parking lot. Look for the network NETGEAR28-5G_EXT. The password is ancientpond703.



Access to Healthcare

Since 2008, CVTC's mission is to provide 'no-fee' transportation to people who need a ride to get to essential appointments through the kindness of vetted, volunteer drivers. This service contributes to the health of the region, one person at a time. We always seek new drivers and welcome new riders. We trust and rely on a robust future so that our services consistently meet the growing demand, often of the elderly, in this Monadnock Region. Call 821-0569 with inquiries, or visit cvtc-nh.org.



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MLK Day of Service

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on January 18, 2021, marks the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy.

Observed each year on the third Monday, MLK Day (MLKDay.gov) is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

To find out more about Serve Your Community (www.nationalservice.gov/serve), visit nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/mlk-day-service.

What You Do for Others

Dr. King's words challenge us to address the "fierce urgency of now" (kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/i-have-dream-address-delivered-march-washington-jobs-and-freedom). As many individuals, families, and communities struggle with not only the effects of the coronavirus, but the already challenging circumstances that compound the pandemic, we must still ask and answer that important question, "What are you doing for others?"

From MLK's Nobel Peace Prize Lecture, 1964:



"...Some years ago a famous novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested story plots for future stories, the most prominently underscored being this one: "A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live together."

This is the great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a big house, a great "world house" in which we have to live together – black and white, Easterners and Westerners, Gentiles and Jews, Catholics and Protestants, Moslem and Hindu, a family unduly separated in ideas, culture, and interests who, because we can never again live without each other, must learn, somehow, in this one big world, to live with each other."

Our Great World House on Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 18, 2021, 5 pm, online

For *Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. 2021*, the Jaffrey-Rindge MLK Committee partners with the Keene State College Cheshire Academy of Lifelong Learning (CALL) in a live webinar featuring Dr. Walter Fluker, Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership, Emeritus, Boston University School of Theology.

Dr. Fluker will address MLK's vision of the great "World House." The event is free and open to all. Students and community

members are invited to pre-submit questions related to the theme to jaffreyrindgemlk@gmail.com by January 11.

To access the link to the webinar, go to Jaffrey-Rindge MLK Committee on Facebook (MLK Celebration Jaffrey-Rindge) for updates and online events. A series of informative and inspiring events, films, and performances may also be accessed via our Facebook page during the MLK holiday week.

For further information, call Peggy Ueda at 562-8464.



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Let No Child Go Hungry

Dry goods do not freeze in storage or break in backpacks.

Now that most students are back to learning remotely, it's time for End 68 Hours of Hunger to pivot once again. These days, the weekend bags for those learning from home are being delivered by bus, along with the weekday breakfasts and lunches from the SAU.

Those who are still attending school in person are able to pick up their bags at school. And homeschoolers and others can pick up bags in the side entrance of the Dublin Community Church.

Shopping List for End 68 Hours of Hunger

Cereal (12-oz. boxes)
Boxes of 8–10 oatmeal packets
Crackers (Ritz, Saltine, or Club)
Nutrition bars in boxes
Mac and cheese
Ramen noodles
Rice (1 lb. bags)
Rice blend packets
Raisins (6 packs)



That side entrance is also the drop-off location for food donations — and this time of year, because that entrance isn't fully heated, it's best to leave only dry packaged foods that can survive a cold spell. Also, the group is not able to accept any items in glass containers.

The number of food-insecure students continues to rise, so your donations are always more than welcome.

Your dollars go furthest if you contribute financially, either online at End68hoursofhunger.org (specifying the ConVal group), or with a check made out to End 68 Hours of Hunger and mailed, c/o SAU1, 106 Hancock Road, Peterborough, NH 03458.

But donations of food help, too. Any support you can provide goes directly to feed local hungry kids. Thank you!

HCS Offers Walk-in Hours

Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS) welcomes residents of Dublin to Walk-in Wednesdays. Drop in for completely free, off-the-record, individual advice from our staff members who specialize in home care, hospice, and advance care planning. Walk-in Wednesdays will be held on the first Wednesday of each month from 2 to 4 pm at the HCS office in Keene, at 312 Marlboro Street. The next Walk-in Wednesday is scheduled for January 6. Those who are not able to stop in may call 352-2253.

Masks are required at Walk-in Wednesdays, and staff adhere to CDC guidelines for social distancing during your visit.

Helping People Live Healthier Lives

The Healthy Monadnock Alliance, guided by the Monadnock Region's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), identified five priority areas from the Community Health Needs Assessment.

To improve the health and well-being for all, the five key areas of wellness are: To improve emergency preparedness, to increase behavioral health resources and acceptance, to ensure access to healthcare for everyone, to increase protective factors for youth, and to provide resources for food access and active living.

Programs that address these priority areas are reaching thousands of people in 33 towns of the Monadnock Region. To sign up or learn more, visit healthymonadnockalliance.org or call 354-5460.

Resources for Seniors Care in NH

SeniorHousingNet.com is a senior care organization dedicated to providing tools and essential resources to help enhance the lives of older adults in all walks of life.

It has published a dedicated page that provides detailed information for families and senior citizens who are looking for senior living and care options so that they can maintain their independence and quality of life in New Hampshire.

This free resource provides comprehensive information on topics like financial support and care options that are available in New Hampshire, and its website offers resources for every city and state across the country. Visit www.seniorhousingnet.com/seniors/senior-living-us/new-hampshire.

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Nuthatches by Color

BY TOM WARREN

Nuthatches are ranked between creepers and tits (old English word indicating something small), the Old World name for this bird is titmouse – meaning small bird. While they cannot use their tails in climbing, they are very adept at climbing, either up or down trees, rocks, or a wall. Their food is mainly insects, nuts, and seeds.

In the Monadnock Region, we find two species, the White-breasted Nuthatch and the Red-breasted Nuthatch, both seen creeping up or down tree trunks and often visiting our bird feeders.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH

A small bird, about 5 inches, these nuthatches are permanent residents, but in winter they can range widely alone or in pairs. On cold nights, 2-3 birds will rendezvous in hollow trees where they sleep together, safe and warm.



At feeders, they prefer sunflower seed, small bits of peanuts, and other nuts as well as peanut butter and suet. They will take a sunflower seed, place it between a bark crevice and pick at the seed cover to retrieve the kernel, from which the name “hatch” the nut originates. They have a habit of storing seeds in bark crevices to be retrieved during severe winter storms.

They are good winter weather forecasters as just before a major storm, they nervously fly to feeders, bird boxes, or tree holes.

They nest in tree cavities or bird boxes. The nest is made of soft materials, fur, hair, feathers and mosses and shreds of bark. They produce 5-8 cream-colored eggs spotted with brown and lilac in a normal clutch. After fledging the family remains together.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH

Considerably smaller than the White-breasted Nuthatch, these are bluish-slate gray above and tawny, brownish below. A white stripe above the eye and black stripe through it distinguishes them.

A nervous, active bird, it is always found with cousins, Chickadees, Tufted-



Photos courtesy www.allaboutbirds.org

Titmouse, and the Brown Creeper. It is a permanent resident here also.

When coniferous trees to our north fail to produce cones, Red-breasted Nuthatches irrupt into our area in large numbers. Already many are being seen at feeders in our area.

Their nest is similar to that of the White-breasted Nuthatch with one notable exception. The habit of smearing pine pitch below the nest hole has never been explained by ornithologists. Speculation involves a defense of the nest predators including squirrels and snakes.

At feeders they will take small seeds, small pieces of suet and nuts, with a special preference for peanut hearts.

TOM WARREN is Dublin's resident ornithologist.

Birds that Look “Blue”

In response to the last *Advocate's* query about how blue are Blue Jays, Tom writes: “Blue in the feathering of birds is a structural or mechanical effect, just as minute particles in the atmosphere scatter out the shorter wavelengths of visible light and give the sky its blue appearance. Tiny air-filled cavities in the feathers of “blue” birds have a screening effect, eliminating from our vision all wavelengths save the blue. A bird with “blue,” soaking wet, looks black, in anything but reflected light it looks brown or gray.” –TW

Maureen Ahern's Art in Gallery at Depot Square

Dublin's Maureen Ahern is one of the eight artists in Depot Square's show, “Winter Solstice,” which is hosted by The Gallery at Depot Square, Arts Alive Monadnock, and three others, to showcase artists' reflections on the solitude of the longest nights of the year.

Luminous color, bold shapes and delicate patterns define her unique vision. Her work has a contemplative quality as well as a spontaneous energy. It is a contemporary take on traditional, beloved New England themes of the land and sea. Her unique works employing “interference paint” come to life as the colors shift depending

on the light source on the reflective surfaces and the viewers' perspective.

The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, and most Saturdays. Always free and family friendly.

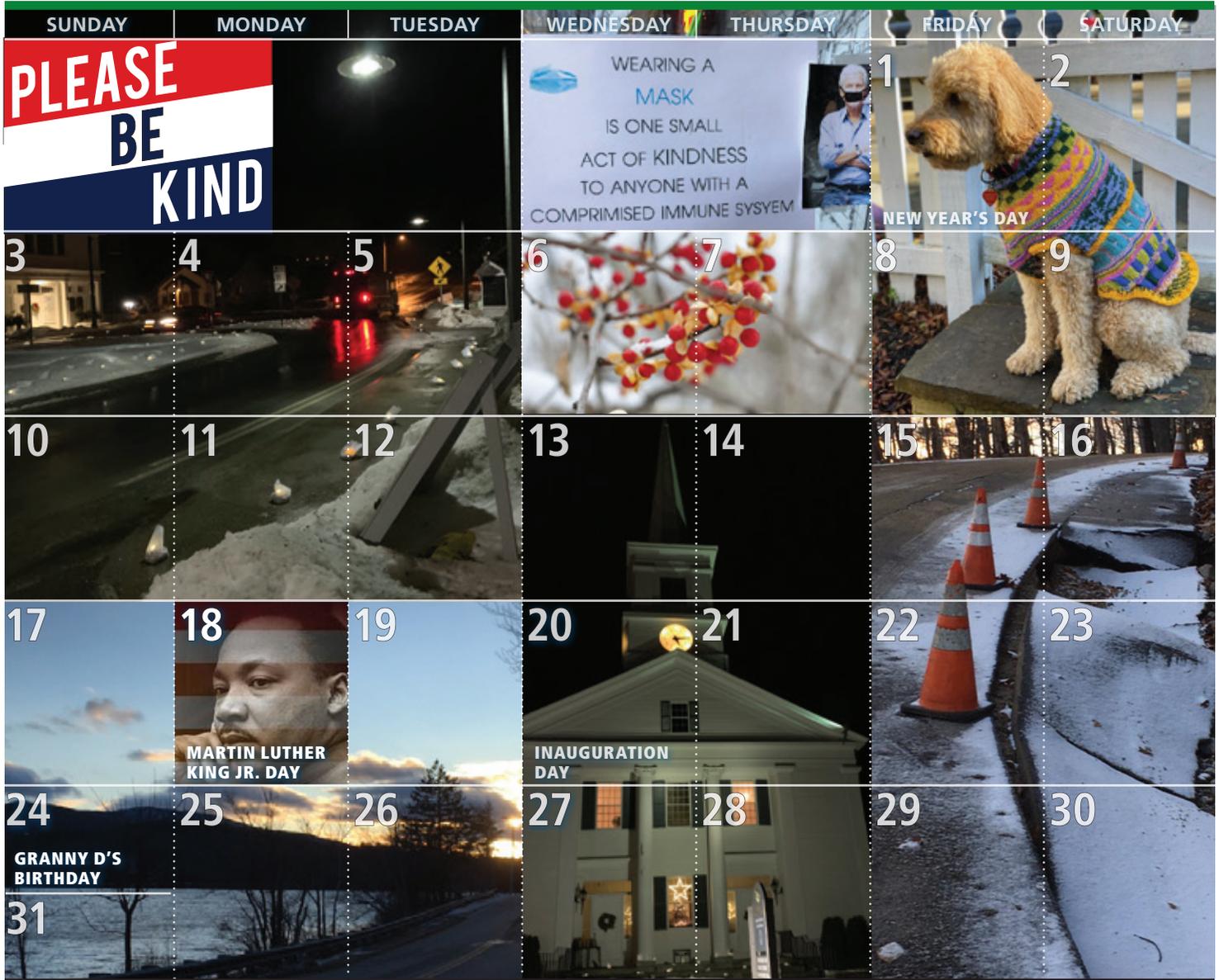
The entrance is in Peterborough's Depot Square through the door to the left of Hobbs' Jewelers. Take the elevator at the end of the hall to the third floor, and go to the right.

We ask that all visitors wear masks and practice social distancing while on the premises for the comfort and safety of all. Masks are available in the gallery if you need one. Call 547-8323 with inquiries.



The Magic Ball, by Maureen Ahern, mixed media.

JANUARY 2021 Dublin Town Events



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Articles subject to edit. The editor reserves the right to refuse any article or advertisement.

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